

Planning Committee Meeting
July 10, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Members Attending

Beige Berryman, City of Saratoga Springs
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Chair
Connor Haskin, Albany County Airport Authority
Thomas Hulihan, City of Rensselaer
Patrick Jordan Esq., Albany Port District Commission, Vice-Chair
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Kim Lambert, Saratoga County
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council, Secretary
Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Mike Williams, Capital District Transportation Authority

Staff and Others Attending

Chris Bauer, Capital Region Transportation Council
Chris Cate, McFarland Johnson
Joe Cimino, CHA
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Don Csaposs, Town of Guilderland
Teresa LaSalle, Capital Region Transportation Council
Rob Leslie, Town of Bethlehem
Emily Loughlin, Capital District Transportation Authority
Nicole McGrath, Federal Highway Administration
Randy Milano, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Jamie O'Neill, Town of Malta
Bob Rice, Creighton Manning Engineering
Mark Sargent, Creighton Manning Engineering
Ayla Schermer, Federal Transit Administration
Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council
Jesse Vogl, LaBella Engineering
Carrie Ward, Capital Region Transportation Council

Introduction

Steve Feeney opened the meeting at approximately 9:33 a.m.

Visitor's Issues

There were no visitor's issues.

Presentation

Mark Sargent introduced the Town of Brunswick Hoosick Road Corridor Study. The purpose was to reduce congestion, improve safety, and improve multi-modal availability. Toward the western end of the corridor, traffic volumes are very high for a three lane road. The corridor is one of the least reliable corridors in the region. Online public involvement resulted in over 1,000 engagements, with most people concerned about traffic congestion. While widening was not considered over the course of the project, it was reviewed to help inform the options that were considered. One option would implement one lane inbound and two lanes outbound with a center-turn lane. Spot improvements were also considered, including a roundabout at the Lord Avenue intersection. Also considered were extension of the right turn lane into the Price Chopper plaza at Roosevelt Avenue, a roundabout at the NY142 intersection, coordinated and adaptive traffic signals, relocating some bus stops, connections outside of the study area to create more of a street grid, pedestrian accommodations especially on McChesney Avenue, access management and land use improvements, traffic calming in surrounding neighborhoods, and safety improvements at Arminghall Drive.

Administration

Previous Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2024

There were no proposed changes to the meeting minutes. Kim Lambert motioned to approve the May 1, 2024 minutes as presented, Patrick Jordan 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 for the four years. By fund source, we are over-programmed in NHPP and STP-Urban, and under-programmed in STP-Flex and CRP.

2023-2024 UPWP Close Out Revision

Sandra Misiewicz explained that staff readjusted some of the budget among UPWP categories for balancing. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Mark Castiglione seconded, and members approved the motion.

Action Items

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

1. Amendment 1: (New Project) RG143, RG143X, Block of Funds for NYSDOT Curve Warning Sign Upgrades Multi-Site Prog., Multi-County

Greg Wichser explained that curve warning signs previously installed throughout the state are not MUTCD-compliant. This project will update all existing signs to be compliant with the new federal MUTCD. Rensselaer and Albany Counties will be implemented first, followed by Saratoga and Schenectady Counties. Lisa Ramundo motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Chris Wallin seconded, and members approved the amendment.

2. Amendment 2: A607, 1085.46, Rt 146 over Normanskill, Bridge Replacement, BIN 1038310, NYSDOT, T/o Guilderland, Albany County

Greg Wichser noted that the Town advised there is a planned multi-use trail on the corridor. The amendment will amend the project to include the path on the bridge and additionally to adjust the budget for inflation. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Lisa Ramundo seconded, and members approved the motion.

3. Amendment 3: SA340, 1722.75, River View Rd. over I-87, Bridge Replacement, BIN 1033190, NYSDOT, T/o Halfmoon, Saratoga County

This is the last bridge less than sixteen feet on the I-87 corridor in our region and was recently struck. The proposal is to advance the project from the fifth year into the first four years, and to increase the budget to account for inflation. The overall NHPP planning target increases with this project. Lisa Ramundo motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Andrew Kreshik seconded, and members approved the motion.

4. Amendment 4: (New Project) A632, 1762.92, New Karner Rd. and Washington Ave. Roundabout, C/o Albany, Albany County

Lisa Ramundo explained that the County currently has a project on the TIP that includes a roundabout at this location. They have learned that the permitting process for the

roundabout will take much more time than the rest of the project. The amendment will break the roundabout out into a separate project. The previous project originally didn't include the roundabout and had been amended to include the design of the roundabout in the description but didn't include funding for roundabout construction. Chris Wallin asked if the documentation could be updated to show the current A295 project with proposed changes. Patrick Jordan motioned to approve the amendment with requested changes, Greg Wichser seconded, and members approved the amendment.

5. Amendment 5: SA343, 1762.41, Dimmick Rd. over Snook Kill, Bridge Replacement, BIN 3304510, T/o Wilton, Saratoga County

Greg Ball explained that this project is taking longer than expected. The amendment will move the construction year out from 2025 to 2027. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve all amendments as presented, Kim Lambert seconded, and members approved the motion.

Title VI Implementation Plan and Assurances Revision and Update

Sandra Misiewicz explained that the federal certification review brought up Title VI procedures. This revision updates the material and would send any complaints to FHWA. Greg Wichser motioned to approve the revision and update as presented, Patrick Jordan seconded, and members approved the motion.

Congestion Management Process Technical Assistance – Field Visits and Problem Statements

Andrew Tracy noted that the Congestion Management Process was adopted in December. Since then, staff has almost completed a data refresh of all regional-level performance measures for calendar year 2023, are working on developing corridor-level strategy recommendations, and have identified a number of candidate projects for before-and-after studies. One of the next steps is to perform field visits to congested locations to gather ground-level data to help identify effective strategies for each location. This will include traffic signal timing and phasing, signal coordination, turning lanes and queue storage, transit operations (if present), freight operations, access management, safety, pedestrian crossings, bicycle operations, infrastructure condition, and physical characteristics of the site. Results will be shared with the roadway owner and will hopefully help scope future projects. Please contact Andrew or Sandra if you have a congested location you would like to be included. Lisa Ramundo motioned to update the technical assistance work plan as presented, Greg Wichser seconded, and members approved the motion.

Discussion Items

State Transportation Master Plan and In Motion Plan Status

The NYS Transportation Master Plan has developed goals and a vision statement. A summary and public survey is available online at <https://nystransportationmasterplan.com>.

Phases 1 and 2 of In Motion are complete. In the past two weeks, 50 people have responded to the Phase 3 survey. Sandra Misiewicz provided a summary of Phase 1 and 2 survey results, by top priority, "build sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails", and "More Transportation Options", while the option with the lowest ranking was "Build More Roads and Highways". The demographics of respondents are similar to regional demographics except for people with limited English proficiency and adults who are Latino or Hispanic or Non-White. Upcoming outreach events may increase the representation of those groups.

TIP Guidance Document and Appendix A

Jacob Beeman noted that staff has developed draft TIP Guidance with the TIP Task Force. It is designed to explain what the TIP is, who is eligible, the available fund sources, project categories and evaluation criteria, the approval process, and the anticipated timeline. Project categories will enable similar projects to be compared to each other. Notably, safety projects would be asked to apply under an HSIP solicitation to be held after the Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan is finished. Evaluation criteria are proposed to be specific to each project type. Please provide any comments to Jacob within two weeks.

Summary of 2022-2027 TIP Administrative Modifications

There were six administrative modifications since the May meeting, three schedule only changes, two that moved funds between phases, and one that added funds to the construction phase.

Local Project Delivery Update

Jacob Beeman noted that the project delivery table is available online. Staff are beginning to look at the anticipated roll-in for the TIP update, as it will impact the amount available for the update. There are currently 55 active local projects, which have started design but not completed construction authorization, amounting to about \$126M. Of projects with construction scheduled for this year or earlier, it amounts to \$58M.

NYSDOT Project Delivery Update

Greg Wichser noted that the I-90 paving project between the Hudson River and Corporate Woods was recently awarded. Two projects recently let received zero bids, one for multi-site bridge preservation and one for emergency work orders.

Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the status table is available on the website. The signal timing project was completed, having retimed three corridors in the region. The Niskayuna Linkage Study MOU was signed.

Regional and Local Planning Updates

1. Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz provided no additional updates.

2. CDRPC

There were no updates.

3. CDTA

Mike Williams noted that several mobility hubs will begin construction over the summer. The SS4A grant for the red line upgrades in Schenectady is progressing. The update to the Transit Development Plan is underway with public input nearing completion and drafting of the Plan to begin soon.

4. NYSDOT

Greg Wichser noted that he is currently the Acting Regional Program and Program Manager. Guy Tedesco is now in the local projects group. The new permit contact is Wyatt Martin. Please start updating TIP project costs. Tonight [July 10] there will be a public meeting for the 787 project at the First Church on First Street. Next Wednesday they will be at Arbor Hill Elementary School, and they will be at LatinFest in Albany.

5. NYSTA

There were no updates.

6. Albany County Airport Authority

There were no updates.

7. Albany Port District Commission

Pat Jordan noted that the rail project is complete and will allow the larger components from GE to travel through the Port. The new bridge over the Normanskill is 65% complete and is expected to be completed by the fall. Paving from there to where Cargill is located is underway and is removing two grade crossings and repairing the others. The repaving will include excavation three feet below the surface to ensure a smooth traveling surface.

Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines

Steve Feeney referenced the upcoming meetings listed on the agenda.

Adjournment

Andrew Kreshik motioned to adjourn at approximately 11:47 a.m., Chris Wallin seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sandra Misiewicz".

Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Secretary