

CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2014

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice Chair
Andrew Donovan, representing Mayor Lou Rosamilia, City of Troy
John Evers, representing Dan McCoy, Albany County
Steve Feeney, representing Anthony Jasenski, Schenectady County
Alan Grattidge, representing Thomas Dolin, Town of New Scotland
Terrence Hurley, Albany Port District Commission
Steve Iachetta, representing John O'Donnell, Albany County Airport Authority
Joe Landry, Town of Niskayuna
Mayor Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady
Charles Moore, representing Mayor Daniel Dwyer, City of Rensselaer
Ralph Pascale, representing Mayor George Primeau, City of Cohoes
Ann Shaughnessy, representing Martin Reid, Rensselaer County
Mayor Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair
Jeremy Smith, representing Mayor Michael Manning, City of Watervliet
Michael Stammel, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Linda von der Heide, representing Kathleen Jimino, Rensselaer County
Thomas Werner, Saratoga County
Mayor Joanne Yepsen, City of Saratoga Springs
Sam Zhou, NYS Department of Transportation-Region 1, Secretary

STAFF AND OTHERS

Anne Benware, Capital District Transportation Committee
Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation-Region 1
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris Desney, Capital District Transportation Authority
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee
Wendy Holtzberger, Clough Harbor Associates
David Jukins, Capital District Transportation Committee
Mark Kennedy, NYS Department of Transportation-Region 1
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Mark Nadolny, Clough Harbor Associates
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Peter Tarantelli, interested citizen
Carrie Ward, Capital District Transportation Committee
Ian Weible, Federal Highway Administration
Robert Wetmore, Capital District Transportation Committee
Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Sheehan opened the Capital District Transportation Committee meeting at 3:03 PM and welcomed those in attendance. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the September 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The September 4, 2014 meeting minutes were approved by the members.

Administrative and Financial Standing Subcommittee

Mike Franchini explained that it is the responsibility of the Board Chair to appoint the nominating subcommittee. Mayor Sheehan appointed members of the A & F subcommittee to serve on the nominating subcommittee: Carm Basile, Joe Landry, Tom Richardson, Tom Werner, and Sam Zhou.

The nominating subcommittee will meet to discuss nominations for Policy Board action in March regarding officers for 2015-16; town and village at-large members on the policy board; and town and village at-large members on the planning committee.

Members approved the appointment of the nominating subcommittee.

NYSDOT PRESENTATION - PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ALONG ROUTE 5 (STATE STREET/CENTRAL AVENUE) FROM WASHINGTON AVENUE IN SCHENECTADY TO BROADWAY IN ALBANY

Sam Zhou explained that the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) initiated a study of pedestrian safety along NY Route 5 and coordinated with the five corridor communities of the Cities of Schenectady and Albany, the Village of Colonie and the Towns of Niskayuna and Colonie. Based on the study, improvements have been recommended totaling \$2.45 M, with NYSDOT holding the contract. Most of the funds will be spent in the cities, where most of the need is. Wendy Holsberger gave a presentation about the study. Eighty-one signals were studied. Vehicle and pedestrian counts were taken. Recommended improvements will include responsive pedestrian push buttons; some exclusive pedestrian phases, some leading pedestrian phases; high visibility crosswalks; bus stop moves; more work at Colonie Center; and some raised medians. Sam Zhou said that the contract will be let in the spring, with completion expected during 2015. He said that education and enforcement are also important recommendations of the study.

2013-2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

T91 (PIN CDTC91): Computer Aided Dispatch/Automated Vehicle Location (CAD/AVL) System

Carm Basile explained that CDTA received an \$18.813M TIGER grant to replace the CDTA radio system. Mike Franchini explained that the TIGER grant is a highly competitive national program and CDTA deserves credit for receiving this funding. Members approved the amendment.

S230 (PIN 1525.36) I-890 Ramp Reconfiguration & Safety Improvements

Frank Bonafide explained that this project received safety HSIP money for ramps in front of GE to eliminate a safety problem. This project will address a high accident location. It has received funding above

and beyond our current allocation. Three to four alternatives will be evaluated. Members approved the amendment.

T92 (PIN CDTC92): Pedestrian Improvements for Transit in Albany, Cohoes and Troy

Mike Franchini explained that the next three TIP amendments were the result of the TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) project awards. This project, T92, is related to the River Corridor BRT project. Members approved the amendment.

SA290 (PIN 1760.11): Geyser Road Spa State Park Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail (City of Saratoga Springs)

Mike Franchini explained that this project will provide a valuable connection to the State Park across Route 50. Mayor Yepsen said that this project has been in development for nine years and will provide safety benefits and alternative transportation access. There is a great deal of bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Twenty percent of the City population lives in this area, and this project will give them access to the City. It will create a regional attraction for recreation and tourism. Members approved the amendment.

S231 (PIN 1760.09): Central Park Downtown Trail Connection (City of Schenectady)

Mayor McCarthy explained that this is a very important project that leads through Vale Cemetery into downtown and to the trail between Amsterdam and Albany. Members approved the amendment.

A559/S232 (PIN 1034.24): Pedestrian Improvements Along NY 5, Albany, Colonie, Niskayuna, Schenectady

Sam Zhou explained that this project is the project that was described in the presentation at the beginning of the meeting. Members approved the amendment.

LOCAL BRIDGE PRESERVATION PROJECT SOLICITATION

Mike Franchini explained that a solicitation for local bridge preservation projects was sent out on November 24. A consultant was hired to evaluate local bridge project candidates. A total of \$11.625M of NHPP funding is available for bridges on the NHS system; a total of \$2.101M of STP-Flex is available. There is a December 19 deadline. Approval of this solicitation by the Policy Board was not needed.

2015-2016 LINKAGE PROGRAM SOLICITATION

Mike Franchini explained that the program solicitation is emphasizing implementation activity for previous planning studies. The solicitation is also stating that we would like the Linkage studies to be "adopted" rather than "approved". He noted that completion of a Linkage Study makes recommended projects more competitive for the TIP. Members approved the solicitation.

NEW VISIONS STATUS REPORT

Mike Franchini said that nine white papers, which will be the basis of the Plan, are 95% complete. Aggressive public outreach will start in January.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDTA

Carm Basile reported that ridership is on pace to exceed 17 million, which would exceed the all-time record of 16.5 million. Smart card ticketing is on target for 2015, starting with a pilot implementation that is under way and going well.

CDRPC

Mike Stammel said that David Wardle retired and Sean McGuire has been hired to replace him as an economic development planner. Jim Yienger of Climate Action Associates has been hired temporarily to assist CDRPC to prepare the employment forecasts for 2050. Work initiated includes a review and evaluation of the projections prepared in 2007 and incorporating the latest data available from the most recent data sets including the 2006-10 American Community Survey commuting and workplace data, origin and destination employment statistics from administrative records from the U.S Department of Commerce, and data from the NYS Department of Labor. Boundary changes to TAZs (traffic analysis zones) are also being evaluated to assure consistency. The 79 community profiles will be updated in January including data from the 2009-13 5 year American Community Survey. A redesign of the CDRPC website is under way. For the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project, the discharge notification system is up and running and can be accessed at (www.albanypool.org).

NYSDOT

Sam Zhou reported that a contractor was selected for the Exit 4 Project, with construction expected to be completed in 2015. For the Rexford Bridge, a best value contract process is under way to issue an RFP for completion of design/build within two years. For the Patroon Island Bridge, the construction on the eastbound deck is finished and work has begun on the westbound deck. The deck should be replaced by July, and we are on track to finish the project by the end of 2015. This is the biggest contract in upstate New York.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta reported on enplanement numbers at the Albany International Airport which show a 1.4% increase in ticketed departing passengers over 2013. The Albany International Airport is progressing a \$7 million airport improvement program, including full primary runway rehab, LED lighting, terminal automatic doors replacement, security and building improvements.

Albany Port District Commission

Terry Hurley reported that maritime activity has been robust in 2014. Growth has been experienced due to the Algeria electrification

project. A second Mobile Harbor Crane will be obtained using funds from the Rensselaer Wharf Reconstruction Project, which was completed ahead of schedule.

Town of Clifton Park

Tom Werner said that there will be a public meeting for the Town Center Study on December 8.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael V. Franchini for

Sam Zhou
Secretary