

CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2020

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Patrick Barnes, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1, Secretary
Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice Chair
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
George Penn, representing Daniel McCoy, Albany County Executive
Joseph Seman-Graves, representing Mayor William Keeler, City of Cohoes
Mayor Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair
Joe Stahl, NYS Thruway Authority
Michael Stammel, Rensselaer County Legislature
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 ATTENDING

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Jennifer Ceronis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Maria Chau, Federal Highway Administration
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee
Richelle Gosman, Federal Transit Administration
Jeffery Jamison, Albany County Executive's Office
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Julie Anne Okun, Village of Colonie
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands
Robert Rice, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1
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 3:05 PM.

ADMINISTRATION

September 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Steve Iachetta motioned to approve the September 3, 2020 minutes. Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the motion.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no visitors.

PRESENTATION BY FHWA/FTA – 2020 FEDERAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW REPORT

Maria Chau thanked everyone for their assistance with the certification review. It was the first virtual review conducted in New York State. In addition, the review of CDTC was the first time federal staff put together a [desk reference](#) as part of the review. Maria provided an overview of the desk reference followed by an overview of the certification review. Certification reviews can include “corrective actions” items that fail to meet the requirements of the transportation statute and regulations, “recommendations” – items that meet the requirements but for which improvements could be done, and “commendations” – elements that demonstrate innovative, highly effective, well-thought-out procedures for implementing the planning requirements. The review includes 12 recommendations and 7 commendations.

Maria highlighted a number of elements in the recommendations. They would like to see a stronger discussion in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) write-up, including how actions tie back to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). CDTC and NYSDOT should work together to submit the expenditure report to FHWA within 90 days after the end of the reporting period. The federal team would like to see better alignment between the amount of the UPWP expenditures and the goals in the LRTP. The performance for the unamended TIP has been low and the team recommends monitoring performance and, if performance drops further, looking at the obligation rate to improve on project readiness. Maria noted that the team was impressed with geographic representativeness, but the team recommended improving the alignment of Planning Committee and subcommittee group members with regional demographics.

Richelle Gosman highlighted a number of elements from the commendations. CDTA’s American Public Transportation Association shows the strong regional support for transit in the region. Notable is the strong connection between planning studies to address resiliency and the planning scenarios within the LRTP. There is a high level of engagement with members, partners, and other stakeholders, especially related to freight. The team commended CDTC for its robust data-driven approach to congestion management, in partnership with the Albany Visualization and Informatics Lab. Finally, Richelle highlighted CDTC’s swift switch to virtual work at the start of the pandemic.

2019-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

T134, Washington/Western BRT Phase 4, CDTA

Carm Basile noted that the River Corridor BRT has started service. This amendment is for the Washington/Western BRT, which will be located through a high density employment and educational corridor and will include a busway. The amendment is to program federal funds allocated to the project. Pat Jordan motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Tom Werner seconded, and members approved the motion.

RG136, PIN 1810.66, State Miscellaneous Pavement Maintenance Set-Aside, NYSDOT

Greg Wichser explained that this amendment represents an additional \$12.7M to the paving set-aside. \$8.5M of this is federal, but the funds are reserved by NYSDOT for state use. The goal of the program is to keep pavement conditions steady. Portions of Route 9w, 67, 29, 32, and 20, as well as all of Route 423 will be paved with the funding. Linda von der Heide motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Carm Basile seconded, and members approved the motion.

NYSDOT SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGET APPROVALS

Bob Rice explained that this is an annual requirement. FHWA requires each region to have goals. NYSDOT Main Office has developed statewide goals and each region needs to certify if these statewide goals are acceptable to the region. Tom Werner asked if these same goals will be published by region. Tom Werner motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Joe Stahl seconded, and members approved the motion.

NYSDOT CMAQ EMISSION REDUCTIONS PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGET APPROVALS

Bob Rice explained that NYSDOT is resubmitting this item for approval because of a change in the units used, from kg to kg/day. The values are the same as those already approved. Carm Basile motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Craig Warner seconded, and members approved the motion.

DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE AND APPROVAL TO RELEASE FINAL DRAFT TO THE PUBLIC

Mike Franchini noted that this is a required document under federal law, and that staff worked on updating the procedures during the New Visions 2050 process. The last update to the Public Participation Plan was in 2015. Jen Ceponis provided a brief presentation and noted that the update provides for continuous opportunities for public input and specific methods that staff can use. There is additional detail on using an equity lens to evaluate outreach results. Staff also created a toolkit for internal staff use, but it is available to other interested agencies. Carm Basile

motioned to release the draft plan to the public, Mike Stammel seconded, and members approved the motion.

TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY AWARD APPROVAL

Mike Franchini explained that this task is to implement parts of the Capital District Trails Plan. He shared the evaluation ratings, noting that the scores were very close. The selection committee recommended funding the Patroon Creek Greenway application. Joe Seman-Graves motioned to approve the selection committee's recommendation to award funding to the Patroon Creek Greenway, Craig Warner seconded, and members approved the motion.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON TRANSPORTATION IN THE CAPITAL DISTRICT

Andrew Tracy provided a presentation summarizing travel data from several sources. StreetLight Data Inc., which aggregates data from a number of sources including smartphones and connected vehicles, provided free vehicle miles travelled (VMT) data through July. This source showed that travel volumes came back to baseline levels in mid-June and remained there. At a national level, the morning peak is mostly gone, and mid-day travel has increased, with the PM peak remaining. There is less VMT in urban core areas and more outside those areas. Google Mobility Reports data shows a large decrease in retail/recreation, transit, and workplace trips, and a slight increase in residential trips. Transit ridership has not yet recovered. Data from the OpenTable online reservation network for restaurants shows a 70% decline in seated reservations to mid-November. NYSDOT permanent count location on Wolf Road shows a sharp decline in March, with some recovery through mid-July. The count location on US 9 in Latham had recovered almost to the baseline through August, and I-87 north of Saratoga Springs is back to normal. Andrew concluded by noting that we may need to reevaluate mitigation efforts and safety hotspots as a new normal is established.

2021 PLANNING COMMITTEE AND POLICY BOARD MEETING SCHEDULES

Mike Franchini reviewed the handout, noting that there are no holidays impacting meeting dates next year.

CDTC/CDRPC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sandy Misiewicz advised that this program is now on a rolling deadline and is still open. The Planning Committee approved two projects in November. The Town of Colonie will look at Green Area Ratios and electric vehicle charging station requirements. The City of Troy will look at sewer and transportation capacity related to impacts of new development in Rensselaer County.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDTC

Mike Franchini referred attendees to the table in the packet.

CDRPC

CDRPC was awarded a \$1.7M grant to administer a new round of NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program for match free grant funding for municipal clean energy projects. The Planning and Zoning Webinar Series continues through December. Recordings are available to workshop registrants. CDRPC is working to launch a COVID 19 Recovery Economic Dashboard with timely and relevant indicators.

CDTA

Carm Basile reported that the Troy facility renovation will be complete in a couple of weeks. It is expanding the garage and modernizing the maintenance facility. Ridership is down almost 40% after recovering over the summer. It dipped again when the fareboxes were turned back on. CDTA expects to need to reduce frequencies to align with ridership. Frequencies had increased over the summer to enable social distancing on the vehicles. CDPHP Cycle ridership was "through the roof this year." It is now paused for the winter and will be back April 1st.

NYSDOT

Pat Barnes reported that NYSDOT is working with FHWA on a One Federal Decision training to help craft a more useful scope of services for the Route 378 PEL study. About 25% of staff is working from the office. NYSDOT recently let Route 2 over the Poestenkill and a paving project from Exits 13 to 15 on the Northway. The Menands bike/ped connector will be open soon.

New York State Thruway Authority

Joe Stahl reported that all-electronic tolling was implemented overnight on November 13th. A few of the toll barriers have been removed, including Exits 24 and 25. Exits 23 and 25A are expected to be removed in December, and by early fall 2021 they should all be down.

Albany County Airport Authority

There was no update at the meeting.

Albany Port District Commission

Pat Jordan reported that the Port is preparing to repave the terminal next year, and the new 60,000 square foot warehouse is expected to be complete in January. The Port is at 25% more vessel calls this year than last year. Six new electric vehicle charging stations are now located at the main office lot. The Port is hopeful it will be successful with the NYSERDA off-shore wind solicitation, which would result in an off-shore wind facility at the Port's newly acquired parcel in Bethlehem. Pat thanked everyone for their work to support the project.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Mayor Kathy Sheehan referred attendees to the list in the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Craig Warner motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mike Stammel seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Patrick Barnes
Secretary