

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2014

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Melissa (Ashline-Heil) Cherubino, City of Cohoes
Bradley Birge, City of Saratoga Springs
Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation-Region 1
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Christopher Desany, representing Ross Farrell, Capital District
Transportation Authority
Darrell Duncan, Albany County
Stephen J. Feeney, Schenectady County, Vice Chair
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee,
Secretary
Nadine Fuda, Town of Schodack
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority, Chair
Robert Leslie, Town of Bethlehem
Kathy Matern, Town of Niskayuna
Barbara McHugh, Town of Clifton Park
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Charles Moore, City of Rensselaer
Russ Reeves, City of Troy
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands
Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville
Nelson Ronsvalle, Town of Halfmoon
Jeremy Smith, City of Watervliet
Joe Teliska, representing Wayne Bonesteel, Rensselaer County
Christopher Wallin, City of Schenectady

STAFF AND OTHERS

Nicole Allen, Laberge Group
Bill Anslow, Albany County
Tom Baird, Barton & Loguidice
Tracy Balogh, NYS Department of Transportation-Region 1
Anne Benware, Capital District Transportation Committee
Daniel Biggs, Weston & Sampson
Katie Bronson, City of Albany
John Brozzell, HNTB Corp.
Robert Cherry, NYS Department of Transportation-Region 1
Michael Cooper, Bergmann Associates
Alex Gordon, Capital District Transportation Committee
Robert Hansen, Creighton Manning
Karen Hulihan, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Tom Johnson, TR Johnson Engineering
David P. Jukins, Capital District Transportation Committee
Joanna King, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Christine Kingery, Spectra Engineering
Fred Mastroianni, Greenman-Pedersen Inc.
Nicole Matlick, Town of Niskayuna
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Sree Nampoothiri, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jim Rivers, Greenman-Pedersen Inc.
Brian Stewart, Capital District Transportation Committee
Barb Tozzi, City of Troy
Ed Wolk, Capital District Transportation Authority

VISITORS' ISSUES

Steve Iachetta opened the meeting at approximately 9:34 AM. There were no visitors' issues.

ADMINISTRATION

Previous Meeting Minutes - February 5, 2014

Tom Baird commented that his name was misspelled in the minutes. Bill Anslow said that the minutes should be corrected to indicate that in the discussion of the Helderberg Hudson Rail Trail, the concerns about concrete dropping mentioned are for the Delaware Avenue Bridge, not the Rockefeller Road Bridge. With these corrections, members approved the February 5, 2014 minutes.

ACTION ITEMS

2013-18 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

SA223 (1757.10) US 4 Bridge Over the Anthony Kill

Glenn Posca explained that the original project description "bridge replacement or repair" pending analysis changed to "bridge replacement", now that the appropriate analysis has been completed. Although CDTC staff stated that action was not needed, members formally endorsed the project description change.

A473 (1756.86): Albany Waterfront/Corning Preserve Improvements

Randy Milano explained that this requested amendment is for a cost reduction due to decreases in funding. The amendment will also move some funding from construction to PE and design. Members approved the amendment.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mike Franchini handed out a summary of the 2013-18 TIP Update (attached). He explained that there are other projects besides CMAQ projects that need to be obligated by September 30, 2014. Frank Bonafide explained that if this deadline is not met, the project will be in limbo; he urged project sponsors to do everything they can to get the project done quickly, especially if right of way acquisition is required. Mike said this is a reminder to focus on category 1 or 2 projects.

SET-ASIDE PROJECT SOLICITATION EVALUATION AND SCREENING RESULTS

Mike handed out draft fact sheets for candidate projects and a Summary of Candidate Projects (as of 4/2/14), filtered then ranked for merit. Mike explained that staff reviewed and evaluated 59 applications. He said that action will be requested by the Planning Committee at the May meeting. Members are asked to review the information prior to the May meeting. Three committees will be asked to make recommendations to the Planning Committee: the Regional Operations and Safety Advisory Committee, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the Complete Streets Advisory Committee. Randy Milano asked if complete streets features can be included in a pavement project, such as a sidewalk panel needed to connect to an ADA compliant ramp. Frank Bonafide said that wholesale curb replacement is not allowed for preservation projects, and he is concerned about scope creep. For longer sections of sidewalk, the Bike/Ped set-aside would have been more appropriate. Mike Franchini pointed out that the City of Albany submitted Madison Avenue for two set-aside categories to address two issues.

In response to a question, Mike explained that there are five priority networks: Bike/Ped, Transit, Infrastructure, ITS and Freight. Credit is given for projects that are on the priority networks. Joe Teliska asked why preservation for rural roads is not on the priority network. Mike said that Rensselaer County does have roads on the priority network. Joe Teliska asked if equitable consideration can be given for funding for Rensselaer County. Sandy Misiewicz said that geographic balance and public comments can be considered. Chris Wallin asked if there would be a second round to program remaining funds in some categories. Mike Franchini said this should be a topic for discussion after project selection decisions are made in May.

NEW VISIONS UPDATE STATUS REPORT

Mike Franchini reported that some of the New Visions committees have met three times, some have met twice, some have met once and scheduled their second meeting. The committees are to prepare white papers by July.

Mike showed four movies that illustrated development and potential impacts of automated vehicles. He said that the New Visions Plan will have to consider impacts of automated vehicles. Chris Desany said that many of these technologies are being incorporated into buses, although he has not yet heard discussion of self-driving buses.

LOCAL BRIDGE WORKING GROUP REPORT

Dave Jukins said that he received a detailed outline from Frank Bonafide and Dave is working to put together an RFP.

STATUS OF CMAQ PROJECTS

Glenn Posca explained that the spreadsheet included in the mail out reflects the amendments made in recent meetings. No one said they cannot deliver on time. A436 Western Avenue Sidewalks and A466 Westmere Corridor Pedestrian Improvements have been let by Region 1.

NYS DOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Frank Bonafide distributed a list of CDTC Local Sponsor Project Progress status (attached). He said that Sam Zhou has signed a commitment list of projects for the Commissioner which represents a very aggressive schedule. He emphasized that realistic schedules are important.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDTC

Mike Franchini said that our Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is sponsoring a Bike to Work Day on May 16. Anne Benware is our team leader.

Leah Mosall has moved to New York City, Steve Iachetta commented that she will be missed.

CDRPC

Joanna King reported that she will be leaving and moving to North Carolina, and a new staff person will start at CDRPC on April 7. Todd Fabozzi is preparing a new map series update to the CDRPC Atlas. CDRPC is providing data for the Coordinated Services Plan.

CDTA

Chris Desany said that a significant focus for CDTA is the forty miles of BRT, including the Washington Western Corridor and the River Corridor. CDTA experienced over 16 million in annual ridership, the highest level in twenty years. The Off-Board Fare Collection project is going well; they have taken delivery of 250 new fareboxes. Pilot programs are expected this year.

NYSDOT

Frank Bonafide reported that Sam Zhou received a permanent appointment as Regional Director. Region 1 has approval to hire new staff. Larry Mulvaney will be retiring in the next month or two.

Rob Cherry reported that the revisions of functional class to principal arterial for Routes 9N, 67, and 29 were approved by FHWA. The Route 50 over the Northway project was let in the Fall and only one bid was received, which the Department judged to be too high. The project was let again on March 20 and the bidding was more competitive, resulting in a bid that was \$.05M less than the original bid.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta reported that the Albany International Airport welcomes the announcement by Senator Schumer that JetBlue will be a new carrier at the airport. Direct flights to Fort Lauderdale and Orlando will be provided.

Linkage

Mike Franchini referred the Committee to the mail out for a summary of Linkage progress.

Bike/Ped Advisory Committee

Mike Franchini reported that this committee was reviewing the bike/ped project evaluations.

Freight Advisory Committee

Mike Franchini reported that the Highway Trust Fund is going bankrupt in August. Since Congress is not in session in August, there are plans to deal with this issue in July. Reauthorization of MAP-21 is not likely until after the elections in November. Freight will be a big issue in reauthorization for funding, and there has been discussion about revising the national Freight Priority Network to be more comprehensive and to include other modes beside highways.

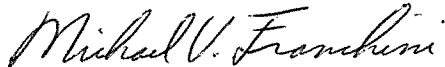
Albany Port District Commission

Tony Vasil said that May 1 will be Port Industry Day and free tours will be available. He said that the number of vessels is up over 50% in the first quarter, and tonnage is up over 150%. He said that 1950 was the last time the Hudson River froze over and the Coast Guard has kept the channel clear since then.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:12 PM. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Franchini
Secretary

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