

EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: 5/21/2024

Start Time: 3:00 pm

End Time: 4:15 pm

Facilitator: Rima Shamieh

Study/Project/Task: 1.66

Attendance

Name	Title	Representing
Ed Brennan		Albany Bicycle Coalition
Emily Purtell	Public Health Planner	Rensselaer County Department of Health
Ethan Warren	Senior Planner	Capital District Transportation Authority
Eva Bass	Executive Director	Avillage Inc and Bridge Tha Gap
Jackie Gonzalez		Capital Streets and Walkable Albany
Leonard Claus	Deputy Director	Rensselaer County Department of Health
Mark Castiglione	Executive Director	Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Sara Kampf	Director	City of Albany Department of Neighborhood Services
Trent Griffin	President	Tech Valley Shuttle
Susan Laurilliard	Albany County Legislator	Albany County Legislative District 22
Jennifer Viggiani	Open Space Planner	Town of Clifton Park
Shelleisha Salmon-Gordon	Program Director	Albany County Department of Health
Sandra Misiewicz	Executive Director	Capital Regional Transportation Council

Linda von der Heide	Principal Planner	Rensselaer County Department of Planning
Alex Word	Neighborhood Specialist	City of Albany Department of Neighborhood Services
April Land		Capital Area Urban League
Carrie Ward	Senior Transportation Planner	Capital Regional Transportation Council

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. About the Capital Region Transportation Council – Sandra Misiewicz, Transportation Council

Sandra provided an overview of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the Transportation Council’s governing structure. The Policy Board sets high level direction. The Planning Committee is a technical advisory group where much of the work happens. She summarized core required products: the [Metropolitan Transportation Plan](#), [Transportation Improvement Program](#), and [Unified Planning Work Program](#). Equity is critical to the [Public Participation Plan](#) and we are building a network from which to seek input. Shelleisha suggested considering working with neighborhood associations and ward districts that residents identify with. Eva asked if the Transportation Council has done work related to Environmental Justice – Rima noted that we have, and will provide the [latest Environmental Justice analysis](#).

3. Advisory Committee Operating Policies – Sandra Misiewicz, Transportation Council

Sandra explained what advisory committees are, [their roles and responsibilities](#), what they may do – including identifying projects that may be harmful, and what participants may not do – including representing themselves as a member of an Advisory Committee.

4. Purpose and Role of the Equity Advisory Committee
 - a. Priorities for this fiscal year
 - b. Participant Interests

Rima discussed the purpose and role of the Equity Advisory Committee and defined and contrasted equality and equity. The committee will advise staff on ways to improve efforts within Transportation Council policies, studies, programs, etc. to optimize

inclusion in the public participation process and the equitable distribution of its competitively programmed funds and core products. It will also advise staff on equity issues within Capital Region communities as they relate to transportation. Rima summarized this year's staff efforts related to Equity: including an internal equity audit, ensuring strong equity-related content in In Motion, and evaluating ways to "make room at the table" for new people so that Transportation Council boards, committees and staff better reflect regional demographics. **Please email your interests related to equity and transportation to Rima, rshamieh@capitalmpo.org.**

5. Metropolitan Transportation Plan, [In Motion: The Plan to 2050](#) – Sandra Misiewicz, Transportation Council

Sandy explained that In Motion will be the region's new Metropolitan Transportation Plan for a shared vision for the future developed collaboratively with the public, governments, and interested parties. The Plan is currently in the "Inform" stage, informing the public of the plan, and is moving into the "Imagine" phase to define the future transportation system. There are initial draft goals for safety, mobility, access, equity, livability, climate, and resilience. The Advisory Committee will review, identify issues, or provide feedback on In Motion Plan products. **There is currently a [public In Motion survey](#) open for the "Inform" stage, which will close May 31st. Please share this survey with your networks.**

6. Regional Vision Zero Safety Action Plan – Carrie Ward, Transportation Council

This agenda item was postponed due to time.

7. Preferred meeting day and time?

- a. Remaining in 2024: meeting #2 in late Aug/early Sept, and meeting #3 in November

It was agreed to conduct a poll to find the best meeting times for everyone.