



Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Catherine Iino, Chairman
Richard Smith, Vice Chairman
Susan Bransfield, Secretary
Edmund Meehan, Treasurer

Chester, Clinton, Cromwell,
Deep River, Durham, East Haddam,
East Hampton, Essex, Haddam,
Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield,
Middletown, Old Lyme,
Old Saybrook, Portland, Westbrook,
Middletown Area Transit, Estuary
Transit District, Middletown
Chamber of Commerce

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MPO

DRAFT MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

April 23, 2014

Members:

Chester: Edmund Meehan *
Clinton: Willie Fritz
Cromwell: Jonathan Sistare
Deep River: Richard Smith
Durham: Laura Francis *
East Haddam: Mark Walter *
East Hampton: Michael Maniscalco *
Essex: Norm Needleman
Haddam: Melissa Schlag *
Killingworth: Cathy Iino *
Lyme: Ralph Eno
Middlefield: Jon Brayshaw *
Middletown: Daniel Drew
Old Lyme: Bonnie Reemsnyder
Old Saybrook: Carl Fortuna *
Portland: Susan Bransfield *
Westbrook: Noel Bishop *
Middlesex Chamber of Commerce: Jeff Pugliese *
CT Dept. of Transportation: Edgar Wynkoop *
Estuary Transit District: Joe Comerford
Middletown Area Transit: Andrew Chiaravallo *

Others Present:

Deanna Rhodes, Portland Town Planner
John Guskowski

* Members Present

Staff Present:

Jean Davies
Judy Snyder
Rob Haramut
Torrance Downes
Janice Ehle-Meyer
Erin Bodan

MPO AGENDA:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cathy Iino called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. at the offices of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments in Essex.

2. APPROVAL OF MARCH 27TH MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion of Noel Bishop, seconded by Ed Meehan, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2014 meeting.

3. STIP AMENDMENTS

- **2012-2015 TIP AMENDMENT #23, REPLACE BRIDGE ON RT 79 IN KILLINGWORTH OVER HAMMONASSET BROOK, PROJECT #0069-0073 AND REHAB BRIDGE ON RT 81 IN KILLINGWORTH OVER UN-NAMED BROOK, PROJECT #0069-0078**

Upon motion of Susan Bransfield, seconded by Carl Fortuna, it was unanimously voted to approve the 2012-2015 tip amendment #23, replace bridge on RT 79 in Killingworth over Hammonasset Brook, project #0069-0073 and rehab bridge on RT 81 in Killingworth over unnamed brook, project #0069-0078.

4. TRANSIT UPDATE

Laura Francis said that the Dial-A-Ride service is in the Durham budget.

Cathy Iino stated that the Clinton/Killingworth meeting regarding the proposed bus route was well attended.

5. UPWP – APPROVAL

Jean Davies asked if there were any additions or changes to the UPWP. There were none.

Ms. Davies explained the process for adopting the UPWP. First, the RiverCOG approves the plan, it is then sent to the FHWA and CDOT for review and comments. After the review is completed the RiverCOG will vote to approve the plan. The approval of the plan is expected at the June meeting.

Upon motion of Noel Bishop, seconded by Carl Fortuna, it was unanimously voted to approve the UPWP as presented.

Laura Francis asked who deploys the traffic counters. Robert Haramut said that the RiverCOG will set up and monitor the counters and the data. At this time there are eight counters available for use. The data reflects the number of vehicles, the time and the speed. These counters do not illuminate the speed the driver is traveling. Jean Davies said that she and Mr. Haramut are on the Route 66 Safety Committee and that monies may be available for the purchase of the larger speed indicator signs in the future.

6. MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM

Robert Haramut explained that the municipal grant program is a state matching grant program for elderly and disabled persons for demand responsive transportation. This money, five million dollars annually, has been appropriated since 2006. Each town gets a share based on the population and land area. All of the 17 RiverCOG towns applied and those requests were sent to CDOT for review. See Attachment #A for a summary of the municipal grant program, the 5310 program funding, and the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program.

7. 5310 PROGRAM FUNDING

Robert Haramut stated that the 5310 program funding is for municipalities and non-profit organizations to apply for grants to purchase handicapped and lift-equipped vehicles for elderly and disabled citizens. He said that May 16th is the return deadline for the applications. The applications will be reviewed and prioritized for the next meeting.

8. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM STATUS

Three LOTCIP test projects were received by the RiverCOG and sent to CDOT for review. Carl Fortuna mentioned that Old Saybrook had submitted a project and received a response from CDOT within two weeks. Edgar Wynkoop said that CDOT is trying to answer requests quickly.

9. PROJECT UPDATE

Jean Davies stated that the enhancement projects and the Route 1 corridor study are moving along. The Valley Railroad RFQ has been posted and was sent out. She said that an aggressive

schedule is in place to hire a consultant before June. This way some of the money in the PL funding surplus can be used. Ms. Davies has been in contact with CDOT and if we can bill before June 30th we can use some of that funding. The deadline for the return of the RFQ is May 8th, with the committee meeting on May 13th to review the applications.

At the May 1st meeting the staff will combine all the data that has been collected for the Regional Transportation Plan. The data will be printed out and organized so that it can start to be allocated to different categories and that all sections are easily available for staff to gain access to it and to begin writing. Ms. Davies stated that outreach programs for different communities will be investigated. Also cluster outreach workshops for transportation planning, freight, rail options, employment, journey to work and possible other issues can be put together to form cluster groups (attachment #B).

10. OTHER BUSINESS

No items at this time

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Snyder
Recording Secretary

Municipal Grant Program (State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation)

FY 15 MGP applications were received for all 17 RiverCOG towns and forwarded to ConnDOT on April 16. There were five applications: 1) Cromwell, 2) Durham/Middlefield, 3) MTD (Middletown, Portland, East Hampton, 4) Haddam (through ETD) and 5) ETD (former Estuary towns and East Haddam).

- Enacted in C.G.S. 13b-38bb in 1999 but funding was not appropriated until 2006
- Makes about \$5 million available annually
- Apportioned to towns based on population sixty and over and square mileage
- Funds not applied for are returned to the state's Special Transportation Fund
- Program goals are to: 1) provide a uniform funding source available to all municipalities, 2) provide new transportation services for seniors and disabled persons, 3) expand transportation services for seniors and disabled persons, and 4) encourage efficient use of resources through coordination.

2015 Apportionments (\$362,695 (7.25%) regional total, \$5,000,000 (100%) statewide)

Chester-\$11,961, Clinton-\$19,100, Cromwell-\$17,980, Deep River-\$10,726, Durham-\$16,545, East Haddam-\$35,169, East Hampton-\$26,865, Essex-\$13,208, Haddam-\$29,410, Killingworth-\$23,642, Lyme-\$19,290, Middlefield-\$10,087, Middletown-\$52,031, Old Lyme-\$21,447, Old Saybrook-\$21,212, Portland-\$19,153, Westbrook-\$14,868

FTA Section 5310 Program Funding

The 5310 program has provided municipalities and non-profit organization a cash grant for the purchase of elderly and disabled, wheelchair-lift equipped vehicles since 1975. Under MAP-21 the 5310 program was combined with the 5317 program (formerly New Freedom Program); therefore many changes were made to the application to address the requirements of both programs.

This awards cycle marks the first time applicants will apply for Section 5310 funding apportioned from the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). Under MAP-21, the existing award of cash grants for eligible recipients towards the purchase of wheelchair-accessible vehicles is maintained (category A). Prior eligible recipients of these funds include private non-profit organizations and certain local public entities. There are three new categories of project types that can now be funded under Section 5310; categories B, C & D. These categories are similar to the eligible project types under the former Section 5317 Program known as the New Freedom Program. The four project categories are as follows:

5310 A Public transportation projects planned, designed, and carried out to meet the special needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities when public transportation is insufficient, inappropriate, or unavailable.

5310 B Public transportation projects that exceed the requirements of the ADA.

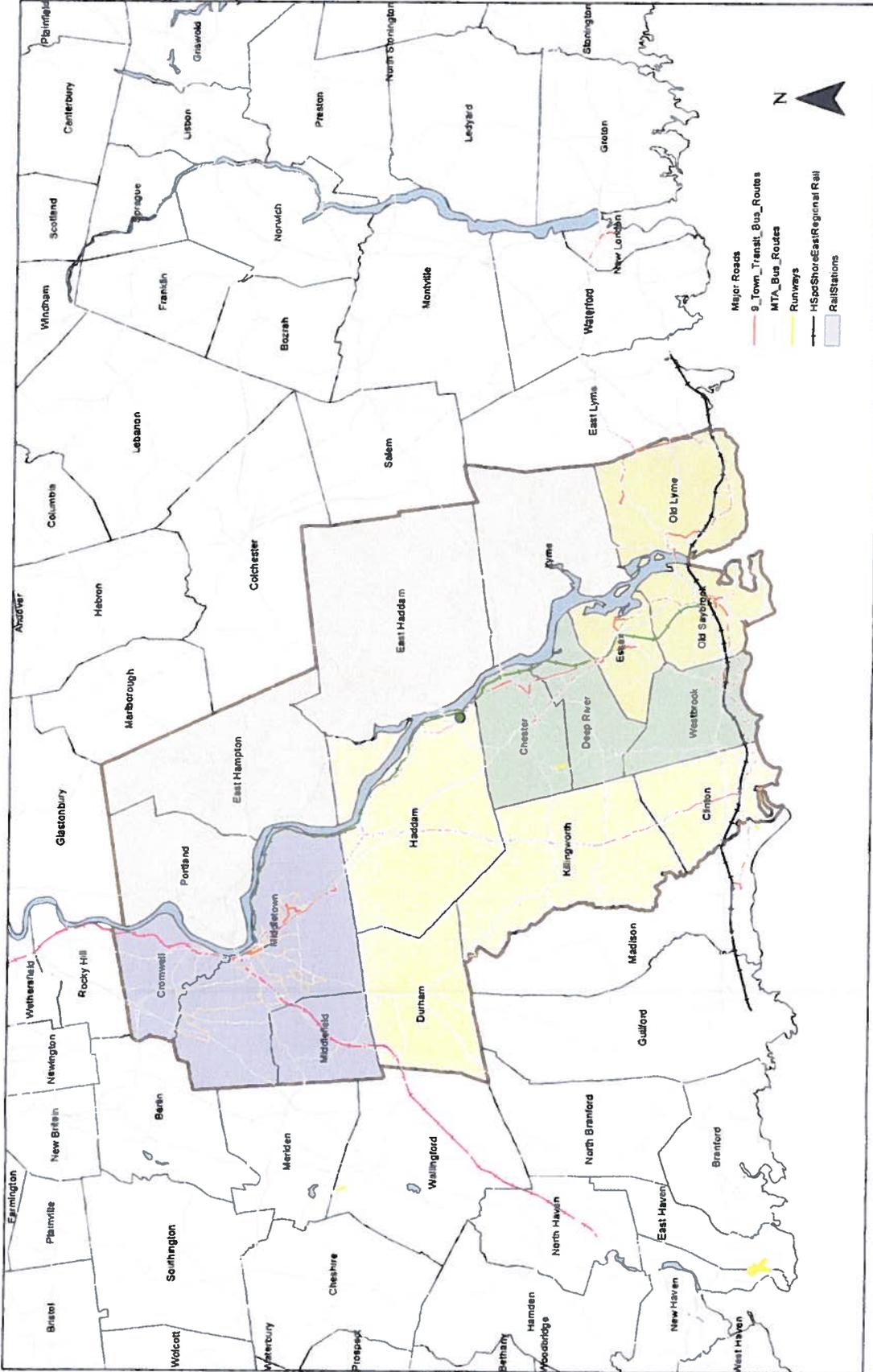
5310 C Public transportation projects that improve access to fixed route service and decrease reliance by individuals with disabilities on complementary paratransit.

5310 D Alternatives to public transportation that assist seniors and individuals with disabilities with transportation.

Information was sent out to former recipients and interested parties on March 12. 5310A applicants must place their public notice in the newspapers by April 25. Applications must be in the MPO and ConnDOT by May 16. The COG will prioritize projects at the May 28 board meeting and send the prioritized list to ConnDOT which will forward them the FTA for final approval.

LOTICIP (Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program)

RiverCOG received three LOTICIP test projects and they were delivered them to ConnDOT on April 9. These projects were the 1) reconstruction of Westlake Drive in Middletown, 2) North Main Street Improvement, and 3) Westbrook Road sidewalk improvements in Essex. These projects are currently under review at ConnDOT and they will be contacting the towns and COG for additional information where applicable before final determinations are made.



Map produced by CREPPA for planning purposes. Data represented originates from various state, local, and federal sources, and may not represent current field conditions.

ljd - nvgis/RTP2015

Visioning Workshop Clusters based on:
 existing and potential intermodal connections, rural/urban character, trail systems; freight, greenways, journey to work; employment centers; geographic constraints

Draft

Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments Visioning Workshops - Regional Transportation Plan