WestCOG Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

January 11th, 2022, at 11:00 am
Zoom Videoconference
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88473891934
Call-in Number 929-436-2866
Meeting ID: 884 7389 1934

Agenda

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
   a. Using Your Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)
   b. UCONN T2 Center updates
      Attachment 3b, pp. 1-2
   c. CTDOT Draft Capital Plan

4. ACTION ITEMS
   a. Approval of December 8th, 2021, Minutes
      Attachment 4a, pp. 3-4
   b. CTDOT 2022 Safety Targets
      Attachment 4b, pp. 5-10
   c. 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program
      Attachment 4c, pp. 11-12

5. OTHER BUSINESS
   a. Discussion Items as Raised by the TAG
   b. Future Presentations & Items of Interest

6. UPCOMING MEETINGS
   a. 01/20/2022 MPO and COG Meetings
   b. 02/08/2022 - TAG Meeting

7. ADJOURNMENT

ENGLISH: For language assistance or other accommodations, contact Western Connecticut Council of Governments at least five business days prior to the meeting at help@westcog.org.
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1 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482
Telephone/Fax 475-323-2060
Safety Matters
Coffee & Conversation

January 27, 2022
10:00 a.m. EST
Portland, CT’s Nationally Recognized Complete Streets Program

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Special Edition

Coffee & Conversation

Sustainable Winter Road Maintenance
Keeping Your Roadways Safe, Helping the Environment and Saving $$

February 24, 2022, 10:00am to 11:00am
A Conversation with James Mahoney, Executive Director of the CT Advanced Pavement Laboratory at the University of Connecticut

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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 12/8/2021
Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
Held via Zoom videoconference

• Bethel Director of Public Works Eric Swenson
• Bridgewater Absent
• Brookfield Absent
• Danbury Traffic Engineer Abdul Mohamed
• Darien Director of P & Z Jeremy Ginsberg
• Greenwich Deputy Commissioner of Public Works James Michel
• Transit Representative – HV HARTransit Transit Operations Planner Guyauth Gabbidon
• New Canaan Town Engineer Maria Coplit
• New Fairfield Absent
• New Milford Public Works Director Jack Healy
• Newtown Public Works Director Fred Hurley
• Norwalk Director of Transportation, Mobility and Parking, Jim Travers
• Transit Representative – SWR NTD Manager of Transportation & Planning Paul Chenard
• Redding Absent
• Ridgefield Absent
• Sherman Absent
• Stamford Absent
• Weston Land Use Director Tracy Kulikowski
• Westport Town Engineer Keith Wilberg
• Wilton Assistant Director of Public Works Frank Smeriglio

Also, in Attendance: Kathryn Faraci from CTDOT, Wilton Town Planner Michael Wrinn, Norwalk Principal Engineer Mike Yeosock, Ridgefield P & Z Commissioner Robert Hendrick, Jennifer Carrier from FHWA, Meg Haffner from the Kennedy Center, Veera Karukonda from Stamford, WestCOG staff members, Michael Towle, Kristin Hadjystylianos, Kevin Mahoney, Todd Fontanella, Nicole Sullivan, Tucker Beckett, and Cricket Carpenter.
CALL TO ORDER/ PUBLIC COMMENT:
The meeting was called to order at 11:01 am by WestCOG Principal Planner Kristin Hadjystylianos. There were no public comments.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM
Annual Report: WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle gave an update. The Annual Report may be accessed on the WestCOG website [https://westcog.org/](https://westcog.org/)

Regional Open Space Inventory: WestCOG GIS Analyst Tucker Beckett gave an overview and a demonstration of the interactive web map. The map may be viewed by visiting the WestCOG website.

Construction Contract General Requirements Template: WestCOG Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney gave an overview.

2022 CTDOT Safety Performance Measures: WestCOG Planner Nicole Sullivan provided an overview.

CTDOT Section 5310 Program Traditional Application Awards: WestCOG Senior Planner Todd Fontanalla provided an overview.

CTrides Aira Program: WestCOG Principal Planner Kristin Hadjystylianos provided an overview. For more information please visit: [https://ctrides.com/aira-en/](https://ctrides.com/aira-en/)

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Kristin provided an overview.

ACTION ITEMS
Approval of the November 9th, 2021, Minutes: After review and on a motion made by New Milford Public Works Director Jack Healy and seconded by Newtown Public Works Director Fred Hurley the minutes of the November 9th, 2021, meeting were unanimously approved.

2022 Meetings: After review and on a motion made by New Milford Public Works Director Jack Healy and seconded by Newtown Public Works Director Fred Hurley the 2022 Meeting date were unanimously approved.

2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program: WestCOG Planner Nicole Sullivan provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Weston Land Use Director Tracy Kulikowski and seconded by Westport Town Engineer Keith Wilberg, the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS and ITEMS OF INTEREST:

UPCOMING MEETINGS:
MPO/COG: 01/20/2022
TAG: 01/11/2022

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion duly made, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:41 am.
DATE: December 2, 2021

Safety Performance Measures - 2022 Safety Targets

Background: On March 15, 2016, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published a final rule to establish performance measures for State departments of transportation to carry out the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The HSIP is a federal-aid program which seeks to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. There are five safety performance management measures for the purpose of carrying out the HSIP:

- Number of Fatalities
- Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
- Number of Serious Injuries
- Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT
- Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries

Role of MPO in Performance Measures: Both CTDOT and the Connecticut MPOs are required to establish and report safety targets, but at different times. CTDOT set their targets for the five categories referenced above in August 2021. Following the establishment of State targets, MPOs have 180 days to either support CTDOT targets or establish other targets. Targets may be adjusted annually. If HVMPO and SWRMPO set their own targets, they then take on the responsibility of developing a methodology, reporting on targets, and meeting the targets. WestCOG is unable to calculate Rate of Fatalities per 100 million VMT and Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT due to the lack of VMT data available for the Region.

Guidance from FHWA recommends that states must set realistic targets otherwise penalties can be issued to specific highway safety funding. Although the need for attainable short-term targets is understood, zero fatalities and serious injuries remain the long-term vision of the WestCOG board. WestCOG works to promote safety by:

- Identifying and potentially including safety to aid in the solicitation process for transportation programs such as LOTCIP and TAP.
- Completion of the Regional Transportation Safety Plan, which identifies high crash locations and determines if infrastructure, behavioral education and/or enforcement improvements are needed.
- Active membership on the CTDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan Committee.
- Evaluating safety as part of ongoing transportation planning projects and corridor studies.

CTDOT 2022 Safety Targets:

- Number of Fatalities: 270
- Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT): 0.850
- Number of Serious Injuries: 1300
- Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT: 4.300

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• Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries: 280

CTDOT Statement on Target Setting: CTDOT uses both a 5-year moving average trendline and an annual trendline to guide the selection of targets. The final target selection is also based on professional judgement, and a strengthened commitment to advancing CTDOT’s overall safety goal of improving the safety of all roadway users. The Department is committed to setting “aggressive” safety targets and then developing a strong program to achieve the targets. This aggressive target setting increases the risks of not achieving targets, but it is consistent with the high priority that CTDOT has given to advancing its safety program. Additionally, FHWA recognizes states may choose to set aggressive targets as part of their strong commitment to safety.

Next Steps: The 180-day window for setting MPO targets closes on February 27, 2022 and requires action. The MPO’s have two options, they may support the CTDOT targets or develop their own quantifiable targets. The TAG can consider recommending the MPO Policy Boards endorse resolutions supporting the 2022 State Targets.
RESOLUTION FOR ENDORSEMENT OF TARGETS FOR SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES ESTABLISHED BY CTDOT

WHEREAS, the Housatonic Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (HVMPO), has been designated by the Governor of the State of Connecticut as the Metropolitan Planning Organization responsible, together with the State, for the comprehensive, continuing, and cooperative transportation planning process for the Housatonic Valley; and

WHEREAS the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) final rule (23 CFR Part 490) requires States to set targets for five safety performance measures by August 31, 2021, and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has established targets for five performance measures using both a 5-year moving average trendline and an annual trendline to guide the selection of targets for:

(1) Number of Fatalities,
(2) Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT),
(3) Number of Serious Injuries,
(4) Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT, and
(5) Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Non-motorized Serious Injuries, and

WHEREAS, the CTDOT coordinated the establishment of safety targets with the 8 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in Connecticut at the May 2021 COG Coordination meeting, and

WHEREAS, the CTDOT has officially adopted the safety targets in the Highway Safety Improvement Program annual report dated August 27, 2021, and the Highway Safety Plan dated June 29, 2021 and

WHEREAS the HVMPO may establish safety targets by agreeing to plan and program projects that contribute toward the accomplishment of the aforementioned State’s targets, or establish its own target within 180 days of the State establishing and reporting its safety targets,
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MPO Policy Board has agreed to support CTDOT’s 2022 targets for the five safety performance targets as attached herein, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MPO Policy Board will plan and program projects that contribute to the accomplishment of said targets.

CERTIFICATE: The undersigned duly qualified Chairman of the HVMPO certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the voting members of the HVMPO on 01/20/2022 (January 20, 2022)

Date: ___________________  By: ________________________________
RESOLUTION FOR ENDORSEMENT OF TARGETS FOR SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES ESTABLISHED BY CTDOT

WHEREAS, the South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (SWRMPO), has been designated by the Governor of the State of Connecticut as the Metropolitan Planning Organization responsible, together with the State, for the comprehensive, continuing, and cooperative transportation planning process for the South Western Region; and

WHEREAS the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) final rule (23 CFR Part 490) requires States to set targets for five safety performance measures by August 31, 2021, and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has established targets for five performance measures using both a 5-year moving average trendline and an annual trendline to guide the selection of targets for:

(1) Number of Fatalities,
(2) Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT),
(3) Number of Serious Injuries,
(4) Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT, and
(5) Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Non-motorized Serious Injuries, and

WHEREAS, the CTDOT coordinated the establishment of safety targets with the 8 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in Connecticut at the May 2021 COG Coordination meeting, and

WHEREAS, the CTDOT has officially adopted the safety targets in the Highway Safety Improvement Program annual report dated August 27, 2021, and the Highway Safety Plan dated June 29, 2021 and
WHEREAS the SWRMPO may establish safety targets by agreeing to plan and program projects that contribute toward the accomplishment of the aforementioned State’s targets, or establish its own target within 180 days of the State establishing and reporting its safety targets,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MPO Policy Board has agreed to support CTDOT’s 2022 targets for the five safety performance targets as attached herein, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MPO Policy Board will plan and program projects that contribute to the accomplishment of said targets.

CERTIFICATE: The undersigned duly qualified Chairman of the SWRMPO certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the voting members of the SWRMPO on 01/20/2022 (January 20, 2022.)

Date: ________________________  By: _______________________________
SWRMPO FFY 2021–2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

**Background:** The FFY 2021–2024 South Western Region TIP was endorsed by the MPO on October 15, 2020. The TIP was incorporated into the larger Statewide TIP, which was approved by USDOT and EPA on January 26, 2021.

**Action Requested:** MPO endorsement after review and support by TAG

**Amendments #2022–0111**

0416-XXXX: HARTTransit/WestCOG– Regional Value

The CTDOT-requested amendment would add Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary funding to the TIP. WestCOG has been awarded this funding by the USDOT for the *Regional Value Capture Mechanism Study*. The purpose of this study is to determine whether a regional value capture mechanism, such as a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district or comparable mechanism, can be used on a multijurisdictional level to generate the funds required to support improvements along the Metro-North Danbury and New Canaan Branch Lines. To facilitate the completion of the grant award, Housatonic Area Regional Transit (HARTTransit) as an FTA grantee, has agreed to enter into a Subrecipient Agreement with WestCOG to provide the federal funding for the Study.

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HVMPO FFY 2021–2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

**Background:** The FFY 2021–2024 Housatonic Valley TIP was endorsed by the MPO on October 15, 2020. The TIP was incorporated into the larger Statewide TIP, which was approved by USDOT and EPA on January 26, 2021.

**Action Requested:** MPO endorsement after review and support by TAG

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1 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482
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