

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

February 7, 2019

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bill Anslow, Albany County
Bradley Birge, City of Saratoga Springs
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Kristin Diotte, representing Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority
Stephen Feeney, Schenectady County, Vice-Chair
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee,
Secretary
Nadine Fuda, Town of Schodack
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority, Chair
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Rob Leslie, Town of Bethlehem
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands
Robyn Reynolds, City of Cohoes
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Jeremy Smith, City of Watervliet
W. Joseph Teliska, Rensselaer County
Michael Valentine, Saratoga County

STAFF AND OTHERS

Don Adams, Creighton Manning
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Audrey Burneson, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Maria Chau, Federal Highway Administration
Bryan Cross, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Christopher Desany, Capital District Transportation Authority
Lorenzo Distefano, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Daniel Eckert, MJ Engineering
Richard Harris, Town of Halfmoon
Dan Holdsworth, Capital District Transportation Authority
Martin Hull, WSP
Ken Kovalchik, Town of Guilderland
Stephanie Long, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Fred Mastroianni, GPI
Tim O'Donoghue, Federal Highway Administration
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Tony Papile, CHA
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Dan Rourke, Barton & Loguidice
Laura Sanda, McFarland Johnson
Rima Shamieh, Capital District Transportation Committee
Stephanie Siciliano, GPI
Jordan Solano-Reed, Capital District Transportation Committee
Steve Strichman, City of Troy
David Wheatley, City of Watervliet
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1

INTRODUCTION AND VISITORS' ISSUES

Steve Iachetta opened the meeting at approximately 9:34 AM. There were no visitor issues.

ADMINISTRATION

Previous Meeting Minutes - January 9, 2019

Mike Valentine noted that there were two commas missing, four hyphens missing, two word insertions, one word removal and one sentence ending problem. Members approved the January 9, 2019 minutes.

ACTION ITEMS

FISCAL CONSTRAINT DISCUSSION - TIP SUMMARY TABLE 4

Mike Franchini reviewed the updated fiscal constraint table provided in the mail out (Table 4). He said this table reflects projects that will roll over into the new TIP. This table is still being updated.

2016-21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

A. A576, 1007.16, NY 144 Bridge over the Hannacrois Creek: Renew or Replace

B. A572, 1051.77, I-787 NB Ramp over the SME to SME WB: Element Specific Repairs

C. S238, 1810.26, NY 911F (Freemans Bridge) over the Mohawk River/Erie Canal

Greg Wichser reviewed amendments A., B., and C. together. The cost of project A576 is increasing based on early design findings, cultural resources combined with flooding resiliency requirements. For project A572, some overhead sign structures attached to this bridge have recently been removed due to age and identified distress, and need to be replaced as part of this project. In addition, the work zone traffic control and other challenges associated with working in the vicinity of the South Mall Expressway also contribute to the anticipated construction cost increase. For project S238, the Town of Glenville has requested a Multi-Use Path to connect the planned trail system with the City of Schenectady; the cost increase is due to addressing this issue. Steve Feeney said that this improvement will connect the existing trail on the north side of the Mohawk River with the new trail on the south side of the Mohawk River. Mike Franchini said that the Freemans Bridge Road Linkage Study recommended this connection. Greg Wichser said that another project is being removed from the TIP as part of the program update. It has been proposed to remove A575 with a project cost of about \$3M [exactly \$3.289M] so the net cost increase of the three amendments is about \$1.7M. In response to a question, he said that the

NY 144 Bridge will be replaced, and the project title should be changed to reflect that.

Joe Teliska asked why the agenda indicated no benefit change. Glenn Posca said that the costs changed and the benefit cost ratio was not recalculated. Mike Franchini said that staff will recalculate the benefit cost ratio for future TIP amendments.

Members approved the three amendments for A576, A572, and S238 as presented.

D. A579, 1760.33, Watervliet Bike Path

Jeremy Smith said that the original scope called for sharrows on the northern and southern ends of the project, and a cycle track in the middle segment. Barton & Loguidice has identified a safer alternative which provides a cycle track all of the way from 4th Street to 23rd Street. This alternative increases the cost. Steve Iachetta noted that this Bike Path is part of the Empire State Trail system. Andrew Kreshik asked if the bike path could be moved closer to the river; Jeremy Smith said that that is a long term goal but the cost is very high. He said that final design will be finished in May, and the project will be let in the summer. Members approved the amendment as presented.

E. SA297, 1760.46, Ashdown Rd. Bridge over the DHRR: Replacement

Glenn Posca explained that this amendment is included for information purposes and does not require Planning Committee approval.

F. SA302, 1760.56, CR 13 (Barkersville Fayville Road) over Cadman Creek: Bridge Replacement

Mike Valentine said that this project is located in the rural town of Providence. This amendment is needed as a means of:

1. Adding funding for two phases ROW - both Incidentals and Acquisition, neither of which were part of the original TIP schedule,
2. Increasing the established funding for construction inspection to reflect increased construction costs,
3. Increasing funding of construction due to updated review of costs and to be consistent with project estimates.

ROW is anticipated to provide stone channel bank protection. Members approved the amendment as presented.

G. S204, 1758.95, Kings Road (CR 65) over CSX: Bridge Replacement; S204, 1758.95, Kings Road (CR 65) over CSX: Bridge Replacement

Kristin Diotte said that several important factors led to the need for these amendments, including the need to be consistent with the Bike Infrastructure Master Plan, which identified the Kings Road Bridge as a barrier to bicyclists. Tony Papile explained that the bridge is anticipated to be replaced with a single span structure meeting Amtrak's current clearance requirements of 23 feet over the railroad track. This will remove a "barrier" on Amtrak's rail lines. The increased height

requires lengthening the approaches and adding retaining walls for property owners. Drainage will be improved. Adding five foot shoulders will remove the barrier to bicyclists.

Mike Franchini said that this project is our last chance for 75 years to remove this barrier for bicyclists. Steve Feeney said that this amendment is consistent with Schenectady County Plans. Members approved both components of this amendment (base cost change and preferred option) as presented.

H. T107, CDTC107, Hudson River Corridor BRT: Phase 1

I. T57, 1TR6.04, Preventive Maintenance

J. RG130, CDTC.32, Travel Demand Management & Multimodal

K. T108, CDTC108, TDM Multimodal Implementation

L. RG131, CDTC.31, Bus Rapid Transit

M. T109, 1760.59, Washington/Western BRT Phase 1

Ross Farrell explained that items H. through M. above should be treated with one motion. Essentially they represent a lot of moving money from one project to another, and a drawdown on year three of the set-asides. Members approved TIP amendments H. through M. as presented.

2019-24 TIP UPDATE

A. Voting Ground Rules

Mike Franchini explained the ground rules for the TIP update. Every motion must pass by consensus, that is, with no negative votes, although consensus can include members abstaining. If you have an issue, talk about it before you vote. Remember that only the town representative who is the most senior town representative present may vote. Today that would be Paul Reuss. Other senior members include Kevin Corcoran and Peter Comenzo. Planning Committee members should make sure to talk to their Policy Board members. In response to a question, Mike said that the policy of voting by consensus is documented in writing in the CDTC Continuing Operations Plan.

B. Advisory Committee Comments

Mike Franchini reviewed comments by CDTC's advisory committees, which were included in the mail out. These comments are advisory, but he encouraged members to read them and consider them.

C. 2016-21 TIP Existing Project Status

Mike Franchini reviewed Tables A through H in the mail out. Table H shows funding available for new programming by fund source. Consideration of fund sources is important. NHPP funding is only available for Interstates and Principal Arterials. STP Urban is only available in urban areas. STP Flex is much more flexible. Another aspect

of funding is the impact of rescissions. Most people expected that Congress would repeal the rescissions in the FAST Act, but this has not happened. Because of this, projects that can be obligated by September 30, 2019 will help reduce the unobligated fund balances and thus reduce the rescission amount.

The approach that will be taken for the TIP update will be to program projects first, then focus on the fund source. We will use NHPP whenever we can.

D. Candidate Projects with outstanding TAP/CMAQ applications

Mike Franchini distributed a handout that lists the projects that have applied for TAP and CMAQ funding. This handout supersedes list in the mail out. We don't know when a decision will be made, but some of these projects may receive TAP/CMAQ funding. We will select projects and then pick backups that are contingent on CMAQ/TAP funding for projects ahead of them. Funding contingency will be based on the project, not the sponsor.

E. 2019-24 Set-Asides

Mike Franchini said that we need to make a decision today about continuing set-asides in the new TIP.

Ross Farrell distributed a handout showing the CDTA proposal for continuing the Bus Rapid Transit Set-Aside and the TDM/MM Set-Aside in the new TIP. Funding for the BRT Set-Aside is critical for the design and development of the BRT. The three BRT corridors account for 60% of the region's transit ridership and include all four counties and eleven municipalities in CDTA's service area. Projects being progressed with this set-aside have independent utility. The Set-Aside has also helped in leveraging funds from other federal and State sources. Small Starts will no longer fund 80% of cost, but will expect the federal share to be 50% or less of the cost.

Over the life of the TIP, the amount coming from STP-Flex funds would decrease by \$3.0M, while NHPP funds would increase by \$6.4M, resulting in a net increase of \$3.4M. CDTA will fund most of the TDM funding.

Greg Wichser said that NHPP funding has increased by about \$40M compared with the existing TIP, so this proposal will free up more STP Flex funding. Members approved the Transit Set-Aside as proposed.

Mike Franchini said that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee asked CDTC to maintain the Bicycle/Pedestrian Network Set-Aside at \$1.0M per year. He said that this is a very reasonable request. Andrew Kreshik made a motion to increase both the Bicycle/Pedestrian Network Set-Aside and the Local Low Volume Roads, Bridges and Culverts Set Aside to \$1.3M per year each. Members approved the motion.

Mike Franchini asked for a motion to continue funding for RG29, which is a Set-Aside of \$0.135M per year for CDTC Project Development Support. This funding is used for developing STEP Model analysis and forecasts

for specific projects, both State and local projects. Members approved the continuation of RG29.

Greg Wichser referred to the handouts from the January meeting minutes, included in the February meeting mail out, to explain the CDTC portion of State System Set-Asides. He mentioned three new set-asides which were explained at the January meeting: Navigational Lights Replacement, Overhead Sign Structure Replacement and Sign Replacement. He said that NYSDOT will use NHPP for the set-asides as much as possible. Members approved the CDTC portion of the State System Set-Asides as presented.

F. 2019-24 Candidate Project Evaluations

Mike Franchini handed out project information sheets for all candidate projects. These information sheets will be on line later in the day. He said that action on these sheets will be deferred to the next meeting, when the Committee will start programming projects. Mike suggested that to stay on schedule we should meet again in two weeks. Because that would result in a meeting during school break week, members agreed to a Doodle Poll to select the best meeting date from among the four choices of February 20, 21, 27, and 28.

CAPITAL DISTRICT TRAILS PLAN APPROVAL

Mike Franchini handed out a brochure summarizing the Capital District Trails Plan. If approved, the Trails Plan will become part of the New Visions Plan. Significant benefits of the Trails Plan are listed in the brochure. Steve Iachetta suggested that the legend should show all park amenities. Mike Franchini said that we could consider doing that for the county maps, but it would not be feasible for the regional map. Mike said that the surveys show significant amounts of visitors to the region. Members approved the Regional Trails Plan.

2019-2020 LINKAGE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mike Franchini said that based on the information provided by the applicants and through follow up conversations with sponsors, the evaluation team is recommending the City of Albany Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan for funding. Staff had discussions with all of the sponsors about how to improve their applications for future reference. In the case of the Wilton proposal, most of the work proposed in their application is currently being accomplished under the Technical Assistance Program.

Rob Leslie commented that he is in favor of funding the Albany Linkage proposal, but had several questions about why the Bethlehem proposal was not recommended. He asked if the \$50,000 that was not funded could be used to partially fund some of the remaining proposals. Specifically he said that the scope for the Bethlehem proposal could be reduced because two issues raised in the scope have since been resolved. Mike Franchini explained that because the rescission could affect CDTC planning funds, he wants to be very frugal in the coming year until we can assess the impacts. Protecting the CDTC staff is a priority. He said that the Bethlehem proposal could be resubmitted next year.

Members approved funding for the Albany Linkage proposal as recommended.

2018-20 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) UPDATE REVIEW AND APPROVAL

A. NYSAMPO Funding Adjustment

Mike Franchini asked for approval to transfer funding from one pot to another so that CDTC can pay for the Syracuse NYSAMPO (New York State Association of MPOs) conference, using shared NYSAMPO funding. Members approved the transfer of funds.

B. 2018-20 UPWP Budget Revision

Mike Franchini said that the UPWP is a two year program that needs an administrative update in the middle of the two year period. He reviewed the proposed budget revisions shown in the mail out, and he said that in addition the update will include the Linkage Study we just approved. Members approved the 2018-20 UPWP budget revision.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

NYSDOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Greg Wichser handed out the NYSDOT Project Delivery Schedule. He said that the next State fiscal year will begin soon.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

City of Saratoga Springs

Brad Birge announced that the City of Saratoga Springs is asking for applications to fill a Principal Planner position.

Saratoga County

Mike Valentine said that he appreciated the Planning Committee changing its schedule to avoid a conflict with the Saratoga County Planning & Zoning Conference. He said the conference was attended by people from fifteen counties and about 85 municipalities.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM. The next Planning Committee meeting will be determined by Doodle Poll, which will include the following options: February 20, 21, 27, or 28.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael V. Franchini
Secretary