

**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2016

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Bill Anslow, representing Darrell Duncan, Albany County  
Brad Birge, City of Saratoga Springs  
Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam  
Kevin Corcoran, Town of Glenville  
Don Csaposs, Town of Guilderland  
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Vice Chair  
Todd Fabozzi, representing Rocky Ferraro, Capital District Regional  
    Planning Commission  
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee,  
    Secretary  
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority, Chair  
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy  
Robert Leslie, Town of Bethlehem  
Randy Milano, City of Albany  
Charles Moore, City of Rensselaer  
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands  
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna  
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park  
Jeremy Smith, City of Watervliet  
Joseph Teliska, representing Wayne Bonesteel, Rensselaer County  
Michael Valentine, Saratoga County  
Tony Vasil, Albany Port Commission  
Christopher Wallin, City of Schenectady

**STAFF AND OTHERS**

Jennifer Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Robert Cherry, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Bryan Cross, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
John Dimura, Mclanen Engineering  
Robert Hansen, Creighton Manning  
Karen Hulihan, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
David Jukins, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Christina Minkler, CHA Companies  
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Monica Ryan, Town of Sand Lake  
Matt Smullen, Clarke Patterson Lee  
Aaron Spies, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1

**INTRODUCTION AND VISITORS' ISSUES**

Steve Iachetta opened the meeting at approximately 9:38 AM. There were no visitor issues.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Previous Meeting Minutes - March 2, 2016**

Frank Bonafide asked for the following addition to the March 2 minutes: "Frank Bonafide advocated for the top rated, NYSDOT sponsored Menands Bike/Ped Connector project by proposing the Committee approve this project of larger scope rather than the numerous other small projects under consideration in order to make a more significant impact on the local bike/ped network." With this addition, members approved the March 2, 2016 minutes.

### **PRESENTATION—2015 PETROLEUM AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION DISPLACEMENT IN THE CAPITAL REGION**

Jen Ceponis gave a presentation on this topic. She said that Clean Cities is a community-based, voluntary program that fosters partnerships among stakeholders in the public and private sectors to reduce petroleum use. Capital District Clean Communities has been housed at CDTC since 2000. The program has saved over 12 million gallons of gasoline equivalent since 2005. Goals for 2016 include: implement the Capital District EV Charging Station Plan; continue to promote PEVs; and Expand CNG use.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **2013-18 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

#### **A583 (1933.44) Grade Crossing Signal Upgrade: Green Street, City of Albany**

Frank Bonafide said that this is a new rail crossing project. He said that this is a non-competitive fund source with respect to CDTC, and funding can only be used for rail projects. Members approved the amendment.

#### **SA292 (1760.14)—Zim Smith Bike/Ped Bridge Over U.S. 9**

Mike Valentine explained that a cost estimate increase for this project resulted from an in-depth inspection, which showed greater extent of deterioration than indicated in the Local Bridge Preservation Study. Matt Smullen, of Clarke Patterson Lee, explained that after reviewing the inspection, a lower cost, scaled back improvement was submitted to NYSDOT as a draft design report. NYSDOT commented that a more substantial treatment was needed. The proposed amendment addresses NYSDOT comments. There was a discussion about the possibility of designing a smaller scale bridge since the bridge will only carry bicycles and pedestrians rather than rail service. A question was asked about the replacement cost. Matt Smullen said that the replacement cost would be much higher, because the cost of removing the existing structure alone would be at least the cost of rehab requested in the TIP amendment. Therefore the currently proposed rehabilitation is justified. Frank Bonafide said that the balance between best treatment and most cost effective treatment is

always a difficult trade off, but in this case, the proposed rehabilitation makes the most sense. He said that since this project is NHPP funded, funding is not as competitive as other fund sources. Steve Feeney suggested that if this project had been submitted originally at this higher cost, it still would have been approved; Frank Bonafide agreed based on the fund source.

Joe Teliska asked if an offset was offered. An offset was not offered, and Frank Bonafide said that offsets were required in the TIP before last when the Statewide STIP was over-programmed, but they are not required at this time because the Statewide STIP is not over-programmed. Rob Leslie suggested that sponsors should consider increasing local share when a funding increase is requested.

Mike Franchini commented that the Zim Smith Trail is very important to CDTC and it is the backbone of the trail system in Saratoga County.

There was a discussion about whether future bridges will require cost increases as a result of more detailed inspections. Dave Jukins explained that the CDM Bridge Study was based on existing inspection reports and was of very good quality, but it was stated in the study that a certain percentage of bridges will ultimately have a higher cost based on more detailed inspection. Frank Bonafide said that while we acknowledge that this may happen again with other projects, we have to take these projects one at a time, and it is not our practice to stop a project that is underway. He also said that the next TIP update will give us a chance to further address these issues.

Members approved the amendment, with Joe Teliska abstaining.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Albany Port District Commission**

Tony Vasil said that the Port is breaking ground on an \$8 M clear span warehouse that will be used for storing generators. While the Port averaged 51 vessels per year from 2009 to 2013, in 2014 there were 94 ships due to the Algerian electrification project. In 2015 there were 69 ships. In 2016, 60 to 70 ships are expected. May 12 will be the third annual Port Industry Day.

### **CDTC New Visions Video**

Mike Franchini explained that the CDTC New Visions video was developed by Zone5 for CDTC and is available for any member to use for presentations. The video was shown and received positive comments.

## **ACTION ITEM**

### **Zim Smith Southern Trail Extension**

Mike Valentine explained that at the March 2 Planning Committee, \$3.884 M of funding was obtained by removing three Saratoga County bridge projects from the new TIP: Project #86 (Barkersville Road over

Caldman Creek); Project # 95 (Heath Road over Sturdevant Creek; and Project #96 (Middle Line Road over Gordon Creek). This amendment proposes to restore \$0.891 M of new TIP funding to Project #86 (Barkersville Road over Caldman Creek); and to reduce new TIP federal funding for the Zim Smith Trail Southern Extension by the same amount. The County will provide \$1.868 M in County funds to make the Zim Smith Trail project whole. Members approve the amendment.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2021 Transportation Improvement program Update**

Mike Franchini distributed a handout that listed corrections to the draft TIP listings. He asked members to review their own projects for accuracy. It would be much better to make changes during the public comment period. Karen Hulihan said that generally preliminary engineering and design should be in different years.

Mike Franchini said that the Governor and the Legislature included \$50 M in the State budget for the Exit 4 Airport Connector project. Frank Bonafide said that right of way and preliminary design are complete, but detailed design is still needed.

Chris Wallin asked about the status of using HSIP funding for projects in order to free up funding for the Rosa Road project, which was approved contingent upon such funding. Mike Franchini said that staff is working with NYSDOT to evaluate TIP projects for HSIP funding feasibility.

Mike Franchini reviewed the proposal in the mail out to require that projects whose preliminary engineering funds are not obligated in the federal fiscal year in which they are programmed be removed from the TIP. He said that once a consultant is hired, the project tends to have momentum to stay on schedule. John Scavo suggested that CDTC have a tickler system to remind the chief elected official of the municipality that deadlines are approaching. Mike Franchini said that this was a good idea, and CDTC is exploring the development of a project monitoring system. The Committee supported the proposal to continue to require that projects whose preliminary engineering funds are not obligated in the federal fiscal year in which they are programmed be removed from the TIP.

#### **Free Workshop for Senior and Disability Services Transportation Providers**

Anne Benware reported that CDTC is hosting a free Workshop for Senior and Disability Services Transportation Providers on Thursday, April 14th, 2016 at the Crossings of Colonie from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Forty to fifty people have signed up.

## **Bike to School Day and Bike to Work Day**

Carrie Ward said that Bike to School week will be on May 4. This year CDTC is expanding support for Bike to School Day. By county, the school with the most participating students will be awarded a trophy. This year, Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 20th. Participants can ride to work any day that week. CDTC will continue to support Bike to Work Day and is sponsoring a competition among employers and municipalities. Todd Fabozzi said that today is national walk day.

## **STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

### **CDRPC**

Todd Fabozzi reported that an online Census Mapping Application is nearing completion and almost ready to launch. Any user with a web browser and internet connection will be able to query and create regional thematic maps. CDRPC has been approved for a NYSERDA Community Partnership Grant under the Cleaner Greener Communities Program. This task will include three other regions as well as our own and will be managed by CDRPC. Communities can participate in programs to reduce energy and transition to clean energy sources, and if they achieve "Clean Energy Community" status they can apply for additional NYSERDA funding for project implementation. CDRPC will work on a task in the UPWP to create community profiles for each community documenting past growth. CDRPC recently hired a marketing consultant.

### **NYSDOT**

Frank Bonafide said that NYSDOT is in the process of reviewing the new State budget.

### **Albany County Airport Authority**

Steve Iachetta said that the Airport is experiencing double digit growth when comparing each month to last year. More people are driving to and parking at the airport.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Michael V. Franchini  
Secretary