

**Policy Board Meeting  
February 15, 2024  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Attending**

Michael Arthur, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1, Secretary  
Phil Barrett, Saratoga County  
Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice-Chair  
Mark Castiglione, representing Lawrence Schillinger, Capital District Regional Planning Commission  
Patrick Collins, Albany County Legislature  
Rory Fluman, Schenectady County  
Connor Haskin, representing Philip Calderone, Albany County Airport Authority  
Andrew Kreshik, representing Mayor Patrick Madden, City of Troy  
Joe LaCivita, representing Mayor Charles Patricelli, City of Watervliet  
Michael Lalli, representing Daniel McCoy, Albany County Executive  
The Honorable Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady  
The Honorable John Safford, City of Saratoga Springs  
Phil Serafino, New York State Thruway Authority  
The Honorable Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair  
The Honorable Michael Stammel, City of Rensselaer  
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County Executive

**Staff and Others Attending**

Chris Bauer, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Jacob Beeman, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Jim Boni, New York State Department of Transportation – Main Office  
Virginia Bott, Rensselaer County Legislature  
Tess Drauschak, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Ben Fischer, Federal Highway Administration  
Howard Goebel, City of Albany  
Kim Lambert, Saratoga County  
Stephen Maples, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Don Mattimore, New York State Department of Transportation – Main Office  
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council  
Bob Rice, New York State Department of Transportation – Region 1  
Ayla Schermer, Federal Transit Administration  
Julia Trivers, Federal Highway Administration

Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady  
Greg Wichser, New York State Department of Transportation – Region 1

## **Opening Remarks**

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

## **Privilege of the Floor**

Steve Strauss, Executive Director of the Empire State Passenger Association, submitted written comments asking if project construction will wait on all right-of-way acquisitions, noting that construction inflation will increase project costs.

## **Presentation – Livingston Avenue Bridge Update presented by Jim Boni, NYS DOT-Main Office**

Jim Boni introduced himself and provided an overview of the location and function of the Livingston Avenue Bridge. The bridge was built in the early 1900's on piers from the 1860's. CSX owns the bridge and Amtrak controls and operates the bridge under a long-term lease. The bridge will be replaced about 50 feet south of its current location, with a lift bridge instead of the current swing bridge. It will include two tracks. There will be a shared use path on the south side, connecting to the Albany Skyway and a new riverfront trail in Rensselaer. Part of the new trail will be constructed as part of the project. The new piers will be more strongly reinforced than previously planned. The mechanical system will be above the bridge's lift span.

The project is close to award. There will be no in-water work between March and October. In-water borings for the piers will start in February to guide the final design, with tree clearing in Rensselaer in March, and construction beginning on land in the fall, with foundation construction for the piers beginning in October. Steel work is expected to span from spring 2026 to fall 2027 with project completion in August 2028. There may be roadway closures in Albany at night, as well as closure of the Albany riverfront trail with detours when Quay Street is closed. There will be a two-week period when the navigational channel will be closed, with limited vertical clearance on the river. The majority of right of way acquisition will be complete by the end of the month, with the exception of purchases of railroad property, although those locations will be covered under a construction agreement to enable work to begin prior to purchase.

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

### **A. Rensselaer Riverfront Multi Use Trail**

Greg Wichser explained that this amendment will enable construction of the southern portion of Rensselaer's trail by the NYSDOT. Michael Stammel motioned to approve the TIP amendment, Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the motion.

### **B. Livingston Avenue Amtrak Railroad Over the Hudson River Bridge Replacement**

Greg Wichser explained that this amendment uses state funding and will be added to the TIP as an illustrative project. Mike Stammel motioned to approve the TIP amendment, Kathy Sheehan seconded, and members approved the motion.

### **Other**

There was no other business.

### **Upcoming Meetings/Events**

Upcoming meetings were provided on the agenda.

### **Adjournment**

Gary McCarthy motioned to adjourn at approximately 3:25 PM, Rory Fluman seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Arthur  
Secretary