

Planning Committee Meeting
August 6, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Members Attending

Michael Beudet, representing Phil Serafino, NYS Thruway Authority
The Honorable Michael Butler, representing Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville
Sharon Butler, City of Cohoes
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Committee
Melissa Cherubino, City of Watervliet
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Chair
Kim Lambert, Saratoga County
Randy Milano, representing Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council, Secretary
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta
Michael Dutre, City of Saratoga Springs
Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Thomas Romano, Town of Colonie
John Schneidawin, Albany Port District Commission
Bill Trudeau, City of Albany
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady, Vice-Chair
Michael Williams, Capital District Transportation Authority

Staff and Others Attending

Lindsay Buck, Town of Stillwater
Megan Daly, Albany Port District Commission
Jim DiGioia, Interested Citizen
Martin Hull, Capital Region Transportation Council
Sadie Krat, LaBella Associates
Teresa LaSalle, Capital Region Transportation Council
Adam McCarvill, Capital Region Transportation Council
Nicole McGrath, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Parker Morris, Capital Region Transportation Council
David Nelson, Capital Region Transportation Council
Juvena Ng, CHA Consulting
Liz Podowski King, Highland Planning
Bob Rice, FCM Engineering
Ryan Riper, Town of Wilton
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
Leah Rye, Capital Region Transportation Council
Ed Snyder, GPI
Rick Straut, Village of Voorheesville

Gaetano Tedesco, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Rosa Tirino, Albany County DPW
Ethan Townsend, Capital Region Transportation Council
Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council
Carrie Ward, Capital Region Transportation Council

Welcome and Introductions

Steve Feeney started the meeting at 9:36 AM and welcomed the group. Those in person introduced themselves. Sandra Misiewicz introduced the virtual attendees.

Visitor Issues

No visitor issues were raised.

Presentation – Broadway Multimodal Resiliency Plan, Liz Podowski King, Director of Planning + Design, Highland Planning

Sandra Misiewicz introduced Liz Podowski King from Highland Planning, who gave a presentation on the Broadway Multimodal Resiliency Plan. The planning study looked at a 6.5-mile stretch of Broadway and Route 32, from Clinton Avenue in Albany up to 25th Street in Watervliet. The study had five study goals: 1) Increase the safety, availability, and connectivity of public transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; 2) Interconnect public transit, bicycle and pedestrian systems; 3) Integrate natural systems with transportation systems; 4) Create redundancy; 5) Test innovative solutions.

The project team referred to the Capital District Complete Streets Design Guide when developing plan concepts and also relied on public input. Recommendations included establishing design standards for bicycle lanes, green infrastructure, travel lanes, parking, transit, and sidewalks. Specific recommendations included sidewalk-level protected bike lanes throughout the corridor; bio-retention islands as green infrastructure; increasing space for trees; diversifying the urban forest; and converting impervious surfaces to planting areas. The study also calls for a parking study to assess the reallocation of parking in public spaces to minimize parking loss.

John Schneidawin asked if there had been any communication with freight movement providers regarding the street narrowing in the corridor as there is a lot of freight movement in Menands. Liz Podowski King responded that they did not have conversations specifically related to freight movement however CDTA was consulted about the relationship between narrowing lanes to 11 feet and their bus sizes. Sandra Misiewicz noted that there will likely be some trade-offs in the region when redesigning corridors like Broadway and Route 32 for all users.

Mark Castiglione asked about maintenance for porous asphalt. Liz Podowski King responded that porous asphalt typically requires annual cleaning and maintenance to remove small sediment, which

can be done with a small vacuum vehicle.

Sandra Misiewicz asked if there are any examples of porous bike lanes in New York. Liz Podowski King responded that she will have to look. Porous asphalt does look very similar to regular asphalt. One consideration is that sidewalk salting may impact the performance of porous asphalt.

Administration

1. Previous Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2025*

There were no proposed changes to the meeting minutes. Bill Trudeau made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Mark Castiglione seconded. All in favor said aye. There were no oppositions or abstentions and the motion carried.

2. 2025-2026 UPWP Amendment*

- a. 25-8 Draft Resolution*
- b. Draft Revised UPWP Document*
- c. Draft Revised UPWP Tables*

Sandra Misiewicz reviewed the proposed amendment and noted the need for a Superload freight planning study for the region. The primary issue is that GE Vernova cannot move their wind turbine components easily to the Port of Albany from Schenectady because the units are tall and heavy. Many regional roadways are not suitable for over dimension vehicles and have restrictions on large trucks, limiting shipping options. The proposed Superload study is estimated to cost \$250,000, \$50,000 from federal planning funds reassigned from the resilience planning project and \$200,000 from local funds, likely from Schenectady Metroplex or other project partners. The Transportation Council is still committed to the resilience plan for the region. Additional revisions to UPWP budgets are itemized in the resolution. The Transportation Council is asking the Planning Committee to approve the UPWP amendment draft resolution for recommendation to the Policy Board.

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to approve the draft resolution for recommendation to the Policy Board. John Schneidawin made the motion, seconded by Mark Castiglione. All in favor said aye. There were no oppositions or abstentions and the motion carried.

Action Items

1. 2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: I-90 Pavement Resurfacing from I-87 to Corporate Woods – cost change over \$3.000 M

Randy Milano shared that based on an updated engineer's estimate, NYSDOT is requesting an additional \$3.873 M in NHPP funds for construction and CI on this project. Based on the bids that

were received, the cost of asphalt was initially underestimated.

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to move the TIP amendment to the Policy Board. Mayor Michael Butler made the motion, seconded by Bill Trudeau. All in favor said aye. There were no oppositions or abstentions and the motion carried.

2. Draft Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan – Release for Public Review
 - a. 25-9 Draft Resolution*
 - b. Draft Plan*

Sandra Misiewicz shared that the Transportation Council has a draft plan that is being released for public review. The primary objective of the plan is to eliminate fatalities and reduce serious injuries by 50% by the year 2050. That goal is being included in the Transportation Council's In Motion plan. The Transportation Council is hoping to have sample resolution language for local governments to consider adopting vision zero as local policy as well. The adoption may open the door for the region to access Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program funds. The Transportation Council also has Highway Safety Improvement Program funds that it can use to help with implementation.

Sandra Misiewicz thanked Carrie Ward and the team that worked on this plan. Today's action is to release the plan for public review and to recommend Policy Board approval in September. Steve Feeney asked for clarity on the approval process. Sandra Misiewicz responded that the Policy Board delegated authority to the Planning Committee in June to release the plan for public review.

All three items that will be going out for public review today will be posted on the Transportation Council's website, and this particular item will be posted on the Vision Zero website. Associated press releases will also be going out. This is the final opportunity for public comment this month. The Transportation Council will have a response to comments if any are received.

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to release the Draft Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan for public review and to approve the draft resolution for recommendation to the Policy Board. Bill Trudeau made the motion, seconded by Mark Castiglione. All in favor said aye. There were no oppositions or abstentions and the motion carried.

3. 25-10 Draft Resolution - Transit Safety Performance Measure Targets*

Sandra Misiewicz indicated that this is a federal requirement. There are various performance measure targets that the Transportation Council approves and adopts from their partners for various topics. This particular target is tied to CDTA's public transportation agency safety plan. That document includes performance measures related to fatalities on the transit system, including injuries, different events, and reliability measures. The Transportation Council is asking the Planning Committee to approve these targets, which are also being included in the In Motion regional transportation plan.

Mark Castiglione asked if these resolutions are a new thing. Sandra Misiewicz responded that they are

needed for each performance measure for NYSDOT, FHWA and the FTA.

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to approve the draft resolution for recommendation to the Policy Board. Mayor Michael Butler made the motion. A second was made by Michael Dutre. All in favor said aye. There were no oppositions or abstentions and the motion carried.

4. Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan In Motion: The Plan to 2050 – Release for Public Review
 - a. 25-11 Draft Resolution*
 - b. Preliminary Draft Executive Summary*
 - c. Preliminary Draft Plan*
 - d. Preliminary Draft Appendices*

Sandra Misiewicz shared that the In Motion Plan documents are in the draft stage. A stylized version of the report is not yet available, but an executive summary and the full draft text is now available. Members were encouraged to review the documents and to let one of the Transportation Council staff members know if anything critical was missing. Sandra Misiewicz thanked the Transportation Council staff and the many individuals that participated on the In Motion task force for their time and effort over the last two years.

Steve Feeney asked when the stylized version would be available. Sandra Misiewicz responded that she is hoping it will be available within the next week and a half.

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to release the Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan In Motion: The Plan to 2050 for public review and to approve the draft resolution for recommendation to the Policy Board. John Schneidawin made the motion, seconded by Mike Butler. All in favor said aye. There were no oppositions or abstentions and the motion carried.

5. Draft Air Quality Conformity Document – Release for Public Review
 - a. 25-12 Draft Resolution*
 - b. Draft Document*

Sandra Misiewicz explained that the Transportation Council needs to take this action to confirm that the proposed recommendations in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan are not going to negatively affect air quality. The air quality ozone non-attainment area includes a part of the Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council planning area and three counties that are outside of our planning area. They all must release this for public review as well. The Transportation Council is asking the Planning Committee to release this for public review today and recommend it to the Policy Board for adoption in September. It will become part of the In Motion Plan.

Steve Feeney asked if the region is in non-attainment. Sandra Misiewicz responded that technically we are in attainment, however, there was a court case in California that ruled that air quality conformity determination requirements will not be eliminated just because the standard changed to put a region in attainment. This affected many MPOs across the country. The Clean Air Act would need to be

amended to eliminate this requirement.

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to approve the draft air quality conformity document for public review and the draft resolution for recommendation to the Policy Board. Michael Dutre made the motion. A second was made by John Schneidawin. All in favor said aye. There were no oppositions or abstentions and the motion carried.

Discussion Items

1. Summary of 2022-2027 TIP Administrative Modifications*

The summary document was shown to the group. Andrew Tracy indicated that there were only minor modifications.

2. NYSDOT Project Delivery Update

Randy Milano shared that NYSDOT let a project on July 24 for bridge rehab on I-87 (I-87/I-90 interchange), and they received one bid that came in almost 90% over the engineer's estimate. NYSDOT rejected the bid and is reassessing the project as there are 10 bridges in that section, all built about the same time, and all due for deck rehab. Additional updates are forthcoming.

Steve Feeney asked if this project would be all night work. Randy Milano responded that it would be weekends and nights.

3. Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives*

Sandra Misiewicz shared that the Transportation Council received the final report for the Voorheesville Safe Streets Policy, a Complete Streets Plan for the village previously presented to the Planning Committee. The final report for the Resilient Broadway Plan should be available within the month of August. The Central Avenue Corridor Study is at the draft report preparation stage.

The Transportation Council is starting the Halfmoon/Clifton Park/Saratoga County Route 109 Study. The Route 7 Study is at the recommendation-generating stage in Niskayuna. The Transportation Council is going to be initiating the two projects in Ballston Spa and Saratoga Springs. There are several technical assistance projects that are wrapping up, and two are about to begin – one for Albany Airport and one with the City of Albany.

There's going to be a press announcement soon regarding the release of the final 787 Planning Study report. Randy Milano confirmed that this is correct. The Transportation Council is working with Albany County on their ADA transition plan, as well as a complete streets active transportation study for some areas in the County.

4. Regional and Local Planning Updates

a. Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz indicated there were no additional updates.

b. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione shared that CDRPC's annual planning & zoning workshop will take place on Oct. 17th at Hudson Valley Community College. There will be a plenary presentation from Sandra Misiewicz on the In Motion Plan. CDRPC is approaching the release of the regional Climate Action Plan, which was developed in partnership with their regional climate action collaborative group. CDRPC just started the curbside EV charging stations technical assistance project for the City of Albany.

c. CDTA

Michael Williams shared that CDTA has several service changes coming up on August 24th. Most are incremental frequency and span reductions as CDTA is trying to bring the size of the system in line with the current budget and driver head count. One positive will be the introduction of a new connection between this region and the Glens Falls region, and that will take the form of a new weekly route between downtown Saratoga Springs and downtown Glens Falls. Details on the service changes are on the CDTA website.

At the end of this month, CDTA will be presenting the Transit Development Plan to their Board, with formal adoption expected at September's meeting after one month of review. CDTA is pleased to report that they completed their FTA tri-annual review without any open deficiencies.

d. NYSDOT

Randy Milano indicated there were no additional updates from NYSDOT.

e. NYSTA

No update.

f. Albany County Airport Authority

No update.

g. Albany Port District Commission

Related to the GE freight discussion, John Schneidawin shared that a route that had been previously identified as three hours long has now changed to a 13-hour-long route. The Port is also working with Kate Maynard at CDRPC for Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) designation. The Port finds that this is a

designation that will keep them competitive for the region.

h. Local Government/Other

Mark Castiglione shared that Schenectady, Saratoga and Rensselaer counties are in the federally designated Northern Border Regional Commission area. They recently announced a new round of funding opportunities for infrastructure projects, including roadway infrastructure and bridges. They have a program called the Timber for Transit program, which focuses on innovative solutions and uses for wood products for transportation projects. An email will be sent out from CDRPC with more information on this program.

5. Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines (tentative)

- a. In Motion "Lunch and Learn" webinar – August 7th
- b. In Motion "Open House" public meeting at Delaware Library Branch – August 12th
- c. In Motion table at the Empire State Plaza Farmers Market – August 13th
- d. Freight Advisory Committee meeting – August 20th
- e. Regional Operations and Safety Advisory Committee meeting – August 28th
- f. Policy Board meeting – September 4th
- g. Planning Committee meeting – October 1st

Steve Feeney asked the group to please note the upcoming meetings, events and deadlines. The Planning Committee meets again on October 1st. Sandra Misiewicz mentioned that with the release of the In Motion Plan, there is a virtual public webinar taking place tomorrow (August 7th) at noon. It will be recorded for those who are unable to attend. The Transportation Council is also holding an open house on August 12th at the Delaware Avenue branch of the Albany Public Library, and the final In Motion survey closes on August 15th.

Adjournment

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kim Lambert made the motion. A second was made by Michael Butler. All in favor said aye. There were no oppositions or abstentions, and the motion carried. Meeting ended at 10:32 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Secretary