

**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2016

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Bill Anslow, representing Darrell Duncan, Albany County  
Brad Birge, City of Saratoga Springs  
Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Melissa Cherubino, City of Cohoes  
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam  
Kevin Corcoran, Town of Glenville  
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority  
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Vice Chair  
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  
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands  
Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville  
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park  
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**

Tom Baird, Barton & Loguidice  
Peter G. Barber, Town of Guilderland  
Donald Brooks Sr., ATU 1321  
Robert Hansen, Creighton Manning  
Karen Hulihan, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Kenneth Guyer, Town of New Scotland  
Douglas LaGrange, Town of New Scotland  
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Evan Seyboth, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Owen Shevlin, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Paul Sheldon, Schenectady County  
Ed Snyder, GPI  
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 9:35 AM. There were no visitor issues.

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Previous Meeting Minutes - April 6, 2016**

Members approved the April 6, 2016 minutes.

**PRESENTATION—CDTC TIP PROJECTS: PROGRESS TRACKING PROCESS**

Aaron Spies gave a presentation on this topic. He said that this is an initiative for CDTC to have a better idea of the progress of TIP projects, and to serve as a source of up to date information. The New Visions 2040 Plan includes recommendations aimed at improving tracking of projects with respect to infrastructure asset management goals, and with respect to priority networks and complete streets elements. Three objectives for this effort are to provide reminders to sponsors for the preliminary design phase; to track project progress and changes; and to have a record of elements constructed and changes in scope. Project tracking will be coordinated with the NYSDOT Local Programs Bureau to minimize reporting required by sponsors. Status reports will be provided to the Planning Committee.

Mike Franchini said that this task was called for in the New Visions Plan. It responds to NYSDOT concerns to encourage projects being on time; and will allow CDTC to make sure that the scope proposed in the PJP does not change. It will be designed so that there is no burden on the sponsor. CDTC will look for a five minute status from a sponsor, not a consultant report. CDTC staff will coordinate with NYSDOT field visits when the project is completed.

Chris Wallin said he has been working with Karen Hulihan to track important project information, and he offered to work with Aaron to add information that would be useful for the tracking process. He said that there is a new form from NYSDOT called the "Project Management Plan" that could be incorporated. Mike Franchini said that we would welcome any comments. In response to a request, Mike Franchini said that the Power Point presentation would be posted on the CDTC website.

**ACTION ITEMS**

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

**S235 (1760.16), Duanesburg Churches Road over S Chuctanunda Creek**

Steve Feeney said that this project was mentioned at the last Planning Committee as an example of a project that used the CDM Smith Study estimated cost in the TIP application, and subsequently received a higher cost estimate with in-depth inspection. Paul Sheldon explained that a full replacement alternative was evaluated but was found to be too costly and would not meet the preservation guidelines. The recommended alternative will line the culvert with a Custom Fabricated Structural Steel Plate Pipe. This alternative is expected to have a service life of 50+ years. Members approved the amendment as proposed.

**A533 (1933.17), Municipal Work at Various Rail Crossing Locations in Cohoes**

**1933.37, Coons Crossing Road**

These two rail crossing projects were discussed at the same time. Frank Bonafide said that these are new rail crossing projects. He said that this is a non-competitive fund source with respect to CDTC. Members approved the amendments for PIN 1933.17 and PIN 1933.37.

**OCTOBER 1, 2016 - SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

**Latest Revisions to Project Listings**

Mike Franchini distributed a handout entitled "2016-21 TIP Update, Proposed Changes to Draft Project Listings" (attached). Glenn Posca said that one proposed change requires Planning Committee action, that is, for the City of Albany to bundle three mill and fill projects (A554, A555, and A556) into one project (A554). The funding would be combined. Randy Milano said that the bundling made sense because the three projects are of the same type and managing one consultant instead of three would be much more efficient. There was a lengthy discussion about whether bundling should be required at project application time. Mike Franchini said that the decision to bundle projects at application time should be left up to the sponsor, because in some cases the sponsor may feel that his or her chances of getting approval for individual projects is better than getting approval for a bundled project. Joe Teliska asked if a sponsor could submit one application for a bundled project, as well as applications for the projects as individual projects. Mike Franchini said that this would be possible. Chris Wallin noted that combining a strong project with, say, an unrelated marginal culvert project might be a way to get funding for a weak project. Mike Franchini said he would generally want to discourage any gaming of the system. Members approved the "Proposed Changes to Draft Project Listings", including the proposed bundling of projects A554, A555 and A556.

**Project Selection Guidelines**

Mike Franchini said that the proposed changes to Guidelines for TIP changes included in the mail out reflects discussions held during TIP development. Glenn Posca pointed out that the only changes from existing guidelines are that on page 2, 1(a) has been divided into two categories, where adding a project from a regional set aside as part of a project solicitation now requires Policy Board approval; 1(g) has been revised to refer to "Transportation Alternatives project"; and 1(h) has been changed to say that combining two or more existing preservation projects does not require Planning Committee approval. If approved, these guidelines will be included in the final TIP. After discussion, members suggested making 2(e) the same as 1(i), that is, requiring Planning Committee approval; and changing the wording for number 2 from "Scope and Cost (Increase or Decrease)" to "Scope

and/or Cost (Increase or Decrease)". Members approved the revised guidelines with these two suggested changes.

### **Draft TIP Document**

Mike Franchini distributed a handout, "List of Significant Changes in the 2016-21 TIP Narrative, Not Including Appendices", attached. He said the full draft narrative is posted on line and is available in print form for anyone who would like a copy. Mike explained that there were new sections about the FAST Act, the evaluation of qualitative project benefits in the TIP, and the three set-asides; and updates to other sections as listed in the handout. In response to a question about when the new TIP becomes official, Frank Bonafide explained that although the new TIP does not go into effect until October 1, it will become official on June 2 when the Policy Board approves the TIP. Members approved the TIP updates including the updated narrative. Mike Franchini said there is still time to review the narrative and make comments during the public review process which extends until May 29. Any public comments will presented to the Policy Board at the June 2 meeting.

### **UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

#### **Progress Report for the Period October 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016**

Mike Franchini reviewed the Progress Report and called attention to the summary of key accomplishments, which include: review of land development projects in the Town of Colonie; development of a new project evaluation methodology for the 2016-2021 TIP; evaluation of 120 TIP project candidates; funding of two Linkage Program planning studies; hiring of three new Linkage Study consultants; finalizing the Regional Freight and Goods Movement Plan; completing the Saratoga County Traffic Study; solicitation for three complete streets training workshops; and participating in the FHWA/FTA certification review for CDTC.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **NYS DOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE**

Karen Hulihan handed out a table (attached) showing the status of local and State projects from the 2015-16 Regional Director commitment. Frank Bonafide said that the Route 9 over 9J project is delayed because of negotiations with Amtrak. Karen Hulihan handed out a second table (attached) showing the Regional Director's commitments for 2016-17. She asked members to comment if anything on this table requires a change. Frank Bonafide said that Sam Zhou has made a commitment to the Commissioner for the dates shown for State projects, and will make the commitment for local projects soon. He said there is no penalty for letting projects earlier than shown on the schedule.

## **STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

### **CDTC**

Mike Franchini said that now that the TIP process is nearing completion, staff is focusing on UPWP planning tasks, including Linkage studies.

### **CDTA**

Ross Farrell reported that CDTA ridership broke an all-time record, which is especially impressive because of declining gasoline prices. At the end of May, CDTA will implement route restructuring in Saratoga County, with the largest service increase planned for the Route 50 corridor.

### **NYS DOT**

Frank Bonafide said that today began retirement for Bob Hansen from his consultant attendance at the Planning Committee and thanked him for his participation with CDTC.

### **Albany County Airport Authority**

Steve Iachetta said that the Airport is experiencing 7% to 10% growth when comparing each month to last year, while other upstate airports are not growing. The Albany County Airport Authority has petitioned FAA to formally release 12.2 acres of land for right of way for project A240 (I-87 Exit 4 Airport Connector).

### **Albany Port District Commission**

Chris Bauer said that May 12 will be the third annual Port Industry Day and registration forms are available here at CDTC.

### **Linkage/Local Planning Activities**

Mike Franchini referred members to the Linkage status report in the mail out. Chris Wallin extended an invitation to members to see harbor and casino development underway in Schenectady.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Franchini  
Secretary