

**Planning Committee Meeting
May 3, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending

Susan Barden, City of Saratoga Springs
The Honorable Mike Butler, City of Mechanicville, Mayor
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Chair
Anna Feltham, Town of East Greenbush
Connor Haskin, Albany County Airport Authority
Patrick Jordan Esq., Albany Port District Commission
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee, Secretary
Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Katelyn Reepmeyer, Town of Colonie
Bob Rice, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Joseph Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes, Vice-Chair
Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority
Mike Valentine, Saratoga County
Ketura Vics, City of Rensselaer
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady

Staff and Others Attending

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris Cate, McFarland Johnson
Jennifer Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Joe Cimino, CHA Consulting
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Kristin Diotte, City of Schenectady
Lorenzo DiStefano, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Kelly Kircher, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Jackie Hakes, MJ Engineering
Elizabeth Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa
Tim Lane, Village of Menands
Dan Lara, Saratoga Technologies
Rob Leslie, Town of Bethlehem
Stephen Maples, Capital District Transportation Committee
Cairenn Miller, NYS Department of Transportation
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta
Megan Quirk, Capital District Transportation Authority
Ryan Riper, Town of Wilton
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna

John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Peter Thomas, Interested Citizen
Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee
Carrie Ward, Capital District Transportation Committee

Introduction

Steve Feeney opened the meeting at approximately 9:36 a.m.

Visitor's Issues

Presentation - "Rensselaer Waterfront Connectivity Linkage Study" by MJ Engineering

Andrew Tracy introduced the project, which aimed to develop concepts for multi-modal connections to the riverfront area. Jackie Hakes provided a presentation on the study. The study area extended from the riverfront by Forbes Avenue up to Washington Avenue, from Tracy Street to the entrance to the Rensselaer School District. Public input occurred throughout the process with a study website and online survey, in addition to two hybrid meetings. The public agreed with the focus on access to the waterfront via Washington and Forbes Avenues but also wanted to discuss connections within the study area.

The existing connection from the bottom of Forbes Avenue to the waterfront is very difficult. The preferred concept for Forbes Avenue was to turn most of it into a one-way street. The study proposes connecting Washington Avenue directly to Forbes with a sidewalk connection. Other recommendations throughout the area include new stop signs and parking/no parking signage, crosswalks, consistent sidewalks and ADA-compliance, and lighting. The concept for Washington Avenue is to widen the drive lanes and remove parking on one side, along with improvements to the existing sidewalks. The concept for the intersection at the Washington/Chestnut area would add crosswalks, curb extensions, and a new sidewalk in front of the corner store with the access to the store moved to 4th Street.

Administration

Previous Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2023

There were no proposed changes to the meeting minutes. Patrick Jordan motioned to approve the April 5, 2023 minutes, Bob Rice seconded, and members approved the motion.

FHWA 2022-2023 Performance and Expenditure Report

Sandra Misiewicz explained that this is a required document. It covers accomplishments in the six months from October 2022 through March 2023. Finished projects include the Bus Lane Feasibility Study with CDTA, Smart Mobility Toolbox, Transition Plans for Pedestrian Infrastructure in Saratoga Springs and Albany, Menands Land Use Regulations Update, Rensselaer Waterfront Connectivity Linkage Study, and the Federal Street Corridor Study. Upcoming and ongoing work

includes the Equity Work Plan, CDTC Rebranding, online trails map, and work on the TIP/Infrastructure Task Force.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Fiscal Constraint – Summary Table 4

Jacob Beeman noted that we are under-programmed by 2% in the current year, over-programmed by 2% in the second year, and under-programmed in years 3 and 4. There were some budget adjustments to keep the program balanced – these were mostly rollovers from fiscal year 2022, mostly for CDTA.

Action Items

2023-2024 UPWP Amendment

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the new federal law requires MPO's to set aside 2.5% of their planning funds for Complete Streets. A portion of the funds, \$33,509, had been applied to a UPWP project that occurred too soon in the prior fiscal year and are now proposed to be applied to the All Access Complete Streets Feasibility Study in the current fiscal year. The amendment also includes adding \$10,000 from Albany County to hold an Albany County Complete Streets workshop. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Laura Robertson seconded, and members approved the motion.

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

1. R331, 1761.75, South Street Bridge Replacement & Pedestrian Improvements, City of Rensselaer, Rensselaer County

Ketura Vics explained that the amendment is for an additional \$590,000 in construction and construction engineering due to right of way acquisition costs identified during the design process as well as increased materials cost estimates. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Bob Rice seconded, and members approved the motion.

2. T6B, 1820.37, Star Bus Replacement and Expansion, CDTA, Regional
3. T11, 821.18, Passenger Facility Improvements at Various Locations, CDTA, Regional
4. T17, 1820.48, Transit Bus Replacement / Expansion, CDTA, Regional
5. T57, 1TR604, Preventative Maintenance for Transit Projects, CDTA, Regional
6. T14B, CDTC08, Transit Operations Support for Saratoga Service: Preventative Maintenance and Operating Assistance, CDTA, Saratoga County
7. T137, CDTC137, Bus Plus Red Line Upgrades, CDTA, Regional
8. T140, CDTA03, Flex Micro-Transit Vehicle Replacement / Expansion, CDTA, Regional

Melissa Shanley explained that amendments 2 through 8 encompass FTA Section 5307 and 5339 funding for the year and bring the TIP into alignment with CDTA's board-approved capital plan. Last year's 5307 grant was not executed, so the amounts shown in the amendment for 5307 reflect two years of funding. Patrick Jordan motioned to approve amendments 2 through 8 as presented, Chris Wallin seconded, and members approved the motion.

2023 PM2 – Pavement and Bridge Condition Statewide Performance Measure Target

1. Resolution 23-4 – Pavement
2. Resolution 23-5 – Bridge

Jacob Beeman explained that MAP-21, federal transportation legislation, established performance measures for infrastructure, which need to be adopted at least every four years by the states and MPO's, which either adopt the state's measures or create their own. In 2018, CDTC adopted NYSDOT's infrastructure performance measures.

The infrastructure performance measures include both pavement and bridge measures. The pavement measures look at NHS and non-NHS roadways by good and poor, for both asphalt and concrete. This encompasses rutting or faulting, smoothness, and cracking. The bridge measures look only at NHS bridges, and consider the deck, superstructure, substructure, and culverts.

Staff recommends that the Committee support the 2 and 4-year targets established by New York State both pavement and bridge performance measures. Mark Castiglione motioned to recommend that the Policy Board adopt the targets as presented in Resolutions 23-4 and 23-5, Chris Wallin seconded, and members approved the motion.

Renaming CDTC – Resolution 23-6

This resolution will approve "Capital Region Transportation Council" as the new MPO name, to be effective on June 1st. Mark Castiglione motioned to recommend that the Policy Board approve the name change resolution as presented, Patrick Jordan seconded, and members approved the motion.

Discussion Items

Summary of 2022-2027 TIP Project Selection Moves

There were nine Project Selection changes between March 29 through April 26. They were all from NYSDOT for the FTA Section 5310 grants, which are rolling over from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2023.

CDTC Project Delivery Update

Jacob Beeman discussed the project delivery process of local TIP projects and the CDTC Project Tracking Spreadsheet. This occurs in two ways – updates come from consulting firms working on the projects, as well as by directly reaching out to all sponsors once each year to request updates on all TIP funded projects. Updates include scope and schedule as well as any unexpected

roadblocks. Then, Jacob will request a verbal update to the Planning Committee from one sponsor. Jacob asked for feedback on the process. There was discussion about bid results and ongoing supply chain issues.

NYSDOT Project Delivery Update

Bob Rice expressed appreciation for everyone's willingness to work together to balance the budget among years. Bids are coming in near the estimates, though the estimates have increased. The project for bridge work on Water Street over the D&H Railroad in Albany is ready but waiting on the railroad agreement. The design-build bid for the Livingston Bridge is out now. The Dunn Memorial has a detour for pedestrians travelling eastbound.

Status of CDTC Planning Activities

Sandra Misiewicz referred to the table included in the meeting materials. The PROTECT discretionary program call for projects is out, with applications due August 18th for planning projects related to resiliency. It includes grants to increase the ability of infrastructure to withstand extreme weather or natural disasters. We'll soon be setting up a kickoff meeting for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant. We'll be coordinating with CDRPC on the transportation component of the USEPA Climate Pollution Reduction planning grant. Beginning in July we'll be discussing the new Metropolitan Transportation Plan with the Planning Committee. We have started outreach to elected officials on the Congestion Management Plan, which will include evaluations of congested corridors. Cornell Local Roads has workshops coming to the region this year, including for local roadway design and ADA design.

Status of Regional and Local Planning Activities

1. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that the producer price index seems to have peaked last summer. CDRPC did an analysis of the proposed housing legislation, which showed that about 50% of municipalities would have been in compliance with the 1% growth target. CDRPC released the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy last week. It can serve as a conduit to receive federal funding. CDRPC donated documents from the 1930's through the early 2000's to the SUNY archives, which indexed and made them available for public viewing. The spring webinar series continues through May 10th.

2. CDTA

Megan announced that responses to CDTA's on-call planning services consultant contract are due soon. Ridership is back up to 92% of 2019 levels.

3. NYSDOT

Bob Rice noted that automated work zone enforcement went into effect, with the first 30 days limited to warnings. There have already been tens of thousands of warnings issued across the state. After the first 30 days, the first two violations will result in \$50 tickets, with increases thereafter. Deb Nelson will take over Lynn Weiskopf's previous role in Policy and Planning. The region has hired three new transportation analysts to support local projects.

4. NYS Thruway Authority

Sandra Misiewicz noted that NYSTA received a \$20+ million grant for the Berkshire spur's Castleton bridge crossing.

5. Albany County Airport Authority

There was no update.

6. Albany Port District Commission

Pat Jordan announced that all federal permits have now been received for the expansion project, and the port purchases wetland mitigation credits to enable construction of one of the four buildings. The terminal and street improvement construction contract was awarded last week to Creighton Manning and Newcastle Asphalt, with bids coming in under the estimate.

Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines

Steve Feeney referenced the upcoming meetings listed on the agenda.

Adjournment

Mike Valentine motioned to adjourn at approximately 11:25 a.m., John Scavo seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Secretary