

APPENDIX G - RECORD OF PUBLIC OUTREACH

The appendix summarizes the public outreach during the preparation of the long range regional transportation plan. The summary consists of:

- Comments received on the plan and COGCNV responses.
- A schedule of major events in the preparation of the plan, including the public review period

The draft Long Range Regional Transportation Plan was initially presented to the Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Planning Commission (RPC) at its March meeting. The commission consists of 26 members, two from each of the CNVR municipalities, one selected by the chief elected official and one selected by the municipal planning commission. COGCNV also presented the draft Plan to municipal engineers and planners at separate meetings for their review and comment.

The draft plan was sent to libraries in member municipalities and posted on the COGCNV website for a 30-day public review period, beginning on April 6, 2011. A legal notice was submitted to the Waterbury Republican-American announcing the start of the public comment period and the scheduling of a public hearing in May. A request for comments and invitation to the public hearing was sent to state and local officials and other interested groups.

The Regional Planning Commission held a public hearing on the draft plan at 7 p.m. on May 3, 2011 at the Middlebury Library. A press release was sent out to local media and the local Spanish-language newspaper. Comments from that meeting are included in the following pages.

The final plan was presented to the COGCNV and approved by the Council at their meeting on May 13, 2011.

All comments were responded to and considered for the final revised plan presented to COGCNV.

PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

The following comments were received at the public meeting on May 3, 2011. Comments regarding specific text changes were incorporated into the final document.

- Are financial figures included in the Plan? *Appendix D includes funding based on CTDOT's estimates.*
- Traffic on expressways has declined due to the price of fuel.
- When will work begin on the I-84 projects? *According to CTDOT officials, the last phase of the I-84 upgrade in eastern Waterbury is very high on CTDOT's priority list. Other projects on I-84 have no projected completion dates. Interchange improvements on I-84 west of Waterbury have been designed, but are not funded.*
- Southbury is lacking in taxi service.
- Greenways along the Housatonic and Pomperaug Rivers should be mentioned in the Plan.
- Southbury's elderly population needs more transportation than is provided by the Town and Heritage Village.
- The demise of the travel center in Southbury has limited residents' transportation options. Southbury should get public transit service.
- For the legend on the map on page 12, Southbury Shopping Center should be labeled Southbury Plaza.
- Pine Hill Road at Route 6 does not pose a traffic problem. *This intersection marks the point where Route 6 narrows. It is identified by CTDOT as having a high volume-to-capacity ratio.*
- The description of the "ring road" around Waterbury-Oxford Airport in Appendix A needs to be corrected.

The following written comments were received during the public comment period:

- The Waterbury Development Corporation, the Waterbury Regional Chamber, and Main Street Waterbury wrote a joint letter on May 4, 2011 disagreeing with the plan's assessment of the proposed transportation center and expressing their commitment to establishing a transportation center at the Metro North station. They also stated their support for transit-oriented development, particularly in the area along Freight Street to the west of the railroad tracks. They view these projects as important for the economic development of Waterbury and the surrounding region. *COGCNV staff sent a response letter on May 10 to Waterbury Development Corporation, Waterbury Regional Chamber, and Main Street Waterbury stating that the transportation plan's conclusions on the transportation center come from the project's feasibility and environmental studies, coupled with the state and city's financial situation.*
- In a May 6, 2011 letter, the City of Waterbury recommended that the Long Range Plan be revised to add the phrase "as originally envisioned" to the sentence "Due to traffic and bus operations issues caused by the proposed center and a lack of capital and operational funding, this project is not expected to move forward" (page 40). (*This suggestion was incorporated into the final document.*) The letter also referred to the City's position on the transportation center from a May 10, 2010 document.
- Carla Iezzi, CTDOT, submitted a checklist review of the draft plan with suggestions relative to meeting metropolitan transportation planning requirements of the federal transportation regulations:
 - drawing connections between different sections and adding details on recommended projects to improve readability,
 - incorporating discussion on how the plan addresses requirements to consider air quality and emergency management, and
 - incorporating discussion on how the plan addresses other federal guidance.*Staff responded to these comments.*
- Email from Eric Bachmann of Naugatuck commenting on the need to move forward with upgrades for the final phase of I-84 in eastern Waterbury, the I-84/Route 8 interchange, and I-84 west of Waterbury. He also presented recommendations for improving Route 8 in Naugatuck, Route 69 in Waterbury, Route 63 in Watertown and Naugatuck, and Rubber Ave. in Naugatuck.
- Fred Riese, CT DEP, recommended several text changes in Chapter 3 and Appendix F to improve readability, and noted a few typographical errors.

Table G.1 Long-Range Regional Transportation Plan Schedule

Plan Preparation		
1/14/2011	Draft Plan completed	Draft regional transportation plan transmitted to CTDOT for air quality modeling.
CTDOT Air Quality Modeling		
1/21/2011	AQ Conformity Analysis start	CTDOT air quality modeling is based on the recommendations of all eleven draft regional transportation plans for the 2040 model year.
3/18/2011	AQ Conformity Analysis completed	CTDOT completion of conformity analysis.
3/25/2011	Transmittal of Conformity Documents	CTDOT emailed air quality analysis. The documentation is needed prior to the start of MPO public review process.
Preliminary Plan Review		
3/1/2011	RPC Meeting	Review of preliminary plan prior to wider circulation
3/16/2011	Municipal Engineers Meeting	Review of preliminary plan with public works directors and engineers
3/24/2011	Municipal Planners Meeting	Review of preliminary plan with municipal planners
Public Review		
4/6/2011	Public Review Start	Beginning date of the thirty-day public review of the final plan and the air quality conformity determinations. Legal notices for all of these documents were published in the Waterbury Republican-American. A request for comments and invitation to the May 3 public hearing emailed to a broad range of groups and officials.
4/27/2011	Press Releases Sent	Press releases were sent to local newspapers, inviting the public to the hearing on May 3. A Spanish translation of the press release was published in La Voz Hispana on April 28.
5/3/2011	RPC Public Hearing	Public hearing held at Middlebury Public Library
5/9/2011	End of Public Review	Written comments received up to May 9.
Final Review and Endorsement		
5/11/2011	RPC Recommendation	Special meeting to review comments on the draft transportation plan and to make a recommendation to MPO (COGCNV)
5/13/2011	MPO Endorsement	COGCNV approval of the final plan and the air quality conformity resolution for transmittal to FHWA.
6/29/2011	Federal Review Complete	Latest possible date for Federal conformity finding, including a forty-five-day review period.

North East Transportation Co., Fixed route and paratransit financial and ridership data – CT-Transit Waterbury

United States Bureau of the Census, Profiles of General Demographic Characteristics, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Connecticut, *Table DP-3. Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics* (2002)

United States Bureau of the Census, Profiles of General Demographic Characteristics, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Connecticut, *Table DP-4. Profile of Selected Housing Characteristics* (2002)

United States Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, *Residence MCD/County to Workplace, MCD/County flows for Connecticut: 2000* (2003)

U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File

U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, *Transportation and Environmental Justice Case Studies* (2000)

University of Connecticut, Connecticut State Data Center website — Population Projections (May 16, 2007)

Urbitran, in association with Connecticut Department of Transportation, *Connecticut Department of Transportation Statewide Bus System Study 2000* (2000)

URS Corporation, in association with Fitzgerald & Halliday, *Route 69 Traffic Operations Study: Prospect, Waterbury, and Wolcott* (2002)

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., *Route 8 Interchanges 22-30 Deficiencies/Needs Study: Seymour, Beacon Falls, Naugatuck, & Waterbury – Final Report* (January 2011)

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., *Route 67 Traffic Operations – Southbury/Oxford/Seymour Connecticut* (1991)

Wilbur-Smith Associates, *I-84 West of Waterbury Needs and Deficiencies Study – Final Report* (November 2001)

Wilbur-Smith Associates, *I-84/Route 8 Waterbury Interchange Needs Study – Final Report* (June 2010)

(COGCNV staff also used comments from meetings and discussions with municipal staff and CTDOT)