

**CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes  
September 3, 2020

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice Chair  
Brad Birge, representing Mayor Meg Kelly, City of Saratoga Springs  
Mayor Thomas Gifford, Village of Scotia  
Stephen Iachetta, representing Philip E. Calderone Esq., Albany County  
Airport Authority  
Patrick Jordan Esq., Albany Port District Commission  
Andrew Kreshik, representing Mayor Patrick Madden, City of Troy  
Sean Maguire, representing Paula Mahan, Town of Colonie  
Michael Morris, representing Andrew Joyce, Albany County Legislature  
Robert Rice, representing Patrick Barnes, NYS Department of  
Transportation - Region 1  
Joseph Seman-Graves, representing Mayor William Keeler, City of Cohoes  
Mayor Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair  
Joe Stahl, NYS Thruway Authority  
Ketura Vics, City of Rensselaer  
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County  
Executive  
Chris Wallin, representing Mayor Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady  
Craig Warner, Capital District Regional Planning Commission  
Tom Werner, Saratoga County

**STAFF AND OTHERS**

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission  
Jennifer Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Rich Cordero, Capital District Transportation Authority  
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands  
Jordan Solano-Reed, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Carrie Ward, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1

**OPENING REMARKS**

Mayor Kathy Sheehan opened the Capital District Transportation Committee meeting at approximately 3:03 PM.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **March 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Steve Iachetta motioned to approve the June 4, 2020 minutes. Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the motion.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

There were no visitors.

## **2019-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

### **RG145, PIN 1811.39, Wrong Way Driving & Low Clearance Bridge Countermeasures Set-Aside**

Greg Wichser explained that this new signage and pavement marking project will address wrong way driving at 250 highway ramp locations and will advise of low bridges at 20 locations. The project is funded by a statewide source and doesn't impact fiscal constraint. Sean Maguire motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Brad Birge seconded, and members approved the motion.

### **FINAL NEW VISIONS 2050 APPROVAL**

Mike Franchini thanked everyone for their efforts on New Visions 2050 over the last year. Jen Ceponis noted that staff mostly used virtual public involvement for the plan due to COVID-19. She provided an overview of the public input materials and the input received. Staff plans to make updates to components of the plan as necessary, and to continue public engagement about the plan. Jen provided an overview of the new webpage where people can learn about New Visions 2050, as well as educational opportunities about the plan. Carm Basile motioned to adopt the plan as presented, Steve Iachetta seconded, and members approved New Visions 2050.

### **FINAL TRANSPORTATION/AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION APPROVAL**

Mike Franchini noted that along with a new long-range transportation plan we are required to update the Air Quality Conformity Determination document. Chris Bauer explained that we develop the analysis and determination cooperatively with the NYSDOT Environmental Science Bureau, who in turn coordinates with the New York State Interagency Consultation Group (ICG). The Air Quality Conformity Determination document is updated with each new TIP and/or New Visions update. Bradley Birge motioned to approve the air quality determination as presented. Carm Basile seconded, and members approved the motion.

### **FINAL CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS APPROVAL**

Andrew Tracy noted that staff updated the Congestion Management Process (CMP) in parallel with New Visions 2050 and that it is a required document for MPO's over 200,000 in population. The CMP is a performance driven document that aims to keep non-recurring delays to a minimum, as

these are very disruptive. Andrew outlined the eight steps in the process, noting that it is a cyclical process. He discussed the AVAIL tool using the National Performance Management Research Data Set and different analyses we can conduct. He also provided an overview of congestion management strategies in the CMP. Tom Werner made a motion to approve the Congestion Management Process as presented, Brad Birge seconded, and members approved the motion.

#### **CDTA SAFETY PLAN PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL**

Carm Basile explained that the Federal Transit Administration now requires safety plans. These plans aim to ensure that organizational culture puts safety first. It took about two years to create. Rich Cordero explained that the plan documents the safety policy and risk mitigation process. As part of the process, CDTA hired a new position to focus on safety and report directly to the Executive Director. In addition to MPO approval, the plan requires and has received approval from CDTA's board, and NYSDOT's Public Transportation Safety Board. Steve Iachetta made a motion to approve the CDTA Safety Plan as presented, Brad Birge seconded, and members approved the motion.

#### **SECTION 5310 ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM**

Carrie Ward noted that the Planning Committee added new projects to the TIP for seven agencies under the 5310 program, and that the projects added are the same projects approved at the June meeting.

#### **STATUS OF SOLICITATIONS**

##### **Technical Assistance Program**

The solicitation remains open, see the [Technical Assistance website page](#) for details.

##### **Complete Streets Workshops**

To date we have funded a basics training in Ballston Spa and policy development with Schenectady County. The solicitation remains open for one additional workshop.

##### **ADA Transition Plans**

Staff has begun working with the City of Saratoga Springs and the Town of Glenville. This solicitation also remains open.

##### **Trail Feasibility Study**

Staff is currently reviewing the applications received.

##### **Smart Cities Study**

This open solicitation will fund technical studies which assist Capital District communities in launching smart cities initiatives and plans

(e.g. municipal "smart cities" plans) related to new and emerging technologies and services.

**STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

**CDTC**

Mike Franchini noted that staff is currently reviewing consultant proposals for the Locally Owned Bridge Preservation Study. The Towns of Princetown and Rotterdam are currently reviewing a draft scope of work for the Rotterdam-Princetown NY 7 Corridor Freight Study. Good progress is being made on the Hoosick Hillside study. Staff is currently working with CDTA on the scope for the CDTA bus lane feasibility study. Two demonstration projects are coming up for the Albany bicycle and pedestrian plan.

**CDRPC**

Craig Warner advised that CDRPC, the Northern Border Regional Commission liaison, helped connect the City of Troy to the program and congratulates them on securing a 1 million dollar grant for the redevelopment of Monument Square. CDRPC is preparing a \$200,000 subgrant program to support economic development organizations working on economic recovery. Details are forthcoming. We plan to award funding through NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program, through which, we have already helped communities qualify for more than \$2.5 million in cost saving clean energy upgrades. Stay tuned for information about CDRPC's fall local government training webinar series.

**CDTA**

Carm Basile said that CDTA started collecting fares again a couple of weeks ago, as plexiglass barriers have been installed between drivers and passengers boarding through the front door. Ridership is back up to 40,000 daily from 25,000 daily. Normal levels would be about 50,000. Social distancing means that no more than 20-25 people should be on the bus at one time. School reopenings will be impacting ridership. The Albany-Troy BusPlus line, with eventual service to Waterford and Cohoes, will be unveiled this fall. Carm noted that CDTA is excited to begin work on the bus lane feasibility study, and exclusive lanes would enable even better service. Expansion of the Troy garage is underway, and CDTA is planning a \$12M extension to the Albany garage building.

**NYSDOT**

Bob Rice said that NYSDOT is planning for winter snow removal procedures during COVID. Construction staff are at 100%, and 75% of staff are working remotely. Staff are still involved in the state's COVID response. Work on the deck of I-90 over Erie Boulevard has started. The Northway paving project between Exits 11 and 13 was awarded. The 378 bridge Planning and Environmental Linkages study is advertised and there seems to be a good amount of consultant interest. There are a number of local projects that are finished but which sponsors have not closed out.

NYS DOT will be reaching out to close the books on these projects. The Skyway bridge project in Albany has been advertised.

**New York State Thruway Authority**

Joe Stahl reported that the Authority is full-fledged into the conversion for all electronic tolling, with a completion goal of the end of 2020. Most of the gantries in the Capital Region are installed. Exit 24 and Exit 25A are getting additional lanes and widening installed to assist in the movement of long tandem trailers in and out of the current parking facilities located at these 2 locations. Additional lane work is occurring on Becker Rd off of Exit 25A to allow for tandems to return to the designated parking area.

**Albany County Airport Authority**

Steve Iachetta advised that the Airport has seen a slight increase in air cargo. Passengers remain at about 1,000 per day, where 4,500 would be normal for summertime. Projections are looking at about two million total passengers, where three million is the normal total for the calendar year. Ongoing projects include \$3.5M in new passenger boarding bridges, which was awarded last week, and a \$750,000 master plan.

**Albany Port District Commission**

Pat Jordan noted that the port is just over last year's numbers on longshoreman and longshorewoman hours. The paper and scrap industries have been busy. Offshore wind business development potential remains strong. A number of train cars that had been stalled on their way to Boston left this morning. The port recently awarded a construction contract for a 60,000 square foot warehouse inside the maritime terminal. This is expected complete by the end of the year and will increase capacity.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, Mayor Kathy Sheehan motioned to adjourn the meeting, Linda von der Heide seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Barnes  
Secretary