

APPROVED MINUTES OF 11/7/2017 Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

Held at 11am at the Comstock Community Center
180 School Road, Wilton, CT 06897

- Bethel Director of Public Works Douglas Arndt
- Bridgewater Absent
- Brookfield Director of Public Works Ralph Tedesco
- Danbury Director of Public Works Antonio Iadarola
- Darien Director of Public Works Edward Gentile
- Greenwich Deputy Commissioner of Public Works James Michel

- HARTtransit Absent
- New Canaan Absent
- New Fairfield Absent
- New Milford Director of Public Works Mike Zarba
- Newtown Director of Public Works Fred Hurley
- Norwalk Assistant Principal Engineer Michael Yeosock
- Norwalk TD CEO Kimberlee Morton

- Redding Absent
- Ridgefield Town Engineer Charles Fisher
- Sherman Absent
- Stamford Traffic Engineer Garrett Bolella
- Weston Land Use Director Tracy Kulikowski
- Westport Town Engineer Peter Ratkiewich
- Wilton Director of Planning Robert Nerney

Also in Attendance: from the CT Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities Deputy Director Cheryl Sharp, Contract Compliance Supervisor Alvin Bingham, and Executive Secretary Kristen Daniels; Kerry Ross of CTDOT, Stamford Grants Coordinator Erik Larson, Abdul Mohamed and Tom Altermatt of Danbury, Ali Moseni of NYMTC, New Milford Town Engineer Daniel Stanton, New Milford Town Planner Kathy Castagnetta, and WestCOG staff members Kristin Floberg, Robert Sachnin, Bob Brinton, Kristin Hadjstylianos and Jonathan Chew.

CALL TO ORDER / PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 am by Principal Planner Robert Sachnin. There was no public comment.

FEATURED PRESENTATION

Update from the CT Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO): A presentation was made by CHRO's Deputy Director Cheryl Sharp, assisted by Executive Secretary Kristen Daniels and Contract Compliance Supervisor Alvin Bingham. They explained that the CHRO monitors state funded projects awarded by municipalities and other agencies for compliance with state anti-discrimination laws.

The bulk of their presentation focused upon review of a series of handouts detailing CHRO checklists and procedures. It was clarified that the enforcement process upon contractors is by CHRO, not by the municipalities engaging them or by other state agencies. There was considerable discussion, after which the CHRO staff members were thanked for their informative visit.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Draft 2018 TAG Meeting Schedule. The schedule for upcoming 2018 was reviewed.

Regional Snow Plow Planning Update: Associate Planner Kristin Floberg updated TAG Members on the Snow Plow Planning Project. The consultant has completed the draft route organizations for all towns. These can now be reviewed, with the consultant to address comments, she said.

LOTICIP Projects Update. Rob Sachnin reviewed the Housatonic Valley and South West Region LOTICIP Projects Status Reports dated 10/05/2017. It was noted that continuation of this funding source has been included in the latest state budget. There was brief discussion.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 9/6/2017 Minutes: On a motion made by Jim Michel and then seconded by Bob Nerney, the minutes of the TAG Meeting of 9/6/2017 were unanimously approved.

Transportation Improvement Program: Jamie Bastian provided background on a proposed TIP amendment entitled "Housatonic Valley Project #0018-0136 Brookfield Town Center Pedestrian Improvements Phase 2." Selected for funding under the Transportation Alternatives Program, he noted that this project improves connectivity along Brookfield's Route 202 and leverages other improvements in this location.

Ralph Tedesco explained the merits of the project. Then on a motion made by Fred Hurley and seconded by Charlie Fisher, it was voted unanimously to recommend endorsement by HVMPO.

Draft LOTICIP Project Solicitation Methodology: Rob Sachnin reviewed the draft LOTICIP Project Solicitation Methodology attached to the agenda. He is seeking TAG input to be followed by a recommendation to WestCOG for its approval, after which the next project solicitation can be initiated.

There was then considerable discussion. It was agreed that clarity as to status of projects and their competitive environment would be enhanced if the selection criteria entitled “Existing LOTCIP overprogrammed projects” was deleted in Section 5.

Then on a motion made by Tony Iadarola and seconded by Pete Ratkewich, it was voted unanimously to recommend to WestCOG that it approved the Solicitation Methodology as amended.

Corridor Study Priorities: The agenda attachment entitled “CT Corridor Study Solicitation: Project Prioritization and Recommendations” was reviewed. WestCOG may submit a maximum of two applications to CTDOT.

Kristin Hadjstylianos then gave a PowerPoint presentation on this subject. There was discussion, with the following priorities recommended for advancement:

- Stamford: Washington Boulevard State Routes 102 and 127 Corridor Study at \$300,000
- Danbury and New Fairfield: Routes 37 and 841 Corridor Study at \$200,000

On a motion made by Fred Hurley and seconded by Mike Zarba, the submission priorities above were approved unanimously as the TAG’s recommendation to WestCOG, with Kim Morton abstaining.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion Items as Raised by the TAG: There was no discussion.

UPCOMING MEETINGS / ADJOURNMENT

It was stated that the next MPO and COG meeting will be on 11/16/2017, with the next TAG meeting scheduled for 12/5/2017. The meeting was then adjourned at 12:45 pm.