

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

October 3, 2018

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS ATTENDING

William Anslow, representing Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Bradley Birge, City of Saratoga Springs
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Todd Fabozzi, representing Mark Castiglione, Capital District
Regional Planning Commission
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority
Stephen Feeney, Schenectady County, Vice-Chair
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee,
Secretary
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority, Chair
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Rob Leslie, Town of Bethlehem
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Charles Moore, City of Rensselaer
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands
Robyn Reynolds, City of Cohoes
Robert Rice, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
W. Joseph Teliska, Rensselaer County
Michael Valentine, Saratoga County
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady

STAFF AND OTHERS

Don Adams, Creighton Manning
Michael Allen, Behan Planning & Design
Tom Baird, Barton & Loguidice
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Joe Cimino, CHA Companies
Michael Cooper, Bergmann Associates
Lorenzo Distefano, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Daniel Eckert, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.
Wendy Holsberger, VHB Engineering
Brent Irving, Capital District Transportation Authority
Jeffrey John, Stantec
Stephanie Long, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Christina Minkler, JMT
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Laura Sanda, McFarland Johnson
Steve Strichman, City of Troy
Jeff Twitty, Town of Niskayuna
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 - August 1, 2018

Members approved the August 1, 2018 minutes.

PRESENTATION- DRAFT CAPITAL DISTRICT TRAILS PLAN, BEHAN PLANNING & DESIGN

Michael Allen of Behan Planning and Design gave a presentation on the Draft Capital District Trails Plan. He said that there was an open house for the draft Plan on September 13 and the draft Plan is open for public comments. The draft Plan includes recommendations for a network of Core Trails and Supporting Trails. In total the Plan proposes 200 miles of new trails which is estimated to increase trail use by 1.1 million, remove 17,400 potential peak hour vehicle trips from our roads and add \$48.9 M per year in total economic activity in the Capital District.

Mike Franchini recommended taking a look at the Plan on the website because it is really good. Rob Leslie suggested trying to integrate the Plan with the Regional Economic Development Council and to encourage CFAs for trails. Mike Franchini said that this is a good idea and that a presentation of the Plan should be made to the REDC.

ACTION ITEMS

FISCAL CONSTRAINT DISCUSSION - TIP SUMMARY TABLE 4

Mike Franchini reviewed the updated fiscal constraint table provided in the mail out. He noted that the third year is now 9.0% overprogrammed because of postponed projects. The upcoming TIP update will address any project scheduling issues. Andrew Kreshik asked if increases and decreases have been tracked to see normal variations. Mike Franchini responded that they have been tracked, with a focus on the first two years.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) SELF-ANALYSIS RELEASE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mike Franchini said that this self-analysis was necessary since CDTC is a recipient of federal funds. There a number of issues that Picotte will address in their next renovation. Chris Wallin suggested that CDRPC should look at this report. Mike Franchini said that CDTC has an ADA Task Force that meets quarterly and Staff will give a status report at the next meeting. Members approved the release of the report for public comment.

2019-2020 LINKAGE PROGRAM SOLICITATION

Mike Franchini said that \$150,000 has been reserved in the UPWP for a new round of Linkage projects this year. Staff has prepared a draft solicitation for new Linkage projects. Sandy Misiewicz explained that the project types include implementation activities related to completed Linkage Program plans or other completed local planning work (i.e. Comprehensive Plans, Waterfront Revitalization Plans, etc.); updates of Linkage Program plans completed before 2010; and new plans, particularly in communities that have not participated in the Linkage Program before. New plans should have an emphasis on complete streets, strategic zoning code changes, official mapping, and traditional transportation studies such as operational studies and safety studies. Solicitation will be sent out after this meeting to the chief elected officials and also by email to Planning Committee and Policy Board members. Members approved the 2019-2020 Linkage Program Solicitation as presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

TIP UPDATE PROCESS

Mike Franchini said that at the MPO Directors meeting, NYSDOT Main Office representatives explained that TIP funding information will not be provided until the end of December; but they said that the MPOs can start soliciting projects, assuming flat funding, although that is not guaranteed. Mike Franchini recommended to the Planning Committee that CDTC should start soliciting now for candidate projects. Bob Rice agreed with solicitation of candidate projects in parallel with developing funding estimates. Mike Valentine commented that timing of municipal budgets is always difficult. Steve Iachetta commented that while funding may be less, there is also the possibility that it will be higher.

Mike Franchini said the solicitation will go out mid-October with a December deadline. The goal will be to have project evaluations finished by the February meeting. In response to questions, he said that projects now in the five years are already programmed and have standing, and we need to work with the project sponsors to determine the schedule.

Chris Wallin said that mill and fill projects may not be worth going through the federal aid process. Mike Franchini said that each sponsor has to determine what is best for them.

Joe Teliska asked if the merit score evaluation puts a stress on the staff and commented that nothing has happened on the merit score evaluation committee. Mike Franchini said that there is a need to do a complete project evaluation which considers all of the benefits, and the staff is very motivated and understands that it is time consuming. He also said that we have considered all the comments from the merit score evaluation committee. He said that the staff intends to conduct a complete evaluation of projects. Ross Farrell commented that the Planning Committee chooses the projects and has the option of choosing projects outside of the score results.

Greg Wichser said that there were some good ideas at the last meeting of the merit score evaluation committee, including allowing supplemental scoring for bridges projects.

In response to a question, Joe Teliska said that the Bridge NY required detailed cost estimates in the application. Mike Franchini said that CDTC also does detailed cost estimates in the TIP project evaluation process.

Mike Valentine said that members are allowed to defend their projects and contest ratings. Mike Franchini said that before we finalize ratings we give the project sponsors a chance to review the ratings. Bob Rice said that CDTC is nationally recognized for multi-modal planning and the merit score tool is needed to fully consider multi-modal concerns; and then it is up to the Committee to select projects. Mike Franchini explained that the merit score sheet comes from the New Visions Plan.

Chris Wallin asked if there was an alternative to NYSDOT taking money off the top for infrastructure; for example, developing a systematic infrastructure plan. Mike Franchini said that most MPOs would say that all money should be programmed at the MPO. In the end, FHWA delegates authority to the states. Bob Rice said that NYSDOT wants to have a statewide strategy, balancing statewide strategic planning with local planning.

Rob Leslie asked if results of the TAP/CMAQ statewide evaluation would be available in time to decide whether to submit a project to the TIP. Greg Wichser said it would make sense to submit a project to the TIP process, and then withdraw it if TAP/CMAQ approval is received.

PROJECT SOLICITATIONS STATUS

- A. New York State BRIDGE NY Program**
- B. TAP/CMAQ**

Mike Franchini said there was no news to report on the above two topics.

CDTC PROJECT DELIVERY UPDATE

Jacob Beeman presented an overview of the Local Federal Aid Project Tracking Sheet.

Chris Wallin reported that the Oak Street Bridge is now open (Project SS167, PIN 1755.33). The City painter had to paint over graffiti, which was not in the bid. The Central Park Downtown Trail project (S231, PIN 1760.09) is complete. A decorative rotary intersection was included in the project. The project has received positive feedback. One lesson learned is he would not recommend bidding two projects together, because the process was very complicated. Both were great projects.

NYSDOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Greg Wichser presented the NYSDOT Project Delivery Schedule. He noted that there was one project with a yellow status, and all of the others were green. A public meeting was held for the Route 146/146A roundabout project and the project received public support.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDTC

Mike Franchini said that CDTC staff is working on the Regional Safety Action Plan and still welcoming comments. He attended the national AMPO conference in San Antonio. He said that the scooter problem in San Antonio, and also in Austin, was significant, with a lot of scooter/pedestrian crashes, and no regulations.

CDRPC

Todd Fabozzi commented that the scooter problem is an example of the unintended consequences of new technology, which should be approached cautiously and carefully regulated. It is a reminder that automated vehicles may also have unintended consequences and will need to be carefully planned for.

CDRPC is advertising for a regional planner. Their data specialist has taken a position with the US Census Bureau.

CDRPC has developed a video tutorial for its online Census Mapper.

CDRPC continues to manage NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program for the Upstate Territory. Twenty-six communities in the greater Capital Region have achieved CEC Designation, a number of which are present. As an example, Albany County recently purchased four electric vehicles and installed a series of publicly accessible EV charging stations with the \$280,000 grant that they received through the program.

CDTA

Ross Farrell reported that CDTA received a \$5 M grant for bus facilities which can be used for the River Corridor BRT. While we wait for Small Starts approval, we can build aspects of the River Corridor BRT.

NYSDOT

Bob Rice said that Steve Clinton the Rensselaer County Resident Engineer was promoted to a Main Office Operations position, leaving the Rensselaer County position vacant with Blake Buckner acting. Paul Korowajczyk was the Resident Engineer of Schenectady County, but has now been named the Acting Resident Engineer of Saratoga County. Chris Ward was named the Acting Resident Engineer of Schenectady County.

Sam Zhou will be the Assistant Commissioner of Operations and Asset Management in the Main Office starting later this month.

The I-87 Exit 4 Access Improvements project received proposals under the best value process. The contractor proposals are being rated by the best value review team.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta reported that Albany International Airport received a \$22 M New York State Airport Modernization grant for terminal renovations and a new 1,000 space parking garage with a pedestrian bridge connecting the terminal and garage located south of the existing Administration Building and terminal. This coincides with the State DOT Exit 4 Airport Access Project and FAA/Airport funded terminal improvements including four terminal escalator replacements this winter. Work will be completed by March 2020.

Passenger enplanements continue to grow over prior years with new competitive scheduled carrier service recently added by Allegiant to Orlando, Saint Petersburg and Punta Gorda, and Frontier to Denver, Orlando and Fort Myers. The new service supplements existing scheduled service by Southwest, JetBlue Delta, American United, Elite and Cape Air.

Albany Port District Commission

Steve Iachetta said that Tony Vasil was attending a freight conference and he sent a status report. In August 2018 the Port had 12 vessel calls (11 ships and 1 barge) which is the most in many years. Through August 2018 the Port has handled 238,265 short tons of products compared with 183,621 short tons through August 2017, an increase of 54,644 tons or 30%. A record was set with 12,123 longshore hours worked in May of this year. The 45,000 square foot, climate controlled rail track inside the facility Big Lift Warehouse will open sometime later this month.

Schenectady County

Steve Feeney reported that the Empire State Trail project closing the 5 mile gap between Pattersonville and Amsterdam is complete. The project included approximately one half mile in Schenectady County. The project to close the trail gaps at Scrafford Lane and between Leggiero Lane and Pattersonville in Rotterdam is moving along quite well. This complicated project is being led by NYSDOT Region 1 and includes building two tunnels under the Pan Am and CSX Railroads. Construction is anticipated in 2020 and the County is expected to own the tunnels after construction.

City of Schenectady

Chris Wallin reported that on October 10 the third annual Schenectady Bike Fest will take place at Wallingford Park in Mount Pleasant. The City has installed EV charging stations that are getting well used.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael V. Franchini
Secretary