

**Capital District Transportation Committee**  
**Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force**  
**July 9, 2013 Meeting Notes**

**Attendance:** Jennifer Viggiani (T/O Clifton Park); Jim Mearkle (Albany County); Jen Hogan (GTSC); Gina Gillooley (NSYDOH); Ed Tremblay (C/O Cohoes); Chris O'Neill (CDTC); Kate Lawrence (C/O Albany); Anne Benware (CDTC); Nelson Ronsville (T/O Halfmoon); Elaine Troy (NSYDOH); Jim Ercolano (NYSDOT); Joanna King (CDRPC); Ivan Vamos (NYBC); Susan Olsen (NYSDOT R1); Mary Harding (NSYDOT); Linda von der Heide (Rensselaer County); Don Odell (ABC); EJ Krans (CDCG); Dave Jukins (CDTC); Jen Ceponis (CDTC)

## **1.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **1.1 NYSDOT Program update**

1.1.1 Safe Routes to School: Awards have been made and NYSDOT is currently progressing through the state-local agreements. For a list of SRTS awards please visit: <https://www.dot.ny.gov/news/press-releases/2013/2013-01-14>

1.1.2 Transportation Enhancements Program: Applications are due August 16 and awards will be announced by the end of the year. This will be the last round of TEP- it will be rolled into the Transportation Alternatives Program under the new federal transportation bill, MAP-21. More information, including the program brochure and application can be found on the website: <https://www.dot.ny.gov/programs/tep>. The Region 1 contacts on the TEP programs are Karen Hulihan ([karen.hulihan@dot.ny.gov](mailto:karen.hulihan@dot.ny.gov)) and Wilson Moore ([wilson.moore@dot.ny.gov](mailto:wilson.moore@dot.ny.gov)) and the Main Office contact is Doug Burgey ([doug.burgey@dot.ny.gov](mailto:doug.burgey@dot.ny.gov)).

1.1.3 Transportation Alternatives Program: The SRTS and TEP programs will be rolled into the TA program in the upcoming year under MAP-21. Mary Harding is attending a TA seminar in South Carolina next week to learn more about the program and will provide updates to the Task Force upon her return. If anyone has questions they would like Mary to ask while at the seminar they should be sent to Jen ([jceponis@cdtcmpo.org](mailto:jceponis@cdtcmpo.org)) who will forward them to Mary. The 2014

TA suballocations can be found in the FHWA guidance documents. TA guidance can be found at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm>

In a follow up to this discussion, CDTA staff looked up the suballocations for New York and found this:

**Table 3 DISTRIBUTION OF TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FUNDS RESERVED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013 TO URBANIZED AREAS WITHIN A STATE WITH POPULATION GREATER THAN 200,000**

New York	Population	Suballocation amount \$
Albany--Schenectady	594,962	397,010
Bridgeport--Stamford	45,681	30,482
Buffalo	935,906	624,517
New York--Newark	12,191,715	8,135,358
Poughkeepsie--Newburgh	412,338	275,147
Rochester	720,572	480,827
Syracuse	412,317	275,133
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,313,491</b>	<b>10,218,474</b>

1.2 Cleaner Greener Communities – Phase II Implementation Grants: NYSERDA announced Phase II funding is open and applications are due August 12. This program is part of the Consolidating Funding Application (CFA). There is a total of \$30 million available statewide, broken into 3 following categories:

**Category 1 (open enrollment)**: up to \$1 million available for communities to adopt streamlined permitting and other ordinances for PV and EV charging stations, with awards of up to \$10,000 per project. Review begins July 1 and applications can be submitted until Sept. 30 or until the funds are exhausted.

**Category 2 (competitive)**: up to \$4 million available for communities to create or revise comprehensive plans, including updating zoning ordinances and addressing sustainability and resiliency, with awards of up to \$400,000 per project.

**Category 3 (competitive)**: up to \$25 million for large-scale sustainability projects contributing to community resiliency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with awards ranging from \$1-\$5 million per project.

There will be a CFA Workshop at Empire State Plaza Wednesday, July 10 at 1:00pm. More information and guidance can be found on the NYSERDA page: <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Funding-Opportunities/Current-Funding-Opportunities/PON-2721-Cleaner-Greener-Communities.aspx> and the CFA website: <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>

1.3 Complete Streets Working Group: Anne Benware provided an overview of the group's purpose and goals (see attached handout). This group was formed to create dialogue with the NYSDOT on implementing the new Complete Street law. It currently consists of NYSDOT Region 1 staff, CDRPC staff, CDTA staff, CDTC staff and four representatives from the region's Towns and Cities. If there are specific issues the B/P Task Force would like the working group to address, please send them to Jen ([jceponis@cdtempo.org](mailto:jceponis@cdtempo.org)) and she will forward them to Anne. Updates on the working group's progress will be provided in future meetings.

Some highlights from the discussion re: Complete Streets Working Group:

- Linkage projects should include "maintenance options" in addition to reconstruction concepts. In doing this CDTC or the consultant can collect the necessary traffic counts and measurements needed and can be shared with NYSDOT to coordinate on future projects.
- There should be coordination between NYSDOT and MPOs on ongoing ADA (American with Disabilities Act) projects to encourage complete streets elements be included.
- The design of some roadways is promoting potentially unsafe behavior which then creates safety issues – ex.: lower cost and quality construction materials being used on shoulders during road redesigns/resurfacing is forcing bicyclists to ride in travel lane.
- When designing roads it was noted that 12ft roads are appropriate for rural locations but do not improve safety in urban and suburban locations according to various reports.
- The "non-traditional" transportation professionals (i.e. health departments, doctors, etc.) are advocating for better bike/ped infrastructure and should be included in discussions.
- When towns/cities/villages pass Complete Streets legislation they should include in the legislation that they require a meeting with NYSDOT on all state projects in their jurisdiction. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities are more likely to be included in state road/maintenance projects if the towns/cities/villages engage NYSDOT, demonstrate that they are part of the towns/cities/villages plans and ask for them.

1.4 Linkage Update Highlights (see attached Linkage Status table for complete details):

1.4.1 [City of Albany Bike Share/Wayfinding Linkage](http://www.cdtcmopo.org/linkage/reports/albcity.htm) – this study is complete and the final reports can be found at <http://www.cdtcmopo.org/linkage/reports/albcity.htm>

1.4.2 [City of Watervliet Bicycle Master Plan](#) – Alta is developing the draft master plan which will be presented at a public workshop in mid-late August.

1.4.3 [East Greenbush Site Design Standards](#) – this study will focus on two demonstration sites in the US 4 and 9 & 20 Corridors and how site design standards can be used to promote walkable development.

1.4.4 [Schodack Town Center Plan & Zoning Recommendations](#) – A concept to road diet to Rte 9 & 20 is a recommendation from this draft study that is now moving forward for consideration in coordination with NYSDOT as they prepare to design the project. CDTC staff is organizing required data and information for NYSDOT. There is also an opportunity to coordinate with the Town of East Greenbush and extending the road diet. CDTC staff will facilitate discussions between the Town and NYSDOT.

1.4.5 [Saratoga Springs Bicycle, Pedestrian and Public Transit Master Plan](#) - this study is being used as a Complete Streets data collection pilot and the Task Force will continue to monitor and learn from this process.

## 1.5 Local Program updates

- J. Viggiani – Clifton Park is updating their zoning to support walkable design.
- G. Gillooley – NYSDOH is working with Bill Van Alstyne from Albany County on a series of bike rodeos (see schedule below). Duaneburg Community Center has reached out to NYSDOH and is interested in doing a similar event.

Date	Time	Location	<b>Directions (put a check mark in the directions column if you can attend and FAX this schedule to 518-765-3459)</b>
Tuesday July 9	10:00 – 12:15	Ridgefield Park 316 Partridge St. Albany, NY 12208	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• From Western Ave. in Albany, turn on to Ontario Street - it is one way.</li><li>• Turn right on to Mercer Street</li><li>• Turn right again on Partridge Street. The park is on your left after about ¼ mile</li></ul>

Wednesday July 10	10:00 - 12:15	Watervliet Elementary School 2557 10 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Watervliet, NY 12189	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exit I-787 at exit 8.</li> <li>• From the North, Turn RIGHT onto 23RD ST. From the south, turn left onto 23RD ST at the end of the ramp</li> <li>• Turn RIGHT onto BROADWAY.</li> <li>• Turn LEFT onto 25TH ST</li> <li>• After about 1 mile, the school will be on your right at the corner of 25<sup>th</sup> St. and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.</li> </ul>
Wednesday July 10	1:00 – 3:00	Payne Street Park Corner of Payne St. and Tibbitts Ave. Green Island, NY 12183	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take I-787 south from Albany to Tibbits Ave.</li> <li>• Turn right on Tibbits Ave.</li> <li>• The park will be on your right after about one mile</li> </ul>
Thursday July 11	10:00 - 12:15	Watervliet Civic Center Corner of 1st Ave. & 14th St. Watervliet, NY 12189 273-5922	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exit I-787 at exit 8.</li> <li>• From the South, turn left at the end of the ramp - from the north, turn right at the end of the ramp</li> <li>• Proceed to 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and turn left</li> <li>• The Watervliet Civic Center is about 7 blocks on the left. Look for the ball field and parking lot</li> </ul>

- J. Hogan – The Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee is still reviewing applications and will notify applicants about awards in late August/September.
- E. Tremblay – NYSDOT recently engaged Cohoes on the Route 32 Bridge Replacement project that had been removed from the TIP. This project’s design is now being fast-tracked by NYSDOT and the city has 30 days to review design and have a public meeting. The public meeting is scheduled for August 15 at 6:30pm at the Cohoes Community Center on Cayuga Street. NYSDOT will be taking comments from the public on the design. Cohoes is also putting the finishing touches on the Heritage Trail which should be done in early August. The Black Bridge project is making good progress and is on track to be completed in September, weather/flooding permitting.
- N. Ronsville – The Town of Halfmoon active citizens group has formed “Future Halfmoon” to advocate for better future development. They are planning on proposing Complete Streets legislation and zoning changes to make the Town more walkable.
- EJ Krans – The Capital District Community Gardens is working with the Troy Citizens Working Group for Complete Streets looking to pass a resolution in November. Tuesday, July 9 was their first bicycle meeting at the former Weed & Seed office in Troy. They will be focusing on the Hoosick Street and Route 2 projects and how to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The group is also looking at ways to make better bike connections throughout the City, especially in the HVCC area coming off of the Menands Bridge.

- C. Ward – CDTA is advancing the River Corridor BRT construction because less infrastructure is required. CDTA is still in the process of updating their Transit Development Plan.
- K. Lawrence – The City of Albany passed a Complete Streets resolution in June. There was a quick reaction from the City to the crash on S. Pearl that killed a child. The City has installed crosswalks and is looking at the road design/amenities in this location and how they can make it safer. Albany is looking to apply to TEP for the Madison Avenue Road Diet project and the Bike Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet Wednesday.

## 1.6 Capital Coexist

1.6.1 Bicycle Gala – Jenn Clunie, former NYBC Director, is back in Albany and working at local bike shops. She is involved with a group that is planning a Bicycle Gala for the fall. More details will be shared with the group as this event develops.

1.6.2 Brainstorm expansion to pedestrian safety – CDTC is interested in expanding the Capital Coexist safety campaign to include pedestrians. It has been researching pedestrian safety campaigns from around the country and things it will be relatively easy to adapt something for the Capital Region (i.e. [www.beststreetsmart.net](http://www.beststreetsmart.net)). If anyone has ideas on how CDTC can do this or would like to coordinate please contact Jen ([jceponis@cdtcmpo.org](mailto:jceponis@cdtcmpo.org))

1.6.3 Central Avenue Pedestrian Safety Project – NYSDOH and NYSDOT have been working on a pedestrian safety project for the Central Ave/NY Route 5 Corridor. G. Gillooley recommended CDTC coordinate with NYSDOH and NYSDOT and use the artwork being developed for that project in order maintain a unified message throughout the region. CDTC is interested and will wait for updates on this project.

## 2.0 Upcoming Events

Meetings open to the public: Next CDTC Bike/Ped Task Force meeting: August 13, 2013 9AM

## STATUS OF LINKAGE OR OTHER CAPITAL REGION PLANNING STUDIES AS OF JULY 1, 2013

STUDY NAME AND LOCATION	CONSULTANT/ STUDY COST	STATUS	NEXT STEPS	CONTACT
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<b>ALBANY COUNTY--LINKAGE STUDIES</b>				
1. Albany Bike Share and Signage Strategy	Alta Planning and Design \$70,000	The final document has been received by CDTC.	Options for implementing the wayfinding strategy are being evaluated. This study is considered to be complete.	Katie Bronson, City of Albany Kate Lawrence, City of Albany Jen Ceponis, CDTC
2. Watervliet Bicycle Master Plan	Alta Planning and Design \$50,000	The first public meeting was held on May 6th. The Project website has been created: <a href="http://watervlietbikes.weebly.com/index.html">http://watervlietbikes.weebly.com/index.html</a>	The consultant team is working on the plan. The next SAC meeting will be scheduled soon.	Mike Manning and Mark Gleason, City of Watervliet Teresa LaSalle, CDTC
3. Town of Guilderland: Westmere Corridor Study	Consultant to be Selected \$68,000	The town has been asked to confirm its commitment to the study. If confirmed, the project will be initiated by March 31, 2014.		Sree Nampoothiri, CDTC Chris O'Neill, CDTC Donald Csaposs, Town of Guilderland
4. New Scotland Hamlet Zoning Refinements and Design Guidelines	Consultant to be Selected \$70,000	The signed Memorandum of Understanding has been returned to CDTC.	The project will get underway later this summer.	Jen Ceponis, CDTC

<b>ALBANY COUNTY-- OTHER STUDIES (non-Linkage)</b>				
1. City of Albany Corning Preserve Master Plan	Consultant to be Selected \$950,000	RFP Responses are being reviewed for consultant services to develop a Corning Preserve Master Plan.	City will select a consultant to develop the Master Plan and begin the design of the performance venue.	Doug Melnick, City of Albany
2. City of Albany TOD Study	Cecil Group \$125,000	The consultant delivered the final deliverables to the City.	City Planning Staff will schedule a meeting to present the final report to the Common Council.	Doug Melnick, City of Albany Kate Lawrence, City of Albany
3. City of Albany LWRP Update & Climate Adaptation Plan	City of Albany, Wallace Roberts & Todd & Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. - \$130,000	A draft adaptation will be completed by the end of April 2013. Information on the project may be found on the City's website at: <a href="http://albanyny.org/Government/Departments/DevelopmentPlanning/Hudson_Riverfront.aspx">http://albanyny.org/Government/Departments/DevelopmentPlanning/Hudson_Riverfront.aspx</a>	LWRP Policies are being developed, as well as specific project scenarios.	Doug Melnick, City of Albany
4. City of Watervliet Rezoning	River Street Planning and Development \$29,000	The City Council received the draft rezoning proposal.	The draft proposal is being reviewed by the committee members.	Bruce Hidley, City of Watervliet

STUDY NAME AND LOCATION	CONSULTANT/ STUDY COST	STATUS	NEXT STEPS	CONTACT
5. LWRP (Bethlehem)	None	The town is reviewing comments from the Department of State on the Final Draft LWRP.	Town staff will be addressing comments from DOS in the next few weeks/months.	Rob Leslie, Town of Bethlehem

<b>RENSSELAER COUNTY--LINKAGE STUDIES</b>				
1. East Greenbush Site Design Standards	The Chazen Companies \$40,000	A study kick-off meeting with the SAC was held at the end of May. CDTC is working on the Existing Conditions Report.	The consultant will schedule a focus group meeting with landowners for the end of July.	Meghan Webster, Town of East Greenbush Joseph Cherubino, Town of East Greenbush Jen Ceponis, CDTC Anne Benware, CDTC
2. Schodack Town Center Plan and Zoning Recommendations	Laberge Group \$50,000	CDTC staff, Town of Schodack, and the consultant team met with NYSDOT Traffic & Safety to go over the proposed developments, potential traffic impacts, and potential short term and long term actions. The Town would like NYSDOT to consider implementing some of the short term actions (pavement re-striping) as part of the upcoming preservation project.	In the coming weeks, CDTC will summarize the findings of evaluations of development impacts and traffic impacts from short term actions and submit to NYSDOT Traffic & Safety. NYSDOT will review them and try to incorporate possible changes to their pavement re-striping project.	Nadine Fuda, Town of Schodack Dave Jukins, CDTC Sree Namoothiri, CDTC

<b>SARATOGA COUNTY--LINKAGE STUDIES</b>				
1. Clifton Park Town Center Strategic Zoning Code Revisions	Behan Planning & Design \$70,000	The consultant team provided a summary of the March workshops to the town and CDTC.	The consultant team continues to work on draft code language including graphics to implement the Town Center Plan. The team will be working on these elements for the next few months.	John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC Leah Mosall, CDTC
2. Saratoga Springs Bicycle, Pedestrian and Public Transit Master Plan	Consultant to be Selected \$60,000	CDTC and the City are beginning to work the data collection component of the project.	The City would like to begin the study later this year once the Comprehensive Plan update has been completed.	Kate Maynard, City of Saratoga Springs Leah Mosall, CDTC Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC
3. Stillwater Route 4 Zoning and Site Design Standards	Consultant to be Selected \$90,000	The Memorandum of Understanding for the project was returned to CDTC by the town. The project will be initiated later this summer.		TBD

<b>REGIONAL PROJECTS</b>				
1. Washington/Western BRT Alternatives Analysis and Transit Model Development	Team led by Creighton Manning Engineering \$500,000 (FTA and CDTC funds)	Enhanced marketing and presentation material continues to be created and edited for meetings with remaining stakeholders.	Once CDTA is comfortable with the marketing and presentation materials, meetings will be scheduled with the remaining stakeholders. They may take a few months to schedule. Once the stakeholder meetings are completed, the public meeting for the Alternatives Analysis will be scheduled.	Ross Farrell, CDTA Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC Chris O'Neill, CDTC

<b>STUDY NAME AND LOCATION</b>	<b>CONSULTANT/ STUDY COST</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
2. Development of an Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) Plan for the I-87/US 9 Corridor	Parsons Brinckerhoff with Creighton Manning Engineering and Dr. Jack Reilly  \$368,777 State Planning and Research Funds	A MIST data mining tool was completed by the consultant. The tool will allow analysis of Transportation Management Center (TMC) data, which includes volumes and speeds on the expressway system every fifteen minutes, 24/7.	The consultant team is refining the VISSIM microsimulation model of the Northway corridor. It will be used to examine alternative operational improvements in the Northway corridor.	Susan Olsen, NYSDOT Chris O'Neill, CDTC
3. Regional Sustainability Plan - Cleaner, Greener Communities Program	Clough Harbour and VHB lead a team of consultants  \$1 M from NYSERDA with City of Albany leading the coalition	The final plan has been completed. The final plan is highly consistent with the CDTC New Visions Plan	Phase 2 of the Cleaner Greener Communities program is now out, with applications due August 12.	Doug Melnick, City of Albany Chris O'Neill, CDTC Anne Benware, CDTC
4. Climate Smart Communities Program	CDRPC staff with VHB and Climate Action Associates  \$322,000 from NYSERDA	CDRPC received funding for the first year of a three-year grant from NYSERDA to manage the Climate Smart Communities Regional Coordinator Pilot Program for six counties in the Capital Region (Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady). The grant has three primary tasks: to create a greenhouse gas inventory, create an outreach plan for the 17 Climate Smart pledge communities and to undertake community by community evaluations under the 10 pledge goals. Technical support for these communities would also be provided. Funding for the second year of the program is in the process of being approved.	The first year of the pilot ended on May 22, 2013. During the first year a CSC Outreach Plan has been completed; a community-level greenhouse gas inventory has been completed; community profiles have been completed for each participating community; and one-on-one consultations have been held with 13 of the 17 communities, which resulted in customized technical service strategies that help move the CSC participants closer to addressing the ten elements of the CSC pledge. Implementation of the strategies is underway.	Todd Fabozzi, CDRPC

**Purpose and Planned Outcomes:**

**Purpose:** The Complete Streets Working Group's purpose is to assist in identifying opportunities and mechanisms to assist roadway improvement project implementers and municipalities, in partnership with roadway owners, in integrating complete streets elements into a variety of project types as listed below.

The group will research, learn and then share learned information with the Planning Committee and Policy Board, as appropriate, on complete streets tools and techniques that should be integrated into projects across a range of project types. Initial emphasis will be on low cost techniques and partnerships to assist CDTC, NYSDOT, the four counties and municipalities to meet stated goals for improved transportation safety, a multimodal transportation system serving all users, and sustainability goals. Fostering improved communication between project planners and designers to achieve integration is a major goal.

**Applicability:** There are three broad categories of projects:

- 1) Preservation First/Maintenance and Operations projects (Includes projects currently on the adopted/draft TIP and those to be selected through upcoming preservation set aside project solicitations)
- 2) Existing TIP infrastructure projects (Includes projects currently on the adopted/draft TIP which are considered "beyond preservation" )
- 3) Land development/redevelopment initiated improvements

**Planned Outcomes:**

- 1) Revised TIP Project Justification Package/Solicitation Materials and Project Selection process that includes questions and evaluation criteria to incentivize incorporation of complete streets elements into "preservation first"/maintenance and operations type projects.
- 2) Identification of complete streets elements that can be integrated into various categories of project types (i.e. repaving/restriping projects, signal timing improvements, etc.) with an emphasis on low cost or shared cost elements.
- 3) A list identifying "beyond preservation" projects on the TIP currently in the pipeline where there's a window of opportunity to identify and implement complete streets elements.
- 4) Identify best approaches for providing meaningful input that will be utilized in the design process to integrate complete streets elements into projects. What is the window of opportunity? What are the communication mechanisms?
- 5) Improve communication and coordination between NYSDOT and municipalities to ensure a unified approach and complete streets oriented outcomes as a result of development site plan review and approvals. In these fiscally challenging times, one key avenue for integration of complete streets elements into the capital region's roadways and realization of a multi modal

transportation system that serves the capital region's communities is incremental improvements related to newly developed or redeveloped sites along major roadways. Incremental improvements are typically required as part of mitigation of development impacts to these roadways. To achieve this there needs to be more consistency among the region's municipalities in requiring private sector participation in appropriate development mitigation as well as consistent support from and ongoing coordination with NYSDOT, CDTA, other agency and municipal partners.

DRAFT