

**Planning Committee Meeting
November 1, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending

Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Beige Berryman, City of Saratoga Springs
Bob Rice, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Connor Haskin, Albany County Airport Authority
Joseph Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes, Vice-Chair
Kim Lambert, Saratoga County
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority
Patrick Jordan Esq., Albany Port District Commission
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council, Secretary
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Chair
The Honorable Mike Butler, City of Mechanicville

Staff and Others Attending

Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council
Carrie Ward, Capital Region Transportation Council
Chris Bauer, Capital Region Transportation Council
Ed Snyder, GPI
Elizabeth Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Jacob Beeman, Capital Region Transportation Council
Jen Dunn, City of Saratoga Springs
Jennifer Ceronis, Capital Region Transportation Council
Joe Cimino, CHA
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Josh Giller, Town of East Greenbush
Madison Hrysko, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Nicole McGrath, FHWA
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Rebecca Odell, Capital Region Transportation Council
Ryan Riper, Town of Wilton
Stephen Maples, Capital Region Transportation Council
Teresa LaSalle, Capital Region Transportation Council

Introduction

Steve Feeney opened the meeting at approximately 9:32 a.m.

Visitor's Issues

There were no visitor's issues.

Presentation – “In Motion: A Regional Trends Summary”

Jennifer Ceponis explained that the trends summary is the first phase in the update to the regional Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The format is a StoryMap, which should be more interactive and engaging than a static document. Madison Hrysko demonstrated how the platform works interactively and ran through the data in the Trends Summary. There will be an issues and values survey for the public available at the end of the StoryMap. The new MTP should be adopted by September of 2025. We plan to coordinate with other state and regional planning efforts over the course of the MTP. It is expected that the StoryMap and survey will be released following December's Policy Board meeting.

Administration

Previous Meeting Minutes – October 4, 2023

There were no proposed changes to the meeting minutes. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve the October 4, 2023 minutes, Chris Wallin seconded, and members approved the motion.

Draft Performance and Expenditure Report (April 1 – September 30, 2023)

Sandra Misiewicz noted that this document is a summary of the Transportation Council's planning work completed over the last six months. It is a required administrative document.

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

Jacob Beeman noted that there were not any changes to fiscal constraint this month.

Action Items

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

1. A598, 1039.55, US Route 9W over CSX Rail, Bridge Replacement, NYSDOT, Town of Bethlehem, Albany County & A595, 1051.85, Dunn Bridge WB to I-787 SB: Element Specific Repairs, NYSDOT, City of Albany, Albany County

Bob Rice explained that the design process for A598 has led to a need for an additional \$8M increase in the project to raise the bridge and eliminate the piers. NYSDOT proposes to move

A595 into the fifth year of the TIP to offset the cost increase. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Joe Seman-Graves seconded, and members approved the motion.

2. R329, 1761.24, Stop 13 Road over Wynantskill, Bridge Repair or Replace, Town of Sand Lake, Rensselaer County

Bob Rice noted that field changes and steel price increases have necessitated a cost increase. The project was funded through Bridge NY, which is capped. The amendment would add STBG Off System bridge funds to the project. Pat Jordan motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Laura Robertson seconded, and members approved the motion.

3. A295, 1132.16, NY155 New Karner Road Corridor Rehabilitation, Town of Guilderland, Town of Colonie, City of Albany, Village of Colonie, Albany County

Lisa Ramundo noted that this project was originally a pavement rehabilitation project with some complete streets and safety improvements. During design it was noted that the signal at New Karner and Washington Avenue Extension contains a left through lane with split phasing, which is no longer permitted. In addition, traffic analysis revealed difficult operations and a high crash rate. The amendment is for a cost increase for design of a new two-lane roundabout, as well ROW acquisitions. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Andrew Kreshik seconded, and members approved the motion.

The Capital Region Congestion Management Process 2023 Update

Andrew Tracy presented the recommended strategies, programming and implementation, and next steps of the draft Congestion Management Process. Strategies include those that increase performance of existing infrastructure, providing transportation choices, and adding capacity where needed. Categories of strategies include Intelligent Transportation Systems and Transportation Systems Management & Operations, Transportation Demand Management, Public Transit, Bicycle & Pedestrian, Access Management, Land Use policies, Parking Strategies, and Roadway Capacity.

Programming and implementation strategies may include traffic signal improvements and may come from STP, NHPP, TAP/CMAQ, and the Carbon Reduction Program. They will need to be balanced with the need to maintain the existing system. Next steps will include a 25-day public comment period on the draft report followed by Policy Board approval. Lisa Ramundo motioned to approve the draft for public review, Bob Rice seconded, and members approved the motion.

Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for the Capital Region recommend for Policy Board Approval

Carrie Ward said that we received one public comment on the draft Plan noting that there is an issue returning from eye doctor appointments by car and suggested that medical offices have staff who can assist with patients' own Uber and Lyft reservations. The comment was noted in the report. Mark Castiglione motioned to recommend that the Policy Board approve the Plan as presented, Andrew Kreshik seconded, and members approved the motion.

Safety Performance Measures recommend for Policy Board Approval

Carrie Ward presented recent crash data in the four-county region. Comparing two recent five-year averages, the regional fatal and serious injury crash rates both increased, though to a lesser extent than the statewide rates over the same period. The 2021 data shows an increase over the years shortly before 2020. NYSDOT has approved a statewide target of a 0.5% reduction in all measures. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve the statewide performance measures as presented, Kim Lambert seconded, and members approved the motion.

Discussion Items

Bridge NY

Bob Rice explained that the Bridge NY program is not quite ready to be released although it was announced last week. It is anticipated that about \$375M will be available for bridges and \$125M for culverts.

Transportation Council Interactive Maps Announced

1. Capital Region Paved Multi-Use Trails

Rebecca Odell explained that this map should make it easier to find paved trail facilities in the region. It includes allowed uses, relevant web links for the trails, available access points, available parking, and picnic tables. It also includes on-street bicycle facilities.

2. Environmental Justice Area Viewer

This map is an online version of the map approved with the Title VI and Environmental Justice analysis, and which we use as one of the evaluation criteria in funding solicitations.

Update to Advisory Committee Operations

Sandra Misiewicz explained that we found that our Advisory Committees have widely varying practices. Suggestions for streamlining their practices include requiring at least two Planning Committee members at each Advisory Committee meeting, for the Advisory Committee role to be advising the staff, and for all meetings to be broadcast live on YouTube. Advisory Committees would not try to influence the design of capital projects, but members of the committees can still weigh in directly with the project sponsor. Not all committees will be considered Advisory Committees, such as the TIP Task Force and the Community Planner Forum, which will both remain closed to the public. New guidance will be included in the Operations Plan and the upcoming Public Participation Plan.

Summary of 2022-2027 TIP Project Selection Moves

Jacob Beeman said there were five project selection changes this month. They were all moving schedules into the current federal fiscal year, and one moved construction funding into right-of-way.

Local Project Delivery Update

Jacob Beeman noted that the project delivery table is available online. Each month Jacob will reach out to three or four sponsors to seek updates on their projects.

NYSDOT Project Delivery Schedule

Bob Rice noted two lettings that will be released soon, Water Street of the D&H Railroad and Route 378 bridge painting over the Hudson River. Attendance at the recent 378 PEL Study public meeting was high. Modeling of the potential concepts show negative traffic impacts on Route 4 with the concepts located to the south of the current bridge. Concepts to the north do not show those negative impacts.

Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

Sandra Misiewicz noted that there are ten local planning studies underway. We received consultant proposals for the SS4A project and hope to start the project in early 2024. Applications for the UPWP planning solicitation are due December 1st, as are the applications for the Complete Streets workshops.

Regional and Local Planning Updates

1. Transportation Council

There were no additional updates.

2. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that outreach to stakeholders for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant is underway. \$4.6B will be available nationally to implement regionally significant implementation projects. The Future Leaders in Planning program was successful this year and is planned again next year. The Transportation Economic Assessment Tools Report for the Transportation Council was completed. The annual workshop in partnership with the NY Planning Federation, held on October 20th at Hudson Valley Community College, was successful.

3. CDTA

Megan Quirk announced that the purple line rolls out on Sunday and will complete the 40 miles of regional BRT. The Gateway and Mobility Hub in Schenectady is nearing completion. CDTA continues to progress with a merger with Greater Glens Falls Public Transit and CDTA will begin implementing service there January 1st.

4. NYSDOT

The TAP/CMAQ/CRP solicitation was recently released and the final workshop is tomorrow. Attendance is required for eligibility. The region has a new traffic engineer, Mike Fenley, who has current experience with signals. The Reimagine I-787 study is well underway with initial model

runs. Regulatory agency and Native Nation meetings continue, as well as discussions with the State Museum and review of Erie Canal documents. The consultant will present at the upcoming Freight Advisory Committee and Active Transportation Advisory Committee meetings.

5. NYSTA

There were no updates.

6. Albany County Airport Authority

Connor Haskin noted that the Airport Master Plan Update will be finalized by the end of the year. The final public meeting will be held November 8th at 3 Winners Circle.

7. Albany Port District Commission

Patrick Jordan announced that the terminal reconstruction project is finished. The road reconstruction project of about one-half mile is finished as well. The additional approximately 0.5 mile to connect to the new site will begin next year, with construction of the bridge beginning in the spring. The Port hosted about 80 students from the Schoharie and Albany BOCES to discuss future job opportunities.

8. Local Government/Other

There were no updates.

Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines

Steve Feeney referenced the upcoming meetings listed on the agenda.

Adjournment

Andrew Kreshik motioned to adjourn at approximately 11:30 a.m., Mark Castiglione seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Secretary