

**Policy Board Meeting
December 5, 2024
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending

Michael Arthur, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1, Secretary
Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice-Chair
Andris Blumbergs, representing Supervisor Peter Crummey, Town of Colonie
The Honorable Michael Butler, City of Mechanicville
Rory Fluman, Schenectady County Manager
Thomas Hulihan, representing Mayor Michael Stammel, City of Rensselaer
Michael Lalli, representing Daniel McCoy, Albany County Executive
Kim Lambert, representing Board of Supervisors Chair Phil Barrett, Saratoga County
The Honorable Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady
The Honorable Scott Rice, Village of Schaghticoke
The Honorable John Safford, City of Saratoga Springs
Lawrence Schillinger, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Phil Serafino, New York State Thruway Authority
The Honorable Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany
Christine Stuto, Albany Port District Commission
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County Executive
Tom Werner, Saratoga County

Staff and Others Attending

Chris Bauer, Capital Region Transportation Council
Virginia Boght, Rensselaer County
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Jim DiGioia, Interested Citizen
Kathy Ember, Planning4Places
Howard Goebel, City of Albany
Jim Levy, Planning4Places
Adam McCarvill, Capital Region Transportation Council
Nicole McGrath, Federal Highway Administration
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council
Matt Veitch, Saratoga County
Carrie Ward, Capital Region Transportation Council
Greg Wichser, New York State Department of Transportation – Region 1

Opening Remarks

Kathy Sheehan opened the meeting at approximately 3:02 PM.

Privilege of the Floor

There were no speakers.

Presentation – Reimagine 787 Study Draft Report

Greg Wichser noted that the Planning and Environmental Linkages study process is wrapping up, and the public comment period has ended. Needs include improving connectivity, improving connectivity of the pedestrian and bicycle network, addressing network inefficiencies, and addressing structural deficiencies. The objectives address the identified needs. Five major highway concepts other than the no-build alternative remain after the project screening, with additional spin-off concepts that can be considered. One boulevard option consolidates all traffic to an at-grade roadway, where feasible, on the Albany side of the railroad tracks. A second similar boulevard option routes southbound traffic through the city on a one-way roadway. The Boulevard-4 option moves the Dunn Memorial bridge one mile to the south, directly connecting to the Port of Albany and vacant land in Rensselaer. The Interstate-2 option maintains the interstate and considers a single-point urban interchange where the Dunn Memorial Bridge touches down today. The Interstate-3 option maintains the Interstate and directly connects the Port with the Interstate. Land bridges could be around Jennings Landing and the location of the USS Slater on all options except the Interstate-2 option. Potential bicycle/pedestrian enhancements could accompany all options. Travel time changes are as much as 5-6 minutes in isolated locations north and east of the corridor.

Administration

A. September 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Gary McCarthy motioned to approve the September 5, 2024 meeting minutes, Carm Basile seconded, and members approved the motion.

B. FHWA/FTA Certification Review Findings

Sandra Misiewicz explained that FHWA and FTA conducted their review in early 2024 and redesignated the MPO in early September. There were no corrective actions. She summarized recommendations, including to progress planning and capital projects faster to have less carry-over, improve TIP project implementation tracking, publicly post how we coordinate performance based planning with NYSDOT and CDTA, ensure the Equity Advisory Committee has a role in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, broaden

stakeholder engagement to more Human Services Transportation providers, coordinate with CDTA's Transit Asset Management plan, improve programming of recommended intelligent transportation systems and congestion management systems, evaluate seasonal and event-driven congestion as part of the congestion management plan, develop a regional active transportation or complete streets network, develop a regional carbon reduction strategy and resilience plan, and continue to support planning efforts for large-scale projects. Commendations included the public participation and community outreach approach, efforts related to equity, the regional truck parking study, and CDTA's post-transit ridership recovery.

C. Performance and Expenditure Report (April 1 – September 30, 2024)

Sandra Misiewicz explained that this document is a required six-month progress report that must be submitted to FHWA and FTA. Highlights include the completion of the Regional Signal Timing Program, completing the Albany and Crane Streets Linkage Study, completing ADA Transition Plans in Troy and Ballston Spa, updating and adopting new TIP Guidance and updated TIP project scoring criteria, and hosted the Tools of the Trade Workshop for Human Services transportation providers.

D. 2025 Policy Board and Planning Committee Schedule

Sandra Misiewicz reviewed the proposed schedule for next year, noting that there are changes for the January and February Planning Committee meetings due to New Years Day and the Saratoga Planning and Zoning Conference.

E. Nominating Subcommittee Notice

Sandra Misiewicz noted that we will be seeking a new Vice Chair since Carm Basile will be retiring. Please contact Sandra if you are interested.

Livingston Avenue Bridge - TIP Project Funding Modification

Michael Arthur noted that the Governor announced that the State received a \$215 Federal Rail Administration grant to help fund the new Livingston Avenue Bridge, which doesn't require action but will be reflected in the TIP.

2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Discussion

Sandra Misiewicz explained that NYSDOT provided funding targets in September, and applications are due tomorrow. There is roughly \$482M for existing yet unobligated projects on the TIP and for new projects. At the same time, staff is working to resolve the status of existing projects to determine how much funding will be available for new projects. We expect to bring a draft capital program to the March meeting for approval

for public review. The new TIP will have a high emphasis on major roads and bridges, as well as safety with a focus on pedestrian and bicyclist safety. NYSDOT proposed funding for a consultant to assess signal timing and coordination to address congestion.

2025-2026 Unified Planning Work Program Discussion

Sandra Misiewicz explained that proposals for new planning projects are also due tomorrow. A draft UPWP will be provided to the Planning Committee at the end of January. We anticipate beginning to update the household travel survey and regional travel demand model, completing a resilience plan, developing a Carbon Reduction Strategy, and continuing work on the long-range plan and Vision Zero Safety Action Plan. Please let Sandra know if you have additional items for regional planning work.

Capital Region Complete Streets StoryMap

Carrie Ward introduced Kathy Ember and Jim Levy from Planning4Places, who worked on Complete Streets best practices materials in lieu of conducting additional municipal workshops on Complete Streets. Kathy explained that the StoryMap includes introductory information defining Complete Streets and discussing their benefits, as well as a summary of regional policies and practices. The bulk of the StoryMap highlights regional examples of implemented infrastructure in the Capital Region, with images and a few testimonials by municipal staff. Clicking on each example zooms the map to the location and provides summary information on the project.

Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

A. Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz noted a new survey on the In Motion Plan will open soon. The statewide MPO conference will be in Syracuse next year on May 13-14.

B. CDRPC

Larry Schillinger noted that CDRPC held a great Planning and Zoning Workshop at Hudson Valley Community College in the fall. The draft regional broadband feasibility study is complete and will be used to seek funding to expand fiber-optic capabilities throughout the region. They are on target to complete the EPA-funded Climate Action Plan by September of 2025.

C. CDTA

Carm Basile announced that mobility hubs in Schenectady and Troy have recently opened, with the next one expected on Manning Boulevard at St. Peters Hospital in

Albany. In addition, CDTA expects to close on the Schenectady Gazette building next to the current Schenectady garage. CDTA had 19-20 Million boardings this year, a 20% increase from last year.

D. NYSDOT

Michael Arthur noted NYSDOT will be breaking their multi-site bridge preservation project into multiple smaller projects, after releasing it twice without any bids. The Governor announced a pay increase for licensed professionals with a \$7,000 increase in the Capital Region.

E. NYSTA

No updated were provided.

F. Albany County Airport Authority

No updates were provided.

G. Albany Port District Commission

Christine Stuto noted that the Normanskill related work is almost complete.

H. Regional/Local Planning Activities

Tom Werner announced that the Saratoga Planning and Zoning Conference will be held February 5th 2025. Sandra Misiewicz thanked Carm for his years of service, as did Kathy Sheehan. Carm explained that he was introduced to the MPO 43 years ago and noted that it is a good example of intermunicipal cooperation.

Other

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Kathy Sheehan referred to the agenda listing upcoming meetings and events.

Adjournment

Kathy Sheehan motioned to adjourn at approximately 4:19 PM, Stephen Donnelly seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Arthur
Secretary