

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

April 4, 2018

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS ATTENDING

William Anslow, representing Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Bradley Birge, City of Saratoga Springs
Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Kevin Corcoran, Town of Glenville
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee,
Secretary
Stephen Iachetta, Albany International Airport Authority, Chair
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Charles Moore, City of Rensselaer
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Jeremy Smith, City of Watervliet
W. Joseph Teliska, representing Wayne Bonesteel, Rensselaer
County
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady

STAFF AND OTHERS

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Bridget Ann Beelen, Capital District Transportation Authority
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jim Digioia, NYS Office of General Services
Lorenzo Distefano, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Daniel Eckert, MJ Engineering
David Jukins, Capital District Transportation Committee
Anthony Longe, NYS Thruway Authority
Fred Mastroianni, GPI
Sarah Matrose, Capital District Transportation Authority
Christina Minkler, CHA
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Ami Parikh, Capital District Transportation Committee
Bill Pels, Barton & Loguidice
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Sarah Reginelli, Capitalize Albany
Brian Stewart, Cambridge Systematics
Steve Strichman, City of Troy
Jeff Twitty, Town of Niskayuna
Lisa Wallin, MJ Engineering
David Wheatley, City of Watervliet
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Denise Williams, VHB
Adam Yagelski, Town of East Greenbush

INTRODUCTION AND VISITORS' ISSUES

Steve Iachetta opened the meeting at approximately 9:33 AM.

Jim Digioia, a member of the public, made a comment regarding the Albany Skyway. Jim said he is concerned with the potential implications of traffic diversions, including truck traffic, from the Clinton Ave. ramp that is planned to be closed for Skyway project.

ADMINISTRATION

Previous Meeting Minutes - February 7, 2018

Members approved the February 7, 2018 minutes unanimously, with no revisions.

PRESENTATION - ALBANY SKYWAY PROJECT

Sarah Reginelli, from Capitalize Albany, presented about the Albany Skyway project. Sarah described the Capitalize Albany organization, and the history of project which originated from Impact Downtown Albany Playbook. Sarah said the project is integrated with Albany's Waterfront Master Plan. The project includes the Clinton Ave./US 9 northbound ramp, from Quay St. to Broadway/Clinton Ave.

Sarah described the economic development potential, and how it fits into Clinton Square Area Revitalization plans. A feasibility study, funded by NY State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, is currently being completed for the project. The feasibility study will explore economic benefits, and costs, including ongoing maintenance costs. The feasibility study is scheduled to be completed in June 2018.

Sarah described some of the transportation related considerations, such as traffic diversions, accessible design, and bridge condition. The new connectivity will provide better access to the regional trail network via the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail. The vertical alignment of the structure aligns closely with the Livingston Ave. Bridge, to allow for an easy connection should the bridge be reconstructed. The long term vision of the project included a gateway treatment, public art, and lighting. Sarah said there has been one set of public meetings, and there will be another later in the project to help refine alternatives.

Steve Iachetta suggested including historic interpretive signage to highlight the waterfront and local architecture. Frank Bonafide said NYSDOT is utilizing repurposed earmark money. He said that NYSDOT was excited that the project met some of the goals of the I-787 study, while also taking an underutilized bridge off of the State's system. Mark Castiglione said the project will provide a positive economic impact and be a catalyst for other projects. Jeremy Smith said the project provides better access to the Hudson River.

Frank said current funding is \$3.1 M, which should be enough to open the project, but maybe without all the planned amenities. Sarah said the project will require other resources and they plan to do some fundraising, too.

PRESENTATION - I-787/HUDSON WATERFRONT CORRIDOR STUDY

Sandy Misiewicz briefly described the I-787/Hudson Waterfront Corridor Study. The study's objectives were to investigate economic development potential, transportation system resilience and sustainability, and public access to the Hudson River waterfront.

Sandy described the study area location and project limits. There were several constraints to be considered during the planning process including the active rail line, a variety of land uses, the Interstate highway, and local cultural sensitivity issues. Sandy described some of the potential strategies identified in the study including enhancing bicycle and pedestrian access, managing travel demand and facilitating economic development along the waterfront.

Sandy described some of the options for revamping the transportation infrastructure including bridge maintenance considerations, revised interchange configurations, and boulevard/at-grade options. The primary considerations when developing the study's recommendations include traffic demand, physical challenges, environmental challenges, and the long-term financial implications of maintaining current infrastructure. A 6-lane boulevard can fit within the current footprint of the southbound roadway, with some constraints.

Sandy shared the current status of several bicycle, pedestrian, and transit projects underway along the study corridor, totaling \$18 M of investment. The study is expected to be completed by June 2018.

ACTION ITEMS

FISCAL CONSTRAINT DISCUSSION - TIP SUMMARY TABLE 4

Mike Franchini provided and described revisions to TIP Summary Table 4. Mike said the first year was under-programmed, and the proposal was to move first year funding into second year. The revision does not change the bottom-line totals.

2016-21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

A. TIP # TBD (1051.82) Albany Skyway

Frank Bonafide described the nature of the project's funding, which were repurposed earmark funds from the I-90 Exit 8 Phase II Connector project. Preliminary design is scheduled to begin in June

2018, after completion of the feasibility study. NYSDOT will manage the design process. Members approved the amendment.

B. A580/R308 (1306.81) NY 7 Bridge over the Hudson River

Greg Wichser described the project, and said another bridge project along NY 7, with a \$19.5 M total budget, experienced some cost savings. The amendment would add other bridges in need of repair along the NY 7 corridor. Members approved the amendment.

C. 1933.52, 53, 54, 55 & 56: Five Grade Crossing Upgrade Projects

Greg Wichser described the project, which includes five at-grade rail grade crossing upgrades. The project funded by HSIP Rail funding, which can only be used for grade crossings. Members approved the amendment.

COMPLETE STREETS WORKSHOPS APPROVAL

Chris Bauer gave an update on the 2018 Complete Streets Workshop Series local government solicitation. The goal of the workshop series is to assist local governments in developing and implementing Complete Streets policies. The applications to host a workshop were released on January 3, 2018 and due on March 2, 2018. CDTC has funding and staff resources for up to 4 workshops. CDTC received seven (7) applications. The applications were reviewed by a Regional Agency Representatives Selection Committee, a Subcommittee of the CDTC Complete Streets Advisory Committee, and recommended awarding Complete Streets Workshops to the following municipalities:

- City of Watervilet - Implementation (C)
- Town of East Greenbush - Basics (A)
- Town of Niskayuna - Implementation (C)
- Village of Scotia - Basics (A)

CDTC will begin coordination with workshop recipients, with the intent of holding the workshops between May and September 2018. Members approved awarding the workshops as recommended.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CAPITAL COEXIST TRAFFIC SAFETY AMBASSADOR MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

Jen Ceponis described the Capital Coexist Traffic Safety Ambassador Mini-Grant Program. Applicants can apply for up to \$5,000 in funding. The projects are small in nature, with a potential high impact. CDTC has \$25,000 in funding allocated for the program and received requests of over \$65,000. A selection committee awarded funding to the following eight (8) of eleven (11) applicants:

- Albany Bike Rescue
- CDTA
- Capital Roots
- Village of Colonie
- Cohoes
- Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Committee (SCEAC)
- Bikeatoga
- Town of Niskayuna

The projects will begin in May 2018 and be completed by the end of the year.

BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY (MAY 9TH) AND BIKE TO WORK DAY (MAY 18TH)

Michael Franchini distributed a flyer and described the Bike to Work Day effort. The number of participants has increased every year since its inception. Information on how to participate was provided.

PROJECT SOLICITATIONS STATUS

A. SECTION 5310 ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM

Mike Franchini said there are no substantial changes to the status of the 5310 solicitation. NYSDOT has not yet screened received applications for eligibility. The applications received were provided as information.

B. NYSDOT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ACTION PLAN (PSAP)

Sandy Misiewicz said four projects have been submitted, and NYSDOT Region 1 is currently reviewing project eligibility. A recommendation is expected to be provided to the NYSDOT Main Office in May.

C. CDTC/CDRPC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sandy Misiewicz reported on the Technical Assistance Program. The solicitation is for small-scale projects. The deadline for applications was March 9 and 6 applications were received. CDTC and CDRPC are currently reviewing and evaluating the applications.

D. NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE NY PROGRAM

Frank Bonafide said the BRIDGE NY solicitation was released in January, and the due dates are April 13, 2016 for culvert projects, and April 27, 2018 for bridge projects. Announcements of awards are expected in summer 2018.

CDTC PROJECT DELIVERY UPDATE

Michael Franchini said staff is trying to improve the program to be more relevant and useful to CDTC members. Some of the information

collected will be used to develop project implementation history portfolio for project sponsors.

Jacob Beeman described some of the significant changes proposed for the program. Presentations will be scheduled one year in advance. Every Planning Committee meeting will feature reports from up to three (3) sponsors. The sponsors will be sent a questionnaire sent one (1) month in advance, that will be due in two (2) weeks before the Planning Committee meeting. CDTC staff will determine if a verbal presentation at the meeting is needed. CDTC is looking to manage the workload for sponsors.

NYSDOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Frank Bonafide distributed tables with the current project status, and next year's construction plan. Greg Wischer said the NY 9J bridge project, over Amtrak, has been completed.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDTC

Staff is in the final stages of the I-787/Hudson Waterfront Corridor Study. Staff is currently working on the Regional Trails Plan, Regional Safety Plan, and Coordinated Transportation Plan. Staff will begin scoping the upcoming New Visions 2045 update.

CDRPC

There two (2) upcoming workshops; a State and Federal Funding and Financing Workshop on April 17, 2018 in Albany, and the Community and Economic Development Workshop, on April 26, 2018 at HVCC Tec-smart in Malta.

CDTA

No update was provided.

NYSDOT

The state's new budget passed. Staff is preparing for the upcoming TIP update.

NYSTA

The Thruway Authority is continuing to modernize service areas system-wide. They are constructing a Capital District Welcome Center, at the New Baltimore Service Area, schedule to be completed in summer 2018.

Albany County Airport Authority

The Albany International Airport is now providing direct service to Myrtle Beach, SC.

Albany Port District Commission

No update was provided.

Linkage/Local Planning Activities

The Linkage Project Status update table was provided at the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael V. Franchini". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michael V. Franchini
Secretary

