

Planning Committee Meeting
August 7, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Members Attending

Beige Berryman, City of Saratoga Springs
The Honorable Michael Butler, City of Mechanicville
Alexandria Carver, City of Schenectady
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Chair
Howard Goebel, City of Albany
Connor Haskin, Albany County Airport Authority
Thomas Hulihan, City of Rensselaer
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Kim Lambert, Saratoga County
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council, Secretary
Katelyn Reepmeyer, Town of Colonie
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Mike Williams, Capital District Transportation Authority
John Schneidawin, Albany Port District Commission

Staff and Others Attending

Chris Bauer, Capital Region Transportation Council
Jacob Beeman, Capital Region Transportation Council
Chris Cate, McFarland Johnson
Joe Cimino, CHA
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Megan Daly, Albany Port District Commission
Jim DiGioia, Interested Citizen
Josh Giller, Town of East Greenbush
Emily Loughlin, Capital District Transportation Authority
Nicole McGrath, Federal Highway Administration
Randy Milano, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Mary Moore Wallinger, LAndArt Studio
Lauren Purtell, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
James Rath, Capital Streets
Bob Rice, Creighton Manning Engineering
Ryan Riper, Town of Wilton
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna

Rima Shamieh, 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 9:36 a.m.

Official Statement from the Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz noted that there was inappropriate conversation at the July Planning Committee meeting. The Transportation Council received a number of complaints from the public. Sandra reminded the attendees that the meetings are livestreamed and recorded and read the official statement aloud, noting that the comments made at the July Planning Committee do not reflect the views of the Transportation Council's Policy Board, nor its staff.

Visitor Issues

There were no visitor's issues.

Presentation – City of Schenectady Albany and Crane Streets Complete Streets Study

Mary Moore Wallinger provided an overview of the team that worked on the project: Fuss & O'Neill, LAndArt Studio, Mutual Design, and Creighton Manning Engineering. The study area parallels Route 5 and consisted of Albany Street and Crane St/Chrysler Ave west of Norwood and N Brandywine as well as Main Ave NE of Crane St. Sidewalk conditions had deteriorated and high speeds with narrow street widths were inducing parking on sidewalks. The study team engaged CDTA and the school district as well as emergency services and conducted extensive public involvement at community events and gathering places. There was a strong preference, with narrow street widths, to prioritize space and shading for pedestrians. The Craig Street recommendations from the previous Craig and Main Streets project have been funded with construction expected next year. Mary Moore summarized the recommendations for each roadway in the study area.

Administration

Previous Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2024

There were no proposed changes to the meeting minutes. Kim Lambert motioned to approve the July 10, 2024 minutes as presented, Greg Wichser seconded, and members approved the motion.

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

Jacob Beeman noted that we are still within the 5% fiscal constraint restriction for all fund sources, and we are slightly under-programmed overall for the FHWA fund sources. By fund source, we are over-programmed in NHPP and Large Urban, and under-programmed in STBG-Flex and Carbon Reduction Program funds.

Vice-Chair Appointment

Sandra Misiewicz noted that we need a nominee for a Vice-Chair Appointment. Please reach out if you are interested.

Action Items

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

1. Amendment 1: Livingston Avenue Amtrak Railroad over the Hudson River Bridge Replacement

Greg Wichser explained that this TIP action will convert \$90M of the state funds to federal off-system bridge funding. The federal funding will be allocated to the multi-use path portion of the project. The bridge is already in construction. The funding will be obligated quickly. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Andrew Kreshik seconded, and members approved the motion.

2. Amendment 2: Malta Pedals (Pedestrian Downtown Access Linkage System)
3. Amendment 3: Rt. 335 Elsmere Ave. Sidewalk Replacement and Extension
4. Amendment 4: Sitterly Road Intersection Enhancement and Sidewalk Connectivity Project
5. Amendment 5: US 4 Sidewalk Continuity Project

6. Amendment 6: Bethlehem Priority Corridors Sidewalk Replacement and Installation

7. Amendment 7: Rt. 50 Doubleday Ave. at Northline Road Intersection Improvement

8. Amendment 8: Maple Ave./Bozenkill Rd. Sidewalk Installation and Safety Enhancements

Greg Wichser explained that the above seven amendments are projects resulting from the recent Transportation Alternatives Program/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program/Carbon Reduction Program solicitation. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve all amendments as presented, Connor Haskin seconded, and members approved the motion.

9. Amendment 9: Route 146 over Normanskill Bridge Replacement

Greg Wichser explained that there have been additional expenses identified since the last meeting. This amendment will revise last month's amendment letter with the additional cost increase to carry forward for the Policy Board's approval at next month's meeting. The project is funded with statewide NHPP. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Tom Hulihan seconded, and members approved the motion.

10. Amendment 10: NY Route 146 and Clifton Country Road Intersection Safety Project / Intersection Safety Improvements at NY 9 & NY 146

This action will combine the construction phases of these two projects so that construction can occur at the same time. There is no cost change. Mike Butler motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Howard Goebel seconded, and members approved the motion.

National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) and Critical Urban Freight Corridor designations

Chris Bauer explained that NYSDOT, as part of their NY State Freight Plan update, requested to add several National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) and subsequent Critical Urban Freight Corridor (CUFC) designations. States become eligible for NHFP funding once they have an FHWA-approved State Freight Plan specifying priority locations. There are three locations in the Capital Region – replacing the NY146 bridge over I-890 in Schenectady, replacing the NY146 bridge over Chrysler Ave and CSX railroad in Rotterdam, and interchange improvements on Ballard Road over the Northway at Exit 16 in Wilton. Staff recommends that the Planning Committee recommend the Policy Board approve the state's freight corridor designations. Sharon Butler motioned to approve the draft freight corridor designations as presented, Mark Castiglione seconded, and members approved the motion.

TIP Solicitation Materials

Jacob Beeman noted that the provided materials were shared for discussion at the previous meeting, and no comments have been received. There are small changes to the project categories, and each category will have a different evaluation methodology. Andrew Tracy walked through the Jotform applications. We are looking for approval of the provided TIP Solicitation Materials. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve the TIP Solicitation Materials as presented, Sharon Butler seconded, and members approved the motion.

In Motion Plan Vision Statement Approval

Sandra Misiewicz noted that staff continues to do public engagement on the In Motion plan. This fall staff will work on the needs assessment to outline visionary projects. A consultant is collecting videos and photos to include with the plan. Sandra read the proposed draft Vision Statement. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve the In Motion Plan Vision Statement as presented, Greg Wichser seconded, and members approved the motion.

Discussion Items

Bridge NY Program Project Listings

Jacob Beeman explained that a number of bridge projects will soon be added to the TIP project listings per a recent press release. The projects were approved for addition to the TIP in March.

Summary of 2022-2027 TIP Administrative Modifications

Jacob Beeman noted that there were two modifications since the July meeting. State funds were added to the Livingston Avenue Bridge (A631) for construction, and the schedule and funding by phase on the Plank Road Bridge Replacement project (R358) were moved.

Local Project Delivery Update

Jacob Beeman noted that staff will soon contact all sponsors of existing TIP projects to gather accurate costs of existing projects.

NYSDOT Project Delivery Update

Greg Wichser noted that there is a need to move any projects programmed in the current year that will not be obligated this year into a different year before the end of September.

In addition, local sponsors should review projects with funding in the next fiscal year and confirm their ability to obligate within the year.

Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the project in East Greenbush is close to completion. Planning studies in Niskayuna as well as Halfmoon with Clifton Park will be initiated soon. The solicitation for new projects will be released this fall. Please contact us with any technical assistance needs.

Regional and Local Planning Updates

1. Transportation Council

There are a number of public meetings scheduled for mid-August for the Regional Vision Zero Safety Action Plan.

2. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that CDRPC released the new population projections developed in conjunction with Cornell's Program on Applied Demographics. The annual Planning & Zoning Workshop will be held October 18th at Hudson Valley Community College. Work continues on the Climate Pollution Reduction Action Plan.

3. CDTA

Mike Williams noted that there was no new business.

4. NYSDOT

Greg Wichser noted that Chad Corbett moved to the Albany County residency and the new Acting Schenectady County Resident Engineer is Tom Cashdollar.

5. NYSTA

There were no updates.

6. Albany County Airport Authority

Connor Haskin advised that NYSDOT and FAA approvals of the Airport Master Plan have been received, and the plan will be brought to the board next week for adoption.

7. Albany Port District Commission

Sandra introduced the Port's new representatives, John Schneidawin, and Megan Daly. Megan announced the Port Industry Day will be September 19th during International Maritime Week. Work continues on the expansion site and the heavy lift bridge should be complete this fall. A rail project will begin at the Maritime Operation.

Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines

Steve Feeney referenced the upcoming meetings listed on the agenda. The Saratoga Planning & Zoning Conference will be held on February 5, 2025.

Adjournment

Mark Castiglione motioned to adjourn at approximately 11:03 a.m., Mike Butler seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra Misiewicz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Secretary