

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

March 20, 2019

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bill Anslow, representing Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Bradley Birge, City of Saratoga Springs
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Don Csaposs, Town of Guilderland
Stephen Feeney, Schenectady County, Vice-Chair
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee,
Secretary
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority, Chair
Andrew Kohout, Village of Scotia
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Rob Leslie, Town of Bethlehem
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta
Bob Rice, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
W. Joseph Teliska, Rensselaer County
Tim Wainwright, representing Joe Stahl, NYS Thruway Authority
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Dave Wheatley, representing Jeremy Smith, City of Watervliet

STAFF AND OTHERS

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Joe Cimino, CHA Companies
Lorenzo Distefano, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Brent Irving, Capital District Transportation Authority
Michael H. Lashmet, Rensselaer County
Jenny Lippmann, MJ Engineering
Stephanie Long, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Fred Mastroianni, GPI
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Ryan Ripèr, Town of Wilton
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Katelyn Reepmeyer, Town of Colonie
Laura Sanda, MJ Engineering
Bill Smart, City of Rensselaer
Jordan Solano Reed, Capital District Transportation Committee
Sean Ward, Village of Green Island
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Adam Yagelski, Town of East Greenbush

INTRODUCTION AND VISITORS' ISSUES

Steve Iachetta opened the meeting at approximately 9:35 AM. There were no visitor issues.

ADMINISTRATION

Previous Meeting Minutes - February 27, 2019

Mike Franchini said that the minutes should reflect that Sunnyside Bridge in the Village of Scotia is on the federal-aid system. With this change, members approved the February 27, 2019 minutes.

Andrew Kohout commented that the other two candidate projects in the Village of Scotia are also on the federal-aid system.

ACTION ITEMS

2019-24 TIP UPDATE

A. Bicycle Pedestrian Projects

Mike Franchini distributed a hand out that showed the list of nineteen bicycle/pedestrian project candidates. He said that there is \$6.5M available to program for the Bike/Ped set-aside. He said that there is the possibility that programming a TAP/CMAQ candidate project may lead to the State saying that that project does not need TAP/CMAQ funding.

Sandy Misiewicz said that Saratoga Springs submitted a revised scope for the Missing Links Program, candidate project 15. The project was reevaluated using the CDTC Bicycle/Pedestrian methodology, and the project was found to have the same Bike/Ped Weighted Score and Total Project Score. Chris O'Neill explained that this is because the methodology uses a qualitative rubric that assigns A-B-C relative scores to market potential, cost, and cost effectiveness.

Steve Feeney said that he thought the intent of the set-aside is not to program large bike/ped projects. He suggested a guideline of no more than \$1.3M per project, which would ensure that no single project took up more than one year of the set-aside funding. Andrew Kreshik said that programming lower cost projects was discussed at the last Planning Committee meeting as a general guideline, while understanding there are special cases. Rob Leslie said that if a limit was intended it should have said so on the application.

There was a discussion about the possibility of considering the Rensselaer Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Improvements (candidate project 11) at a lower scope and cost. Bill Smart said that the City should have the option of changing the scope since the City of Saratoga was given this option. Mike Franchini said that the City of Rensselaer was given this option and that because the City of Rensselaer did not submit a revised scope, the Committee must consider the full scope that was originally submitted. There was discussion about this position. It was suggested that project 11 could be given contingency status as first alternate if the TAP/CMAQ funded projects free up more funding in this category.

A motion was made to program projects 15, 86, 17, 87, and 79 under the Bicycle Pedestrian Set-aside. The motion was amended to say that project 11 will be on a contingency list as first alternate if the TAP/CMAQ funded projects free up more funding in this category, and the City of Rensselaer would then have the option of changing the scope. Members approved the motion as amended.

B. 2016-21 Tentatively Programmed Projects

Mike Franchini said that at the last meeting, projects were tentatively programmed with the understanding that the cost for those projects exceeded funding available, and that changes would need to be made so that there was no overprogramming. If all of the tentatively programmed projects were included, the TIP would be overprogrammed by \$7.459M.

Greg Wichser said that Region 1 has reviewed all of the projects and funding for the 8 county area of Region 1, and they have identified additional funding that would result in the \$7.459M overprogramming being reduced to zero. There will still need to be careful adjustments to ensure that the program is balanced by year and fund source. The result of this finding is that all of the tentatively programmed projects can be formally programmed without overprogramming.

Steve Feeney said that if we had known at the last meeting that an additional \$7.459M was available, he would have argued for an additional Schenectady County project. Mike Franchini noted that an additional \$1.56M is available based on the realization that \$1.56M of the Delaware Avenue project will be covered by the State. This was inadvertently not included by staff in the CDTC project information. He suggested that this funding could be used for Schenectady County project candidate 72, River Road and Providence Avenue Pavement Preservation, which has a cost of \$1.598M. Joe Teliska asked if this funding could be used for the City of Rensselaer project. Other members said we should not add other projects.

Ryan Riper asked if the NY 50 Safety Improvements project (candidate project 94) could be added to the post five year TIP. He noted that the other three intersection projects were put on the post five year TIP. He said that Jones Road is the busiest town road in Wilton. Mike Valentine said that this section of Route 50 is dysfunctional. Joe Teliska asked why not put all unapproved projects on the post five year TIP. Greg Wichser said that pavement projects and other project types would not make sense to put on the post five year TIP because they will get stale. But a project like the Five Corners project will never get stale, so it makes sense for it to have a place holder. Peter Comenzo said that they get calls from the community all the time about the Five Corners and it is helpful to explain that the project has been recognized as a need by CDTC. John Scavo said that post TIP status for a project has been used to collect developer contributions. Members approved a motion to place project 94 on the post five year TIP, with Joe Teliska abstaining.

Members approved a motion to program all of the projects that were tentatively programmed at the February 27 meeting, with Joe Teliska abstaining.

NYSDOT

Bob Rice spoke in honor of a New York State Department of Transportation worker who died after an on-duty crash. Maintenance worker Dennis Howe died from injuries from a tractor-trailer collision with a DOT truck in a construction zone in Tioga County. Bob Rice reminded all of the critical importance of construction safety.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting will be April 3, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael V. Franchini
Secretary