

**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes

August 3, 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  
Donald Csaposs, Town of Guilderland  
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee,  
Secretary  
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority, Chair  
Joe LaCivita, Town of Colonie  
Robert Leslie, Town of Bethlehem  
Randy Milano, City of Albany  
Charles Moore, City of Rensselaer  
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands  
Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville  
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna  
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**

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Bryan Cross, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Rob Cherry, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Mike Cukrovany, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Martin Daley, Capital District Regional Planning Commission  
Karen Hulihan, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Thomas Johnson, T.R. Johnson Engineering  
David Jukins, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Doug LaGrange, Town of New Scotland  
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Christina Minkler, CHA Companies  
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Caroline Ross, Saratoga County  
Aaron Spies, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Angelo Trichilo, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1  
Carrie Ward, 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 - July 6, 2016**

Members approved the July 6, 2016 minutes.

### **PRESENTATION-NYSDOT I-87 EXIT 4 PHASE II**

Angelo Trichilo gave a presentation on this project. He described the configuration of the new facility to be constructed. Sidewalks will be installed on both sides of the road between Wolf Road and the new intersection west of Old Wolf Road. Five foot shoulders for bicycles will be provided on both sides of Albany Shaker Road between Wolf Road and the new intersection. A multiuse trail will be built on the south side of Albany Shaker Road from the new intersection to Meeting House Road, where it will provide access to the system of trails to the west. NYSDOT is working with the Desmond Hotel to determine if new access to the hotel can be provided through the intersection of Albany Shaker Road and Old Wolf Road. The new intersection between Albany Shaker Road and the new facility will be a signalized intersection. The new signal will be designed to prevent queues stacking into the runway protection zone. Right of way acquisition has started, and construction is expected in 2019. The merge area for the northbound entrance to the Northway at Exit 4 will be extended. The construction cost will be approximately \$35 M, without right of way and construction inspection costs. Traffic impacts during construction will be relatively minor.

Dave Jukins commented that careful design of operational details for pedestrians will be important and he requested that CDTC be kept in the loop during final design. Angelo Trichilo agreed to this request.

### **PRESENTATION-NEW CDTC WEBSITE**

Mike Franchini said that the new website is designed for every level of user: the public, members, and planners. Sandy Misiewicz gave an overview of the new CDTC website and walked members through many of the features of the new website. She invited members to let CDTC know if they would like to put announcements and events on the CDTC website.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **2016-21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

#### **A240 (1721.90) I-87 Exit 4 Airport Connector-**

Frank Bonafide presented a TIP amendment to reflect the funding that Region has received for this project. Policy Board action will be required. Funding was received as part of the 2016-2017 State Budget and will not count against core Region 1 allocations. Steve Iachetta commented on the importance of this project. Members approved the amendment.

**A563 (1051.79) South Mall Expressway Pier 18 Bridges**

Frank Bonafide explained that during design it was determined that this pier will need more expensive repair work and there is a need to replace more of the pier than anticipated. A complex temporary support system will be needed to construct the project adjacent to an active rail line. Members approved the amendment.

**R246/SA244 (1089.64) US 4 over the Hudson River: Element Specific Bridge Repair**

Frank Bonafide explained that this project was caught in the limbo between the old TIP and the new TIP. The project was on the program, but NYSDOT mistakenly included it in the committed column during TIP development. It now needs to be included in the new TIP. It is budget neutral since it was already calculated in the TIP numbers. Members approve the amendment.

**SA214 (1722.05) I-87, Exit 12 to Exit 15: Resurfacing**

Frank Bonafide explained that NYSDOT mistakenly thought that this project was included on the previous TIP. Funding will be drawn down from the State Miscellaneous Pavement Maintenance Set-Aside (RG136). Members approved the amendment.

**(1085.40) Carman Road Safety Improvements**

Frank Bonafide explained that this is a new project which resulted from the statewide solicitation for HSIP projects. It will not draw down on regional programs. Other safety projects in this category will also require a TIP amendment, to be submitted by the project sponsors. The other four projects include:

- Brandywine Avenue in the City of Schenectady
- A CDTA project to reconfigure a one-block section of Washington Avenue in Albany between Lark Street and Dove Street
- Madison Avenue in the City of Albany
- Centerline rumble strips on 350 miles of rural, two-lane highways in the Capital Region

Members approved the amendment for the Carman Road project.

**LOCAL HSIP PROJECT SOLICITATION**

Mike Franchini explained that HSIP funding has been difficult to program because of the need for technical analysis of crash history. In the first 4 years of the 2016-21 TIP we have approximately \$8.4 million in HSIP funding that is not programmed. In order to program this balance, we recommend the following 2-step process:

The First Round would be as soon as possible, and would include all 77 municipalities in the 4-County area. It would also include an HSIP Application Workshop that would be required for all applicants. Municipalities submitting applications during this round would need to submit the information needed to calculate a benefit/cost ratio and an estimated project cost. Half the funding would be programmed in the first round.

The Second Round would include all 77 municipalities and would occur sometime in the 2018 calendar year, after a Regional Safety Study was completed, and after a consultant analyzed potential candidate projects. Municipalities

would receive all the information about these candidate projects, including benefit/cost ratio and estimated project cost, and then would submit project applications. The remaining half of the funding would be programmed in the second round. The solicitations will be open to NYSDOT as well.

Projects will be evaluated by CDTC staff using a benefit cost ratio and a merit score. Sandy Misiewicz said that CDTC staff is available to help you look at safety data in your community. She said that all public roads are eligible for HSIP, not just federal-aid roads. Rob Cherry said that NYSDOT will be working with CDTC. Data for accidents and traffic volumes are needed.

Members approved the solicitation.

**SECTION 5310 ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM PROJECT SOLICITATION**

Mike Franchini distributed a handout (attached). He explained that NYSDOT released a solicitation for the 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program on May 31, 2016. Eight applications were submitted requesting funding from the 5310 Program for the CDTC planning area. Seven applications are within the Albany-Schenectady-Troy urbanized area and one is within the Saratoga Springs urbanized area.

Members of the 5310 evaluation committee, comprised of staff from the NYS Office for the Aging, NYS Department of Health, NYSDOT and CDTC, reviewed the seven applications that passed the screen and used evaluation methodology developed by NYSDOT in cooperation with the NYS MPOs. Each of the applications that passed screened was deemed worthy of funding. However, requested funds exceed available funds. The Committee developed two options for each urbanized area, shown in the handout.

Albany-Schenectady-Troy Urbanized Area Projects Option 1: The evaluation committee developed this option that would fund each of the six proposals, with some applicants receiving partial awards, but using the most of the available federal funds of \$633,407. Partial award recommendations were based on the applicants overall average score, amount requested, and balance among proposals, as shown in the handout. This is the evaluation committee's preferred option.

Albany-Schenectady-Troy Urbanized Area Projects - Option 2: Another option is to fully fund projects in scoring order until the available funding of \$633,407 is consumed with the remainder used to reach another project as funds allow as shown in the handout.

Saratoga Springs Urbanized Area Project - Option 1: There was only one applicant for the Saratoga Springs Urbanized Area funds, NYSARC Saratoga County Chapter/Saratoga Bridges. The total federal requested amount for the two vehicles of \$108,587 exceeds the available federal funding of \$98,995. Option 1 would fund Saratoga ARC's two requested vehicles but at the total amount of available federal funds of \$98,995. It would be up to the applicant to adjust the OGS contract for each vehicle to meet the amount of available funds.

Saratoga Springs Urbanized Area Project - Option 2: This option would fund the two requested vehicles at the cost included in the application with the applicant required to provide additional local match to make up the balance of \$9,592 which is the difference between available federal funds of \$98,995 and the requested amount of \$108,587.

It was noted that there is an error in each the two tables for the Albany-Schenectady-Troy Urbanized area. In the Option 1 table, the wording for Colonie Senior Services should show "1 vehicle=half request" under "Option 1:Project elements included". In the Option 2 table, the wording for Eddy SeniorCare should show "4 vehicles = full request" under "Option 2 Fund Full Requests Based on Rank".

A motion was made to approve Option 1 for the Albany-Schenectady-Troy Urbanized area, with the correction as noted above; and to approve Option 1 or 2 or a combination of both for the Saratoga Springs Urbanized area project, allowing the single applicant to decide how best to proceed. Members approved the motion.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COUNTS AND SURVEY**

Teresa LaSalle reported that CDTC is conducting an update to the Regional Trail Perspectives 2006 Study. This study will assess how the Capital District and local communities have benefited from multi-use trails. The effort will include trail user surveys on nine Multi-use trails, at 17 locations. Volunteers register for 2-hour time periods between 7AM and 7PM, 7 days a week. There will be an online survey ([www.cdtcmpo.org/trails](http://www.cdtcmpo.org/trails)). Adjacent residential property owner surveys will be conducted, with 550+ surveys mailed out. Business owner surveys will also be conducted by phone &/or in-person.

For the surveys, National Bicycle & Pedestrian Documentation Project methodology will be used. Automated counters will be installed for a minimum of 7 days in September at up to 25 locations on the 9 trails. Manual trail user counts will be conducted during the weeks of September 12th & September 19<sup>th</sup>.

The results will be used to create a snapshot of each trail, including:

- Total usage - by season, mode, etc.
- How do people use the trail (commute, recreation, etc.).
- How are communities benefiting from the trails?
- What level of public support is there for trails?

The study will guide planning & development of trails in Capital Region; support local government requests for funding to enhance or expand trail network; and lay groundwork for updating Tech Valley Trails greenway concept.

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

Karen Hulihan handed out a table (attached) showing the status of local and State projects. She commented that it was a good report.

## **STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

### **CDTC**

Aaron Spies reported on the new CDTC project management initiative under development. He noted that project reports would soon begin coming in from the DOT which would provide information on project progress and budget. Further information on when sponsor briefs would start will come at the next meeting.

Mike Franchini said that ADA Transition Plans training will be presented by FHWA on September 30, 2016. This training is free. Sandy Misiewicz said that FHWA would like to see a cross section of planners, engineers, police and educators, and the training will be specific to the four counties.

### **CDRPC**

Martin Daley reported that CDRPC is working on the Clean Energy Communities program, with funding from NYSERDA. CDRPC is serving as organizer for the Hudson Valley and Mohawk Valley regional programs as well as the Capital Region. Dan Harp has been providing assistance to several Albany County Hill towns on comprehensive plans. Implementation of the Albany Pool Communities CSO Long Term Control Plan is progressing.

### **NYSDOT**

Frank Bonafide said that that the legislative memorandum of understanding will include a couple of projects that NYSDOT will bring to the CDTC table.

### **Albany County Airport Authority**

Steve Iachetta said that several months have seen over 10% growth in passenger enplanements over the same month in 2015. Overall, annual enplanements are projected to be at least 9% over the prior year. \$4.3M in Federal Airport Improvement Program grant funding for airside capital projects is supplemented this year by the CDTC supported alternative fuel project set-aside and \$240,000 in State funding for alternative energy for a total of \$440,000, supporting CNG Fueling Station system replacement/upgrades.

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

Sandy Misiewicz reported on the successful bike demo project in Schenectady. Many residents liked it. Chris Wallin said that the demo project was well received locally, with no complaints, and that many residents liked the traffic calming aspect.

### **City of Schenectady**

Chris Wallin reported that the roundabout opened a day early at the entrance to Mohawk Harbor. It is going well, and received a good write up in the Schenectady Gazette.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael V. Franchini  
Secretary