



CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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2010-12 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM ADDENDUM

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR 2011-12

As Recommended by the Planning Committee
For Policy Board Action on March 3, 2011

OVERVIEW

CDTC is required to develop a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as a basis and condition for all FHWA and FTA funding assistance for transportation planning within the four county Capital District region. The CDTC has embraced the two-year UPWP concept, the current program being the 2010-12 UPWP that was adopted in March 2010. The program reflects the goals and objectives of CDTC's New Visions Plan, the Community and Transportation Linkage Program studies, and NYSDOT's Emphasis Areas. The two primary sources of federal planning funds supporting UPWP activities are FHWA's Section 104(f) Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds and FTA's Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program (MPP) funds. Because CDTC staff carry out specific activities that are beyond normal MPO planning activities, the UPWP also includes other additional resources.

Key Accomplishments 2010-11

Some of the key accomplishments in the first year of the 2010-12 UPWP are described in CDTC's Progress Report and include:

- Completion of a new *Prospectus*
- Completed highway condition surveys for Albany County and the City of Albany
- Adoption of the 2010-15 Transportation Improvement Program
- Continued effort to integrate safety into the planning process
- Continued to provide leadership for USDOE's Clean Communities Program
- Completion of five Linkage Program studies and initiation of four new studies
- Completion of New Visions Guidebook and Training Program
- Initiation of the New Visions maintenance update
- Successful management of NYSMPO staff support contract
- Development of Capital Coexist bicycle education campaign
- Expansion of CDTC's public participation program to include social media
- Continued participation in Colonie's GEIS impact assessment
- Air quality planning in conjunction with a new State Implementation Plan
- CDTC computer server was replaced
- Formation of ten vanpools under the Vanpool Pilot Program
- CDTC/CDTA submitted HUD Sustainable Communities grant application
- Eight presentations were made to national planning & engineering organizations

Proposed New Activities and Changes to Existing Program

At its February 8, 2011 meeting, the Planning Committee recommended approval of two new planning initiatives, five linkage planning studies, and several minor changes to the second year of the 2010-12 UPWP. The Planning Committee also authorized the staff to release the 2011-12 UPWP Addendum for public review. Because of the February 3rd snowstorm, the public comment period will formally end on March 11, 2011. The proposed changes have been posted on CDTC's website since January 3, 2011.

Proposed New Activities

Task 3.11- I-787 Integrated Corridor Study: The City of Albany in partnership with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is asking CDTC to consider adding a planning study of I-787 between Exits 2 and 4A. This effort is intended to identify: (1) short and

long term infrastructure needs of the facility; (2) opportunity for alternative designs to reduce infrastructure costs and/or improve transportation; and (3) identify near-term accessibility improvements to support the City's development initiatives. The approach to the study would be modeled after the Hudson River Crossing and the I-87/US 9 Integrated Corridor Management studies which were co-managed by CDTC staff and the NYSDOT. The budget for the effort is \$210,000 and would be jointly funded through FHWA PL and either the SPR or STP program. This UPWP action places the study on the program and commits PL funds. TIP action may be necessary depending on how State commitment works out.

Task 4.23 Every Day Counts Initiative: The transportation planning process sets the stage for future development of transportation projects. Much of the data and analysis undertaken during the planning process carry forward into project development activities. This means that the planning process and environmental assessment required during project development (design) under NEPA should work in tandem, with the results of the transportation planning process feeding into the NEPA process. In practice, though, these two processes are sometimes disconnected. FHWA's Every Day Counts initiative sets up a frame work for considering and incorporating documents and decisions from the earliest stages of project planning into the environmental review process. This can lead to a seamless stewardship, and reduces delays in project development. FHWA is encouraging States and MPOs to explore ways to integrate EDC into the planning process by using some form of FHWA's Planning and Environmental (PEL) questionnaire to ensure that planning information is properly documented for use in the NEPA process. The budget for the initial scan is set at \$10,000.

New Linkage Studies

Task 5.53 Albany Bike Master Plan Implementation Program (Bike Share/Signage Strategy): CDTC will assist the city of Albany with a feasibility study and implementation plan for a bike share program and the development of a bicycle-oriented signage strategy for the proposed city wide bike network. For the bike share component, this initiative will specifically address the feasibility of and the process needed to develop an appropriate self-service bike rental program. Considerations include the identification of bike share station locations, station types, bicycle types and operational models. For the bicycle route signage component, an appropriate and preferred signage strategy for the entire bike network will be developed. The signage system should easily integrate with bicycle route maps and address features such as route confirmation, route intersections, advance route signing, destinations, directions, distances (or time) and amenities. This effort represents an implementation activity related to the Albany Bicycle Master Plan completed in 2010.

Task 5.54 East Greenbush Development of Design Standards: CDTC will assist the town of East Greenbush with the development and adoption of multi-modal, higher-density, pedestrian-friendly design standards that will be enforceable in the Town's Comprehensive Zoning Law. The design standards will be developed for the US 4 and the US 9 & 20 corridors, implementing recommendations from two previously completed Linkage studies and the town's Comprehensive Zoning Law. The Comprehensive Zoning law is intended to encourage more concentrated, mixed-use sustainable development. This initiative will enable the town to ensure long-term successes by codifying the Town's existing policy-oriented sustainability framework into design standards that will result in a more integrated, pedestrian-friendly environment.

Task 5.55 Malta Downtown Master Plan Implementation: CDTC will assist the town of Malta with the implementation of the Downtown Master Plan in a manner that is consistent with previous Linkage Program studies in the area. The Downtown Master Plan will essentially

update the Town's Comprehensive Master Plan by refining the description for Neighborhood 6 known as Downtown Malta. This initiative will develop a form based code, an official map, and a complete street plan including streetscape and design standards for Downtown Malta. It will attempt to address issues related to variability of landscape, building height, mass and scale, setbacks, densities, parking provisions, design standards, linkage roads, transportation, complete street standards, interconnectivity of development, pedestrian and other non-automobile dependent transportation opportunities, and quality green space guidelines. For the form based code component, the consultant will be expected to prepare all necessary documentation per SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act) requirements so that the Town Board, as lead agency, can then take appropriate action.

Task 5.58 Schenectady Gateway Plaza Implementation Plan: CDTC will assist the city of Schenectady with the development of a conceptual re-design and expansion plan for Liberty Park and the area immediately surrounding it, including traffic configuration and landscaping plans. This initiative will further advance key recommendations of the Route 5 Transit Gateway Linkage Study. The planning area includes Liberty Park which will be transformed into Gateway Plaza, a pedestrian friendly public open space, and the adjoining streets located directly across from Schenectady County Community College (SCCC). The effort will consider pedestrian, bicycle and transit access, quality of life and safety and the park expansion will likely close existing streets to motor vehicle traffic.

Task 5.59 Schodack Town Center Plan and Zoning Amendments: CDTC will assist the town of Schodack with the implementation of recommendations called for in both the Route 9 Corridor Study and the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Elements of this initiative will include the refinement of the proposed Town Center boundaries, the preparation of build-out scenarios and illustrations to enable the community to reach consensus on the look and feel of the town center area, the identification of optimal allowable uses and the creation of Town Center specific land use regulations, design guidelines and street standards. The Town Center study area is located along US 9 & 20 from the East Greenbush Town Line to just west of I-90. This initiative will support the town's efforts to create a clear, consensus based plan to create a town center that is rooted in public involvement and supported by proper analysis.

Minor Changes to the Existing Program

Task 2.28 Census: Additional resources (\$5,000) are assigned to CDRPC to help CDTC staff evaluate the decennial census data and to prepare detailed population characteristics that will help support CDTC's STEP model and other planning work.

Task 2.29 GIS: Additional resources (\$20,000) are assigned to CDRPC to assess development patterns for the upcoming New Visions 2040 update. This task will also assist CDTA in the development of the Transit Propensity Index for the update of CDTA's Transit Development Plan.

Task 3.77 New Visions: Priority networks for bike/ped, transit, ITS arterial management, and goods movement were established as part of the first New Visions Plan to help prioritize investment decisions. In 2011, staff will concentrate effort to begin an update of one or more of the networks to make them current and more useful.

Task 4.07 Human Service Agency Planning: Additional resources may be needed to support the update of the coordinated Human Service Agency Plan, including major agency survey.

Budget for 2011-12

The UPWP agenda remains ambitious and demanding. CDTC's ability to pursue this agenda is a result of the Administrative & Finance Standing Subcommittee's confidence in the staff's management and technical abilities. The budget for the second year of the two year 2010-12 UPWP totals \$3,318,664 and has grown slightly to reflect the increased challenges CDTC is being asked to meet. The proposed CDTC task budget for 2011-12 is shown on the attached tables.

The two primary sources of federal planning funds supporting UPWP activities are FHWA's Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds and FTA's Metropolitan Planning Program (MPP) funds. Staff activity is primarily matched by NYSDOT in-kind services that exceed \$500,000. Uniquely, CDTC planning work is supported through additional resources including FHWA SPR funds, FHWA STP funding for specific project development work, funds from Albany County, Town of Colonie, and the City of Albany for specific technical services, local cash contributions for Linkage Studies, and funds from the Department of Energy.