

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
July 1, 2020
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bradley Birge, City of Saratoga Springs
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Vice-chair
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee,
Secretary
Joe Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority, Chair
Andrew Kohout, Village of Scotia
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Sean Maguire, Town of Colonie
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Jamie O'Neill, Town of Malta
Robert Rice, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Tim Wainwright, New York State Thruway Authority
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Adam Yagelski, Town of East Greenbush

STAFF AND OTHERS

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Michael Burns, Town of Glenville
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Joe Cimino, CHA Consulting
Fred Mastroianni, GPI
Jim Mearkle, Albany County
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Ron Shaffer, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Rima Shamieh, Capital District Transportation Committee
Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority
Jordan Solano-Reed, Capital District Transportation Committee
Dalia Szarowicz, Town of East Greenbush
Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1

INTRODUCTION AND VISITORS' ISSUES

Steve Iachetta opened the meeting at approximately 9:35 AM.
There were no visitors' issues.

ADMINISTRATION

Previous Meeting Minutes - May 6, 2020

Members approved the May 6, 2020 meeting minutes, with no revisions.

ACTION ITEMS

FISCAL CONSTRAINT DISCUSSION - TIP SUMMARY TABLE 4

Mike Franchini displayed the updated Fiscal Constraint by Fund Source by Year table, commonly referred to as Table 4, which is updated monthly by CDTC. All over-programmed and under-programmed percentages are less than +/- 5% when examined by year or by the total program. FHWA guidance is for MPOs to stay within +/- 5% of the anticipated funding.

No action was needed.

2019-24 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

A. RG131, CDTC.31, Bus Rapid Transit

B. T125, Washington/Western BRT Phase 3

Ross Farrell explained that amendments A and B were being presented together, as their budget revisions were being used to offset each other. Both amendments are related to the development of CDTA's Washington-Western Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line. Although the Washington Western BRT is primarily funded by a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Small Starts grant, some work needs to happen before the finalized FTA grant agreement. This includes preliminary site work related to the expansion to the Albany garage which will house the new BRT buses. The garage is expanding into an area that is currently used as CDTA employee parking, and as such, a new employee parking area is being developed across the street. CDTA is also developing a site, currently being used as daytime bus parking, for use as overnight bus parking. The scope of the project includes security upgrades and fencing.

Members approved the amendments as presented.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Mike Franchini shared the Unified Planning Working Program (UPWP) Progress Report for the period of October 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020. Mike highlighted some of the items from the Summary of Key Accomplishments section of the report. The 2020-2022 UPWP was drafted and approved. The draft New Visions 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan and Public Participation Strategy were developed. Mike noted that the principle of preserving and managing the region's transportation system continues to be CDTC's highest stated priority. The Regional Operations and Travel Reliability: CDTC's Congestion Management Process was developed, which will serve as an update to the CDTC Congestion Management Process (CMP). The Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for the Capital District

update was completed. Mike noted the popularity of the "Traffic Safety Ambassador Program" (mini-grants) which provide \$25,000 in Federal funding, annually, toward small-scale bicycle and pedestrian safety education and training. Members approved the adoption of the UPWP Progress Report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

STATUS OF SOLICITATIONS

A. Technical Assistance Program

Sandy Misiewicz gave a brief update on the Technical Assistance Program. The primary change has been the elimination of the submission deadline and moving to a rolling application deadline. CDTC and CDRPC will continue to accept applications until there are enough applications worthy of funding to expend the program's budget. More information on the program is available in the agenda package and on CDTC's website.

B. Complete Streets Workshops

Chris Bauer gave a brief update on the Complete Streets Workshops. The program is also moving to a rolling deadline, and the application period is still open. CDTC will accept applications until there are three (3) total applications worthy of funding. More information on the program is available in the agenda package and on CDTC's website.

C. ADA Transition Plans

Mike Franchini said the ADA Transition Plan program is also moving to a rolling deadline, and that applications are still being accepted. CDTC has hired The Chazen Companies as the project's consultant.

D. Trail Feasibility Study

Jen Ceponis gave a brief update on the Capital District Trails Plan Implementation program. CDTC has made up to \$75,000 in Federal Planning funds available to eligible project sponsors to conduct a consultant-led feasibility study for constructing projects recommended in the Capital District Trails Plan (2019). Proposals must focus on the feasibility of constructing one of the core trails identified in the Plan. The deadline for submissions is Friday, August 7, 2020. More information on the program is available in the agenda package and on CDTC's website.

FHWA/FTA IN-PERSON CERTIFICATION

Mike Franchini gave a summary of CDTC's recent Federal MPO Certification Review process. The Certification Review was held during May, with a preliminary closeout meeting held last month. FHWA is currently developing the report. Mike said overall it went well and thanked members who participated and provided comments.

CDTC PROJECT DELIVERY UPDATE

Jacob Beeman provided updates on several local projects. A bid letting for Saratoga County's CR 59/Middle Line Road Bridge over a

tributary of Gordon Creek project was held in May 2020. The Schenectady County Highbridge Road and East Campbell Rd Sidewalk Reconstruction and Extension project's construction obligation occurred in May 2020. A bid letting for Town of Charlton's Peaceable Street over the Mourning Kill - Culvert replacement project was held in May 2020. A bid letting for the Village of Green Island's Hudson Avenue Preservation Project was held in May 2020. For the August meeting, Jacob has requested updates from the City of Rensselaer, the Village of Voorheesville, and the Town of Rotterdam. Please review CDTC's Local Federal Aid Project Tracking Sheet and provide updates or revisions to Jacob.

Adam Yagelski provided an update on the Town of East Greenbush's US 9 & 20 Sidewalk Construction project. Adam shared a figure showing the project's elements and limits. The project includes sidewalks, curbing, a bus shelter, and drainage upgrades, along US 9 & 20 from Bruen Court to the Rensselaer City Line. One of the project's primary goals was to improve safety, by providing enhanced multi-modal accommodations along the corridor. The project will become part of the Albany Hudson Electric Trail alignment, providing pedestrian access along this section of trail. There was extensive project coordination with the Electric Trail project, and another NYSDOT project to improve sidewalks and ADA compliance, also located along the same corridor. The project is funded with GEIS funds collected through the Town's GEIS land development impact mitigation process. Joe Cimino said the design process is ahead of schedule and there may be potential to advance the project's construction to later this year.

NYSDOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Greg Wichser shared the updated NYSDOT Projects in the CDTC Region for State FY 2020-2021 table. Most of this year's projects have been let on time, except for one, the Twin Bridges Preservation Project, which was 28 days late. NYSDOT has reported relatively favorable bid prices so far this year.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

A. CDTC

Mike Franchini said CDTC will be utilizing virtual meeting technology for the New Visions 2050 public participation process. Several new Linkage Studies are getting underway.

B. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione said the Technical Assistance Program projects have started in the Town of Westerlo, and the Town of Clifton Park. The Town of Glenville's project will be starting soon. Mark reiterated that the program was moving to a rolling application deadline. CDRPC received \$400,000 in CARES ACT funding for COVID-19 recovery support efforts. The funding will support mini-grants that will support local government recovery activities, tracking of economic recovery and other technical assistance services.

The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) for the State Economic and Infrastructure Development Investment Program closed in early June. CDRPC serves as the Local Development District for NBRC so those with project ideas should reach out to us. CDRPC's Capital Region Indicators site still live and regularly being updated with new data. CDRPC continues to enhance the site.

C. CDTA

Ross Farrell said CDTA is planning to launch another round of service changes on July 12, to respond to changes in ridership levels. Ridership is rebounding. The new service plan can accommodate 40,000 riders. Some routes will see an increase in frequency with some new headways as low as every 7-8 minutes. CDTA has had to increase the number of buses on some routes with the most ridership to allow for social distancing.

The River Corridor BRT project still planned to begin service in November. The final phase of site work construction is currently underway. The new buses for the River Corridor BRT will arrive in August. The new buses will be housed at the Troy Garage, which is currently undergoing an expansion.

D. NYSDOT

Bob Rice stated the project bid-letting program is moving forward. There is potential for a new statewide safety program, with an emphasis on wrong-way driving and low bridge clearance issues. NYSDOT is finishing the scope-of-work for the NY 378 Bridge of Hudson River Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study. The FAST Act expires in September. There is currently a draft bill in the House of Representatives, referred to as the INVEST in America Act, which as proposed would not go into effect until Federal FY 2022. This proposal would include a one-year extension of the Fast Act.

E. NYSTA

Tim Wainwright said construction of the Electronic Tolling and the Old State Rd bridge projects are underway.

F. Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta said air travel has been recovering slowly. The normal number of passengers per day this time of year is around 5,000, however, there have only been around 1,400 per day. Cargo continues to move through the airport at or above normal tonnages. The airport recently completed a State supported modernization project delivered on time and under budget. The project rehabilitated the airport terminal, enhanced passenger amenities, and expanded parking with a new, multi-level, 1,000-space parking garage. There is also a new Capital Region welcome gateway sign on Albany Shaker Road. The airport continues to accommodate travel advisories and restrictions, the most recent of which requires inbound travelers from sixteen (16) (subsequently updated to nineteen (19)) states to voluntarily quarantine.

Linkage/Local Planning Activities

The update to the Local Bridge Preservation Report has started.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting will be August 5, 2020. The next Policy Board meeting is September 3, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael V. Franchini
Secretary