



## CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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### **2014-16 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

Capital District Transportation Committee  
One Park Place  
Albany NY 12205

*As Recommended by the Planning Committee  
For Policy Board Action on March 5, 2015*

## **2014-2016 Unified Planning Work Program Addendum Administrative Update**

Our current Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) identifies transportation planning activities that are undertaken by either the CDTC staff, CDTC's member agencies, or by consultants during the two years, beginning on April 1, 2014 and ending on March 31, 2016. This comprehensive work plan is meant to coordinate all federally-funded transportation-related planning activities in the region.

Every year the UPWP is reviewed and updated, with the mid-term update usually being more administrative and less substantive. On November 17, 2014 we received a letter from the NYS Department of Transportation describing the guidelines for this mid-term update and informing us that the final Policy Committee approved update was due no later than March 14, 2015. In order to meet this deadline, we need our Policy Committee to approve the UPWP update at their March 5, 2015 meeting.

For this UPWP administrative update for FFY 2015-2016, we have reviewed and updated the attached tables, we have not added any new tasks, and we have made minor adjustments to several tasks. A few of the highlighted changes include:

1. Task 1.61 – Certification Review. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) must review and evaluate the transportation planning process and certify that the MPO is (or is not) meeting the joint planning regulations at least every four years. Since CDTC's last Federal Certification Review was conducted in March 2012, representatives from the FHWA New York Division Office and the FTA Region 2 Office will conduct their review early in 2016. Because of this, we have added \$7,000 in staff time to this task.
2. Task 1.64 – Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance. Planning Committee members have expressed interest in establishing an ADA Working Group so that members could work together to address common problems, specifically while developing the required transition plans. CDTC staff will help organize the group, schedule meetings, provide research, explore best practices and other tasks related to issues encountered in development of ADA transition plans related to the pedestrian right of way. As a result, we have increased this task to \$15,000.
3. Task 1.66 – Environmental Justice. Since we completed a complete update of our Environmental Justice Plan last year, we decreased this task to \$15,000.
4. Task 2.25 – Collection of Transportation Data. In earlier UPWP versions, we included funding in this task to research the purchase of INRIX (traffic congestion) data. However last year the FHWA provided similar traffic congestion (HERE) data to every MPO. We are currently working with NYS AMPO and other MPOs to contract with the University Transportation Research Center to develop methods to "mine" this huge data base more effectively. Since we will not be purchasing data, we decreased this task by \$42,000 to \$150,000.
5. Task 3.02 – Safety Planning. Before programming Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding for local safety projects, a safety analysis detailing the crashes, their causes, and recommended countermeasures must be completed. Because of this, we added \$50,000 to this task.

6. Tasks 5.9X – New Linkage Studies. At their February meeting, the Planning Committee approved adding the following 4 new linkage studies to the 2015-2016 UPWP. These 4 new studies will add \$235,000 to the UPWP.

### **Albany Waterfront Bikeway Connection Feasibility Study**

The City of Albany requested funding for a feasibility study for linking the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail and the soon to be completed Albany County Helderberg Hudson Rail Trail in the City's South End Neighborhood. The study will explore a range of trail connection options, including on and off road infrastructure, at the end of the County trail along Route 32 (South Pearl Street) to the Mohawk-Hudson trail near Quay Street and Broadway.

Requested Consultant Total: \$70,000 (\$50,000 federal funds, \$20,000 local match). Requested CDTC Staff Technical Assistance: \$10,000.

### **Bethlehem Delaware Avenue Complete Streets Feasibility Study**

The Town of Bethlehem requested funding for a complete streets feasibility study on Delaware Avenue from Elsmere Avenue to the Normans Kill Bridge. The goal is to provide safer travel options for pedestrians and bicyclists, and to improve the quality of life for local residents. Strategies to be evaluated include access management, bicycle, pedestrian and transit user improvements, the feasibility of a road diet (lane reduction) on Delaware Avenue, streetscape enhancements and zoning law adjustments.

Requested Consultant Total: \$60,000 (\$21,250 federal, \$38,750 local match). Requested CDTC Staff Technical Assistance: \$10,000.

### **Schenectady Urban Bike Infrastructure Master Plan**

The City of Schenectady requested funding to update its current Urban Bike Route Master Plan by creating an Urban Bike/Ped Infrastructure Master Plan which accounts for new bike/ped trips being generated by new development and redevelopment throughout the City, especially downtown. This effort will identify key generators and destinations to develop an updated priority network map, key locations for bicycle infrastructure, especially the use of sharrows, key locations for informational kiosks and way finding signage and the identification of roadway corridors for the implementation of complete street transportation concepts.

Requested Consultant Total: \$75,000 (\$56,250 federal funds, \$18,750 local match). Schenectady Staff Time: \$12,000.

## **Troy Bicycle Facilities Guidelines**

The City of Troy requested funding to develop a detailed set of bicycle facility guidelines to create a cohesive bicycle network throughout the City. The city recently passed a Complete Streets policy (summer 2014) and is looking to provide a well-designed bicycle network in urban neighborhoods as well as identifying safety-enhancing bicycle facility designs.

Requested Consultant Total: \$30,000 (\$22,500 federal funds, \$7,500 local match)

Overall our total programmed FHWA planning funds (our primary source of funding) in the 2015-2016 UPWP would increase by \$72,363 or about 2%, compared to the 2014-2015 UPWP. All of this increase can be accounted for by the \$235,000 increase for the 4 new linkage studies.