

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 1/12/2021

Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

Held via Zoom videoconference

• Bethel	Absent
• Bridgewater	Absent
• Brookfield	Absent
• 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	Director of Public Works Fred Hurley
• 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	Absent
• Westport	Town Engineer Keith Wilberg
• Wilton	Assistant Director of Public Works Frank Smeriglio

Also in Attendance:

Danbury Project Engineer Tom Altermatt, New Milford Compliance Specialist Tammy Reardon, New Canaan Town Engineer Maria Coplit, Wilton Town Planner Michael Wrinn, HARTransit Planner Alex Dashev, Jennifer Carrier from FHWA, Kathryn Faraci from CTDOT, Victoria Brudz from Milone and MacBroom, and Meg Haffner from the Kennedy Center. WestCOG staff members: Kristin Hadjstylianos, Mike Towle, Todd Fontanella, Kevin Mahoney, Nicole Sullivan, and Victoria Ricks were also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER/ PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was called to order at 11:02am by Principal Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos. There were no public comments made.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Winter Maintenance Update: WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle gave a demonstration on how TAG members can access the winter maintenance training video on the WestCOG website if they were unable to attend the December training session. Mike also shared the availability of snowplow optimization routes that were developed to account for reduced workforce due to COVID-19. These routes were shared with any municipality that requested the data.

UConn CIRCA Resilient CT: WestCOG Associate Planner Nicole Sullivan gave an update on the Resilient Connecticut workshop occurring on January 25th. Registrations are due by January 18th. Victoria Brudz, from Milone and MacBroom, gave an update on the progress made on the Resilient CT CIRCA project during December. Victoria also reviewed the current mapping of the Zones of Shared Risk. If you have any questions about the workshop or about the work being completed, please contact WestCOG staff members.

FTA Transit Safety Performance Targets: WestCOG Planner Todd Fontanella gave an update on CTDOT's proposed FTA transit safety targets for 2021. The next step is for TAG members to review and recommend endorsement of the safety targets at the February TAG meeting.

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program: WestCOG Principal Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos gave an update on the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ), which is a federal program that provides funds to transportation projects and programs that contribute to maintenance of air quality standards. WestCOG staff discussed that applications must be prioritized by the MPOs, the top three priorities will advance to CTDOT for consideration and will compete against applications from other MPOs in the state. Kristin stressed the importance of looking for projects that have regional significance. If you would like WestCOG staff to review and provide informal feedback on your applications, please send them to WestCOG by January 24th, with completed applications due to WestCOG by February 21st, 2021. WestCOG will provide an overview of the submitted applications and recommendations at the March TAG meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 12/8/2020 Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Greenwich Deputy Commissioner of Public Works James Michel and seconded by Norwalk Assistant Principal Engineer Michael Yeosock, the minutes of the December 8th meeting were unanimously approved, with the minutes amended marking Newtown Director of Public Works Fred Hurley as attended.

FHWA Highway Safety Performance Targets for 2021: WestCOG Associate Planner Nicole Sullivan gave an update on CTDOT's proposed safety targets for 2021. After review and on a motion made by Newtown Director of Public Works Fred Hurley and seconded by Norwalk Assistant Principal Engineer Michael Yeosock, the highway safety performance targets were unanimously approved and will be presented to MPO members at the January meeting.

LOT/CIP Adjustment: Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney presented a requested adjustment to the COG's LOT/CIP project endorsements. On a motion made by New Canaan Director of Public Works Tiger Mann and seconded by Newtown Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, the TAG unanimously recommended approving the increase of the Brookfield Streetscape Phase project and will be presented to COG members at the January meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion Items as Raised by the TAG: There were none stated.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS/ ADJOURNMENT

The next TAG meeting will be held on February 9th. The next MPO and COG meetings will be held on January 21st. On a motion duly made the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:43am.

INTERIM MINUTES SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL BY THE TAG MEMBERS