

**Planning Committee Meeting**  
**July 9, 2025**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Attending**

Michael Beudet, NYS Thruway Authority  
The Honorable Michael Butler, City of Mechanicville  
Sharon Butler, City of Cohoes  
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Committee  
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam  
Michael Dutre, City of Saratoga Springs  
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Chair  
Thomas Hulihan, City of Rensselaer  
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy  
Kim Lambert, Saratoga County  
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council, Secretary  
David Montiverdi, Albany County Airport Authority  
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  
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1  
Michael Williams, Capital District Transportation Authority

**Staff and Others Attending**

Wayne Bonesteel, Azar Design Company  
Joe Cimino, CHA Consulting  
Jim DiGioia, Interested Citizen  
Cory Hopwood, Cambridge Systematics  
Teresa LaSalle, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Fred Mastroianni, FCM Engineering  
Adam McCarvill, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Parker Morris, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Eliza Orlando-Milbauer, Capital Roots  
Joe Peregrim, Town of Colonie  
Rosa Tirino, Albany County DPW  
Ethan Townsend, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Leah Rye, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Emily Loughlin, Capital District Transportation Authority

Tim Lane, Village of Menands  
Sha'Von Terrell, Cambridge Systematics  
Tony Tozzi, Town of Glenville  
Jesse Vogl, LaBella Engineering  
Bob Rice, FCM Engineering  
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna  
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Steve Feeney opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. and introduced himself. Those attending in person introduced themselves. Sandra Misiewicz introduced those attending virtually via Zoom.

## **Visitor Issues**

Steve Feeney asked if there were any visitor issues. No visitor issues were raised.

## **Presentation – Wind Turbine Transport: Considerations for Planners, Ethan Townsend, Transportation Planner, Transportation Council**

Sandra Misiewicz provided some background. Dagen Trucking, a regional stakeholder in the freight industry, has shared information with the Transportation Council about recent challenges in moving large freight around the Capital Region. This presentation reviewed some of the current issues specific to freight transportation and the wind business. Sandra Misiewicz then introduced Ethan Townsend who gave the presentation.

Ethan Townsend highlighted the issues of moving over-dimension freight, specifically wind turbine parts, from GE Vernova in Schenectady to the Port of Albany. These products need to be on large trucks due to their extreme weight. They are shipped for export to the Port of Albany because the Port has a heavy lift capability. While it is a twenty-mile distance via passenger car from GE Vernova to the Port, primarily via interstate, there is not a reliable, direct route for over-dimension freight. Barriers to the movement of these goods include physical challenges (i.e., low bridges, bridge load weight restrictions, overhead electrical/signal infrastructure, etc.) as well as logistical challenges (i.e., local requirements, work zones, escort requirements, etc.).

Several preliminary route options are being discussed, all of which have various pros and cons, including Route 5 to Washington Avenue to Lark Street, Route 5 to the Mohawk River, a Catskills route, and the I-890 to I-90 to I-787 route. The next steps are to get descriptions of trouble

spots from Dagen and other shippers and to get them mapped so potential routes can be further assessed. A stakeholder meeting will be held on July 16, 2025 to brainstorm solutions and possibly form a taskforce. Contact Ethan Townsend with any questions ([etownsend@capitalmpo.org](mailto:etownsend@capitalmpo.org)).

**Administration**

1. Previous Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2025\*

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to approve the May meeting minutes. Kim Lambert made the motion. A second was made by Sharon Butler. All in favor said aye. There were no oppositions, and the motion carried.

2. 2025-2026 UPWP Amendment\*

Sandra Misiewicz reviewed the proposed amendment which is related to the close of the previous fiscal year. Planning funds needed to be rebalanced in our workplan for this year due to the status of the projects at the end of the last fiscal year, which ends on March 31. Planning Committee approval of the UPWP amendments is needed with a recommendation to the Policy Board for their approval.

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to approve the amendment. Michael Butler made the motion. A second motion was made by Chris Wallin. All in favor said aye. There were no oppositions, and the motion carried.

**Action Items**

1. 2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments\*

Amendment 1:

Project Name:	Columbia St Pedestrian Accessibility and Safe Routes to School Enhancements
Sponsor(s):	City of Cohoes
TIP ID Number:	A614
NYS DOT PIN Number:	1762.32
Location(s):	City of Cohoes
Policy Board Action:	No
If Policy Board, Why:	NA
Planning Committee Action:	Yes
If Planning Committee, Why:	2B – Cost change over \$0.500M and less than \$3.000M
Scope Change:	No

Scope Change Description:	NA
Cost Increase:	\$0.883
Air Quality:	Existing Exempt Code – C2

The City of Cohoes submitted a TIP amendment for a cost change on their Columbia Street project for pedestrian accessibility and safe routes to school enhancements. Andrew Tracy provided some background. The bids came in high, and because the project was also assigned a small amount of CRP (Carbon Reduction Program) funding already, NYSDOT agreed to cover the cost increase with additional CRP funding.

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to approve the amendment as presented. Andrew Kreshik made the motion. A second motion was made by Mark Castiglione. All in favor said aye. There were no oppositions, and the motion carried.

2. Roadway Departure Safety Action Plan – Local Call Project Proposal Recommendations\*

Sandra Misiewicz explained that NYSDOT’s main office staff created a roadway departure safety action plan for the state. To help implement that plan, HSIP funds were set-aside at the state level to address roadway departures based on crash history. Each county received an allocation of HSIP funds for projects and a call for projects was issued. The program is challenging to access because it is data-heavy and has a lot of requirements.

Two applications were submitted to the Transportation Council, one from the Town of East Greenbush and one from Saratoga County. Because there were no other applications, funding is available to cover both. The Planning Committee is being asked to recommend these projects for funding.

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to recommend the projects for funding. Lisa Ramundo made the motion. A second motion was made by Andrew Kreshik. All in favor said aye. There were no oppositions, and the motion carried.

**Discussion Items**

A. Presentation on Draft Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan Recommendations

Sandra Misiewicz introduced Cory Hopwood to provide a presentation. The point of the plan for the region is to come up with some great strategies and solutions for improving safety to get closer to zero for fatalities and serious injuries on the roadways. There has been a lot of robust public outreach in the region, working with a community advisory committee. Community liaisons also helped to get community feedback. A very detailed data analysis has been completed including a network screen that pulled out priority locations and systemic issues.

This project is being completed under the Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) safety planning grants. The final round of public outreach focused on the safety improvement program, which includes a lot of policy and process changes. From an engagement perspective, 14 public workshops have been held along with 12 focus groups, five community events, five community advisory committee meetings, and approximately 500 online comments have been received.

The themes for the safety improvement program and how they connect to the Safe System Approach and the NYS emphasis areas were highlighted. The themes include leadership and coordination, speed management, roadway departures, intersections, complete streets, safe road users, and post-crash care. Implementation will be monitored through the use of performance measures. Additional tasks related to the plan will be completed from mid-July through mid-August, with the draft plan public review commencing in August.

#### B. In Motion: The Plan to 2050 Update

Sandra Misiewicz shared that staff is working on public input on the draft strategies and actions for the plan. A draft document will be available for the Planning Committee to review in August. There will be an open house and a virtual workshop to accompany the release of the draft plan for public review and the plan will be adopted at the September Policy Board meeting. Since our July meeting, performance measures have been developed for plan implementation that include the federal performance measures as well as key regional performance indicators related to each of the five plan goals. The fourth survey will be open through mid-August and staff will be tabling at some farmers markets over the month of July and may be doing some transit station pop-ups.

#### C. Summary of 2022-2027 TIP Administrative Modifications\*

Andrew Tracy showed a summary table of the modifications. Sandra Misiewicz indicated that as August is approaching, staff will likely be checking in with sponsors on the status of projects. A TIP sponsor meeting or TIP task force meeting may be convened or staff will just reach out via email to sponsors. Greg Wichser indicated that NYSDOT needs PS&Es ideally before September 1<sup>st</sup>. Transportation Council staff will coordinate with NYSDOT on an email to project sponsors.

#### D. NYSDOT Project Delivery Update

Greg Wichser shared that NYSDOT let one project recently (Potter Street), which came in within \$200,000 of the estimate.

#### 5. Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives\*

Sandra Misiewicz explained that the Voorheesville complete streets plan is wrapping up along

with the Broadway Flood-Resilient Multimodal Corridor Study. The Central Avenue project is well underway and is reaching draft report stage. The Halfmoon/Clifton Park County Route 109 complete streets study is about to begin and the Route 7 study in Niskayuna just completed its first round of public engagement and is starting to get into concept development.

Martin Hull joined the Transportation Council recently from WSP as the Director of Regional Planning, replacing Jen Ceponis. With that hire, the Transportation Council finally has the capacity to start the new linkage projects in Ballston Spa and Saratoga Springs. Technical assistance projects are also wrapping up in North Greenbush and the City of Rensselaer and one was just completed in the Town of Ballston. The parking study in the City of Cohoes is also nearing completion.

## E. Regional and Local Planning Updates

### 1. Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz did not have any additional updates to share on behalf of the Transportation Council.

### 2. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione shared information on CDRPC's annual planning and zoning workshop, taking place on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> at Hudson Valley Community College. The Comprehensive Climate Action Plan is nearing completion and is due to the EPA by September. Staff is also looking at housing in the region, through Transportation Council funding, trying to paint a picture of the housing-transportation connection. Towns and cities in each county are being surveyed that have had the highest growth in the past decade. One of the conclusions from the suburban towns is that there are applications for large apartment complexes but local zoning often does not allow for that use. Additional reports are available on CDRPC's website.

### 3. CDTA

Mike Williams shared that CDTA has almost wrapped up its FTA tri-annual review. The exit conference is scheduled for this week. The Transportation Development Plan (TDP) adoption is on the agenda for CDTA's board to review in August and adopt in September. Sometime this month Mike would like to meet with Transportation Council staff to go over the final draft and make sure it still aligns with the latest version of In Motion.

### 4. NYSDOT

Greg Wichser shared staffing news – Alex is going to join the Town of Colonie, so for local projects, the new contact is Julia Heller. She will take on the local liaison role. Empire State Development (ESD) started a study that was announced a few months ago. A consultant team is in place and they are beginning an economic development study in the City of Albany, which overlaps with the Reimagine I-787 work. Both project teams will be coordinating and attending each other's meetings. The ESD study is going to be done far ahead of any environmental

phases of the I-787 project. The ESD funding is part of the \$400M from the State budget for downtown Albany.

5. NYSTA

A representative was not available to provide an update.

6. Albany County Airport Authority

David Montiverdi shared that the Airport has seen a record number of passengers. While most airports of similar size are seeing a reduction in capacity, Albany is seeing an increase. The terminal construction is coming along and the primary runway has been repaved. The passenger queuing area (passenger bridge) should be ready in November, and then the rest of the project will be completed in 2026.

7. Albany Port District Commission

A representative was not available to provide an update.

8. Local Government/Other

Kim Lambert shared that the Saratoga County planning and zoning conference is scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> and if there are presentation ideas, please share them with County staff.

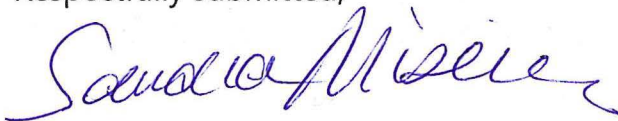
F. Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines (tentative)

1. In Motion table at Schenectady Greenmarket – July 13<sup>th</sup>
2. In Motion table at Saratoga Farmers Market – July 23<sup>rd</sup>
3. In Motion table at Rensselaer Riverfront Farmers Market – July 24<sup>th</sup>
4. Human Services Transportation Advisory Committee – August 4<sup>th</sup>
5. Planning Committee meeting – August 6<sup>th</sup>
6. In Motion public meeting at Delaware Library Branch – August 12<sup>th</sup>

## Adjournment

Steve Feeney asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Michael Butler made the motion. A second motion was made by Bill Trudeau. All in favor said aye. There were no oppositions, and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Misiewicz, AICP  
Secretary