

Planning Committee Meeting
February 7, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Members Attending

Beige Berryman, City of Saratoga Springs
Virginia Bott, Rensselaer County
The Honorable Mike Butler, City of Mechanicville
Sharon Butler, City of Cohoes
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Chair
Connor Haskin, Albany County Airport Authority
Thomas Hulihan, City of Rensselaer
Patrick Jordan Esq., Albany Port District Commission
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Kim Lambert, Saratoga County
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council, Secretary
Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Katelyn Reepmeyer, Town of Colonie
Bob Rice, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
Ayla Schermer, Federal Transit Administration
Bill Trudeau, City of Albany
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Michael Williams, Capital District Transportation Authority

Staff and Others Attending

Chris Bauer, Capital Region Transportation Council
Jacob Beeman, Capital Region Transportation Council
Alexandria Carver, City of Schenectady
Chris Cate, McFarland Johnson
Jennifer Ceponis, Capital Region Transportation Council
Joe Cimino, CHA
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Tess Drauschak, Capital Region Transportation Council
Kelly Kircher, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Liz Kormos, Interested Citizen
Tim Lane, Village of Menands
Teresa LaSalle, Capital Region Transportation Council
Stephen Maples, Capital Region Transportation Council
Brent Meredith, Albany County

Jamie O'Neill, Town of Malta
Jeff Pangburn, Creighton Manning Engineering
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Rima Shamieh, Capital Region Transportation Council
Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority
Chaim Simon, Capital Region Transportation Council
Ed Snyder, GPI
Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council
Dylan Turek, City of Troy
Carrie Ward, Capital Region Transportation Council
Greg Wichser, Department of Transportation Region-1

Introduction

Steve Feeney opened the meeting at approximately 9:32 a.m.

Visitor's Issues

There were no visitor's issues.

Administration

Previous Meeting Minutes – January 3, 2024

There were no proposed changes to the meeting minutes. Kim Lambert motioned to approve the January 3, 2024 minutes as presented, Mark Castiglione seconded, and members approved the motion.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Fiscal Constraint – Summary Table 4

Jacob Beeman noted that we are currently within the 5% fiscal constraint restriction for all fund sources.

Action Items

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

1. Amendment 1: R323, 1760.84, TAP/CMAQ Rensselaer Riverfront Multi-Use Trail
Greg Wichser noted that NYDSOT will build the part of the trail from DeLaet's Landing to the Amtrak bridge approach as part of the Livingston Avenue Bridge project. There are overlapping project limits between the trail and bridge projects. Andrew Kreshik motioned

to approve the amendment as presented, Mark Castiglione seconded, and members approved the motion.

2. Amendment 2: TBD, 1SRP.01, Livingston Avenue Amtrak Railroad Over The Hudson River Bridge Replacement.

Greg Wichser explained that state funds will now be used to pay for the project. It will be on the TIP for public information purposes. Chris Wallin motioned to approve the amendment as presented and recommend it to the Policy Board, Bill Trudeau seconded, and members approved the motion.

3. Amendment 3: T137, CDTC137, Bus Plus Red Line Upgrades

Melissa Shanley explained that CDTA was awarded Safe Streets and Roads for All implementation funding to support pedestrian and transit safety improvements at stations along the Red Line in the City of Schenectady. The funds will be added to the existing TIP project and funds previously programmed will be shifted to the next phase to support roadway improvements in Albany. Patrick Jordan motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Laura Robertson seconded, and members approved the motion.

4. Amendment 4: A618,1528.90, Pavement Resurfacing I-90 from Corporate Woods to I-787

Greg Wichser explained that there is a new requirement to install striping below the pavement surface level. This amendment will use statewide HSIP funding for the striping. In addition, bids came in less than expected. Lisa motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Laura Robertson seconded, and members approved the motion.

Bridge NY 2023

Andrew Tracy noted that we received 19 Bridge NY Program applications from 12 sponsors, and staff completed scoring and ranked them within each County. NYSDOT established County funding targets. In Albany County, there were three applications, all from the County. The South Albany Road project was ranked highest and is the County's top priority. Albany County will commit to funding the remaining amount above the target available to Albany County. In Rensselaer County, eleven projects were submitted. Staff recommended funding the top two ranked projects and the fourth on the list. This would utilize more of the available funding targeted to the County. The skipped project was submitted by the Town of Sand Lake, which already has one project funded by Bridge NY, whereas the fourth ranked project was submitted by Rensselaer County, which does not have any funded Bridge NY projects. There were four applications in Saratoga County. Staff recommended funding the top ranked project. The other three were submitted by Saratoga County, which requested that the Heath Road bridge project be funded as there is already funding programmed for a rehabilitation project. In Schenectady County, there was one application for the full available funding, the Crane Street bridge. Patrick Jordan

motioned to approve the staff's recommendation with the change in Saratoga County as described above, Lisa Ramundo seconded, and members approved the motion.

Seeking Input on Funding Reallocation of Complete Streets Workshop

Sandra Misiewicz explained that the solicitation for Complete Streets municipal workshop sponsors did not receive any applications. One workshop was held in conjunction with Albany County's Department of Health. Sandra presented four options that could be completed using the remainder of the Complete Streets contract in 2024. These include a bus tour, one small-scale demonstration project that could supplement the safety demonstrations to be completed as part of the Vision Zero Action Plan, municipal workshops following a re-release of the solicitation, and development of a regional Complete Streets policy. There was discussion about a possible video set showcasing Complete Streets demonstration projects and permanent examples in the region (or elsewhere for infrastructure not in our region), or a written packet format of the same, or a PowerPoint presentation. Mike Butler motioned to reallocate funding from the Complete Streets workshops toward development of resources to highlight Complete Streets success stories in the region, Beige Berryman seconded, and members approved the motion.

2024-2025 UPWP Program Solicitation Evaluation Summary & Programming Options Approval

Sandra Misiewicz summarized the applications received from the program solicitation. Following discussion, the TAP, Inc. application was withdrawn. Staff recommended funding the Niskayuna application and the joint Clifton Park/Halfmoon application. Bob Rice motioned to approve the staff funding recommendation, Chris Wallin seconded, and members approved the motion.

Preliminary Draft 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Planning Committee Review

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the draft program was posted. She summarized the availability of federal planning funds, which is relatively flat compared to recent years. Topics that may be of interest include restarting Equity Advisory Committee meetings, technical assistance, an interactive mapping tool for the congestion management data, assisting with development of the state freight plan, expanding efforts on Clean Cities, development of a new TIP, Regional Vision Zero Safety Action Plan, and the NACTO Transit Street Design training. A virtual workshop is scheduled for February 13th, and an in-person workshop is scheduled at the Transportation Council's office on February 27th. Bob Rice motioned to approve the draft UPWP including today's actions for public review, Tom Houlihan seconded, and members approved the motion.

In Motion: The Plan to 2050 – Public Involvement Plan

Jennifer Ceponis explained that our new Public Participation Plan requires the development of a Public Involvement Plan for each of our core products. There will be public involvement at all phases of the project. The In Motion plan will measure input received relative to the distribution of different populations in the area to determine if we are capturing a diverse viewpoint and identify any gaps. Strategies will include surveys and online meetings, as well as in-person attendance at community meetings. Laura Robertson motioned to approve the Public Involvement Plan as presented, Lisa Ramundo seconded, and members approved the amendment.

Draft Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan for Planning Committee Review

Rima Shamieh noted that we last updated this Plan in 2020. We are required to take reasonable steps to ensure access to our activities by Limited English Proficiency persons. At a regional level, the eligible language groups will expand to include Arabic with this update, in addition to Spanish and Chinese. The draft also recommends default translation of executive summaries of our core products, as well as public statements of the availability of language services. Patrick Jordan motioned to recommend the document for Policy Board approval, Chris Wallin seconded, and members approved the motion.

Regional Truck Parking Study Final Report Approval

Chris Bauer noted that this group released the document for public review at the last meeting. There were two substantive comments that led to changes. The first was to remove the word 'accelerated' from the description of the New York State Thruway's cashless toll system project on page 29, and the second was to clarify the geographic scope of Recommendation #2 on page 36. Mark Castiglione motioned to recommend that the Policy Board approve the final report, Bill Trudeau seconded, and members approved the motion.

Draft Advisory Committee Operating Policies Approval

Sandra Misiewicz noted that staff has shared this draft with two advisory committees, made a few editorial changes, and clarified the use of the logos, letterhead, and other Transportation Council media. Bill Trudeau motioned to recommend approval by the Policy Board, Laura Robertson seconded, and members approved the motion.

2024 ADA Transition Plan Solicitation

Sandra Misiewicz explained that this action would solicit for municipalities to complete Self-Analyses and Transition Plans for Pedestrian Infrastructure, with data collection in

2024. We can budget up to \$100,000, which should cover one or municipalities, depending on the extent of the pedestrian networks. Applications would be due on April 5th. Chris Wallin motioned to recommend that the Policy Board release the solicitation, Lisa Ramundo seconded, and members approved the motion.

Discussion Items

Transportation Council Certification Review

Sandra Misiewicz noted that March 12th through the 14th will be our Certification Review. There will be a public survey available from March 15th through April 15th. There will be a public meeting on March 13th in the office.

Summary of 2022-2027 TIP Project Selection Moves

Jacob Beeman noted five project selection changes since February, mostly moving phases into fiscal year 2024, with two projects splitting right-of-way acquisition from other phases.

Local Project Delivery Update

Jacob Beeman noted that the project delivery table is available online. Jacob will reach out to the Cities of Watervliet and Cohoes and the Village of Green Island to discuss their projects at the April meeting.

NYSDOT Project Delivery Schedule

Bob Rice noted that there were three lettings in January. Bridge painting on NY 378 over the Hudson and the multi-site culvert repair were below the engineer's estimate. The multi-site deck replacement was significantly above the estimate. There will be two lettings soon – the multi-site paving project as well as the multi-site interstate sign overhead contract.

Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

Sandra Misiewicz referenced the available table of ongoing initiatives posted with the meeting materials. We will soon be releasing a Request for Expressions of Interest for the Town of Colonie Route 5 planning study.

Regional and Local Planning Updates

1. Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the lease for the office space will be up this year and we are looking at a number of options, including remaining in the same space.

2. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that the priority Climate Action Plan is due in March. The comprehensive Climate Action Plan will be due in 2025. The third round of the Clean Energy Communities Program was released. Communities under 40,000 are eligible for up to \$250,000 in matching grants for clean energy projects and communities over that size are eligible for up to \$350,000. Yesterday, CDRPC released a Request for Proposals for a feasibility study of a regional open-access fiber network. CDRPC will be providing on-demand services to assist municipalities to apply for Broadband Equity (BE) buildout funding. The Connect All Office has opened its municipal infrastructure program funding for municipalities to build out publicly owned infrastructure.

3. CDTA

Michael Williams noted that the BRT Expansion and Priority Corridors study wrapped up recently. That study recommends that the Schenectady-Troy corridor is the next potential BRT connection. The current focus is on the Transit Development Plan update, and development of scenarios for presentation to the public this spring.

4. NYSDOT

Kelly Kircher will be moving to the Traffic and Safety group but continuing project management responsibilities for the 787 study. There is great emphasis about minimizing the rollover of projects.

5. NYSTA

There were no updates.

6. Albany County Airport Authority

The 20-year Master Plan is in state and federal review, with adoption expected in May or June.

7. Albany Port District Commission

NYSERDA will soon release news of funding of offshore wind projects. The Port is starting a \$600,000 rail improvement infrastructure project to move larger power generation pieces.

8. Local Government/Other

Kim Lambert thanked everyone who attended the Saratoga Planning and Zoning Conference.

Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines

Steve Feeney noted the special Policy Board Meeting on February 15th and referenced the upcoming meetings listed on the agenda.

Adjournment

Bill Trudeau motioned to adjourn at approximately 11:23 a.m., Mark Castiglione seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Secretary