

**South Western Region
Metropolitan Planning Organization
July 23, 2009
Meeting Minutes**

Chief Elected Officials:	Hon. Gordon Joseloff, Westport; Hon. Woody Bliss, Weston; Hon. Bill Brennan, Wilton; Hon. Jeb Walker, New Canaan; Hon. Richard Moccia, Norwalk; Hon. Evonne Klein, Darien; Hon. Dannel Malloy, Stamford
Transit District Officials:	Mr. Louis Schulman, Norwalk Transit District; Mr. Bud Titsworth, Westport Transit District
Official Voting Members:	Mr. Dave Thompson for Hon. Peter Tesei, Greenwich
Official Non-Voting Members:	Mr. Paul Settlemeyer, SWRPA Chairman
SWRPA:	Dr. Floyd Lapp, Executive Director; Mr. Craig Lader, Sr. Transportation Planner;
ConnDOT:	Ms. Carla Iezzi, Field Coordinator
Other:	Mr. Martin Cassidy, Stamford Advocate; Mr. John Freeman, Harbor Point Taxing District; Mr. Art Glowka, Stamford Shellfish; Ms. Florinda Teixeira, MetroPool; Mr. Bob Santy, CERC; Mr. Robin Stein, City of Stamford; Mr. Frank Luongo, Westport News; Mr. Tad Diesel, Norwalk, Mr. Paul Timpanelli, Bridgeport Regional Business Council; Mr. Robert Koch, Norwalk Hour;

Mr. Woody Bliss called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. The meeting was held at the Norwalk Transit District.

1. South Western Region MPO Minutes – June 25, 2009

Mr. Louis Schulman made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2009 meeting as written. Mayor Richard Moccia seconded the motion, which carried unanimously

2. Public Involvement

No members of the public wished to speak.

3. Information Items

a. Upcoming Meetings

The upcoming meetings for the TTAG and MPO scheduled in August, if necessary, were noted.

b. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

c. Other

There were no other information items.

4. Action Items

a. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

There were no TIP items to discuss.

b. Other

Mr. Schulman indicated that he drafted a letter addressed to ConnDOT Commissioner Joseph Marie requesting state matching funds for the Norwalk Transit District Pulse Point. Mr. Schulman provided background information on the history of the Pulse Point project's funding requests, and noted that \$455,000 is needed to match federal earmarks that have been approved as part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. These funds had been previously approved by the state as part of a bonding action, but were never authorized by the State Bond Commission. Mr. Schulman emphasized the importance of these proposed matching funds, and advised that in their absence there is a possibility that the earmarks can expire. Mr. Schulman requested approval of the letter by the MPO, and that it be forwarded to Commissioner Marie. A motion was made by Mayor Moccia to approve the letter, and was seconded by Mrs. Evonne Klein. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Other Business

a. Old Business – TIP Issues Related to Projects from Non-Public Entities

Mayor Dannel Malloy described redevelopment efforts in Stamford's South End, including the Harbor Point development that is seeking to rebuild certain roadways, and provided information regarding the importance of Harbor Point to economic development both in Stamford and in the South Western Region, as it is the largest development project currently in New England. Mayor Malloy acknowledged concerns voiced during previous MPO discussions regarding the inclusion of Non-Public Entity projects on the TIP, but noted that Harbor Point is very likely to receive federal stimulus funding, and inclusion on the TIP is critical in allowing the project to move forward at this time. Mayor Malloy indicated that if funding is not made available, then the matter should be revisited at the next meeting, and requested \$22 million in projects be included with the ARRA indicated as the funding source. Mr. Bliss advised that since the TIP is fiscally constrained, inclusion of Harbor Point would need to be offset by another project. Mr. Bliss also questioned whether such an action would affect other projects in a similar situation. Mayor Malloy stated that the likelihood of federal funding is extremely strong, although there has been a lack of attention by the State of Connecticut which has created a roadblock in the past, and that he would support future reconsideration if funding is not provided. Mr. Schulman noted that he was under the impression that inclusion on the Statewide TIP would also be required; Mayor Malloy provided examples where this had previously not been the case. Dr. Floyd Lapp indicated that Long Range Transportation Plan would need to be modified to incorporate this project. A motion was made by Mayor Malloy that the Harbor Point projects be added to the tip, with ARRA indicated as the funding source. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Klein, and carried unanimously.

b. Legislative Update

Mr. Craig Lader indicated that the transportation bill that provided for items such as permitting disposition of land being preserved for a future Route 7 Expressway and requiring ConnDOT to conduct an internal analysis of the impact of electronic tolls was vetoed by Governor Rell. The veto was subsequently overridden by both the House and Senate, and will become law. Ms. Carla Iezzi noted that this bill was not written nor requested by ConnDOT.

c. New Business

There was no new business.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 a.m. following a motion made by Mr. Schulman and a second by Mrs. Klein. The motion carried unanimously.

NON-MPO Meeting

1. Old Business

There was no old business.

2. New Business

There was no new business.

3. Regional Roundtable: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Mr. Bob Santy and Mr. Paul Timpanelli provided a summary of the One Coast One Future Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs), which covers the South Western Region and Greater Bridgeport Region municipalities. Mr. Santy described the purpose and components of the CEDs, noting that in addition to the strategic objectives, this will allow the region to tap into certain federal funding sources. Mr. Santy described a series of statistical findings that highlighted the challenges that the region faces. Mr. Timpanelli detailed the key goals and action steps recommended by the CEDs. Mr. Santy indicated that this presentation was the last in a series of presentations to business councils and regional planning organizations, and that acceptance of the CEDs would allow for submittal and consideration by the US Economic Development Administration. Mr. Paul Settelmeyer indicated that there is a series of projects that are recommended as a result of the CEDs. Mr. Joseloff and Mr. Jeb Walker stated that affordable housing is a key component to any CEDs. Mayor Moccia cautioned about the difficulty of embarking in regional land-use planning.

A motion was made by Mayor Malloy to accept the CEDs for forwarding to the US EDA. The motion was seconded by Mayor Moccia, and carried unanimously.

4. Adjournment

The non-MPO meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

The meeting minutes were approved by the MPO on August 27, 2009.