

CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2015

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice Chair
Brad Birge, representing Mayor Joanne Yepsen, City of Saratoga Springs
Maria Chau, representing Peter Osborn, Federal Highway Administration
Andrew Donovan, representing Mayor Lou Rosamilia, City of Troy
Terrence Hurley, Albany Port District Commission
Steve Iachetta, representing John O'Donnell, Albany County Airport Authority
Mayor Kris Kastberg, Village of Scotia
Joe LaCivita, representing Paula Mahan, Town of Colonie
Randy Milano, representing Mayor Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany
Paul Sausville, representing Matthew Veitch, Saratoga County
Jeremy Smith, representing Mayor Michael Manning, City of Watervliet
Mike Stammel, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Ed Tremblay, representing Mayor George Primeau Sr., City of Cohoes
Linda Von der Heide, representing Kathleen Jimino, Rensselaer County
Chris Wallin, representing Mayor Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady
Thomas Werner, Saratoga County
Sam Zhou, NYS Department of Transportation -Region I, Secretary

STAFF AND OTHERS

Nancy Benedict, interested citizen
Anne Benware, Capital District Transportation Committee
Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation-Region 1
Jim Digioia, Saratoga County
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee
Keith Irish, interested citizen
Scott LeVine, SUNY Paltz
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Bessie Thompson, interested citizen
Sharon Walker, interested citizen

OPENING REMARKS

Carm Basile opened the Capital District Transportation Committee meeting at 3:05 PM and welcomed those in attendance. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the June 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The June 4, 2015 meeting minutes were approved by the members.

PRIVELEDGE OF THE FLOOR

Bessie Thompson commented that CDTA is a wonderful company. She said that yellow markings are needed at bus stops to prevent cars and trucks from parking at bus stops. She said that vinyl seats would be better than cloth seats on buses, because sanitary cleaning is necessary in some cases. She said that air conditioning sometimes does not work on the buses. She said that ADA ramps are inaccessible for wheel chairs in some locations.

Sharon Walker said that if the driver makes the wheelchair passenger the last to enter, they may have to wait till the next bus if the bus is crowded. Wheelchair passengers should be the first to board. She said bus service to a Loudonville assisted living facility ends at 11:00 PM, creating a hardship for employees who leave after 11:00.

Keith Irish of Citizens for Public Transportation said that there would be a meeting next week (September 9) of Citizens for Public Transportation. He said that bus stops should be signed clearly as no parking zones. He also said that wheelchair passengers should be allowed to get off the bus first, and to board the bus first.

AUTOMATED VEHICLE PRESENTATION—SCOTT E. LEVINE, PROFESSOR (URBAN PLANNING), DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, SUNY NEW PALTZ

Scott Levine presented findings from his research on automated vehicles. He commented that as planners, we don't control what will happen regarding automated vehicles, but we must consider potential outcomes in our planning. Some research indicates that traffic signal capacity may improve by 25% with automated vehicles. He reported on MPOs he has reviewed with respect to this issue, and he found that these MPOs are generally taking a cautious approach.

2013-2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

A547 (PIN 1051.79): South Mall Expressway Pier 18 Repair: I-787 to Empire State Plaza, Albany

Frank Bonafide explained that this is a new element specific bridge repair project. Replacement of Pier 18 may be necessary. The cost increase will be offset by a reduction in the State Pavement Maintenance Set-Aside (RG117 (PIN 1809.42)). Members approved the amendment.

NEW VISIONS 2040 PLAN

Chris O'Neill explained that a ninety day review of the draft Plan has been completed, and comments have been reviewed. Based on comments received, the mail out material describes revisions that are recommended. These include adding the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail/Canalway Trail and a connection from the western end of the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail/Canalway Trail in Rotterdam Junction to the list of trail/connection projects that are listed in the key recommendations; and repeating the recommendation to expand BusPlus to include the Washington/Western and River corridors as a key recommendation. In addition, changes will be made to Chapter 8 of the New Visions draft Plan to be consistent with changes to the Coordinated Plan; and an update to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network will be included as described in the mail out.

Mike Franchini explained that the Regional Freight & Goods Movement Study is currently underway and progressing as anticipated. When the Freight Plan is complete, it will be incorporated into the New Visions Plan. Chapter 12 of the New Visions Plan will be updated to reflect the Regional Freight & Goods Movement Study Summary in the mail out.

Mike said that the Regional Freight & Goods Movement Study is looking for ways to mitigate impacts of trains when they go through populated areas.

Mike said that the New Visions resolution will provide final approval of the New Visions Plan with revisions discussed today. Members approved the resolution adopting the New Visions 2040 Plan.

Carm Basile thanked the staff for their efforts in preparing the Plan. He said that it is impressive that the public process drives the product.

FINAL 2015 COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN APPROVAL

Anne Benware presented the draft Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan. She mentioned that a more in depth presentation was made at the June Policy Board meeting. She said the Plan is separate from the New Visions Plan, although it has been incorporated into the New Visions Plan.

She said that the Regional Transportation Coordination Committee (RTCC) continues to foster communication and coordination among a variety of groups in an effort to better serve people with transportation challenges.

Anne reviewed changes that were made to the Plan in response to public comments since June, as described in the mail out. The final draft was distributed to the Regional Transportation Coordination Committee

(RTCC) and other interested parties in July and no additional comments have been received to date.

In response to a question, Anne said that only 5310 requires coordination, and \$1.6 million was available this round for three years. Carm Basile commented that coordination is very difficult and funding is very limited.

Members approved the resolution adopting the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY UPDATE APPROVAL

Chris O'Neill explained that the update of the existing CDTC Public Participation Policy is required by federal regulation for MPOs. CDTC has conducted a 45 day review period. He explained that CDTC goes beyond meeting requirements and includes meaningful participation and dialogue. The Linkage Program provides an important component of CDTC's public participation. New Visions is the cornerstone of CDTC's planning and public participation, and has included a two year process, 9 subcommittees, 7 public meetings, and a 90 day review of final draft Plan. Review requirements for the RTP, the TIP and the UPWP are included. Members approved updated Public Participation Policy.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDRPC

Mike Stammel reported that the CDRPC completed the "Capital Region Statistical Report". This report is an update to the "Tech Valley Trends - A Basis for Civic Change" report prepared in 2009, which was a collaborative effort among a number of regional partners in the Capital Region. The report identifies indicators for eight different categories: Social Welfare; Education; Housing; Economics; Transportation; Environment; Recreation, Arts, and Culture; and Public Safety; and describes progress made in each area. However, the Capital Region still has a number of challenges associated with social welfare, education, housing, and economics.

CDTA

Carm Basile reported that CDTA is moving forward with the Washington/Western and River Corridor BRT initiatives. With respect to partnership agreements, SUNY Polytechnic has reached an agreement with CDTA; and Albany Med is coming on board in stages, starting with the Medical College.

NYS DOT

Sam Zhou reported that Cathy Calhoun is the new Chief of Staff serving the Commissioner. He said that the Route 32 Bridge from Cohoes to

Waterford will be let on October 8. Construction will begin during the winter season. Completion will be in two years. Route 85 construction started on August 10 and will continue through two seasons. The Washington Avenue Extension project will be completed by the end of this year. The Patroon Island Bridge project will be completed this year; deck work is finished, so there will be no more impacts to traffic.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta reported on total annual passengers at the Albany International Airport which showed growth from 2.6 million to 2.8 million. Jet Blue will start serving the Albany International Airport in December 10, with two flights per day. Southwest Airlines will be expanding service, with direct non-stop service to Fort Lauderdale, and restoring non-stop service to Las Vegas. LED lighting has been installed in the airfield and terminal buildings.

Albany Port District Commission

Terry Hurley reported that 2014 was a record setting year. Year 2015 is showing a five to ten percent reduction in exports but is still progressing as a very good year.

City of Schenectady

Chris Wallin reported that progress is being made on construction of Mohawk Harbor, the future site of a casino, hotels, and related development. Major infrastructure will be complete by June 2016. Construction of the roundabout has begun.

Complete Streets Workshop

Sandy Misiewicz said that applications for the Complete Streets Workshop are due on September 11.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Zhou
Secretary