

**Planning Committee Meeting
November 3, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending

Susan Barden, City of Saratoga Springs
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Peter Comenzo, Town of Guilderland
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Vice-Chair
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority, Chair
Elizabeth Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Joe LaCivita, City of Watervliet
Sean Maguire, Town of Colonie
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee, Secretary
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta
Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Robert Rice, New York State Department of Transportation – Region 1

Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Joe Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes
Mike Valentine, Saratoga County
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Adam Yagelski, Town of East Greenbush

Staff and Others Attending

Christian Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris Cate, McFarland-Johnson
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Melissa Cherubino, Town of Glenville
Joe Cimino, CHA
Kristin Diotte, City of Schenectady
Lorenzo DiStefano, NYSDOT Region 1
Kenneth Kovalchik, Town of Guilderland
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jeff Pangburn, CME
Andrew Peterson, Rensselaer County
Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority
Steven Strichman, City of Troy
Mark Surdam, Town of Hoosick

Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee
Carrie Ward, Capital District Transportation Committee
Greg Wichser, New York State Department of Transportation - Region 1
Lindsay Zefting, Alta Planning + Design

Introduction

Steve Feeney opened the meeting at approximately 9:36 AM.

Visitors' Issues

There were no visitors' issues.

Administration

Previous Meeting Minutes – October 6, 2021

Bob Rice motioned to approve the October 6, 2021 minutes, Mike Valentine seconded, and members approved the motion.

Presentation - Congress Street Bridge Study

Lindsay Zefting introduced this study, which was a partnership between the Cities of Troy and Watervliet. The project included an online survey, which received almost 400 responses. Priority projects included a shared use path on the Congress Street Bridge, Congress Street and Ferry Street improvements in Troy including a cycle track on Congress Street, a redesigned River and Ferry Street intersection in Troy, the conversion of Front Street in Troy to a trail, improvements to the 19th Street and 2nd Avenue intersection in Watervliet, a safe southern connection to Hudson Shores Park at 16th Street, and traffic calming on 23rd Street in Watervliet across the I-787 access ramps.

Fiscal Constraint - TIP Summary Table 4

Jacob Beeman noted that after last month's approved changes to the budget estimates, re-aligning them with programming after projects were moved for TIP / STIP performance, Table 4 shows that we are now within our 5% over / under programming guidance.

Action Items

2019-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

A. A607, 1085.46, Route 146 Over Normanskill Bridge Replacement, BIN 1038310, Town of Guilderland, Albany County

Greg Wichser noted that the amendment will add another bridge for replacement and will be funded outside of the Regional Planning Targets. Construction would be expected in 2022. Ken Kovalchik noted the bridge is a high traffic location near the high school and receives a good amount of pedestrian traffic. He requested consideration of improved bicycle and pedestrian accommodations across the bridge. Chris Wallin motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Steve Feeney seconded, and members approved the amendment.

B. R335, 1761.71, CR 68 from CR 65 (Bloomingrove Drive) to Peck Road: Overlay

Andrew Peterson noted that Rensselaer County is seeking a scope change to remove the Snyder's Lake Road portion of the project from the scope as it has been completed and will not seek any approvals or federal aid. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Sean Maguire seconded, and members approved the amendment.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Progress and Expenditure Report for the period April 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021

Sandra Misiewicz noted that CDTC is required to compile a report on activities every six months. New this time, the New York State MPO's worked together with FHWA to develop a unified format throughout the state. It shows a breakdown of FHWA and FTA funds spent on each task. Highlights over the last six months include work on equity and public participation including New Visions virtual trainings, highway condition inventories, numerous studies including Linkage Studies, the Complete Streets Design Guide, Clean Communities, and TIP material development. Adam Yagelski suggested page numbers, a table of contents, and a summary table of expenditures. Sean Maguire asked why there are tasks without any funds assigned. Sandra Misiewicz noted that the report format is for FHWA and FTA and tasks without funds are funded with local funds. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve the Progress and Expenditure Report for the period April 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021, Sean Maguire seconded, and members approved the motion.

2020-2022 UPWP Amendments: Budget Adjustment

Sandra Misiewicz noted that staff has spent more time than anticipated developing the TIP materials, and the budget adjustment proposes to remove funding from five other program

areas to add it to the TIP line. Ross Farrell motioned to approve the budget adjustment as presented, Steve Feeney seconded the motion, and members approved the budget adjustment.

2021 Technical Assistance Program – Castleton-on-Hudson Project Proposal

Mark Castiglione noted that the Village of Castleton is looking for a demographic and development trend summary. Sandra Misiewicz advised that the Technical Assistance Program won't be accepting new applications until April 2022 due to staffing limitations. Steve Feeney motioned to approve the Castleton-on-Hudson proposal, Chris Wallin seconded, and the motion passed.

Discussion Items

TIP Amendments and Air Quality Conformity Requirements

Chris Bauer noted that CDTC's air quality designation is nonattainment for the 1997 standards and attainment for all other standards. Actions and triggers that require consultation with the Interagency Consultation Group include all new TIP projects and projects with substantial changes in scope. Most CDTC projects are exempt, including repaving a road or replacing a bridge. Non-exempt projects include new roadways, projects adding capacity, and major transit expansions. Chris Bauer noted that new non-exempt projects can expect a longer consultation process, at least 60 days or more. CDTC also needs a conformity determination for new Transportation Improvement Programs and new Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plans, requiring consultation and public review.

2022-2027 TIP Update Status

Sandra Misiewicz and Andrew Tracy discussed the use of the post column in the TIP and shared the practices of other NYS MPO's, none of which list projects in the post TIP that don't also have funding for other phases in the first five years of the TIP.

2019-2024 TIP Project Selection Summary

Jacob Beeman noted one project selection change this month – ROW for the Town of Clifton Park Moe Road Multi-Use Path was rolled over from 20-21 to 21-22 with no impact to overall funding.

2022-2023 UPWP Planning Project Solicitation Status

Sandra Misiewicz reminded the group that the solicitation deadline is November 24th and staff is available to discuss any project ideas.

CDTC Project Delivery Update

Jacob Beeman provided the following updates:

- The letting for the City of Schenectady project, Rosa Road Wendell Avenue and Nott Street Intersection Improvements (1760.62), was held in July.
- The draft design report for the Village of Green Island project, Cohoes Avenue, Arch Street to the Cohoes City Line: Mill & Fill (1761.74), was completed in August.
- The draft design report for the Village of Scotia, Washington Avenue Bike / Ped Connection (1761.84), was completed in September.

Next month's updates will be from the City of Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County, Village of Green Island, Town of Bethlehem, City of Watervliet, and the Town of Guilderland.

NYS DOT Project Delivery Schedule

Bob Rice noted that the I-90 over Erie Boulevard/Broadway was awarded. The bid for the Sitterly Road emergency bridge replacement over the Northway came in as estimated. The NY Route 144 Bridge over the Hannacroix Creek project and the Carman Road roundabouts at Lydius Street and the I-890/I-90 ramp were also let.

Status of CDTC Planning Activities

Sandra Misiewicz referenced the table included in the meeting materials, highlighting Linkage Studies, Technical Assistance Program, and regional planning initiatives. Jacob Beeman will be CDTC's new TIP program manager.

Status of Planning Activities

1. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that the release of US Census data is delayed into 2022. CDRPC was awarded a Climate Smart Communities outreach grant from NYSDEC, which includes outreach for transportation and climate change for the area not covered by MPO's. CDRPC partnered with CEG to analyze supply chain impacts of off-shore wind as well as a grant application for the

Build Back Better program, which will also focus on the off-shore wind and clean energy sectors. CDRPC will be awarded about \$140,000 to study broadband in Rensselaer, Schenectady, and Saratoga Counties through the Northern Border Regional Commission.

2. CDTA

Ross Farrell reported that the Washington/Western BRT construction continues, including expansion of the Albany Garage. Construction on the busway at the University at Albany began. The line is expected to be operational in mid-2023. Montgomery County voted to become part of the CDTA service area. Ridership continues to be at about 85-90% of old levels. This is largely driven by ridership under contracts with the colleges as well as the Office of General Services. The FLEX microtransit service expanded to Mechanicville-Halfmoon-Clifton Park along Route 146. FLEX focuses on suburban areas that are more difficult to serve with fixed route transit.

3. NYSDOT

Bob Rice noted that VMT is up, along with crashes and distracted driving. He noted that in the context of preservation projects, repaving projects usually include 11-foot lanes to maximize the shoulders for bicycle use. If the shoulder width is at least five feet, it can be marked as bike lanes. If not, creating a signed bike lane will cause the project to become beyond-preservation as additional shoulder width would be needed to create the bike lane. The Bridge and Culvert NY announcement is expected anytime. Region 1 received 24 bridge applications for a total of \$59M against a total of \$90 available for upstate. Region 1 received 27 TAP/CMAQ applications for just over \$50M with a statewide availability of \$110M.

NYSDOT is seeking applications in the planning office and for Professional Engineers, for which there is no internal promotion list. NYSDOT is also hiring Junior Engineers and winter drivers.

4. NYSTA

There was no report.

5. Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta noted that the Airport continues to slowly increase its passenger boardings, which are at 82% of pre-pandemic levels. Air cargo remains strong. Capital work on the runways continues. Design continues on the terminal expansion to allow for social distancing in the queuing area.

6. Albany Port District Commission

Sandra Misiewicz provided Tony Vasil's update, noting that ships and barges are up at the port, with tonnage up 21%. The off-shore wind project site will be cleared the first quarter of 2021 with construction to begin in the second quarter and completion in the fourth quarter of 2023. There are numerous supply chain issues around the country and the world.

Upcoming Meetings/ Events

Steve referred to the meetings listed on the agenda.

Adjournment

Steve Iachetta motioned to adjourn at 11:47am, Sandra Misiewicz seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Planning Committee Secretary