

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

May 1, 2019

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bill Anslow, representing Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Bradley Birge, City of Saratoga Springs
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Stephen Feeney, Schenectady County, Vice-Chair
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee,
Secretary
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority, Chair
Robyn King, City of Cohoes
Andrew Kohout, Village of Scotia
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Rob Leslie, Town of Bethlehem
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Charles Moore, City of Rensselaer
Bob Rice, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Michael Valentine, Saratoga County
Tim Wainwright, representing Joseph Stahl, NYS Thruway Authority
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Dave Wheatley, representing Jeremy Smith, City of Watervliet
Adam Yagelski, Town of East Greenbush

STAFF AND OTHERS

Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Joe Cimino, CHA Companies
Don Csaposs, Town of Guilderland
Lorenzo Distefano, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Carl Ford, JMT Consulting
Martin Hull, WSP
Stephanie Long, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Fred Mastroianni, GPI
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jeff Pangburn, Creighton Manning
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Yasmine Robinson, City of Albany
Laura Sanda, MJ Engineering
Mark Sargent, Creighton Manning
Kevin Tollisen, Saratoga County
Jesse Vogl, Creighton Manning
Lisa Wallin, MJ Engineering
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 - April 3, 2019

Members approved the April 3, 2019 minutes.

PRESENTATION - ALBANY PATROON CREEK/WASHINGTON AVENUE CORRIDOR STUDY

Mark Sargent reviewed existing conditions and public input for the study. The following corridor options were considered, all with common elements including sidewalk and path extensions, additional lane repurposing, access management and lighting:

- A. On-street Bike Lanes
- B. Multi-use Path and Move Curbs to Narrow Roadway
- C. Gateway Option, Raised Medians, Chicanes, 3 lanes in east end, "T"-up ramps

Jesse Vogl explained how these options were evaluated with respect to pedestrian level of service and bicycle level of service. The Plan includes the following priority improvements to be implemented in a short time frame:

- Raised Median
- Signalized Pedestrian Crossing
- Eastbound Lane Reduction - Striped Hatching

Beyond the priority improvement, the plan proposes to pursue Option A (restripe for bike lanes). Implementation of Option B or C as described in Chapter 3 is the long term goal, pending the availability of additional funding and the results of additional studies for items requiring further study, including the feasibility of carrying a lane reduction project further east into the city beyond Brevator Street.

ACTION ITEMS

FISCAL CONSTRAINT DISCUSSION - TIP SUMMARY TABLE 4

Mike Franchini explained that Table 4 summarizes fiscal constraint on the existing TIP. There was a discussion about the \$2 trillion infrastructure plan being discussed in the news. Bob Rice commented that we need a steady revenue stream.

2016-21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- A. A588, 1051.82, Albany Skyway**
- B. 1761.82, NY 5S Bike/Ped Improvements, Rotterdam**
- C. 1761.83, Rensselaer Bicycle & Pedestrians Access**

D. 1761.84, Washington Avenue Pedestrian/Bicycle Connection, Village of Scotia

E. A601, 1761.68, Delaware Avenue: Mill & Fill, Complete Streets & Road Diet, Town of Bethlehem

F. 1761.86, Rosendale Road/Old River Road Intersection Improvements, Town of Niskayuna

Mike Franchini explained that projects A. through F. above were approved for CMAQ or TAP funding by NYSDOT. In addition, two CDTA projects were approved. We are asking for approval of TIP amendments A. through F. at this meeting. Glenn Posca said that approving these amendments will approve these projects for the existing TIP as well as the new draft TIP. All preliminary phases are shown in the current year, but they can be scheduled for next year if requested after the meeting. Members approved TIP amendments A. through F. as presented.

2019-24 TIP UPDATE

A. 2019-24 TIP Narrative

Mike Franchini reviewed the draft TIP narratives. He said that a whole new chapter was added to describe the anticipated effects of the TIP toward achieving the required performance targets. He explained that meeting the new requirement that the TIP be consistent with performance measures and targets was facilitated by CDTC's use of merit scores. Members approved the TIP narratives as presented.

B. Air Quality Conformity Determination

Mike Franchini explained that this year a Transportation/Air Quality Conformity Determination was required for the TIP. CDTC hasn't been required to prepare a conformity statement for the TIP since 2010.

On July 20, 2012, the USEPA designated the Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY attainment for the 2008 ozone standard (0.075 ppm). The area was designated attainment for the 2015 ozone standard (0.070ppm) on January 16, 2018. However, because the area is still in nonattainment for the 1997 8-hour ozone standard (0.08 parts per million), a conformity statement is now required. Chris O'Neill said that all new projects on the TIP are exempt except for RG131 Bus Rapid Transit, which is non-exempt. Air quality has improved significantly in the Capital District in large part because of required vehicle technology. A/GFTC was involved in the development of the Conformity Determination since the Town of Moreau is part of A/GFTC. The draft Conformity Determination will undergo a thirty day public review.

C. Self-Certification

Mike Franchini explained that self-certification is a federal requirement. He reviewed the self-certification statement and commended Dave Jukins for doing a great job putting it together. Approval will be needed by the Policy Board. Members approved the self-certification statement.

DRAFT COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mike Franchini explained that Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan addresses the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes. Extensive public participation and stakeholder participation were part of the development of the Plan. Needs gaps and barriers were identified. Strategies and actions include: Prioritize funding to address gaps and barriers; Continue to incentivize and prioritize accessible features in TIP projects; Encourage transportation providers to enter into mutually beneficial partnerships; Identify mechanisms to increase location-efficient siting of facilities and housing serving transportation disadvantaged populations; and other strategies and actions. Policy Board approval of the Plan is needed. Members approved the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan as presented.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Mike reviewed the UPWP progress report included in the mail out and described key accomplishments. He said that he is proud of TIP process and the efforts of all involved, and he commended the staff for their work effort to support the TIP development. He said it was a major accomplishment. Other key accomplishments include the completion of the Capital District Trails Plan; significant work on the Regional Local Road Safety Plan; completion of a draft update to the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for the Capital District; release of a solicitation for Smart Communities projects which resulted in one project chosen for funding; completion of the 2018 Complete Streets Educational & Technical Assistance Workshop Series; the "Traffic Safety Ambassador Program" which resulted in 10 projects being selected for funding; participation in a study sponsored by NYSERDA to consider different energy futures and their impact on transportation, land use, and the region's environment; and GEIS contractual work with the towns of Colonie and Malta by completing more than 20 land development projects in the GEIS-defined areas of those communities. Members approved the UPWP progress report as presented.

CDTC/CDRPC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mark Castiglione said that this program was started last year and was adjusted to focus more on land use this year. Proposed initiatives must be small in scale and scope and result in a defined product. CDTC/CDRPC received five proposals from the Town of Bethlehem, the Town of Coeymans, the Village of Menands, the Village of Scotia and the City of Rensselaer. CDTC and CDRPC staff reviewed the five applications and vetted them for eligibility and completeness. CDTC and CDRPC staff recommended that all five projects be funded. Members approved the five proposals as presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY (MAY 8TH) AND BIKE TO WORK DAY (MAY 17TH)

Mike Franchini said that we hope to get 500 people participating. We are connecting people who want to ride together. There are competitions among cities, and bike events in all four central cities.

CDTC PROJECT DELIVERY UPDATE

Jacob Beeman reported that CDTC is coordinating with NYSDOT Region 1 to integrate the CDTC and NYSDOT sheets. The new format should begin in July. Lorenzo Distefano said that NYSDOT will continue monthly updates.

John Scavo reported on the Sitterly Road project. It will provide turn lanes to reduce congestion. Sidewalks will be provided on the north side to connect Crossings Boulevard to the multiuse trail. There have been issues around obtaining right of way from Twin Lakes apartments. Complete streets features include ped signals and crosswalks. All shoulders are four feet. The bridge over I-87 has shoulders that are not standard for pedestrians; there will be an effort to collect developer fees to be used to extend pedestrian connections when the bridge is replaced.

Andrew Kreshik gave a report on the South Troy Industrial Road projects. For Phase 1, acquisition is almost done.

NYSDOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Greg Wichser distributed the NYSDOT Project Delivery Schedule. He said that all dots are green.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDTC

Mike Franchini said that there will be a TIP public meeting on May 7. The meeting was required because of the air quality conformity process. The Policy Board will be asked to approve the TIP and the air quality conformity determination at the June meeting. CDTC staff is starting to work on the update of the New Visions Plan, which is required to be complete by September 2020. Staff will look at format, recommendations and goals and schedule advisory committee meetings and task force meetings. There are a lot of changes in transportation to be considered, including technology and mobility services. The new Plan will have a horizon year of 2050.

He handed out one administrative change on the TIP that does not need approval.

CDRPC

Mark Castiglione said that the Spring Workshop for Planning and Zoning Board member training will be held on May 29 at HVCC.

CDRPC is working on the 2020 Census and completed an effort to provide input on block group boundaries under the PSAP program (Participant Statistical Areas Program).

CDRPC is developing a data dashboard for the region which will go live this fall.

NYSDOT

Bob Rice said that for SEQOR review, site review, or traffic impact studies, Region 1 Planning should be the contact. Planning will coordinate with Traffic and Safety as necessary. Any documents submitted as part of a highway work permit should continue to be submitted directly to NYSDOT Traffic & Safety.

New York State Thruway Authority

Tim Wainwright said that the Thruway will be repaving between Exit 21B Exit 23 this year.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta gave an update on Airport contracts. The Airport has awarded all sixteen contracts for the Governor's State Aviation Capital Grant Airport Modernization initiative including the new 1,000 space terminal parking garage and terminal amenities improvements. The Airport is excited about the progress continuing on the Exit 4 Airport Connector. Federal Aviation Administration funded improvements bid for construction this year include Airfield Drainage Culverts Replacement and Runway Edge Lighting Systems Replacement, converting halogen lamps to LED's.

City of Cohoes

Robyn King reported that Bikeshare will be coming to the City of Cohoes on May 6.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting will be July 3, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael V. Franchini
Secretary

*Copies of any documents discussed at the meeting will be provided upon request or are found on our website at: <http://www.cdtcmpo.org/committees/planning-committee>