

2010-12 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM
ADDENDUM OUTLINE

Draft for Planning Committee Review

Capital District Transportation Committee
One Park Place
Albany, NY 12205

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OVERVIEW OF THE UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

CDTC is required to develop a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as a basis and condition for all FHWA and FTA funding assistance for transportation planning within the four county Capital District region. The CDTC has embraced the two-year UPWP concept, the current program being the 2010-12 UPWP that was adopted in March 2010. The program reflects the goals and objectives of CDTC's New Visions Plan, the Community and Transportation Linkage Program studies, and NYSDOT's Emphasis Areas. The two primary sources of federal planning funds supporting UPWP activities are FHWA's Section 104(f) Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds and FTA's Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program (MPP) funds. Because CDTC staff carry out specific activities that are beyond normal MPO planning activities, the UPWP also includes other additional resources.

Key Accomplishments

Some of the key accomplishments in the first year of the 2010-12 UPWP are described in CDTC's Progress Report and include:

- Completion of a new *Prospectus*
- Completed highway condition surveys for Albany County and the City of Albany
- Adoption of the 2010-15 Transportation Improvement Program
- Continued effort to integrate safety into the planning process
- Continued to provide leadership for USDOE's Clean Communities Program
- Completion of five Linkage Program studies and initiation of four new studies
- Completion of New Visions Guidebook and Training Program
- Initiation of the New Visions maintenance update
- Successful management of NYSMPO staff support contract
- Development of Capital Coexist bicycle education campaign
- Expansion of CDTC's public participation program to include social media
- Continued participation in Colonie's GEIS impact assessment
- Air quality planning in conjunction with a new State Implementation Plan
- CDTC computer server was replaced
- Formation of ten vanpools under the Vanpool Pilot Program
- CDTC/CDTA submitted HUD Sustainable Communities grant application
- Eight presentations were made to national planning & engineering organizations

Proposed Changes to the 2010-12 UPWP

1. *I-787 Integrated Corridor Study*: The City of Albany in partnership with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is asking CDTC to consider adding a planning study of I-787 between Exits 2 and 4A. This effort is intended to identify: (1) short and long term infrastructure needs of the facility; (2) opportunity for alternative designs to reduce infrastructure costs and/or improve transportation; and (3) identify

near-term accessibility improvements to support the City's development initiatives. The approach to the study would be modeled after the Hudson River Crossing Study and the I-87/US 9 Integrated Corridor Management studies which were co-managed by CDTC staff and the New York State Department of Transportation. The budget for the effort is expected to total \$200,000 and would be jointly financed with FHWA PL and SPR funds. The attached narrative provides more detail about the proposed scope.

2. *Every Day Counts Initiative:* The transportation planning process sets the stage for future development of transportation projects. Much of the data and analysis undertaken during the planning process carry forward into project development activities. This means that the planning process and environmental assessment required during project development (design) under NEPA should work in tandem, with the results of the transportation planning process feeding into NEPA process. In practice, though, these two processes are sometimes disconnected. FHWA's Every Day Counts initiative sets up a framework for considering and incorporating documents and decisions from the earliest stages of project planning into the environmental review process. This can lead to a seamless decision-making process that minimizes duplication of effort, promotes environmental stewardship, and reduces delays in project development. FHWA is encouraging States and MPOs to explore ways to integrate EDC into the planning process by using some form of FHWA's Planning and Environmental (PEL) questionnaire to ensure that planning information is properly documented for use in the NEPA process. The budget for the initial scan will not exceed \$10,000.
3. *Census Data:* The 2010 Decennial Census data does not include detailed characteristics of population. CDRPC will evaluate the new data and then begin the preparation of population and household projections in ten-year increments by minor civil division out to the year 2050. Population projections by traffic analysis zone will follow. The budget for this effort is estimated to total \$47,000, which is about \$5,000 higher than the 2010 budget.
4. *GIS Support:* In order to support the New Visions 2040 update, CDRPC will utilize its GIS to document and assess land development patterns in the Capital District between 1997 and 2010. This will involve utilizing a combination of satellite, ortho-photography, and tax parcel data, along with field visits and interviews with local town/city planners. This effort will add \$20,000 to the GIS task budget.
5. *Human Service Agency Planning:* This has been a major planning task for both CDTC and CDTA over the last ten years. The Coordinated Human Service Agency Plan is due for its five-year update in 2011. CDTA and CDTC have been working together on an approach/partnership to get the survey piece of the plan done more efficiently than prior efforts. CDTC has financed previous efforts through the UPWP. CDTA has applied for a grant through United Way to help fund the survey work.
6. *Linkage Program:* New studies for 2011-12 will be added to the UPWP (see attached narrative of candidate studies).
7. *CDTA Planning Tasks (for discussion):*
 - *Public Transit Planning* -- CDTA is nearing completion of its Transit Development Plan. The final big piece (Albany local route restructuring) of implementing the Plan will be completed in 2011. This is expected to be a challenge given budget constraints.

This brings CDTA up to the required five-year update of the Plan, including the Transit Propensity Index with new demographic data and analysis of performance of what has occurred so far. With NY5 up and running in April 2011, a look at the overall 100-mile plan is in order. Enough has changed that this is more than a tweak.

- *Washington/Western BRT* – With the completion of the conceptual design study, CDTA faces a decision whether or not to initiate the Small Starts process.
- *Park-Ride Lot Study* – The regional park-ride lot study (TIP-funded) is nearing completion. Follow-up transit planning efforts are likely.
- *Intermodal Station Development* – CDTA is continuing to advance and look for money for intermodal and transit facilities (downtown Albany, Schenectady Train Station, new Saratoga garage).