

Planning Committee Meeting
May 7, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Members Attending

Michael Beaudet, 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 Commission
Michael Dutre, City of Saratoga Springs
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Chair
Tom Hulihan, City of Rensselaer
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Kim Lambert, Saratoga County
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council, Secretary
Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Tom Romano, Town of Colonie
John Schneidawin, Albany Port District Commission
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady, Vice-Chair
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation Region 1
Michael Williams, Capital District Transportation Authority
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna

Staff and Others Attending

Joe Cimino, CHA Consulting
Jim DiGioia, Interested Citizen
Lorenzo DiStefano, FCM Engineering
Alexander Kone, Cambridge Systematics
Tim Lane, Village of Menands
Emily Loughlin, Capital District Transportation Authority
Adam McCarvill, Capital Region Transportation Council
Randy Milano, NYS Department of Transportation Region 1
Parker Morris, Capital Region Transportation Council
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta
Joe Peregrim, Town of Colonie
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Bob Rice, FCM Engineering
Leah Rye, Capital Region Transportation Council
Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority

Ed Snyder, GPI
Rosa Tirino, Albany County DPW
Ethan Townsend, Capital Region Transportation Council
Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council
Jesse Vogl, LaBella Engineering
Carrie Ward, Capital Region Transportation Council

Welcome and Introductions

Steve Feeney opened the meeting at approximately 9:33 a.m.

Visitor Issues

There were no visitor issues.

Administration

Previous Meeting Minutes – April 2, 2025

There were no proposed changes to the meeting minutes. Kim Lambert motioned to approve the April 2, 2025 meeting minutes as presented, John Schneidawin seconded, and members approved the motion.

Action Items

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

1. Northway Bridges, BINs 1073500 & 1073522

Greg Wichser noted that this project was added at the last Planning Committee. Recent bids on a similar project came in high. This amendment increases the construction funding. The increase comes from the state bridge funding set-aside. Mike Butler motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Andrew Kreshik seconded, and members approved the motion.

Amendments 2 through 8 (CDTA amendments) were considered in one action.

2. Preventive Maintenance for Saratoga
3. Transit Bus Replacement / Expansion

4. Preventive Maintenance
5. NEW - Bus Operator Safety Barriers
6. NEW - Maintenance Equipment (Lifts)
7. NEW - Vehicle Maintenance Software
8. NEW - Video Mirrors

Melissa Shanley explained that CDTA is the designated recipient of the Federal Transit Administration's 5307 and 5339 funding. CDTA's board recently approved expenditures for the year using estimated formula funding based on historical information. These motions will align the TIP with CDTA's actions. The actual apportionments were released this week and are slightly higher than the budget estimates shown. Lisa Ramundo motioned to approve amendments 2-8 as presented, Andrew Kreshik seconded, and members approved the motion.

9. Riverview Road and Nelson Avenue Extension over I-87 Bridge Replacements

Greg Wichser explained that this project merger combines two projects on a similar construction schedule. The merged project has a \$3.5M cost increase but the merger is anticipated to realize savings compared to continuing to progress them separately. NHPP funding will also be switched for bridge formula main program. John Schneidawin motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Lisa Ramundo seconded, and members approved the motion.

Draft Resolution 25-4: To Support the CDTA 2025 Targets for Transit Asset Management Performance Measures

Sandra Misiewicz explained that CDTA is required to maintain an inventory of all vehicles and facilities and their condition, along with targets for maintaining the assets in a state of good repair. CDTA recently updated their Transit Asset Management plan. The resolution would support CDTA's updated targets for inclusion in both the TIP and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. John Schneidawin motioned to approve the resolution as presented, Lisa Ramundo seconded, and members approved the motion.

2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Approval

Andrew Tracy noted that the 45-day public comment period ended on April 21st. Staff held a virtual public meeting as well as an in-person open house. Eleven written comments were received, which are included in Appendix D in the TIP document. Andrew showed the

existing status of the new fiscal constraint table. Fund sources and years may continue to shift to maintain fiscal constraint. Projects can be moved up sooner if they are ready.

1. Draft Resolution 25-5: To Approve the 2025-2030 TIP*

John Schneidawin motioned to approve the TIP for Policy Board approval, Mike Butler seconded, and members approved the motion.

2. Draft Resolution 25-6: Certifying the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process is in Conformance with Federal Requirements*

Sandra Misiewicz explained that the Transportation Council is required to self-certify that it is in compliance with federal transportation planning requirements. John Schneidawin motioned to approve the resolution for approval by the Policy Board, Mike Butler seconded, and members approved the motion.

Air Quality Conformity – Release for Public Review

Sandra Misiewicz explained that a previous court case established that the Transportation Council has to continue to track compliance with Clean Air Act requirements even though the region is in attainment of air quality standards. Today's action will open a public review process as required, with anticipated final approval by the Policy Board in June. Kim Lambert noted that there are some new projects missing from the included table. Sandra advised that the remainder of the table will be added to the release for public review.

3. Draft Resolution 25-7: To Approve the Albany-Schenectady-Troy 1997 8-Hour Ozone Non-Attainment Area Transportation / Air Quality Conformity Determination*

Chris Wallin motioned to approve release of the air quality conformity document for public review, Mike Butler seconded, and members approved the motion.

Discussion Items

In Motion: The Plan to 2050 Update

Sandra Misiewicz summarized the information that will be included in the introduction to the In Motion Plan. She provided the current version of the draft vision statement, for a safe, resilient, and reliable transportation system for all people and goods. The primary goals for the plan will be safety, mobility, access, livability, and resiliency and the main points of each were summarized. The chapter on current trends will be supported by the key regional trends report and StoryMap developed in conjunction with CDRPC last year.

Over the last few months, the In Motion Task Force held a workshop to identify scenarios and disruptive forces – focusing on technology and development - that will influence the future. Four land use scenarios were assessed using the Transportation Council’s travel demand model for their potential impacts on the transportation system. From the transportation network side, three scenarios were evaluated – no changes to the system, improved traffic flow, and spot improvements to traffic flow. Combining both land use and transportation scenarios, the modeled results indicated that driving distances and times are longer in sprawling development scenarios, speeds are higher and emissions are lower in compact development scenarios, and there is slower-moving traffic in the business as usual scenario.

Sandra also summarized pavement and bridge condition needs with constant, increased, and decreased funding. Increasing funding would improve conditions, although decreasing funding would not decrease conditions. Needs for culverts, transit vehicles, traffic signals, and active transportation were also investigated. Sandra presented the proposed planning strategies for plan which were categorized as maintaining the system, creating a complete transportation network, planning for infrastructure resilience, improving system reliability, integrating transportation and land use, and supporting economic vitality. She also summarized reasonably expected revenues to 2050 as well as anticipated illustrative projects. Performance measures are in development and will include federally required measures as well as a handful of regional measures. The anticipated schedule will have public participation in June and July.

Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan Draft Implementation Program

Alex Kone from Cambridge Systematics explained that the draft implementation program for the Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan covers a broad range of measures. Priority projects will focus on a few hot spot local projects as well as systemic treatment packages on focus facilities on both the state and local road systems. Alex summarized the results of targeted safety investigations conducted as part of the project, which will feed into hot spot local projects along with corridor concept development and TIP illustrative projects, in addition to NYSDOT’s Annual Work Program for safety. Systemic treatments will consist of a package of options grouped by focus facility type, which will be presented along with their level of risk factors. The focus crash types are intersection, pedestrian, roadway departure, and speed-related. Cross-cutting projects include ongoing highway safety investigations, road safety audits, and data collection on vulnerable road users and emergency response outcomes. The draft Safety Action Plan will include more detail on all prioritized locations.

Summary of 2022-2027 TIP Administrative Modifications

Sandra Misiewicz explained that there were four recent administrative modifications, with one each for Saratoga County, Town of Sand Lake, Village of Altamont, and Town of Sand Lake. The project in Sand Lake had a schedule change and the other three moved funds between phases.

NYSDOT Project Delivery Schedule

Greg Wichser noted that the recurring overhead sign replacement project received a high bid. The I-787 bridges that were re-released after having received no bids came in with bids 30-35% over the estimate. The next project lettings are scheduled for June.

Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the Voorheesville and Broadway planning studies are in final review. The Castleton plan was adopted by the Village. The Central Avenue study recently held its final public meeting. Staff will be reaching out to sponsors of the new planning projects in the next few weeks.

Regional and Local Planning Updates

1. Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz noted that staff will resend the available data to help with NYSDOT's Roadway Departure Safety Action Plan Local Call. The Technical Assistance program is available for help with small scale planning projects. The Transportation Council is also available to collect traffic counts for local governments.

2. CDRPC

No update.

3. CDTA

Mike Williams noted that CDTA's new CEO, Frank Annicaro, will be starting May 12th. Staff will soon begin coordinating with partners on the Transit Development Plan. Seasonal adjustments to services will be made at the end of the month, along with changes to the FLEX services. At the end of the summer, a commuter route between downtown Saratoga Springs and downtown Glens Falls will begin in the fall.

4. NYSDOT

Greg Wichser noted that both NYSDOT and FHWA have different tiers for different types of approvals for TIP amendments. NYSDOT is making sure that all phases of all projects are on the STIP. It is anticipated that STIP approvals by FHWA may slow down at some point. A third liaison for local projects will be hired soon. May 15th NYSDOT will host a

refresher session about hot topics and frequent issues on local projects development for local sponsors and consultants. The NYS Association of Transportation Engineers conference will be held in Saratoga Springs May 28-30.

5. NYSTA

Mike Burdett advised that the Castleton bridge is currently closed eastbound, with one lane in east direction on the westbound side. Repairs are expected to be complete in late fall. Gantry units are being installed on the ramps of Exits 25 and 25A.

6. Albany County Airport Authority

No updates.

7. Albany Port District Commission

John Schneidawin explained that work on signalization on the Corning Hill and River Rd project is expected to be finished by the end of the summer. A Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) is out to test the market for potential utilization for the 85-acre site south of the Normanskill. The site will be fully pad ready by the end of 2026. The Port is also working to identify a tenant for the 42-acre site in Rensselaer at the former BASF site. Staff is working to coordinate World Trade Day with partners in New York City.

8. Local Government/Other

Chris Wallin discussed the involvement of Amtrak and rail companies in the regional planning process. The rail companies participate in the Freight Advisory Committee.

Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines

Steve Feeney referenced the upcoming meetings listed on the agenda as follows.

1. Tentative May 21st at 9:30am Planning Committee
2. May 29th Regional Operations and Safety Advisory Committee
3. June 5th Policy Board

Adjournment

Chris Wallin motioned to adjourn at approximately 11:48 a.m., Sharon Butler seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Misiewicz, AICP

Secretary