

CDTC's Draft 2005-10 Transportation Improvement Program

March 2005

Background

The Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) fulfilling federal laws related to coordinated transportation planning in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady counties of New York. All MPOs are required every two years to adopt new multi-year comprehensive programs of federally-aided highway and transit projects in the metropolitan area.

Federal funding assistance for transportation projects comes primarily from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

This summary document provides highlights of CDTC's draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the period October 2005 through September 2010. The TIP also provides the source of all Capital District projects to be included in the New York State Department of Transportation's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) that covers the first three years of that period. Projects must be on the STIP to have access to federal funds.

The full TIP document is available on CDTC's web site (www.cdtcmo.org). Comments and questions are welcome at any time, but are requested by May 3 for consideration in making any revisions to the draft before CDTC's approval of the program. The next update to the TIP is scheduled to start in the fall of 2006.

Total Funding in the TIP

CDTC recognizes that the federal authorizing legislation, "TEA-21", expired on September 30, 2003, and has been extended several times without a new multi-year authorization act. **All funding estimates in the new TIP thus represent a conjecture about the form and size of the federal program in coming years.** CDTC also recognizes that it is in the middle of a major "New Visions 2030" long-range plan effort; that state and local budgets are in flux; and that NYSDOT is completing a transforma-

tion of its mission and structure. All of these current activities will have a bearing on future TIPs.

Using assumptions of future federal resources, a total of approximately \$671 M in federal-aid highway resources (including state and local match) is estimated to be available to the CDTC metropolitan area during the seven-year TIP period. (CDTC considers the past year and the current year along with the coming five years as the coverage period for the budget of the new TIP.) This includes special earmarks for particular projects, in addition to formula funds that are flexible in nature and can be used on a wide variety of projects. The estimate of available federal transit funds (including match) is \$84 M for the seven-year TIP coverage period. These numbers are similar in scale to those assumed for the 2003-08 TIP.

Major Themes of the 2005-10 TIP Update

For the current update, a review of the costs and schedules of existing projects indicated that funding availability for *additional* projects would be more modest than in 2003. Instead of a broad solicitation of projects, CDTC issued a "focused" solicitation to eligible sponsors in the fall of 2004. The solicitation was limited to only those projects that meet eligibility requirements for one of three specific fund sources: National Highway System (NHS), Highway Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement (HBRR), and Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality (CMAQ).

The focused solicitation limited the pool of candidate projects to those that either are located on or benefit the highest function highways (NHS), address bridges on a priority rating list (HBRR) or contribute to air quality improvements through transit, bike, pedestrian or traffic flow actions (CMAQ). Many other potential projects were not put forth because there was no available funding in the most flexible of the federal fund sources, the Surface Transportation Program (STP), due to the funding needs of prior commitments.

New Projects in the 2005-10 TIP

As a result of the solicitation effort, CDTC received applications for 23 candidate projects; additional dialogue took place between NYSDOT Region 1 and local sponsors regarding potential bridge candidates for HBRR funds. NYSDOT Region 1 also proposed five new Interstate Maintenance (IM) fund projects.

There were three projects that were found eligible for NHS funds. All three have high quantitative merit and support other community objectives, including urban revitalization. Funding is sufficient to cover all three candidates, and they have been included in the draft 2005-10 TIP. These are pavement reconstruction projects with other features on Broadway, Rensselaer; Erie Blvd, Schenectady; and Church Street, Saratoga Springs.

The highest ranking candidates eligible for CMAQ that also fit CDTC's historic uses of CMAQ funds were also added to the draft 2005-10 TIP. These include three bike/pedestrian projects and three transit projects.

In the past, CDTC has chosen to reserve some funding to program additional projects from among active candidates after review of public comment on the draft TIP. This year, CDTC has reserved \$7.4 M in CMAQ funds to be assigned to projects after the public comment period. Active candidates for consideration of these funds are:

- A transit "queue jumper" to allow buses to bypass traffic delays at Wolf Rd. and Central Avenue
- A transit "queue jumper" to allow buses to bypass traffic delays at Central Avenue and New Karner Road
- A sidewalk and pedestrian accommodation project in the hamlet of Guilderland Center
- A proposed intersection reconstruction (perhaps as a roundabout) at Fuller Rd. and Washington Avenue.
- The Hudson-Helderberg Bike/Hike Trail in Albany County.
- A pilot local transit service in Malta.

Additionally, CDTC is considering the need to use funds from the \$7.4 M available to "beef up" existing regional set-aside programs for Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) implementation and operation, such as enhanced signal control and coordination, improved traveler information systems and the like.

Public comment on these choices is requested by April 25.

The list of new projects recommended for addition to the program (primarily in the fourth and fifth years is shown in the following table. The list is modest, reflecting the modest scale of resources available under assumptions of future federal funding and reflecting the "focused" solicitation effort. As identified in CDTC's New Visions 2021 plan, any major transportation initiative in the Capital District will require funding above and beyond that currently available or anticipated.

Recommended New Federal-Aid Projects in the Draft 2005-10 TIP

TIP #	Brief Description	Cost (\$M)
Bike/ Pedestrian		
A466	Westmere Corridor Pedestrian Imprvmt	0.520
R255	US 20 Corridor Bike/Ped, Rensselaer	1.040
SA217	Crescent Rd Bike/Ped Improvements	0.790
Pavement		
R254	Broadway (Rennselaer)	7.280
SA216	Church St (Sar. Springs)	0.950
S177	Erie Blvd (Schen), State St to I-890	11.500
Interstate Maintenance		
A450	I-787, Broadway to NY 378	5.480
A451	I-787, Thruway Exit 23 to South Mall	4.810
A452	I-87, Western Ave to Sara. Co. line	0.350
SA214	I-87, Exit 13 to 15	0.356
SA215	Malta Avenue over I-87	1.360
Transit		
T74	Park and Ride Lots, NY 5, Alb-Schen	0.600
T75	Transit Signal Priority, NY 5	0.360
SA218	Saratoga County Van Pool Startup	0.120
Bridge		
A448	NY 9X over Country Road Ramp Repair	3.160
A449	NY378 over Hudson River Shore: Rehab	3.900
A467	Granthill Rd. over Normanskill: Replace	0.300
A468	I-787 NB Ramp to South Mall Xway	4.900
A469	Pictuay Rd. Bridge over Coeyman's crk	0.150
R256	Caretaker Bridge over Waloomsac River	0.990
SA219	NY197 Bridge over Hudson River	0.115
SA220	CR7 Stewart Dam over Sacandaga Res	3.300
SA221	Geysler Rd. over D&H Railroad	0.990
SA222	Northline Rd over Kayaderosseras	0.150
SA223	NY 4 over Anthony Kill	0.150
S175	Pangburn Rd over Normanskill	0.220
S178	NY 7 over I-890	0.200
S179	CR 66 over I-88	2.200

Overall Program Emphasis

The draft 2005-10 TIP includes the continued, carefully-scoped and staged implementation of a number of CDTC's long-standing commitments; a heavy emphasis on system preservation; and a modest number of new projects. In aggregate, approximately \$274 M in matched federal-aid is devoted to pavement and bridge preservation, \$76 M to transit, \$138 M to traffic operation / technology / capacity improvement categories and \$18 M to other highway projects (safety, etc.) Additional projects totaling over \$300 M in state and local funds (the largest component being Thruway Authority reconstruction projects) are shown in the TIP for information purposes.

How to Comment on the Draft TIP

The full text and set of project listings (with an interactive map to locate projects of interest) can be found at CDTC's web site (cdtcmpo.org). Email comments can be provided at that web site also, or directly to tip@cdtcmpo.org. While the web version is complete and easier to navigate than the print version, print versions have been placed in public libraries for review (see list below).

A small amount (approximately \$7.4M of the anticipated "CMAQ" funding) has been reserved for a "round three" consideration of active candidate projects in May 2005, immediately before the draft TIP is adopted.

Comments received and proposed changes to the draft TIP will also be discussed at CDTC's Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2005 at 9:30 AM at the CDTC Offices. Public comment will be accepted and considered at that meeting. Public comment can be presented also at CDTC's scheduled Policy Board meeting on May 19. Subsequent to adoption, CDTC's TIP will be incorporated by the New York State Department of Transportation into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to take effect October 1, 2005 and cover the first federal fiscal years (2006 through 2008).

The following table lists the existing and new projects for which the federal funding commitment between October 2005 and September 2010 is expected to exceed \$5.0 M. (Additional commitments not shown below are scheduled for the period prior to October 2005; project phases scheduled for beyond September 2010 are also not shown.)

All Federal-Aid Projects with Total Funding Over \$5.0M for October 2005 to September 2010 (Amounts are in Millions of Dollars)

TIP #	Brief Description	Total Funds
RG37A	Transp Mgmt Center Operations	9.500
T9	CDTA Facility Improvements	6.250
T17	CDTA Bus Replacement	7.741
T57	CDTA Preventive Maintenance	13.889
T70	CDTA Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stations	7.599
A198	NY 7 Bridge over I-87 (Exit 6)	23.478
A240	I-87 Exit 3 or Exit 4/ Airport connector	31.456
A242	Slingerlands Bypass (NY85) Phase 2	14.600
A341	Central Ave., Everett Rd to city limits	15.000
A432	Bridge Ave. over Mohawk River	5.800
A433	CR53 (Old School Rd) over CSX	6.900
A435	Transit Signalization, Wash'n, Western	5.500
A438	19 th Street Watervl't, city line to Congress	7.990
A440	Delaware Ave., Madison Ave to Thruway	5.962
A450	I-787, Broadway to NY 378	5.480
R155	NY2, 11 th Street to Pawling Ave.	6.600
R173	I-90 Exit 8 Connector Ph. 2 (avail. funds)	11.500
R186	NY 7 over Hoosick River	5.820
R224	I-90, Exit 10 to Thruway Exit B1	7.110
R254	Broadway, US 20 to Viaduct	7.280
SA88	NY 50 North of Saratoga Springs	9.680
SA108	Balltown Road (Sara. Co. section)	9.800
SA122	I-87 Bridge over the D&H Railroad North	5.600
SA198	NY9P over Saratoga Lake Outlet	7.780
SA206	I-87 Bridge over the Mohawk River	11.449
S96	Balltown Road: (Schen. Co. sections)	9.800
S120	Glenridge Road: Maple Ave to NY 146	8.399
S124	I-890, Campbell Rd to Exit 26	15.200
S165	M-H Bike Trail, Rotterdam to Amsterdm	5.250
S170	Western Gateway Transp. Center (all \$)	6.821
S172	NY 7, I-890 to St David's Lane	8.800
S177	Erie Blvd., State Street to I-890	11.500

Public Libraries With a Copy of the Draft TIP

(availability expected by April 5, 2005)

Cohoes Public Library
169 Mohawk St
Cohoes NY 12047

Bethlehem Public Library
451 Delaware Ave
Delmar NY 12054

Watervliet Public Library
14th St & 1st Ave
Watervliet NY 12189

Albany Public Library - Main Branch
161 Washington Ave
Albany NY 12210

Menands Public Library
6 Lyon Avenue
Menands NY 12204

Guilderland Free Library
2228 Western Ave
Guilderland NY 12084

William K Sanford Library
492 Albany-Shaker Rd
Loudonville NY 12211

Rensselaer City Library
50 Elm St
Rensselaer NY 12144

East Greenbush Community Library Association
225 Columbia Turnpike
Rensselaer NY 12144

Troy Public Library
100 Second St
Troy NY 12180

Saratoga Springs Public Library
320 Broadway
Saratoga Springs NY 12866

Waterford Public Library
65 Broad St
Waterford NY 12188

Schenectady County Library
Liberty & Clinton Streets
Schenectady NY 12305

