

**Planning Committee Meeting
October 1, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending

Michael Beaudet, representing Phil Serafino, NYS Thruway Authority
Michael Dutre, City of Saratoga Springs
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Chair
Tom Hulihan, City of Rensselaer
Randy Milano, representing Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council, Secretary
David Montiverdi, Albany County Airport Authority
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Kim Lambert, Saratoga County
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

Lorenzo DiStefano, FCM Engineering
Julia Heller, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Martin Hull, Capital Region Transportation Council
Madison Hrysko, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Adam McCarvill, Capital Region Transportation Council
Nicole McGrath, Federal Highway Administration
Parker Morris, Capital Region Transportation Council
Juvena Ng, CHA Consulting
Jeff Pangburn, Creighton Manning Engineering
Alex Poland, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Ryan Riper, Town of Wilton
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
Matthew Roe, Stantec
Leah Rye, Capital Region Transportation Council
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Phil Schaeffing, Stantec
Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority
Ed Snyder, GPI

Gaetano Tedesco, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Lorenzo Cuneo, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Rosa Tirino, Albany County Department of Public Works
Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council
Ethan Townsend, Capital Region Transportation Council
Jesse Vogl, LaBella Associates

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting started at 9:45 AM. Those attending in person introduced themselves. Sandra Misiewicz read the names of those attending virtually.

Visitor Issues

No visitor issues.

Presentation – Central Avenue West Corridor Study, Phil Schaeffing, Senior Associate/Urban Designer + Planner, Stantec

Andrew Tracy shared that the Transportation Council is wrapping up the Central Avenue West Corridor study that kicked off last year. The study area was a three-mile portion of Central Avenue in the Town of Colonie west of New Karner Road, continuing all the way to the town line near Alandale Avenue, just short of Balltown Road. The town wanted to develop concepts to spur development and redevelopment and to assess transportation concepts to help reduce excessive speeding and try to improve safety in the corridor. The Transportation Council worked with a consultant team led by Stantec on the study.

Phil Schaeffing and Matthew Roe from Stantec presented an overview of the study, including the study scope, existing conditions, public engagement, recommended concepts, and next steps. Recommended concepts include both transportation and land use concepts such as traffic calming, improvements to support pedestrians and bicyclists, more transit stops, mixed use development, and more residential options including apartments and townhomes. Implementation of the concepts will require participation from both public and private entities, including NYSDOT, the Town of Colonie, and CDTA.

Chris Wallin asked how buses operate on the corridor. Matthew Roe responded that currently there are bus pull-offs. In the future, preferably, buses would stop in-lane. Andrew Tracy added that currently there is a shared right turn and queue jump at New Karner Road that works very well. CDTA would like to see more of this configuration of right turn/queue jump where bus stops exist at intersections.

Administration

1. Previous Meeting Minutes – August 6, 2025

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Kim Lambert made the motion. John Schneidawin seconded. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions or abstentions, and the motion carried.

Action Items

1. 2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment

Andrew Tracy reviewed the amendment for R354 (PIN 176256) for the Village of Nassau Intersection Upgrades project. The Village is looking to get design authorization on this TAP project which at some point was supplemented with HSIP funds to cover some of the items in the scope of work. The Village would like to move design from last year to this year so that the project is in the current fiscal year. At NYSDOT's request, the Village also would like to change the HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program) funded phases to CRP (Carbon Reduction Program) funds because NYSDOT felt that CRP funds were a better fit for particular aspects of the scope of work. As this is a change in fund source that involves formula funding (in this case the CRP), Planning Committee approval is needed for the amendment.

Steve Feeney asked about NYSDOT's request to change the fund source. Andrew Tracy responded that the Transportation Council gets about \$0.1 M a year in CRP formula funds but they have not all been obligated. NYSDOT may be trying to ensure all the available CRP funds are obligated as soon as possible. Sandra Misiewicz added that this is a fund source at risk at the federal level. Andrew indicated that this project is on track for construction next year.

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to approve the TIP amendment. Andrew Kreshik made the motion. Lisa Ramundo seconded. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions or abstentions, and the motion carried.

2. Draft Resolution 25-13 to Support NYSDOT Targets for Safety Performance Measures

Sandra Misiewicz indicated that the Transportation Council has received annual safety targets for the state from NYSDOT. The Transportation Council has the option to approve and support these targets or create their own. The Transportation Council has traditionally supported the NYSDOT targets. Sandra showed a table containing information on the 2025 and proposed 2026 safety performance measure targets. The proposed statewide reduction target percentage was slightly increased from 1% to 1.5% from 2025 to 2026. The Transportation Council has compiled its own crash data and Sandra showed some graphs, comparing fatalities and serious injuries in New York State with fatalities and serious injuries in the region from 2014-2023. The Capital Region trend is upward in all categories.

Andrew Kreshik asked if the percentage decrease is based upon the actual incident rate, or on desired trends, and whether adjustments are made as time goes on. Sandra responded that adjustments are made every year. There is a five-year look-back, which is why it is called a rolling average. Something dramatic, like the Schoharie limousine crash, can skew these numbers. COVID was a game-changer because crashes went up statewide and stayed up for a couple of years. Things are just now starting to even out, which is why a slightly more aggressive reduction target was able to be calculated for this year.

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to approve the resolution in support of the safety targets, for recommendation to the Policy Board. Michael Dutre made the motion. Lisa Ramundo seconded. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions or abstentions, and the motion carried.

3. Local and Regional Transportation Planning Project Solicitation Guidance for FY 2026-2027

Sandra Misiewicz provided an overview of the 2026-2027 solicitation guidance and reviewed some changes that are being proposed from the previous year. The Transportation Council has set aside an estimated \$300,000 for the program, although the Transportation Council has not yet received its planning fund allocations from NYSDOT, so the estimate is subject to change. The solicitation information is expected to be released to the public by Friday. Applications will be due Dec. 5, 2025. A virtual sponsor webinar will be held on October 16th.

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to approve the guidance. Lisa Ramundo made the motion. Tom Hulihan seconded. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions or abstentions, and the motion carried.

Discussion Items

1. TIP Amendment Guidelines Revision Discussion

Sandra Misiewicz shared that the current TIP amendment guidelines do not address situations that are time-sensitive very well and does not have a category for discretionary programs. The Policy Board only meets once every three months, and trying to convene an emergency meeting to obtain approval for a time-sensitive item is difficult. The Transportation Council would like to hear any thoughts from Planning Committee members on this issue.

John Schneidawin shared that he has worked for some organizations that have boards assembled specifically for emergency situations.

John Scavo shared that Saratoga County's Planning Board has a practice regarding their policy and process for dealing with situations like this through a standing MOU.

Andrew Kreshik asked how often these circumstances occur. Sandra Misiewicz responded that would have been the third time since she has been the Executive Director that an emergency meeting would have been needed.

Nicole McGrath shared that BMTS (the MPO in Binghamton) has had previous situations where they could not vote at a Policy Committee due to not meeting quorum, so in those situations they have conducted online voting by a certain date. This would need to be in our bylaws.

Melissa Shanley suggested that, for discretionary awards, it may be helpful to have an overview of submitted applications in advance of the granting of the award, to see if there is any resistance or objection to a project should it be awarded. The timelines are short after the award is made but it may be worth knowing what applications have been submitted before awards are made.

Sandra Misiewicz thanked those that provided feedback and suggestions. Some ideas for revisions to the guidelines document will be presented at the next Planning Committee meeting.

2. Summary of 2022-2027 TIP Administrative Modifications

Andrew Tracy indicated that there are two pages of changes for this month. Sandra Misiewicz noted that the Transportation Council provides this as a catalogue of administrative modifications so that the Planning Committee is aware of what changes are being made to the TIP outside of the items that they act on.

3. NYSDOT Project Delivery Update

Randy Milano shared that there was a letting on September 25th for the Green Island Bridge project, but no bids were received. Other than that, most bids are coming in on budget.

4. Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

Sandra Misiewicz reviewed the status of Regional Transportation Planning activities. The final reports are almost done for the Broadway Flood Resilient Multi-Modal Corridor Study and the Central Avenue West Corridor Study. The County Route 109 Study has begun and public and stakeholder meetings are tentatively being scheduled for October. The Route 7 Corridor Study is in the phase of drafting and finalizing recommendations for the study area. As soon as the draft ideas are available for public review, they will be presented to the Planning Committee. Program guidance and MOUs have been sent out to the Village of Ballston Spa and the City of Saratoga Springs for their studies. There are four active technical assistance planning studies. The NY 378 Bridge study is nearly completed. The Transportation Council is initiating the ADA Transition Plan project in Albany County. The Transportation Council is still working with its partners on the I-

5. Regional and Local Planning Updates

a. Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz shared that following adoption of a new TIP, usually October 1st would be the first day of the new TIP and a new federal fiscal year. Unfortunately, the State has not yet completed and approved the STIP as they are still coordinating with two MPOs on the delivery of their TIPs. It is hoped that by the next meeting either the STIP will be close to being approved at the state level or that it is deep into the public review phase. The Transportation Council is also looking to hire a Transportation Analyst/Engineer. The job notice is posted on the Transportation Council's website.

b. CDRPC

Madison Hrysko shared that CDRPC's annual workshop is taking place on Friday, October 17th. The link for tickets is on CDRPC's website. CDRPC also just updated its Housing Affordability Report. CDRPC is working with the Transportation Council to complete an EV siting analysis for the City of Albany through its technical assistance program. An upcoming project is to assess job migration to and from the Capital Region, highlighting potential brain drain.

c. CDTA

Michael Williams shared that last month, CDTA finalized its transit development plan (TDP), and it was adopted by the board of directors. Michael Williams will be meeting with Transportation Council staff later this month to review the TDP and CDTA is tentatively planning to present the TDP to the Policy Board in December.

d. NYSDOT

Randy Milano shared that Alex Poland had left NYSDOT for a period of time but has recently returned to NYSDOT. Lorenzo Cuneo is going to be moving strictly to the construction side, and Alex Poland and Julia Heller will be working on design in local programs.

e. NYSTA

Michael Beaudet shared that NYSTA had a letting recently for the Route 7 rehabilitation project, which came in at almost 40% over what was budgeted. There will be more to come on that. NYSTA has a letting coming for a paving project from Exit 24 to Exit 25. There was some group discussion about the cost increases that NYSDOT and NYSTA have been experiencing recently.

f. Albany County Airport Authority

David Montiverdi shared that construction is going well. Summer 2026 is still the anticipated completion date for terminal work. The Airport was aiming for the queueing area to be open hopefully by the holidays, but David has not heard any updates on that recently. The Airport is looking at improving access inside the terminal. Passenger volumes are still very high compared to the average for airports of similar size.

g. Albany Port District Commission

John Schneidawin shared that a new signal has been activated on Corning Hill and River Road. The Port had anticipated holding a Port Industry Day in the middle of October, but it will be postponed until May.

h. Local Government/Other

Kim Lambert shared that as a reminder, Wednesday, February 11, 2026, is the date of the Saratoga Planning and Zoning Conference at the Saratoga Springs City Center.

6. Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines (tentative)

- a. Transportation Council tables at the Thomas Corners Fire Department Open House in Glenville – October 4th
- b. Capital District Clean Communities tables at the NY Capital District Drive Electric & Sustainability Fair – October 5th
- c. Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting – October 22nd
- d. Human Services Transportation Advisory Committee meeting – November 3rd
- e. Planning Committee meeting – November 5th

Steve Feeney asked the group to please note the upcoming meetings, events and deadlines.

Adjournment

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Schneidawin made the motion. Chris Wallin seconded. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions or abstentions, and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned 10:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Secretary