

Housatonic Valley  
Metropolitan Planning Organization  
**APPROVED HVMPO MINUTES**  
**For the 4/20/2017 Meeting**  
Held at the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association  
27 Governor Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

*Chairman Rudy Marconi - Vice Chairman Susan Chapman  
- Secretary Julia Pemberton*

#### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Bethel	First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker
Bridgewater	Absent
Brookfield	Absent
Danbury	Alternate Planning Director Sharon Calitro (by phone)
New Fairfield	Absent
New Milford	Absent
Newtown	First Selectman Patricia Llodra
Redding	First Selectman Julia Pemberton (by phone)
Ridgefield	First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Chairman
Sherman	First Selectman Clay Cope
HARTransit	Development Director Richard Schreiner
CTDOT	Supervising Planner Roxane Fromson (non-voting)
MPO Staff	Executive Director Francis Pickering (non-voting)

#### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Darien Alternate Senior Planner Fred Doneit, Greenwich First Selectman Peter Tesei, New Canaan First Selectman Robert Mallozzi, Norwalk Chief of Staff Laoise King, Stamford Transportation Bureau Chief James Travers, Weston First Selectman Nina Daniel, Westport First Selectman James Marpe, Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice and Norwalk Transit District CEO Kimberlee Morton.

Also, Patricia Cimarosa and Martin Fox of the Westport Transit District, Senior Legislative Associate Daniel Giungi of the CT Conference of Municipalities, Stamford Chief of Staff Michael Pollard, HARTransit Planner Harrison Wenchell, Eversource Community Relations Specialist Garrett Sheehan, WestCOG staff members Patricia Payne, Robert Sachnin, Michael Sullivan, Michael Towle, Nicole Sullivan and Jonathan Chew.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

HVMPO Chairman Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**FTA Section 5310 Grant Solicitation:** Richard Schreiner reviewed the current Federal Transit Administration 5310 Grant Program solicitation. Staff and transit districts are currently reviewing applications received. A CTDOT scoring process will be utilized and the results presented to the MPO. A request for MPO action to endorse project priorities is anticipated at the May 18th meeting.

**CTDOT Matching Grant Program:** Rick Schreiner reviewed a memo on this program attached to the agenda entitled “State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Demand Response Transportation.” This state funded program has been in place since 2006, and provides matching funds for the transportation of seniors and persons with disabilities in each municipality, he said.

Application requirements were discussed. An attached Maintenance of Effort Certification was reviewed. A table entitled “Total Fiscal Year 2017 Apportionments” provided a grant estimate for each of the eighteen municipalities.

**Local Road Accident Reduction Program (LRARP):** Rob Sachnin reported that Norwalk and Stamford had received conditional funding approval under the last grant cycle for this program. The 2017 solicitation will be similar to last year’s, seeking to address safety problems on local roads with low cost, highly effective solutions.

The “target” project cap is \$500,000 in federal funding at 90% for the construction phase with the remainder as the municipal responsibility. WestCOG staff will work with municipalities to discuss specific locations and data details, he said. There was brief discussion.

**FY2018 - 19 Unified Planning Work Program:** Rob Sachnin commented on the upcoming two-year application for regional transportation planning funds. The total being applied for by both MPO’s in the WestCOG area is \$2.7 million. The two applications are highly detailed as they must be inclusive of many mandatory federal and state transportation planning procedures.

The drafts have been submitted to FHWA, FTA, and CTDOT for initial review, he said. After receipt of comments the revised drafts will be transmitted to COG, MPO and TAG, with endorsement action to be requested soon. Roxane Fromson contributed to the discussion.

**Update on Transportation Alternatives Program:** Rob Sachnin noted that the MPO advanced priorities to CTDOT last December. For the Danbury Urbanized Area CTDOT has reviewed the applications and selected Brookfield Four Corners. For the Bridgeport – Stamford Urbanized Area staff is working with Norwalk, Ridgefield, and Wilton to address CTDOT comments on their applications.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Approval of 3/16/2017 Meeting Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Pat Llodra, the minutes of the meeting of 3/16/2017 were unanimously approved, except for an abstention by Sharon Calitro.

**TIP Amendment Projects #34-309 and #34-345 in Danbury:** As requested by Rudy Marconi, Rob Sachnin reviewed two CTDOT requested Transportation Improvement Program amendments. These were attached to the agenda as a memo entitled “HVMPO FFY2015-2018 TIP” and summarized by him as follows:

Danbury Project #34-309: Newtown Road widening at Old Shelter Rock Road, construction phase total at \$1,085,000. The proposal is to add left turn lanes and a traffic signal at this intersection, also realign the Old Shelter Rock Road approach. Project goals are to reduce congestion and improve safety. The TIP action is needed to revise the funding source from federal to state, which per CTDOT, will utilize previously bonded funding.

Danbury Project #34-345: Route 37 at Barnum Road, construction phase total at \$1,500,000. Originally endorsed by HVMPO in October of 2014, this project calls for widening shoulders at Route 37 northbound with Barnum Road southbound. The goal is to reduce congestion resulting from vehicles waiting to make left turns. The sidewalk along Route 37 will be extended north to the intersection with Barnum Road. The reason for the TIP amendment is that CTDOT proposes to utilize a higher federal cost share.

There was brief discussion after which on a motion made by Clay Cope and seconded by Matt Knickerbocker, it was voted unanimously to endorse the two Danbury related TIP amendment summaries and their financial details.

#### **COMMENT AND DISCUSSION**

Rudy Marconi raised issues concerning the slow pace of rehabilitation for the Route 35 bridge over the Norwalk River. Clay Cope expressed concern as to the CTDOT lane closure plan for Route 39 rehabilitation. Nina Daniel described the inconvenience to the public of unnecessarily slow roadway rehabilitation projects affecting Weston. Roxane Fromson contributed to the discussion.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Rudy Marconi stated that the next MPO meeting will be held at 11:30 am before the WestCOG meeting scheduled for 5/18/2017 at the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association in Ridgefield. Then on a motion made by Matt Knickerbocker seconded by Pat Llodra it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 pm.