

**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**November 2, 2016**

**Meeting Minutes**

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Bill Anslow, Albany County  
Brad Birge, City of Saratoga Springs  
Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Kevin Corcoran, Town of Glenville  
Don Csaposs, Town of Guilderland  
Lou Desso, Town of North Greenbush  
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority  
Stephen Feeney, Schenectady County, Vice-Chair  
Rocky Ferraro, Capital District Regional Planning Commission  
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee,  
Secretary  
Tony Germano, Town of North Greenbush  
Floria Huizinga, Town of Malta  
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority, Chair  
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy  
Joe LaCivita, Town of Colonie  
Robert Leslie, Town of Bethlehem  
Tony Manfredi, Town of East Greenbush  
Randy Milano, City of Albany  
Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville  
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna  
Monica Ryan, Town of Sand Lake  
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park  
Jeremy Smith, City of Watervliet  
Joseph Teliska, Rensselaer County  
Michael Valentine, Saratoga County  
Tony Vasil, Albany Port Commission  
Jen Vigiani, Town of Clifton Park  
Christopher Wallin, City of Schenectady

**STAFF AND OTHERS**

Bridget Ann Beelen, Capital District Transportation Authority  
Lauren Bailey, Capital District Transportation Authority  
Tom Baird, Barton and Loguidice  
Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Anne Benware, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Joe Cimino, CHA Companies  
Brian Cross, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Chris Desany, Capital District Transportation Authority  
Joe Grasso, CHA Companies  
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Fred Mastroianni, GPI  
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Jeff Pangburn, Creighton Manning  
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee

Monica Ryan, Town of Sand Lake  
Laura Sanda, McFarland Johnson  
Aaron Spies, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1

## **INTRODUCTION AND VISITORS' ISSUES**

Steve Iachetta opened the meeting at approximately 9:36 AM. There were no visitor issues.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Previous Meeting Minutes - October 5, 2016**

Members approved the October 5, 2016 minutes with the following revision: Page 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, remove sentence reading "He said this means that the Planning Committee should enforce this rule."

### **PRESENTATION - CDTA Travel Demand Management Program**

Lauren Bailey and Ross Farrell gave a presentation on CDTA's Travel Demand Management and Mobility Management Programs. These programs are funded in part by the Travel Demand Management (TDM) set-a-side. CDTA's TDM program includes parks and ride lots, the Guaranteed Ride Home program, transit pass subsidies, vanpool, bikeshare, carshare, and taxi oversight. Laura and Ross described the services provided and the unique aspects of each program. CDTA will be coordinating with municipalities to launch the bikeshare program, anticipated in 2017. Lauren discussed the development of a common taxi regulating ordinance, starting in the 4 larger cities in the region. Frank Bonafide asked Ross what the measures of success are for this program. Ross noted that FTA does require performance measurement; he will report back to the Planning Committee in the future on performance measures for the TDM program.

### **PRESENTATION - CDTC Project Delivery System**

Aaron Spies gave a presentation on the status of CDTC's Project Delivery System, to track federal aid projects. The system is consistent with CDTC's New Visions Plan, Merit Scoring system, and is designed to inform and support Committee members and project sponsors. The system's primary deliverable is a progress report, showing current project status, amendments, and costs/expenditures. He noted in the future he would like input from sponsors on initial steps before preliminary design such as the signing of the State-Local Agreement (SLA). Aaron noted that much of the information for the progress report is supplied by NYSDOT. Project sponsors will also be required



to provide project briefings to the Planning Committee to discuss project status, challenges, and next steps. Sponsors were informed that the spreadsheet was a work in progress and that their input on any aspect of the initiative would be appreciated.

NYSDOT discussed the implications of providing detailed cost information prior to construction project bid. Mike and Aaron agreed to use only preliminary construction estimates to avoid issues relating to project bidding. Joe Teliska suggested the project delivery system stop after preliminary engineering funds are obligated. Mike Valentine and Ross Farrell expressed support for seeing the compilation of additional project information. John Scavo expressed concern with the challenges of utility relocation, and suggested including this information into the system. It was noted that this information is not tracked by NYSDOT so project sponsors will need to supply this information for the progress report.

Several project sponsors gave project briefings; Albany Co. Route 9 Bridge over Fox Creek, Bill Anslow; Rensselaer Co. Plank Rd Bridge, Joe Teliska; Schenectady Co. Culvert Replacement, Steve Feeney. Steve also discussed concern about how amendments are reflected in the system as this project was changed to a beyond preservation project and not just delayed 1 year as shown in the draft project tracking sheet. Aaron noted that changes will be made to the notation to more accurately reflect the substance of amendments within the allotted space.

### Action Items

#### **2016-21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

##### **A. SA295 (1760.38) Pruyn Hill Pedestrian Safety, Phase II**

The project sponsor discussed the desire to move the project from FY 2019-2020 to FY 2016-2017, as the project is now a higher priority for the Town of Halfmoon. Members approved the amendment unanimously.

##### **B. 1007.19, NY 144 & NY 143 Corrective Maintenance & ADA Improvements**

The project sponsor discussed the use of repurposed earmark funding, via the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016, a federal legislative action. There is approximately \$4.3 M of available funding in NYSDOT Region 1. These funds are available due to a past earmark funded project for the I-90 Connector Phase 2 located in the Town of North Greenbush which was not implemented due to its overall high cost estimate of over \$70 mil.

This project in the Town of Coeymans would use \$1.3 M of the repurposed funds. Repurposed earmark fund source projects' costs are capped. Members approved the amendment unanimously.

**C. 1089.75, Bike/Ped Improvements on NY 4, North Greenbush (see enclosed**

The project would be funded via the same source described in item B. The project sponsor discussed the rationale for repurposing the funds to this project, which is now a higher priority for the Town. The sidewalks are needed to accommodate pedestrians as they travel to/from destinations along NY 4. The project cost is \$1.2 M. The project cost is capped. Members approved amendments C and D together unanimously.

**D. 1089.76, NY 4/Bloomingrove Rd Intersection Improvements, North Greenbush**

The project would be funded via the same source described in item B. Project sponsor discussed the rationale for repurposing the funds to this project, which now is a higher priority for the Town. The improvements would improve congestion at the intersection and provide pedestrian accommodations. The project cost is \$2.649 M. The project cost is capped. Members approved amendments C and D together unanimously.

**E. A577 (1760.31) Voorheesville Pedestrian Connectivity (see enclosed)**

The project sponsor is requesting to move the project from FY 2019-2020 to 2016-2017, as the project is now a higher priority to the Village of Voorheesville. The Committee approved the amendment unanimously.

**LOCAL HSIP PROJECT SOLICITATION**

Sandy Misiewicz discussed the HSIP project solicitation process and summarized the three (3) applications received. The first round of HSIP funding available is \$4.2 M available for programming during FFY 2016-2020. Sandy described the project evaluation scores, noting the projects are all rated similarly. Sandy gave additional details about the projects, analyses, CDTC advisory committee comments, and meetings with NYSDOT to discuss project eligibility. Sandy directed the committee to refer to the project fact sheets for additional information. Sandy discussed the potential funding options, shown on page 3 of the handout. Sandy noted three regional safety project commitments in the Post column of the current TIP that were not submitted for consideration. These projects will need to be revisited as part of the 2018 TIP update. There will be a Phase 2 solicitation



to program the remaining HSIP funding once CDTC has completed a Regional Safety Action Plan.

Rocky Ferraro expressed his concerns about the proposed HSIP project at NY 146/NY 146A, however, it was noted the Town of Clifton Park has submitted a letter of support for the project. The project will have to go through a more thorough design analysis, which could change design parameters and funding eligibility. The committee discussed the pros and cons of the proposed design option, a roundabout, citing several roundabouts of similar size and scale. Frank noted that all NYSDOT projects follow required NEPA and alternatives' development and analyses processes, which includes required public involvement.

Members voted to approve funding Option 1: fund all three projects at \$5.483 M with the Broadway Traffic Signals contingent on a positive finding on the warrants for the existing signals and confirmation of the safety benefits of the improvements to the traffic signals (larger faces and back plates) by NYSDOT, by drawing down on the remaining HSIP balance in the TIP. Rocky Ferraro abstained from the vote.

#### **2017-2018 LINKAGE PROGRAM SOLICITATION**

Mike Franchini discussed the proposed linkage solicitation, noting staff is suggesting limiting the number of new linkage studies to no more than 3. Members approved the linkage solicitation as described unanimously.

#### **UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

##### **Progress Report for the period April 1, 2016 - September 30, 2016**

Mike Franchini summarized the Progress Report, which will be submitted to FHWA and FTA. Mike noted some of the highlights of the current report. Members approved the report unanimously.

#### **PROJECTS SUBJECT TO INCENTIVE TO START PE**

Mike Franchini summarized the previous discussions at Planning Committee, and the project tracking system. Mike described the potential actions to be taken by the Committee, all related to the obligation to deliver projects in a timely manner, and on budget. The Committee discussed the implications of penalizing project sponsors for delinquent project delivery in the Merit Scoring Evaluation.

The Committee discussed whether or not the Merit Scoring Evaluation system was officially adopted by the Committee. It was noted the merit evaluation scoring system is provided as a guide for the Committee when making programming decisions, similar to how the B/C calculations

are intended to be used. NYSDOT suggested confirming and adopting a merit score system before the next TIP update.

It was clarified that currently a project can get a minus one (-1) on the merit scoring criteria for project delivery if the sponsor has any projects that are currently not meeting the requirement. The Committee discussed the mechanics of how project delivery will be evaluated, including the connection to the project tracking system and TIP amendments. Mike Valentine suggested a subcommittee to take up the merit evaluation issue prior to the January meeting.

A motion was made to take no additional action with the emphasis on utilizing the new project tracking system to carefully monitor projects and demonstrate progress, and there will be no other incentives or disincentives. Members approved the motion unanimously.

### Discussion Items

#### **TAP AND CMAQ PROJECT SOLICITATION AND EVALUATION**

Mike Franchini explained that CDTC staff is working with NYSDOT on a regional evaluation team to evaluate TAP and CMAQ projects. The process will utilize a NYSDOT merit scoring criteria to rank projects. Regional evaluation teams will not be evaluating local projects, but will be evaluating projects from another region (Region 4-Rochester), with the intent to remove bias from the process. Frank noted that the evaluated list of projects for our region will come back to this table for programming.

#### **NYSDOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE (available at meeting)**

NYSDOT did not provide an updated project delivery schedule at the meeting.

### STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

No statuses of planning activities were provided due to time constraints.

Rocky Ferraro told the group he will be retiring in December, and the new Executive Director, Mark Castiglione, will be starting on December 1. Rocky expressed his gratitude to the Planning Committee, CDTC staff, and the MPO process. Mike thanked Rocky for all of his efforts and support over the years.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 PM. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael V. Franchini". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Michael V. Franchini

Secretary