

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2015

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Brad Birge, City of Saratoga Springs  
Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Melissa Cherubino, City of Cohoes  
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam  
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Vice Chair  
Rocky Ferraro, Capital District Regional Planning Commission  
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee,  
Secretary  
Nadine Fuda, Town of Schodack  
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority, Chair  
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy  
Robert Leslie, Town of Bethlehem  
Randy Milano, City of Albany  
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands  
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna  
Jeremy Smith, City of Watervliet  
Joseph Teliska, representing Wayne Bonesteel, Rensselaer County  
Tony Tozzi, Town of Malta  
Michael Valentine, Saratoga County  
Christopher Wallin, City of Schenectady

**STAFF AND OTHERS**

David Ardman, Crawford & Associates  
Tom Baird, Barton & Loguidice  
Anne Benware, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Jennifer Ceonis, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Robert Cherry, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Bryan Cross, NYD Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Andrew Donovan, City of Troy  
Karen Hulihan, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
David Jukins, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Fred Mastroianni, Greenman-Pedersen  
Sreekumar Nampoothiri, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Bryan Roy, Energetics  
Evan Seyboth, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Colleen Smith Lemmon, NYS Department of Transportation-Planning  
Laura Stutz, Bergmann Associates  
Brian Viggiani, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1

**VISITORS' ISSUES**

Steve Iachetta opened the meeting at approximately 9:33 AM. There were no visitors' issues.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Previous Meeting Minutes - April 1, 2015**

Members approved the April 1, 2015 minutes.

### **PRESENTATION – DEVELOPING AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE CAPITAL DISTRICT**

Jen Ceponis introduced Bryan Roy of Energetics. Bryan Roy explained that CDTC is one of five participating MPOs for this project. The Electric Vehicle Charging Station Implementation Plan will be developed for the Capital District this summer. The sponsors are the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority and the New York State Department of Transportation. The purpose of the Plan will be to support adoption of electric vehicles (EVs); coordinate and optimize infrastructure investments; educate decision makers and key stakeholders; and increase awareness. Bryan presented information about the different types of charging stations and indicators for the best charging station locations.

Steve Iachetta said that there are six EV charging stations at the Albany International Airport. Andrew Kreshik asked what the optimal number of charging stations would be. Bryan said that the answer to this question would be explored in the study.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **2013-18 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

**A547 (PIN 1051.71): South Mall Expressway Bridges: I-787 to Empire State Plaza, Repair**

**RG117 (PIN 1809.42): State Pavement Maintenance Set-Aside**

Frank Bonafide explained that the South Mall Expressway project received high bids which were rejected by NYSDOT. NYSDOT decided to re-let the project based on a revised cost estimate to bring in better bids. The cost increase will be offset by a reduction in the State Pavement Maintenance Set-Aside. Members approved the amendment.

### **FINAL DRAFT NEW VISIONS 2040 RELEASE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mike Franchini stated that the Draft New Visions 2040 Plan represents an important milestone and is ready for a 90 day public review period. The draft Plan is based on nine white papers which were approved by

subcommittees and presented at five public meetings. Surveys and ballots have been collected and comments will be addressed. After the Draft New Visions Plan is approved for release at the Policy Board meeting, the 90 day review period will begin, with final approval expected at the September Policy Board meeting. Two additional public meetings are planned.

Mike Franchini reviewed the Draft Plan. He said that the twelve Planning and Investment Principles have been developed to be focused and understandable and give a very good sense of what the Plan is about. The next nine chapters are condensed versions of the White Papers. Chapter 13 describes performance measures and explains that there will be a major effort in the coming year and a half to address MAP-21 guidelines for performance measures. Chapter 14 includes recommendations from the White Papers. Key recommendations are included in the Executive Summary (Chapter 1).

Mike presented an overview of the key recommendations. The Plan seeks adequate funding and more funding by subject area. The Plan recommends consideration of automated vehicles in the design of highway projects. The Plan recommends dedicated bicycle and protected bicycle lanes; promotes the use of Complete Streets design and implementation guidelines; and encourages consideration of bus/transit only travel lanes. Mike highlighted the importance of Human Services Transit in the Plan. He emphasized the importance of operations and travel reliability and said that the Plan policy is to not expand existing road capacity and to look for opportunities to right-size existing roads—which can create space for pedestrians, cyclists and transit. The region's transportation infrastructure (roads, bridges, sidewalks, etc.) and its physical condition are vital to transportation and the Plan recommends developing and publishing an Infrastructure Report Card for roads, bridges and other assets. CDTC is in the process of developing a new Regional Freight Study, and the importance of freight transportation is highlighted in the Plan.

Chris Wallin asked who represents us in Washington. Mike explained that CDTC is a member of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO); AMPO works with Congress, and with AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) and other national organizations. Rich Perrin, the Executive Director of GTC, the MPO in Rochester, is also the national President of AMPO and has spoken before Congress representing AMPO.

Mike commented that the draft Plan has received excellent publicity in Capital District newspapers. He noted that materials reviewed by the public so far, based on the White Papers, have also been reviewed in great detail by the New Visions working groups. Rocky Ferraro commented that planners of the ECOS conference scheduled for January 2016 have expressed interest in a New Visions track for the conference.

Members approved the release of the draft New Visions 2040 Plan, subject to Policy Board approval in June.

## **YEAR-END BUDGET REVISIONS**

Mike Franchini explained the year-end budget revisions as presented in the mail out. Members approved the year-end budget revisions.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **SECTION 5310 ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM**

Anne Benware explained that NYSDOT announced the solicitation for the MAP-21 Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program on Tuesday April 28, 2015. \$47.5 million in funding is available statewide. The 5310 Program provides funds for projects that serve the special needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation services and Americans with Disabilities Act complementary paratransit services. Basically this program funds capital projects such as human service agency vehicles, related equipment and mobility management, and other non-capital or operating projects such as development of a regional driver training curriculum. Applications are due June 8, 2015.

As per MAP 21, 5310 funding is allocated to the two urbanized areas in the CDTC planning area as follows: \$ 1,617,238 for Albany-Schenectady-Troy and \$384,215 for the Saratoga Springs urbanized area. As with all other MPOs in New York State, CDTC requested that NYSDOT serve as the Designated Recipient for the FTA Section 5310 program which means NYSDOT set up the application process, in consultation with the NYS MPOs, and will administer the program both on the FTA procedures and requirements side and with sponsors of funded projects.

CDTC is currently putting together the rating and ranking committee for applications submitted in our planning area (Albany-Schenectady-Troy Urbanized Area and Saratoga Springs Urbanized Area). This committee will include representatives from the Regional Transportation Coordination Committee (RTCC), NYSDOH Disability and Health Program, and CDTC staff. We are also reaching out to request participation from the NYS Office for the Aging and area County Offices for the Aging. We will ensure that reviewers recuse themselves from reviewing proposals in which they may have an interest.

Rocky Ferraro commented that last time the process worked very well.

### **NYSDOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE**

Frank Bonafide reported that last year was a pretty good year, and NYSDOT is gearing up for the new fiscal year.

## **STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

### **CDTC**

Mike Franchini said that there may be a solicitation for projects for set-aside funding in the Fall. Further review is needed, based on the uncertainty of MAP-21 funding and other issues.

#### **CDRPC**

Rocky Ferraro reported that employment forecasts at the TAZ level have been completed. The new CDRPC website will be unveiled to the CDRPC Board in May. CDRPC is conducting a survey about data needs and will use the feedback to redesign their data program including their Capital District Data newsletter. The Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Project is moving well; a local development corporation is being created by the six communities that will be responsible for implementing the Long Term Control Plan. CDRPC will be the Project Manager on behalf of the Albany Pool communities.

#### **NYSDOT**

Frank Bonafide reported that the Washington Avenue Extension project received a favorable bid and construction will begin in July. The Rexford Bridge and Route 85 projects will be bid this month (May). Commissioner McDonald is leaving and will be replaced by Matt Driscoll.

#### **Albany County Airport Authority**

Steve Iachetta reported that enplanements grew by 6%. Jet Blue is coming December 10 and Southwest is expanding. The Capital Program is underway. Installation of LED lighting is underway.

#### **Albany Port District Commission**

Mike Franchini said that the second annual Port Industry Day would be held on May 21.

#### **Linkage Studies**

Mike Franchini referred to the Linkage Studies report and said that new studies are progressing well.

#### **Bike/Ped Advisory Committee**

Jen Ceponis said that today (May 6) was bike to school day, and next week is bike to work week. On Tuesday the Bike/Ped Advisory Committee meeting will include a tour of the Black Bridge between Cohoes and Green Island.

#### **Freight Advisory Committee**

Chris Bauer reported that the Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) held its Spring Quarterly meeting on April 15, 2015. The FAC is currently focused on development of the new Regional Freight & Goods Movement

Study. The Study is approximately 50% complete, and is expected to be finalized in Fall 2015. The next Freight Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2015.

### **Thruway**

Steve Iachetta said that Friday (May 8) was the opening of the New York State Canal System for the 2015 season.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:05 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for July 1, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael V. Franchini  
Secretary