

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

August 5, 2020

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bradley Birge, City of Saratoga Springs
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Don Csaposs, Town of Guilderland
Todd Fabozzi, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority, Chair
Andrew Kohout, Village of Scotia
Elizabeth Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Sean Maguire, Town of Colonie
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta
Robert Rice, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Joseph Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes
Tony Vasil, Port of Albany
Ketura Vics, City of Rensselaer
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady

STAFF AND OTHERS

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jennifer Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Mayor Robert Conway, Village of Voorheesville
Rich Cordero, Capital District Transportation Authority
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee,
Secretary
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Ron Shaffer, NYS Department of Transportation
Rima Shamieh, Capital District Transportation Committee
Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority
Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee
Carrie Ward, Capital District Transportation Committee
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1

INTRODUCTION AND VISITORS' ISSUES

Steve Iachetta opened the videoconference meeting at approximately 9:35 AM.

ADMINISTRATION

Previous Meeting Minutes - May 6, 2020

Sean Maguire motioned to approve the May 6, 2020 minutes. Bob Rice seconded and members approved the motion.

PRESENTATION - CDTC'S LEARNING CENTER: USEFUL RESOURCES FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS

Rima Shamieh provided an overview of the new Learning Center at <https://www.cdtcmpo.org/what-we-do/learn> and video library available on CDTC's website. It is geared toward local officials, planners, and the general public to learn about planning topics. The focus is on videos that can be relevant for our region, and it includes resources related to the COVID pandemic.

ACTION ITEMS

FISCAL CONSTRAINT DISCUSSION - TIP SUMMARY TABLE 4

Mike Franchini noted that Table 4 shows the TIP has less than a 5% deviation over 5 years.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

A. T6A, 1824.01, Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (individual project approval)

Mike Franchini explained that NYSDOT and the MPO's solicit for 5310 projects every few years. The program pays for equipment and encourages coordination among providers. Carrie Ward noted that the projects to be added were already approved as a funding recommendation by Planning Committee and Policy Board and have now been approved by NYSDOT. Steve Iachetta motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Bob Rice seconded, and members approved the motion.

B. RG145, 1811.39, Wrong Way Driving & Low Clearance Bridge Countermeasure Set-Aside

This project is an initiative of NYSDOT's Office of Traffic Safety and Mobility and will add signs to reduce wrong way driving, usually on highway ramps. It will also provide signs and pavement markings at about 20 locations on state routes to reduce the incidence of trucks hitting low bridges. Funding for these will be provided by a statewide source. Brad Birge motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Andrew Kreshik seconded, and members

approved the motion.

C. RG131, CDTC.31, Bus Rapid Transit Set-Aside
D. T126, Bus Lane Feasibility Study

Ross Farrell explained that CDTA has funding to implement both the blue and purple BusPlus lines, and will now begin to look at additional BRT improvements that can be made in the next 5-10 years. These could be new routes or improvements to existing routes. The UPWP includes a bus lane feasibility study. The amendments on the agenda would create a new TIP project using the remaining funds in the BRT Set-Aside to supplement that study and enable it to begin conceptual design. Sean Maguire motioned to approve both amendments as presented, Brad Birge seconded, and members approved the motion.

CDTA SAFETY PLAN PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL

Ross Farrell explained that CDTA is required to have a safety plan, including targets on different metrics based on the performance from the last three years. Both the CDTA board and the MPO must approve the safety plan. Sean Maguire motioned to approve the CDTA Safety Plan as presented, Bob Rice seconded, and the members passed the motion.

FINAL NEW VISION 2050 APPROVAL

Jen Ceponis presented on the status of New Visions and its next steps. She noted that staff will be collecting continuous public involvement through to Policy Board adoption. The participation plan changed significantly after March and is primarily web-based with a phone option. Jen outlined the input efforts undertaken over the summer. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve New Visions 2050 as presented, Sean Maguire seconded, and the members passed the motion.

AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION APPROVAL

Mike Franchini explained that there have been no changes since last year, but we are required to approve the Air Quality Determination both after the long-range plan is approved and following TIP adoption. Brad Birge motioned to approve the Air Quality Determination as presented, Sean Maguire seconded, and the members passed the motion.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AMENDMENT

Mike Franchini explained that this amendment adds the funds from the BRT Set-Aside from the earlier TIP amendment into UPWP Task 6.13 Transit Planning to increase the funding for the feasibility

study. Brad Birge motioned to approve the UPWP amendment as presented, Steve Iachetta seconded, and the members approved the motion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

STATUS OF SOLICITATIONS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This solicitation remains open, with a rolling deadline.

COMPLETE STREETS WORKSHOPS

Two applications have been received and recommended for funding. Funding remains available for one additional workshop.

ADA TRANSITION PLANS

The Town of Glenville and City of Saratoga Springs have submitted applications.

TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

To date there has been a lot of interest in this solicitation. Applications are due Friday.

CAPITAL DISTRICT SMART COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

This solicitation opened today with information on the website.

PLEDGE TO RIDE

Rima Shamieh noted that this was the first year doing a Pledge to Ride. 129 people signed up, with the highest participation from Niskayuna, Saratoga Springs, and the Pine Hills area in Albany.

CDTC PROJECT DELIVERY UPDATE

Jacob Beeman noted provided the following updates on projects in the City of Schenectady. The Kings Road Bridge over CSX received design approval in June, and the Broadway Mill and Fill completed the draft design report in July. The Highbridge Road and East Campbell Rd sidewalk reconstruction and extension project was let in June. At the October meeting the Cities of Schenectady and Rensselaer and the Town of Nassau will provide updates. Mayor Conway from the Village of Voorheesville provided an update on the Village of Voorheesville Pedestrian Connectivity project. Construction started in early May and is now substantially

complete. It reconstructed sidewalks on Maple Avenue and provided new sidewalk extensions to two areas.

NYSDOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Bob Rice advised that there have been no changes since the last meeting.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDTC

Mike Franchini noted that staff is monitoring the federal funding bills. The FAST Act expires in September. There has also been discussion about possible stimulus bills.

CDRPC

Todd Fabozzi noted progress on the technical assistance projects, including those in Westerlo and Clifton Park.

CDTA

Ross Farrell said that the River Corridor construction should be complete in November. Shelters are going up now and the Troy garage expansion will wrap up soon. Service continues to change, with increased service on high ridership routes to enable social distancing, and reduced geographic service in rural areas. Vanpools may be used in rural areas and the new Flex in suburban locations, including Guilderland and Colonie to date. More changes are expected in September as schools come back.

NYSDOT

Bob Rice noted that NYSDOT is still involved in COVID support, transporting test kits to nursing homes and greeting people coming in on flights. There is a conceptual agreement on the maintenance and terms of use for the Skyway. The consultant scope for the 378 bridge study is completed and expected out in the next couple of months. 25% of staff is in the office, with rotations as necessary. FHWA will be completing Financial Integrity Review and Evaluation reviews in the region on a couple of projects. Wahid Albert has retired and Nick Choubah is the new Chief Engineer. Greg Wichser advised that the end of the fiscal year is coming up. Any project with unobligated construction funds in this year will be moved out. NYSDOT will also be looking at the next fiscal year to evaluate the likelihood of obligation.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta reported that the airport is at about 1,000 passengers each day, and would normally be at about 5,500 per day. Freight is up slightly. The new regional gateway welcome sign at Northway Exit 3 is up. The military is building four new hangers for black hawk jet helicopters for emergency statewide response.

Albany Port District Commission

Tony Vasil noted that there have been no shutdowns on the Albany or Rensselaer side and no COVID cases. The Port is up 20% on ships and barges and 25% on tonnage. There will be no major power projects this year. The Port secured a new forest products account from Sweden. They are working to establish a wind project on 80 acres purchased in Bethlehem, adjacent to the Port.

Linkage/Local Planning Activities

Mike Franchini advised that staff added technical assistance projects to the linkage report as well as additional information for all projects in the table.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Steve Iachetta summarized upcoming meetings as noted on the agenda.

Adjournment

Steve Iachetta motioned to adjourn, Bob Rice seconded, and the members approved the motion at 10:59 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting will be October 7, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael V. Franchini
Secretary