

**Planning Committee Meeting
October 4, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending

Susan Barden, City of Saratoga Springs
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Connor Haskin, Albany County Airport Authority
Patrick Jordan Esq., Albany Port District Commission
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Kim Lambert, Saratoga County
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council, Secretary
Megan Quirk, Capital District Transportation Authority
Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Katelyn Reepmeyer, Town of Colonie
Bob Rice, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
Joseph Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes, Vice-Chair
Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority
William Trudeau, City of Albany

Staff and Others Attending

Chris Bauer, Capital Region Transportation Council
Jacob Beeman, Capital Region Transportation Council
Beige Berryman, City of Saratoga Springs
Mike Butler, City of Mechanicville
Jennifer Caponis, Capital Region Transportation Council
Tony Christian, CME
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Don Csaposs, Town of Guilderland
Martin Daley, City of Albany
Jen Dunn, City of Saratoga Springs
Lou Esposito, Town of Princetown
Josh Giller, Town of East Greenbush
Kelly Kircher, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Elizabeth Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa
Dan Lara, Saratoga Technologies
Kim Lewis, NYS Department of Transportation Local Programs Bureau
Teresa LaSalle, Capital Region Transportation Council
Fred Mastroianni, GPI
Randy Milano, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Ryan Riper, Town of Wilton
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park

Alison Schwartz, NYS Department of Transportation Policy and Planning
Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council
Ryan Walsh, GPI
Carrie Ward, Capital Region Transportation Council

Introduction

Joe Seman-Graves opened the meeting at approximately 9:33 a.m.

Visitor's Issues

There were no visitor's issues.

Presentation – “Congestion Management in the Capital Region – An Introduction”

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the Congestion Management Process is a required document for MPO's of at least 200,000 population. Andrew Tracy provided an overview of the process. Each year there are about 1.2 billion trips by all modes. Traffic congestion adds about 16.5 million minutes of travel time throughout the region. The Process identifies a list of locations with congestion, recommends strategies for treating them, and identifies options to implement those strategies. In addition to quantitative data, the Process considered stakeholder and public input. Most congested locations identified by the public were also identified in the quantitative data.

Andrew highlighted locations with congestion in each county, noting that interstates and signalized corridors were considered separately. Recommended strategies include intelligent transportation systems and transportation systems management and operations, transportation demand management, public transit enhancements, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, access management, land use planning, parking policies and capacity projects.

Administration

Previous Meeting Minutes – August 2, 2023

There were no proposed changes to the meeting minutes. Chris Wallin motioned to approve the August 2, 2023 minutes, Bob Rice seconded, and members approved the motion.

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

Jacob Beeman noted that there were a number of project selection changes for TIP and STIP performance with the start of a new fiscal year. The schedules for about \$60M of programmed projects were pushed out. The TIP is less than 5% overprogrammed for each year. However, the fiscal constraint table by fund source shows funding is slightly under-programmed in NHPP, but overprogrammed by about \$4M for STP-Flex and just over \$6M for STP-Urban. The latter two sources are used for local projects.

Action Items

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

1. S267, 176182, NY Route 5S Pedestrian/Bicycle Access Improvements, Town of Rotterdam, Schenectady County

Peter Comenzo noted that the Town has run into a few issues. The existing drainage system needs to be modified and the water main needs to be moved farther away from the drainage. The amendment is for an additional \$1.5M for the drainage modifications, from the Carbon Reduction Program funding. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Laura Robertson seconded, and members approved the motion.

2. A614, 176232, City of Cohoes Columbia Street Pedestrian Accessibility, City of Cohoes, Albany County

Tony Christian explained that the project includes sidewalk repair, mill and fill and restriping for bike lanes. After evaluating the sidewalks for ADA compliance, it was discovered that all sidewalks need to be replaced. In addition, the traffic signals will be replaced and upgraded throughout the corridor. There are four schools along the corridor. Bob Rice motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Connor Haskin seconded, and members approved the motion.

3. A611, 176230, Central Avenue Reconstruction Project, City of Albany, Albany County & A612, 176231, Frisbie Avenue Reconstruction Project, City of Albany, Albany County

Bill Trudeau explained that the City would like to combine these two projects to enable the hiring of one consultant for both projects. There is no cost increase. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Tom Richardson seconded, and members approved the motion.

4. RG135, RG135X, State Culvert Replacement Multi-Site Project, NYSDOT, Regional

Bob Rice noted that the cost increase will come from the federal PROTECT funding. The project is replacing multiple culverts in all four counties. Chris Wallin motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Bill Trudeau seconded, and members approved the amendment.

5. R360, A02819, Castleton-On-Hudson Bridge Over the Hudson Rehabilitation, BIN 5006599, Thruway, Rensselaer County and Albany County

Sandra Misiewicz explained that the Thruway Authority received over \$21M in funds from the federal Bridge Improvement Program to rehabilitate the Berkshire Spur bridge over the Hudson, which is a new project. Patrick Jordan motioned to approve the cost and schedule change as presented, Chris Wallin seconded, and members approved the amendment.

Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for the Capital Region Release for Public Review

Carrie Ward presented the recommendations in the update of the Coordinated Plan. Important recent statewide initiatives include work to design a mobility management project and improve accessibility of transportation network company services, a grant from the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center to increase transportation services in Menands and Watervliet, the Saratoga County Transportation Task Force, and the Village Movement. Human services transportation providers have needs for vehicles and dispatch equipment as well as drivers, maintenance, and improved information availability. The biggest gaps in services are on the weekends and in rural areas. It is difficult for agencies to coordinate with each other because of funding silos, insurance requirements, accounting systems, lack of public information, and some riders' discomfort with both fixed routes and people who have or appear to have development disabilities or mental illnesses. Strategies to improve transportation services for seniors, people who have a disability, and people with lower incomes include completion of ADA Transition Plans and physical improvements, inclusion of accessible features in TIP projects, improving location-efficient siting of facilities and housing for these groups, and public charging for electric mobility devices. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve the proposal as presented, Patrick Jordan seconded, and members approved the motion.

Transportation Planning Study Solicitation – FY 24-25 Unified Planning Work Program

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the Transportation Council is making about \$300,000 available for planning assistance in this year's UPWP solicitation. Non-profit organizations can apply as long as a municipality supports the application. For technical assistance projects, an in-kind match requirement is 10% of the actual project cost. Requests for community planning studies are capped at \$150,000 and also require a 10% match, which can be in-kind services or cash. We are also including a Complete Streets Workshop solicitation in the release. These are free but the municipality needs to provide logistical assistance. Albany County will be holding a county-wide workshop this fall, so applications within the other three counties will be prioritized. A sponsor workshop will be held on October 18th and applications are due December 1st. Laura Robertson motioned to approve the recommendations as presented, Tom Richardson seconded, and members approved the motion.

Discussion Items

TIP/STIP Performance Project Selection Changes

Jacob Beeman reviewed STIP Performance project selection changes to bring the TIP into alignment with actual schedule expectations for the year. Construction phases for 24 projects were moved out of this fiscal year.

Summary of 2022-2027 TIP Project Selection Moves

Changes outside of STIP performance were made for the Town of Wilton Traffic Safety and Pedestrian Connectivity project to add Right-of-Way phases.

Local Project Delivery Update

Jacob Beeman noted that the project delivery table has been updated to include projects with design in the current fiscal year.

NYSDOT Project Delivery Schedule

Bob Rice noted that bids on the signal maintenance and bridge painting projects came in close to the estimates. An upcoming letting for a signal replacement project is for a couple of signals on Western Avenue in Guilderland, and at I-90 and Washington Ave in Rensselaer.

Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

Sandra Misiewicz noted a few planning studies will be conducting public input over the next few months. The Transportation Council recently released the RFP for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant. The Regional Truck Parking Study will be wrapping up. The Regional Transportation Plan update will be discussed at upcoming meetings.

Regional and Local Planning Updates

1. Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz noted that we will be seeking public comment on the Coordinated Plan.

2. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that CDRPC is beginning to work with stakeholders on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, which will fund regional climate action planning and support local implementation projects. They will be hosting their annual workshop in partnership with the NY Planning Federation on October 28th at Hudson Valley Community College. Staff are working on local population projections.

3. CDTA

Megan Quirk announced that November 5th will be the rollout of the Washington/Western BRT. The Gateway Mobility Center in Schenectady will be opening in the next few weeks.

4. NYSDOT

The TAP/CMAQ/CRP solicitation was recently released and there will be webinars as well as an opportunity for application pre-review. The applications will be due on January 9th. Mark Pyskadlo retired and interviews are underway for a new traffic engineer. DOT's Chief Engineer also retired and Stephanie Winkelhake is acting in that role. In addition, there is new staff working with the CHIPS program in Region 1.

5. NYSTA

There were no updates.

6. Albany County Airport Authority

Connor Haskin noted that a draft of the Airport Master Plan Update is available for review now and the final round of public meetings will be hosted at the end of October. The final plan will be sent to FAA by the end of November. The study included recommendations for Albany-Shaker

Road, and they may be looking to have further conversations about that after the study is finalized.

7. Albany Port District Commission

Patrick Jordan announced last week's ribbon cutting for the full rehabilitation of Shed 1, which is 58,000 sq. ft. and originally built in the late 1920's. Rehabilitation of the terminal will be complete in two weeks. Reconstruction of Smith Boulevard should be completed in about one month. The cap on the expansion site is almost complete, and the Port is working with DOT on permits to reconfigure site access from River Road.

8. Local Government/Other

Chris Wallin introduced Alexandria Carver, the new Director of Development at the City of Schenectady.

Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines

Joe Seaman-Graves referenced the upcoming meetings listed on the agenda.

Adjournment

Bill Trudeau motioned to adjourn at approximately 11:23 a.m., Patrick Jordan seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Secretary