

Policy Board Meeting
September 7, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Members Attending

Andrew Kreshik, representing Patrick Madden, City of Troy
Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice-Chair
Connor Haskin, representing Philip Calderone, Albany County Airport Authority
George McHugh, Town of Coeymans
Jaime Puccioni, Town of Niskayuna
Joseph Seman-Graves, representing William Keeler, City of Cohoes
Lawrence Schillinger, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County Executive
Mark Hammond, Town of Malta
Michael Arthur, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1, Secretary
Patrick Jordan Esq., Albany Port District Commission
Phil Barrett, representing Theodore Kusnierz, Saratoga County Board of Supervisors
Rory Fluman, Schenectady County
Sean Maguire, representing Peter Crummey, Town of Colonie
Steve Feeney, representing Anthony Jasenski, Schenectady County Legislature
The Honorable Michael Butler, City of Mechanicville
The Honorable Ron Kim, City of Saratoga Springs
Tom Werner, Saratoga County

Staff and Others Attending

Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council
Ayla Schermer, Federal Transit Administration
Bill Trudeau, City of Albany
Bob Rice, New York State Department of Transportation– Region 1
Cairenn Miller, New York State Department of Transportation– Region 1
Carrie Ward, Capital Region Transportation Council
Chris Bauer, Capital Region Transportation Council
Jen Ceponis, Capital Region Transportation Council
Joe Cimino, CHA
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Nicole McGrath, Federal Highway Administration
Patrick Cross, Capital Region Transportation Council
Paul McDonell, CHA
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council
Stephen Maples, Capital Region Transportation Council

Teresa LaSalle, Capital Region Transportation Council
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1

Opening Remarks

Carm Basile opened the meeting at approximately 3:00 PM.

Administration

A. June 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Rory Fluman motioned to approve the June 1, 2023 minutes, Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the motion.

Privilege of the Floor

There were no speakers.

Presentation – Albany Airport Master Plan, Paul McDonell of CHA

Connor Haskin introduced CHA and Paul McDonell. Paul explained that the Master Plan process is following the Federal Aviation Administration standard and all documents are public. The Plan hasn't been updated in 30 years. To date there have been three advisory committee, three technical advisory committee, and the first of two public meetings. There will be one more set of advisory meetings as well as the additional public meeting. A key measure is enplanements. There are currently 1.5 million enplanements each year (prior to COVID), and the plan includes 2.1 million in twenty years. Enplanements are currently back up to 1.3-1.4 million post-COVID. The plan calls for an additional parallel taxiway to the main runway to enable development on the opposite side of the main runway.

NYSDOT provided funding to improve the terminal checkpoint area and the connection between the garage and the airport. The plan also calls for two additional gates on concourse A. Improvements to parking include two new garages if enplanements increase as forecasted, and at least an additional 500 spaces in the economy lot. Improvements to the curbside area along the terminal building could include an additional curb and roadway in the center for commercial vehicles and changing circulation to be only counterclockwise throughout the site. Recommendations also include evaluating the signal timing of the main intersection on Albany-Shaker Road.

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

RG131, CDTC31, Bus Rapid Transit Implementation, Block Funds, Regional Transit & T137, CDTC137, BusPlus Red Line Upgrades, CDTA, Regional Transit & T151, CDTA07, 80, Broadway

Carm Basile explained that CDTA is upgrading the Red Line amenities and installing additional roadway amenities. CDTA is increasing its state worker transportation services and will be building a new bus station and park and ride lot along the Bus Plus River Corridor. These two projects will be supplemented by drawing down on the regional transit block funds. Patrick Jordan motioned to approve the amendments as presented, Phil Barrett seconded, and members approved the motion.

Carbon Reduction Program Funding Proposal

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the program specifies that 30% of the funding will be allocated by the state and the remainder by Metropolitan Planning Organizations. There are separate amounts for the Albany-Schenectady and the Saratoga Springs areas. As these are not significant amounts, the Planning Committee recommends using the funds to support eligible cost increases on existing TIP projects. The Transportation Alternatives Program funded projects are capped and are generally also eligible for the Carbon Reduction Program. Joe Seman-Graves motioned to approve the funding proposal as presented, Mark Hammond seconded, and members approved the motion.

Draft TIP Policy-TIP Task Force Recommendations

Andrew Tracy provided an update on the TIP Task Force activities and recommendations. It debriefed on the previous TIP solicitation process to recommend improvements to how the TIP is developed and managed. If approved, staff will work to implement the recommendations. The TIP Task Force anticipates continuing to meet to discuss the TIP amendment process and similar topics. The key points include improvements or alternatives to the online form, ensuring the application is as short as possible, beginning the process earlier, continuing the summary tables and fact sheets without the sponsor priority, realigning the project categories for consistency with the long-range plan and the federally required performance measures, removing the preservation/beyond preservation labels, and integrating the complete streets policy into the scoring. Staff will revise the merit evaluation process by project type, re-evaluating the balance between the merit and benefit-cost, considering local project design, maintaining sponsor ability to swap projects. It is encouraged to submit applications for all needed projects to demonstrate investment needs within the region. Mark Hammond motioned to approve the TIP Task Force Recommendations, Patrick Jordan seconded, and members approved the motion.

Air Quality Conformity Determination Update for A/GFTC Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Chris Bauer explained that the Transportation Council's Air Quality Conformity area covers seven counties, including all of Saratoga County, which includes a small portion of the A/GFTC area. Per a 2010 agreement, we are responsible for executing air quality requirements for A/GFTC in that small portion of Saratoga County. They are adopting a new Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which requires us to update the documentation. The Conformity Determination was updated in coordination with the NYSDOT Environmental Science Bureau, A/GFTC, and NYSDOT Regions 1, 2, and 9. The New York State Interagency Consultation Group reviewed and concurred with the Determination. NYSDOT and the Transportation Council held a 30-day public comment period from August 2 to September 5. No public comments were received. Staff recommends approving by resolution the Albany-Schenectady-Troy 1997 8-Hour Ozone Non-Attainment Area Transportation/Air Quality Conformity Determination document.

Tom Werner motioned to approve by resolution the updated Albany-Schenectady-Troy 1997 8-Hour Ozone Non-Attainment Area Transportation/Air Quality Conformity Determination as presented, Connor Haskin seconded, and members approved the motion.

Regional Truck Parking Study Status

Chris Bauer explained that the study evaluated long-haul overnight truck parking within the region. We purchased truck parking data and created truck parking supply and demand in and immediately surrounding the region. We are at about 95% of capacity, with the highest demand along I-87 at the northern end of the region, the I-88/NY-7 area, and I-90 east of Albany. The recommendations include additional public and private parking, incorporating parking needs into the development process, emergency parking needs, and truck parking electrification. The project will also include a toolkit.

Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

A. Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz noted that staff is working on an update to the Congestion Management Process, with public review beginning in the next month. Staff are also working on an update to the Coordinated Plan to coordinate services for people with disabilities and older adults, as well as the Public Participation Plan. Work on the new Metropolitan Transportation Plan will begin in the next few months. We will be issuing a

call for community planning studies, and complete streets workshops. We will also be kicking off our Safe Streets and Roads for All funded regional Vision Zero safety plan.

B. CDRPC

Larry Schillinger noted that the Capital Region received an EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, and CDRPC was designated as the implementer. CDRPC received a grant through the NYS Department of State to identify areas within Saratoga, Rensselaer, and Schenectady County for broadband buildout. The more detailed 2020 Census data was released recently. CDRPC is partnering with Cornell to prepare updated projection models. The Planning and Zoning Workshop will take place on October 20th and registration is now open.

C. CDTA

Carm Basile noted that CDTA's ridership continues to grow and is higher than pre-pandemic. The Purple Line BRT is expected to open in early November with the region's first busway. The downtown Schenectady mobility hub will open in the next month and bring together buses, bikes, cars, and customer amenities at the base of State Street.

D. NYSDOT

Michael Arthur noted that the Re-Imagine I-787 project has had a number of public meetings as well as follow-up meetings, with many good comments. The Route 378 PEL Study final public meeting will be October 26th at Hudson Valley Community College at 6pm. New employees include Kayleigh Knoll in the planning section and Randy Milano in local programs. The Route 9P/Union Avenue project in Saratoga Springs is picking back up. The Glenridge Road overheight vehicle detection system was substantially completed. Overhead sign structure replacement is underway. Route 378 bridge painting will be let soon as well as the Water Street bridge over the D&H RR.

E. NYSTA

There were no updates.

F. Albany County Airport Authority

Conor Haskin noted that the Master Plan website is available for additional feedback: <http://alb-master-plan.com/>.

G. Albany Port District Commission

Patrick Jordan reported that the Port is working to bridge the funding gap for the port expansion project, since seeing significant cost increases. Secretary of the Interior and

Congressman Tonko visited the Port. One of the original port buildings was substantially rebuilt in the last six months and can now support considerably more weight. The Port received its final permits last week for the off-shore wind project, enabling work on all pad-ready infrastructure to begin. Work on the bridge over the Normanskill will begin late this year. Repaving, new stormwater systems, and rail improvements inside the terminal are expected to begin within two months. About \$16 M worth of roadway work will begin soon, including about a 10-foot excavation to enable additional weight on the roadway, as well as removing and rebuilding rail crossings for easier crossings, and new water and sewer infrastructure. Smith Boulevard and Boat Street will begin soon, and widening or reconstructing the roadways from the RR buildings into Bethlehem will begin next year.

H. Regional/Local Planning Activities

There were no updates.

Other

There were no updates.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Sandra Misiewicz referred to the provided handout on upcoming meetings and noted that next year's meeting schedule will be released soon.

Adjournment

Phil Barrett motioned to adjourn at approximately 4:19 pm, Rory Fluman seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Arthur
Secretary