

Planning Committee Meeting
August 2, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Members Attending

Susan Barden, City of Saratoga Springs
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Kristin Diotte, City of Schenectady
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Chair
Connor Haskin, Albany County Airport Authority
Patrick Jordan Esq., Albany Port District Commission
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Kim Lambert, Saratoga County
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee, Secretary
Katelyn Reepmeyer, Town of Colonie
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
Joseph Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes, Vice-Chair
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation Region 1

Staff and Others Attending

Joanna Ahlatis, Families Together in NYS
Chris Bauer, Capital Region Transportation Council
Jennifer Ceponis, Capital Region Transportation Council
Joe Cimino, CHA Consulting
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Eric Connolly, Town of Ballston
Patrick Cross, Capital Region Transportation Council
Patrick Curran, Albany County Executive's Office
Josh Giller, Town of East Greenbush
Steven Golding, City of Watervliet
Celeste Harp, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Iana Headley-Kroll, CHA Consulting
Ryan Kedzior, Village of Scotia
Elizabeth Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa
Alison McLean Lane, Albany County
Teresa LaSalle, Capital Region Transportation Council
Stephen Maples, Capital District Transportation Committee
Kristen Morris, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Rebecca Odell, Capital Region Transportation Council
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta
Tom Phelan, Gannett-Fleming/BHX Engineering
Megan Quirk, Capital District Transportation Authority

John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Rima Shamieh, Capital Region Transportation Council
Chaim Simon, Capital Region Transportation Council
Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council
William Trudeau, City of Albany
Carrie Ward, Capital District Transportation Committee

Introduction

Steve Feeney opened the meeting at approximately 9:34 a.m.

Visitor's Issues

There were no visitor's issues.

Presentation – "Regional Truck Parking Study" by Tom Phelan, Gannett-Fleming/BHX Engineering

Chris Bauer introduced the Regional Truck Parking Study and noted that parking is an issue of concern to the Freight Advisory Committee. Tom noted that risks related to drowsy driving have led to a number of regulations restricting the number of consecutive driving hours. There can be capacity constraints at rest areas, which limit the ability of drivers to safely stop when they have reached their driving limit. About one in four of trucks parked in the Capital Region makes its next stop within the Capital Region or surrounding counties.

The study team conducted overnight counts in and around the Capital Region. Overall, the region is operating within capacity although there are some areas where there are overflowing truck stops and limited rest areas. There is heavy parking utilization at the east end of I-90, limited capacity to the north on I-87, and shoulder parking and staging along NY-7 near the I-88/I-90 interchange. The study is proposing recommendations to ameliorate issues in over-capacity areas. On the east end of I-90, NYS and Massachusetts should work together to expand truck parking and around the NY-7/I-88 area, local governments have a role. Additional truck parking and driver services should be considered at NYS Thruway service areas as well as existing interstate highway rest areas. Another recommendation is to develop formal municipal guidance for incorporating truck parking and staging into industrial site approvals. A pilot study for truck electrification and idle reduction technology could be conducted in the region. Options for new or expanded truck parking should be investigated in the vicinity of Exits 16 and 17 of the Northway. Finally, an emergency truck parking plan should be developed for the Capital Region for major snow events or other instances of highway closures.

Administration

Previous Meeting Minutes – May 3, 2023

There were no proposed changes to the meeting minutes. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve the May 3, 2023 minutes, Randy Milano seconded, and members approved the motion.

2022-2023 UPWP Year End Budget Revisions

Sandra Misiewicz explained that our fiscal year ends at the end of March. This is an administrative budget revision to carry over balances from last year into this year. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve the budget revisions as presented, Joe Seman-Graves seconded, and members approved the motion.

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

Sandra Misiewicz noted that we need to remain within +/- 5% of the TIP federal funding planning targets by year. We are within that range for the first three years of the TIP.

Action Items

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

1. R339, 1761.61, NY2 Corridor Project & River / Ferry St Intersection Improvements, City of Troy, Rensselaer County & R356, 1st and 2nd Streets over Ferry Street Bridge Rehabilitation – Bridge NY, City of Troy, Rensselaer County

Andrew Kreshik noted that the City has multiple transportation projects at this location. This amendment would combine the recently awarded Bridge NY project for the 1st and 2nd Streets bridge with the adjacent project of R339. There are no cost changes. Greg Wichser motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Mark Castiglione seconded, and members approved the motion.

2. RG131, CDTC31, Bus Rapid Transit Implementation, Block Funds, Regional Transit & T137, CDTC137, BusPlus Red Line Upgrades, CDTA, Regional Transit & T151, CDTA07, 80 Broadway Station and Park & Ride, CDTA, City of Troy, Rensselaer County (New Project)

Ross Farrell explained that CDTA will be drawing down block funds for red line upgrades and to construct a BRT station in Menands, not the City of Troy as noted in the agenda, which will serve an OGS parking lot. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Randy Milano seconded, and members approved the motion.

3. A600, 1045.17, Rt 378 Over the Hudson Bridge Painting, NYSDOT, Village of Menands and City of Troy, Albany County and Rensselaer County

Greg Wichser explained that the construction estimate is higher than anticipated. The amendment adds funding to cover the cost estimate. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Mark Castiglione seconded, and members approved the motion.

4. A618, 1528.90, I-90 Pavement Resurfacing Corporate Woods Blvd. to I-787, NYSDOT, City of Albany, Albany County

Greg Wichser explained that the updated estimate is over the anticipated construction cost. This estimate switches the funding to be all NHPP. Ross Farrell motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Randy Milano seconded, and members approved the amendment.

5. S263, 1761.62, Sunnyside Road over Amtrak, Bridge Replacement, BIN 2257170, Village of Scotia, Schenectady County

Ryan Kedzior explained that the Village is requesting additional funding for the Amtrak Railroad Right-of-Way Entry Permit, completing hazardous waste and contaminated materials assessments, Amtrak Design Phase Engineering Review, and Amtrak Construction Phase force account. In addition, the Village is requesting a schedule change moving each phase out one to two years. The road is currently closed. Greg Wichser motioned to approve the cost and schedule change as presented, Randy Milano seconded, and members approved the amendment.

Carbon Reduction Program Funding Proposal

Sandra Misiewicz explained that the proposal is to use the Carbon Reduction Program funding for a new funding block for eligible cost increases on existing TIP projects, including TAP/CMAQ projects which are capped and must find other fund sources to cover cost increases. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve the proposal as presented, Joe Seman-Graves seconded, and members approved the motion.

Draft TIP Policy– TIP Task Force Recommendations

Andrew Tracy presented the recommendations of the TIP Task Force. The group began meeting in December, debriefed on the last project solicitation, and compiled a document with policy recommendations for the next TIP solicitation. Recommendations include researching improvements to the online application format, reducing the application length, beginning the process earlier to allow more time to develop applications, continuing to provide summary tables and fact sheets, re-evaluating project categories, considering the use of a complete streets framework to determine project categories and evaluation criteria, revising the merit evaluation process to only apply context-relevant scores to each project, re-evaluating the ratio between the benefit/cost score and the merit evaluation, considering locally-provided design services, removing the user cost component of the benefit/cost score, continuing to allow sponsors to swap projects, continuing to encourage sponsors to submit applications for all needed projects, reviewing the process for adding design-only projects, and developing a single TIP guidance document. If approved, staff will begin working on the materials for the next TIP update. Ross Farrell motioned to approve the recommendations as presented, Connor Haskin seconded, and members approved the motion.

Air Quality Conformity Determination update for A/GFTC Metropolitan Transportation Plan

(MTP)

1. Resolution 23-7
2. Draft Conformity Statement

Chris Bauer explained that whenever we or the Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council (A/GFTC) update our TIP or Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), we need to update the Albany-Schenectady-Troy 1997 8-Hour Ozone Non-Attainment Area Transportation/Air Quality Conformity Determination (Conformity Determination). The A/GFTC is currently updating their MTP. The Transportation Council is responsible for executing air quality conformity requirements in the portion of Saratoga County (Town of Moreau and Village of South Glens Falls) within A/GFTC's region, per a 2010 agreement. We are asking the Planning Committee to release the conformity statement for the required 30-day review period.

Greg Wichser motioned to approve the resolution and the draft conformity statement as presented, Joe Seman-Graves seconded, and members approved the motion.

Discussion Items

Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan Update Introduction

Carrie Ward provided an overview of the requirements and contents of the Coordinated Plan. Projects funded through the FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program must be consistent with the Coordinated Plan. The draft will include relevant demographics, information on existing available services, and results of public input gathered online and via visits to congregate meal sites. It was requested to add language acknowledging that it won't be possible to provide convenient transportation service to every residence in the region, and to encourage people to consider living in locations within their community where necessary services will be available.

2020 Census Urban Area Boundary

Sandra Misiewicz presented the new census-designated urban area from the 2020 Census. We traditionally smooth out the borders of the census-designated area and expand it to include locations with recent or anticipated development. We have two very small urban areas – Ravena/Bethlehem and Mechanicville.

Summary of 2022-2027 TIP Project Selection Moves

Sandra Misiewicz referenced a chart provided in the meeting materials.

Local Project Delivery Update

Sandra Misiewicz referenced the project delivery table on the website.

NYSDOT Project Delivery Schedule

Greg Wichser distributed paper copies of the previous year and upcoming year scheduled projects. If sponsors have a project scheduled for construction in this fiscal year and it won't be obligated by the end of the month, please inform Greg so that we can move it out a year. If sponsors have projects scheduled for construction next year and have any right of way issues or other unresolved issues that may not be resolved in time to obligate construction next year, please consider moving it out to the next fiscal year.

Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

Sandra Misiewicz referenced the table provided in the meeting materials. A number of new community-based plans are being initiated and we will be finalizing our Safe Streets and Roads for All grant agreement. Several regional initiatives are underway including the NYSDOT I-787 and 378 PEL Studies, CDTA's Transit Development Plan and BRT planning work.

Regional and Local Planning Updates

1. Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz requested that sponsors submit any needed TIP amendments by the provided deadlines. In addition, staff are beginning to update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and will be working with NYSDOT and CDTA to conduct public engagement together on multiple concurrent efforts. There will be a number of new faces around the table in the coming months. Staff will provide an opportunity following an upcoming meeting for new members to learn about the planning process and ask questions.

2. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that CDRPC will be conducting a workshop in partnership with the NY Planning Federation on October 28th at Hudson Valley Community College. The Northern Border Commission has an open grant opportunity that will fund transportation and water infrastructure. The students participating in this year's Future Leaders in Planning Program are visiting regional sites this week.

3. CDTA

Ross Farrell announced that today will be his last meeting as he has taken a position at NYSDOT as the Director of the Public Transit Bureau. Megan will be the new representative for the Planning Committee. Ross thanked everyone for their close work with CDTA.

4. NYSDOT

The Reimagine 787 Study public meetings and outreach efforts continue. So far there have been well over 1,000 public comments. There will be a group municipal meeting in the next few weeks. The statewide long-range plan is underway and will be at the Albany Latin Fest on August 26th. Mike Arthur was appointed the Regional Director. Sam Zhou is retiring. Mark Pyskadlo is retiring next week. Karen Lorf, the Statewide Bike/Ped coordinator has taken a new job. The new hires are Celeste Harp in planning, and Kristen Morris in program management.

5. NYSTA

There were no updates.

6. Albany County Airport Authority
Connor Haskin noted that a draft of the Master Plan Update is available for review now and accepting public comments.

7. Albany Port District Commission
There were no updates.

8. Local Government/Other

Sandra Misiewicz noted that Mike Valentine's last day is this week at Saratoga County. Randy Milano noted that today is his last meeting representing the City of Albany. He has taken a position at NYSDOT Region 1.

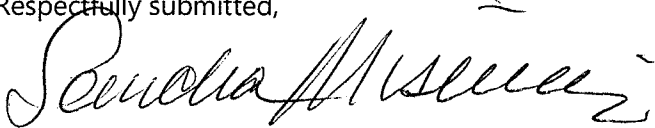
Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines

Steve Feeney referenced the upcoming meetings listed on the agenda.

Adjournment

Ross Farrell motioned to adjourn at approximately 11:50 a.m., Randy Milano seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Secretary