

**Planning Committee Meeting
April 5, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending

Bill Anslow, Albany County
Susan Barden, City of Saratoga Springs
The Honorable Mike Butler, City of Mechanicville, Mayor
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Chair
Connor Haskin, Albany County Airport Authority
Patrick Jordan Esq., Albany Port District Commission
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee, Secretary
Craig Morris, NYS Thruway Authority
Megan Quirk, Capital District Transportation Authority
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Joseph Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes, Vice-Chair
Steve Strichman, City of Troy
Ketura Vics, City of Rensselaer
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1

Staff and Others Attending

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Kathleen Bell, Environmental Protection Agency Region-2
Jennifer Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Kristin Diotte, City of Schenectady
Anna Feltham, Town of East Greenbush
Beth Jacobson, Interested Citizen
Kelly Kircher, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Elizabeth Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa
Tim Lane, Village of Menands
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee
Stephen Maples, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta
Scott Rice, Village of Schaghticoke
Mark Sargent, Creighton Manning
Chaim Simon, Capital District Transportation Committee
Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jesse Vogl, Creighton Manning
Carrie Ward, Capital District Transportation Committee

Introduction

Steve Feeney opened the meeting at approximately 9:35 a.m.

Visitor's Issues

Beth Jacobson spoke about concerns about large vehicles and speeding in the Town of Niskayuna on Van Antwerp Rd, which is marked but not enforced as a weight limit road. In addition, there is speeding on the road, with a school nearby. Information but not tickets is provided to people who are speeding. In addition, the Town has removed many trees, which makes the roadways more dangerous for bicycles, pedestrians, and motorcyclists, and also makes the road much hotter. A large tree was recently removed from Dean and Nott Street to make it faster for commuters. Balltown Road at Nott Street was widened and a turn lane was added, which also makes it more dangerous for walking and bicycling. The Town is only concerned about commuting times and not people walking, biking, or motorcycling.

Presentation – “Federal Street Corridor Study” by Mark Sargent, Creighton Manning Engineering with Steve Strichman, City of Troy

Steve Strichman introduced the project, noting the impact that urban renewal had on the City of Troy. This study is an attempt at correcting past mistakes on Federal Street. Mark Sargent noted that the project included good public participation using the community liaison approach and virtual presentations, as well as participation by emergency services. Jesse Vogl presented the study area, namely Federal Street from River Street to 6th Avenue. He noted that the Empire State Trail connection over the bridge will impact Federal Street.

The study purpose was to provide multimodal infrastructure, reduce barriers for transportation disadvantaged populations, and improve pedestrian and bicycle connections along and across the study area. As existing, the roadway is very wide, with the sidewalk immediately adjacent to the roadway. Public input showed that people are concerned about the ability to walk and bike along the corridor, but also about travel time, and are interested in on-street parking. The project evaluated roundabouts at River Street and 6th Avenue as well as a boulevard along the corridor. The concepts include a pedestrian crossing at 5th Avenue. Many people liked the boulevard concept, and about half were in favor of roundabouts with another 15% in favor if they were a single lane. Design is currently programmed with next steps being to confirm construction funding, additional public involvement to confirm to the design, and then construction.

Administration

Previous Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2023

Patrick Jordan motioned to approve the February 2, 2023 minutes, Mark Castiglione seconded, and members approved the motion.

2023 At-Large Town and Village Voting Member and Alternates

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the Town and Village representative appointed by the Policy Board is Laura Robertson from the Town of Niskayuna, with the following as alternates: Rob Leslie, Town of Bethlehem; John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park; Don Csaposs, Town of Guilderland; Jaime O’Neill, Town of Malta; Liz Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa; Tim Lane, Village of Menands; Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam; Anna Feltham, Town of East Greenbush.

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

Jacob Beeman noted that there have been no major changes since the last meeting. We are under-programmed by 1% in the current year, over-programmed in the second year, and under-programmed in years 3 and 4.

Action Items

2023 PM3 System and Freight Performance Measures Target Updates

Chris Bauer noted that MAP-21 required performance measures and targets in 2012. He provided an overview of the history of the PM3 measures, which are for System, Freight, and Air Quality. We are subject to three of the measures. We adopted our initial PM3 measures in 2018, aligning with NYSDOT’s. NYSDOT establishes targets at least every four years and we have 180 days to either approve them or create our own. NYSDOT provided their targets in December.

The PM3 measures are for the Interstate Level of Travel Time Reliability in terms of 1) the percent of person-miles on the interstate system that are reliable – NYSDOT’s 2 and 4-year target is 75.0%; 2) the Non-Interstate NHS Level of Travel Time Reliability in terms of the percent of person-miles on the non-interstate National Highway System that are reliable – NYSDOT’s 2 and 4-year target is 70.0%; and 3) the Truck Travel Time Reliability in terms of a ratio comparing presence of congestion to no congestion – NYSDOT’s 2 and 4-year target is 2.0. For all three measures, CDTC has been performing consistently above the proposed performance measure targets set by NYSDOT. Two resolutions were provided to the members for action.

1. Resolution 23-X Capital District Transportation Committee Support for NYSDOT Targets Related to System Performance Measures on the National Highway System. This resolution covers the first two measures above.
2. Resolution 23-X Capital District Transportation Committee Support for NYSDOT Targets Related to Freight Performance Measures on the National Highway System. This resolution covers the Truck Travel Time Reliability measure above.

Mike Butler motioned to recommend that the Policy Board adopt NYSDOT’s targets and the resolutions as presented, Bill Anslow seconded, and members approved the motion.

CDTC/CDRPC Technical Assistance Program

Mark Castiglione provided an overview of work to date in this joint CDTC/CDRPC program. Mark asked for assistance in connecting lower-capacity communities to the program. Applications for the program will be accepted on a rolling basis until September 30th. Sandra Misiewicz noted that staff is proposing removal of Planning Committee approval for each individual project to expedite the projects. Greg Wichser motioned to approve the call for technical assistance projects, Patrick Jordan seconded, and members approved the motion.

Local Road Safety Education and Encouragement Program

Sandra Misiewicz noted that CDTC has for many years run a small-scale grant program for safety education and encouragement for nonprofits and local law enforcement. This solicitation will continue that program but limit it to law enforcement agencies to pursue a variety of education and encouragement programs. It requires in-kind match through staffing or volunteers. Projects will be consistent with the Local Road Safety Action Plan. Examples include training on new infrastructure, disseminating educational information, slow-down campaigns, and bike rodeos. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve and release the call for projects as presented, Chris Wallin seconded, and members approved the motion.

Discussion Items

PROTECT Program

1. NYSDOT Eligibility Matrix

Sandra Misiewicz noted that this program will aim to protect the transportation system from natural hazards including flooding. Funds will support both planning activities as well as project implementation. Local share requirements may be lowered if the state develops a Resilience Improvement Plan. NYSDOT would like to encourage state of good repair projects for bridges, culverts, slopes and retaining walls, and drainage improvements. The program is expected to have both a formula component distributed to states as well as competitive grants with applications submitted to FHWA.

2. CDTC Draft Vulnerable Infrastructure Map

Jen Ceponis noted that CDTC developed a limited vulnerability assessment based on existing data. She provided a summary of the results, which staff can provide in tabular and map form.

Summary of 2022-2027 TIP Project Selection Moves

Project Selection changes are those that do not require an amendment, typically small cost and schedule changes. Jacob Beeman noted there were 19 project selection moves since the last meeting, most of which are schedule changes from FY22 to FY23. There are two with funding increases – an additional \$177,000 for Saratoga County’s project on the Lasher Rd bridge over the Mourning Kill bridge, and an additional \$720,000 of state dedicated funding for NYSDOT’s Rte 2 at Swatling Rd safety enhancements project.

CDTC Project Delivery Update

John Scavo discussed the Town of Clifton Park's 146 and 146A bicycle and pedestrian access improvement project. There will be an 8' wide multi-use path from Vista Drive, along the north side to the sidewalk connections at the roundabout, continuing east as a 5' sidewalk along 146 to School Drive to protect the water quality in the Dwaas Kill, extending the multi-use path on the east side of Clifton Commons Drive to the roundabout, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon and high-visibility crosswalks at intersections along Vischer Ferry Rd and Route 146, and push buttons and high-visibility crosswalks at School Drive.

NYS DOT Project Delivery Update

Greg Wichser provided NYS DOT's committed program for the season, including the region-wide multi-site projects. Projects can be moved into this year.

Status of CDTC Planning Activities

Sandra Misiewicz noted that CDTC is wrapping up the Rensselaer Waterfront Connectivity Study, finished the Federal Street Corridor Study, Rensselaer Riverside Avenue Access Improvements project, Albany County Loop Trail Feasibility Study, and the City of Albany's Self-Analysis and ADA Transition Plan. The Regional Truck Parking Study is expected to be completed over the summer. The Policy Board approved CDTC's new name – the Capital Region Transportation Council.

Status of Regional and Local Planning Activities

1. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that the Wednesday webinar series continues through May 10th. The 2020 decennial census data will be released in May, after which CDRPC will begin working on its population projections. CDRPC is currently working with partners on an application to the EPA for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program, which will be to produce a preliminary and final climate action plan for the region. The latest data news email will include an analysis on the NYS Housing Compact proposal to show if communities are meeting the 1% housing growth target.

2. CDTA

Megan announced that CDTA will be releasing an on-call planning services consultant contract.

3. NYS DOT

Greg Wichser announced that Pat Barnes will be moving to Main Office. Bob Rice will temporarily serve as his replacement until a permanent replacement is found. The 378 PEL study is moving along, the second public meeting may be held on April 26th. The 787 study should officially start very soon.

4. NYS Thruway Authority

There was no update.

5. Albany County Airport Authority

Connor Haskins noted that the master plan development alternatives are under development. On May 23rd there will be a Regional and Technical Advisory Committees meeting. There will be a public meeting on June 8th at the CHA headquarters on Wolf Road. The terminal checkpoint improvement project is anticipated to break ground in June or July.

6. Albany Port District Commission

Pat Jordan announced that an RFP is currently listed for roadway and terminal improvements for repaving about two-thirds of the port roadways during this construction season, including reconstructing and resurfacing about half of the area inside the maritime terminal gate. With the expansion project, the ability to route trucks through the port instead of along South Pearl Street could be provided. The Port received notification that the Army Corps has approved the wetland permits, which will enable construction of the bridge over the Normanskill this year as well as dredging and construction for the wharf next year.

Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines

Sandra Misiewicz referenced the upcoming meetings listed on the agenda.

Adjournment

Mark Castiglione motioned to adjourn at approximately 11:02 a.m., Joe Seman-Graves seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Secretary