

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2015

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bill Anslow, Albany County
Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1
Melissa Cherubino, City of Cohoes
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority
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
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Charles Moore, City of Rensselaer
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands
Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
Jeremy Smith, City of Watervliet
Joseph Teliska, representing Wayne Bonesteel, Rensselaer County
Michael Valentine, Saratoga County
Christopher Wallin, City of Schenectady
Brett Williams, representing Joseph Moloughney, NYS Thruway Authority

STAFF AND OTHERS

David Ardman, UIT/Crawford Associates
Thomas Baird, Barton & Loguidice
Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Anne Benware, Capital District Transportation Committee
John Bullough, RPI-Lighting Research Center
Robert Cherry, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1
Valerie Deane, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1
Robert Hansen, Creighton Manning
Karen Hulihan, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1
Dave Jukins, Capital District Transportation Committee
Fred Mastroianni, Greenman-Pedersen Inc.
Kate Maynard, City of Saratoga Springs
Christina Minkler, CHA Companies
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Owen Shevlin, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1
Sean Ward, Village of Green Island
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1

INTRODUCTION AND VISITORS' ISSUES

Steve Iachetta opened the meeting at approximately 9:35 AM. He commented that his recent visit to Los Angeles gave him a renewed appreciation for the good quality of transportation in the Capital District.

There were no visitors' issues.

ADMINISTRATION

Previous Meeting Minutes - August 5, 2015

Members approved the August 5, 2015 minutes.

PRESENTATION - NYSDOT STUDY "ANALYSIS OF ENERGY EFFICIENT HIGHWAY LIGHTING RETROFITS", JOHN D. BULLOUGH, RPI LIGHTING RESEARCH CENTER

John Bullough reported on this study, sponsored by NYSDOT. The Study documented existing lighting practices and measured hourly nighttime lighting data along Central Avenue. Hourly lighting levels were compared with traffic volumes (vehicles per hour) and pedestrian activity (pedestrians per hour). Lighting retrofit options were evaluated. Spacing of lighting was considered in the analysis. The study concluded that retrofitting with LEDs while simultaneously increasing the light levels is feasible and can result in energy savings. There are implementation issues for arterial roads where operation of lighting is paid by the municipality but lights are owned by the utility. The Lighting Research Center, Creighton Manning, National Grid, the Town and Village of Colonie and CDTC have collaborated on a proposal to NYSERDA to install LED street lights along the portion of Central Avenue that was studied (Madison Avenue to Reber Street).

ACTION ITEMS

2013-18 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

S229 (1085.33) Hamburg Street (NY 146) Safety Improvements

Frank Bonafide explained that right of way for this project was inadvertently omitted from the TIP and needs to be programmed. In addition, scoping identified the need for additional funding for final design. Members approved the amendment.

Proposed Schedule Changes to Projects Subject to Incentive to Start PE

Mike Franchini summarized materials in the mail out including letters from sponsors of six project requesting schedule changes; a CDTC staff memo summarizing the requested changes by project; and a CDTC staff memo explaining the background and presenting options for the Planning Committee to consider. He said that due to a previous deadline established by the Planning Committee, these six projects would fall

off the TIP if no action is taken. Members asked each project sponsor to explain the circumstances related to requesting a schedule change.

A552, Black Bridge Trail Connection, Green Island- Sean Ward explained that when this project was submitted, the Board was prepared for a \$40,000 dollar match. Because the cost was increased based on CDTC cost estimation when the project was reviewed and programmed on the TIP, the increased cost increased the match. Green Island is seeking CFA funding to pay the remaining part of the match.

SA280, Geyser Road, Spa State Park Traffic Signal Improvement- Kate Maynard said that this project will install a new signal at the intersection of Geyser Road and Ballston Avenue. The City of Saratoga Springs is coordinating three projects with four different funding sources and many partners; this project (SA280) is a critical component. The multi component project has progressed significantly, but because of the complexity, a schedule extension is needed for SA280. Andrew Kreshik commented that proper linkages planning understandably makes things more difficult.

SA281, Sitterly Road Corridor, ITS Improvements- John Scavo explained that the Crescent Road project experienced delay due to considerable unforeseen right of way issues. This is now resolved with construction scheduled for the Spring. However, the Town needed to address the issues surrounding the Crescent Road project as a priority and to make sure that cost overruns would not adversely affect the Town's ability to provide match for construction of the Sitterly Road project before starting the Sitterly Road project. In addition, a new Stewarts and a NY Oncology Office opened in the Sitterly Road Corridor; funding was received from these developments. A consultant has been selected, and the Sitterly Road Corridor is now the priority and will progress.

SA282, Share the Road Signage- Karen Hulihan said that the Town of Malta did not explain in their letter why this project has not been progressed. The project has not started at all.

SA 283, Sitterly Road Mill and Fill- John Scavo said that this project is directly related to SA281, and has been delayed for the same reasons; and that it will now move forward.

S223, Schenectady City Pavement Preservation (includes former S224)- Chris Wallin said that after this project was merged with S224, additional bonding was needed, which was ready in September, and all paperwork was submitted in September. An unauthorized Master agreement was received in late September. This agreement will be going to council on October 26th for approval and then back to the NYSDOT for official federal authorization.

Mike Franchini pointed out that often unforeseen circumstances are unavoidable and it is appropriate for the Planning Committee to be flexible and supportive when good faith efforts are being made. Frank Bonafide commented that the goal of the deadline was to make sure projects are not lingering with no intent to move.

There was a long discussion about which of the staff options to approve. Some members felt that placing point penalties on future projects would have the benefit of avoiding over-commitment by a sponsor while not penalizing existing efforts. However, members agreed that if a new rule for future projects was to be established, more consideration and discussion was needed and such a decision should be made at a future meeting.

Concerns were raised about the Malta project (SA282), because there was no progress or reason for delay reported.

In response to additional questions about the Green Island Black Bridge Trail Connection project, Sean Ward explained that while providing match for this project is an issue that the Village is working to resolve, the Village is committed to progressing this project as a high quality project. Rocky Ferraro commented that this project has important regional benefits for bicycle and pedestrian access.

A motion was made to approve the amendments as requested in the letters submitted for five projects (A552, SA280, SA281, SA283, and S223); to table the requested amendment for S282 till the November meeting; and to request a representative from the Town of Malta to explain reasons for the delay of S282 at the next meeting. Members approved the motion.

2014-15 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AMENDMENT

FTA MPP Apportionment Adjustment

Mike Franchini explained that FTA requires budgets to be adjusted to exact amounts. This amendment represents 0.5% of FTA funding. The actual FTA Metropolitan Planning Program appropriation for 2015/16 is \$1,695 less than the estimated allocation. Members approved the amendment.

Complete Streets Workshops Plan Approval

Chris Bauer reported on the Complete Streets Workshops task. With the assistance of a Consultant Selection Committee made up of regional agency representatives, Planning 4 Places with Sam Schwartz Engineering was the team chosen to develop and conduct the workshops. CDTC staff sent out a solicitation package to all local jurisdictions. CDTC received three applications from the following municipalities: City of Troy - Workshop Type C (Implementation); Town of Malta - Workshop Type C (Implementation); Town of Niskayuna - Workshop Type A (Basics). Staff recommends approval of these three applications, and moving ahead with these workshops with all of the applicants.

Next steps include coordinating with the communities; selecting workshop dates and working with them to ensure participation of key officials, staff and appropriate stakeholders.

Some members expressed interest in attending workshops as an observer; Chris Bauer said staff will try to accommodate requests if seats are available. Chris Wallin asked if the workshops will address how to implement complete streets in a "preservation first" environment. Chris Bauer said that they will. Rob Cherry suggested keeping track of "lessons learned" to get more applications next round.

Members approved awarding workshops to all three applicants and moving ahead with the process.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

OCTOBER 1, 2016 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Mike Franchini said that NYSDOT guidance for the TIP update was received a few weeks ago. A key question is: should we solicit for projects during the TIP update, or should we program set asides and solicit for projects after the TIP update? This decision is up to the Committee. Andrew Kreshik suggested that it would be best to wait until we have a better sense of the funding before we solicit.

Frank Bonafide said that there will not be the same levels of funding available as last time. There are more than \$5 million in deficits on some funding sources. Region 1 must submit its capital program to the Main Office by the end of this year. It may be possible to swap some funding sources. Preservation goals (about 83%) are still the same. "Preventive and corrective measures" are now required instead of "preservation".

Joe Teliska asked if it was possible to send members a copy of the guidance document. Mike Franchini said that the document would be posted on the CDTC website under "TIP". Frank Bonafide said that much of the document has specifics directed at Region 1 staff. He also suggested that the Committee should see funding numbers before deciding whether to solicit or program set asides.

NYSDOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Karen Hulihan distributed the report and reviewed the status of projects.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDTC

Mike Franchini said that now that Barb McHugh is retired, CDTC staff will review seniority of town and village Planning Committee participants to determine who will be the official voting member representing towns and villages. CDTC practice has been to have all towns and villages represented on the Planning Committee by one voting member.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta reported that Jet Blue and Southwest are competing for Florida fares, and commented that competition is good.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:10 PM. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael V. Franchini
Secretary