

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

APRIL 7, 2014

Standing Committee and District Meetings

COMMITTEE	DATE	ITEMS REFERRED	PLACE OF MEETING
APPOINTMENTS	(see Town Notice Board)		Hayton Room, Third Floor, Town Hall, 8:00 P.M.
*** BUDGET OVERVIEW	Thursday April 10		Town Hall Lounge, Lower Level Town Hall, 7:30P.M.
*** EDUCATION	Monday March 31	34	Hayton Room, Third Floor Town Hall, 7:00p.m. ***
FINANCE	Monday March 31	34	Town Hall Lounge, Lower Level Town Hall, 7:30 P.M.
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	Tuesday April 1	34	J. Evaristo Conference Room, Third Floor, Town Hall, 8:00 P.M.
LAND USE	Monday March 31	34	Cone Room, Second Floor, Town Hall
LEGISLATIVE & RULES	Monday March 31	34	J. Evaristo Conference Room, Third Floor, Town Hall, 8:00 P.M.
PARKS & RECREATION	Tuesday April 1	34	Parks & Recreation Conference Room Second Floor, Town Hall, 8:00PM
PUBLIC WORKS	Monday March 31	34	Mazza Conference Room First Floor, Town Hall, 7:30 P.M.
TOWN SERVICES	Tuesday April 1	34	Hayton Room, Third Floor, Town Hall, 8:00P.M
TRANSPORTATION	Tuesday April 1	34	Mazza Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall, 7:30 P.M.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

<u>District No.</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Week Prior to RTM</u> <u>Day of the Week</u>
*** 1	Cone Conference Room	8:00 P.M.	Thursday, April 3 rd
2	Gisborne Conference Room	8:00 P.M.	Wednesday, April 2 nd
3	Hamilton Avenue School	7:00 P.M.	Thursday, April 3 rd
4	Byram Schubert Library	8:00 P.M.	Wednesday, April 2 nd
5	Riverside School Library	8:00P M.	Thursday, April 3 rd
6	First Congregational Church	8:00 P.M.	Thursday, April 3 rd
7	Hayton Conference Room	7:45 P.M.	Thursday, April 3 rd
8	Cos Cob School Media Center	8:00P.M..	Wednesday, April 2 nd
9	Bendheim Western Gr Civic Center	7:30 P.M.	Thursday, April 3 rd
10	Round Hill Community Church	8:00 P.M.	Thursday, April 3 rd
11	Nathaniel Witherell	7:30 P.M.	Wednesday, April 2 nd
12	North Mianus School Library	8:00 P.M.	Thursday, April 3 rd

*** change of meeting place, date or time



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
TOWN OF GREENWICH

At the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Greenwich to be held in the Moderator's Hall of Central Middle School on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 8:00 P.M.(E.D.T.) the following **additional item** will be considered:

34. To consider and act upon the following resolution, requested by the First Selectman and approved by the Board of Selectmen.

RESOLVED, that the Town of Greenwich hereby adopts the following:

**ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FORMATION OF A
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

1. The Town of Greenwich hereby adopts Connecticut General Statutes, §§4-124i through 4-124p, as amended, providing for the formation of a Regional Council of Governments, and does hereby join such Regional Council of governments when and as such council is duly established in accordance with said statutes. Said Council shall be established upon the adoption of said statutes by not less than sixty percent of all municipalities within the Town's planning region as defined or redefined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or his designee, and upon certification by the Secretary or his designee that a Regional Council of Governments has been duly established.

2. The First Selectman shall represent the Town on the Regional Council of Governments. In addition, the Board of Selectmen shall appoint one of its members as an alternate representative to the Regional Council of Governments. The alternate shall serve a term of two years or for the balance of the term of his elected office, whichever is sooner.

Referred to All Committees

Dated at Greenwich, Ct
March 24, 2014

THOMAS J. BYRNE
MODERATOR
CAMELLA C. BUDKINS
TOWN CLERK



**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF GREENWICH**

**EXPLANATORY COMMENTS FOR
APRIL 2014 MEETING**

ITEM NO: **34**
DEPARTMENT: Office of the First Selectman
CONTACT: John Crary, Town Administrator, 203-622-2208
jcrary@greenwichct.org
REFERRED TO: All Committees
VOTES: BOS 3-0-0

Approval of an ordinance that provides for the formation of a Regional Council of Governments and permits the Town of Greenwich to join.

RESOLVED, that the Town of Greenwich hereby adopts the following:

**ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FORMATION OF A
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

1. The Town of Greenwich hereby adopts Connecticut General Statutes, §§4-124i through 4-124p, as amended, providing for the formation of a Regional Council of Governments, and does hereby join such Regional Council of governments when and as such council is duly established in accordance with said statutes. Said Council shall be established upon the adoption of said statutes by not less than sixty percent of all municipalities within the Town's planning region as defined or redefined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or his designee, and upon certification by the Secretary or his designee that a Regional Council of Governments has been duly established.
2. The First Selectman shall represent the Town on the Regional Council of Governments. In addition, the Board of Selectmen shall appoint one of its members as an alternate representative to the Regional Council of Governments. The alternate shall serve a term of two years or for the balance of the term of his elected office, whichever is sooner.

EXPLANATORY COMMENTS

See attached minutes from the Board of Selectmen meeting of March 6, 2014 approving this resolution. Also attached are various memos and reports prepared and distributed since 2011 on this subject. Paul Settlemeyer and Bob Byrnes, RTM members and SWRPA Board members have represented the Town on this matter and will also be available to answer questions and explain why this action is in the best interest of the Town.

 5. New Business

a. Approval of Conversion from a Regional Planning Agency to a Council of Governments

- i. Greenwich is presently one of 8 communities that make up the South Western Regional Planning Agency (SWRPA). SWRPA has been in existence for 50 years, over which Greenwich has had very vigorous representation on it. Most recently, Greenwich has had 2 RTM members serve as Chairmen of the Board, namely Paul Settlemeyer (formerly) and Bob Byrnes (presently). State action is now forcing consolidation of the regional planning agencies. Regions were first asked to voluntarily consolidate, and the South Western Region chose to merge with the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials, which was approved by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, Benjamin Barnes. The State would have determined which entity to pair with if we did not volunteer.
- ii. Communities that make up the South Western Region have to now amend provisions that are within their local charters or acts that allow them to enter into the new entity. This will be required to go to the RTM for approval. Westport and Weston have already approved this merger at their local levels.
- iii. Paul Settlemeyer, who has been a representative of SWRPA for 12 years, added that the State mandate stemmed from legislation that was passed in June 2013. SWRPA must convert to a Council of Governments by December 31, 2014. By joining with the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials, the entity would now become the Western Connecticut Council of Governments. Mr. Settlemeyer emphasized that it is very important that the Chief Elected Official of Greenwich be represented and have a vote at the table of the new entity.
- iv. Town Attorney Wayne Fox discussed the resolution that must be acted upon to effectuate the proposed change. The statute has to be an ordinance, and has to be adopted by the legislative body of the municipality, or in Greenwich's case, the RTM.
- v. David Theis motioned to approve the draft ordinance supporting formation of the Western Connecticut Council of Governments, as presented, to be sent to the RTM for review and final approval. Drew Marzullo seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 11:01 a.m.

6. Appointments and Nominations

Peter Tesei placed the nomination of Steven Gross for appointment as a regular member of the Board of Social Services for a term that expires March 31, 2017. David Theis seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 11:07 a.m.

Peter Tesei placed the nomination of Abbott Jones for appointment as a regular member of the Board of Social Services for a term that expires March 31, 2017. David Theis seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 11:08 a.m.

Peter Tesei placed the nomination of Thomas Saccardi for appointment as a regular member of the Nathaniel Witherell Board of Directors for a term that expires March 31, 2017. David Theis seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 11:09 a.m.

TOWN OF GREENWICH
CONNECTICUT

Date: February 14, 2014

To: Greenwich Representative Town Meeting Members and Greenwich Planning & Zoning Commissioners

From: Peter J. Tesel, Greenwich First Selectman and SWRMPO Member
Robert Byrnes, RTM Member, SWRPA Board Chairman
Paul C. Settelmeyer, RTM Member, SWRPA Board Member
Margarita Alban, Planning and Zoning Commissioner, SWRPA Board Member

Re: Western Connecticut Council of Governments

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to provide members of the Representative Town Meeting and the Planning and Zoning Commission with an update on the State mandated change in the organization structure for inter-municipal planning in South Western Connecticut. First Selectman Peter Tesel and RTM members Bob Byrnes and Paul Settelmeyer plan to bring an ordinance change request to the Representative Town Meeting in April. The RTM has previously received memos dated May 26, 2011, and August 25, 2013, relating to proposed changes in the structure of regional planning.

STATUS REVIEW: September 1 to January 1, 2014

In June 2013, the State Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law Public Act 13-247. That Act mandates that all Regional Planning Agencies (RPA), of which there are 2, and all Council of Elected Officials (CEOs), of which there are 2, must convert to Council of Governments (COG), of which there are currently 9, by January 1, 2015. The South Western Regional Planning Agency, SWRPA, in which Greenwich has been a voting member for 50 years, will cease to exist not later than December 31, 2014.

The Act, broadly referred to as "Regionalism Legislation" strongly encouraged, consolidation of the current 13 Regions into 8 Regions. Last fall, Regional Planning Organizations throughout the State explored merger options since there was a desire to select your consolidation partner, rather than have a mandated partner. SWR CEOs and the SWRPA Board, together with the 10 municipalities in the Housitonic Valley (greater Danbury area) Council of Elected Officials (HVCEO) approved resolutions voluntarily merging the two regions. The State Office of Policy and Management (OPM) approved the voluntary merger in December 2013. If a voluntary merger had not been agreed to by December 31, 2013, OPM would have dictated our consolidation partner. The new entity, the Western Connecticut Council of Governments, WCCOG, will have 18 municipal members.

CURRENT STATUS:

Bob Byrnes and Paul Settelmeyer currently represent SWRPA on the Merger Committee. The Committee is composed of 3 SWR CEOs, 5 HV CEOs, 3 SWRPA Board members, and the Executive Directors from each region. The committee is working on staff benefits, locations, budgets, balance sheet, and other organizational issues. A majority of the open issues have been addressed and thus the above presenters believe bring an ordinance before the April RTM meeting is timely.

Date: August 25, 2013

To: Greenwich Representative Town Meeting Members and Commissioners of the Greenwich Plan & Zoning Board

From; Peter J. Tesei, First Selectman, MPO Member
Robert Byrnes, RTM Member, SWRPA Board Member
Paul C. Settelmeyer, RTM Member, SWRPA Board Member
Margarita Alban, Planning and Zoning Commissioner, SWRPA Board Member

Re: Change in Regional Planning Organizational Structure

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to provide members of the Representative Town Meeting and the Planning and Zoning Commission with an update on significant changes that will be occurring in how intermunicipal planning is conducted in South Western Connecticut. This memo does not propose a specific course of action, but is intended as an information document.

CURRENT STATUS

In May 2013, the State Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law Public Act 13-247. That Act mandates that all RPA, of which there are 2, and all Council of Elected Officials, of which there are 2, must convert to COGs, of which there are currently 9, by January 1, 2015. It appears that our local RPA structure will cease to exist on December 31, 2014. The Act, broadly referred to as "Regionalism Legislation" also strongly encourages, and may lead into mandatory consolidation of the current 13 Regions into 8 Regions. Regions throughout the state are exploring merger options since there is a desire to select your consolidation partner, rather than have a mandated partner.

REGIONALISM TIME LINE

May 2013 Public Act 13-247 signed into law

October 2013 Office of Policy and Management (OPM) must submit a Regional Boundary Study to the Legislative Planning and Development Committee. A legislative study commission concluded that fewer planning regions would offer economies of scale and operate more efficiently.

January 1, 2014 Regions that to voluntarily agree to consolidate by this date and notify OPM of such voluntary consolidation (must be geographically adjacent regions) will be grandfathered from OPM mandatory consolidation decisions.

July 1, 2014 In a somewhat contradictory action, Connecticut Department of Transportation will revise the boundary lines of State transportation regions, known formally as Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO). It appears that CTDOT wants to only deal with 3-5 super MPOs, which, may or

may not a line with the COG Regional Planning organizations. The Governor and the State Legislature will hopefully resolve this "territorial" issue in the next legislative session.

January 1, 2015 All RPAs must convert to a COG; any remaining RPAs will be eliminated as State legal entities and will no longer be eligible for State regional planning funding, see below. SWRPA's volunteer board is eliminated, and regional planning and staff accountability will be under control of the Chief Elected Officials from each municipality, acting as a Council of Governments (COG). The COG will have an affiliated Regional Planning Council, composed of one representative from each municipality, preferably a local P & Z member, which will be charged with reviewing local intermunicipal zoning issues and other land use matters as directed by the CEOs.

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS:

State funding for SWRPA in the year ending June 30, 2013, was \$13,300. Greenwich's contribution to SWRPA has been fixed at \$23,314 for the past 4 years.

In fiscal year 2014, Greenwich's contribution remains fixed at \$23,314. State funding will increase to \$125,000, with an additional \$125,000 to be shared with a merging region if a letter of intent is agreed to by 12/31/2013.

In fiscal year 2015, COGs only, and perhaps only consolidated COGs, will receive \$125,000 plus \$.50 per capita in the Region. If the SWR as a standalone regional COG, this would amount to over \$300,000.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

Items under review:

- Regional boundary differences as set by OPM and CTDOT. There is logic to integrating regional planning along major transportation routes, but are their other community interests and needs that should be considered in regional mergers
- Larger regions mean more available dollars, but broader responsibilities and more time commitment from the Chief Elected Officials and the P & Z appointed member of the Regional Planning Council.
- Will larger regions result in less focused review of current and future needs? Regional Plans of Conservation and Development will have to be updated.
- Merged regions will result in merged staffs. Who will lead and who will follow? Need to deal with budgets, balance sheet issues, staff compensation, and benefit issues.
- State funding beyond 2015.

BACKGROUND

Attached is a 3 page memo dated May 26, 2011 which highlights discussions which occurred in 2011 relating to converting from a Regional Planning Agency (RPA) to a Council of Government (COG). This document will serve as an introduction to the subject of Regional Planning Agencies in Connecticut. In 2011, the Chief Elected Officials (CEO) of one or two of the 8 municipalities in the Region had meaningful discussions on converting; only one municipality, Westport, formally approved converting to a COG.



Benjamin Barnes, Secretary
Intergovernmental Policy Division
CT Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1308

September 27, 2013

Dear Secretary Barnes:

The Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials (HVCEO) and the South Western Regional Planning Agency (SWRPA) hereby petition the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (CTOPM) to redesignate the Housatonic Valley Region and the South Western Region into a single consolidated planning region.

The new region will include Stamford, Greenwich, Darien, New Canaan, Wilton, Weston, Westport, Norwalk, Bethel, Ridgefield, Newtown, Redding, Danbury, Brookfield, New Fairfield, Sherman, New Milford and Bridgewater for a total of 18 municipalities encompassing one sixth of Connecticut's population.

We have determined that the municipalities of the South Western Region and the Housatonic Valley Region have a common character which creates a compatible regional merger. Residents of both regions live, work and relax in each other's area. Because we are demographically similar, our land use, housing, transportation, and approaches to municipal management are in alignment.

The proposed consolidated region has a history of cooperation on regional planning matters such as promoting upgrades to the infrastructure of the Danbury Branch rail line, supporting the design and implementation of the Route 7 Land Use Study, collaborating on a 38 mile multi-purpose trail from Danbury to Norwalk, and sharing the Route 7 bus service cooperatively run by the Norwalk Transit District and the Housatonic Area Regional Transit District.

In addition we have jointly protected the water supply watersheds that we share, have requested federal funding for an Army Corp of Engineer's "Reconnaissance Study" of rivers in the expanded region, and have held conversations regarding establishing a regional dispatch.

Further, strong joint regional collaboration efforts were established in challenging the FAA rerouting plan for landing patterns, which would have substantially increased the noise levels in both regions.

These examples are a foundation for a strong unified region and an effective council of governments.

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Chapter 249 §16a-4c(b), this merger is being pursued voluntarily prior to January 1, 2014. It is our understanding that this action exempts our regions from CTOPM redesignation described in CGS Chapter 249 §16a-4c(a).

SWRPAMPO is aware that the Greater Bridgeport Region passed a resolution petitioning OPM to merge with SWRPA. That action by Greater Bridgeport was unilateral and is not supported by SWRPA.

This transmittal provides the following documents that support consolidation of the regions:

- HVCEO Resolution dated September 19, 2013
- SWRPA Resolution dated September 9, 2013
- SWRMPO Resolution dated August 29, 2013
- SWRMPO Resolution dated September 26, 2013
- Maps of current and proposed regional boundaries

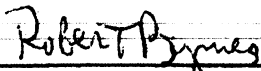
We look forward to your approval of the requested redesignation. Please confirm receipt of this communication, and provide information on the next steps and timetable for redesignation to become recognized formally by the State of Connecticut.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



**Matthew Knickerbocker, Chairman, Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials
on behalf of Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield,
New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield and Sherman**



**Robert Bymes, Chairman, South Western Regional Planning Agency
on behalf of Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford,
Weston, Westport and Wilton (Acting Chairman)**

cc:

- David LeVasseur, Undersecretary, Intergovernmental Policy, OPM
- HVCEO Chief Elected Officials
- SWRPA Board Members
- SWRMPO Chief Elected Officials
- Jonathan Chew, Executive Director, Housatonic Valley CEO
- Floyd Lapp, Executive Director, South Western RPA

9/19/2013 MINUTES EXCERPT

HVCEO ENDORSEMENT OF MERGER APPLICATION WITH SWRPA IS ITEM 5 BELOW

REGIONAL BOUNDARY COMMITTEE REPORT

The five Committee members, Matt Knickerbocker, Curtis Read, Mark Boughton, Susan Chapman and Ridgefield Rudy Marconi, then gave their report. It included the following recommendations:

1. SELECTION OF REGION FOR MERGER NEGOTIATIONS

Of the adjacent regions having common interests with the Housatonic Valley Region, based upon the HVCEO research report dated 1/17/2013 and entitled "Boundary Review for the Greater Danbury Region" the Committee's conclusion is that the South West Region has the most interregional ties.

2. AUTHORIZE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOUTH WEST REGION

At the 8/15 HVCEO meeting four municipal chief executives from the South West Region proposed creation of a joint committee from each region to plan a merger. We recommend that this invitation be accepted on 9/19, with the current committee empowered to conduct the negotiations.

3. OBTAIN BENEFIT OF PROACTIVE MERGER

If HVCEO self-selects a merger partner prior to 12/31/2013, it avoids a potentially adverse state order to merge in another direction. This is an incentive provision in the regional reorganization statute.

Use of this early decision provision to avoid a state order requires a minimum of 14 municipalities within a new, larger region. The proposed merger of HVCEO with SWRPA yields 18 municipalities and would include a substantial one sixth of Connecticut's population.

The statute also offers bonus operating funds if the early decision self-selection provision is utilized. We should seek to qualify for those funds.

4. NOTIFY OPM OF NEGOTIATIONS PRIOR TO 10/1

While the statutory authorization to self-select a merger partner extends until 12/31, on 10/1 OPM releases a draft of its merger plan. It would be advantageous to see the proposed 18 town region incorporated into that draft CT OPM plan, rather than find ourselves possibly opposed to a less acceptable draft state plan.

5. AUTHORIZE JOINT APPLICATION TO OPM

That the Council authorize a joint application with SWRPA to OPM for formal HVCEO – SWRPA planning boundary consolidation.

There was considerable discussion of the Committee's recommendations. It was agreed that while SWRPA is a desirable merger partner, the Danbury Area will still need to have its separate communications and, for some variables such as DEMHS Region 5 emergency management, subregional planning.

There was additional discussion, with members agreeing with Chairman Knickerbocker's overview that the merger with SWRPA is "the least painful way of doing something we didn't want to do to begin with."

Then on a motion made by Rudy Marconi and seconded by Pat Murphy, members endorsed the committee's five recommendations.



Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard, 3rd Floor
Stamford, Connecticut 06901
203 316 5190 PHONE
203 316 4995 FAX
www.swrpa.org

**Resolution of the
South Western Regional Planning Agency**

Supporting the Merger of South Western Region with Housatonic Valley Region

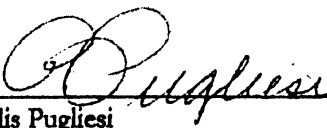
Stamford, Connecticut

I, Phyllis Pugliesi, Secretary of the South Western Regional Planning Agency, (the "Agency"), certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Agency at its meeting on September 9, 2013 in Stamford, Connecticut, a quorum being present:

RESOLVED, that the South Western Regional Planning Agency hereby supports, in conjunction with the South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization, the desirability of a merger with the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials.

This resolution remains in full force and effect as of September 9, 2013.

Dated at Stamford, Connecticut on this Ninth Day of September 2013.



Phyllis Pugliesi
Secretary

**SOUTH WESTERN REGION
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

DARIEN • GREENWICH • NEW CANAAN • NORWALK • STAMFORD • WESTON • WESTPORT • WILTON
888 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD • STAMFORD, CT 06901 • (203) 316-5190 • FAX (203) 316-4995

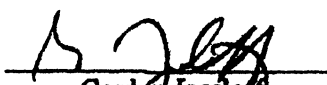
**Resolution#2013-012 South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization Support
for Consolidation of South Western Region with Housatonic Valley
Region – August 29, 2013**

Be it resolved that the South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby:

**Strongly urges the South Western Regional Planning Agency board to consider a merger with the
Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials.**

This resolution is effective August 29, 2013.

Date: August 29, 2013



Gordon Joseloff
Chairman

SOUTH WESTERN REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

DARIEN • GREENWICH • NEW CANAAN • NORWALK • STAMFORD • WESTON • WESTPORT • WILTON
888 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD • STAMFORD, CT 06901 • (203) 316-5190 • FAX (203) 316-4995

Resolution#2013-016 Support for the Voluntary Consolidation of the South Western Region with the Housatonic Valley Region and Redesignation of the Planning Region by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management – September 26, 2013

WHEREAS,

South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (SWRMPO) is composed of the chief elected officials of the municipalities of Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport and Wilton, along with representatives from the region's transit districts, and operates under 23 U.S.C. § 134 (2013).

WHEREAS,

SWRMPO has examined the statutes governing redesignation of planning regions by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management contained at Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16a-4c(b) (2013) and has determined that a voluntary consolidation of the South Western Region and Housatonic Valley Region is desirable;

WHEREAS,

This voluntary consolidation will exempt the South Western Region and Housatonic Valley Region from redesignation by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management according to the procedure set forth at Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16a-4c(a) (2013);

WHEREAS,

The South Western Region and Housatonic Valley Region are contiguous and together contain a total of eighteen municipalities;

WHEREAS,

The South Western Region and Housatonic Valley Region share many common interests and characteristics encompassing land use, housing, environment, economic development and transportation;

WHEREAS,

The proposed consolidated region has a history of cooperation on regional planning matters such as: transportation and land use, i.e., upgrading the infrastructure of the Danbury rail branch line, 7Link bus service between Norwalk and Danbury co-operated by the Norwalk Transit District and Housatonic Area Transit, and, design/implementation of the Route 7 Land Use Study. Several municipalities spanning both regions have had conversations regarding establishing a Regional Dispatch. Further, strong joint regional collaboration efforts were established in challenging the FAA re-routing landing patterns, which would have substantially increased the noise levels in both regions. These examples support a foundation for a strong unified region and future council of governments.

WHEREAS,

The SWRMPO supports the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management consolidation of the South Western Region and the Housatonic Valley Region into a single consolidated region prior to January 1, 2014;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTH WESTERN REGION MPO THAT:

The SWRMPO supports the voluntary consolidation of the South Western Region and Housatonic Valley Region and recommends that the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management formally redesignate the consolidated planning region prior to January 1, 2014.

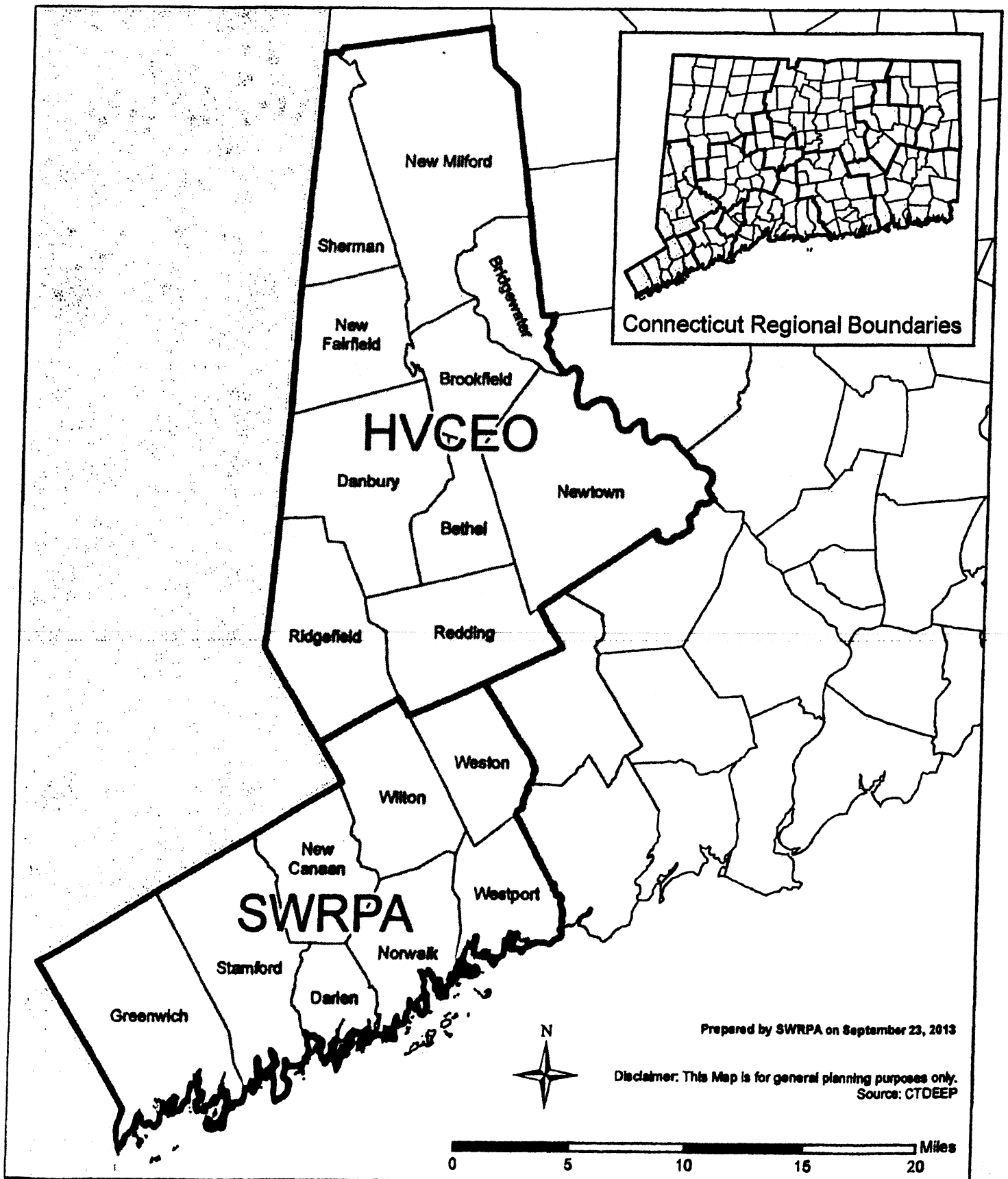
This resolution is effective September 26, 2013.

Date: September 26, 2013.


Gordon Joseloff
Chairman

Existing SWRPA & HVCEO Regions and Municipalities

September 2013



TOWN OF GREENWICH
CONNECTICUT

Date: May 26, 2011

To: Greenwich Representative Town Meeting Members:

From: Peter J. Tesei, First Selectman, MPO Member
Robert Byrnes, RTM Member, SWRPA Member
Paul Settlemyer, RTM Member, SWRPA Member
Margarita Alban, Planning and Zoning Commission Member, SWRPA Member

Re: Proposed Change in Regional Planning Organizational Structure

The Chairman of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), New Canaan First Selectman Jeb Walker has initiated a proposal to have the existing eight member towns within Southwestern Regional Planning Agency (SWRPA) and (MPO) convert to a Council of Governments (COG).

Greenwich is represented on the (MPO) by its First Selectman, Peter Tesei. Greenwich is represented on (SWRPA) by Representative Town Meeting Members Robert Byrnes and Paul Settlemyer and Planning and Zoning Commission member Margarita Alban.

The eight municipalities within the existing South Western Region are Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, Norwalk, New Canaan, Weston, Westport and Wilton.

We believe this proposal raises some issues for our Town and we have expressed a need for additional information in order to present this proposal formally to you in September.

We want to advise you of the current conversation on this matter and ask you to contact Greenwich SWRPA members Robert Byrnes and Paul Settlemyer with any questions on the attached information provided.

Cc: Diane Fox, Town Planner

The Leadership of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is proposing changing the structure of our regional planning organization from a RPA/MPO to a Council of Governments (COG). The purpose of this memo and attachment is to introduce the subject to the Greenwich Representative Town Meeting. A formal presentation will be made to the RTM in September.

Attached is a chart reflecting the evolution over the past 50 years of the South Western Regional Planning Agency (RPA) and the South Western Regional Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Current Operating Structure

- Currently the MPO, with support of the SWRPA staff, is the lead organization in Transportation Planning. All prioritization of transportation studies and projects is under the MPO's control, as it will be under a COG. Approximately ninety per cent of the annual Agency budget is transportation related. The MPO, with input from municipal transportation staff who meet monthly, as a Committee (TTAG) focuses its time on Federal, State, and regional transportation issues.
- The SWRPA Board (22 members, representing the 8 municipalities) has responsibility for personnel and general operations of the Agency. The Agency has an operating budget of \$1.5 million, a capital surplus, a staff of 10, a trustee (Chairman, Treasurer, Exec. Director) administered pension plan, and a Board administered program of financial controls.
- With the MPO having responsibility for transportation planning, the SWRPA Board has work on publicizing inter-municipal planning studies to member communities. The Board operates thru committees working on economic development (with a focus on workforce housing and job creation), environmental planning, and the review of planning and zoning statutes with inter-municipal effects. SWRPA has administered a small cooperative purchasing program for more than 10 years. Based on CEO feed-back, it is expanding its involvement in shared municipal services. With limited funding for economic development, housing planning, or environmental studies, work in these areas has been driven by volunteer members of the Board.
- State regulations currently give the 8 municipal CEOs voting membership on the SWRPA Board.

Suggested Reasons for a Conversion

- Leadership will be placed where it belongs, with the 8 CEOs as voting members.
- A COG, lead by the CEOs, will have more prestige, importance, and recognition than an MPO
- A COG will provide a format for CEOs to discuss shared municipal services
- A COG will result in fewer meeting and greater time efficiency. There may be organizational cost saving.
- Recommended by CCM, the More Commission, 1000 Friends of Connecticut Organization, and the tri-state Regional Planning Agency

Need for more information proposed Conversion

- A draft of proposed By-laws for a SWRCOG should be available for review by municipal legislative bodies. The By – laws will set forth Executive and Board membership and responsibilities, officers and officer's responsibilities, organization of the Regional Planning Commission, Committees, voting procedures, role of the Executive Director and staff, voting procedures, and withdrawal rights. A review by the CEOs of the By-laws will confirm that there will be a significant increase in their time committed to regional planning.

Areas to be research prior to the September RTM meeting

- Planning organization consolidation. CCM, OPM, DECD, and the RPA have publically stated the need to consolidate the State's 15 Regional Planning Organization into 5-7 RPOs. OPM is obligated to render a decision on consolidation, which decision is not subject to legislative review, in December 2011. If a decision is made now to consolidate, the municipal legislative bodies will have no vote in the consolidation matter in December.
- If RPO's are consolidated, there is a possibility of a reduction in local planning focus. There have been proposals to involve COGs in regional land use issues, levy hotel taxes, impose land value taxes, and levy surcharges on motor vehicle registration, all to fund local infrastructure needs.

SWRPA & SWRMPO – 50-Plus Years of Evolution

1916 to 1962

Federal Road Building & Transportation Planning

1962 to 1990

Advent of Intergovernmental Funding Federal to States to Region

1991 to 2009

Intermodal Approach with Innovative Financing

2009-11

Period of 4th Transformation

Federal Funded U.S. Road & Highway Program Administered by:

1916-39 – U.S. Dept of Agriculture

1939-68 – US Dept of Commerce (Trans Agency)

1956 – Eisenhower Admin passes *Interstate Highway & Defense Act of 1956*

1962 – Passage of *Federal Highway Act of 1962*

- Primary Funding Sources
- US-HHFA – Until 1968
- US-DOC – Until 1968

1968 – Changes in US Agencies

- HUD created; Replaces HHFA
- US-DOT created; Replaces DOC Trans Agency

1981-82 Federal Funding Changes

- HUD funding is discontinued
- US-DOT becomes primary funding source
- Federal Government created MPOs to do Transportation Planning funded by Fed Hwy Act '62
- Required 3 "C" transportation planning
- Continuous - Cooperative - Comprehensive
- Areas 50,000+ population receive Fed hwy funding

Intermodal Approach:

- Shift to more than highways
- Flexible Funding and Innovative Financing for:
 - More Transit
 - Add Bike
 - Add Pedestrian
- Continued Required 3 "C" transportation planning

Three 6-Year Federal Legislative Funding Acts

- All become TEA Acts (intermodal, flexible funding)
- US DOT/Conn.DOT require long range transportation plans (LRTP) prepared every 4 years.
- 1991 – ISTEA -Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act
- 1998 – TEA-21 - Transportation Efficiency Act of 21st Century
- 2004 – SAFE-TEA-LU – Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users



Federal Legislation that has Influenced the Evolution of SWRPA & SWRMPO



Corresponding State Actions to Federal Legislation Driving Evolution of SWRPA & SWRMPO

Early 1900s to 1962

Federal Road Building

Early 1900s to 1959

- CT has county govt
- Becomes inefficient

1959 – CT Legislative Acts

- Abolish County Gov.

• Form 15 RPA Regions for Planning

–Transportation

–Housing

–Open space

–Conservation

- Initiates new org with professional staff

1962 – 1990

States Form MPOs for Regional Planning

1962 – SWRPA Organized

Under Title 8, Chap 127 of CT General Statutes (5 of 8)

- Tri-State MPO Formed and Included

– South Western CT & 5 other CT Regions

– Metropolitan New York & Parts of New Jersey

1971 – OPM funding begins

- SWRPA & Tri-State MPO organize, hire professionals

1981 – SWRMPO is formed

1982 – Tri-State MPO is abolished

- 6 CT regions of Tri-State MPO form 5 MPOs

• CEOs & Transit Districts in SW Region form MPO

1974 & 1983 – HUD + State Fund & Require

- Conservation & Developm't (POCD) Plan every 10 yrs

1991 to 2009

RPA's and MPOs Implement Intermodal Approach

1991 – 1995

- CT RPAs and MPOs Implement Intermodal Projects
- Use innovative financing to fund planning

- CT's RPAs and MPOs remain unchanged

– Continue to share staff

1995 & 2006

- CTOPM funds 10yr Conservation & Development(POCD)
- SWRPA prepares POCD's:

- SWRMPO prepares LRTP's in '93,'97,'01,'04,'07

– Update scheduled for 2011

- Governance Changes

– Since 1991: 5 RPA's become 4 COG's and 1 COEO's

– Since 1970: 9 of 15 RPA's change structure

- SWRPA remains unchanged during 40 year period

2009-11

Adjust to State Funding

- CT OPM funding for regional planning eliminated

- CT adjusting to State Funding Changes

- States awaiting next six year transportation program

- No Action to date