

**Policy Board Meeting  
December 7, 2023  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Attending**

Michael Arthur, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1, Secretary  
Phil Barrett, representing Theodore Kusnierz, Saratoga County  
Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice-Chair  
The Honorable Michael Butler, City of Mechanicville  
Beige Berryman, representing Mayor Ron Kim, City of Saratoga Springs  
Mark Castiglione, representing Lawrence Schillinger, Capital District Regional Planning Commission  
Steve Feeney, representing Anthony Jasenski, Schenectady County  
Rory Fluman, Schenectady County  
Patrick Jordan, Albany Port District Commission  
Andrew Kreshik, representing Mayor Patrick Madden, City of Troy  
Sean Maquire, representing Peter Crummey, Town of Colonie  
Joe Seman-Graves, representing Mayor William Keeler, City of Cohoes  
Phil Serafino, New York State Thruway Authority  
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County Executive  
Chris Wallin, representing Mayor Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady  
Tom Werner, Saratoga County

**Staff and Others Attending**

Chris Bauer, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Jacob Beeman, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Jen Ceponis, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam  
Jennifer Dunn, City of Saratoga Springs  
Teresa LaSalle, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Stephen Maples, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Bob Rice, New York State Department of Transportation – Region 1  
Rima Shamieh, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council

## **Opening Remarks**

Carm Basile opened the meeting at approximately 3:02 PM.

## **Administration**

### **A. September 7, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Rory Fluman motioned to approve the September 7, 2023, meeting minutes, Mark Castiglione seconded, and members approved the motion.

### **B. Performance and Expenditure Report (April 1 – September 30, 2023)**

Sandra Misiewicz noted this federally required report summarizes work completed over the last six months and expenditures in the last year. Highlights include progress on several Linkage Studies, the Congestion Management Process update, the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan update, and preparations for the region's Vision Zero Safety Action Plan.

### **C. 2024 Policy Board and Planning Committee Meeting Schedule**

Sandra Misiewicz shared the 2024 Policy Board and Planning Committee meeting schedule. The deadline for TIP amendment requests for the January 3, 2024, Planning Committee meeting is December 20, 2023.

## **Privilege of the Floor**

There were no speakers.

## **Presentation – NYS Thruway Plans presented by Phil Serafino, Albany Division Director**

Phil Serafino gave a presentation on the New York State Thruway Authority – Albany Division and some of their upcoming projects. The Albany Division maintains approximately 145 centerline miles/300 lanes miles. It includes the Thruway mainline (I-87 & I-90) between Exit 19 (New Paltz) and Exit 29 (Canajoharie), and the 24.3-mile Berkshire Spur. There are fifteen (15) Interchanges, six (6) Service Areas (four (4) of which are under construction), and two Welcome Centers. For snow and ice season, the Albany Division has 143 Maintenance staff and nearly 100 pieces of snow-fighting equipment.

The Thruway is a user-fee-supported roadway that receives no dedicated federal, state, or local tax dollars. The tolls pay for infrastructure projects, equipment, salaries, State Police services, maintenance services, and emergency services. The Thruway has one of

the lowest fatality rates in the country at 0.16/million miles, while the national average is 1.30/100 million miles traveled.

The Thruway's 5-year capital plan includes \$2.4 billion in infrastructure projects which includes work on more than 2,800 lane miles and 80 bridges. There is \$274.2 million in infrastructure investments planned for Albany Division projects, including \$114.5 million to resurface 52 lane miles along I-87, I-90, and the Berkshire Spur, and \$35 million to complete the Castleton-On-Hudson Bridge eastbound deck replacement. The Thruway will implement toll adjustments in 2024 and 2027. The Thruway has relatively low rates when compared to other tolled roadways in the country.

The Thruway Authority was awarded a \$21 million federal grant to support the restoration of the Castleton-on-Hudson Bridge on the Berkshire Spur. The grant will supplement the cost of a second project to replace the eastbound bridge deck and address steel repairs and maintenance safety features. With the completion of these two projects, the anticipated service life of the superstructure will be extended by 50 years. The project to replace the eastbound bridge deck is anticipated to cost approximately \$35 million and the \$21 million grant will be directly applied to offset that cost.

A list of the Thruway Authority's grant applications can be found at [thruway.ny.gov/oursystem](http://thruway.ny.gov/oursystem).

## **2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments**

### **A. R360, A02819, Castleton-On-Hudson Bridge Over the Hudson Rehabilitation, BIN 5006599**

Phil Serafino presented the TIP amendment request for a new project on behalf of the Thruway Authority. The project is utilizing \$21 million in federal grant funding to supplement Thruway funds for the first phase of the project on the eastbound side of the bridge; the westbound side will be completed with Thruway funds. Patrick Jordan motioned to approve the TIP amendment, Mark Castiglione seconded, and members approved the motion.

### **B. S267, 176182, NY Route 5S Pedestrian/Bicycle Access Improvements**

Peter Comenzo presented the TIP amendment request for a cost change on behalf of the Town of Rotterdam. During the design phase, it was determined that the existing drainage system was in poor shape, in conflict with the proposed improvements, and needed replacement to allow for the construction of the bicycle lane and ADA-

compliant sidewalk design. Steven Feeney motioned to approve the TIP amendment, Tom Werner seconded, and members approved the motion.

**C. RG135, RG135X, State Culvert Replacement Multi-Site Project**

Michael Arthur presented the TIP amendment request for a cost change on behalf of the NYSDOT. The funding is being added to support the large culvert multi-site project as part of the Culvert Resiliency on State System (CRoSS) program. Rory Fluman motioned to approve the TIP amendment, Tom Werner seconded, and members approved the motion.

**D. A598, 1039.55, US Route 9W over CSX Rail, Bridge Replacement, NYSDOT & A595,**

Michael Arthur presented the TIP amendment request for a cost change on behalf of the NYSDOT. During the preliminary design phase, it was determined that the profile of US 9W must be raised five feet to account for a higher required vertical clearance per railroad regulations, and a deeper structure type to eliminate the piers in the railroad right-of-way. Patrick Jordan motioned to approve the TIP amendment, Phil Serafino seconded, and members approved the motion.

**E. R329, 1761.24, Stop 13 Road over Wynantskill, Bridge Repair or Replace**

Michael Arthur presented the TIP amendment request for a cost change on behalf of the Town of Sand Lake. The cost of the project has escalated due to inflation. Chris Wallin motioned to approve the TIP amendment, Andrew Kreshik seconded, and members approved the motion.

**Resolution 23-8: Approve the 2023 Capital Region Congestion Management Process Update**

Andrew Tracy presented the Capital Region Congestion Management Process (CMP) update. The CMP is a systematic process to manage congestion. It is one of the core transportation planning processes required by FHWA and is linked to our other major planning products, such as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

The CMP is a cyclical, data-driven, ongoing process. Travel time data was used to measure excessive delay and reliability. There was an extensive stakeholder outreach process and two public outreach periods. Future traffic forecasts and environmental justice/equity were also considered. The full report can be viewed at <https://www.capitalmpo.org/what-we-do/operations>.

While our region does not have widespread traffic congestion, there are ample opportunities for spot improvements. The public outreach process included a survey and online map, which was shared widely by our members via social media.

Joe Seaman Graves motioned to approve the Congestion Management Process Update, Phil Serafino seconded, and members approved the motion.

### **Resolution 23-9: Approve the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for the Capital Region**

Sandra Misiewicz presented the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan) update. The Coordinated Plan is one of the Transportation Council's federally required documents and is developed locally. It identifies the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes. The Coordinated Plan identifies needs, service gaps, and coordination barriers, and was developed with input from human service agencies, transportation providers, and members of the public.

Per Federal requirements, the Coordinated Plan lists projects to be funded under the Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Program. The 5310 funding priorities include pooled resources, group insurance, driver/mechanic training, shared services and information, travel/mobility training, and coordinated emergency management.

The Transportation Council is planning to hold a workshop for providers of human services transportation in 2024. CDTA's STAR service grows at approximately 10% per month and is not eligible for 5310 funding. The region's '65 and over' and '60 and over and living alone' populations are increasing.

Mark Castiglione motioned to approve the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, Rory Fluman seconded, and members approved the motion.

### **Resolution 23-10: Approve NYSDOT Safety Performance Measure Targets**

Sandra Misiewicz presented the NYSDOT Safety Performance Measure Targets. There are five (5) Safety Performance Measure Targets applicable to MPOs and NYSDOT: Number of Fatalities, Rate of Fatalities per 100 Million VMT, Number of Serious Injuries, Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 Million VMT, and Number of Non-motorized Fatalities and Non-motorized Serious Injuries. Statewide and Regional trends were presented. The proposed NYSDOT targets reduce all safety measures by 0.50%.

Tom Werner motioned to approve the NYSDOT Safety Performance Measure Targets, Patrick Jordan seconded, and members approved the motion.

## **Bridge NY 2023 – Project Solicitation**

Sandra Misiewicz presented the Bridge NY Solicitation. The Bridge NY Program provides federal funding assistance to local governments for projects that rehabilitate and replace bridges, particularly projects that address poor structural conditions, mitigate weight restrictions or detours, facilitate economic development, increase economic competitiveness, improve resiliency, and/or reduce the risk of flooding. Eligible Sponsors include any city, county, town, village, or other political subdivision, including tribal nations/governments and public benefit corporations, authorized to receive and administer State and Federal transportation funding. This program is intended to focus on locally owned structures. Bridge projects must be on a public roadway that carries vehicular traffic. State-owned, tolled, multi-use (pedestrian/bicycle), and railroad bridges are not eligible for Bridge NY funds.

The Transportation Council will manage the bridge portion of Bridge NY, which utilizes federal transportation funds, while NYSDOT Region 1 will manage the culvert portion of the program. A separate call for projects for culverts was provided by Region 1 for the entire eight counties. There is \$16.27 million available for the Transportation Council region, with targets set for each county.

The Project Submission Deadline is January 12, 2024. The Planning Committee will review project evaluations and prioritization at their February 7, 2024, meeting, followed by Public Review in February 2024. The Policy Board will review and approve projects at their March 7, 2024, meeting.

Rory Fluman motioned to approve the Bridge NY Solicitation, Mark Castiglione seconded, and members approved the motion.

## **Metropolitan Transportation Plan Discussion – Trends and Forecasts StoryMap**

Sandra Misiewicz presented the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) process and StoryMap. The Transportation Council is beginning the process of updating the MTP. The MTP will be rebranded from *New Visions* to *In Motion*. A StoryMap has been developed to help present existing conditions and trends. The public outreach process will begin in early 2024, followed by future scenario planning. The draft plan will be made publicly available and adopted in 2025.

## **Status of Planning Activities**

### **A. Capital Region Transportation Council**

No additional updates were provided.

### **B. CDRPC**

In August 2023, CDRPC was awarded \$1 million from the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Program to conduct a climate action plan and updated Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory for the Capital Region over a four-year period. Since August, the sustainability team has been working to develop the Priority Climate Action Plan, due March 1, 2024, and is the first major deliverable of the program. CDRPC has been engaging with regional partner agencies, local interest groups, and municipalities to develop sector-based strategies to reduce GHG emissions. A program webpage has been created along with a GHG dashboard of community scale emissions. CDRPC will be releasing an RFP for an Open Access Broadband Network Feasibility Study. An open access broadband network has the potential to increase competition and lower costs for consumers.

### **C. CDTA**

In November, CDTA opened the Purple Line, and now has over 40 miles of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service. Ridership and customer revenue are up 20% over last year. Ridership is currently above pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels. Some of the growth can be attributed to increases in participation in the Universal Access Program.

### **D. NYSDOT**

The Water St Bridge Over the D&H Railroad (Albany, NY) project letting has been moved to March 14, 2024. The NY 378 bridge painting project is to be let on January 11, 2024. Reimagine I-787 Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study is underway. The NY 378 PEL Study project team held a final public meeting in October, and the draft PEL report is available for comment at <https://www.dot.ny.gov/troymenandsbridge>. NYSDOT Chief of Staff Janice McLachlan has retired and has been replaced by George Paralemos. NYSDOT Region 1 Traffic Engineer Mark Psykadlo has retired and has been replaced by Mike Fenley.

### **E. NYSTA**

No updates were provided.

### **F. Albany County Airport Authority**

No updates were provided.

**G. Albany Port District Commission**

The number of ships, longshore hours, and tonnage levels have been steady in 2023. There were three (3) ships at the Port during the last week. The Cargill grain facility has changed operations from an outbound facility to an inbound facility, with increased ship activity expected in the coming year.

**H. Regional/Local Planning Activities**

The Saratoga County Planning Conference will take place on January 31, 2024.

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

Sandra Misiewicz referred to the agenda listing upcoming meetings.

**Adjournment**

Mark Castiglione motioned to adjourn at approximately 4:20 PM, Patrick Jordan seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Arthur  
Secretary