

APPROVED MINUTES OF 5/11/2021

Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

Held via Zoom videoconference

• Bethel	Absent
• Bridgewater	Absent
• Brookfield	Director of Public Works Ralph Tedesco
• Danbury	Traffic Engineer Abdul Mohamed
• Darien	Director of Public works Ed Gentile
• Greenwich	Municipal Engineer James Michel
• Transit Representative – HV	Chief Executive Officer Rick Schreiner
• New Canaan	Director of Public Works Tiger Mann
• New Fairfield	Absent
• New Milford	Compliance Specialist Tammy Reardon
• Newtown	Director of Public Works Fred Hurley
• Norwalk	Principal Engineer Michael Yeosock
• Transit Representative - SWR	Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Morton
• Redding	Absent
• Ridgefield	Absent
• Sherman	Absent
• Stamford	Interim Transportation Bureau Chief Frank Petise
• Weston	Director of Land Use Tracey Kulikowski
• Westport	Town Engineer Keith Wilberg
• Wilton	Absent

Also, in Attendance: Brookfield Project Manager Greg Dembowski, Danbury Project Engineer Tom Altermatt, New Canaan P.E. Maria Coplit, Norwalk Transit District (NTD) Manager of Transportation Planning and Marketing, Paul Chenard, Kathryn Faraci from CTDOT, Jennifer Carrier from FHWA, Alex Dashev from HART Transit, Victoria Vetre from SLR Consulting, Meg Haffner from the Kennedy Center, WestCOG staff members; Kristin Hadjstylianos, Kristin Floberg, Todd Fontanella, Kevin Mahoney, Nicole Sullivan, Tucker Bennett, and Cricket Carpenter were also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER/ PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 by Principal Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos. There were no public comments made.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

DATA Collection Program: WestCOG Planner Kristin Floberg gave an update on the Regional Data Collection services. WestCOG has data collection equipment to assist member municipalities develop projects of regional and municipal significance. WestCOG staff are trained to install the data collectors.

UConn CIRCA Resilient CT: Victoria Vetre from SLR Consulting gave an update on the Resilient CT project. The next set of workshops will begin on May 26th for planning 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.

COMMUTER PARKING LOT VEHICLE COUNTING PROGRAM: WestCOG Senior Planner Todd Fontanella and Associate Planner Nicole Sullivan gave an overview of the Program. GIS Analyst Tucket Bennett provided a demonstration of the on-line Commuter Parking Data Dashboard that he created. The interactive map can be accessed on the WestCOG website.

SNOWPLOW ROUTING SURVEY: WestCOG Planner Kristin Floberg performed a live follow-up survey of the TAG members regarding their experience with the optimized snowplow routes from 2018 and their experience with Covid reduced staffing optimization conducted back in December 2020.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS for CTDOT SERVICE AND FARE CHANGES: WestCOG Senior Planner Todd Fontanella introduced the CTDOT virtual public hearings that they will be conducting regarding the rail changes and Ride fare changes. The proposed service and fare changes may be viewed on the DOT's public website department's website and will be available as of April 29th.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 04/13 Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Newtown Director of Public Works Fred Hurley and seconded by NTD Manager of Transportation Planning and Marketing Paul Chenard, the minutes of the April 13th meeting were unanimously approved.

SWRMPO FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Amendments #2021-0520

0301-0195: New Haven Line- Station Improvement Program- Darien Station

The CTDOT-requested amendment would add a new project to the TIP in the Town of Darien. Improvement to the Darien Station on the New Haven Line would include construction of new platform sections, ADA platform upgrades and routing signage, as well as replacement of the grounding and bonding system. Construction for this project is scheduled for 2021. The project total is approximately \$45 million with no local match.

0300-0196: New Haven Line- Scour Rehabilitation Project

The CTDOT-requested amendment would provide funding for rehabilitation activities for Bridge 08022R in Darien and Bridge 08207R in Wilton along the New Haven Line in the SWRMPO, as well as Bridge 08086R in Milford and Bridge 08268R in Seymour. Scour is erosion of the soil at or near the substructure. To rehabilitate the bridge's scour mitigation, CTDOT will be performing full repairs of the structures to raise the condition rating to a state of good repair. Construction for this project is scheduled for 2021. The project total is approximately \$8 million with no local match.

0400-XXXX: CTTransit Systemwide Admin Capital/ Miscellaneous Support FY21

The CTDOT-requested amendment would add a new project to the TIP for CTTransit. Funding is provided under Fiscal Year 2021 and would enable the replacement of equipment that requires updating, such as; computer hardware, computer software, maintenance equipment, office equipment, and support vehicles. The project total is approximately \$1.05 million with no local match.

0170-3605: Statewide Transportation Demand Management (NY-NJ-CT Moderate)

The CTDOT-requested amendment would add a new project to the TIP for the TDM program known as CTRides. The project would provide funds for Fiscal Year 2021 and enables CTDOT to market and educate employers in support of the program. The program aims to reduce the number of employee work trips and decrease traffic congestion by helping to form carpools as well as implement teleworking programs. The project total is approximately \$3.35 million with no local match.

0102-0368: Resurfacing, Bridge & Safety Improvements, Main Ave to Newtown Turnpike

The CTDOT-requested amendment would roll over project#0102-0368 from the 2018-2021 TIP into the current 2021-2024 TIP for this upcoming period of time. The project will take place in the towns of Norwalk and Westport in Fiscal Year 2021 for the Merritt Parkway. AC Entry and AC Conversion in this construction phase provides flexibility at the time of authorization.

HVMPO FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Amendments #2021-0520

0170-3605: Statewide Transportation Demand Management (NY-NJ-CT Moderate)

The CTDOT-requested amendment would add a new project to the TIP for the TDM program known as CTRides. The project would provide funds for Fiscal Year 2021 and enables CTDOT to market and educate employers in support of the program. The program aims to reduce the number of employee work trips and decrease traffic congestion by helping to form carpools as well as implement teleworking programs. The project total is approximately \$3.35 million with no local match.

After a review by WestCOG Associate Planner Nicole Sullivan, a motion was made by Newtown Director of Public Works Fred Hurley and seconded by Greenwich Municipal Engineer James Michel. The 2021-2024 Transportation TIP Amendments were unanimously approved.

Commuter Unified Planning Work Program: WestCOG Principal Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos gave an update on the development of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Fiscal Year 22 and 23. The UPWP is a federal requirement for MPOs. A draft was shared with the Region on March 16th. The final version will be shared for endorsement at the May MPO meeting. After review and a motion made by Newtown Director of Public Works Fred Hurley and seconded by Stamford Interim Transportation Bureau Chief Frank Petise, a recommendation that the HVMPO and SWRMPO endorse their respective Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWPs) for Fiscal year 22 and 23 pending any final administrative and technical adjustments was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

WestCOG Principal Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos gave an update that WestCOG received five applications from the municipalities responding to the CTDOT Corridor Study Solicitation. WestCOG staff will present information on those applications at the June TAG meeting.

Newtown Director of Public Works Fred Hurley gave an update on working with vendors for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS/ ADJOURNMENT

The next TAG meeting will be held on June 8th. The next MPO and COG meetings will be held on May 20th. On a motion duly made the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:53am.