

**Policy Board Meeting
June 6, 2024
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending

Michael Arthur, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1, Secretary
Phil Barrett, Saratoga County Board of Supervisors
Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice-Chair
Rory Fluman, Schenectady County Manager
Connor Haskin, representing Philip Calderone, Albany County Airport Authority
Patrick Jordan Esq., Albany Port District Commission
Andrew Kreshik, representing Mayor Carmella Mantello, City of Troy
Michael Lalli, representing Daniel McCoy, Albany County Executive
The Honorable Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady
The Honorable Charles Patricelli, City of Watervliet
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, Chair
The Honorable Michael Stammel, City of Rensselaer
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County Executive
Tom Werner, Saratoga County

Staff and Others Attending

Chris Bauer, Capital Region Transportation Council
Jacob Beeman, Capital Region Transportation Council
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Howard Goebel, City of Albany
JoAnne Kiernan, City of Saratoga Springs
Dan Lara, Saratoga Technologies
Ayla Schermer, representing Michael Culotta, Federal Transit Administration
Rima Shamieh, Capital Region Transportation Council
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 3:00 PM.

Administration

A. March 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Gary McCarthy motioned to approve the March 7, 2024 meeting minutes, Mike Stammel seconded, and members approved the motion.

B. 2023-2024 Performance and Expenditure Report

Chris Bauer noted that this report is a 6-month accounting of our recent activities. Highlights include completion of four technical assistance projects and the Regional Truck Parking Study, three ADA Transition Plans, the 2023 Trail Count Program report, and a linkage study. The Transportation Council also initiated the regional Vision Zero Safety Action Plan.

Privilege of the Floor

There were no speakers.

Presentation – Reimagine I-787 PEL Study Initial Concepts

Greg Wichser from NYSDOT introduced himself as one of the project managers for the subject study. He explained that I-787 in the Albany area had been constructed as part of larger plans that were not implemented. Themes emerging from public input to date include waterfront access, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, environmental justice, and the importance of natural and cultural resources. The proposed purpose, needs, and objectives statement is to create an improved, multimodal transportation corridor that supports long-range transportation planning efforts within the Reimagine I-787 Study limits while addressing identified inefficiencies of the existing highway.

Greg explained the options being evaluated – 1) Reconstruct I-787 as an interstate with a relocated Dunn Memorial Bridge and a modern intersection lowered to grade between Pearl Street and the Empire State Plaza; 2) Relocate I-787 to the west of the railroad, as a two-way boulevard with lower operating speeds; 3) Reconstruct I-787 as a boulevard west of the railroad including one-way streets; 4) Reconstruct I-787 as two one-way boulevards with the railroad removed, 5) Reconstruct I-787 as a two-way boulevard west of the railroad with the Dunn Memorial Bridge moved 1 mile south to around the Port of Albany, and with the South Mall Expressway at grade starting at Green Street and

Broadway. Greg summarized the origins and destinations of traffic using I-787, as about 80% of all traffic is going to locations in the Cities of Albany and Rensselaer. Other concepts being considered include a tunnel or depressed roadway, land bridges, or wide pedestrian bridges, capping the roadway, and a canal in place of Broadway. Mike Stammel offered that he would prefer to see a lift or swing bridge to enable the bridge to be lower.

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

A. CDTA: Amendments 1 - 8

Carm Basile noted that Amendments 1-8 are to program formula funds. One project is new, for mobility hubs, to construct a mobility hub in Troy and in Albany. These locations bring together buses, cars, and bikes, at covered locations with amenities. Gary McCarthy motioned to approve the first eight amendments as presented, Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the motion.

B. 5310 Program: Amendments 9 – 14

Carrie Ward explained that the six projects are recommended for funding through the Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and People with Disabilities program. Carm Basile motioned to approve amendments 9-14 as presented, Rory Fluman seconded, and members approved the motion.

Resolution 24-3: 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendments

A. Summary of UPWP Amendments.

Chris Bauer explained that there have been some changes since the UPWP was approved. There was a change to the FTA allocations, slightly reducing our available FTA planning funds, about \$16,000 of the Complete Streets set-aside was expended in the prior year, additional consultant expenditures occurred between the UPWP approval and the end of the fiscal year, and two completed linkage studies were removed. In addition, we added \$75,000 to the consultant contract for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, new ADA Transition Plans in the City of Rensselaer, Towns of Clifton Park and Wilton, and Village of Menands, and \$20,000 from the US Department of Energy to support the Clean Cities Coalition.

B. Draft Amended 2024-2025 UPWP for Policy Board Review

Mike Stammel motioned to approve the draft amended 2024-2025 UPWP as presented, Mike Arthur seconded, and members approved the motion.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Chris Bauer presented the current status of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The Transportation Council is currently in Phase II of the project, and has already released the plan's name, brand, and logo as well as the project website. Phase II also includes public outreach about issues and priorities. So far, the top priorities have been to build sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails; more transportation options; more frequent and reliable transit; safer roads and intersections; and to fix roads and bridges. The lowest priority so far is to build more roads and highways. Draft goals and objectives have been developed using the regional trends report, public input so far, state and regional policy integration, review of previous plans, and the In Motion Task Force and Planning Committee.

Goals are: safety – to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries and increase the security of the transportation system, mobility – to ensure the transportation system supports reliable travel throughout the region, access – to improve transportation choices and access to key destinations for people and goods, equity – for an inclusive transportation planning process and address transportation-related inequities experienced by disadvantaged populations, livability – to support economic development, population growth, and housing in areas with transportation options, climate – to reduce risks from climate change, improve air quality, and reduce transportation emissions, and resilience – to prepare for and protect the transportation system from changing conditions and natural hazards.

Rory Fluman motioned to approve the draft goals and objectives for public review, Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the motion.

Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Update

Carrie Ward introduced the Regional Vision Zero Safety Action Plan to build a shared vision of roadway safety and develop a comprehensive Safety Implementation Program of fundable projects. The plan will follow the Safe System Approach, which recognizes that redundancy is crucial and focuses on safe road users, safe vehicles, safe speeds, safe roads, and post-crash care. The project will return to the Policy Board for approval of Vision Zero targets, either with a target date to reach zero fatalities and serious injuries or one or more targets to achieve significant declines in roadway fatalities and serious injuries by a specific date. The project will include a task to recommend lowered speed limits. There is currently a solicitation for members of a Community Advisory Committee as well as community liaisons.

Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

A. Transportation Council

Chris Bauer noted that the Tools of the Trade event in Saratoga County for Human Services Transportation providers is on June 20th and registration is open. The Transportation Council is still seeking applicants to serve on the SS4A Community Advisory Committee and to serve as community ambassadors. These are paid positions and applications for both are due on June 14th. Visit www.capitalregionvisionzero.org for more information. An interactive map survey is also open. Finally, the Transportation Council's new website will go live in the next few days.

B. CDRPC

Larry Schillinger noted that CDRPC is coordinating with all four counties to develop planning and grant applications to build out broadband for underserved or unserved areas. Development of the regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program is underway, with completion anticipated at the end of 2025. The Clean Energy Communities Program outreach coordinators are working with communities on round three. CDRPC has produced a Capital Region Housing Affordability Study looking at renter wages and renter average costs, as well as median income compared to median sales values. There is a new land cover change analysis over the last ten years on the website. CDRPC will be hosting an MS4 workshop for stormwater management at UAlbany June 26th, and on October 18th will be hosting the annual planning and zoning workshop at Hudson Valley Community College.

C. CDTA

Carm noted that CDTA is in discussions to purchase the Daily Gazette property, adjacent to the existing CDTA facility. Season 8 of CDPHP Cycle with almost 650 bikes at 100 stations is underway. Ridership last fiscal year was 20% higher than the previous year, a trend that has continued so far this year.

D. NYSDOT

Michael Arthur announced that NYSDOT has a new Chief People Officer. In addition, the Regional Planning and Programming Engineer is retiring in June, and there will be a new regional permit engineer. There have been four lettings in the last couple of months, two multi-site pavement resurfacing projects, as well as the interstate overhead sign structure project, and I-90 pavement resurfacing from I-787 to Corporate Woods.

Upcoming lettings include a bridge multi-site preservation project, and a roundabout at Route 29 and Rowland Avenue in Saratoga Springs. The Livingston Avenue Bridge project has received notice to proceed.

E. NYSTA

Phil Serafino noted that the paving rehabilitation between Exits 25 and 26 is underway, including clearing underneath and raising the bridge at the Exit 25 Interchange.

F. Albany County Airport Authority

No updates were provided.

G. Albany Port District Commission

No updates were provided.

H. Regional/Local Planning Activities

Chris Bauer referred to the status table.

Other

Kathy Sheehan noted that she is seeing a freight impact from recent roadway changes, notably to enable connections between GE in Schenectady and the Port of Albany.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

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

Adjournment

Mike Stammel motioned to adjourn at approximately 4:06 PM, Gary McCarthy seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Arthur
Secretary