

**SPOT IMPROVEMENTS FOR BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
(CDTC TIP PROJECT RG41) Round 5**

Background

The Capital District Transportation Committee's 2007-12 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes \$100,000 per year set-aside for "spot improvements" to enhance the Capital District's bicycle and pedestrian travel environments. This commitment is a continuation of the CDTC program initiated with projects funded in 2000, with rounds following in 2002, 2004, and 2006. It is intended to make federal resources available to bicycle and pedestrian projects that generally "fall below the radar screen" of larger initiatives such as the Transportation Enhancement Program.

On June 16, 2008 CDTC sent a call letter soliciting proposals for funding under the Spot Improvement Program (Round 5). On October 15, 2008 a team of CDTC, NYSDOT Region 1, and NYS Health Dept. staff met to discuss the proposals received by CDTC and to offer options to the Planning Committee to consider for funding.

General Proposal Information

- ◆ 13 proposals were received
- ◆ The proposals had a total value of \$1,089,901 (\$798,892 federal and \$291,013 local match) for an average of \$83,838. They ranged in value from \$22,000 to \$267,000.
- ◆ Two proposals are for projects in Albany County, zero in Rensselaer County, six in Saratoga County, and five in Schenectady County.
- ◆ Ten proposals specified the required 20% local match, Two specified between 20 and 30 percent and one specified local match over 30 percent.

Proposals Received

The following 13 proposals were reviewed by the evaluation team.:

Project Title

Location

Catherine St between S. Swan and S. Hawk	City of Albany
Sand Street Pedestrian Connection	Village of Altamont
Clifton Park Center Road-Shen Campus Access Imp.	Town of Clifton Park
Ped Signal Light & Pavement Marking Improvements	Town of Halfmoon
Route 9/Town Court Pedestrian Connectivity Project	Town of Malta
Mechanicville Pedestrian Improvements	City of Mechanicville
Core Area Mobility Impaired Accessibility Improvements	City of Saratoga Springs
Campbell Park Trailhead	Town of Stillwater
Cornelius Avenue Sidewalks	Town of Niskayuna
Hamburg Street Sidewalk Extension	Town of Rotterdam
Seneca Street and Maxon Road Canalway Trail Crossings	City of Schenectady
Nott Street Sidewalk Extension	Schenectady County
MHBHT Informational Kiosks	Schenectady County

Selection Process

Similar to the first three rounds, an evaluation team reviewed all of the proposals. After the proposals were received, the evaluation team had time to read each proposal and take notes on their content and eligibility and get a sense of the benefit the proposed project would provide.

On October 15, 2008, the evaluation team met to discuss each proposal in detail. The team evaluated the proposals based on 1) Eligibility, 2) Feasibility, 3) Whether the project was implementing a recommendation from a linkage project--**highly emphasized in review**, 4) If the project is on the CDTC Bicycle Priority Network, 5) If an "overmatch" was provided 6) If the project is in an Environmental Justice area, 7) Credibility of cost estimates, 8) transportation safety/access benefit 9). Cost Effectiveness, and 10) if there were any social, environmental, historical or other issues

The evaluation team discussed each project and prepared comments and 2 options for Planning Committee consideration. The review committee also made a conscious effort to provide geographic balance.

Evaluation Team Comments

There were three projects that were felt to have ineligible elements. They include:

1. Clifton Park Center Road-Shen Campus Improvements (Clifton Park)--the traffic study is not eligible
2. Pedestrian Signal Light and Pavement Improvements (Halfmoon)--the storm drainage relocation was questioned as to it's relationship to a ped signal and it's eligibility.
3. Campbell Park Trailhead (Stillwater)--the parking area was deemed ineligible as it would be benefiting the automobile even though it is at a trailhead.

It should be noted that even if the ineligible elements were removed, based on the criteria above these projects would not compete well for funding based on the applications received.

There were 4 other projects that the evaluation team had general concerns with that should be included in funding discussions. They include:

1. Sand Street Pedestrian Connection (Altamont)--since the application was received, it has become apparent through the Village's Linkage Program project's public participation efforts that there is strong public opposition to the proposed sidewalks along Sand Street.

2. Core Area Mobility Improvements (Saratoga Springs)--the project description does not indicate which intersections will be improved. It gives the general area and indicates that the sponsor will prioritize them after funding decisions are made.
3. Route 9/Town Court Pedestrian Connectivity Project (Malta)--while eligible, it was felt that the improvement to public access and connectivity is very limited as it includes a sidewalk around the Town Court Building to the parking lot.
4. Cornelius Avenue Sidewalks (Niskayuna)--while eligible, the scale/cost of this project would result in nearly 90% of the program funds going to only one sponsor.

Options for Consideration

Option 1-- takes into account the review criteria posted in the solicitation material (Implementing Linkage-high priority, Priority Network, Overmatch, EJ area, etc) **AND** addresses the concerns of the review committee outlined above. The projects funded under this option would include:

Hamburg Street Sidewalk Extension	Town of Rotterdam
MHBHT Informational Kiosks	Schenectady County
Catherine St between S. Swan and S. Hawk	City of Albany
Seneca Street and Maxon Road Canalway Trail Crossings	City of Schenectady
To be bundled with SA 140	
Mechanicville Pedestrian Improvements	City of Mechanicville

The total federal share to fund these 5 projects would be \$244,200. The Spot Improvement budget would have to be amended through a TIP amendment, recognizing that there would be less CMAQ funds available to program during the TIP update process.

This would result in 1 Albany County project, 0 Rensselaer County projects, 3 Schenectady County projects, and 1 Saratoga County project.

Option 2-- takes into account **ONLY** the review criteria posted in the solicitation material. This option assumes that the concerns of the review committee would work themselves out during the design phase and in the contractual agreement with NYSDOT. The projects funded under this option would include:

Hamburg Street Sidewalk Extension	Town of Rotterdam
MHBHT Informational Kiosks	Schenectady County
Core Area Mobility Impaired Accessibility Improvements	City of Saratoga Springs
Route 9/Town Court Pedestrian Connectivity Project	Town of Malta
Catherine St between S. Swan and S. Hawk	City of Albany
Sand Street Pedestrian Connection	Village of Altamont

The total federal share of these 6 projects would be \$242,000. The Spot Improvement budget would have to be amended through a TIP amendment, recognizing that there would be less CMAQ funds available to program during the TIP update process.

This would result in 2 Albany County projects, 0 Rensselaer County projects, 2 Saratoga County projects, and 2 Schenectady County projects.

Both Option 1 and Option 2 are marginally over the Spot Improvement budget. It should be noted that either option can have the last project on the respective lists removed from consideration to stay within the program budget. The remaining funds could remain on the table for future rounds or used to supplement other existing regional bicycle and pedestrian projects.