

**Capital Region Transportation Council
Planning Committee
Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 6, 2026
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Members Attending

Michael Beaudet, representing Phil Serafino, NYS Thruway Authority
Michael Butler, representing Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville
Sharon Butler, City of Cohoes
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Melissa Cherubino, City of Watervliet
Michael Dutre, City of Saratoga Springs
Tom Hulihan, City of Rensselaer
Kim Lambert, Saratoga County
Rob Leslie, Town of Bethlehem
Chris Marini, City of Troy
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council, Secretary
David Montiverdi, Albany County Airport Authority
Lisa Ramundo, Albany County Department of Public Works, Vice-Chair
John Schneidawin, Albany Port District Commission
Bill Trudeau, City of Albany
Chretien Voerg, Town of Colonie
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady, Chair
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1
Michael Williams, Capital District Transportation Authority

Staff and Others Attending

Tony Christian, Creighton Manning Engineering
Joe Cimino, CHA Consulting
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Chris Cook, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Jim DiGioia, Interested Citizen
Lorenzo DiStefano, FCM Engineering
Iana Headley-Kroll, CHA Consulting
Floria Huizinga, Town of Malta
Peter Knutson, Schenectady County
Tim Lane, Village of Menands
Teresa LaSalle, Capital Region Transportation Council
Gautam Mani, Federal Highway Administration
Adam McCarvill, Capital Region Transportation Council

Nicole McGrath, Federal Highway Administration
Parker Morris, Capital Region Transportation Council
Juvena Ng, CHA Consulting
Jeff Pangburn, Creighton Manning Engineering
Susan Quine-Laurilliard, Albany County
Ryan Riper, Town of Wilton
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
Dan Rodriguez, Town of East Greenbush
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority
Christie Shea, Capital Region Transportation Council
Ed Snyder, GPI
Gaetano Tedesco, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1
Rosa Tirino, Albany County Department of Public Works
Ethan Townsend, Capital Region Transportation Council
Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council
Michael Tuller, City of Saratoga Springs
Carrie Ward, Capital Region Transportation Council

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chris Wallin started the meeting at 9:32 AM and welcomed the group. Chris reminded attendees that the meeting is being recorded and broadcast live on YouTube. Those attending in person introduced themselves. Sandra Misiewicz introduced those attending virtually.

II. Visitor Issues

There were no visitor issues.

III. Administration

A. Previous Meeting Minutes – April 1, 2026*

Chris Wallin asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Mark Castiglione made the motion. Kim Lambert seconded. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions or abstentions, and the motion carried.

B. Draft Performance and Expenditure Report (October 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026)

Sandy Misiewicz reviewed the semi-annual performance report and the progress made on the Transportation Council's planning grants. Accomplishments include adopting a new Unified Planning Work Program, initiating an update of the Title VI Analysis report, revising the Public Participation Plan, and continuing the on-demand count program. Staff also put some time into updating the STEP model including updating traffic analysis zones and incorporating forecasts of

population, households, and employment by TAZ with the assistance of CDRPC. That work will feed into a larger model update in the future.

A webinar on trail planning in utility corridors in partnership with National Grid was held with over 150 attendees. For the TIP, there were 26 administrative modifications and 17 amendments. Coordination continues with NYSDOT and Schenectady County on planning and environment linkages studies, the Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan was completed along with six linkage studies in Voorheesville, Castleton-on-Hudson, Albany County, Colonie, Rotterdam, and Milton, and three technical assistance projects were completed. Finally, RFPs are out for the Superload and Resilience planning studies. Additional information may be found in the report and no action is needed on this item.

IV. Action Items

A. 2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments*

Amendment 1: CDTA Capital Program Amendments (seven total amendments)

Melissa Shanley reviewed the details of CDTA's TIP amendment requests. Every year CDTA receives federal funding to support its capital projects as a designated recipient of federal transit funds. The apportionments came out in March and CDTA approved its capital plan at its March board meeting. The proposed amendments align CDTA's capital program in the TIP with its newly adopted budget.

CDTA would like to combine the STAR and FLEX bus replacement projects into one project that purchases accessible vehicles for both services. The description for the passenger facility improvements project will be updated to include project administration costs per FTA guidance. The preventive maintenance project in Saratoga has a cost increase based on an updated estimate. The description of the transit support vehicle project will be updated to include project administration costs per FTA guidance. A new midsize infrastructure construction project is proposed to fund roadway/intersection improvements. It will first be used to support projects in Ballston Spa and at the Washington/Allen intersection in Albany. A new IT security project is proposed to fund cybersecurity infrastructure and a new project for intelligent mobility is proposed using reprogrammed funds from the BusPlus Red Line upgrades project to support new traffic operations software, analytics software and a maintenance services agreement for TSP, queue jumpers, etc. The reprogrammed funds were available due to an SS4A grant award for some of the work originally planned.

Chris Wallin asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Chris asked for a motion to approve the amendments as presented. Mark Castiglione made the motion, seconded by Mike Dutre. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions or abstentions, and the motion carried.

Amendment 2: NYSDOT Route 7 Traffic Calming

The Safe on 7 corridor study in Niskayuna has become a priority and this project is proposed to try to get some traffic calming features built in the vicinity of Bellevue Hospital. The project limits are St. David's Lane to Mohegan Avenue. This project was evaluated by NYSDOT and qualifies for HSIP funding. If approved, the project can be added to the TIP following Policy Board approval at their next meeting. Construction is anticipated next year.

Chris Wallin asked how this project relates to the Niskayuna SS4A program grant application for Route 7. Greg Wichser noted that this project would come first and the SS4A project, if awarded to Niskayuna, would come later and go further down Route 7 east of Mohegan Avenue. The NYSDOT project is already being designed and median treatments, crosswalks, a signal, and the speed limit are being further evaluated.

Michael Beaudet noted that the signal coordination concept identified in the study may not solve all the issues as the traveling public will learn how fast they need to go to make a green light. Greg Wichser explained that signal coordination is not part of this project and that several warrants would need to be met before a fully coordinated signal system could be considered. Also, coordinated signal timing plans are strategically designed to catch a speeding driver at a red light. NYSDOT is only evaluating if any signal can be considered as part of this project. Laura Robertson noted that NYSDOT has been really helpful and the Town supports the project. The Town is going to keep chipping away at finding funding to try and make Route 7 safer.

Chris Wallin asked about coordination with CDTA as Route 7 may be considered for a higher level of transit at some future time. NYSDOT has been coordinating with CDTA. Mike Williams noted that CDTA has been part of the route 7 study to make sure that the recommendations work for their future plans and as well as current operations.

Chris Wallin asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, Chris asked for a motion to approve the amendment. Rob Leslie made the motion, seconded by Mike Beaudet. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions or abstentions, and the motion carried.

Amendment 3: Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Solicitation (six new projects)

Sandy Misiewicz described the program and the statewide solicitation. Staff participated in the evaluation of projects in our planning area. The six projects recommended for funding are from St. Peter's Hospital, Samaritan Hospital and the Eddy Foundation, the Center for Disabilities Services, the New York State ARC Saratoga County chapter, Woodlawn Apartments, and the NYSARC Warren, Washington, and Albany Counties chapter. These are primarily vehicle replacement or new vehicle purchases and will need to be added to the TIP.

Chris Wallin asked if there were any questions. Tom Hulihan noted that the ARC for Warren and Washington is outside of the MPO planning area. Sandy Misiewicz confirmed those counties are in the Adirondack Glens Falls Transportation Council planning area. Hearing no other questions,

Chris Wallin asked for a motion to approve the amendment. Mark Castiglione made the motion, seconded by John Schneidawin. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions or abstentions, and the motion carried.

B. Title VI Analysis – Presentation and Release for Public Review*

1. Draft Resolution 26-4: Title VI Analysis Approval*
2. Draft Title VI Analysis*

Carrie Ward presented a summary of the Title VI analysis document. The analysis included a review of board and committee membership, transportation patterns by demographic groups, an analysis of completed plans and public participation efforts since the last analysis including the TIP and regional transportation plan updates, transit accessibility, and a new demographic analysis based on updated five-year American Community Survey data. Carrie reviewed some of the data collected and analyzed in more detail and reviewed the recommendations which were to continue to evaluate and propose ways for the Transportation Council's boards and committees to better reflect those regional demographics and to update the analysis over time.

Chris Wallin asked for a motion to approve the draft report and release it for public review. Melissa Cherubino made the motion, seconded by Mark Castiglione. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions or abstentions, and the motion carried.

C. Roadway Departure Safety Action Plan Project Recommendations*

Carrie Ward reviewed the results of the recent NYSDOT solicitation for roadway departure safety projects. NYSDOT had sub-allocation amounts by county there were not fully subscribed last year so the state released this current solicitation to use the remaining funds. There were four applications, two in Albany County and two in Saratoga County though they exceeded the funding allocation balances. The four applications have been reviewed and they are all recommended for funding. Because Region 1 did not receive many applications, it is possible that funds could be re-assigned to projects in our region. NYSDOT does not yet know what the funding picture is like statewide but the region is optimistic that all four could be awarded funding.

Rob Leslie asked if these projects would have to go through the normal design process. Greg Wichser explained that they do and that is what makes these projects a little complex because there are so many sites.

Chris Wallin asked for a motion to recommend the projects for funding following the NYSDOT eligibility review. John Schneidawin made the motion, seconded by Rob Leslie. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions or abstentions, and the motion carried.

V. Discussion Items

A. Technical Assistance Program – Recent Accomplishments

Andrew Tracy provided an update on the Technical Assistance Program. Three more projects were completed in the last six months including the North Greenbush Bloomingrove Drive All-way Stops project which assessed all-way stop warrants at four intersections. The Albany Airport Traffic Assessment assessed access improvements and parking requirements as identified in the recent master plan update. Recommendations include further exploration of roundabouts to replace traffic signals when entering the Airport main entrance, expansion of the cell phone lot for short term parking, and access improvement to the E-lot. The Airport is exploring purchasing the former Ann Lee Home site for parking so the concepts may need additional refinement at a future time. Mark Castiglione noted that the Shaker Heritage Society is against converting the Ann Lee Home site into employee parking.

Ethan Townsend reviewed the Town of Colonie “Loudonville Triangle” project at the intersection of Route 9 at Osbourne and Menand Roads, a 5-legged intersection with numerous safety and operational issues. Concepts identified include alternative alignments for Old Niskayuna Road, lane reconfigurations at the intersection, and a single lane or a peanut roundabout on Route 9.

If communities are interested in receiving technical assistance, reach out to the Transportation Council and visit our website for more information.

B. Summary of 2025-2030 TIP Administrative Modifications

Andrew Tracy noted there were no TIP Administrative Modifications during this period. The e-STIP software is being retired and the TIP data is being migrated to Project Tracker. Training is going on and staff will begin entering the backlog of TIP admin mods in the coming weeks. Sponsors may be able to have viewing access if desired. Sponsors who are waiting for approved project changes to be uploaded into the TIP and STIP should reach out if there is an urgent need to move forward as it may be a few more weeks before all the data has been uploaded.

C. NYSDOT Project Delivery Update

Greg Wichser indicated this month has been quiet for projects going out to bid. Several projects let in April are now headed to construction. Paving on I-87 and I-90 and the replacement of the Riverview Road bridge over the Northway are getting underway.

D. Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives*

Sandra Misiewicz reported that the Halfmoon, Clifton Park, and Saratoga County Route 109 study is at concept development stage. The Route 7 corridor study discussed earlier has

been officially completed and closed out. The Ballston Spa Traffic Calming Study consultant selection is underway and the West Avenue Complete Streets study in Saratoga Springs kicked off on May 1st. The NY 378 bridge study led by NYSDOT is undergoing some final internal review and will be removed from this list as it is moving into another phase. The 787 design study is also moving into another phase and will be removed. The ADA project in Albany County is wrapping up, the Superload study is about to begin, and proposals for the Resilience Improvement Plan are due on June 3rd.

The largest upcoming initiative is the update of our household travel survey which is going to include three new counties: Montgomery, Washington, and Warren. Our household travel survey underlies our regional travel demand model and dates back to the 1980s. With post-COVID travel changes and the addition of these new counties to our model in the future, now is a good time for a new survey.

E. Regional and Local Planning Updates

1. Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz introduced Gautam Mani from FHWA who was invited to discuss Air Quality Conformity as there were several questions at the previous Planning Committee meeting about the requirements. Gautam explained that in 2004, the Transportation Council's region was designated as non-attainment for the 1997 eight-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard. That non-attainment status is what made the Transportation Council permanently eligible for CMAQ funds and requires the MPO to demonstrate conformity on the regional transportation plan and TIP. AGFTC is involved because they cover a small portion of Saratoga County, and the non-MPO areas of Montgomery, Greene, and Schoharie Counties that are not part of an MPO are also included.

The Transportation Council performed the required regional emissions analysis at that time for the entire non-attainment area. The objective was to demonstrate that regional plans and TIP projects did not exceed the motor vehicle emissions budgets that are part of the statewide implementation plan. The SIP is a document NYSDEC had to submit to EPA on how the ozone standard would be attained.

In 2015, the region was designated attainment for the more stringent 2015 ozone standards. EPA is required to review the standards at least once every five years. Also in 2015, the 1997 standard was formally revoked, which for that moment would eliminate conformity requirements for the region. However, a lawsuit in California against the EPA challenged EPA's implementation of the 2015 ozone standard. The court ruled that the EPA did not have an adequate backsliding requirement which are designed so that a region in attainment cannot suddenly go back to creating more pollution or potentially create a new violation. One of the backsliding requirements is in the Clean Air Act and conformity still has to be done regardless of the fact that the 1997 standard was revoked.

This decision put the Transportation Council and many other MPO's into orphan areas for conformity purposes. The EPA determined that although an emissions analysis is not required, there are still conformity requirements in place and so the Transportation Council must demonstrate fiscal constraint as part of the conformity determination. It also must go through interagency consultation to determine non-exempt versus exempt projects for conformity purposes.

What triggers the need for new conformity determinations are full regional plan or TIP updates for the Transportation Council or for AGFTC, as well as amendments that add regionally significant projects to the fiscally constrained plan or TIP. The I-787 project was deemed to be regionally significant because it is on a major transportation facility and the scale of the NEPA process would be quite significant. It will be the region's only non-exempt project and adding it to the list of fiscally constrained projects in the long range plan triggered this most recent conformity determination. The conformity determination keeps our region in compliance with federal requirements, allows projects to proceed with further steps in the project delivery process, and allows a sponsor to accurately say that the project comes from a conforming plan or conforming TIP.

Sandy Misiewicz noted that the draft conformity document is out for public review right now and the trigger is adding the 787 project to the fiscally constrained project list in the In Motion plan. Later this year, a plan amendment will propose moving other projects on the list to illustrative to maintain fiscal constraint. Sandy thanked Gautam for the presentation.

2. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione reported that CDRPC's annual planning and zoning workshop will be on October 16th at either HVCC or the Massry Center. CDRPC released a storymap with demographic, household, and employment projections for the Capital Region along with their recent data news. Staff will be presenting The New Normal: Transportation in the Capital Region report at the next Policy Board meeting which examines different transit options and how things have changed since before the pandemic. In addition, CDRPC is hosting an ongoing webinar series related to the regional Climate Action Plan on the first Wednesday of each month through October.

3. CDTA

Michael Williams reported that there was no new business this month from CDTA.

4. NYSDOT

Greg Wichser reported that the resident engineer in Rensselaer County, Mark Saunders recently retired and has been replaced. Last month the 787 outreach office opened in downtown Albany for public walk-in engagement. In addition, the 787 project team will be

out tabling at festivals and farmers markets over the summer. This is the first time Region 1 has established an outreach center for a major project.

5. NYSTA

No report.

6. Albany County Airport Authority

David Montiverdi reported that it has been a busy month with a partial opening of the new terminal entrance. There are now two escalators up and two down, providing redundancy. The Authority is looking at expanding the cell phone lot sometime this year and flight info boards will be added. A new wayfinding signage plan will be rolled out later this year to be implemented in four phases over a four year period.

7. Albany Port District Commission

No report but Sandy Misiewicz reminded the attendees about the upcoming Maritime Summit on May 19th at the Albany Capital Center.

8. Local Government/Other

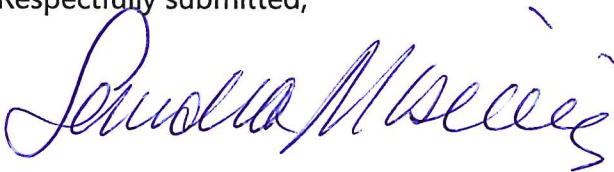
Sandy Misiewicz noted that if your community is interested in sponsoring a potential application for SS4A program funds and you are looking for an endorsement letter from the MPO, please make those requests as soon as possible.

VI. Adjournment

Chris Wallin reviewed the upcoming meetings. Chris asked for a motion to adjourn. Mark Castiglione made the motion. Mike Butler seconded. All in favor said aye, there were no oppositions or abstentions, and the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting ended at 11:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Secretary

