

Housatonic Valley
Metropolitan Planning Organization

APPROVED HVMPO MINUTES

For the 10/15/2020 Meeting

Held via videoconference

Chairman Rudolph Marconi - Vice Chairman Julia Pemberton

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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| Bethel | First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker |
| Bridgewater | Absent |
| Brookfield | First Selectman Steve Dunn |
| Danbury | Absent |
| New Fairfield | First Selectman Pat Del Monaco |
| New Milford | Absent |
| 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, Greenwich Selectman Lauren Rabin, New Canaan First Selectman Kevin Moynihan, Norwalk Chief of Staff Laoise King, Stamford Mayor David Martin, Stamford Transportation Bureau Chief Jim Travers, Weston First Selectman Chris Spaulding 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, Patty Payne, Charles Vidich, Paula Burton and Victoria Ricks. Lori Hammill from Norwalk Transit, Alex Dashev from HARtransit, Greenwich Planning and Zoning Chairman Margarita Alban, and Jennifer Johnson were also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 12:06pm.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

INFORMATION ITEMS

CTDOT Draft 2021-2025 Capital Plan: WestCOG Principal Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos gave an update on the CTDOT Draft 2021-2025 Capital Plan. This is a document developed by CTDOT and is a 5-year outline of federal and state transportation projects.

Municipalities may review the document and submit their comments to WestCOG by Monday, October 26th.

US EPA DERA School Bus Rebate Program: WestCOG Principal Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos gave an update on a funding opportunity for assistance for municipalities and private fleet owners to replace diesel fueled school buses with new buses certified to EPA's clean emission standards. Selected applicants can receive a rebate of \$20,000-\$65,000 per bus. Applications are due to DERA by October 30, 2020. If you would like assistance submitting applications or have questions, please reach out to WestCOG Staff.

CTDEEP 2020 State DERA Program: WestCOG Principal Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos gave an update on the 2020 State DERA Program, which is seeking grant proposals from municipalities for diesel emission reduction projects. Some example of projects include replacement or repowering of construction and commercial vehicles and equipment idle reduction projects. Applications are due to CTDEEP by November 18, 2020. If you would have questions, please reach out to WestCOG Staff.

ACTION ITEMS

HVMPO Approval of 9/17/2020 Meeting Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, the minutes of the 9/17/2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program: After a review by WestCOG Associate Planner Nicole Sullivan, and on a motion made by Newtown First Selectman Dan Rosenthal and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, HVMPO TIP Amendment#2020-1015: *Intersection Improvements at Route 34 and SR 490 (Wasserman Way)* was unanimously approved.

2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program and Air Quality Conformity: The federal transportation improvement program and corresponding CTDOT air quality conformity determinations for the Housatonic Valley Region MPO were discussed by WestCOG Associate Planner, Nicole Sullivan. Two administrative changes were identified for the HV Draft FFY 2021-2024 TIP project listing. The first is for the Town of Ridgefield, project 0117-0164 "Railroad Crossing Improvements", the description should be edited to reflect that the project is on the Danbury Branch Line, not the New Canaan Branch Line. The second is for HARTransit project 0416-XXXX. HART's Operating Assistance for FY21-24 should reflect a local and federal match of \$615,302 which increases the project's total. A motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn to amend the TIP with the inclusion of the changes stated above. The recommendation was unanimous. A motion was then made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, to recommend the amended HV Draft FFY 2021-2024 TIP project listing, and the corresponding air quality conformity resolutions as amended. The recommendation was unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The next MPO meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19th. On a motion duly made and seconded it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:37pm.