

South Western Region
Metropolitan Planning Organization
APPROVED SWRMPO MINUTES
For the 4/20/2017 Meeting
Held at the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association
27 Governor Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

Chairman Jayme Stevenson - Vice Chairman Robert Mallozzi

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Darien	Alternate Senior Planner Fred Doneit
Greenwich	First Selectman Peter Tesei
New Canaan	First Selectman Robert Mallozzi, Vice Chairman
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
Transit	Norwalk Transit District CEO Kimberlee Morton
CTDOT	Supervising Planner Roxane Fromson (non-voting)
MPO Staff	Executive Director Francis Pickering (non-voting)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bethel First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker, Danbury Alternate Planning Director Sharon Calitro (by phone), Newtown First Selectman Patricia Llodra, Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton (by phone), Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi and Sherman First Selectman Clay Cope.

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

SWRMPO Vice Chairman Robert Mallozzi 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 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 Jim Travers and seconded by Jim Marpe, the minutes of the meeting of 3/16/2017 were unanimously approved, with Lynne Vanderslice abstaining.

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

Vice Chairman Robert Mallozzi 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 Jim Marpe seconded by Nina Daniel it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 pm.