

**CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
PROGRESS REPORT**

April 1, 2009 - September 30, 2009

**FHWA Metropolitan Planning Funds
FTA Project NY 80-X016 (2007-08)
FTA Project NY-80-X017 (2008-09)
FTA Project NY-80-X017 (2009-10)
FHWA STP Project Development**

Introduction

This report is submitted in compliance with Chapter II, Section B7B (2) of the External Operating Manual, Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C., August 1972, and Volume 1, Chapter II, Paragraph 42 of the Highway Planning Programming Manual.

Work Performed

The work described in this report was performed solely by the Capital District Transportation Committee Staff (CDTC). This is a progress report that includes all work completed in the six month period beginning April 1, 2009 and ending September 30, 2009.

TASK 1.51 Committee Activities

Four Planning Committee meetings were held during the period. The Policy Board and Administrative and Financial Standing Subcommittee met once.

Three special presentations were made. CDTA made a presentation on the North/South Transit Corridor Study Action Plan. The study, which was commissioned by the High Speed Rail Task Force, looked at existing and potential future transit travel markets along north/south corridors throughout Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington counties. The study concluded that due to relatively low return on ridership for a high transit investment, light rail should be deferred from consideration at this time. Existing transit services appear sufficient to meet future need.

NYS DOT presented information on the Balltown Road Project Development process and status. The larger TIP project originally called for widening between River Road and Glenridge Road. NYS DOT is progressing an interim project that concentrates on designing safety improvements for the intersection of Balltown Road with Riverview Road/Alplaus Road. The original project may no longer be affordable and scoping needs to be revisited for a more innovative and affordable solution.

CDTC described the NYSMPO Association's Safety Assessment process and

Guidelines. The NYSMPO Safety Working Group developed the brochure and a comprehensive guide that identifies the steps that must be taken to perform a safety assessment. It is expected that this will serve as a training guide for municipalities and consultants. It will also help identify projects for CDTC's safety set-aside.

Both the Planning Committee and Policy Board were heavily involved in shaping ARRA planning and programming for the Capital District. The Planning Committee held two special meetings that developed a streamlined approach to programming. The Policy Board adopted a resolution in support of the selection criterion that was used to identify candidate projects for ARRA funding.

TASK 1.52 Financial Administration

Financial tasks that were completed during the period include:

- Members approved the revised consultant selection procedures for CDTC's Community and Transportation Linkage Planning Program.
- The A&F Subcommittee continues to monitor the cash flow situation. Preparation of cash flow estimates to help CDTA with cash management. Recent cash flow stands at approximately \$400,000.
- Members authorized the staff to accept the proposed terms for the five-year leave renewal and to seek an option for additional space for a potential operation unit.
- Brian Rowback and John Poorman highlighted the status of the Regional Operations Initiative. It is still active, but the timing for a decision on funding is tied to the timing for consideration of new candidates for the TIP. This has been delayed due to a statewide program (STIP) this fall. Mr. Rowback again expressed support for the concept.
- The A&F Subcommittee reviewed and approved budget revisions and the line item budget for 2009-10.

TASK 1.61 Certification Review

The 2008 certification review officially began in March with correspondence to CDTC from USDOT that identified primary topics of the review. A meeting with FHWA and FTA review staff was held on April 15-16. CDTC received the draft Certification Review Report, which was very favorable to CDTC. The report noted success in many areas, especially integration of state and local issues, and transportation and land use. The TIP development process was once again highlighted.

TASK 1.65 UPWP

The following UPWP tasks were completed during the period:

- Necessary steps were taken to close out the 2007-08 fiscal year. Revisions to 2006-07 and 2007-08 FTA Section 5303 budgets were prepared by the staff and approved by the Planning Committee. Planning Committee authorized changes to UPWP budget tables based on verified fringe and indirect rates.
- The UPWP continues to reflect a considerable amount of contractual activity. Staff continues to monitor consultant activity related to CDTC's linkage program and NYSMPO shared-cost studies.
- The findings of the Exit 26 Rotterdam and Harriman Campus Linkage Studies were presented to the Planning Committee.
- The Addendum to the 2008-10 UPWP was approved in March. Staff will continue to monitor and report on progress of planning activities.

TASK 1.66 DBE Program Update/Environmental Justice

Civil rights and environmental justice assessment of CDTC's planning program continued to be primary areas of investigation and application in the following ways:

- CDTC staff training continued on environmental justice regulations, issues, and components.
- Continued discussions with NYSDOT and other New York MPOs about environmental justice plan implementation activities and opportunities.
- Revised CDTC's *Environmental Justice Analysis* framework.
- Continued to engage ARISE in an effort to bring minority and other environmental justice population needs to the CDTC table.
- Continued to demonstrate success in DBE contracting and purchasing. Quarterly reports were prepared and submitted to NYSDOT.

CDTC anticipates future environmental justice efforts to examine additional aspects of transportation system performance in environmental justice areas and compare that to performance elsewhere. CDTC will also continue to explore improved participation of traditionally under represented groups in the planning process.

TASK 1.67 Prospectus Update

The basic documentation defining the roles and responsibilities of the various CDTC agencies is its five year Continuing Operations Plan (Prospectus). CDTC recognizes that the current Prospectus needs refreshing. CDTC staff has updated all sections of the prospectus but has not issued a revised document. Some additional work remains to reflect the new federal planning requirements before the document is released for review. The Federal Certification Review noted that the new prospectus must include specific provisions for cooperatively developing and sharing information related to the development of financial plans. Until the new Prospectus is released, CDTC's Reference Guide to the Capital District Transportation Committee continues to provide an accessible description of roles, responsibilities, and policies of CDTC. The Guide is updated annually; the next update is scheduled for early 2010.

TASK 1.68 Statewide MPO Association Support

CDTC continued to host the NYSMPO Association staff administration under contract with Wilbur Smith Associates. Facilitating discussion on emerging transportation issues has been a key responsibility. Discussions over the six month period focused on helping NYSDOT assess local transportation needs, planning for NYSMPO's annual meeting, and addressing rescission/budget issues, and a variety of other planning issues. It is expected that budget issues and the program update will remain the focus of attention through 2009-10.

Wilbur Smith also assisted in technical work associated with NYSMPO's shared-cost initiatives. The status of statewide initiatives now underway is reported on the Association's website www.nysmpos.org.

TASK 2.16 Highway Computer Model Refinement

In collaboration with CDTA, staff will develop a mode-split model using the VISUM platform. The mode-split model will be needed to support BRT planning.

TASK 2.25 Collection of Transportation Planning Support Data

Data collection to keep CDTC's data systems current remains a critical element of CDTC's work program. Data collection over the six month period was modest because of winter weather conditions. Nevertheless, with the help of a graduate student intern, CDTC staff completed the following:

- Continued scanning old NYSDOT traffic count files. Electronic files will eventually replace the 50 binders of paper reports collected since the 1970's.

- Staff continues to examine traffic flow and incident data available through NYSDOT's TMC. This data has been very helpful in maintaining CDTC's STEP model.
- Continued to collect extensive field information on site-based trip generation routes, This information helps validate previous planning efforts, notably those involving CDTC's STEP model. Three trip generation studies were conducted during this period.
- Continued maintenance of CDTC's web-based traffic Volume Report using traffic counts compiled by CDTC staff, NYSDOT, counties and municipalities, and consultants.
- Began as assessment of before/after conditions of recently constructed transportation projects using traffic, land use, and safety data.
- The MPO continues to work with NYSDOT regarding the new traffic count program on federal aid roadways to meet federal requirements for the HPMS and future changes to the functional classification system. Other data collection needs are also being discussed.

TASK 2.28 Census/Household Travel Survey

The Census 2010 Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) allows designated participants, following Census Bureau guidelines, to review and suggest modifications to the boundaries for block groups, census tracts, census county divisions, and census designated places for reporting data from the 2010 Census. CDRPC has been identified as a PSAP designated participant. CDTC staff worked with CDRPC on identifying new boundaries for Census Tracts that exceed population and household thresholds. The new tract boundaries will follow TAZ boundaries to the extent possible.

Participated in PSAP Census Training and Census tract and Block Group update with CDRPC.

TASK 2.29 Regional Geographic Information System

This task involves the creation, modification, conversion, and maintenance of map features in conjunction with CDRPC's regional GIS effort. GIS continues to play an important role in CDTC's safety management planning, data systems support, and environmental justice work. During the last six months, GIS that was completed or is underway includes:

- Provided staff with GIS imagery, maps, and data. Provided various consultants and agencies with relevant GIS data, maps, and imagery. Revised, updated, and created several miscellaneous maps and data sets. Downloaded updated data from NYS GIS Data Clearinghouse. Received updated GIS basemap data and software upgrades and application tools from NYSDOT. Continue to assist interns and staff with GIS applications and software. Continued to research GPS technology and oversaw the purchase of a GPS unit and software. GPS and digital photography technology utilized for several data collection efforts, especially trail data and trail sign inventory. Attended NYS MPO GIS Meeting, NYS MPO Annual Conference and ESRI Software Seminar,

TASK 2.30 Routine Highway Condition Inventory

CDTC conducts regular surveys of the condition of Capital District federal-aid and non-federal-aid non-state roads and highways. Previously collected condition data was used in developing the *New Visions 2030 Finance Plan*. Condition data has also been used to identify candidate TIP projects.

The biennial survey on non-state federal-aid roads, the annual survey of Albany County-owned roadways and a survey of Albany City-owned streets were completed. The condition survey of Albany County and City of Albany facilities was undertaken under contract with the County and City, respectively.

CDTC has purchased a GPS unit to help define more precise score locations for the condition inventory. The entire data base will be shifted to a GPS/GIS platform during the next survey.

TASK 2.31 Traffic Volume Report

CDTC continues to maintain a web-based report.

Produced a summary of functional classification changes and began updating most recent volumes in the GIS.

Staff continues to update the report with traffic volume data as it becomes available from NYSDOT and other local sources. A comprehensive update of the report will be repeated in 2010 as NYSDOT works with the MPOs to implement a new count program on federal aid roadways to meet federal requirements for the HPMS.

TASK 3.01 Safety and Congestion Management Systems

CDTC staff continues its involvement in the NYSMPO's Safety Working Group. CDTC has represented the group at safety related conferences,

participated in monthly conference calls, actively participated in the development of the safety working groups' safety goals for 2008, and attended numerous state level safety related meetings on behalf of the MPO's. CDTC staff continues its lead role in ensuring the MPO's are at the table on safety related issues in NYS as the Department of Transportation and other state agencies implement SAFETEA-LU requirements. More information on the safety working group can be found at www.nysmpo.org/safety_working_group.html.

Staff effort centered on the following tasks:

- CDTC staff organized and participated in the Safety Roundtable in June 2009 at the Annual NYSMPO Conference in Albany. CDTC also hosted and actively participated in the November Safety Roundtable on behalf of the NYSMPOs.
- CDTC staff continued to participate in the NYSMPOs Safety Assessment project for non-state owned roadways. The project was funded through a NYSDOT State Planning and Research grant. Bergmann Associates with Eng-Wong Taub and Synectics are conducting the study. The project was completed in early 2009; the safety working group finalized the full report and summary document and commissioned the consultant team to create a short brochure to promote the process.
- Presentations regarding the Safety Assessment process were given at the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations Conference and the NYS GTSC Highway Safety Conference.
- CDTC staff responded to a survey regarding local traffic volume data and continues to work with NYSDOT on a methodology to calculate local crash rates.
- CDTC staff completed a test the Accident Location Information System's Query Reporting and Analysis (QRA) Module. NYSDOT, CCSIC and NYSDMV are working to address security issues with the web based tool in order for ALIS to be made available for use by all the MPOs. CDTC has had full access to ALIS since January 2009. CDTC worked with NYSDOT main office staff to allow CDTC access to the Safety Information Management System for crash data via the web.
- CDTC staff continued to participate in the NYS Traffic Records Coordinating Council. The Strategic Plan for data systems was updated in the Spring of 2008 and CDTC represented the NYSMPOs in the process. The next update began in January 2009.
- CDTC staff continues to work on its Rensselaer County safety pilot project, focusing on county and local road systems as time allows. Reportable data is now available through the middle of 2007 leading to an update of much of the work, including the mapping, that had been completed previously using

far more dated data. This project is ongoing.

- CDTC staff continues to utilize safety data for use in its Linkage Program planning studies.

TASK 3.02 Air Quality Planning

The Capital District remains an ozone non-attainment area. Conformity determinations were previously completed for New Visions, 2030 and the 2007-12 TIP. This effort will be repeated for the 2009-12 TIP.

Staff also participated in several phone conference meetings of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for air quality. Staff participated in discussions and reviewed technical analysis about the development of State Implementation budgets.

TASK 3.05 New Visions Infrastructure Financial Planning

No activity to report. The work previously completed under this task is documented in CDTC's *New Visions 2030 Financial Plan*. Next steps involve broadening the needs dialogue on this issue with NYSDOT, legislative representatives, and the general public.

TASK 3.06 Goods Movement Planning

CDTC staff was asked to participate in the "Tech Valley Civic Forum Metrics" Task Force that was assembled by CDRPC. Metrics or Community Indicators are measurements that provide information about past and current trends. They are quantitative measurements of the quality of community life that reflect the interplay between social, environmental, and economic factors affecting the Region's well being. The Indicators reflect a combination of idealism and pragmatism that, taken together, provide a roadmap for the regional community showing where we have been, where we are now, and what areas need attention to achieve our mission and vision. The metrics task force was assembled to guide the development of the roadmap. Staff attended several meetings; additional meetings are planned at the end of 2008 and beginning of 2009.

TASK 3.77 New Visions 2030 / New Visions for a Quality Region

CDTC has completed a major New Visions 2030 Update reflecting its "quality region" initiative. Considerable effort has been spent over the last six months pulling together technical papers and other documents that will form the plan as follows:

- Designed the second edition of CDTC's newsletter *In Motion*. Researched graphics and publishing software

for future versions and made recommendations for new software purchase.

- CDTC staff worked with a marketing/graphics design firm to produce a summary brochure entitle *Choosing Our Future: New Visions for a Quality Region*. The brochure continues to be widely distributed to a variety of stakeholders. Feedback thus far has been very positive with some groups requesting more copies and staff presentations. The color palette, styling, and graphics used to create the brochure will also be utilized in other New Visions 2030 materials such as a slide show. These materials will be used as staff continues to seek out and participate in outreach efforts to get the word out about the regional long range transportation plan.
- CDTC in partnership with the Capital District Regional Planning Commission substantially completed work on the development of a guidebook for planning boards, zoning boards and local officials regarding sustainable development. The goal of the guidebook is to present local examples through fact sheets on projects, plans and programs that best incorporate smart growth principles to illustrate that these kinds of efforts can be undertaken in the Capital Region and describe how they came to be. The Linkage Forum will be used as a sounding board on the project which is expected to be substantially complete in the fall of 2009.

TASK 4.07 ADA/Human Service Agency Transportation Options

The SAFETEA-LU legislation requires recipients of JARC, New Freedom and 5310 funds to certify that their projects were derived from a "locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan". CDTC staff formed a new committee, called the Regional Transportation Coordination Committee (RTCC) to work on the new SAFETEA-LU coordination requirements. The RTCC built upon the existing JARC committee that CDTA formed in early 2000.

Two applications for New Freedom funding were received. CDTC staff and several members of the RTCC evaluated the applications in July 2008. Eligibility for one of the proposed projects was questioned. CDTC staff worked with CDTA staff to determine the project's eligibility. CDTC and CDTA staff met with the project sponsors on several occasions to discuss details of the proposed projects.

CDTC staff became involved in Saratoga's Vital Aging Network Working Group in February 2008. Staff attended a second meeting in April 2008. Additional meetings are planned.

CDTC staff reviewed and evaluated the FFY 2008 Section 5310 applications and prepared "coordinated plan sign-off letters" for those agencies that met the Section 5310 specifications outlined in the Coordinated Plan. Seven section 5310 applications were

evaluated. All seven were consistent with the Coordinated Plan.

CDTC participated in the Transportation Workgroup that was formed as part of the Schenectady Long term Care Consortium. Five meetings of this group were held between April and November 2008. Staff presented to the larger Consortium group in early November. Catholic Charities of Schenectady has asked members of the LT Care Consortium to provide match for the weekend service that is proposed under New Freedom. CDTC staff will participate in follow-up meetings that have been scheduled with this group.

CDTC and CDTA staff met with representatives from Saratoga Bridges in September to discuss potential New Freedom projects sponsored by that agency. Follow-up meetings are likely. CDTC held a Regional Transportation Coordination Committee (RTCC) meeting in early October to review the status of the New Freedom and Section 5310 program. The next RTCC meeting is scheduled for mid-January.

CDTC staff will prepare and distribute a second New Freedom solicitation in early 2009.

TASK 4.18 ITS Architecture and Integration

Although NYSDOT has taken the lead in articulating ITS structures, the federal government looks to the MPO to ensure that all TIP candidates are consistent with the regional architecture. Other than participation in NYSDOT meetings and workshops related to ITS strategic planning, there is no other activity to report.

TASK 4.19 Trail and Property Owners Survey

The survey document was completed, printed, and distributed to trail stakeholders. Staff will conduct additional analysis of the data to produce detail mapping tools for trail planning. Staff will follow-through with the offer to assist trail stakeholders with data needs that may not have been prioritized as part of the survey document.

TASK 4.62 Transit Operations Planning

Staff participated in the transit supportive development case study for the New York State Metropolitan Planning Organizations for Incorporating Intermodal Transportation into the New Downtown Albany Convention Center. A consultant team was been hired for this study. CDTC staff attended several Study Advisory Committee meetings for the study; many interesting concepts have resulted from the study. The study was completed in August 2008. No further activity is anticipated.

Staff participated in two conference calls of the NYSMPOs Transit Workgroup. Representatives from all of the MPO's "attended" the conference call, and discussed development of the Coordinated Plans, relationships with the Transit Authorities, funding and a variety of other subjects.

Staff attended the NTI Characteristics and Planning of Bus Rapid Transit training course in November 2008.

TASK 4.67 Bikeway/Pedestrian Facility Planning

Bicycle and pedestrian planning continued to receive substantial attention consistent with Policy Board direction. Work completed by the staff includes the following:

- Participated in Bicycle Pedestrian Task Force meetings. Continued to assist with distribution of CDTC's Regional Bike-Hike Map and Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail Map. Responded to several bike/ped related data requests. Continued outreach for update of Mohawk-Hudson Trail Map with BP Task Force members. Began update of Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Map. Attended TEP Workshop and participated in the TEP project review and evaluation.
- A presentation was given to the Bike/Ped Task Force regarding bicycle and pedestrian planning and infrastructure in Europe by CDTC staff.

TASK 4.97 TIP Development, Monitoring and Update

Development and maintenance of CDTC's TIP requires a high level of staff time. Effort centered on approval of amendments and developing an approach for selecting projects for CDTC set-asides as follows:

- CDTC performed evaluations on candidate projects from the competitive set-asides.
- Working with NYSDOT Region 1 staff, CDTC staff resolved several discrepancies between the TIP and proposed STIP amendments.
- CDTC staff sponsored and attended county-oriented TIP meetings for each of the four counties to update participants on the status of TIP projects, issues known at the time pertaining to the 2009-14 TIP update, and the application of fiscal constraint procedures. Notes from the meetings were provided to the Planning Committee.
- Twelve amendments to the 2007-12 TIP were prepared and approved.
- Since January, 2009, CDTC staff worked with NYSDOT, CDTA, and county and municipal members to identify eligible projects for the American Recovery &

Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Information about the project selection process and supporting narrative was mailed to over 1,400 stakeholders. All material related to ARRA planning and programming was published on CDTC's website.

- Development of the 2009-14 TIP began with discussions with NYSDOT on funding allocations.

TASK 5.01 Railroad Avenue Corridor Study

This project has been resurrected. The scope was revised and the REI was prepared and advertised. Expressions of Interest are due on October 14, 2009.

TASK 5.02 Village of Menands: Broadway (Route 32) Transportation, Access and Land Use Improvement Study

This study is complete.

TASK 5.03 Town of Guilderland: Neighborhood Master Plan for Guilderland Center

This is a follow-up study identified in the Town's Comprehensive Plan and is funded through the Linkage Program. Behan Design and Creighton Manning Engineering were selected for the study. A public meeting was held September 24, 2009 and preliminary findings were presented. The consultant team is preparing a draft final report for review by the Advisory Committee.

TASK 5.04 Clifton Park/Halfmoon Exit 9 Land Use and Transportation Plan

This study is complete.

TASK 5.05 NYS Thruway Exit 26 & I-890 Land Use and Transportation Study

This study is complete.

TASK 5.09 Sixth Year Linkage Program Reserve

Linkage Program funds for the eighth year of funded studies was made available for use in April 2008. Five new efforts were funded in year eight. The solicitation for the ninth year of the Linkage Program (2009-10) was undertaken in September 2008 with a November 2008 submission deadline.

TASK 5.13 Harriman Research and Technology Development Corporation (HRTDC): The Harriman Campus-University at Albany-Fuller Road Corridor Transportation Study

This study is complete.

TASK 5.14 Town/Village of Stillwater: Route 4 Main Street Plan

This study is complete.

TASK 5.15 City of Saratoga Springs: Downtown Improvement Plan

The study report is complete.

TASK 5.16 Guilderland Hamlet Neighborhood Master Plan

This study is complete.

TASK 5.17 Route 9W Corridor Study

This study is complete.

TASK 5.19 Town of Berne: East Berne Hamlet Study

This study is complete.

TASK 5.21 City of Albany: North Swan Multimodal Accessibility Study

This study is complete.

TASK 5.22 Town of Bethlehem: Delaware Avenue Enhancement Study

The study team continues to work to revise draft document language on draft concepts. The Town of Bethlehem and CDTC staff recently reviewed suggestions for the Helderberg Hudson Rail connections in the study area in light of recent discussions held by the Paths4 Bethlehem Committee. A SAC meeting will be scheduled in October 2009.

TASK 5.23 City of Cohoes Van Schaick Island Linkage Project

This study is complete.

TASK 5.24 Towns of Guilderland and Princetown: Land Use and Transportation Study for the Route 20 Corridor

This study is complete.

TASK 5.26 NY 7/NY 146 Land Use and Transportation Plan

This study is complete.

TASK 5.27 City of Schenectady/CDTA: NY5 Transit Oriented Development Mixed Use Catalyst Project

This study is complete.

TASK 5.28 Scotia Waterfront/Master Plan Overlay

This study is complete.

TASK 5.29 City of Troy: Congress & Ferry Short Corridor Mixed-Use Development Linkage Study

CDTC staff met with representatives from the city of Troy to discuss the scope and feasibility of this Linkage Study. It was determined that the study is no longer warranted, given the privately funded consultant study that was conducted in the same vicinity. The city of Troy submitted a letter to CDTC formally withdrawing the study from the Linkage Program. The City of Troy has requested that the funds for this study be reprogrammed as the City was able to complete the proposed study tasks in another local planning effort last year. This request will be brought to the CDTC Planning Committee for consideration in January 2009.

Task 5.30 City of Albany Bicycle Master Plan

IBI with Rick Manning Design was selected to conduct this study to develop a city-wide Bicycle Master Plan. The plan intends to provide guidance on the development of a network of bicycle routes linking activity centers within the City. The final public meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2009 and the final document will be completed before the end of the year.

Task 5.31 Altamont Bicycle Master Plan

Alta Planning & Design was the selected consultant to develop a bicycle route master plan for the Village of Altamont. This study was completed in January 2009.

TASK 5.32 Town/Village of Schaghticoke: Route 40 Corridor Study

McFarland Johnson with the Project for Public Spaces was selected to conduct this study of the Route 40 Corridor from Melrose Hamlet to the Hoosic Valley School District. The final public workshop is scheduled for October 23, 2009. The consultant will compile comments and make final changes to the report as necessary with a mid-November deadline.

TASK 5.33 City of Mechanicville: Central Corridors Linkage Study

This study is complete.

TASK 5.34 Schenectady Rte 5 Transit Gateway Study

This effort will be a gateway study of an area bounded by Erie Boulevard on the east, I-890 to the south, the area just north of State Street (NYS Route 5) and an area just west of Schenectady County Community College (SCCC). The IBI Group with River Street Planning was the selected consultant.

The project team held stakeholder interviews over the summer, continued working on elements of the draft land use and transportation concept plan, met with NYSDOT Region 1 staff regarding potential I-890 and Washington Avenue/State Street intersection reconfiguration concepts. The consultants are preparing detailed future alternatives and a market analysis. This will be presented to the SAC at a meeting in November 2009 followed by a public meeting.

TASK 5.40 Town of Clifton Park/Town of Halfmoon: Exit 9 Land Use and Transportation Plan

This study is complete.

Task 5.42 Albany Education District Study

The project scope was finalized by CDTC and the City of Albany. The REI has been released and the consultant selection committee plan to select a consultant by early November 2009.

Task 5.43 Colonie/Watervliet/Menands: Route 32 Redevelopment Plan

The REI was released and Expressions of Interest were due October 26, 2009. The consultant selection team will be assembled and meet in early November 2009.

Task 5.44 Sand Lake Hamlet Linkage Study

CDTC staff met with the study sponsor to discuss program requirements/procedures and identified potential SAC members. The scope was finalized and the REI is expected to be advertised before the end of November 2009.

TASK 5.51 Provision of Technical Services

The CDTC staff routinely provides "on-call" technical assistance to various public agencies and communities in the Region. The CDTC responded to more than ten requests for technical assistance as follows:

- Provided CDTA with stats and figures for several press conferences that were held to announce use of bio-fuels and to announce the unveiling of iPool2.
- CDTC staff attended the NY Public Transit Association Annual Conference.
- CDTC staff provided comments to NYSDEC on the preliminary draft revisions to the NYSDEC SEQRA Environmental Assessment Form and Greenhouse Gas Guidance (GHG).

- CDTC staff attended the ITE Transportation and Planning Symposium and attended the FHWA training on upcoming changes to the MUTCD.
- CDTC staff participated in several meetings with NYSDOT, the Town of North Greenbush, and involved developers and their transportation consultants regarding transportation and land use issues related to several large commercial development projects along the Route 4 Corridor in the Town of North Greenbush. CDTC staff subsequently provided comments to the Town and NYSDOT on one of these developments at the request of the developer's consultant.
- CDTC staff reviewed draft materials related to a Town of East Greenbush GEIS and mitigation cost approach focused on the Route 4 and Routes 9/20 areas of the Town, two corridors that have been the subject of prior Linkage Studies. Staff met with Town of East Greenbush staff to discuss issues related to these materials and suggested next steps.
- Staff participated in a FHWA/AASHTO Travel Study Project to Europe on the subject of land use and transportation integration and sustainability. Along with a two week trip to the United Kingdom, Denmark and the Netherlands, staff worked with the project team to develop a report on the study findings and presented what was learned to various CDTC committees.
- Staff participated in a Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) committee on "A Community Visioning Approach to Support the SHRP2 Collaborative Decision Making Framework for Highway Investments". Tasks involved developing the RFP for consultant assistance and participating in the consultant selection process.
- Staff worked with NYSDOT Region 1 on the development of a white paper for FHWA regarding corridor preservation in the context of local planning initiatives.
- Participated in a roundtable discussion on integrated planning and design at a meeting of the Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers.
- As a follow-up to the Route 9W Linkage Study, staff assisted the Town of Bethlehem with developing a step-by-step process for pursuing a new Selkirk Thruway interchange.
- Several development projects were reviewed for the Towns of Colonie and Guilderland.
- The costs of FGEIS improvement plans for the Airport and Lisha Kill study areas were updated to 2009 dollars.

- Staff responded to multiple requests from consultants, developers, real estate companies, and SUNYA students for various traffic and land use data.
- In response to a request, staff sent a collection of CDTC best practice reports about environmental planning and public outreach to the Chicago MPO.
- Staff attended the Transportation Symposium Conference and participated in a panel discussion on travel demand modeling.

TASK 5.52 Provision of Community Services

The CDTC staff continues to provide traffic data and other limited technical assistance to business, developers, consultants, students, and community groups to support economic development in the region as follows:

- CDTC hosted on behalf of the Capital District Planners Association two audio conferences sponsored by the American Planning Association and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.
- CDTC staff responded to over 20 requests for transportation data over the period including traffic counts, transportation growth rates and trip generation data.
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TASK 5.57 Commuter Support Services

CDTC's carpool/bus/bike/walk "Guaranteed Ride Home" program and Commuter Register program continued through late August. During that summer, CDTC staff worked intensively with Ecology and Environment, the software developer/consultant that was selected to convert the Commuter Register to a GIS based system. GreenRide is the software that drives the new system. A new branding theme was advanced at the same time. "iPool2" is the new brand, to go hand in hand with CDTA's "iride" campaign. CDTA contracted with Bus Designs to create a distinct iPool2 logo and develop a "slick" iPool2 brochure. CDTC staff was involved in developing both items. CDTC staff helped E & E convert all carpool ads located on the Commuter Register website to the format needed by GreenRide. Approximately 160 carpool ads were converted. Existing Commuter Register participants were notified of the switch to iPool2. Promotional items, such as magnets, mugs and sticky note pads were ordered with the iPool2 logo. CDTC staff

tested the GreenRide software for logic problems and worked with E & E to customize the logistics to accommodate the area's Park and Ride Lot system. A new iPool2 home page was developed and a FAQ page was developed. A new Transit page was developed. The Park and Ride lot pages were upgraded with Google maps. The Guaranteed Ride Home program was converted to an on-line registration system, eliminating the need to correspond with registrants individually.

The Commuter Register Website was rendered inactive in late August. One hundred and forty new accounts were created in iPool2 between late August and the end of September. Sixty new accounts were created in the Commuter Register for the entire 2007 calendar year. CDTC staff attended a business council meeting in Albany in June and gave a presentation on the conversion of the Commuter Register to iPool2. Several area employers have contacted CDTC since that meeting to inquire about the status of iPool2.

CDTC staff worked with several employers, including Albany County, Albany Medical Center and the NYSEERDA/STEP facility to activate and instruct administrators of these institutions about the features of the iPool2 Employer Module. The Employer Module gives businesses access to some of the administrative features of iPool2, such as estimating emissions reductions based on employee participation rates. CDTC staff will meet with additional area employers during the next quarter. A meeting with Price Chopper Corporate Headquarters is scheduled for early December.

TASK 5.60 Public Transit Planning Support

CDTC hosted a Transit Roundtable meeting in May. The May meeting was held at the Rensselaer Rail Station hosted by CDTA. Staff drafted meeting notes.

At the request of CDTA, CDTC staff attended CDTA's June Planning Board meeting and CDTA's 17A Certification review meeting in August 2008. CDTC staff attended several meetings with CDTA and Glens Falls Transit to discuss potential coordination of service in the vicinity of Moreau. CDTA's NX service goes as far north as Northway exit 17 and GFTA's service goes as far south as Exit 18. Additional meetings will be held in 2009.

TASK 5.61 Project Development Support

CDTC continues to provide on-going assistance to NYSDOT Region 1 staff in developing traffic forecasts and compiling other information for project development and design. Specific support ranges from analysis of MPT plans related to ridge or lane closures to sketch planning analysis of traffic diversions from alternative roadway routings. CDTC's effort over the last six months was again fairly substantial, preparing traffic forecasts for the following:

- I-87 Exit 3 or 4 Airport Connector; A240; PIN 1721.51; Town of Colonie, Albany County

- NY 22 Bridge Over the Walloomsac River, Bridge Replacement: R184; PIN: 1130.60.101, Town of Hoosick, Rensselaer County
- Four Bridges in Albany County, PIN 1806.49:

910A	Bethlehem	Rt. 32 to Rt. 335
443	Bethlehem	County Rt. 301 to County Rt. 308
85	New Scotland	Rt. 85A west to Rt. 85A east
156	Knox	Rt. 157 to Main St. Altamont

- NY 67 from I-87 to NY 50: Resurfacing; TIP Number SA185; PIN 1188.31; Saratoga County
- NY 9J, from Columbia County Line to Castleton Line: Reconstruction; R183; PIN: 1097.05; Rensselaer County
- Latham Circle Bridges over Route 9;Town of Colonie; Albany County
- Route 22 over Kinderhook Creek, Town of Stephentown: Bridge Replacement; TIP Number R185; PIN: 1130.63; Rensselaer County
- Commercial Access Highway Improvements: Round Lake Gateway; Route 9/Maltaville Road/George Avenue; SA225, PIN 1757.55; Village of Round Lake, Saratoga County.
- This task supports staff activity on a number of Linkage Program studies that do not involve direct CDTC technical work. Activity under this category includes work with project sponsors to develop requests for expressions of interest, to evaluate proposals, select consultants, develop contracts, participate in study advisory committees, monitor work progress and solicit and evaluate proposals for future Linkage Program projects.
- Staff has begun to review the implementation status of completed Linkage Program studies to evaluate the progress being made and to possibly identify areas of additional assistance. Site visits and meetings with local staff are part of this effort. A report will be generated following the review of the plans at the end of 2008.

TASK 5.62 Assessment of Land Use and Transportation Concepts in the NY 5 Corridor

CDTC staff continued to participate in CDTA efforts toward implementation of Bus Rapid Transit in the Route 5 corridor. Two implementation studies conducted by CDTA covering NY 5 BRT operations and stations planning were completed during the reporting period.

During the previous reporting period CDTC staff assisted CDTA in draft scope development for an RFP for the NY5 BRT Roadway Components project to progress Transit Signal Priority, Queue Jumper design and an Arterial Management for the corridor. CDTC staff, along with NYSDOT main office staff, has taken a lead role in the Arterial Management element of this project, assisting the consultant team in organizing working sessions as well as technical aspects related to the study.

TASK 5.64 Harriman Campus - University at Albany Linkage Study Implementation Support

The City of Albany issued a resolution in support of the recommendations of the Harriman Campus Linkage Study in April 2008. CDTC passed a resolution in support of the Harriman Campus Linkage Study in June 2008. Since then, presentations regarding the study were given to City of Albany Senior Staff, the City of Albany Common Council, and the CDTC Planning Committee and Policy Board. CDTC staff continues to work with various stakeholders on the implementation of the Harriman Campus Linkage Study Recommendations including the Washington/Western Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system and the Transportation Management Association Feasibility study.

A consultant was selected for the Washington/Western BRT conceptual design study and a kick off meeting was held. The consultant team is led by the IBI Group and for the fall the focus of the study will be on transit data collection in the study area.

TASK 5.98 North Greenbush I-90 Exit 8 Connector Land Use Study

This study is complete. The Town is following up with a town-wide comprehensive plan.

TASK 5.63 Travel Demand Management Initiative

CDTC Staff worked with CDTA staff and VPSI, a national vanpool firm, to develop a proposal for funding a pilot vanpool program in the Capital District. The proposal was submitted to NYSERDA in October; CDTA/VPSI has not been notified of the status. If the proposal is accepted, CDTC staff will work with CDTA and VPSI in identifying test markets and potential participating employers. CDTC will also work with E & E to install a Vanpool module in the iPool2 system.

CDTC and CDTA staff met with representatives from the Albany Parking Authority to discuss the costs and rules of the NYSDEC Occasional Use

Parking program. CMAQ subsidizes the cost of occasional use parking for NYSDEC employees that have committed to taking the bus or carpooling to work. CMAQ can only be used for three years; this program is due to sunset in the spring of 2009.

CDTC worked with Albany County and CDTA staff on an initiative to identify TDM activities that can be pursued during the construction phase of the Fuller Road. Construction is expected to last two years, with major traffic disruptions. CDTC staff developed an on-line survey that will be sent to Fuller Road employees, State Office campus employees and SUNYA employees. Staff analyzed the results of the survey and forwarded them to Albany County staff.

At the request of the organizers of the Saratoga Springs Dance Flurry, CDTC staff created an on-line rideshare board for Dance Flurry participants similar to what was developed for last year's event. The dance flurry website links to the rideboard. It is expected that a dozen or more participants will find carpools to the event using the rideboard.

CDTC staff worked with CDTA staff, the Harriman Research and Technology Development Corporation (HRTDC), SUNYA and Albany County staff in evaluating the proposals that were received to conduct a feasibility study to create a Transportation Management Association (TMA) for the Harriman Campus Area. Forming a TMA was a recommendation of the Harriman Campus - University at Albany - Fuller Road Transportation Linkage Study. UrbanTrans was selected to conduct the study. Four meetings of the Study Advisory Committee were held between April and November. The next SAC meeting is scheduled for early February. This study should be complete by early Spring. If the study recommends formation of a TMA, CDTC staff will assist in these efforts.

TASK 5.67 Linkage Program Oversight

This task supports staff activity on a number of Linkage Program studies that do not involve direct CDTC technical work. Activity under this category includes work with project sponsors to develop requests for expressions of interest, to evaluate proposals, select consultants, develop contracts, participate in study advisory committees, monitor work progress and solicit and evaluate proposals for future Linkage Program projects.

In February 2002, CDTC established an ongoing "Linkage Regional Coordination Forum" to meet regularly and review progress on the many Linkage and related local planning efforts. CDTC Staff held meetings with the Linkage Forum in April and July. The next meeting of this group is scheduled for October.

CDTC Staff prepares a status report for all linkage studies on a monthly basis and provides this information to the Planning Committee. Linkage study products, status of active studies and other Linkage Program information are provided on the CDTC website.

TASK 5.68 Linkage Study Technical Support

Non-administrative tasks related to Linkage studies such as data collection, analysis and technical writing are included as part of this task:

- Collected and analyzed supplemental traffic data for the Route 9W linkage study. Traffic counts at Bethlehem Center and track counts at Exit 22 of the Thruway were compiled.
- Arranged collection of land use data in support of the Delaware Avenue linkage study.
- Produced base maps for various projects. Completed environmental justice evaluation for several linkage studies.
- Provided crash data to the consultant for the Mechanicville Linkage study Area.
- Produced maps and provided GIS data and aerial photography for various projects. Provided EJ documentation of various study areas.

TASK 5.85 Integrated Transportation and Community Design Phase 2

In response to FHWA rescissions, this study has been deferred.

TASK 5.86 Clean Communities

Meetings of the Capital District Clean Communities Coalition (CDCC) were held in June and September. The next meeting is scheduled for December. CDTC staff created a web link on their homepage devoted to the Capital District Clean Communities effort. These pages list coalition members, provide links to meeting notes and meeting dates and provide links to upcoming area events and the National Clean Cities website.

Since April 2007 the USDOE has provided an opportunity for Clean Cities coalitions to submit for funds to help offset the cost of hosting the coalition. Semi-annual progress reports are required for the funding submittal; staff must also complete a quarterly Alternative Fuel Price Report and must attend regional meetings or the annual AFVi Conference. Staff attended the annual AFVi Conference that was held in Las Vegas in May.

USDOE conducts monthly conference calls with other Clean Cities coordinators; CDTC staff is expected to join in these calls if scheduling permits. CDTC Staff joined in two conference calls.

CDTC Staff was asked to provide a brief overview of the Clean Cities activities to a freight group that held their quarterly meeting in Scotia in May. Staff gave a presentation and distributed material on the Clean Cities Coalition and CDTC's Diesel Retrofit program.

CDTC staff was asked to be part of a NYSEDA Technical Evaluation Panel for a funding program that was available to downstate companies for Alternative Fueled Vehicles and Fueling Infrastructure. Staff evaluated 20 project proposals and attended an all day meeting in early October to discuss and further evaluate the proposals.

To be a recognized Clean Cities coalition, the Clean Cities coordinator must submit an annual report to USDOE each February. Information on Alternative Vehicle inventories, Alternative Fuel usage, Alternative Fuel Fueling sites and other data must be submitted. Staff will begin to collect the data required for the annual report in January and will submit the report to USDOE at the end of February 2009.

\$2 million in CMAQ funds is programmed for diesel retrofits in the 2007-12 Transportation Improvement Program. During January 2008 staff drafted a solicitation for \$500,000 in projects; applications were due April 4th 2008. Five proposals were received, evaluated and approved. The Town of Niskayuna, City of Watervliet, City of Schenectady and Schenectady County applied for funding. CDTA will retrofit about 24 buses using \$290,000 of the \$500,000 that was available. The four municipalities will retrofit 60 vehicles, including plows, dump trucks, fire trucks and backhoes. A diesel light tower and diesel generator will also be retrofit. It is anticipated that a second round solicitation will be drafted in the Spring of 2009.

TASK 5.87 Hudson River Crossings Study

This study is complete. Findings are being used by NYSDOT in the project development work for the proposed bridge replacement.

TASK 5.98 North Greenbush I-90 Exit 8 Connector Land Use Study

Completed.

TASK 5.99 Balltown Road Linear Capacity and Land Use Refinement Study, Niskayuna and Clifton Park (Rolled back into TIP project Development)

As part of the 2003-08 TIP update, CDTC agreed to undertake a visioning study with the town's of Niskayuna and Clifton Park as part of the UPWP. This study was to be funded with TIP funds to support the eventual design process for the Balltown Road project, covering both phases of the project (Phase 1: Rexford Bridge and approaches,

and Phase 2: Glenridge Road to River Road). Before the study could start, NYSDOT re-started the design work for the project. As a result, the \$100,000 reserved for the visioning effort was folded back into the TIP project development with the express purpose of supporting a rigorous context sensitive solutions (CSS) process.

NYSDOT formed a steering committee to help re-scope this project. Both CDTC staff and CDTA, among other stakeholders, has been asked to actively participate.

CDTC's Internship Program

CDTC continues to offer internships to graduate students who are interested in pursuing a career in transportation planning or engineering. CDTC's program encourages students to bring what they learn in school to CDTC and bring back to the classroom what they've learned at CDTC. The program is designed to help students develop skills, abilities, and experience at both the technical and professional level. In return, CDTC benefits from good quality work that supports CDTC's ongoing planning program. During the last six months, CDTC employed one part-time intern from SUNYA's Geography Planning Department.

Statewide Shared Cost Initiatives

New York MPOs have dedicated a portion of the statewide allocation of planning funds to support activities of a mutually beneficial nature. There are currently six shared cost studies underway and are described in the UPWP. Several of these efforts, including the second phase of a statewide effort to educate stakeholders about methods of Integrating Community Design and Transportation System Design and the Mitigation Cost Sharing study, may be deferred because of recent FHWA funding rescissions.

The status of NYSMPO's shared cost initiatives and other activities is routinely reported at Planning Committee and A&F meetings. More detailed information is reported on NYSMPO's website www.nysmpo.org.

Computer Support Services

Keeping CDTC's computer capabilities current requires a fair amount of staff time. Some examples of computer-related tasks completed during the period include:

CDTC Web Site Routine Updates: The UPWP, TIP, Pedestrian/Bike, Freight, Clean Communities, New Visions 2030, Planning Committee and Policy Board minutes and materials, TIP Update, Environmental Justice and Linkage projects sections were changed as needed to keep them up-to-date. Additionally, the CDTC newsletter was added to the website.

Computer Upgrades: One computer was replaced with a new one due to apparent hardware errors. The computer that was replaced was demoted to working as a client computer in the testing of the new servers mentioned below.

Software Upgrades: The latest versions of ArcGIS were installed on several computers as needed.

Servers: The implementation of a test network began in the last period and continued this period, when time permitted. Substantial work was accomplished.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

No significant problems encountered.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Mary Ivey replaces Brian Rowback
Carm Basile replaces Ray Melleady

MEETINGS HELD

- April 1 - Planning Committee
- April 1 - Park & Ride
- April 21 - Access Management
- April 21 - Bike/Ped
- April 29 - Planning Committee
- April 30 - Linkage Forum
- May 6 - Planning Committee
- May 12 - Bike/ Ped
- May 13 - Planning Committee
- June 4 - Policy Board
- June 4 - NYS MPO Annual Conference
- June 18 - Clean Cities
- July 1 - Planning Committee
- July 7 - BRT
- July 7 - Regional Operations
- July 21 - Bike/Ped
- August 5 - Planning Committee
- August 11 - Bike/Ped
- August 25 - Administrative & Financial Standing Subcommittee
- August 25 - Linkage Forum
- September 3 - Policy Board
- September 8 - Bike/Ped
- September 17 - Clean Cities
- September 21 - Saratoga County TIP Workshop
- September 22 - Rensselaer County TIP Workshop
- September 23 - Albany County TIP Workshop
- September 24 - Schenectady County TIP Workshop