

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

**Wednesday, September 25, 2013
City Council Chambers, Shelton City Hall
Shelton, Connecticut**

Name

Representing

Mark Lauretti, Mayor & GBVMPO Chair	Shelton & VTD
Tom Herrmann, First Selectman & Vice Chair (teleconference)	Easton
James Della Volpe, Mayor (10:20)	Ansonia
Anthony Staffieri, Mayor	Derby
Mike Tetreau, First Selectman	Fairfield
Kurt Miller, First Selectman	Seymour
John Harkins, Mayor	Stratford
Andrea Kavacs, Chair (Doug Holcomb, Proxy)	GBT
Brian Bidolli, Executive Director	GBRC
Rick Dunne, Executive Director	VCOG
Yi Ding, Transportation Planner	VCOG
Meghan Sloan, Senior Transportation Planner	GBRC
Roxane Fromson, Program Coordinator	ConnDOT

Minutes

I. Call to Order

This was a regular meeting of the GBVMPO. The meeting was held at the City of Shelton's Council Chambers and a teleconference option was provided. The meeting was called to order by

Mayor Lauretti, Chairman, at 10:14 am. The roll of the MPO was called and a quorum was declared.

II. Public Participation

Mayor Lauretti asked if there was anyone from the public who wanted to address the MPO. Hearing none, the MPO proceeded to the next item.

III. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the MPO meeting held on June 17, 2013 were reviewed. A motion was made by Mayor Harkins and seconded by First Selectman Vavrek to accept the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Action Items

1. **Amendment: FFY 2012-2015 TIP/STIP** – FHWA Programs, Resolution 2013-07, Attachment B

Mr. Bidolli and Mr. Dunne presented and summarized the proposed amendments to the TIP/STIP.

Mr. Dunne explained that the Route 8 Interchange Reconstruction in Derby was in semi-final design. The State of Connecticut added two elements to the project: a sound barrier and wetland wall. He explained that funding is not from the GBVMPO STP Urban pool. Rather, ConnDOT was using unobligated funds that were leftover throughout the State. The cost of these additions would not count against the MPO's 2014 STP Urban funds.

Mr. Bidolli clarified that the bridge replacement project in Stratford was for a road bridge.

Mayor Lauretti commented on the cost of the Route 8-25 sign replacement project. Shelton's City Engineer had e-mailed Mayor Lauretti expressing concern that the cost of the project was excessive. Ms. Fromson with ConnDOT was contacted about the project's costs. She provided Mr. Dunne with a breakdown of the costs and explained some of the line items, such as traffic control, police protection and traffic management. She was not sure if these costs were reasonable or not, and said that she would get additional information from the Project Manager. Copies of the breakdown were provided to all members of the MPO.

Mayor Della Volpe arrived at 10:20.

First Selectman Vavrek asked why the current signs needed to be replaced.

Mr. Dunne explained that the installation of overhead signs a high cost item. The project was budgeted by ConnDOT's formula of 10% for contingencies and 25% for incidentals.

First Selectman Miller asked for clarification on the cost of incidentals, over \$800,000, as well as the party responsible for controlling them. Mr. Dunne and Ms. Fromson thought that the Project Manager, Project Engineer or contractor was responsible but were not sure.

Mr. Dunne explained that ConnDOT needed all MPOs to approve the amendment by the close of the federal Fiscal Year. Mayor Lauretti explained that the MPO typically got requests such as this, and asked whether the amendments would change the funding share. Mr. Dunne and Mr. Bidolli clarified that the amendments would not affect the funding share.

Mr. Dunne and Mr. Bidolli clarified that the \$800,000 was not coming from the local share.

Mr. Dunne confirmed that the cost breakdown of the Route 8-25 sign replacement project was provided to VCOG's TTAC.

On a motion by Mayor Harkins and seconded by First Selectman Vavrek, the GBVMPO unanimously endorsed the TIP/STIP amendments as presented.

2. Moving Transportation Forward in CT.

Mr. Dunne explained that the document was developed by the Capitol Region Council of Governments and partners in the Hartford Area. The document is intended for distribution at the upcoming legislative session. The document describes a series of transportation funding and planning issues in the State. Mr. Dunne recommended endorsement of the document, based on a further investigation into the \$300 million in federal transportation funds that the document mentioned ConnDOT did not use. Mr. Dunne had requested clarification from CRCOG but had not yet received it.

On a motion by First Selectman Vavrek and seconded by Mayor Della Volpe, the GBVMPO unanimously endorsed support of the Moving Transportation Forward in CT document. First Selectman Tetreau reminded Mr. Dunne to provide clarification on the question of the \$300 million in federal funding.

VI. Discussion Items

1. Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program Issues and Concerns –

Mr. Bidolli explained that this program would replace the federal allotment of STP Urban funds. Mr. Bidolli and Mr. Dunne explained possible concerns in Attachment D. Mr. Dunne commented that the ConnDOT guidance on project design was almost as cumbersome as that of the federal government. Mr. Bidolli mentioned that it was not clear if funding could be affected if a project was not designed to federal standards. Mr. Dunne was not sure if there

could be a gap in ConnDOT's review of projects. Mr. Bidolli expressed concern that the state was requiring RPOs to make a lot changes, such as LOTCIP and the boundary study.

Mr. Dunne explained that this legislation has already been passed. The MPO could choose to support the program or oppose the program. Mr. Dunne suggested that the MPO could work with ConnDOT on program processes.

Having no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Harkins and seconded by First Selectman Tetreau. The GBVMPO adjourned at 10:49.

Respectively submitted

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

Rick Dunne, Executive Director, VCOG
MPO Co-Secretary