

**Policy Board Meeting
March 2, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending

Patrick Barnes, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1, Secretary
Phil Barrett, representing Theodore Kusnierz, Saratoga County Board of Supervisors
Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Michael Butler, City of Mechanicville
Mark Castiglione, representing the Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Rory Fluman, Schenectady County
Patrick Jordan Esq., Albany Port District Commission
Steve Feeney, representing Anthony Jasenski, Schenectady County Legislature
Connor Haskin, representing Philip Calderone, Albany County Airport Authority
The Honorable Ron Kim, City of Saratoga Springs
Caitlin O’Brien, representing Andrew Joyce, Albany County Legislature
The Honorable Charles Patricelli, City of Watervliet
Phil Serafino, New York State Thruway Authority
The Honorable Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair
Mike Valentine, representing Tom Werner, Saratoga County
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County Executive
Chris Wallin, representing Mayor Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady

Staff and Others Attending

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Kathleen Bell, US Environmental Protection Agency
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Patrick Curran, Albany County Executive’s Office
Cairenn Miller, New York State Department of Transportation– Region 1
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee
Stephen Maples, Capital District Transportation Committee
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Rebecca Odell, Capital District Transportation Committee
Bob Rice, New York State Department of Transportation– Region 1
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Merton Simpson, Albany County Legislature
Raymond Tylicki, Interested Citizen
Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee
Carrie Ward, Capital District Transportation Committee

Opening Remarks

The Honorable Kathy Sheehan opened the meeting at approximately 3:05 PM.

Administration

A. December 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Steve Feeney motioned to approve the December 1, 2022 minutes, Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the motion.

B. Nominating Subcommittee

Sandra Misiewicz reported that Mayor Sheehan, Carm Basile, and Patrick Barnes are all willing to continue in their positions as Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, respectively. In addition, the Nominating Subcommittee nominated the following Town or Village representatives for the Policy Board: Supervisor Mark Hammond, Town of Malta and Supervisor Jaime Puccioni, Town of Niskayuna as members and Supervisor George McHugh, Town of Coeymans and Mayor Scott Rice, Village of Schaghticoke as alternates. The Nominating Subcommittee nominated Laura Robertson, Town Planner, Town of Niskayuna as member of the Planning Committee and the following Town and Village representatives as Planning Committee alternates: Rob Leslie, Director of Planning and Economic Development, Town of Bethlehem; John Scavo, Director of Planning, Town of Clifton Park; Don Csaposs, IDA C.E.O., Town of Guilderland; Jaime O'Neill, Building and Planning Coordinator, Town of Malta; Elizabeth Kormos, Trustee, Village of Ballston Spa; Peter Comenzo, Senior Planner, Town of Rotterdam; and Anna Feltham, Director of Planning & Zoning, Town of East Greenbush. Patrick Jordan motioned to approve the slate as presented, Rory Fluman seconded, and members approved the motion.

Privilege of the Floor

Patrick Curran spoke about the Broadway Flood Resilient Multi-Modal Corridor Study included in the UPWP for approval. Albany County will conduct the study to identify and evaluate conceptual design alternatives that improve multi-modal transportation facilities and connectivity, increase the urban forest, integrate green infrastructure and build climate resiliency along the length of the Broadway/Route 32 corridor from Albany to Watervliet. The study is a recommendation of Albany County's resiliency plan and covers a flood-prone area.

Raymond Tylicki spoke about bus shelters on the BusPlus red line. Half of them are unlit, and all are unheated. Lighting should be included in all shelters for safety and security. In addition, BusPlus was supposed to be an alternative to light rail but there's not really any advantage to driving. Raymond would like to see bus lanes along the corridor. In addition, the Trailways buses let people off in an unwelcoming parking lot in Albany. This service should be better integrated into the transportation network, such as the Rensselaer Rail Station or the Empire State Plaza concourse.

Presentation – CDTC Transportation Planning Activities for State Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Sandra Misiewicz presented CDTC’s draft Unified Planning Work Program, which describes all planning activities with project budgets for each fiscal year beginning April 1st. Funding is primarily sourced from FHWA. Twenty-one applicants submitted applications. Of those, the Planning Committee recommended funding six of planning studies. Also included are eight bicycle safety events for children, a recently awarded Safe Streets and Roads for All grant from FHWA, a new Metropolitan Transportation Plan, three Planning and Environmental linkage studies, assessing Transportation Improvement Program evaluation criteria, implementation of the Capital District Trails Plan, and transit planning assistance with CDTA. As part of the document development, Native Nations requested bimonthly meetings with staff to review upcoming projects.

2023-2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

A. Public Comment Review

The public comment period on the draft UPWP concluded yesterday, with a total of 70 survey responses. Staff also held a workshop and public meeting. Much of the feedback centered around walkability, bikeability, and regional land use.

B. Document & Resolution 23-1 Approval

The draft document posted this afternoon includes all of the public comments received, as well as final budgeting. Linda von der Heide motioned to approve the draft Unified Planning Work Program document and resolution as provided, Phil Barret seconded, and members approved the motion.

Bridge NY Project Approval

Andrew Tracy provided an overview of the process undertaken to solicit and review Bridge NY projects. Twelve sponsors submitted nineteen applications. NYSDOT established funding targets for each county. The Planning Committee recommended eight bridges for funding. Jacob Beeman noted that the projects will be added to the TIP if the Policy Board approves them. He reviewed funding years by project phase as well as fund sources, and asked sponsors to contact him if those are incorrect. The Town of Ballston submitted a letter outlining concerns about the use of the STEP model as well as the lack of priority to projects on which design has already started. Sandra Misiewicz noted that the review process prioritized two very low volume bridges in Saratoga County. Projects with design already started should be prioritized and the TIP Task Force will make recommendations to incorporate this factor into the project review

process. Pat Barnes motioned to approve the proposed project awards as presented, Chris Wallin seconded, and members approved the motion.

Policy on CDTC Support Letters for Federal and State Programs

Sandra Misiewicz noted that there have been numerous requests for support letters for discretionary grant programs where multiple sponsors within the region are competing against each other. The Planning Committee recommended that the Executive Director be authorized to sign any requested support letter as long as the application fits the grant criteria. The Administrative and Finance Subcommittee recommended the creation of a generic letter to be provided when the project application supports regional goals. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve creation of a generic support letter for applications that fit program grant criteria and that are consistent with regional plans, Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the motion.

A. US Route 4 over the Hudson River RAISE Grant Support Letter

This agenda item was pre-empted by the above “Policy on CDTC Support Letters for Federal and State Programs” action.

B. Saratoga Street Pedestrian Accessibility & Commercial Corridor Enhancement RAISE Grant

This agenda item was pre-empted by the above “Policy on CDTC Support Letters for Federal and State Programs” action.

Approval of CDTC’s New Name

Sandra Misiewicz presented a new proposed name for CDTC: the Capital Region Transportation Council, to be known publicly as the Transportation Council. If this new name is approved, staff will begin to work on new branding. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve Capital Region Transportation Council as CDTC’s new name, Patrick Jordan seconded, and members approved the motion.

Urban Area Boundary Discussion

Sandra Misiewicz reviewed the 2020 Census results for the Albany-Schenectady and Saratoga Springs urbanized areas. The geographic definition of the urbanized areas changes slightly, which could impact the functional classification of roadways and their eligibility for funding. Staff will be working to smooth out these boundaries to minimize the changes to roadway functional classifications.

Environmental Justice/Title VI Analysis

Sandra Misiewicz noted that staff recently updated its Environmental Justice/Title VI data analysis, including a demographic analysis of advisory committees as well as the Planning

Committee and Policy Board. Recommendations include working to ensure representation of the region’s demographics, evaluating how Environmental Justice is considered in project evaluations, and working with project sponsors of potentially negative impacts in Environmental Justice areas to provide the public with information about the project.

Status of Planning Activities

A. CDTC

There were no additional updates.

B. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that the region’s cost affordability index declined, meaning the region is more affordable than peer regions. The consumer price index began to trend downward in the fall. Of regionwide building permits issued between 2016 and 2021, 45% were for multi-family properties. CDRPC will launch its spring webinar series in mid-March. CDRPC is beginning a \$28M construction project at the Juvenile Detention Facility.

C. CDTA

CDTA expanded its service area westward to Montgomery County and the City of Amsterdam and will be expanding to Warren and Washington Counties by merging with Greater Glens Falls Transit.

D. NYSDOT

Patrick Barnes noted that the 9P complete streets project in Saratoga Springs from the track to the Northway was bid recently, the culvert that collapsed in January on Route 7 in Hoosick is repaired, and there was an issue on the Dunn Memorial Bridge sidewalk connection from the bridge down to Quay Street. It should be re-opened to pedestrians tomorrow afternoon, with the permanent repair to come later. Don Mattamore from Watertown is the new Director of Planning and Capital Program Management for NYSDOT.

E. NYSTA

There were no updates.

F. Albany County Airport Authority

Conor Haskin noted that there will be a public meeting for its master plan in May or June. Check <http://alb-master-plan.com/> for updated information. Construction on the terminal expansion project is expected to begin in June, and last about 1.5 years.

G. Albany Port District Commission

Patrick Jordan reported that the port expansion project cost has increased from \$350M to over \$600M and they are in discussions to determine feasibility of continuing with the current project. If this is not possible, the Port will seek other off-shore wind development partners. Terminal and street infrastructure rehabilitation are both underway.

H. Regional/Local Planning Activities

Mike Valentine announced that Saratoga County's 2023 Planning and Zoning Conference had its highest attendance ever.

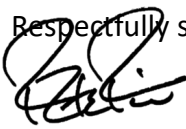
Upcoming Meetings/Events

Sandra Misiewicz referred to the provided handout on upcoming meetings and noted that next year's meeting schedule will be released soon.

Adjournment

Phil Barrett motioned to adjourn at approximately 4:19 pm, Steve Feeney seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Patrick Barnes for
Secretary