

**Planning Committee Meeting
April 2, 2025
Draft Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending

Virginia Bott, Rensselaer County
Mike Burdett, NYS Thruway Authority
Sharon Butler, City of Cohoes
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Mike Dutre, City of Saratoga Springs
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Chair
Tom Hulihan, City of Rensselaer
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Kim Lambert, Saratoga County
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council, Secretary
David Montiverdi, Albany County Airport Authority
Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Tom Romano, Town of Colonie
John Schneidawin, Albany Port District Commission
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Mike Williams, Capital District Transportation Authority

Staff and Others Attending

Adrian Cattell, Town of Malta
Don Csaposs, Town of Guilderland
Lorenzo DiStefano, FCM Engineering
Tim Lane, Village of Menands
Rob Leslie, Town of Bethlehem
Emily Loughlin, Capital District Transportation Authority
Nicole McGrath, Federal Highway Administration
Randy Milano, NYS Department of Transportation Region 1
Parker Morris, Capital Region Transportation Council
David Nelson, Capital Region Transportation Council
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta
Joe Peregrim, Town of Colonie
Bob Rice, FCM Engineering
Ryan Riper, Town of Wilton
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna

John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Ed Snyder, GPI
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 issues.

Presentation – Linkage Program Roundup: A Status Report

Sandra Misiewicz noted that there are several Linkage studies nearing completion that have not yet been shared with the Planning Committee. This presentation will share the recommendations of three studies starting with the Town of Rotterdam's Curry Rd and Guilderland Ave Multi-Modal Study. Carrie Ward discussed the purpose of the study, the key issues and the recommendations. Recommendations included traffic calming, access management, signal timing review, future feasibility review for roundabouts, prioritizing pedestrians near schools and commercial areas, and some improvements for transit stops and bicycling accommodations.

Sandra Misiewicz then discussed the Village of Castleton's Complete Streets Study. This study resulted in four priority projects: a 0.7-mile brickyard trail through Schermerhorn Park, a village loop of sidewalks along 9J and Seaman, Campbell, and Green Avenues, a reconfiguration of Main Street, NY 9J, to provide both parking and bicycling accommodations, and a shared use path connecting South Main Street to Schodack Island State Park. The Village will be adopting the study.

Ethan Townsend presented the Milton Town Center Plan which focused on the intersection at Geyser Road and Rowland Street. Recommendations included a shared use path on the north side of Geyser Road east of the intersection, either along the roadside or behind the businesses, and a shared use path on Geyser Road west of the intersection either on the north or south side of the roadway. Additional recommendations include a shared use path along Rowland Street to connect the Town Center to the Woods Hollow Preserve either along the roadway or via a new pathway north of Margaret Drive and behind the area of Pinehollow Drive; intersection improvements for either a single-lane roundabout or signal improvements at Rowland and Geyser; enhanced pedestrian infrastructure including more painted crosswalks; access management; and short-distance

public transit. Sandra summarized what is next for the Linkage program including completing five Linkage studies, initiating two new studies, completing summaries of the completed linkage studies and developing a virtual Storymap to celebrate the accomplishments of the now 25 year old program.

Administration

Previous Meeting Minutes – January 29, 2025

There were no proposed changes to the meeting minutes. Sharon Butler motioned to approve the January 29, 2025 minutes as presented, John Schneidawin seconded, and members approved the motion.

Action Items

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

1. Bethlehem Priority Corridors Sidewalk Replacement and Installation

Rob Leslie explained that the town received funding for two projects, with different funding sources. The Town has retained a consultant to progress both projects and would like to merge the two projects to maximize efficiency and ensure the design and construction are progressed in harmony which is important to the Town due to their proximity to each other. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve the resolution as presented, Andrew Kreshik seconded, and members approved the resolution.

2. Northway Bridges, BINS 1073500 & 1073522

Greg Wichser explained that the multi-site bridge project has been let twice with no bids either time. These bridges will be removed from the multi-site contract to bid them as a smaller project in an effort to attract potentially smaller contractors. Additional funding will be drawn from the state bridge set-aside. Mike Dutre motioned to approve the resolution as presented, Sharon Butler seconded, and members approved the resolution.

3. NYSDOT Roadway Departure Safety Action Plan - Call for Local Projects

Sandra Misiewicz explained that this call for projects was released recently to help complete the recently completed Roadway Departure Safety Action Plan. The call is for local government applications, including from Counties bundling projects for municipalities within the County. There is a suballocated amount of funding per county for both plans and capital projects totaling roughly \$4.1 M in Highway Safety Improvement Program funds for the region with about \$1.59 M in Albany County, \$0.87 M in Rensselaer County, \$0.95 M in Saratoga County, and \$0.71 in Albany County.

Discussion Items

Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan Draft Strategies

Carrie Ward provided an update on the status of some of the tasks within the upcoming Safety Action Plan. The draft targets are to eliminate fatalities by 2050 and reduce serious injuries by 50% by 2050. A data dashboard to be used to track performance over time has been drafted, with map and table-based visualizations and separate visualizations by emphasis areas, all filterable by many of the categories within the crash data. The targeted safety investigation field visits are complete, and reports and recommendations are underway. The systemic screening process starts with focus crash types (intersections, roadway departures, speed-related, and pedestrians), then finds the facility types with the highest concentration of those crashes within the system, then further analyses the risk factors with a potential impact on crash frequency and severity, leading to a screen of the network to find the over-represented facility types and risk factors.

Additional work includes review of speed limit studies in Saratoga Springs and Green Island, a completed study in Schenectady, and studies under development in Watervliet and Troy. The four corridor concept workshops at six sites are complete and the team is working on draft renderings of recommendations, which will be presented virtually. Policy and process recommendations include leadership at the regional level from the Transportation Council with coordination by the Regional Operations and Safety Advisory Committee; local codes; speed management including municipal speed limits and automated enforcement; roundabouts, turn lanes, and pedestrian crossing improvements at intersections; sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and pedestrian signals; signs, shoulders and rumble strips at curves; and technology and funding to accelerate incident detection time and decrease prehospital and early-hospital mortality.

The Committee discussed the upcoming FHWA Safe Streets and Roads For all Program solicitation and noted that sponsors interested in applying can reach out to Carrie Ward for crash data related to the Vision Zero Safety Action Plan.

Summary of 2022-2027 TIP Administrative Modifications

Sandra Misiewicz explained that there were two recent administrative modifications, moving funding among phases for the Town of Hoosick's Cottrell Road over Walloomsac River Bridge Replacement project and Albany County's South Albany Road over Onesquethaw Creek project.

NYSDOT Project Delivery Schedule

Greg Wichser noted that NYSDOT let the US 9W over the CSX railroad bridge replacement project in the Town of Bethlehem came in higher than the estimate with the low bid just over \$16M. The multi-site pavement preservation across several counties came in lower than the estimate. The overhead sign structure replacement was let with a single bidder

about 30% over the estimate. As discussed earlier, the 787 site specific bridge project also came in high.

Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the In Motion Plan will be available for initial review in May. The two new linkage studies will begin in a few months due to staff capacity. Outstanding technical assistance projects should be completed by early summer.

Regional and Local Planning Updates

1. Transportation Council

Ethan Townsend highlighted results of the 2024 trail user counts, which were done on a 2-3 week period. They were at the following trails: Railroad Run, Spring Run, Luther Forest, ALCO Heritage, Albany Shaker, and the Helderberg Hudson. The annual calculations use the National Bike and Pedestrian Document Project methodology to estimate user volume across the year based on data from the 2-3 week count. Counts for 2025 will start in late May. Contact Ethan or Teresa to request trail counts.

2. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that CDRPC recently updated its regional greenhouse gas dashboard with 2022 data for each municipality in the 8-county region. Work on the Climate Action Plan is expected to wrap up in September. There is now a [survey on the plan's website](#) to gauge impacts local municipalities can likely make. Last week there was a [training on the Capital Region Indicators dashboard and the US Census](#). Our region is one of the fastest-growing regions in the state, with about 17,000 new people since the 2020 census, the majority of whom are international migrants. Cornell has compiled a [county highlights paper](#) on the new population estimates.

3. CDTA

Mike Williams noted that CDTA has a new CEO, Frank Annicaro, who will be starting in May.

4. NYSDOT

Greg Wichser announced that Celeste Harp returned to NYSDOT and will be mostly working for Main Office but part-time in the region. William Fitzgerald is a new hire who will be helping with SEQR requests and study participation.

5. NYSTA

There were no updates.

6. Albany County Airport Authority

Dave Montiverdi introduced himself as their new planner.

7. Albany Port District Commission

John Schneidawin explained that the Corning Hill and River Rd signalization project is almost complete. The Port is working on an REI to gauge market interest in the 85-acre Beacon Island site.

8. Local Government/Other

Sandra Misiewicz noted that NYSDOT is working on a statewide Resilience Improvement Plan, and a regional resilience plan will be initiated over the next year. A list of existing TIP projects will be provided to NYSDOT that may also be eligible for PROTECT funding.

Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines

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

1. Active Transportation Advisory Committee - April 8th
2. Public Meeting: Draft Corridor Design Concepts, Central Avenue West Study – April 9th
3. Planning Committee – May 7th

Adjournment

John Schneidawin motioned to adjourn at approximately 11:33 a.m., Sharon Butler seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Secretary