

## APPROVED MINUTES OF 3/9/2021

### Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

Held via Zoom videoconference

• Bethel	Director of Public Works Eric Swenson
• Bridgewater	Absent
• Brookfield	Director of Public Works Ralph Tedesco
• Danbury	Traffic Engineer Abdul 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	Director of Public Works Jeff Hanson
• Ridgefield	Absent
• Sherman	Absent
• Stamford	Interim Transportation Bureau Chief Frank Petise
• Weston	Director of Land Use Tracey Kulikowski
• Westport	Town Engineer Keith Wilberg
• Wilton	Assistant Director of Public Works Frank Smeriglio

#### Also, in Attendance:

Brookfield Project Manager Greg Dembowski Darien Director of Planning and Zoning Jeremy Ginsburg, Danbury Town Engineer Tom Altermatt, New Canaan Town Engineer Maria Coplit, New Milford Compliance Specialist Tammy Reardon, Wilton Town Planner Michael Wrinn, Kathryn Faraci from CTDOT, Theresa (Tess) Schwartz and Mary McCarthy Program Director from UCONN's T2 Center, Michael Fisher from BL Companies, UCONN Director of Resilience Planning John Truscinski, Jennifer Carrier from FHWA, WestCOG staff members; Kristin Hadjstylianos, Todd Fontanella, Kevin Mahoney, Nicole Sullivan, Victoria Ricks, and Cricket Carpenter were also in attendance.

#### CALL TO ORDER/ PUBLIC COMMENT

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

## FEATURED PRESENTATION

Theresa (Tess) Schwartz PE, PTOE, and Mary McCarthy Program Director at UCONN's CT Training and Technical Assistance Center gave an update to the recent changes at the UCONN T2 Center. Mary talked about the newly designed website which now allows you to view the upcoming training schedule and register online. The website also allows you to view past training and access certifications. Tess presented the T2 Center's new Certificate Program for Traffic Signal Technicians. The program is being offered as a mix of online, classroom, and hands-on training in the field. There are two levels of certificates being offered. Each level requires four workshops. Level I must be completed to receive a Level II certificate. For more detailed information on the Traffic Signal Certificate Program and the other training opportunities being offered please visit:

[Connecticut Transportation Institute \(uconn.edu\)](http://uconn.edu)

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

**UCONN CIRCA Resilient CT:** UCONN's Director of Resilience Planning John Truscinski gave an update on the Safety Circuit Rider Program. The project is currently in stage two with work being done on updating Climate Change Vulnerability Index to incorporate heat, wind, and public health factors. The consultants are trying to create an indicator that will work to identify potential vulnerable areas. The results will be presented at a webinar on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The next set of workshops will be in May for planning for Phase 3, which includes engaging with community partners, groups, and health advocates that are working in the WestCOG region. If you have any questions about the workshop or about the work being completed, please contact WestCOG staff members.

**Unified Planning Work Program:** WestCOG Principal Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos gave an update on the work beginning around developing the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Fiscal Year 22 and 23. The UPWP is a federal requirement for MPOs. The first draft is due to CTDOT this week. A draft will be distributed to the TAG and MPO members for review and comment. The final version will be shared for endorsement at the May TAG and MPO meetings. If your municipality has any additional transportation needs they would like included in UPWP, please contact WestCOG staff.

**CTDOT Corridor Study Solicitation:** WestCOG Planner Todd Fontanella gave an update on the applications process for the CTDOT Corridor Study Solicitation. Applications are due at the end of April to WestCOG staff. The applications will be reviewed at the June TAG and MPO meetings. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Todd.

**Regional Transportation Safety Plan Update:** WestCOG Associate planner Nicole Sullivan gave an update on the Regional Transportation Safety Plan to the TAG members, noting that the draft plan is still in review with the CTDOT.

## ACTION ITEMS

**Approval of 02/09/2021 Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Norwalk Principal Engineer Michael Yeosock and seconded by Newtown Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, the minutes of the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were unanimously approved.

**FTA Transit Safety Performance Targets:** WestCOG Planner Todd Fontanella gave an update on the proposed FTA transit safety targets for 2021. With consultation between WestCOG staff and CTDOT/CT Transit and Norwalk Transit District, the SWRMPO targets are finalized and ready for endorsement at the May MPO meeting. After review and on a motion made by Norwalk Transit District Chief Executive Officer Kim Morton and seconded

by Newtown Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, the SWRMPO FTA transit safety performance targets were unanimously approved and will be presented to MPO members at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program:** After a review by WestCOG Associate Planner Nicole Sullivan, a motion was made by Newtown Director of Public Works Fred Hurley and seconded by New Milford Director of Public Works Jack Healy, to unanimously approve the HVMPO TIP *Amendment for Project 0096-0204: Intersection Improvements at Route 34 and SR 490, Amendment for Project 0170-3417 Mast Arm & Span Pole Inspections -AC Conversion, and the SWRMPO TIP Amendment for Project 0173-0512 Replace Traffic Signal LED Lamps in various locations, , #0089-0129: Rehabilitation of Bridge 05002 over Collins Pond in New Canaan, #0170-3417: Mast Arm & Span Pole Inspections- AC Conversion, #0102-0295: NHS Median Barrier/Resurfacing AC Conversion, City of Norwalk, and #0102-0360: Upgrade Traffic Signals & Install Variable Message Signs, City of Norwalk.*

**CMAQ Solution Priorities:** WestCOG Principal Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos reviewed the project applications submitted for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program solicitation. WestCOG staff received 6 applications, reviewed them, and have developed staff proposed project rankings. After discussion and on a motion made by Newtown Director of Public Works Fred Hurley and seconded by Greenwich Deputy Commissioner of Public Works James Michel both the HVMPO and SWRMPO project rankings were unanimously approved and will be presented for endorsement at the March MPO meeting.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Discussion Items as Raised by the TAG:** Fred Hurley updated TAG members on Newtown's two EV charging station proposals, with kw hour charges being significantly different. Fred is reviewing these and will update everyone at the next TAG meeting. Brookfield Project Manager Greg Dembowski inquired about the Federal Stimulus Bill money and if any of it would be coming back to CT.

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

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS/ ADJOURNMENT**

The next TAG meeting will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The next MPO and COG meetings will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup>. On a motion duly made the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 12:03pm.