

Draft PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2015

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bradley Birge, City of Saratoga Springs
Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1
Melissa Cherubino, City of Cohoes
Darrell Duncan, Albany County
Steve 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
Barb McHugh, Town of Clifton Park
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands
Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville
Jeremy Smith, City of Watervliet
Joseph Teliska, representing Wayne Bonesteel, Rensselaer County
Tony Vasil, Albany Port Commission
Christopher Wallin, City of Schenectady
Brett Williams, representing Ahmad Ibrahim, NYS Thruway Authority

STAFF AND OTHERS

Bill Anslow, Albany County
Tom Baird, Barton & Loguidice
Jennifer Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Maria Chau, Federal Highway Administration
Robert Cherry, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1
Bryan Cross, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1
Dan Harp, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Wendy Holsberger, Creighton Manning Engineering
Karen Hulihan, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1
Tom Johnson, T.R. Johnson Engineering
Shelly Johnston, Creighton Manning Engineering
David Jukins, Capital District Transportation Committee
Mark Kennedy, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1
Nadine Lemmon, Tri-State Transportation Campaign
Laura Lilley, Schenectady County
Michael McGlynn, Citizen
Christina Minkler, Clough Harbor Associates
Mark Nadolny, Creighton Manning Engineering
Sreekumar Nampoothiri, Capital District Transportation Committee
Shelley Norton, Town of Malta
Tim O'Brien, Times Union
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Owen Shevlin, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1
Ben Syden, LaBerge Group
Raymond Tylicki, Citizen

VISITORS' ISSUES

Steve Iachetta opened the meeting at approximately 9:36 AM and invited visitor comments. Raymond Tylicki commented that he experienced a flat tire while riding his bicycle in the crosswalk between Price Chopper and the New Karner Road transit station. He showed samples of pavement from the crosswalk and commented on the need for better pavement condition in crosswalks.

Michael McGlynn commented on the benefits of LED lighting, and said that NYSEDA's FlexTech program is a valuable resource. He said that the Rensselaer Lighting Resource Center is also a valuable resource. He said that there are federal guidelines for the design of adaptive roadway lighting. Adaptive roadway lighting allows the operator to know when a light is on or burnt out and allows the lighting to vary based on road conditions.

ADMINISTRATION

Previous Meeting Minutes - November 5, 2014

Members approved the November 5, 2014 minutes.

NYSDOT PRESENTATION-PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ALONG ROUTE 5 (STATE STREET/CENTRAL AVENUE) FROM WASHINGTON AVENUE IN SCHENECTADY TO BROADWAY IN ALBANY

Wendy Holsberger explained that the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) initiated a study of pedestrian safety along NY Route 5 and coordinated with the five corridor communities of the Cities of Schenectady and Albany, the Village of Colonie and the Towns of Niskayuna and Colonie. Eighty-one signals were studied. Vehicle and pedestrian counts were taken. Recommended improvements will include responsive pedestrian push buttons; some exclusive pedestrian phases, some leading pedestrian phases; high visibility crosswalks; bus stop moves; more work at Colonie Center; and some raised medians. Mark Kennedy said that there were three other studies downstate, but this was the most extensive. Engineering, enforcement and education strategies were considered.

Wendy Holsberger explained that enforcement for both vehicles and pedestrians was part of the effort. Mark Kennedy commented that sustained education will be needed, and results can be obtained, considering the success of sustained efforts to encourage seat belt usage, and to reduce DWI and texting during driving. Nadine Lemon asked if reducing speed limits were looked at. Mark Kennedy said that this was discussed, but sustained law enforcement is needed to implement a lower speed limit, and without increased funding for dedicated enforcement, lowering the speed limit would not be feasible.

Mike Franchini said that this is the beginning of a process to educate drivers and pedestrians and improve safety. Funding for important improvements has been provided. More funding will be needed, for example, possibly from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee for law enforcement campaigns, and we will continue to discuss and pursue safety objectives.

ACTION ITEMS

PLANNING COMMITTEE OFFICERS NOMINATION AND ELECTION

Members voted to keep the existing officers in place for 2015.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Approval of the April 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014 Progress Report

Mike Franchini reviewed the progress report and highlighted the Bridge Group, the 9 & 20 Road Diet Study, the programming of TIP Set Asides, the Saratoga Traffic Study, the South Mall Expressway traffic analysis, the Highway Condition Report, and the I-787 Livable Corridor Study. Chris Wallin commented that not all business owners like the Schenectady road diet on State Street. Members approved the Progress Report.

2013-18 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

A650 (PIN 1932.78): Cobblestone Road Grade Crossing

A561 (PIN 1932.79): County Line Road Grade Crossing

S233 (PIN 1932.81): Gregg Road Grade Crossing

Frank Bonafide explained that the above three rail crossing projects are funded with non-competitive fund sources which are programmed in the Main Office. Members approved the amendments for these three projects.

A525 (PIN 1808.21): NY 910D Washington Ave. Ext. Reconstruction

Frank Bonafide explained that this project was selected by the Main Office using statewide capitalization funding. It does not affect CDTC or Region 1 allocations. The project will be a pavement rehab project with amenities. Glenn Posca said it was removed from the TIP during the last update, this amendment will move it back onto the TIP. Members approved the amendment.

A321 (PIN 1125.18): NY 85 Reconstruction

Frank Bonafide explained that this project was selected by the Main Office using statewide capitalization funding. It does not affect CDTC or Region 1 allocations. Route 85 is one of the most complained about roads. Members approved the amendment.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

NEW VISIONS

Mike Franchini reported that the nine white papers for New Visions currently total 350 pages. They will be available before the next meeting on the CDTC website. At the February meeting the Planning Committee will be asked to release them for public review. There will be three months of public outreach including meetings in each county. A final draft will be prepared for the May Planning Committee meeting. The white papers represent about 85% of the Plan.

2015-2016 LINKAGE PROGRAM REPORT

Mike Franchini explained that ten applications were received for the Linkage program. The applications will be reviewed and rated by the selection committee, who will make recommendations to the Planning Committee in February.

LOCAL BRIDGE PRESERVATION PROJECT SOLICITATION REPORT

Dave Jukins reported that the study is coming to a close. In response to the solicitation for federal aid eligible preservation local bridge projects, nine project applications were received.

NYS DOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Frank Bonafide distributed a handout (attached) that provided a status of project delivery. He said that the focus is on wrapping up projects by the end of the State fiscal year.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDTC

Mike Franchini said that there will be public meetings for the I-787 Livable Corridor Study: in Albany on February 11th, and in Watervliet on February 12th. The UPWP will be revised by staff for Planning Committee approval.

CDRPC

Dan Harp said that David Wardle retired and Sean McGuire has been hired to replace him as an economic development planner. The 2050 employment projections are underway. Boundary changes to TAZs (traffic analysis zones) are also being evaluated to assure consistency. The Census released the 2009-13 ACS and 79 community profiles will be updated by the end of February. A redesign of the CDRPC website is under way. For the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project, the discharge notification system is up and running.

THRUWAY

Brett Williams reported on an upcoming 1R paving project between Exits 25 and 26; and a 2R paving project between Exits 24 and 25 in 2016.

NYS DOT

Frank Bonafide said that staff has been examining internal programming scenarios and will discuss these with the Planning Committee before the TIP update, hopefully in April. Analysis shows that Region 1 is overprogrammed.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta reported that September enplanements are steady and cargo is strong. The Albany International Airport is progressing \$8 million in improvements.

Albany Port District Commission

Tony Vasil reported that 2014 was a banner year. The Albany Port District Rensselaer Wharf reconstruction project was completed. There was a 50% increase in vessels and tonnage was up 28%. Growth has been experienced due to the Algeria electrification project.

Other Business

Mike Franchini distributed a flier about the Saratoga County Planning and Zoning conference on January 28.

Chris Wallin said that Schenectady is working on an ADA compliance Plan and would like to coordinate with other cities. He requested CDTC help in organizing coordination between the cities on this issue. Mike Franchini said that staff will look into the possibility of a working group.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:24 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Franchini
Secretary