

Planning Committee Meeting
May 1, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Members Attending

Beige Berryman, City of Saratoga Springs
The Honorable Mike Butler, City of Mechanicville
Sharon Butler, City of Cohoes
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Chair
Howard Goebel, City of Albany
Thomas Hulihan, City of Rensselaer
Patrick Jordan Esq., Albany Port District Commission, Vice-Chair
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Kim Lambert, Saratoga County
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council, Secretary
Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Katelyn Reepmeyer, Town of Colonie
Bob Rice, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady

Staff and Others Attending

Megan Bacon, MJ Engineering
Chris Bauer, Capital Region Transportation Council
Joe Cimino, CHA
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Tess Drauschak, Capital Region Transportation Council
Josh Giller, Town of East Greenbush
Tim Lane, Village of Menands
Teresa LaSalle, Capital Region Transportation Council
Rob Leslie, Town of Bethlehem
Stephen Maples, Capital Region Transportation Council
Jamie O'Neill, Town of Malta
Ryan Riper, Town of Wilton
Laura Sanda, McFarland Johnson
Ed Snyder, GPI
Tony Tozzi, Town of Glenville
Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council
Lisa Wallin, MJ Engineering

Introduction

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

Visitor's Issues

There were no visitor's issues.

Presentation

Lisa Wallin and Megan Bacon introduced the study area, Study Advisory Committee, and the objectives, which were to improve sidewalks and crosswalks and bicycle infrastructure, slow vehicular traffic, and enhance the look of the corridor. They summarized the results of the public survey conducted, including that speeding is problematic, drivers don't yield to pedestrians, there aren't enough street benches, bike racks, or crosswalks, and drivers don't stop behind crosswalks. Recommendations include continuation of the multi-use path already begun on Watervliet Shaker Rd until moving to a shared use lane at Hunting Rd, filling sidewalk gaps and improving lighting, pedestrian signal upgrades at Shaker Run, mid-block crosswalks at Bauer Park and the approach to Wolf Rd, left-turn lanes at Computer Drive South, and access management on the Wolf Rd approach. Other recommendations include benches, locations for bike racks, street trees, public education, and radar speed enforcement. There are a number of funding sources that could be used for different portions of the recommendations.

Administration

Previous Meeting Minutes – April 3, 2024

There were no proposed changes to the meeting minutes. Kim Lambert motioned to approve the April 3, 2024 minutes as presented, Mark Castiglione seconded, and members approved the motion.

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

Jacob Beeman noted that we are currently within the 5% fiscal constraint restriction for all fund sources, and we are slightly under-programmed for the four years.

Draft 2023-2024 Performance and Expenditure Report

Sandra Misiewicz explained that this document is required to be submitted to FHWA and FTA every six months. The Transportation Council has been working to develop the new Metropolitan Transportation Plan, approved TIP amendment guidelines, initiated the regional Vision Zero Safety Action Plan, and completed a number of technical assistance efforts, the regional truck parking study, the 2023 trail count program report, and one linkage study.

Action Items

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

1. Amendment 1: T6B, 1824.94, Star Bus Replacement and Expansion
2. Amendment 2: T11, 1824.95, Passenger Facility Improvements
3. Amendment 3: T14B, 1824.98, Transit Operations Support for Saratoga Service
4. Amendment 4: T16, 1824.96, Transit Support Vehicles
5. Amendment 5: T17, 1820.48, Transit Bus Replacement / Expansion
6. Amendment 6: T57, 1824.97, Preventative Maintenance for Transit Projects
7. Amendment 7: T77, CDTC20, Capital Cost of Contracting for Commuter Bus Service
8. Amendment 8: NEW PROJECT: T152, CDTA08, Mobility Hubs

Melissa Shanley explained that all of the amendments align the TIP with projects approved in CDTA's internal capital plan based on the FTA's actual apportionments for the year. CDTA is the designated recipient for FTA funds in the Capital Region. The dollar values listed in the TIP are estimates based on historical information. The amendments will align the TIP with the STIP and the FTA grants. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve all amendments as presented, Mark Castiglione seconded, and members approved the motion.

Draft Amended 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program

Sandra Misiewicz explained that the amendment will reduce the FTA Metropolitan Planning Program funding by about \$11,000, draws down on the Complete Streets Planning Set-Aside for the Castleton Complete Streets and Connections Plan, increased funding to support a consultant contract for the new Metropolitan Transportation Plan, removed two completed linkage projects, adjusted the budget to align the new UPWP

with expenditures made in March after the Policy Board meeting, and added \$20,000 in new funding from USDOE to support Clean Cities. Patrick Jordan motioned to recommend that the Policy Board approve the amendment as presented, Tom Houlihan seconded, and members approved the motion.

In Motion Goals

Sandra Misiewicz explained that the Phase I products have been completed and are distributing a public survey. Staff is also refining the draft goals as part of Phase II. Materials about the plan have been delivered to a number of libraries throughout the region. There will be pop-up events at transit stops, and staff will attend an additional five public events over the next few weeks. A QR code is available for survey distribution to help increase input received. Draft goals include those related to climate and greenhouse gas emissions, equitable investments, safety to reduce fatalities and serious injuries, stewardship of the existing system including resiliency, supporting economic development, and closing system gaps. Sandra summarized the planned schedule for the summer. Refined goals will be presented to the Policy Board in June and a Task Force meeting will be held in June. Mark Castiglione motioned to empower the In Motion Task Force to recommend final goals for the Policy Board's approval, Andrew Kreshik seconded, and members approved the motion.

ADA Self-Analysis and Transition Plan Solicitation

Carrie Ward explained that five municipalities submitted an application and not all are able to be funded. Transportation Council and NYSDOT staff rated and ranked the applications and recommend funding the projects in Clifton Park, Menands, Rensselaer, and Wilton. It is recommended not to fund the City of Schenectady at this time. Their application scored lower than others, and due to the extent of the Schenectady sidewalk network, funding them would prevent funding any of the others. Pat Jordan motioned to approve the staff funding recommendation, Mike Butler seconded, Tom Houlihan abstained, and members approved the motion.

Discussion Items

Summary of 2022-2027 TIP Administrative Modifications

Sandra Misiewicz noted that there were two modifications last month – Town of Guilderland Carman Road Sidewalks and East Old State Rd Ped Improvements had a schedule change and the addition of a Right-of-Way phase. The City of Rensselaer South Street Bridge Replacement and Pedestrian Improvements project had a schedule change.

Local Project Delivery Update

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the project delivery table is available online. Jacob has reached out to sponsors of older projects listed on the TIP to better understand their status and will reach out to the Cities of Schenectady and Troy and Town of Rotterdam to discuss their projects at a future meeting.

NYSDOT Project Delivery Update

Bob Rice noted that the multi-site pavement project for the year was let in the last few weeks. Overhead sign replacements on the Northway as well as I-90 will go out to bid next week. Resurfacing of I-90 from Corporate Woods to the Hudson River will be let in May. The highway where and when and bridge preservation contracts will be let in June.

Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the Brunswick study has been completed and the East and North Greenbush Route 4 and Schenectady Crane Street project are almost complete. We are now initiating planning studies in Voorheesville and Town of Colonie Central Ave. Town of Niskayuna and Clifton Park/Halfmoon project materials will be mailed next week.

Regional and Local Planning Updates

1. Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz noted that we will coordinate on upcoming MTP popups.

2. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that CDRPC continues to work with the Counties on regional broadband with a goal of extending broadband to currently underserved areas. They have compiled a report comparing median household income with median rents. The Capital Region Indicators website has been updated with the most recent American Community Survey data from 2022. CDRPC received additional Clean Energy Communities program funding from NYSERDA to continue through 2026. Schenectady County received a Climate Smart silver certification from NYSDEC.

3. CDTA

Season 8 of CDPHP Cycle is underway, and there is a new universal access partnership with CDPHP and Community Care Physicians related to their new facility at Wellness Way in Latham.

4. NYSDOT

Bob Rice noted that NYSDOT is starting to put together the capital program update. There is an open house this afternoon at the Capital Center in Albany for the current I-787 project. There have been over 1,000 written comments received.

5. NYSTA

There were no updates.

6. Albany County Airport Authority

There were no updates.

7. Albany Port District Commission

There were no updates.

Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines

Steve Feeney referenced the upcoming meetings listed on the agenda.

Adjournment

Mike Butler motioned to adjourn at approximately 10:32 a.m., Howard Goebel seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Secretary