

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
November 4, 2020
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bradley Birge, City of Saratoga Springs
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Donald Csaposs, Town of Guilderland
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Vice-Chair
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee, Secretary
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority, Chair
Andrew Kohout, Village of Scotia
Liz Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Sean Maguire, Town of Colonie
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Jaime O'Neill, Town Malta
Robert Rice, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Joseph Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes
Mike Valentine, Saratoga County
Tim Wainwright, NYS Thruway Authority
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Adam Yagelski, Town of East Greenbush

STAFF AND OTHERS ATTENDING

Christian Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Joe Cimino, CHA Consulting
Christine Fitzpatrick, Village of Ballston Spa
Jeremy Hughes, Barton & Loguidice
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee
Stephanie Long, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1
Fred Mastroianni, Greenman Pederson
Jim Mearkle, Albany County
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Frank Prevratil, Village of Colonie
Manny Salorio, CHA Consulting
Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority

Dalia Szarowicz, Town of East Greenbush
Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1

INTRODUCTION

Steve Iachetta opened the videoconference meeting at approximately 9:36 AM.

VISITORS' ISSUES

There were no visitors' issues.

ADMINISTRATION

Previous Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2020

There were no comments or suggested revisions to the October 7, 2020 draft meeting minutes. Sean Maguire motioned to approve the October 7, 2020 minutes, Bradley Birge seconded, and members approved the motion. Mike Valentine abstained from the vote.

PRESENTATION – CDTA's River Corridor BRT

CDTA was not able to present at the meeting and requested the presentation be moved to a future meeting. Construction of the River Corridor BRT is in the final stages, and the new service is planned to begin on Sunday, November 8, 2020.

ACTION ITEMS

FISCAL CONSTRAINT DISCUSSION - TIP SUMMARY TABLE 4

Mike Franchini noted that there have been changes to TIP Summary Table 4 since the last meeting. CDTC and NYSDOT have coordinated to develop new budget estimates that keep within the +/- 5% guideline. The STP-Urban in FFY 2020-21 budget estimate was decreased by \$11 M, while the budget estimate for STP-Urban in FFY 2021-22 was increased by \$11 M. Also, the budget estimate for NHPP is decreased by \$1.5 M in FFY 2022-23 and increased by \$1.5 M in FFY 2021-22. This information has been shared with FHWA.

Mike also noted there has been a change to the budget estimate for TIP project A598 (US 9W bridge over CSX/CP Rail).

Steve Iachetta motioned to approve the updated TIP Summary Table 4 (dated 10/26/20), Mike Valentine seconded, and members approved the motion.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

A. SA332, East-West Road Multi-Use Trail

B. SA333, OPRHP Trail Assessment Project

Items A and B were handled as one discussion. Mike Franchini said these projects are funded by the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) set-aside, as part of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). For this year, the funding is available for state agencies.

Two projects in the CDTC region need to be added to the TIP. SA332 is a NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) Trail Assessment Project in the Saratoga Spa State Park to assess up to miles of trails for accessibility. SA332 includes the construction of East-West Road Multi-Use Trail, also in the Saratoga Spa State Park.

Bradley Birge motioned to approve the amendments as presented, Mike Valentine seconded, and members approved the motion.

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

D. RG131, CDTC.31, Bus Rapid Transit

Items C and D were withdrawn from the meeting agenda.

E. RG136, 1810.66, State Miscellaneous Pavement Maintenance Set-Aside

Greg Wichser said this NYSDOT initiative will add \$12.8 M of pavement work to the CDTC Region for the 2021 construction season. This includes approximately \$8.5 of Matched Federal Aid funding. Greg noted this will not affect our regional STIP budget targets.

Greg noted that pavement condition index data is available from 2018. Bob Rice noted that NYSDOT is using an automated method to collect pavement condition data, replacing the traditional windshield survey method. The new method utilizes the International Roughness Index (IRI). Mike Valentine suggested notifying affected municipalities when paving projects are going to begin. Liz Kormos emphasized Mike's point, adding that coordination with local projects, such as sidewalk construction or utility work, is important.

Mike Valentine motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Bradley Birge seconded, and members approved the motion.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Mike Franchini presented the draft April 1-September 30, 2020 UPWP progress report. Mike emphasized the key accomplishments section on pages 3-5. CDTC staff has continued to advance projects during the pandemic. Some of the key accomplishments include the New Visions 2050 update, a new virtual learning series, 22 TIP amendments, a new congestion management plan,

and completion of the FHWA/FTA certification review process, which led to several commendations and notable actions.

Steve Feeney motioned to release the UPWP progress report as presented, Bradley Birge seconded, and members approved the motion.

CDTC/CDRPC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mark Castiglione said the program has moved to a rolling application process. CDTC and CDRPC staff are completing the initial round of 2020 projects. There are two new applications; one from the Town of Colonie to analyze Land Use Codes for Green Infrastructure and EV charging considerations; the other is from the City of Troy to evaluate growth/capacity issues.

Steve Iachetta motioned to approve the new projects as presented, Mark Castiglione seconded, and members approved the motion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CDTC PROJECT DELIVERY UPDATE

Jacob Beeman said there have been several updates to the CDTC Local Federal Aid Project Tracking Sheet. He highlighted:

- City of Troy – Campbell Ave. over Wynantskill, Bridge Project – PS&E Submitted in October
- Saratoga County – Ashdown Rd. Bridge Replacement – PS&E Submitted in October
- Saratoga County – Barkersville-Fayville Rd. over Cadman Creek Bridge Replacement – Construction Complete in October
- Village of Green Island – Hudson Avenue Preservation Project – Construction Complete in October

Jacob said the Project Tracking Sheet has been updated to include all new projects added for design in 2021. For the January 2021 Planning Committee meeting, updates will be requested for projects in the Town of Bethlehem, Town of Charlton, and Town of Hadley.

Bradley Birge gave an update on SA280, Geyser Road (CR 43)/Ballston Avenue (NY 50) Intersection and Bike/Pedestrian improvements in the City of Saratoga Springs. The project has been in development for a decade, and construction has progressed well this year. The project's scope has grown over the years to add intersection improvements and new bus stops. Bradley expressed gratitude for support from the Planning Committee. Brad said COVID supply chain issues have delayed the delivery of mast arm traffic signals.

NYS DOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Greg Wichser shared an updated list of NYS DOT projects in the CDTC region for SFY 20/2021. The Albany Corning Preserve Bike and Pedestrian Connector Ramp project will be re-bid due to the low bid exceeding the project budget. The NY Route 2 Bridge 2 over the Poestenkill had a

competitive bid process. NYSDOT will begin I-87/Northway paving project next month. The letting for the Interstate Overhead Sign Structure Replacement and the NY 146/Carman Rd Safety Enhancements projects have been delayed.

STATUS OF CDTC PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Hoosick Hillside Study

Mike Franchini said the draft study was presented to the SAC, and final edits are currently being made. Andrew Kreshik noted the Troy City Council will consider adopting the study.

Menands Land Use Regulations Update

Mike Franchini said the Request for Expressions of Interest (REI) including the scope of work has been developed. The REI will be advertised later this week.

Scotia Downtown Connections Plan

Andrew Tracy said the REI for consultant services for the project has been issued, with proposals due on 11/17. There have been several consultant requests for REI. CDTC has formed a REI scoring committee.

CDTC/CDRPC Technical Assistance Program Projects

Sandy Misiewicz said there are four active Tech Assist projects. The Glenville Route 50 Comprehensive Plan project is nearing completion. A final report with land use and zoning recommendations is being compiled and will be presented to the Code Review committee in November. The Westerlo Comprehensive Plan project has been completed. The draft deliverables for the Gilligan Road project in East Greenbush have been shared with the Town. The Town is selecting a consultant to work on the design aspect of the project. Staff from the Town of Clifton Park is writing the draft report and has asked some questions related to the transportation component of the project which CDTC will respond to in November. Data inventory and analysis has been completed.

Bus Lane Feasibility Study

Sandy Misiewicz said the project has been delayed to allow CDTA staff to focus on the BRT River Corridor Project. A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued in late November or early December.

ADA Transition Plans

Mike Franchini said ADA transition plans are progressing in the Town of Glenville and City of Saratoga Springs. Both projects are in the data collection phase. CDTC is still accepting applications.

Ballston Spa

Jacob Beeman said the consultant selection process has been completed, and the project kickoff meeting will be held in December.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDRPC

Mark Castiglione said CDRPC Fall Webinar Series continues through December. Staff is currently working on several Tech Assist projects. CDRPC was awarded a multi-year grant for regional coordination of the Clean Energy Communities Program. New municipal grant funds under that program should be announced shortly. The 2020 US Census is “completed.”

CDTA

Ross Farrell noted the CDTA River Corridor BRT project is nearing completion and thanked the municipalities along the corridor for their coordination and cooperation.

NYSDOT

Bob Rice said NYSDOT is preparing for snow and ice season. The Menands Bike-Pedestrian Connection project should be completed by the end of the month. The NY 378 PEL study is being re-scoped, FHWA is assisting with that process. NYSDOT will be contacting local project sponsors regarding any unobligated project funding.

New York State Thruway Authority

Tim Wainwright said the NYSTA cashless tolling project will be opened soon. Construction is just finishing up on the Old State Rd Bridge project. NYSTA was able to take advantage of reduced traffic during the COVID-19 pandemic to advance maintenance and construction efforts. NYSTA is transitioning to the snow and ice season.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta said passenger travel has been flat since April holding at approximately 1000 passengers/ day. The normal is 4,500 passengers/day. Air cargo is up 23% compared to last year. The Airport is continuing to enforce evolving NYSDOH travel guidelines. On major projects, the Airport is proceeding with the replacement of four passenger bridges and a new Master Plan with FAA grants in aid. Construction of four military Blackhawk helicopter hangers is complete. Several surface parking lots have been resurfaced during this period of low parking demand. Lastly, ten new EV charging stations are being installed in the new parking garage, funded by NYSERDA ChargeNY and National Grid incentives.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Steve Iachetta summarized upcoming meetings as noted on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Steve Iachetta motioned to adjourn, Bob Rice seconded, and the members approved the motion at 10:46 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting will be on January 6, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael V. Franchini". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'F'.

Michael V. Franchini
Secretary