

**APPROVED MINUTES OF 9/29/2020**

**Technical Advisory Group (TAG)**

Held via Zoom videoconference

• Bethel	Director of Public Utilities Tom Villa
• Bridgewater	Absent
• Brookfield	Director of Public Works Ralph Tedesco
• Danbury	City Traffic Engineer Abdul Barry Mohamed
• Darien	Director of Public Works Ed Gentile
• Greenwich	Deputy Commissioner of Public Works James Michel
• Transit Representative – HV	Chief Executive Officer Rick Schreiner
• New Canaan	Director of Public Works Tiger Mann
• New Fairfield	Absent
• New Milford	Director of Public Works Jack Healy
• Newtown	Absent
• Norwalk	Assistant Principal Engineer Michael Yeosock
• Transit Representative – SWR	Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Morton
• Redding	Absent
• Ridgefield	Absent
• Sherman	Absent
• Stamford	Transportation Bureau Chief Jim Travers
• Weston	Director of Land Use Tracey Kulikowski
• Westport	Director of Public Works Pete Ratkiewich
• Wilton	Town Planner Michael Wrinn

**Also in Attendance:**

Jennifer Carrier from FHWA, Kathryn Faraci from CTDOT, Brookfield Project Manager Greg Dembowski, Danbury Project Engineer Tom Altermatt, Darien Director of Planning and Zoning Jeremy Ginsburg, Westport Town Engineer Keith Wilberg, New Canaan Town Engineer Maria Coplit, and Alex Dashev from HARTransit. WestCOG staff members; Kristin Hadjstylianos, Todd Fontanella, Charles Vidich, Kevin Mahoney, Nicole Sullivan, Tucker Beckett and Victoria Ricks were also in attendance.

**CALL TO ORDER/ PUBLIC COMMENT**

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 am by Principal Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos. There were no public comments made.

**INFORMATIONAL 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 16<sup>th</sup>. If you have any additional questions, please contact WestCOG staff members.

**USDOT BUILD 2020 Grant Award:** WestCOG Principal Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos announced that WestCOG was awarded a Federal BUILD Grant for \$400,000 to conduct a planning 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.

#### ACTION ITEMS

**Approval of 9/8/2020 Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Greenwich Deputy Commissioner of Public Works James Michel and seconded by Weston Director of Land Use Tracey Kulikowski, the minutes of the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting were unanimously approved.

**2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program:** After a review by WestCOG Associate Planner Nicole Sullivan, Darien Director of Planning and Zoning Jeremy Ginsburg made a motion and was seconded by Westport Director of Public Works Pete Ratkiewich, to approve the HVMPO TIP *Amendment#2020-1015: Intersection Improvements at Route 34 and SR 490 (Wasserman Way)* as presented. After a discussion, the motion was later amended by Darien Director of Planning and Zoning Jeremy Ginsburg and seconded by Danbury Project Manager Tom Altermatt to move forward with the recommendation on the condition that the Town of Newtown confirm they agree with the change. This motion as amended 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 South Western Region MPO and Housatonic Valley Region MPO were discussed by WestCOG Associate Planner, Nicole Sullivan. Peter Ratkiewich, Westport Director of Public Works, stated that the administration of the Town of Westport has proposed the removal of Project #158-214 from the SWR Draft 2021-2024 TIP, pending forthcoming information based on the Environmental Assessment. This includes six line items, four of which are for the construction phase, and one each for final design and right of way. With the inclusion of the changes stated, a motion was made by Westport Director of Public Works Peter Ratkiewich and seconded by Weston Director of Land Use Tracey Kulikowski to recommend the amended SWR Draft FFY 2021-2024 TIP project listing, the HV Draft FFY 2021-2024 TIP project listing, and the corresponding air quality conformity determinations to the MPOs. The recommendation was unanimous.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

**Discussion Items as Raised by the TAG:** WestCOG GIS Analyst Tucker Beckett gave an update on the Stormwater mapping project. Tucker has currently started field work in the town of Brookfield.

**Future Presentations & Items of Interest:** There were none stated.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS/ ADJOURNMENT

The next TAG meeting will be held on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The next MPO and COG meetings will be held October 15<sup>th</sup>. On a motion duly made the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:30 am.