

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes

January 13, 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
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Committee
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Vice Chair
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
Jeremy Smith, City of Watervliet
Joseph Teliska, representing Wayne Bonesteel, Rensselaer County
Tony Tozzi, Town of Malta
Michael Valentine, Saratoga County
Christopher Wallin, City of Schenectady

STAFF AND OTHERS

Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Robert Cherry, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1
Christopher Desany, Capital District Transportation Authority
Karen Hulihan, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1
David Jukins, Capital District Transportation Committee
Tony ManFredi, Town of East Greenbush
Fred Mastroianni, GPI
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Aaron Spies, Capital District Transportation Committee
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1
Ed Wolk, Capital District Transportation Authority

INTRODUCTION AND VISITORS' ISSUES

Steve Iachetta opened the meeting at approximately 9:35 AM.

There were no visitors' issues.

ACTION ITEMS

OCTOBER 1, 2016 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Disposition of Projects in 2013-18 TIP - Projects with obligated phases and projects with no obligated phases

Mike Franchini distributed two handouts (attached) which reflected actions taken at the January 6 meeting. He asked all sponsors to review the handouts for accuracy. The first handout included two lists of projects and their disposition. The second handout included information about projects based on the Planning Committee and the existing TIP, including preliminary estimates of schedule. Mike said that the second handout placed all projects added to the new TIP from the last meeting in the first year of the TIP. He commented that some of these projects may need to be moved to the second year of the new TIP.

Bill Anslow said that the County made a decision to work on the bridges in project A529 with county resources, and therefore this project should be removed from the TIP.

Local Set-Asides

Mike Franchini reviewed the set-aside projects in the second handout. He said that CDTC staff recommends not continuing set-aside projects RG39, RG102, RG116, RG119, RG124, RG125, and RG 126. He explained that TMC funding, which was included in RG 28, is now included in RG37A, RG37B, and RG37C. Frank Bonafide said that removing these set-aside projects should allow for greater efficiencies in expending federal funding. He said that this will help us when STIP performance is evaluated by FHWA and FTA.

There was a question about whether projects in these categories could still be programmed if the set-aside is removed. Mike Franchini explained that they will complete with other projects submitted in the solicitation, and that the new merit score methodology will allow us to better compare different project types. He commented that staff is recommending that transit projects and bike ped projects should still have set-asides, to be discussed later in the agenda.

Members approved a motion to not program the following set-aside projects in the new TIP: RG39, RG102, RG116, RG119, RG124, RG125, and RG 126.

Frank Bonafide said that NYSDOT would like to keep the State set-asides. Mike Franchini commented that this should be OK, and requested that information for these should be provided.

Chris Desany explained the CDTA proposal documented in the letter in the mail out. He said that CDTA is proposing consolidating four set-asides into two set-asides: one for Bus Rapid Transit at \$13.7 M for five years and one for Multimodal and TDM at \$3 M for five years, for an combined average of \$3,930,400 per year. He said that this

conservatively represents a 15% reduction from the current TIP. In response to a question he said that bikeshare at a regional level will be eligible under the Multimodal and TDM set-aside, focusing first on areas where it made the most sense. Ross Farrell explained that this is similar to carshare which now goes through CDTA. Frank Bonafide commented that CDTA set-asides have been among the better used set-asides, in that funds have not languished. After discussion, it was agreed that RG31 (Corridor Management Initiative) should also not be programmed in the new TIP.

Members approved a motion to not program the following set-aside projects in the new TIP: RG109 (BRT Implementation), RG27 (Travel Demand Management), RG1 (Park and Ride), RG28 (Intelligent Transportation Systems), and RG31 (Corridor Management Initiative); and to replace them with two set-asides in the new TIP: Bus Rapid Transit at \$13.7 M for five years and Multimodal and TDM at \$3 M for five years, for an combined average of \$3,930,400 per year.

Karen Hulihan asked what would happen to projects like T90 which was derived from RG109. Mike Franchini said that stand-alone projects like T90 will stay on the TIP. T90 was added to the new TIP at the January 6 meeting.

Mike Franchini explained the proposal in the mail out to maintain a bike/ped set aside for \$0.750 M per year in the new TIP. The RG41 "Spot Improvement for Bicycle and Pedestrian Access" program was established in 1997 and the RG103 "Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Set-Aside" was established in 2007. In the previous TIP update, RG103 and RG41 were combined to form RG103. This set-aside is the mechanism for funding projects that improve or maintain the Region's bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Mike referred to a listing of past bike/ped projects in the mail out and noted that bike/ped TIP projects have been implemented by thirty different municipalities.

Andrew Kreshik proposed that funding for RG103 should be increased to \$1.0 M per year, given the importance of bike/ped and given the savings achieved by streamlining set-aside projects. Chris Wallin commented that the New Visions Plan supports improvements to bike/ped access. Mike Franchini said that funding for RG103 is consistent with New Visions recommendations for funding.

Steve Iachetta pointed out that bike/ped improvements support quality of life, health and tourism. Mike Valentine said that RG103 can be considered a way to implement Linkage Program recommendations. He said that more bike/ped funding is needed to fund longer bike trail projects.

Joe Teliska raised a concern about spending limited funding on bike/ped projects when funding is needed for local bridges. Frank Bonafide suggested the idea of a set aside for low volume rural local roads.

Members approved a motion to fund RG103 in the new TIP for \$1.0 M per year.

Joe Teliska made a motion to create a set-aside project for \$1.0 M per year for low volume bridges, large culverts and roads projects on locally owned roads; where "low volume" is tentatively defined as less than 2,000, subject to further discussion at the next Planning Committee meeting. Bill Anslow seconded the motion. Members approved the motion.

Staff agreed to review options for defining low volume for the next Planning Committee.

TIP Schedule

Mike Franchini reviewed the TIP schedule as presented in the mail out. Members approved the schedule as presented. Dave Jukins requested that any PJPs which are completed before the deadline be submitted when they are ready.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Franchini
Secretary