

**Planning Committee Meeting
November 6, 2024
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending

The Honorable Michael Butler, City of Mechanicville
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Chair
Howard Goebel, City of Albany
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Kim Lambert, Saratoga County
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council, Secretary
Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville
Tom Romano, Town of Colonie
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
John Schneidawin, Albany Port District Commission
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady, Vice-Chair
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Michael Williams, Capital District Transportation Authority

Staff and Others Attending

Chris Bauer, Capital Region Transportation Council
Alexandria Carver, City of Schenectady
Joe Cimino, CHA
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Jim DiGioia, Interested Citizen
Mike Dutre, City of Saratoga Springs
Josh Giller, Town of East Greenbush
JoAnne Kiernan, City of Saratoga Springs
Teresa LaSalle, Capital Region Transportation Council
Adam McCarville, Capital Region Transportation Council
Parker Morris, Capital Region Transportation Council
Kristen Morris NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta
Bob Rice, Creighton Manning Engineering
Ryan Riper, Town of Wilton
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
Laura Sanda, McFarland Johnson
Chaim Simon, Capital Region Transportation Council

Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority
Ethan Townsend, Capital Region Transportation Council
Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council
Carrie Ward, Capital Region Transportation Council

Welcome and Introductions

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

Visitor Issues

There were no visitor's issues.

Administration

Previous Meeting Minutes – October 2, 2024

There were no proposed changes to the meeting minutes. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve the October 2, 2024 minutes as presented, Kim Lambert seconded, and members approved the motion.

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

Sandra Misiewicz noted that this is a required document to report on our activities over the last six months. Andrew Tracy provided a summary of the signal retiming study that finished in April. FHWA recommends signal retiming every five to ten years, or sooner if there are large changes in the corridor. Sandra noted that the traffic count contract is still open and we are able to add additional locations.

The Complete Streets StoryMap will be complete by the end of the year. The Vision Zero project is starting its Corridor Development projects and Highway Safety Investigations. The driver mode shift survey was completed and we are now analyzing the data. The Albany-Crane Street Linkage Study project in Schenectady was completed.

2025 Planning Committee and Policy Board Meeting Schedule

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the schedule for January and February in 2025 will be on the first Wednesdays and instead will be held on January 8th and January 29th. We are also holding February 12th for a possible additional meeting if needed to complete the draft 2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program.

Action Items

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

1. Amendment 1: CDTA BusPlus Red Line Upgrades

Melissa Shanley explained that this amendment would move funding from the Bus Rapid Transit Set-aside into T137 for BusPlus Red Line Upgrades and would also move phases and schedule to align with the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program funding that CDTA received. Chris Wallin motioned to approve the cost and schedule change amendment as presented, Howard Goebel seconded, and members approved the motion.

Discussion Items

2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Discussion

1. NYSDOT TIP Development Guidance
2. Planning Targets
3. Existing Project Status
4. Project Sponsor Meeting November 20th at 2:30 p.m.
5. NYSDOT Proposed Set-Asides
6. Solicitation Updates

Sandra Misiewicz explained that we have received much of the information necessary to program the new TIP. Greg Wichser reviewed the NYSDOT TIP Development Guidance and noted that there is no longer a requirement for preservation, and that active transportation and safety projects are encouraged. Federal funds for the eight-county Region 1 are about \$125M by federal year, and just under \$100M for the Transportation Council's planning area. Greg suggested adding extra HSIP-eligible funding to the fifth year of the TIP to be able to accelerate those projects sooner in the future. There will be bridge formula funds for bridges on the federal aid system.

Set-asides that NYSDOT expects to request will come from mostly NHPP with some HSIP and STBG Flex. Fifteen (15) percent of the HSIP funds must be spent on Vulnerable Road User projects, and projects included in the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan can be funded without an analysis. NYSDOT would like to propose a set-aside for pedestrian safety projects, as well as federal aid signal upgrades and signal coordination, and ADA compliance projects with NYSDOT providing all of the match on local projects on state roadways and 15% of the funding for projects on local roadways.

Sandra said staff will be reaching out to all sponsors of existing projects to understand their status, with a submission deadline for that information by December 13th. This information will clarify the amount of funding that will be available to program for new projects. There will be a TIP project sponsor meeting on November 20th to discuss the information needed about projects rolling into the TIP. Existing design-only projects must submit a proposal for any desired construction funds.

Summary of 2022-2027 TIP Administrative Modifications

Greg Wichser noted that Federal Rail Administration (FRA) funds are not normally designated to come through the Transportation Council, however the Livingston Avenue Bridge was recently awarded \$215M of FRA funds, which will remove some state funding from the bridge. While this change is an administrative modification per the Transportation Council amendment rules, due to the size of the award, staff felt the fund source change should be highlighted to the Committee. Sandra Misiewicz also noted that the remaining administrative modifications to projects are phase and description changes, with a fund source change for part of the Cherry Avenue project in Bethlehem.

Local Project Delivery Update

Sandra Misiewicz noted that we have been tracking local projects for a few years, but we will be working more with NYSDOT moving forward to acquire the relevant status since they also track projects. For the time being, this agenda item will be removed from meeting agendas.

NYSDOT Project Delivery Schedule

Greg Wichser noted that the Route 146 bridge over the Normanskill with a multi-use path will be let soon. If there are any local projects that can be let before the end of March, they can be accelerated. Lorenzo Cuneo now handles all phases of projects in Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties and Alex Poland handles all phases of projects in Albany and Schenectady Counties.

Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the table of current initiatives is available online.

Regional and Local Planning Updates

1. Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz reminded everyone that the applications for the Linkage Program and ADA Transition Plans are due on December 6th. There will be a planning scenario workshop with the task force for the In Motion plan next week, following which we will

release another public survey. Chaim Simon will be leaving for the NYC Planning Department, and Ethan Townsend recently joined the staff.

2. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that the annual workshop held on October 18th at Hudson Valley Community College was successful with 180 participants. Capital Region Indicators has been updated with new census data.

3. CDTA

Mike Williams noted that CDTA recently opened the Mobility Hub at Liberty Square in Troy and the one on South Manning Boulevard near St. Peter's Hospital is underway. CDTA is evaluating additional locations for mobility hubs. The Transit Development Plan draft will be circulated over the next couple of months for feedback.

4. NYSDOT

Greg Wichser announced that the Reimagine I-787 draft report is available for review. Public Comment has been extended to December 1st. The final DOT-sponsored event will be tonight. A final report is expected early next year.

5. NYSTA

There were no updates.

6. Albany County Airport Authority

There were no updates.

7. Albany Port District Commission

John Schneidawin explained that the Corning Hill and River Road signalization work is underway, the bridge over the Normanskills has been completed and is now in use. The port received a NYSDOT grant to finalize upgrading the high-capacity rail and wharf decking at the maritime terminal.

8. Local Government/Other

There were no additional updates.

Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines

Steve Feeney referenced the upcoming meetings listed on the agenda as follows:

1. In Motion Task Force - November 13
2. Regional Operations and Safety Advisory Committee - November 14
3. Freight Advisory Committee - November 20
4. Policy Board - December 5
5. Equity Advisory Committee - December 12
6. Community Planners Forum - December 19 - Sandra Misiewicz announced that this meeting will be canceled.

Adjournment

Mark Castiglione motioned to adjourn at approximately 10:51 a.m., Mike Butler seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Secretary