

*Disclaimer: These interim minutes of the Technical Advisory Group (“TAG”) of the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (“WestCOG” or “COG”) are released and “available for public inspection” and “posted” on WestCOG’s website, in accordance with C.G.S. §1-225(a). Said interim minutes are subject to review and approval by the TAG members, after which time the final approved minutes will be available and posted in accordance with laws. Accordingly, the interim minutes may contain inaccuracies and do not reflect the final action of the TAG.*

## **INTERIM MINUTES OF 11/10/2020**

### **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	Absent
• Darien	Senior Planner Fred Doneit
• Greenwich	Deputy Commissioner of Public Works James Michel
• Transit Representative – HV	Transportation Planner Alex Dashev
• 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	Traffic Engineer Frank Petise
• Weston	Director of Land Use Tracey Kulikowski
• Westport	Town Engineer Kelth Wilberg
• Wilton	Town Planner Michael Wrinn

#### **Also in Attendance:**

Bethel Director of Public Works Eric Swenson, Brookfield Project Manager Greg Dembowski, New Milford Compliance Specialist Tammy Reardon, New Canaan Town Engineer Maria Coplit, Jennifer Carrier from FHWA, Kathryn Faraci from CTDOT, Meg Haffner from the Kennedy Center, Keliesha Jones from CTrides and Mike Fisher from B&L Companies. WestCOG staff members: Kristin Hadjstylianos, Todd Fontanella, Paula Burton, Kevin Mahoney, Nicole Sullivan and Victoria Ricks were also in attendance.

#### **CALL TO ORDER/ PUBLIC COMMENT**

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 am by Principal Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos. There were no public comments made.

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

**Active Transportation Solicitation:** WestCOG Principal Planner Kristin Hadjstylianios gave an update on two SPAN Grant Solicitations that are available. These programs are both funded through the CDC and managed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). The first one provides bicycle education resources for school educators and the second solicitation is to implement projects that will improve pedestrian and bicycle activity through workshops, implementation projects, and installing bicycle racks. Both applications are due to CRCOG by November 20<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions or need assistance filling out the applications, please contact WestCOG staff.

**DEMHS/ESF – Public Works Representative Needed:** WestCOG Associate Planner Nicole Sullivan gave an update on DEMHS Region 1, which supports the towns in the SWRMPO region. They are currently looking for a Public Works Director to act as a chair for this committee and provide support in case of disaster. If any Public Works members would like more information, or would like to volunteer, please reach out to Nicole Sullivan at WestCOG.

**UConn CIRCA Resilient CT:** WestCOG Associate Planner Nicole Sullivan gave an update on the Resilient Connecticut project priorities.

**Regional Study – Waste Management Project:** WestCOG Senior Planner Todd Fontanella gave an update on the Regional Waste Management Project. WestCOG is working with the consultant group, Barton and Loguidice, to develop a regional approach to reduce operation and transportation costs and evaluate the infrastructure. Todd will be reaching out to the municipalities participating in the project to set up individual meetings very soon. If you have any questions, please contact Todd at WestCOG.

## ACTION ITEMS

**Approval of 9/29/2020 Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Westport Town Engineer Keith Wilberg and seconded by Greenwich Deputy Commissioner of Public Works James Michel, the minutes of the September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting were unanimously approved.

**2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program:** After a review by WestCOG Associate Planner Nicole Sullivan, a motion was made by Norwalk Assistant Principal Engineer Michael Yeosock and seconded by New Milford Director of Public Works Jack Healy, to approve the HVMPPO TIP Amendment#2020-1119: *Replacement of Highway Sheet Aluminum Signs* and the SWRMPO TIP Amendment#2020-1119: *Replacement of Highway Sheet Aluminum Signs* as presented.

**LOTICIP Adjustment:** Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney presented a requested adjustment to the COG's LOTICIP project endorsements. On a motion made by New Canaan Director of Public Works Tiger Mann and seconded by Greenwich Deputy Commissioner of Public Works James Michel, the TAG unanimously recommended approving the increase of the Weston Pedestrian Safety Improvements from \$1,820,000 to \$1,850,000.

**2021 Meeting Schedule:** After review and on a motion made by Norwalk Assistant Principal Engineer Michael Yeosock and seconded by Norwalk Transit Chief Executive Officer Kimberlee Morton, the 2021 Meeting Schedule was unanimously approved.

## OTHER BUSINESS

**Discussion Items as Raised by the TAG:** WestCOG Associate Planner Nicole Sullivan gave an update on the Hazardous Mitigation Plan and reminded each municipality participating in the plan that they must get a formal

approval at a Board of Selectman meeting. Nicole will be reaching out to each town individually in the coming weeks with more information.

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

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS/ ADJOURNMENT

The next TAG meeting will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The next MPO and COG meetings will be held November 19<sup>th</sup>. On a motion duly made **the** meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:26 am.

**INTERIM MINUTES SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL BY THE TAG MEMBERS**