

**CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes  
June 4, 2020

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice Chair  
Patrick Barnes, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1, Secretary  
Brad Birge, representing 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  
Mayor William Keeler, City of Cohoes  
Andrew Kreshik, representing Mayor Patrick Madden, City of Troy  
Joe Landry, Schenectady County  
Sean Maguire, representing Paula Mahan, Town of Colonie  
Randy Milano, representing Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany  
George Penn, representing Daniel McCoy, Albany County Executive  
Joe Stahl, NYS Thruway Authority  
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  
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission  
Jennifer Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Patrick Collins, Albany County Legislature  
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee  
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**

Carm Basile opened the Capital District Transportation Committee meeting at approximately 3:03 PM. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

**ADMINISTRATION**

**March 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Linda von der Heide motioned to approve the March 5, 2020 minutes with

the following changes: adding Pat Jordan, Tim Wainwright, and Stephen Iachetta to the attendance list, noting that Tim Wainwright provided the update for the NYS Thruway Authority, and adding "power" between the words "wind producing" in the Albany Port District Commission's status of planning activities. Patrick Jordan seconded, and members approved the motion.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

There were no visitors.

**PRESENTATION - DRAFT NEW VISIONS 2050 UPDATE**

Jen Ceponis advised that the draft New Visions had been updated to address received comments. In addition, the Public Participation Plan and conformity analysis were updated and new Vehicle Miles Travelled data added. Staff will be doing continuous public involvement and outreach through September, when the plan is scheduled for adoption. A Transportation/Air Quality Conformity determination is required for the New Visions 2050 Plan, consistent with the Clean Air Act. We are coordinating with the Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council and with NYSDOT for projects in Greene, Montgomery, and Schoharie counties. The draft in the packet was approved by the New York State Interagency Consultation Group.

We find New Visions 2050 to meet the requirements of conformity for the seven-county ozone non-attainment area. Ozone levels in the region have improved. The resiliency chapter was updated to address recent changes and how the region is adapting to the shutdown and social distancing. New Visions may need additional updates, for example to performance measures, with CDTA's forthcoming Transit Development Plan, and/or with telecommuting rates and the influence of broadband. Comments can be submitted via email, voice/text, and social media. More public town hall virtual meetings can be scheduled upon request.

**DRAFT NEW VISIONS 2050 UPDATE AND APPROVAL TO RELEASE FINAL DRAFT TO THE PUBLIC**

Bradley Birge motioned to approve the Final Draft of New Visions 2050 to be released to the public as presented. Craig Warner seconded and members approved the motion.

**DRAFT TRANSPORTATION/AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION APPROVAL**

Bradley Birge motioned to approve the air quality determination as presented. Craig Warner seconded and members approved the motion. The draft Conformity Statement will be released for public review.

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

Mike Franchini explained that the 5310 Program mostly funds vehicles that transport people with disabilities and seniors. A regional committee reviewed the applications and recommended funding the projects in the amounts distributed in the packet. The other funding option, in order of highest rating, would only have funded a few applicants. Bradley Birge motioned to approve the funding recommendation as presented. Craig Warner seconded and members approved the motion.

**CONTINUING OPERATIONS PLAN APPROVAL**

Mike Franchini noted that the first portion of the document hasn't changed except for minor updates. New to the document is the organizational chart that includes partner agencies and the public. The last section describes actions and recommendations under different scenarios that would threaten CDTC's operations. Patrick Jordan motioned to approve the Continuing Operations Plan as presented. Linda von der Heide seconded and members approved the motion.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/TITLE VI ANALYSIS APPROVAL**

Mike Franchini noted that the analysis evaluates all programs and their impact on Environmental Justice and Title VI populations. Recommendations include increasing the number of projects classified as positive in the analysis and improving outreach to Environmental Justice populations. Tom Werner motioned to approve the analysis as presented. Andrew Kreshik seconded and members approved the motion.

**CDTC/CDRPC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Sandy Misiewicz advised that the Planning Committee funded all four received applications, in Westerlo, East Greenbush, Glenville, and Clifton Park. While some may be delayed because of a need to collect traffic data, they are expected to start in the next two weeks. As available funding remains, members should expect another solicitation in the fall.

**STATUS OF SOLICITATIONS**

A: The Complete Streets Workshops provide consultant-led training for basic, policy development, implementation, and county/regional trainings. Applications are due June 19<sup>th</sup>.

B: The ADA Transition Plan solicitation is for consultant assistance to create federally required Transition Plans. Applications are due June 15<sup>th</sup>.

C: The Trail Feasibility Study solicitation aims to progress the highly rated trail projects in the new trails plan. Almost all of these trails involve more than one municipality. The deadline is August 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **FHWA/FTA IN-PERSON CERTIFICATION REVIEW**

Mike noted that Metropolitan Planning Organizations over 200,000 residents must certify every four years. The Federal Transit and Highway Administrations certify that our processes meet current federal requirements. CDTC's most recent certification review took place last week, with interviews this week. It has been the first virtual certification review in New York State. The close-out meeting will be next week and we expect a final report in a few months.

## **STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

### **CDTC**

Mike Franchini noted that staff has been working from home since mid-March. We plan to reopen the office three days each week starting the third week of June.

### **CDRPC**

Craig Warner advised that CDRPC will be receiving \$400,000 related to COVID-19 Disaster Recovery planning and local assistance and is assisting the Capital Region Chamber in their application to the EDA for the creation of a \$10 million dollar regional revolving loan fund. The traditional in person planning and zoning workshop is now an online webinar series, acceptable for planning and zoning board credits as well as certification maintenance credits for professional planners. Recordings are available on our Youtube channel.

CDRPC released a Capital Region Atlas which includes fifty three demographic characteristics, such as population, housing, race, income, commuting patterns and educational attainment. Individual maps can be downloaded in.pdf or .jpg format. See <https://cdrpc.org/atlas>. CDRPC's Erastus Corning, 2nd Awards for Intermunicipal cooperation were awarded to Albany County and Saratoga County - Regional Biosolids Treatment Facility; Adam Greenburg, Town Board member, Town of New Scotland - Leadership in Intermunicipal Cooperation; The Rensselaer Plateau Alliance - Poestenkill Flood Assessment project; and The Town of East Greenbush - East Greenbush Natural Resource Inventory.

### **CDTA**

Carm Basile said it has been a rough few months at CDTA. Ridership dipped to about 40% and is now back up to 50%. Service has been trimmed back and fares haven't been collected in a couple of months. CDTA will modify the cabin to be able to accept fares. Moving forward, many corridors will have more service than previously to avoid the new definition of overcrowding. State operating assistance is delayed. CDTA received full funding for the Washington/Western BRT project and construction is expected to begin in 2021. The River Corridor will be opening later this year.

## **NYS DOT**

Patrick Barnes noted that almost 100% of staff have been working remotely during the pause, with almost no loss in productivity. As of Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>, 25% of staff at 50 Wolf Road will be reporting to the office. The letting program is moving forward.

## **New York State Thruway Authority**

Joe Stahl reported that 50% of staff are expected back in the office on Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>. Over-the-Road gantries are going up between Exits 23 and 24, between Exits 24 and 25 the week of June 15<sup>th</sup>, and next will be between Exits 25 and 25A. The system is expected to be operational in the late 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2020. The Old State Road bridge is down and the foundation walls are going back up. Completion is expected in October.

## **Albany County Airport Authority**

The Airport's passenger boardings declined starting mid-March through May but are now increasing again from a few hundred to over a thousand scheduled passengers per day. Scheduled flight operations are down 60% but air-freight has increased about 10% and General and Military Aviation remains fairly constant. Staff have been reporting nearly full-time wearing masks in public areas with daily temperature scans. The Airport Authority is commencing a new master plan with CHA Consulting, Inc., is repaving parking lots while parking demand is down, and is replacing four passenger boarding bridges this year under the Federal Airport Improvement Program.

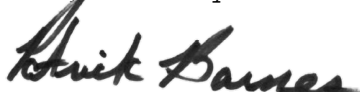
## **Albany Port District Commission**

Pat Jordan noted that the port was deemed essential and has been operating. Mohawk Paper switched to toilet paper and dividers for hospitals during the COVID-19 response. Vessel calls have increased. Both the wood pulp and GE products have been steady. Tuesday night the Bethlehem Planning Board approved the proposed 80-acre expansion, which allows for a possible \$200M investment. Last week, the Commission's board approved four contracts for a 60,000 square foot warehouse.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, Stephen Iachetta motioned to adjourn the meeting, Andrew Kreshik seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Barnes  
Secretary