

**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2015

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Robert Cherry, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Melissa Cherubino, City of Cohoes  
Chris Desany, Capital District Transportation Authority  
Darrel Duncan, Albany County  
Stephen 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  
Barbara McHugh, Town of Clifton Park  
Randy Milano, City of Albany  
Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville  
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands  
Joe Teliska, Rensselaer County  
Tony Tozzi, Town of Malta  
Michael Valentine, Saratoga County  
Christopher Wallin, City of Schenectady

**STAFF AND OTHERS**

Bill Anslow, Albany County  
Anne Benware, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Bryan Cross, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Jim Digioia, NYS Office of General Services  
Andrew Donovan, City of Troy  
Robert Hansen, Creighton Manning  
Jeffrey Johns, Stantec  
David Jukins, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Brian Kirch, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Carmella Mantello, Barton & Loguidice  
Fred Mastroianni, Greenman-Pedersen  
Christina Minkler, Clough Harbor Associates  
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Laura Stutz, Bergmann Associates  
Robert Wetmore, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1

**VISITORS' ISSUES**

Steve Iachetta opened the meeting at approximately 9:37 AM. There

were no visitors' issues.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Previous Meeting Minutes - February 4, 2015**

Members approved the February 4, 2015 minutes.

## **PRESENTATION - HUDSON WATERFRONT CORRIDOR STUDY**

Christina Minkler of CHA gave a presentation on the study and shared information on the study partners, the study purpose, and the study area which is bounded on the North by Watervliet (I-787 Exit 9), South by the Port of Albany (I-787 Exit 2), East by the Hudson River and West by Route 32 (Broadway). Study area facts on recreational spaces and infrastructure were shared along with the study mission and objectives. The study will look at both short term and long term strategies that seek to improve access to the Hudson River, support revitalization efforts and economic development, enhance the transportation system, enhance safety and balance the needs of the transportation network with mobility and the environment. Public workshops will be held in late spring/early summer.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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

#### **R238 (PIN 1043.34): Route 9 over NY 9J and Route 9 over AMTRAK and CSX, City of Rensselaer**

Frank Bonafide explained this project was originally scoped for a full bridge replacement. It was decided to downgrade the type of work to bridge deck replacement. The project will draw down from the State Bridge Preservation Setaside. He explained that the project would probably have a twenty year life. Members approved the amendment.

## **LINKAGE PROGRAM STATUS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mike Franchini referred to the two related items in the mail out. He explained that the A & F is concerned that Linkage studies are not being completed in a timely manner. Eleven studies are currently ongoing. They want to encourage Linkage studies to be completed in a more timely way. Staff has developed some guidelines to achieve this goal. The proposal is to encourage a consultant to be hired within one year. Within two years, fifty percent of the study scope should be completed by the consultant. Within three years, 100% of the study work should be completed. Failing to meet these milestones would require the sponsor to request more time from the Planning Committee; and if milestones are not met, the sponsor would not be allowed to submit an application for a new Linkage study while their study is incomplete and for the number of months their study exceeded the 15 month estimated completion time. These requirements would become effective later this year when we solicit for new Linkage studies.

Members approved the 2015-2016 Linkage Program Status and Recommendations.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **NEW TIP PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA**

Mike Franchini explained that this agenda item is for discussion, not for approval at this time. The idea is to develop more focus in the project selection criteria, and to prepare for the MAP-21 emphasis on performance measures and targets. Rob Wetmore reviewed the summary in the mail out. Several of the New Visions Committees and Task Forces have recommended improving the project selection process. Staff will provide clear rubrics to be used in evaluating projects using the proposed criteria so that a burden will not be created for sponsors. He said that staff felt that it was important to allow for projects having a negative impact on some measures.

Several members proposed reflecting negative impacts with a score of zero. Ross Farrell said that even within CDTA it is recognized that some service decisions have some negative impacts that need to be acknowledged, while the overall change has a positive benefit. After discussion, there was support for retaining negative scores. There was a discussion about environmental justice, in which it was pointed out that some projects can be described as having negative impacts and some projects are described as having positive impacts. A balanced program is important.

Mike Franchini said that the goal is to develop a better project evaluation process before the next TIP update.

### **NEW VISIONS 2040 PLAN SCHEDULE**

Mike Franchini reviewed the New Visions 2040 schedule as presented in the mail out. He said that four out of five public meetings have been completed. While turnout has not been high, CDTC has received excellent newspaper coverage and publicity. The goal is to have a draft plan to present at the next Planning Committee meeting, and to have the draft approved for public review at the June Policy Board meeting. Final approval of the Plan will be requested at the September Policy Board meeting. He said that staff has done a lot of great work for the Plan update.

### **ENHANCES MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM - 5310**

Anne Benware reported that, as with all other MPOs in New York State, CDTC requested that NYSDOT serve as the Designated Recipient of FTA Section 5310 program; which means NYSDOT will set up the application process and administer the program. MPOs will establish rating and ranking committees that will evaluate and select projects based on priorities and requirements set in their Coordinated Plans. Once selected, these projects will be added to MPO TIPs through their

normal processes (i.e. Planning Committee/Policy Board approvals as needed). NYSDOT plans to release the solicitation for 5310 projects on April 7th with the deadline for applications set for May 19th. Applications will be submitted, evaluated and administered electronically via NYMTC's Sharepoint site. For the two urbanized areas in the CDTC planning area 5310 funds total: \$ 1,617,238\* for Albany-Schenectady-Troy and \$384,215\* for the Saratoga Springs urbanized area. (FFY 13, 14 and the amount estimated for FFY 2015).

Pre-registration of applicants is required; the pre-registration period will be opened soon. NYSDOT will be sending out a "Dear Interested Party" letter to previous 5310 project sponsors and the MPOs for distribution. NYSDOT will also advertise the grant opportunity in the NYS Contract Reporter, the NYSDOT Public Transportation Bureau webpage and the NYS Grants Gateway website. CDTC staff will distribute the information to the RTCC and other contacts, including the Planning Committee.

#### **NYSDOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE**

Frank Bonafide reported that this was a pretty good year, with 32 local projects let.

#### **STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

##### **CDTC**

Mike Franchini reported that the Saratoga Traffic Study is progressing well. CDTC staff is developing the computer traffic simulation model for the study. The Regional Freight Plan is progressing, meetings are being held with chambers of commerce and freight generators.

##### **CDRPC**

Rocky Ferraro reported that employment forecasts at the TAZ level are nearly complete. The Planning and Zoning Workshop was a success with 150 people attending. The new website is making progress. The Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Project is moving well, with all communities having signed off. Specific legal requirements are being dealt with.

##### **CDTA**

Ross Farrell reported that CDTA is working on the Saratoga Route Restructuring. A draft plan is expected in early Summer.

##### **NYSDOT**

Frank Bonafide announced that Rosemary Powers is the new Chief Operating Officer for NYSDOT; all Regions report to her.

Frank Bonafide said that he is authorized to hire up to 18 staff. He introduced Ryan Cross, Greg Wichser and Brian Kirch.

**Albany County Airport Authority**

Steve Iachetta reported that enplanements continue to grow. Jet Blue is coming and Southwest is expanding. The Capital Program is underway.

**Other Business**

Mike Franchini said that there will be another industry day at the Port in May. Sandy Misiewicz said that the Linkage Forum will be restarted in the next month or two.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:29 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael V. Franchini  
Secretary