

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

January 6, 2021

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bill Anslow, Albany County
Susan Barden, City of Saratoga Springs
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Donald Csaposs, Town of Guilderland
Christopher Desany, Capital District Transportation Authority
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee, Secretary
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority
Andrew Kohout, Village of Scotia
Liz Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Robert Leslie, Town of Bethlehem
Sean Maguire, Town of Colonie
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Jaime O'Neill, Town Malta
Robert Rice, NYS Department of Transportation - Region I
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Joseph Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes
Mike Valentine, Saratoga County
Tony Vasil, Albany Port District Commission
Ketura Vics, City of Rensselaer
Tim Wainwright, NYS Thruway Authority
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Adam Yagelski, Town of East Greenbush

STAFF AND OTHERS ATTENDING

Christian Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Michael Burns, Town of Glenville
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Brent Irving, Capital District Transportation Authority
Fred Mastroianni, Greenman Pederson
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Julianne Okun, Village of Colonie
Mark Sargent, Creighton Manning
Rima Shamieh, Capital District Transportation Committee
Steven Strichman, City of Troy
Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee

Jesse Vogl, Creighton Manning
Carrie Ward, Capital District Transportation Committee
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region I

INTRODUCTION

Steve Iachetta opened the videoconference meeting at approximately 9:32 AM.

VISITORS' ISSUES

There were no visitors' issues.

ADMINISTRATION

Previous Meeting Minutes – November 4, 2020

There were no comments or suggested revisions to the November 4, 2020 draft meeting minutes. Sean Maguire motioned to approve the November 4, 2020 minutes, Bob Rice seconded, and members approved the motion.

PRESENTATION – Hoosick Hillside Linkage Study

Mark Sargent introduced the project, and Steve Strichman noted that Hoosick Street presents a terrible challenge for the City and ongoing development east of the City will increase the challenge. Jesse Vogl provided a presentation of the project and summarized a number of recommendations. These include traffic calming on 15th Street, a median on Hoosick Street, a pathway between 11th Street and the Hudson River Commons plaza, a pathway to School 2, traffic calming on 9th Street in Hoosick North, pedestrian crossing accommodations at Hoosick and 8th, traffic calming on 8th Street, a connection of Rensselaer Street, a complete streets treatment on 6th Avenue, an intersection at Hutton and 6th Ave, and a Hoosick Street path and Collar City Bridge Park under the Hoosick Street bridge.

ACTION ITEMS

FISCAL CONSTRAINT DISCUSSION - TIP SUMMARY TABLE 4

Mike Franchini reviewed the handout, and noted that the first year of the TIP is complete, the 2nd and current year we are under-programmed by 1.6%, the third year over-programmed by 1.7%, and in the fourth year we are under-programmed again. This is the latest version after some movement to improve TIP performance, and some budget estimate changes to address that.

PLANNING COMMITTEE OFFICERS NOMINATION AND ELECTION

John Scavo nominated Steve Iachetta as Chair for 2021, Bob Rice seconded the motion, and members approved Steve Iachetta as the Chair of the Planning Committee in 2021.

John Scavo nominated Steve Feeney as Vice Chair for 2021, Bill Anslow seconded the motion, and members approved Steve Feeney as Vice Chair for the Planning Committee in 2021.

CDTC/CDRPC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sandy Misiewicz provided an overview of two additional projects recommended to be funded. One is to support the Village of Ballston Spa to prepare for an upcoming comprehensive plan update, and the other is to assess safety on Hoffman Hill Road in Glenville. If approved, these will be the last projects funded in this fiscal year, with a new round planned for the next fiscal year, beginning in April. Steve Iachetta motioned to approve the two projects, Adam Yagelski seconded, Liz Kormos abstained, and members approved the motion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2021-2022 LINKAGE PROGRAM PROPOSALS

Sandy Misiewicz summarized applications received for the 2021-2022 Linkage Program:

- City of Albany – Mid-City Hub in the area around the SUNY downtown campus
- Towns of East Greenbush with Town of North Greenbush – Route 4 from Route 43 to Mannix Road
- City of Rensselaer – waterfront connectivity on the north end of the City
- City of Troy – Federal Street between River Street and Sixth Ave

2021 POLICY BOARD, PLANNING COMMITTEE, AND TIP AMENDMENT SCHEDULE

Mike Franchini shared the schedule, and noted that there are no surprises this year. Planning Committee meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the month, and Policy Board meetings will be on the first Thursday of the month.

TIP APPLICATION AND EVALUATION UPDATE

Mike Franchini noted that staff has begun preparing in anticipation of a TIP update later this year, and has set up three teams to work internally. Sandy Misiewicz outlined the teams to work on the following topics:

- A web-based application, and updating the questions on the application
- The merit evaluation portion of the scoring
- Data management of the evaluations, particularly as sponsors update proposals, and creation of fact sheets and other outputs

Bob Rice said that there has been difficulty determining what constitutes a preservation project. In addition, recent success in implementing a number of bicycle and trail projects means we will need to have a focus on preservation of trails and bicycling infrastructure. Greg Wichser asked if there are plans to form a subcommittee. Mike said the plan is to bring materials to the full Planning Committee for review and input.

CDTC PROJECT DELIVERY UPDATE

Jacob Beeman said there have not been many changes in project status since the last update, however, design approval was granted in October for S242 on Broadway in Schenectady. Rob Leslie discussed the Delaware Avenue complete streets project. It was a recommendation from a Linkage Study and proposes bike lanes, pedestrian improvements, and bus pull-offs between Elsmere Avenue and the bridge over the Normanskill. The Town selected CHA as the design team in 2019 and met with businesses in early March 2020. Businesses requested consideration of a westbound 2-1-1 option as well as a full road diet. In July 2020, business owners requested a pause on the project due to the pandemic. The next steps are to bring the scope and CHA contract to the Town Board.

NYSDOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Greg Wichser shared an updated list of NYSDOT projects in the CDTC region for SFY 20/2021. Letting on the Carman Road project is delayed from February, and is planned for May but may slide back. There have been a high number of bidders on projects, which leads to a reduction in cost on some projects. The Albany Corning Preserve project will be re-let.

NYSDOT Projects within CDTC - SFY 20/21

| PIN | Project Title | Current Letting | Letting Organization | Design Project Manager |
|--------|--|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 172257 | I-87 RESURFACING EXIT 11 TO SARATOGA SPRINGS CITY LINE (SOUTH) | 04/23/2020 | NYSDOT | JOSEPH FELICE JR |
| 181029 | ADA COMPLIANCE SFY19 | 04/23/2020 | NYSDOT | JOSEPH FELICE JR |
| 172268 | TWIN BRIDGES PRESERVATION BINS 4033181, 4033182 | 06/04/2020 | NYSDOT | DYLAN WILLSEY |
| 152882 | I-90 OVER FULLER RD, DECK REPLACE, ALBANY CITY, BIN 1034479 | 06/18/2020 | NYSDOT | DYLAN WILLSEY |
| 105182 | ALBANY CORNING PRESERVE BIKE AND PED CONNECTOR RAMP | 02/18/2021 | NYSDOT | COREY BARRINGER |
| 100136 | RT. 2 OVER THE POESTENKILL, BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, BIN 1000190 | 10/22/2020 | NYSDOT | JEFFREY MCGURN |
| 172258 | I-87 RESURFACING SARATOGA SPRINGS CITY LINE (SOUTH) TO EXIT 15 | 12/03/2020 | NYSDOT | JOSEPH FELICE JR |
| 108540 | HSIP, ROUTE 146, CARMAN ROAD SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS, GUILDERLAND | 05/15/2021 | NYSDOT | COREY BARRINGER |

STATUS OF CDTC PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Albany Bike/Ped Master Plan

Carrie Ward said that the project is updating the City's existing bicycle plan and creating a new pedestrian plan. The consultant team is working on the final draft, and the final advisory committee meetings are expected to be in January.

Ballston Spa Bike/Ped Master Plan

Jacob Beeman noted that the project will recommend bicycle and pedestrian connections in the Village, including connecting to the Zim Smith Trail. The selection committee chose VHB with Planning4Places in October, and the contract was signed in December.

Menands Land Use Regulations Update

Rima Shamieh said that the selection committee has reviewed the proposals and recommended an award. The contract is underway and is expected to be finalized in January.

Scotia Downtown Connections Plan

Andrew Tracy noted that the proposal from MJ Engineering with LandArt was the top ranking of the nine proposals submitted, and the project kick-off is expected in February.

Local Bridge Preservation Study

Andrew Tracy said the study kicked off in November and the consultant is now comparing data from the last bridge study with new data.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDRPC

Mark Castiglione said CDRPC is awaiting an announcement from NYSERDA's Clean Energy Development Program, and is working with economic development partners to distribute CARES Act recovery funding. More information from the Census is expected in February.

CDTA

No update.

NYSDOT

Bob Rice shared that staff will be in the office at 25% through April 2nd. As part of the Empire State Trail project in Rotterdam Junction, a tunnel was slid under the railroad. This was done while the rail was operating, which is a rare engineering feat. The 378 PEL study workshops are upcoming. FHWA is assisting NYSDOT in creating a template to assist with the release of a new proposal.

New York State Thruway Authority

Tim Wainwright noted that all-electronic tolling went live in November. Construction will pick up in the spring.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta said that the holidays brought a small increase in passenger traffic, though passenger counts are still about a third of normal levels. This year there will be an asphalt rehabilitation project on Taxiway A. Cargo weights increased 20% in 2020 over the previous year. In addition, a 20-year airport connections master plan is underway. A number of preservation projects are also underway.

Albany Port District Commission

Tony Vasil reported that 2020 saw a 22% increase on ships and barges and a 25% increase on tonnage. The Port began a marketing effort called the “winter port” concept. In winter, the Great Lakes are closed. Steel slabs recently arrived by water from Brazil and were loaded onto rail cars for distribution north to Canada. Another ship is expected from Mexico next month. The Port is involved with a number of proposals to develop off-shore wind facilities. The international supply chain is in difficult straits, as ocean terminals on the west coast are clogged.

Local Planning Activities

Rob Leslie said that the Town of Bethlehem is in the midst of a comprehensive plan update, which is the first in 15 years and will extend through 2021. There is a residential land use moratorium in place while the update is underway. Andrew Kreshik thanked NYS DOT and CDTC for concurrence on the City of Troy’s request to coordinate the project on Congress Street with work at the Congress Street bridge and redevelopment of properties at the waterfront.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Steve Iachetta summarized upcoming meetings as noted on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Andrew Kreshik motioned to adjourn, Mike Valentine seconded, and the members approved the motion at 11:18 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting will be on February 3, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael V. Franchini
Secretary