

## **Westport Citizens Transit Committee Meeting Notes August 21, 2012**

Attendees:

Jim Ross

Eugene Cederbaum

Carl Lindahl

Pete Gold

Carolin Sigal

Terry Giegengack

Public Attendees: Sue Prosi (SRPA, Sr Trans. Coordinator),

### **Meeting Notes:**

Next scheduled guests on Aug 27th

- Kevin Godburn, Toquet Hall Teen Director
- Zoe Cohen, Student advocate

### **Scheduled Meetings:**

- Sept. 11 - CTC Marketing "Brainstorm" Session
- Oct. 4, 10:30-12 – CTC Meeting for Elderly and Persons with Disabilities at Westport Sr. Center

### **Related Topics**

Westport Dept of Human Services has posted a "Westport Transit Cheat Sheet" which explains the various transportation options available for elderly and persons with disabilities. The link is

<http://www.westportct.gov/index.aspx?page=523>

### **Jim Ross reported on a conversation he had with Nancy McCormuck, Executive Director of ITN Coastal CT/Westport**

- ITN provides a fee-based transportation for the elderly
- ITN drivers are volunteers and provide their own cars
- There is a small annual subscription and then a per ride charge
- Operates 24/7 and on a next day basis(same day requests are strongly discouraged)
- The Westport ITN has been in place for a year or two and become a popular and thriving alternative to D2D and driving

- Nancy agreed to come and speak in the Fall about ITN, their mission and goals and the services they provide to Westport Citizens

### **Sue Prosi (SWRPA) presented to the Citizens Transit Committee**

Sue gave an overview of the South Western Regional Planning Agency organization, responsibilities, history and current/future initiatives and projects in the SW region of CT. Sue was very helpful in providing insight into the role that SWRPA has played and will play in Westport's transit planning.

- For SWRPA info: <http://www.swrpa.org/>
- SWRPA is in the process of getting a consultant to do a Westport Transit Study which should begin in the Fall and go into next year. It is NOT expected to be completed before the Westport 2013 budget is approved.
- The Westport Transit study arose from the funding debate that has existed for several years and came to a head this year.
- The last SWPA transit study for Westport was done in 1992.
- The study will review all aspects of the current system (operations, services and governance) and will include comparative analysis of other transit systems that serve towns similar to Westport as well as Peer Group reviews
- No public transit is self-funding; MetroNorth which may be the most successful transit system covers only 70% of their costs with fare-box revenues.
- Sue felt that in light of the funding/subsidy realities with public transit, that it is critical for the citizens to determine whether they want town public transit system
- Sue agreed to pass to Carl Lidahl studies and reports that might help the CTC better understand Westport's transit situation and history.
- Sue agreed to continue working and communicating with the CTC as their study begins and as the CTC needs her guidance.

SWRPA Additional Information sent to CTC by Sue after the meeting and in response to requests for more info.

South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan:  
<http://www.swrpa.org/default.aspx?Transport=40>

- Shuttle info – page 75
- Bus network – starts page 79
- Strategies, Recommendations & Implementation – starts page 120
- Also worth a look – transportation and travel data – starts page 30

Transportation Improvement Program – SWRPA (TIP):

<http://www.swrpa.org/Default.aspx?Transport=238>

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP):

<http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=3529&q=424892> (You can sort the xls for town code 158 or Norwalk Transit District.)

South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (SWRMPO or MPO):

<http://www.swrpa.org/Default.aspx?About=19>

### Rail Parking info and Transit Research Studies

- Rail Parking Information: <http://www.swrpa.org/default.aspx?Transport=287>
- Coastal Corridor Bus Study 2012: <http://www.swrpa.org/Default.aspx?Transport=257>
- Norwalk-Stamford Enhanced Bus Study 2009:  
<http://www.swrpa.org/Default.aspx?Transport=247>
- Transit research: <http://www.nctr.usf.edu/>
- Transit cooperative research: <http://www.tcrponline.org/>

MetroNorth UniPass contact is:

Mr. Daniel O'Connell

Phone: (212) 340-4903

After Sue Prosi's comments, the CTC had some additional discussions about additional guest speakers (Green Initiative, CTDOT, First Selectman) and Peter agreed to follow up on the Railroad parking and Uniticket issues.