

**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
November 6, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bill Anslow, representing Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Bradley Birge, City of Saratoga Springs
Maria Chau, Federal Highway Administration
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Donald Csaposs, Town of Guilderland
Todd Fabozzi, representing Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional
Planning Commission
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority
Stephen Feeney, Schenectady County, Vice-Chair
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee, Secretary
Stephen Iachetta, Albany International Airport Authority, Chair
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
Mike Valentine, Saratoga County
Tony Vasil, Albany Port District Commission
Christopher Wallin, City of Schenectady
Greg Wichser, representing Robert Rice, NYS Department of
Transportation, Region 1
Adam Yagelski, Town of East Greenbush

STAFF AND OTHERS

Michael S. Burns, Town of Glenville
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Joe Cimino, CHA Consulting
Lorenzo Distefano, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Lindsey Garney, Capital District Transportation Authority
Clark Henry, Town of Niskayuna
Martin Hull, WSP
Shelly Johnston, Creighton Manning Engineering
Mark Kennedy, VHB
Stephanie Long, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Fred Mastroianni, GPI
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Laura Sanda, McFarland Johnson
Jon Scherzer, Capital District Transportation Authority
Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority
Mark Spain, City of Watervliet
Craig Swayne, MJELS
Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee
Sean Ward, Village of Green Island

INTRODUCTION AND VISITORS' ISSUES

Steve Iachetta opened the meeting at approximately 9:43 AM.

ADMINISTRATION

Previous Meeting Minutes - October 2, 2019

Members approved the October 2, 2019 minutes.

PRESENTATION - CDTA - MICROTRANSIT

Jon Scherzer explained that microtransit is public transit's version of Transportation Network Company (e.g., Uber/Lyft) type service. Customers request a ride through mobile app or phone call. CDTA will be starting a microtransit pilot program, called "Flex". It will provide coverage to areas not served well by fixed route transit and will replace less efficient routes and/or route segments. The CDTA pilot program will serve an area from Route 20 in Guilderland to Route 7 in Colonie which includes Crossgates Mall, Colonie Center and the Albany International Airport, as defined by a map he presented. This service will replace low density fixed route service but will not compete with fixed route service. The goal is to launch service in December. He said that CDTA wants to be the region's mobility leader. Service will be six days per week, with no service on Sundays or Holidays.

ACTION ITEMS

TIP AMENDMENTS

A. A584, 1810.74, Menands Bike/Ped Connector

Greg Wichser explained that the project budget has increased due to additional work incorporated on Route 32 (Broadway) including resurfacing, road diet and an upgraded traffic signal; and pavement work on I-787 ramps. Fiscal constraint is maintained by using a drawdown from the State Pavement Maintenance Set-aside (RG136). Members approved the amendment as presented.

B. T123, 1822.15, Washington/Western BRT Phase 2

C. T124, 1822.16, Hudson River Corridor BRT Operations

Ross Farrell explained that these amendments do not affect the TIP. For the Washington Western BRT, improvements will be located adjacent to the University at Albany's Downtown Campus and the new ETEC Campus located within the Harriman State Office Campus, including a road diet of the Harriman ring road from six to four lanes and bus-only lanes. For the River Corridor BRT, service and operational related expenses will be funded. Members approved the amendments B. and C. as presented.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Progress Report for the period April 1, 2019 - September 30, 2019

Mike Franchini reviewed the UPWP progress report included in the mail out and described key accomplishments. He said that he is proud of TIP process and the efforts of all involved, and he commended the staff for their work effort to support the TIP development. He said it was a major

accomplishment. Other key accomplishments include the Local Roads Safety Plan; CDTC hosted a two-day FHWA Workshop on Planning for Reliability: Advancing Reliability through Operations, at the University at Albany in September 2019; air quality conformity analysis for the TIP; a solicitation for Smart Communities projects resulting in the selection of the Saratoga Smart LED Streetlight Guidebook; CDTC staff launched a subcommittee of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to test various bicycle and pedestrian Level of Service methodologies; and the 2019 Bike to Work Day Workplace Challenge. He noted that the second bullet on the fourth page of the Progress Report will be deleted. Members approved the UPWP progress report as presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CDTC PROJECT DELIVERY UPDATE

Jacob Beeman distributed a project delivery update report (attached). For the next Planning Committee meeting TIP project updates will be requested from the City of Watervliet and the Town of Bethlehem. Sean Ward said that the Village of Green Island is very grateful for help from CDTC and NYSDOT on the Hudson Avenue project. Hudson Avenue is a vital street that connects I-787 and Troy. The project will make it safer for pedestrians by providing a pedestrian connection; the northern part will be part of the Mohawk Hudson Bike Trail. Craig Swayne said that the project will add 1300 feet of sidewalk with curb ramps to provide ADA compliance. The project will be let this winter and will start in the spring of 2020.

NYSDOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Greg Wichser reported that Empire State Trail projects will be let in December. He distributed a list of suggested STIP moves. He said that the STIP will be evaluated on whether projects programmed for this year are actually funded this year. If your project will not realistically be ready by September it should be rescheduled to the following year. If there is uncertainty, it is better to move the project out and then move it back in if the schedule accelerates. Maria Chau explained that this practice reflects good management of projects but also if the schedule is not achieved, there is a risk that funding will go elsewhere.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDTC

Mike Franchini reported that the New Visions 2050 Plan update is going full bore, with advisory committee meetings and white papers being written. He said that CDTC just received a call letter from NYSDOT.

CDTC will have an in-person certification meeting in March 2020, which will involve a considerable amount of effort. The meeting with FHWA and FTA lasts three days. The Planning Committee and Policy Board will be involved.

The Complete Streets Advisory Committee is looking for new members. If you are interested, talk to Mike or Carrie Ward.

CDRPC

Todd Fabozzi reported that under the CDTC/CDRPC Technical Assistance Program, CDRPC is working on data analysis of development trends in the Town of Bethlehem, including population and economic analysis, GIS mapping and comparison to regional trends.

CDRPC, in partnership with CDTC, the Capital Region Chamber, the Community Foundations for the Capital District and the University at Albany's AVAIL Lab, is developing a robust online indicators dashboard. The project will make a variety of data more accessible and useful by featuring data visualizations, mapping and the ability to compare data overtime.

CDRPC is managing "HeatSmart Capital Region", which is funded by the New York State Research and Development Authority. The program provides information about sustainable heating and cooling systems that are not fossil fuel based, including air source heat pumps and ground source heat pumps.

New American Community Survey data will be available from the Census in December. The 2020 Census is on schedule.

CDTA

Ross Farrell reported that River BRT work is under construction. There will be a bid for more station work in December. Upgrading of traffic signals is expected in the fall of 2020. Four electric buses have arrived and are being tested.

NYS DOT

Greg Wichser reported that the Cohoes Boulevard was completed. Speed tables are in place. The Exit 3 Connector will be open in the coming days. Construction of Alternate Route 7 bridges will continue in the coming year.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta expressed appreciation for the Exit 3 Connector project. The new pedestrian connections provided by the project are excellent. The Airport received a grant for 40 new EV charging stations. The Airport is experiencing 4 percent growth in enplanements and is approaching year 2005 levels.

Albany Port District Commission

Tony Vasil said that Senator Schumer attended the opening of the new roll-on/roll-off dock. The Port will be the premier heavy lift cargo port in the Northeast. Albany is competing for the construction of offshore wind turbines. Tony Vasil said that the Freight Advisory Committee is looking for more members.

Saratoga County

Mike Valentine requested that the February 5 Planning Committee be rescheduled to February 6 so as to not conflict with the February 5 Saratoga County Planning and Zoning Conference. Mike Franchini said this would be OK. Sandy Misiewicz and Wendy Holsberger will give a presentation on transportation safety planning. Todd Fabozzi will participate in a roundtable: "Developer Projects that Satisfy Community Goals & Market Demand".

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting will be January 8, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael V. Franchini
Secretary