

Housatonic Valley
Metropolitan Planning Organization
APPROVED HVMPO MINUTES
For the 09/17/2020 Meeting

Held via videoconference

Chairman Rudolph Marconi - Vice Chairman Julia Pemberton

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bethel	First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker
Bridgewater	First Selectman Curtis Read
Brookfield	First Selectman Steve Dunn
Danbury	Absent
New Fairfield	First Selectman Pat Del Monaco
New Milford	Mayor Pete Bass
Newtown	First Selectman Dan Rosenthal
Redding	First Selectman Julia Pemberton
Ridgefield	First Selectman Rudy Marconi
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, Stamford Transportation Bureau Chief Jim Travers, 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, Kevin Mahoney, Nick Trabka, Tucker Beckett, and Victoria Ricks. Tracey Alston and Samantha LaBonne from Eversource, Lori Hammill from Norwalk Transit, Alex Dashev from HARTransit, Greenwich Planning and Zoning Chairman Margarita Alban, Andrea Rynn, Jennine Lupo, and Westport Operations Director Sara Harris were also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Community Connectivity Grant Program: WestCOG Principal Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos gave an update on the Community Connectivity Program, which seeks to improve safety and accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians. This grant program will provide funding up to \$600,000 for local municipalities for construction cost related

to these projects. All engineering, design, etc. must be covered by the municipality. Grant applications are due to CTDOT by Friday, October 16th. If you have any additional questions, please contact WestCOG staff members.

2021-2024 Draft HVMPO and SWRMPO TIP Schedule: WestCOG Associate Planner Nicole Sullivan gave an update on the draft HVMPO and SWRMPO 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The draft TIP will be considered for endorsement at the October 15, 2020 MPO meetings. All materials for the draft 2021-2024 HVMPO and SWRMPO TIP are available on the WestCOG website.

ACTION ITEMS

HVMPO Approval of 8/20/2020 Meeting Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, the minutes of the 8/20/2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

Updated Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Priority: Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney reported that the Town of Brookfield has withdrawn its application for federal Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funds. By previous HVMPO resolution, the Brookfield and Danbury applications were ranked #1 and #2, respectively. Given Brookfield's action, the HVMPO should designate a new #1 priority. On a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, HVMPO members unanimously approved a motion recommending that the HVMPO designate the Danbury City-Wide Enhancement of Pedestrian Mobility as its top priority for Transportation Alternative Set-Aside funding.

Resolution to Approve Planning Certifications: After review by WestCOG Principal Planner Kristin Hadjstylianios and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn, the Resolution to approve the HVMPO Planning Certification was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering announced that WestCOG was awarded a Federal BUILD Grant for \$400,000 to conduct a study to determine whether a regional value capture mechanism can be used on a regional, multi-jurisdictional level to generate the funds required to support improvements along the Danbury and New Canaan Branch Lines.

ADJOURNMENT

The next MPO meeting will be held on Thursday, October 15th. On a motion duly made and seconded it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:32pm.