

Planning Committee Meeting
October 2, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Members Attending

Beige Berryman, City of Saratoga Springs
Virginia Bott, representing Kelly Hoffman, Rensselaer County
Andris Blumbergs, Town of Colonie
Sharon Butler, City of Cohoes
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
Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
John Schneidawin, Albany Port District Commission

Staff and Others Attending

Jacob Beeman, Capital Region Transportation Council
Chris Cate, MJ Engineering
Joe Cimino, CHA
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Megan Daly, Albany Port District Commission
Jim DiGioia, Interested Citizen
Josh Giller, Town of East Greenbush
Jackie Hakes, MJ Engineering
Amanda Kinley, GPI
Liz Kormos, Interested Citizen
Timothy Lane, Village of Menands
Teresa LaSalle, Capital Region Transportation Council
Rob Leslie, Town of Bethlehem
Stephanie Long, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Emily Loughlin, Capital District Transportation Authority

Adam McCarville, Capital Region Transportation Council
Parker Morris, Capital Region Transportation Council
Kristin Morse, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Bob Rice, Creighton Manning Engineering
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
Tom Romano, Town of Colonie
Chad Schneider, MJ Engineering
Chaim Simon, Capital Region Transportation Council
Matthew Smullen, CPL Engineering
Ed Snyder, GPI
Tony Tozzi, Town of Glenville
Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council
Jesse Vogl, LaBella Associates
Carrie Ward, Capital Region Transportation Council

Welcome and Introductions

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

Visitor Issues

There were no visitor's issues.

Presentation – US Route 4 Corridor Study

Jackie Hakes introduced the project, noting that it was an intermunicipal study with the Towns of East Greenbush and North Greenbush. It began in the summer of 2022 and the final report is now available for public comment. There was a high level of public engagement on this project. The biggest challenge noted was traffic. The crash history was notable, with many at intersections. Recommendations included optimized signal timing and improved system coordination on Route 4, roundabouts for some intersections, service roads on the west side of Route 4, and an additional Route 4 northbound lane. Service road options were analyzed for their ability to reduce demand on Route 4. Roundabouts may be possible at some intersections although the topography would be challenging. Volumes at Routes 4 and 43 would not support a roundabout. There are opportunities for improved sidewalks throughout the corridor, as well as transit stop relocations, driveway consolidation, and bicycle accommodations.

Administration

Previous Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2024

There were no proposed changes to the meeting minutes. Sharon Butler motioned to approve the August 7, 2024 minutes as presented, Connor Haskin seconded, and members approved the motion.

FHWA/FTA Certification Review Findings

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the Transportation Council had its federal certification review in March. Last month we were notified that we were renewed for the next four years, effective August 27, 2024. There were no corrective actions, and there were fourteen recommendations and 4 commendations.

Appointment of Vice Chair

Sandra Misiewicz noted that Chris Wallin is nominated to fill the remainder of the term for Vice Chair until January. Mark Castiglione motioned to elect Chris Wallin as the Vice Chair, Andrew Kreshik seconded, and members approved the motion.

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

Sandra Misiewicz noted that we are still within the 5% fiscal constraint restriction for all fund sources. We will continue to maintain the table and make it available on the website following changes adopted at each meeting, but after discussion with FHWA we will no longer need to review the table at each meeting.

Action Items

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

1. Amendment 1: CR 109 Kinns Road – Plank Road Intersection Imp.

Kim Lambert noted that the original concept included a left-turn lane, but during the design process it was determined that a roundabout would result in a better level of service and a higher benefit-cost ratio. This increased the project cost by about \$2.5M and the project is eligible for HSIP funds. Tom Richardson motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Sharon Butler seconded, and members approved the motion.

2. Amendment 2: CDTA Schenectady Maintenance, Training, and Operating Facility Purchase

Melissa Shanley explained that CDTA would like to purchase the property adjacent to its Schenectady Maintenance facility. This project would enable CDTA to make payments following purchase in the next month. Tom Hulihan motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Kim Lambert seconded, and members approved the motion.

2025 Transportation Planning Project Solicitation Guidance

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the Transportation Council normally releases a solicitation for new planning work at this time of year. There is about \$250,000 in federal planning funds available for new initiatives. Local governments and member agencies will be eligible to apply, with nonprofits eligible as co-applicants. Targeted subject areas will be Complete Streets Plans, Neighborhood and Area Transportation Plans, Corridor Studies and Concept Plans, Zoning and Land Use Regulations, and Active Transportation Plans. In addition, we will solicit applications for ADA Transition Plans. There will be a virtual sponsor workshop on October 17th. Sharon Butler motioned to release the solicitation as presented, Mark Castiglione seconded, and members approved the motion.

Discussion Items

2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program Development

1. TIP Guidance and Planning Targets (available at meeting)
2. Preliminary Existing 2022-2027 Project Roll-In (available at meeting)
3. Project Solicitation Status (available at meeting)

Sandra Misiewicz presented a preliminary table of projects that will roll in to the new TIP. Because of the high total dollar value of projects that will roll in, it is not expected that there will be significant opportunity for new projects. About 60% of the anticipated new funding will be assigned to existing projects.

The new 2025-2030 TIP solicitation is expected this fall, with few procedural changes. NYSDOT is proposing set-asides for implementing the state's Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, for traffic signals, for an ITS consultant to help with signal coordination on congested corridors, and to implement ADA transition plans. The project solicitation will be released by October 15, with a workshop on October 24. The proposal deadline is December 6.

Summary of 2022-2027 TIP Administrative Modifications

Jacob Beeman noted that there were forty modifications since the August meeting, most due to TIP/STIP performance, to move FFY24 phases out to FFY25 and FFY26. This is related to the previous roll-in discussion.

Local Project Delivery Update

Jacob Beeman noted that the most recent project tracking sheet is posted. Moving forward, Adam McCarville on staff will be contacting sponsors of existing TIP projects to gather accurate costs of existing projects.

NYS DOT Project Delivery Update

Stephanie Long noted that the most recent letting was on guiderail on Routes 4 and 43 and came in under the engineer's estimate. The Re-Imagine 787 recommendations report is expected to be released in the next few weeks.

Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the table of current initiatives is available online. There are nine community planning studies ongoing.

Regional and Local Planning Updates

1. Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz announced that Jacob Beeman's last day is today, and Rima Shamieh's last day was last Friday. Adam McCarville and Parker Morris started in the last few weeks, with another new employee starting in the next few weeks. Drone footage was shared of the transport of goods from GE Vernova in Schenectady to the Port of Albany.

2. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that the annual workshop will be held October 18 at Hudson Valley Community College with a presentation on the comprehensive Climate Action Plan.

3. CDTA

Mike Williams noted that there was no new business.

4. NYS DOT

Stephanie Long noted Lorenzo DiStefano retired, with Guy Tedesco the interim staff person responsible for his duties. Chad Corbett moved from Schenectady to Albany County as the resident engineer, and Tom Cashdollar is the new Schenectady County resident engineer.

5. NYSTA

There were no updates.

6. Albany County Airport Authority

Connor Haskin advised that a nonprofit reached out to the airport to coordinate low-income families moving into the region from the south following the recent hurricane.

7. Albany Port District Commission

Megan Daly remarked that the Port Industry Day saw about 170 attendees. The ongoing strike does not affect the Port of Albany or other upstate ports because it is not a container port. The Port has submitted a few state and federal funding applications for upcoming construction.

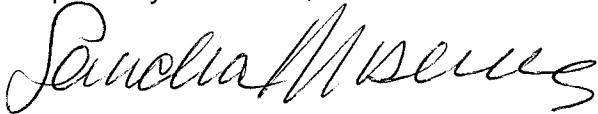
Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines

Steve Feeney referenced the upcoming meetings listed on the agenda. The next Planning Committee meeting will be November 6.

Adjournment

Sharon Butler motioned to adjourn at approximately 11:10 a.m., Tom Richardson seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Secretary