

South Western Region
Metropolitan Planning Organization
APPROVED SWRMPO MINUTES
For the 04/23/2020 Meeting
Held via videoconference
Chairman Jayme Stevenson - Vice Chairman James Marpe

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Darien	First Selectman Jayme Stevenson
Greenwich	Absent
New Canaan	First Selectman Kevin Moynihan
Norwalk	Mayor Harry Rilling
Stamford	Absent
Weston	First Selectman Chris Spaulding
Westport	First Selectman James Marpe
Wilton	First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice
Transit Representative	CEO Kimberlee Morton
CTDOT	Transportation Planning Supervisor Kathryn Faraci
MPO Staff	Executive Director Francis Pickering (non-voting)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn, New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, Newtown First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton, and Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe 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 and Rick Schreiner from HARTransit, 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

Chairman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order at 12:08pm.

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

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stated she would like a timeline of installation in the region and have locations be publicly noted. David Michel, State Representative for the 146th 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

SWRMPO Approval of 3/19/2020 Meeting Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice and seconded by Westport First Selectman James Marpe, 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 Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice and seconded by Westport First Selectman James Marpe the SWRMPO 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 21st. On a motion duly made and seconded it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:47 pm.