

**Meeting of the
WestCOG Technical Advisory Group (TAG)**

June 6, 2017 at 11:00 am

Comstock Community Center, 180 School Road., Wilton, CT, 06897

Agenda

- 1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- 3. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
 - a. OPM Responsible Growth & TOD Grant
 - b. CEDS Project Solicitation Attachment 3b, pg. 1
 - c. Repeal of Federal MPO Coordination Rule
 - d. 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program
 - e. MS4 Briefing/Update
 - f. Regional Snow Plow Update & Working Group
 - g. LOTCIP Attachment 3g, pp. 2-3
- 4. ACTION ITEMS**
 - a. Approval of May 2, 2017 minutes Attachment 4a, pp. 4-6
 - b. 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program Attachment 4b, pp. 7-10
 - i. HV: Project #301-108, Various; #170-3403, Statewide
 - ii. SWR: Project #301-181, Norwalk; #301-108, Various; #170-3403, Statewide
 - c. TAP Adjustments (*if necessary*)
 - d. FTA State of Good Repair Performance Measures Attachment 4d, pp. 11-12
 - e. Local Road Accident Reduction Program Priorities
- 5. OTHER BUSINESS**
 - a. Discussion Items as Raised by the TAG
 - b. Future Presentations & Items of Interest
- 6. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

6/15/17 – MPO and COG Meetings
7/11/17 – TAG Meeting (*if necessary*)
- 7. ADJOURNMENT**

For language assistance or other accommodations, contact Western Connecticut Council of Governments at least five business days prior to the meeting at help@westcog.org. Para asistencia con el idioma y otras adaptaciones, por favor póngase en contacto con WestCOG por lo menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión al help@westcog.org. Para obter assistência língua ou outras acomodações, entre em contato com WestCOG pelo menos cinco dias úteis antes da reunião em help@westcog.org.

Western Connecticut COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



Attachment 3b

TO: TAG Members
FROM: Elizabeth Esposito, Associate Planner
DATE: June 1, 2017
RE: **CEDS Project Solicitation**

Dear TAG Members,

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Region is taking shape. We are asking for contributions to an important part of the process: identifying projects that will enhance economic development for the Region.

Projects identified in a CEDS may be given preference in various federal and state grant programs. The CEDS will be updated annually, providing regular opportunity for new projects to be added.

The Strategy Committee will be accepting projects starting May 30, 2017. Potential projects for the economic development project solicitation should be submitted by July 11, 2017 at 11:59 pm for consideration for this iteration of the CEDS.

The Strategy Committee will prioritize the submitted projects and include them in the CEDS.

All relevant documents can be found here: <https://westcog.org/2017/05/economic-development-project-solicitation/>

If you have questions, contact me at eesposito@westcog.org or attended the Planners' Lunch immediately following this meeting.

Best,

Liz Esposito

WestCOG Housatonic Valley Region LOTCIP Program - 05/24/17				
	Municipality	Project	Amount	Balance
Available Funding (FY14-FY16), less admin. costs*				\$9,644,710
FY14	Brookfield	"Four Corners" Intersection & Bike/Ped Improvements	(\$837,000)	
FY14	New Fairfield	Candlewood Corners Drainage Project	(\$693,000)	
FY14	New Milford	Still River Drive Roundabout	(\$1,119,175)	
FY15	Newtown	Toddy Hill Road Bridge Replacement	(\$3,200,000)	
FY16	New Milford	Wellsville Avenue Bridge Reconstruction	(\$1,381,000)	
FY16	Ridgefield	Farmingville Road Multi-Use Trail	(\$1,100,000)	
			Remaining Balance	\$1,314,535
Authorized Funding (FY17), CTDOT to Request Bonding, less admin. costs*				\$4,378,580
FY17	Danbury	White Street Intersection Improvements	(\$2,650,000)	
FY17	Bethel	Downtown TOD Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvements	(\$1,500,000)	
			Remaining Balance	\$1,543,115
CTDOT Requested Appropriation (FY18-19), less admin. costs**				\$7,455,420
			Remaining Balance	\$8,998,535

*Based on 6/28/16 CTDOT LOTCIP Program Summary. Also accounts for 3% admin. costs.

**assumes admin. costs at 3%

TAG: COG Approval Recommended 03/07/2017

COG: COG Approved 03/16/2017

WestCOG Southwestern Region LOTCIP Program - 05/24/17

State Fiscal Year	Municipality	Project	Amount	Balance
Available Funding (FY14-16), less admin. costs*				\$18,117,290
FY14	Stamford	Fiber Optic Trunk Cable	(\$5,459,061)	
FY14	Norwalk	(1) Hamilton Ave Staircase	(\$600,000)	
FY15	Norwalk	SoNo Streetscape	(\$2,069,045)	
FY15	Greenwich	Frontage Rd	(\$1,080,000)	
FY15	Stamford	(1) West Ave & West Main St	(\$2,000,000)	
FY16	Darien	(1) Noroton Ave & West Ave	(\$1,200,000)	
FY16	Westport	(1) Main St	(\$575,175)	
FY16	Norwalk	Traffic Signal System Upgrade - Phase 3 (Pedestrian Items Only)	(\$500,000)	
FY16	Stamford	(2) Greenwich Ave & Pulaski St Roundabout	(\$2,100,000)	
			Remaining Balance	\$2,534,009
Authorized Funding (FY17), CTDOT to Request Bonding, less admin. costs*				\$8,111,140
FY17	Greenwich	Sound Beach Ave Bridge & Roundabout	(\$4,900,900)	
FY17	Westport	(2) Riverside Ave	(\$607,115)	
FY17	Greenwich	(1) Davis Ave	(\$2,500,000)	
FY17	Stamford	(3) Strawberry Hill Rd & Rock Spring Rd	(\$1,750,000)	
			Remaining Balance	\$887,134
CTDOT Requested Appropriation (FY18-19), less admin. costs**				\$13,810,860
FY18	Greenwich	(2) Glenville Rd & Brookside Dr	(\$1,750,000)	
FY18	Westport	(3) Compo Rd South	(\$300,000)	
FY18	New Canaan	(1) Locust Ave Parking	(\$2,000,000)	
			Remaining Balance	\$10,647,994
(Overprogramming from April 2016 Solicitation)				
	Greenwich	(3) Lake Ave & Rock Ridge Ave	(\$1,000,000)	
	Stamford	(4) Atlantic St & Main St	(2,000,000)	
	Stamford	(5) Atlantic St & Broad St	(\$500,000)	
	Stamford	(6) Broad St & Summer St	(\$500,000)	

*Based on 6/28/16 CTDOT LOTCIP Program Summary. Also accounts for 3% admin. costs.

**assumes admin. costs at 3%

(#) to left of project name indicates the municipal priority

TAG: COG Approval Recommended 01/11/2017

COG: Approved 1/23/2017

Disclaimer: These interim minutes of the Technical Advisory Group (“TAG”) of the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (“WestCOG” or “COG”) are released and “available for public inspection” and “posted” on WestCOG’s website, in accordance with C.G.S. §1-225(a). Said interim minutes are subject to review and approval by the TAG members, after which time the final approved minutes will be available and posted in accordance with laws. Accordingly, the interim minutes may contain inaccuracies and do not reflect the final action of the TAG.

INTERIM MINUTES OF 5/2/2017 Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

Held at the Comstock Community Center
180 School Road, Wilton, CT 06897

- Bethel Absent
- Bridgewater Absent
- Brookfield Absent
- Danbury Director of Public Works Antonio Iadarola
- Darien Public Works Director Edward Gentile, Jr.
- Greenwich Commissioner of Public Works Amy Siebert
- HARTransit Development Director Richard Schreiner
- New Canaan Absent
- New Fairfield Absent
- New Milford Public Works Director Michael Zarba
- Newtown Public Works Director Frederick Hurley
- Norwalk Assistant Principal Engineer Michael Yeosock
- Norwalk TD CEO Kimberly Morton
- Redding Public Works Director Jeffrey Hanson
- Ridgefield Absent
- Sherman Absent
- Stamford Transportation Planner Emily Provonsha
- Weston Land Use Director Tracy Kulikowski
- Westport Town Engineer Peter Ratkiewich
- Wilton Director of Planning Robert Nerney

Also in Attendance:

Leo Fontaine and Roxane Fromson of CTDOT, Greenwich Public Works Civil Engineer Jason Kaufman, HARTransit Planner Harrison Wenchell, Dunh Hung of the Danbury Engineering Department, Danbury Traffic Engineer Abdul Mohamed, Newtown Public Works Administrator Arlene Miles, Greenwich Deputy Commissioner of Public Works James Michel, New Milford Town Planner Kathy Castagnetta, and WestCOG staff members Robert Brinton, Michael Towle, Kristin Floberg, Robert Sachnin, Carl Zimmerman, Jamie Bastian, Kristin Hadjstylianos and Jonathan Chew.

CALL TO ORDER / PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 am by Robert Sachnin. There was no public comment.

PRESENTATION

Overview of CTDOT Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan: Rob Sachnin welcomed Leo Fontaine of CTDOT who made a presentation on this topic. Mr. Fontaine described the federal ADA requirements and CTDOT's transition plan.

The presentation was followed by questions and answers. Mr. Fontaine was thanked for his attendance.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

FY2018-19 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP): Rob Sachnin commented on the upcoming two-year application for regional transportation planning funds. The two applications are highly detailed as they must be inclusive of many mandatory federal and state transportation planning procedures, he said.

The drafts were submitted to FHWA, FTA, and CTDOT for initial review, and comments received. The next step is review by TAG and MPO members. Endorsement actions will be considered at the May 18th SWRMPO, HVMPO and WestCOG meetings, he said.

MS4 Educational Website: This topic was addressed by Michael Towle. He reviewed the development of MS4 services on the westcog.org site.

Update on Local Road Accident Reduction Program (LRARP): Rob Sachnin reviewed a memo attached to the agenda regarding the 2017 LRARP solicitation for projects. The program seeks to fund highly effective safety improvements and applies to local roads, he said. Applications are assessed by CTDOT using their benefit-cost analysis.

The target program cap is \$500,000 at 90% for the construction phase, with the remainder as the municipal responsibility. Applications are due to the COG on May 22nd.

Submissions for this highly competitive program are capped by CTDOT at two per council of governments regions, Mr. Sachnin said.

State Matching Grant Program via State Statute 13b-38bb: 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. Application requirements were discussed.

OPM Responsible Growth and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grants: Rob Sachnin reviewed this grant category, which offers funding of up to \$2 million for advancing state and local goals for responsible growth and TOD. He noted that as a result of the most recent grant cycle Danbury, New Canaan and Westport received TOD planning grants.

Transportation Alternatives Program Update: Rob Sachnin noted that the MPOs advanced priorities to CTDOT last December. For the Danbury Urbanized Area, CTDOT has selected the Brookfield Four Corners project. Then for the Bridgeport – Stamford Urbanized Area, where the MPO plays a larger role in selection, staff is working with Norwalk, Ridgefield, and Wilton to address CTDOT comments and next steps.

Snow Removal Operations, Management and Routing Study: Carl Zimmerman spoke to this topic, explaining how staff proposes to address the many comments received from TAG members on the structure of this key study.

As the next step, the significantly revised RFP will be circulated to TAG members for a second review. It was agreed that TAG members are to participate on the consultant selection panel.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 4/6/2017 Minutes: On a motion made by Pete Ratkiewich and seconded by Mike Yeosock, the attached minutes of the TAG Meeting of 4/4/2017 were unanimously approved.

HVMPO TIP Endorsement Request: A CT DOT request for a TIP amendment by HVMPO, labeled as HVTIP #Am2017-004, was reviewed by Rob Sachnin, referring to the summary attached to the agenda and included below:

A motion to recommend HVMPO TIP amendment endorsement was made by Fred Hurley and seconded by Mike Zarba. The motion was unanimously approved.

SWRMPO TIP Endorsement Request: A CT DOT request for a TIP amendment by SWRMPO, labeled as SWRTIP #Am2017-004, was reviewed by Rob Sachnin, referring to the summary attached to the agenda and included below:

A motion to recommend SWRMPO TIP amendment endorsement was made by Mike Yeosock and seconded by Jim Michel. The motion was unanimously approved.

FTA 5310 Grant Applications: Richard Schreiner addressed this topic, reviewing an agenda attachment entitled "Prioritization of FTA 5310 Grant Applications." Eleven applications were received and reviewed using application scoring criteria provided by CTDOT, he said.

There was discussion. Then regarding SWRMPO 5310 priorities, on a motion made by Pete Ratkiewich and seconded by Jim Michel, recommendations for SWRMPO consideration were unanimously endorsed. Then regarding HVMPO 5310 priorities, on a motion made by Fred Hurley and seconded by Mike Zarba, recommendations for HVMPO consideration were also unanimously endorsed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion Items, Future Presentations, Upcoming Meetings: The list of upcoming WestCOG related meetings was reviewed. The next TAG meeting is scheduled for 6/6/2017.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was then adjourned at 12:25 pm.

FFY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

TAG Action Requested: Review and support TIP amendment endorsement by HVMPO using Resolution #2017-005.

Background: The FFY2015-2018 Housatonic Valley TIP was endorsed by the MPO on October 23, 2014. The TIP was incorporated into the larger Statewide TIP, which was approved by USDOT and EPA on January 21, 2015.

Amendments (HVTIP #Am2017-005):

0301-0108: New Haven Line Network Infrastructure Upgrade:

This CTDOT-requested TIP amendment pertains to the New Haven Line Network Infrastructure Upgrade. The goal of the Network Infrastructure Upgrade is to enhance security systems with improved surveillance methods.

This project consists of establishing infrastructure to support a new CCTV system at seven passenger stations: Noroton Heights, Darien, Rowayton, South Norwalk, East Norwalk, Westport and Greens Farms. In addition to the installation of a new CCTV system, this project also supports the necessary network infrastructure for the Saga Bridge. The project also includes a new security house near the East Norwalk Station and communications equipment in three existing node houses. Sections of the fiber optic backbone are being installed as part of various catenary and signaling upgrade projects currently in development or construction.

This amendment covers all phases of the project. The total cost is \$22.5 million. The federal government will cover 80% of the costs, with the state covering the remaining 20%.

170-3403: Transit Capital Planning

CTDOT Transit Capital Planning Program is a means for CTDOT staff to facilitate maintaining a fiscally-constrained 20-year Transit Capital Project Management Plan (Plan) that includes both statewide bus and rail projects. The Plan ensures proper planning for future bus and rail capital needs.

Staff working on the Plan help the department manage a multi-modal network that includes bus, rail and paratransit services. The Bus and Rail Capital Planning Programs support transit services around the state, including CTtransit and the New Haven Line Railroad. One specific project the Transit Capital Planning Program is involved in is the installation of Intelligent Transportation Systems in the entire CTtransit fleet statewide in 2017. This system enables vehicle location, real-time bus arrival prediction, variable message signage at stations and, on-board automated bus announcements.

This is an existing project on the 2015-2018 TIPs, but is being amended to increase funding. The reason for the funding increase is the need for additional staff effort on the program. This project also funds the required reporting and financial management for FTA capital compliance efforts.

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
78	5307P	0301-0108	X6	NHL-ML	VARIOUS	NHL - NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE	ALL	2017	22,500	18,000	4,500	0	NEW PROJECT
70	5307P	0170-3403	X6	VARIOUS	STATEWIDE	TRANSIT CAPITAL PLANNING FY16	OTH	2017	600	480	120	0	MOVE FROM FFY'16 TO FFY'17, INCRE. EST. FROM FED \$320K, ASSIGN PERM. NUMBER

AQC X6 - exempt

FFY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

TAG Action Requested: Review and support TIP amendment endorsement by SWRMPO using Resolution #2017-005.

Background: The FFY2015-2018 South Western Region TIP was endorsed by the MPO on October 23, 2014. The TIP was incorporated into the larger Statewide TIP, which was approved by USDOT and EPA on January 21, 2015.

Amendments (SWRTIP #Am2017-005):

301-181: CP243 Interlocking Improvements:

This CTDOT-requested TIP amendment is part of the greater WALK Bridge Replacement project and involves installation of a new interlocking to be installed along the Metro-North New Haven Main Line, approximately 1.5 miles east of the Walk Bridge in Norwalk.

According to CTDOT, Walk Bridge construction will likely require the closure of two tracks. This closure will result in several operating challenges that must be overcome, including Express-Local train overtakes, limited headways between trains and possible schedule changes and train cancellations.

This project seeks to address these challenges, as the new interlocking will reduce the length of closed tracks from 7 miles to 1.7 miles, it will reduce the travel time through this area to 3-4 minutes. This new interlocking will eliminate Express-Local overtakes, removing the need to re-write schedules or cancel trains.

In addition, the project will provide long-term benefits once the Walk Bridge construction is completed, creating flexibility to route trains from any track west to any track east in both directions. It will also create the opportunity for diverting trains to the inside tracks earlier, making it easier for a Danbury Branch train to enter the New Haven Line at South Norwalk. The new interlocking will also support any future closure required for maintenance, repair, or replacement work on the Saga Bridge or other projects located near the interlocking.

This TIP amendment covers all phases of the project. The total cost for the project is \$80 million. The federal share covers 80% of the project, with the difference being covered by state funds.

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Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
01	5307P	0301-0181	X8	NHL-ML	NORWALK	NHL-NEW INTERLOCKING AT CP 243	ALL	2017	80,000	64,000	16,000	0	NEW PROJECT
78	5307P	0301-0108	X6	NHL-ML	VARIOUS	NHL - NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE	ALL	2017	22,500	18,000	4,500	0	NEW PROJECT
70	5307P	0170-3403	X6	VARIOUS	STATEWIDE	TRANSIT CAPITAL PLANNING FY16	OTH	2017	600	480	120	0	MOVE FROM FFY'16 TO FFY'17, INCRE. EST. FROM FED \$320K, ASSIGN PERM. NUMBER

AQC X8, X6 - exempt

TO: TAG Members
FROM: Rob Sachnin, Rick Schreiner, Kim Morton
DATE: June 1, 2017

**RE: MPO Endorsement of Federal Transit Administration's (FTA)
State of Good Repair (SGR) Performance Targets**

1. **Overview:** Federal law requires MPOs to coordinate with area transit providers and the State on setting and integrating performance targets into the planning process. Performance measures use system information to support investment and policy decisions that help achieve goals.

While there are multiple performance measures on varying schedules that will be part of future discussions; in this instance, FTA's Transit Asset Management Final Rule (TAM) performance measures set performance targets for achieving a state of good repair.

This is the first federal performance measure to take effect, and is a new concept to CTDOT, transit providers, and our MPOs. MPO transit representatives and staff view the rule promotes good management and efficient funding.

TAM applies to recipients and sub-recipients who own, operate, or manage public transportation capital assets. In the HVMPO and SWRMPO regions, these includes

- Metro-North Railroad
- CT Transit Stamford
- Norwalk Transit District
- Housatonic Area Regional Transit

Additional details on TAM can be found [here](#).

2. **Breakdown of CTDOT SGR Performance Measures**

A short summary is provided below for each of four asset categories, which include: Revenue Vehicles, Service Vehicles, Facilities, Equipment, and Guideway Infrastructure.

a. **Revenue Vehicles:**

- CTDOT Goal: maintain vehicles in a State of Good Repair (SGR)
- SGR based on vehicle age, known as the Useful Life Benchmark (ULB). ULB varies by vehicle type and was set by CTDOT in cooperation with transit providers. For example, a standard bus has a ULB of 12 years.
- CTDOT Performance Measure: Percent of revenue vehicles that have met or exceeded their Useful Life Benchmark (ULB.)

Example: The CTDOT performance target is 14%. This means that a transit provider with 100 buses should only have 14 or less buses that are over 12 years old (12 years = ULB for buses).

b. Service Vehicles:

- CTDOT Goal: maintain vehicles in a SGR.
- SGR based on vehicle age (ULB), similar to revenue vehicles above.
- CTDOT Performance Measure: Percent of service vehicles that have met or exceeded their ULB.

Example: a performance target of 20% has been set for automobiles, which have a ULB of 4 years. This means no more than 20% of automobile service vehicles should be over 4 years in age.

c. Facilities:

- CTDOT Goal: Maintain all facilities in a SGR.
- SGR based on facility condition. Uses a rating system used by the FTA known as the [Transit Economic Requirements Model](#).
- CTDOT Performance Measure: Percent of facilities with a rating below 3.0 on the FTA Transit Economic Requirements Model.

Example: CTDOT has 0 facilities ranked before 3.0, the performance target seeks to continue having 0 facilities ranked before 3.0.

d. Guideway Infrastructure: applies only to Tier I rail operators only.

- CTDOT Goal: maintain all transit guideway assets in a SGR.
- SGR based on condition, specifically the number of “slow zone miles.” Slow zone miles are underperforming rail segments, similar to congestion on a highway.
- CTDOT Performance Measure: Percent of “slow zone” guideway miles.

Example: Currently 6% of guideway miles are classified as “slow zones,” CTDOT has set a target to reduce this number to 2%.

TAG Activity: respond to CTDOT’s request for a resolution of endorsement of the FTA SGR Performance Targets set by CTDOT and other transit providers. HARTransit and Norwalk Transit District were involved in this process and are supportive of these measures. This CTDOT request was received by the region on May 25th, 2017. CTDOT staff will be on hand to answer any questions that arise.