

**Policy Board Meeting
September 1, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending

Patrick Barnes, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1, Secretary
Phil Barrett, representing Theodore T. Kusnierz Jr., Saratoga County Board of Supervisors
Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Michael Butler, City of Mechanicville
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Patrick Jordan, Esq., Albany Port District Commission
Andrew Kreshik, representing The Honorable Patrick Madden, City of Troy
Sean Maguire, representing Peter Crummey, Town of Colonie
Caitlin O’Brien, representing Andrew Joyce, Albany County Legislature
The Honorable Charles Patricelli, City of Watervliet
George Penn, representing Dan McCoy, Albany County Executive
Phil Serafino, New York State Thruway Authority
The Honorable Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair
Mark Surdam, Town of Hoosick
The Honorable Thomas Tobin, Village of Colonie
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County Executive
Chris Wallin, representing The Honorable Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady
Tom Werner, Saratoga County

Staff and Others Attending

Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Mark Hammond, Town of Malta
Joe LaCivita, City of Watervliet
Dan Lara, Saratoga Technologies
Stephen Maples, Capital District Transportation Committee
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Rebecca Odell, Capital District Transportation Committee
Bob Rice, New York State Department of Transportation – Region 1
Chaim Simon, Capital District Transportation Committee
Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee
Carrie Ward, Capital District Transportation Committee
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1

Opening Remarks

Carm Basile opened the meeting at approximately 3:03 PM.

Administration

June 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Linda von der Heide motioned to approve the June 23, 2022 minutes, Chris Wallin seconded, and members approved the motion.

Steve Iachetta Recognition

This item was postponed.

Privilege of the Floor

There were no public comments.

Presentation – CDTC’s Jobs Access Report

Sandra Misiewicz explained that the report delves into the locations where low-income workers live, where they work, and the transportation impacts. Rima Shamieh provided a presentation on the report’s findings. She highlighted residential growth patterns over the last century and job changes in the retail and hospitality sectors in the Capital Region. Job locations shift over time, with some low-wage jobs trending away from the region’s three largest cities between 2002 and 2015. More people of color in the region experience poverty, and more residents of color in poverty live in Albany, Schenectady, or Troy than white people in poverty. Older housing is less expensive, and along with rental housing is concentrated in the cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy. Bus commuters are more likely to be people of color and in poverty than car commuters, and bus commutes can take about twice as long as car commutes.

The number of low-wage jobs and low-income working residents was reviewed by a number of municipalities. In some communities in the Capital Region, there is plenty of housing for high-income workers working in those communities, but not enough housing for the low-income workers working in those communities. She reviewed two sets of municipal zoning maps showing locations allowing single family, two-family, and multi-family housing over time to availability of affordable housing. Recommendations of the report include sharing the report, collaborating on transportation solutions to hard-to-reach job centers, conducting “build-out analyses” of projected job and housing growth, incentivizing co-location of affordable housing with low-wage jobs, engaging workforce as well as residents in public outreach, and publishing measures of equitable transportation access within provider systems. Further research could include a network analysis to look at job accessibility, investigating impacts of reinvestment on low-income tenants in city neighborhoods, and addressing the bus driver shortage.

Equity Policy Development

Sandra Misiewicz explained that many federal grant programs now include an equity consideration, and she proposed working toward creating a CDTC equity policy as a resolution. She then outlined topics that could be included in such a resolution. She also noted that there is an increasing number of programs that will allocate funding to disadvantaged communities. Patrick Jordan motioned to authorize the staff, Planning Committee, and Equity Advisory Committee to craft such a policy for approval at December's meeting, Tom Werner seconded, and members approved the motion.

2019-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

A. T148, CDTA04, Washington-Western Corridor BRT Operations, Reg. Transit

B. T149, CDTA05, Intelligent Rte. Planning for System Expansion &Improvement, Reg. Transit

Carm Basile explained that the first two amendments are for discretionary grants awarded to CDTA to be added to the TIP. The first one will fund operations on the purple line BRT, the second will fund new software to help with route planning. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve the CDTA amendments as presented, Patrick Jordan seconded, and members approved the motion.

C. A628, 1762.61, East Old State Rd, Sidewalk Pedestrian Safety ADA Improvements

D. A626, 1762.46, Cherry Avenue Extension Multi-Use Path

E. A614, 1762.32, Columbia Street Pedestrian Accessibility and Safe Routes to School

F. A629, 1762.59, Sidewalk Improvements

G. R354, 1762.56, Intersection and Pedestrian Upgrades

H. R355, 1762.57, Sand Lake Beach Sidewalk Connector Project

I. SA350, 1762.53, Traffic Safety and Pedestrian Connectivity Improvement

J. SA351, 1762.60 Town Center Walkability: Clifton Country Road Corridor Pedestrian and Bike Improvement Project

K. SA352, 1762.58, Zim Smith Northern Trail Extension: Oak St to Malta Avenue

L. S286, 1525.41, Craig St Bridge Improvements

Greg Wichser noted that the remaining eight TIP amendments are all TAP/CMAQ awards recently announced. NYSDOT compiled one letter with information on each project. Tom Werner motioned to approve the previous eight amendments as presented, Chris Wallin seconded, and members approved the eight amendments.

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Documents and Appendices

Jacob Beeman provided a brief presentation of the timeline over the last year. There are 47 new site-specific projects, including those from 17 different local project sponsors. He also reviewed funding allocations by County and by project type. Most of the funding will be used to maintain pavements and bridges. Jacob Beeman also provided an overview of the Air Quality Conformity determination process. Any TIP update triggers the need for a new area-wide Conformity Determination to remain in compliance with the Clean Air Act. He reviewed the timeline for the air quality determination process, noting that MPO adoption and FHWA/FTA approval are the remaining steps.

Stephen Maples explained the strategies and technologies used to gain public input. There were over 300 website visits, over 150 interactions with staff, 28 survey responses, and 7 comments from other media. We received comments specific to seven of the projects and shared those as well as responses with the project sponsors. Sandra Misiewicz noted that she has communicated with leaders of the three Native American tribal nations with traditional lands in the CDTC area. In addition, CDTC is required to self-certify compliance with the metropolitan planning process. The final version of Appendix D was posted today, including the responses to all of the public comments received.

Phil Barrett asked about the schedule changes made since the last Policy Board meeting. Sandra Misiewicz explained that the draft 2022-2027 TIP wasn't balanced by year and by fund source. Therefore, changes within years were made in consultation with project sponsors. Projects within the first four years can be moved up without amendment. Bob Rice explained that projects are generally able to move back up in the schedule if they are ready to go.

A. Resolution 22-3: 2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program

Carm Basile motioned to approve Resolution 22-3 to adopt the Transportation Improvement Program and revised Appendix D, Chris Wallin seconded, and members approved the motion.

B. Resolution 22-4: Albany-Schenectady-Troy 1997 8-Hour Ozone Non-Attainment Area Transportation / Air Quality Conformity Determination

Patrick Barnes motioned to approve Resolution 22-4 for the Albany-Schenectady-Troy 1997 8-Hour Ozone Non-Attainment Area Transportation / Air Quality Conformity Determination, Patrick Jordan seconded, and members approved the motion.

C. Resolution 22-5: CDTC Self-Certification of the Metropolitan Planning Process

Tom Werner motioned to approve Resolution 22-5 to self-certify the Metropolitan Planning process, Andrew Kreshik seconded, and members approved the motion.

Unified Planning Work Program Solicitation

Sandra Misiewicz shared a brief summary of an upcoming solicitation for planning work in the next year. We anticipate availability of approximately \$1M for a wide range of projects. A solicitation would be issued in October for many types of initiatives including traffic signal operations, bicycle and pedestrian plans, and crash data analysis. Phil Barrett motioned to approve the approach to creating a Unified Planning Work Program solicitation as presented, Tom Werner seconded, and members approved the motion.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act

Sandra Misiewicz reviewed resources available on [CDTC's website](#) on upcoming federal grant opportunities. There are a number of competitive grant programs as well as some formula programs that will include dedicated funding.

Status of Planning Activities

A. CDTC

Sandra Misiewicz noted that CDTC is seeking municipal applications for ADA Transition Planning support with a September 30 deadline. The Patroon Creek Greenway Plan and Smart Communities Toolbox will be completed this fall. CDTC is partnering with FHWA to solicit participants of the [GoEzy app](#) to help plan and track travel.

B. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that CDRPC is resuming in-person Planning and Zoning workshops on Friday October 28th at Hudson Valley Community College.

C. CDTA

Carm Basile announced that CDTA began operating in Montgomery County this past Sunday.

D. NYSDOT

Patrick Barnes noted that NYSDOT is still experiencing effects of inflation and supply chain issues. New projects include expanding the ramps at Exit 6 of I-87, and paving Route 4 in Mechanicville. NYSDOT is moving away from pavement loops for traffic detection in favor of camera detection at signals.

E. NYSTA

Phil noted that NYSTA is also experiencing price increases. The Indian Castle Service Area reopened and the Iroquois Service Area is slated to open by the end of 2022.

F. Albany County Airport Authority

There was no report.

G. Albany Port District Commission

Patrick Jordan reported that the Port is waiting on permits from the Army Corps of Engineers for the expansion project. There was an extensive board meeting yesterday. The Port will move forward with a leasehold acquisition from the City of Rensselaer for a 48+ acre site for additional off-shore wind facilities. Construction estimates on the existing port expansion project from December have increased by 30%. The number of ships has evened out, and longshore hours remain up over last year's.

H. Regional/Local Planning Activities

Tom Werner announced that Saratoga County's 2023 Planning and Zoning Conference will be February 1st at the Civic Center in Saratoga Springs.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Kathy Sheehan referred to the meetings listed on the agenda. The next Policy Board meeting will be held on December 1st.

Adjournment

Andrew Kreshik motioned to adjourn at approximately 4:33 pm, Carm Basile seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Barnes
Secretary