

**Policy Board Meeting
September 4, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending

Frank Annicaro, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice-Chair
Michael Arthur, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1, Secretary
Phil Barrett, Board of Supervisors Chair, Saratoga County
Michael Beaudet, representing Phil Serafino, New York State Thruway Authority
Andris Blumbergs, representing Supervisor Peter Crummey, Town of Colonie
The Honorable John Safford, City of Saratoga Springs
Rory Fluman, Schenectady County Manager
Andrew Kreshik, representing Mayor Carmella Mantello, City of Troy
The Honorable Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County Executive
Tom Werner, Saratoga County
Melissa Cherubino, representing Mayor Charles Patricelli, City of Watervliet
Michael Lalli, representing Daniel McCoy, Albany County
Caitlin O'Brien, representing Joanne Cunningham, Albany County Legislature
Lawrence Schillinger, Esq., Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Chris Wallin, representing Mayor Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady

Staff and Others Attending

Virginia Bott, Rensselaer County Legislature's Office
Chris Desany, Capital District Transportation Authority
Christine Stuto, Albany Port District Commission
Cory Hopwood, Cambridge Systematics
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council
Teresa LaSalle, Capital Region Transportation Council
Martin Hull, Capital Region Transportation Council
Carrie Ward, Capital Region Transportation Council
Leah Rye, Capital Region Transportation Council
Ethan Townsend, Capital Region Transportation Council
Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council
Parker Morris, Capital Region Transportation Council
Adam McCarvill, Capital Region Transportation Council
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation Region I
Raymond Tomczak, Federal Transit Administration
Margaret Clark, Amtrak
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission

Jim DiGioia, Interested Citizen

Nicole McGrath, representing Richard Marquis, Federal Highway Administration

Opening Remarks

Mayor Kathy Sheehan called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM. Those attending in person introduced themselves.

Privilege of the Floor

No one was registered to speak.

Administration

A. June 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Kathy Sheehan asked if anyone had any questions, comments or changes to the minutes of the June 5th Policy Board meeting. No one had any. Mayor Sheehan asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Linda Von der Heide made the motion, seconded by Rory Fluman. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions, and the motion carried.

Sandra Misiewicz introduced those individuals attending the meeting virtually.

B. Resolution 25-8: Amendments to the 2025-2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- 1. Revised 2025-2026 UPWP Document**
- 2. Revised 2025-2026 UPWP Tables**

Sandra Misiewicz shared that many of the proposed amendments to the UPWP are primarily budgetary adjustments. The biggest one is a new consultant task for the superload corridor study. This study is an amendment to the UPWP to assign both federal money and local funds. The Transportation Council is hoping for a large contribution from Schenectady Metroplex as well as some other partners so that it can accomplish a \$250,000 planning study for superload corridors.

Other amendments include a reduction of backlog based on closeout from last year; some minor budgetary adjustments to some of the tasks; removal of completed tasks; moving some planning funds to the safety planning line; and an adjustment to the Transportation Council administrative line. All the amendments are outlined in the detailed document.

Mayor Kathy Sheehan asked if the group had any questions. No questions were posed. Mayor Sheehan asked for a motion to approve the UPWP amendments to the UPWP. Rory Fluman made the motion, seconded by Chris Wallin. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions, and the motion

carried.

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment

A. **A619 – I-90 Pavement Resurfacing: I-87 to Corporate Woods**

Location: City of Albany

Sponsor: NYSDOT

Reason: 2C – Cost change of \$3.00M or over

Mike Arthur shared that the cost for this project has been updated to reflect current market prices for asphalt. There was also a slight modification of the paving limits to include work on the Corporate Woods bridge that was omitted from the previous contract.

Mayor Kathy Sheehan asked if the group had any questions. No questions were posed. Mayor Sheehan asked for a motion to accept the TIP amendments. Lawrence Schillinger made the motion, seconded by Chris Wallin. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions, and the motion carried.

Resolution 25-9: Adoption of the Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan and Vision Zero Policy

A. **Draft Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan**

Carrie Ward gave a presentation on the Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan and the Vision Zero Policy, covering sources of funding, planning structure, the different types of analyses and investigations that were conducted, recommendations for improvements, and post-crash care.

Lawrence Schillinger asked if there was any adjustment per capita (and associated differences over that period of time) regarding the fatality rate. Carrie responded that it is just a gross number.

Mayor John Safford asked about the process to provide blood immediately at a crash site. Carrie responded that she is not super well-versed on it, but she can provide a contact for someone who is. There was some group discussion on this topic.

Mayor Kathy Sheehan asked if, as the Policy Board considers TIP proposals going forward, it would be important for those proposals to speak specifically to the recommendations in this Plan. Sandra Misiewicz responded that the short answer is yes. There's going to be more work to come that is related to this initiative, but there will be a way for the Transportation Council to encourage that this Plan be implemented.

Mayor Kathy Sheehan asked for a motion to adopt the Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan and Vision Zero Policy. Lawrence Schillinger made the motion, Tom Werner seconded. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions, and the motion carried.

Resolution 25-10: Support for CDTA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan and Performance Targets

Sandra Misiewicz shared that as part of the Transportation Council's requirements for federal performance measures, it is necessary to adopt a safety target that CDTA establishes in their Public Transportation Safety Plan. This action is to codify the Transportation Council's support for CDTA's targets.

Mayor John Safford asked Frank Annicaro how CDTA determined the performance targets. Frank responded that CDTA used comparison with the national transit database.

Mayor John Safford made a motion to support the CDTA public transportation agency safety plan and performance targets, Linda von der Heide seconded. Mayor Kathy Sheehan asked if there was any further discussion on the topic. Chris Wallin asked a question about the number in the chart that is associated with system reliability. Frank Annicaro responded that it represents mean distance between service interruptions.

All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions, and the motion carried.

Resolution 25-11: Adoption of In Motion: The Plan to 2050

- A. Draft Executive Summary**
- B. Draft Message from the Chair**
- C. Draft In Motion: The Plan to 2050 Report**
- D. Draft Plan Appendices**

Sandra Misiewicz provided a quick overview of the In Motion Plan. It is the regional or metropolitan transportation plan and it is updated every five years. The project list contains both fiscally-constrained and illustrative projects. The Transportation Council believes that all of the fiscally-constrained projects can fit into the budget. Illustrative projects are those which the Transportation Council is aware of, but sufficient local funding is not available to pay for them as of this time.

Chris Wallin asked a question about determining whether a project is designated as illustrative or fiscally-constrained. Is there a financial cutoff where a project will become fiscally constrained? Sandra Misiewicz responded that there isn't a dollar value threshold for what's illustrative; rather, the projects listed as fiscally-constrained are what the Transportation Council believes can fit into the budget right now. If a project can fit into the core funding for the TIP, that really is the "threshold" that the Transportation Council used.

Mayor Kathy Sheehan offered a comment on big data. It's very important to look at utilization. Because there are limited dollars, looking very realistically at the existing infrastructure, how that's

being utilized, and getting some usage counts can provide a better sense of where to make those investments. Sandra Misiewicz reminded the group that the Transportation Council offers trail counting on local trails (using trail counter devices) as a free service. It also has a contract to do on-demand counts for bicycles, pedestrians, and motor vehicles.

Chris Wallin offered comments on utilization and revenue for building and maintenance of the infrastructure. There is a large push for more bicycle infrastructure, but funds for bicycle infrastructure maintenance are coming from the same pot of funds that motor vehicle infrastructure maintenance are coming from, so the pot needs to expand. People who ride bicycles are not contributing to a pot to build more (or maintain existing) bicycle infrastructure, whereas people who drive cars are paying gas taxes and tolls which help fund infrastructure maintenance. As this large transition to multimodal is being made, and the costs keep going up, funding has to come from somewhere.

Sandra Misiewicz responded that there is a lot of conversation happening at the federal level because the infrastructure law expires in November 2026 (this expiration date was confirmed by Nicole McGrath). Sandra indicated that the Transportation Council's long-range plan has a small section that talks about alternative funding sources, which could potentially be assessed for their viability for use in the Capital Region. There are regional tax sharing models, for example.

Sandra Misiewicz also indicated that micromobility is part of the strategies that will be implemented. One of the things the Transportation Council is going to do is try to develop an active transportation network and tie that to mobility hubs.

Mayor Kathy Sheehan asked for a motion to adopt In Motion: The Plan to 2050. Linda von der Heide made the motion, Chris Wallin seconded. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions, and the motion carried.

Resolution 25-12: Approval of the Albany – Schenectady – Troy 1997 8-Hour Ozone Non-Attainment Area Transportation / Air Quality Conformity Determination for In Motion: The Plan to 2050

A. Draft Air Quality Conformity Determination Document

Sandra Misiewicz indicated that with the adoption of the regional transportation plan, an air quality conformity determination must simultaneously be adopted. This is necessary to affirm that the projects listed in the plan will not have a negative impact on air quality. It has been determined that air quality will not be negatively impacted by the projects.

Mayor Kathy Sheehan asked for a motion to approve the Air Quality Conformity Determination document for In Motion: The Plan to 2050. Lawrence Schillinger made the motion, Rory Fluman seconded. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions, and the motion carried.

Roadway Departure Safety Action Plan Local Call Project Proposals

Sandra Misiewicz shared that this is an informational item, not an action item. NYSDOT held a call for projects for roadway safety departures, and there were less project proposals than funding available. Two applications were received for this region, one from Saratoga County and one from the Town of East Greenbush in Rensselaer County and were recommended for funding here in the Capital Region. Because there is leftover funding, NYSDOT is considering a "round two" for this opportunity.

Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

A. Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz shared that funding was recently announced for the 5310 program, which is for enhanced mobility options for seniors and people with disabilities. Applications are due November 3rd. Martin Hull joined the Transportation Council in July. The Transportation Council will be seeking one more Planner to join its team. In October the Transportation Council will issue a solicitation for planning and technical assistance activities. The Village of Voorheesville Safe Streets Policy and Plan has been completed, as well as several technical assistance projects in North Greenbush, Rensselaer and Ballston. The technical assistance program does have more capacity for new project proposals.

B. CDRPC

Lawrence Schillinger shared that he wishes to recognize the leadership of Mark Castiglione and the professionalism of CDRPC's staff in producing tremendously impactful analyses and other work products. Oct. 17th is the date of the annual planning and zoning workshop at Hudson Valley Community College, which will feature a presentation from the Transportation Council on In Motion. The CDRPC website has a new study on regional housing affordability analysis, as well as the building permit report. CDRPC recently completed a regional comprehensive climate action plan in partnership with the Climate Action Collaborative. A climate action portal with interactive features was established on the CDRPC website.

C. CDTA

Chris Desany shared that CDTA has completed the final internal reviews of their Transit Development Plan (TDP) and it is currently under consideration for final adoption by the Board of Directors next month. The TDP is CDTA's "roadmap" or strategic plan as it relates to its service footprint in its six-county service area in the Capital Region. It defines goals and strategies to address quality, reliability and accessibility. In terms of CDTA's fixed route core service, it calls for service realignment and putting CDTA's limited resources (CDTA is currently operating at a deficit and is also looking at a deficit in the following fiscal year) where demand and need are present. The DRIVE program has become increasingly popular throughout the years, as has CDPHP *Cycle!*. Expanding the DRIVE program is something CDTA is looking to do. CDTA has also revised its performance standards for all of its services. TDP implementation is in four phases. The initial phase took place early last week. The

next phase of the plan will take place in November with additional changes that will be communicated to stakeholders when available. CDTA is still in the process of executing its existing No-Low project, which involves adding nine additional electric buses to its fleet and the infrastructure improvements necessary to support that. CDTA has submitted to the current year No-Low grant program for additional vehicle software and systems to support those initiatives as well.

D. NYSDOT

Michael Arthur shared that NYSDOT had a bid opening for a bridge preservation project at the interchange of I-87 and I-90 near Crossgates Mall. NYSDOT rejected those bids, so that project did not get awarded. NYSDOT is going to re-evaluate the strategy for that project. The way those bridges were constructed, they could be easily widened. Additionally, NYSDOT has hired Julia Heller into its planning group.

E. NYSTA

Michael Beaudet indicated that there are no new updates at this time.

F. Albany County Airport Authority

No updates.

G. Albany Port District Commission

Christine Stuto shared that the Port currently has two outstanding RFPs. One is for the installation of the substation on the 80 acres in Bethlehem, and one is for wharf infrastructure upgrades. The wharf infrastructure is part of a NYSDOT grant. The Port is also completing building upgrades on the terminal.

H. Regional/Local Planning Activities

Andris Blumbergs shared that the Town of Colonie is wrapping up the Central Avenue Corridor Study with the Transportation Council in the next couple weeks.

Other

No other business was brought up. Mayor Kathy Sheehan indicated that upcoming meetings and events are noted on the agenda.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

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|---|-----------------------|
| A. Planning Committee: | October 1 – 9:30 am |
| B. Active Transportation Advisory Committee: | October 14 – 9:00 am |
| C. Human Services Transportation Advisory Committee: | November 3 – 2:00 pm |
| D. Planning Committee: | November 3 – 9:30 am |
| E. Regional Operations and Safety Advisory Committee: | November 6 – 1:00 pm |
| F. Freight Advisory Committee: | November 19 – 9:30 am |
| G. Policy Board: | December 4 – 3:00 pm |

Adjournment

Mayor Kathy Sheehan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rory Fluman made the motion, Tom Werner seconded. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions, and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Arthur
Secretary