

**Regular Meeting
Greater Bridgeport & Valley
Metropolitan Planning Organization**

**Tuesday, June 17, 2013
Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce
Shelton, Connecticut**

Name

Representing



Mark Lauretti, Mayor & GBVMPO Chair
James Della Volpe, Mayor
Bill Finch, Mayor (Adam Wood, proxy)
Tom Herrmann, First Selectman
Mike Tetreau, First Selectman
Steve Vavrek, First Selectman (Mark Nielsen, proxy)
Kurt Miller, First Selectman (Rick Dunne, proxy)
John Harkins, Mayor
Timothy Herbst, First Selectman (Ed Lavernoich, proxy)
Andrea Kavacs, Chair (Doug Holcomb, Proxy)

Shelton & VTD
Ansonia
Bridgeport
Easton
Fairfield
Monroe
Seymour
Stratford
Trumbull
GBT

Brian Bidolli, Executive Director
Mark Nielsen, Sr. Transportation Planner
Meghan Sloan, Transportation Planner
Dan Nelson, Program Manager
Rick Dunne, Executive Director
Yi ding, Transportation Planner
Doug Holcomb, CEO
Tom Maziarz, Bureau Chief
Gary Sojka, Project Manager
Dave Sousa
Alexandra Kleyman
Scott Allaire
Mark Henson

GBRC
GBRC
GBRC
GBRC
VCOG
VCOG
GBT
ConnDOT
ConnDOT
CDM Smith
CDM Smith
CDM Smith
Congressman Himes Office

Minutes

I. Call to Order

This was a regular meeting of the GBVMPO. The meeting was held in the Conference Room at the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lauretti, Chairman, at 9:05 am. The roll of the MPO was called and proxies were received and accepted. A quorum was declared.

II. Public Participation

Mayor Lauretti asked if there was anyone from the public who wanted to address the MPO. Mark Henson of Congressman Himes' office introduced himself. The MPO proceeded to the next item.

III. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the MPO teleconference meeting held on April 9, 2013 were reviewed. A motion was made by Mayor DellaVolpe and seconded by Mr. Wood to accept the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Action Items

- 1. Amendment: FFY 2012-2015 TIP/STIP, FHWA Programs** – Mr. Bidolli presented and summarized the proposed amendments to the TIP/STIP requested by the ConnDOT. He explained that the amendments involved mostly year-end adjustments to project schedules and funding allocations. Several of the projects involved inspections of bridges and sign supports in both District 3 and District 4. Mr. Dunne explained the request by the VCOG to add funding to conduct a Route 8 corridor alternative transportation modes analysis. On a motion by Mr. Lavernoich and seconded by Mayor DellaVolpe, the GBVMPO endorsed the TIP/STIP amendments as presented. Motion carried.
- 2. Endorsement: Air Quality Conformity Determination, 8-Hour Ozone Standard** – Mr. Nielsen presented the request by the ConnDOT to endorse the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the 8-hour ozone standard. He explained that the EPA adopted new standards for Ozone and that Connecticut was required to reassess air quality conformity based on the new standard. Mr. Nielsen further explained that the GBRC and VCOG staff participated in consultation meetings with ConnDOT, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Federal Highway Administration and EPA. On a motion by Mayor DellaVolpe and seconded by First Selectman Tetreau, the GBVMPO endorsed the Air Quality Conformity Determination as presented. Motion carried.
- 3. Status Report: STP: Urban Program for the GBVMPO** – Mr. Bidolli and Mr. Dunne handed out the status report for the GBVMPO's STP: Urban program. They

indicated that the schedule and financial plan reflects the current status based on a recent meeting with the ConnDOT. Mr. Dunne discussed the status of the project to reconstruct the Route 8 interchange in Ansonia and intersection improvements along Route 34. Mr. Bidolli discussed the status of the Lafayette Circle realignment project, stating the project feasibility study is nearly completed and the intent is to request initiation of the design phase under the FFY 2013 program year. The consensus of the GBVMPO was to endorse the allocation of STP: Urban funds to initiate the design. Mr. Bidolli also discussed the GBRC's request on behalf of the Town of Stratford to allocate funds to conduct a planning study for the Route 110 corridor. He explained that ConnDOT was considering the request. The consensus of the GBVMPO was to endorse the allocation of STP: Urban funds to conduct the planning study and initiate the project using FFY 2013 funds. Mr. Bidolli said he would continue discussions with ConnDOT.

V. Presentation

- 1. Connecticut Congestion Relief Study** – Mr. Maziarz presented an update of the ConnDOT's study on the assessment of congestion relief strategies along the I-95 corridor. He mentioned that instituting electronic tolling is one of several actions being considered. The presentation focused on the study purpose and scope, schedule, an overview of the possible congestion pricing policies, and possible impacts on congestion in the I-95 corridor. Discussion followed the presentation. Mayor Harkins asked what lanes would be tolled and if likely fees had been determined. Mr. Maziarz said that a number of tolling options are being considered but that it would likely be a form of tolling only managed lanes and not the general purpose lanes. With respects to fees, he explained that a fee schedule had not been developed but it would likely be in the 20-to-30 cents per mile range. Members also voiced concerns about the ability of the state to restrict toll revenues solely to improvements within the corridor. Mr. Maziarz finished his discussions by indicating that the next steps are to continue to reach out to stakeholders and interested parties.

VI. Discussion Items

- 1. Local Transportation Capital Program** – Mr. Bidolli explained that the legislature enacted the program as a replacement of federal aid funds attributable to the urban areas. State funds would be provided to the regions for local transportation improvement projects and the STP: Urban funds would be used primarily for state projects. Mr. Dunne pointed out there were no guidelines provided in the legislation and that ConnDOT staff would be responsible for developing guidance. He further stated the RPOs have voiced concerns regarding the program and that the RPOs do not have a lot of representation on the committee working on the new program.

VI. Discussion Items

- 1. By-Laws Amendment** – Mr. Bidolli explained that the proposed changes to the GBVMPO’s by-laws to delete the Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency and the VCOG Regional Planning Commission as voting members of the MPO. On a motion by Mayor Harkins and seconded by Mr. Wood, the GBVMPO voted to amend its by-laws as presented. Motion carried.

Having no further business a motion to adjourn was made by First Selectman Herrmann and seconded by Mayor Della Volpe.

Respectively submitted

Brian Bidolli, Executive Director,
GBRPA, MPO Co-Secretary

Rick Dunne, Executive Director, VCOG
MPO Co-Secretary