

Housatonic Valley  
Metropolitan Planning Organization  
**APPROVED HVMPO MINUTES**  
For the 04/23/2020 Meeting

Held via videoconference

Chairman Rudolph Marconi - Vice Chairman Julia Pemberton

## MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bethel	First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker
Bridgewater	Absent
Brookfield	<b>First Selectman Steve Dunn</b>
Danbury	Absent
New Fairfield	First Selectman Pat Del Monaco
New Milford	Absent
Newtown	First Selectman Dan Rosenthal
Redding	<b>First Selectman Julia Pemberton</b>
Ridgefield	Absent
Sherman	First Selectman Don Lowe
Transit Representative	CEO Rick Schreiner
CTDOT	Transportation Planning Supervisor Kathryn Faraci
MPO Staff	Executive Director Francis Pickering (non-voting)

## OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, New Canaan First Selectman Kevin Moynihan, Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling, Weston First Selectman Chris Spaulding, Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice and Westport First Selectman James Marpe were in attendance. WestCOG staff members in attendance were Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Todd Fontanella, Nicole Sullivan, Kristin Floberg, Patty Payne, Paula Burton, Kevin Mahoney, Charles Vidich, Nick Trabka, and Victoria Ricks. Alex Dashev from HARtransit, Norwalk Transit CEO Kimberlee Morton, CT House of Representative David Michel, Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office, Tracey Alston from Eversource, WestCOG attorney Steve Mednick, as well as members of the public Joan Polzin, David Stevenson, David Budet, Dawn Jolley, Janice Gavit, Cheryl Hill, Victoria Lo, Isabella Lau, Nancy Plaston, and Craig Sistara were also in attendance.

## CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Julia Pemberton called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Joan Polzin, resident of Brookfield, asked what health research WestCOG's 5G Task Force is doing. She asked if the group could stall 5G installation, and what has the FCC done to revise its reports. Nancy Plaston asserted negative health effects of 5G. David Budet, resident of Brookfield, asked how he would receive answers regarding his questions about claimed health effects of 5G after the town directed him to send his questions to his CT Senate and House Representatives. He also asked each town to inform constituents about 5G deployment and when it will take place. Cheryl Hill, resident

of New Milford, voiced support of Joan's and Nancy's opinions on the health effects of 5G on humans, animals, and plants and said she does not feel adequate research has been done. She also stated she would like a timeline of installation in the region and have locations be publicly noted. David Michel, State Representative for the 146<sup>th</sup> District, expressed opposition to widespread rollout of 5G without more research. He stated he is against installations near schools. Craig Sistara stated he is upset about the state government pushing 5G without adequate testing. He is concerned about installations near homes and that they may cause harm. David Stevenson, former Bethel Resident, thanked Joan Polzin. Isabella Lau voiced opposition to 5G deployment in the region. Dawn Jolley, resident of Ridgefield, representing the CT Freedom Alliance, also voiced opposition to 5G. She is concerned with any rollout during the Covid-19 pandemic. Janice Gavit, resident of Brookfield, stated her opposition to the 5G rollout and asked elected officials to prevent additional installation until more testing can be done.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**DEMHS Regional Transit Inventory:** WestCOG Assistant Planner Nicole Sullivan gave an update on the DEMHS Regional Transit Inventory project. Emergency Support Function 1 representatives have been meeting to refine the development of the Transit Resource Inventory. The inventory outlines transit providers, their resources, and contact information. DEMHS Region 5 has requested that ESF1 develop a Transit Resource Operations Plan to implement tiers of response if transit resources are needed.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**HVMPO Approval of 3/19/2020 Meeting Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn, the minutes of the 3/19/2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

**2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program:** After a review by WestCOG Assistant Planner Nicole Sullivan and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe, the HVMPO TIP Amendment #2020-0416 *Statewide Transportation Demand Management (NY-NJ-CT Moderate)* was unanimously approved.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business discussed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The next MPO meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. On a motion duly made and seconded it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:47 pm.