

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2007

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Geoff Bornemann, City of Saratoga Springs (Vice-Chairman)
Frank Commisso, Albany Port Authority
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County
Rocky Ferraro, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Michael Franchini, Albany County (Chairman)
Fred Howard, Rensselaer County
Steve Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority
Tom Kearney, Federal Highway Administration
Barb McHugh, Town of Clifton Park
Marybeth Pettit, City of Rensselaer
John Poorman, Capital District Transportation Committee
(Secretary)
Dave Rettig, NYSDOT Region 1
Jim Rivers, City of Troy
Dede Rudolph, City of Albany
Phil Serafino, New York State Thruway Authority
Bernard Sisson, City of Schenectady
John Stangle, Town of Colonie
Kristina Younger, Capital District Transportation Authority

STAFF AND OTHERS

Anne Benware, Capital District Transportation Committee
Frank Bonafide, NYSDOT Region 1
Patrick Campbell, Capital District Transportation Authority
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Ken DeCerce, Town of Halfmoon
Jim Digioia, Interested Citizen
Mike Dillon, Capital District Transportation Authority
Dave Jukins, Capital District Transportation Committee
George Leveille, Town of Bethlehem
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Larry Mulvaney, NYSDOT Region 1
Sreekumar Nampoothiri, Capital District Transportation Committee
Christine Neumann, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jeff Olson, Alta Planning
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Philip Parella, Jr., Capital District Transportation Authority
Jason Purvis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands
Deb Stacey, Capital District Transportation Committee
Ann Sutkin, NYSDOT Region 1
Steve Szanto, Creighton Manning
Elaine Troy, NYSDOH Healthy Heart Program
Steve Watts, Town of Halfmoon
Mike Wyatt, NYSDOT Region 1

VISITORS ISSUES

Chairman Franchini opened the meeting at approximately 9:40 am. Jim Digioia, a visitor requested to speak. Jim asked the committee why the bus shelter and pick-up/drop-off location was moved from inside the Colonie Center Mall property to its current location on Wolf Road. John Stangle and Kristina Younger replied that the Mall had an issue with the bus stop location that was previously on the property. Mr. Digioia indicated that it is difficult for the mobility impaired to negotiate from the Mall to the shelter on Wolf Road. Ms. Younger replied that the construction at the Mall is creating most of that difficulty; she indicated that there will be paved walks and easier access once the construction at the Mall is complete. She also indicated that STAR buses and the Albany Shuttle Fly buses continue to pick-up/drop-off at the Mall.

PRESENTATION BY JEFF OLSEN ON THE REGIONAL GREENWAY CONCEPT PLAN

Jeff Olson of Alta Planning and Design was contracted by CDTC to conduct public workshops to gather input for a Greenways Concept Plan for the Capital Region. This plan was framed around the work of Working Group C and the "Big Ticket, Big Idea Initiatives" concepts that were developed as part of New Visions 2030. The concept plan shows a potential regional network of greenways and trails that will provide residents, visitors, businesses, and communities with transportation, recreation, health, and quality of life benefits. Jason Purvis served as CDTC staff on the study.

Action Items

ADMINISTRATION

Election of Officers

Kristina Younger nominated Mike Franchini for the Chair position; Mike Franchini nominated Geoff Bornemann for the vice-chair position. Both accepted. The Executive Director of CDTC remains the secretary.

Approval of the November 1, 2006 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the November 1, 2006 meeting were approved. Based on the CMAQ discussion at the November meeting, John Poorman addressed concerns about "runaway consensus" and suggested that a subcommittee be formed to address this issue. Dave Rettig, Kristina Younger and Mike Franchini volunteered for the subcommittee.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

CDRPC Revision to the 2006-08 UPWP

Rocky Ferraro reviewed the previously-distributed summary of the proposed UPWP revision. The final dollar amount for CDRPC activities remains the same; the proposed changes are for the

budgets associated with the four categories listed. CDRPC is still on track for finalizing TAZ employment projections by the end of the fiscal year. Members approved CDRPC's request for the UPWP revision.

Approval of the Addendum to the 2006-08 UPWP

John Poorman noted that the Planning Committee adopted a two year work program last year, which means that this year only the updated budgets and text (Linkage studies were added, shared cost initiatives were updated) need to be reviewed. Members approved the changes to the UPWP.

2005-10 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REVISION

S175(1755.37) CR 103 (Pangburn Road) Bridge over Normanskill

NYS DOT used its project selection authority to fund the P and D phase with STP-Flex instead of HBRR. NYS DOT is requesting a change in funding source to keep the project on track. The project is not yet eligible for HBRR funds.

2007-12 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Inflation Adjustment to TIP Infrastructure Projects

Mr. Franchini directed members' attention to the previously-distributed discussion of Inflation Adjustments to TIP Infrastructure Projects. Due to escalating building supply costs, NYS DOT adjusted the cost of all infrastructure projects on state roads and on the HBRR program. The adjustment is recommended for the first two years of the 2007-12 TIP program, at 3.5% per year. NYS DOT cost estimates showing on the TIP contain no adjustment for inflation in later years of the TIP. The adjustment factors were not calculated for project type, or for region. After some discussion, members approved the recommended inflation adjustments.

Review of Discussion of Status of 2007-12 TIP Update

Glenn Posca drew the Committee's attention to the previously-distributed informational sheet entitled, Status of 2007-12 Update. Mr. Posca stressed that the project sponsors need to provide updates to their projects with regard to cost, scope change and schedule change. The timeframe available to have a draft TIP is tight; therefore sponsors need to forward their information to CDTC ASAP.

Review of Funds and Project Costs by Fund Source Handout

Glenn Posca reviewed the handout that identifies Project Costs by Fund Source. Glenn instructed the members to delete the third footnote on the handout, since Exit 3 is about \$7 million short, not \$30 million. A discussion about the Balltown Road project

followed, with estimates of \$11 million in demo funds and the rest in STP-Flex. The department plans to advance the roundabout construction as safety projects, this could improve operation in the corridor enough to scale back the project that is currently listed in the TIP

Review of Proposals by Local Sponsors Not Necessarily Apparent in Other Documentation Handout

RG31--Kristina Younger stated that CDTA has requested SPR funds for RG31 and if this is granted, TIP monies will not be needed for the Washington/Western BRT Conceptual Design Study. Action was deferred.

RG100--Kristina Younger indicated that CDTA would like to move this project from a set-aside to an actual project. Members approved this request.

Major Existing TIP Projects Current Status Table

Mr. Poorman reviewed the projects listed in the previously-distributed summary table. Discussions centered on several projects listed in the Table, mainly projects 1, 2, 8 and 9. The dollar amount for project 1 (Exit 3 project) is incorrect. As discussed earlier, the estimate is \$51M (\$41M NHS, \$3M demo and \$7M shortfall). The scope and scheduling of project 2 (Balltown Road) might be quite different than what appears in this table, since NYSDOT is advancing work at the Balltown Road/Aqueduct Road intersection as a safety project. A policy question was posed regarding where Phase III of the Balltown Road project should appear. Fred Howard recommended that Phase III show outside the 5 year period. Phase III of project 8 (Slingerlands ByPass project) should show in the post-TIP at a cost of \$10.7 million. George Leveille mentioned that the \$.500M for engineering for project #9 (Selkirk ByPass) needs to be carried over in the current TIP, with construction programmed in the post 07-12 TIP column. The members approved the "Major Existing TIP Project Current Status" table, with the understanding that NYSDOT will refine their numbers.

Existing TIP Projects in Previous Post Period Table

This previously-distributed summary table was skipped due to incomplete data.

Replenishing of Existing Regional Projects Table

Jason Purvis noted that the dollar amount for the Spot Improvement program in the previously-distributed summary table should be \$.300M. CDTA reiterated their request to convert RG100 from a set-aside to an actual project--Pilot Transit Service on the NY 9 Corridor in Saratoga and Albany Counties. The members concurred with this table and the two noted corrections.

Proposed Changes to Interstate Maintenance Projects Table

John Poorman noted that the individual projects listed in the previously-distributed summary table are not the concern but that the total increase needs to be looked at. Dave Rettig noted that the share of Interstate Maintenance (IM) in the Capital Region is higher than in the other four counties that the region covers. He also noted that NHS is under-programmed in the Capital District, so the totals are nearly a "wash". It was noted that the IM Demo fund source is not a "real" fund source and that NYSDOT will likely fill in with SDF funds. This table needs to be revisited by NYSDOT.

Proposed Changes to HBRR Projects Table

Mike Franchini noted that the \$1.68M noted in project A467 in the previously-distributed summary table needs to be brought into the current TIP rather than the post-TIP. Dave Rettig noted that NYSDOT is erroneously identified as the project sponsor for six of the HBRR projects. John Poorman recommended that this previously-distributed summary table be accepted subject to any further corrections by NYSDOT. The members approved this table with the corrections noted.

Major Changes Proposed for Existing TIP Projects Table

Thirteen projects are listed in this previously-distributed summary table. The changes to these project budgets will trigger Policy Board Action. The Committee questioned the cost of the first project, Rehabilitation at Lock E-8. Phil Serafino will check the numbers and report back to the committee. Kristina Younger stated that CDTA would like the dollars programmed for TIP project T17, bus replacements, to show in the first year of the TIP, not the fifth. Dede Rudolph indicated that the city would like a change in scope on TIP project A341, eliminating the bypass (ROW issues) and use the \$3M that was previously assigned to the Bypass to cover the cost increases for the rehabilitation of Central Avenue. Geoff Bornemann voiced concern that no money shows in the post-TIP for project SA88, Route 50 North of Saratoga Springs reconstruction. The committee members approved the table along with the requests for modifications. Fred Howard abstained.

Minor Changes Proposed for Existing TIP Projects (Group 2) Table

John Poorman noted that the changes to the budgets in this previously-distributed summary table require Planning Committee action, but not Policy board Action. Members accepted the table.

Minor Changes Proposed for Existing TIP Projects (Group 1) Table

John Poorman indicated that issues with the figures showing in this previously-distributed summary table are mostly timing issues. He reiterated that project sponsors need to review the list and report timing issues to Glenn Posca. Kristina Younger forewarned the members that CDTA might ask for a change of scope for project S170, the Western Gateway Transportation Center. Marybeth Pettit requested that TIP project R254, Broadway, from

US 20 to Broadway Viaduct Bridge reconstruction, be advanced--the construction phase of the project now shows in the 3rd year of the TIP, Ms. Petit would like it to show in the 2nd year. Dave Rettig responded that this request could cause a cash flow issue. Kristina Younger asked Jim Rivers about the status of project R245, NY 2, from 5th Avenue to 11th Street, reconstruction. Mr. Rivers responded that the cost increase for construction is in the vicinity of \$3M. John Poorman noted that a \$3M increase would put the project in the major changes category. The members voted to approve the Group 1 Minor Changes table, with the exception of TIP project R245 which no longer belongs in the minor change category. Fred Howard abstained.

New Projects Proposed by NYSDOT Not Included Elsewhere Table

Frank Bonafide reviewed the six projects listed in the previously-distributed summary table. Projects 3 and 4 were funded through an earmark and project #5 is in the AGFTC planning area. The table will be modified to reflect projects that are within CDTC's purview. The members approved the table.

Existing TIP Projects Rolling Off the 2003-08 TIP Table

John Poorman noted that the figures showing in this previously-distributed summary table need to be reviewed by project sponsors for accuracy. The Committee members approved the table.

Changes Proposed for Existing TIP Demonstration Projects Table

Committee members questioned the accuracy of the figure for the first project listed, I-90 Exit 8 connector. The 07-12 column shows that the cost for this project is now \$141M. John Poorman indicated that that if this cost is accurate, that the need for this project will have to be revisited. Mr. Poorman suggested that the TIP show the cost as the actual demonstration funds (~17M) and that the description be modified to reflect that the project cost could be in excess of \$100M. The TIP should also note that the priority of the project at that cost would be revisited.

Remaining Questions

Kristina Younger asked where the High Speed Rail project is on the TIP. NYSDOT responded that the state is still pursuing some aspects of the project. Steve Feeney asked about project S97--Freeman's Bridge Road/NY50 Improvements. This project does not appear on the TIP and should not have been dropped. John Poorman recommended that the project stay on the TIP with no funding estimates. Mr. Feeney agreed.

Discussion Items

NEW VISIONS STATUS

Discussion of Alternative Futures Study

Rocky Ferraro reported that the study is progressing and that a draft report will be available within the next few weeks.

SAFETEA-LU Compliance

Jason Purvis reported that he is addressing SAFETEA-LU compliance issues and that CDTC will meet the compliance deadlines.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Bids and Lettings

Frank Bonafide did not bring Bids and Lettings information to the meeting.

Town of Halfmoon Fishing Access Trail

Ken DeCerce had been notified that this project was not eligible for CMAQ funding because there are no air quality benefits associated with the project. Mr. DeCerce made the case that there are three other ADA accessible fishing sites in the Capital Region, each are 11, 12 and 14 miles away from the Halfmoon site. Ostensibly, senior and mobility impaired residents in Halfmoon and Clifton Park will access the Halfmoon site, diverting longer trips to shorter trips. Mr. DeCerce will provide detailed data to NYSDOT and CDTC; it appears that this data will enable staff to calculate AQ benefits.

OTHER

Jason Purvis noted that four Enhancement projects have been approved and that this needs to be reflected in the TIP.

A second February Planning Committee meeting was scheduled for 9:30 a.m., February 21, 2007. This meeting was scheduled to address the remaining issues regarding the 2007-12 Transportation Improvement Program. To accommodate the schedule to adopt the TIP, the March Policy Committee meeting will be delayed one week and will be scheduled for March 8, 2007.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Poorman
Secretary