

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

February 27, 2019

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bradley Birge, City of Saratoga Springs
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Don Csaposs, Town of Guilderland
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
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta
Lisa Ramundo, Albany County
Robyn Reynolds, City of Cohoes
Bob 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

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Audrey Burneson, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Joe Cimino, CHA Companies
Lorenzo Distefano, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Richard Harris, Town of Halfmoon
Brent Irving, Capital District Transportation Authority
Shelly Johnston, Creighton Manning
Brian Kirch, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Stephanie Long, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Claire Miller, Capital District Transportation Authority
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Rima Shamieh, Capital District Transportation Committee
Stephanie Siciliano, GPI
Jordan Solano-Reed, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jeff Twitty, Town of Niskayuna
Lisa Wallin, MJ Engineering
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 9:38 AM. There were no visitor issues.

ADMINISTRATION

Previous Meeting Minutes - February 7, 2019

Members approved the February 7, 2019 minutes.

ACTION ITEMS

2019-24 TIP UPDATE

A. Status of Existing 2016-21 TIP Projects

Mike Franchini referred to the list of existing projects in the mail out. In response to questions, he explained that BRIDGE NY projects are not yet officially part of the TIP so they are not included on the list. With that understanding, members approved the lists showing the status of existing 2016-21 TIP Projects.

B. 2019-24 New Project Funding

Mike Franchini handed out Tables A through F that included minor corrections to the tables in the mail out. Table F shows funding available for programming. He handed out a statement saying that members agreed with the tables. Members approved the statement.

C. 2019-24 Candidate Project Evaluations

Mike Franchini handed out tables showing candidate projects by category, with total cost of all project candidates in each category. In response to a question, he explained that the rescission will affect projects that are not obligated by September 30, 2019. We don't know if we will have to give back funding or in other words, de-obligate.

Joe Teliska noted that the AADT threshold on the table for Local Low Volume projects was shown as 2000. The committee's previous understanding was that the threshold should be 2600. Mike said that staff would check what threshold was used.

D. 2019-24 Project Programming

Glenn explained that as projects are programmed he will enter them in a spreadsheet which will keep recalculating the balances available by fund type and year. He would enter each project under the most restrictive funding source and the earliest year available, unless told otherwise.

Bridge Preservation

Greg Wichser said that NYSDOT would like to program the following projects:

32	I-890 over Erie Blvd and Broadway (Two Bridges) Corrective Maintenance	\$13.317M
21	Everett Road Bridge over I-90	\$10.654M
45	NY 378 Over Hudson Bridge Painting	\$6.855M
52	US 20 Over Schoharie Creek Bridge Deck Replacement	\$2.788M
20	Dunn Bridge WB TO I-787 SB	\$26.426M

Chris Wallin explained that project 98 is a three span bridge that crosses the former Sandbag rail line. It provides an important Scotia-Glenville connection.

98	Sunnyside Road Bridge	\$4.798M
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Joe Teliska said that the local bridge study recommended replacement. Mike Franchini said that the cost of replacement is very high. Chris Wallin said this is an orphan bridge—originally it was understood that the railroad was responsible for the superstructure and the municipality was responsible for the deck. Now the railroad has abdicated responsibility. The impact of closing the bridge would be significant. Mike Franchini said there is insufficient funding for off-system bridges. Without voting, members agreed to include projects 32, 21, 45, 52, 20, and 98 in a tentative draft list of projects for the new TIP. The list would be reconsidered once the Committee has worked through all the project candidates.

Bridge Replacement

Greg Wichser said that project candidates 50 and 41 are the Department's priorities for bridge replacement. Given the limited funding, he recommended not programming the other bridge replacement project candidates. These priorities are based on structural engineer's assessment of which bridges can last longer. Without voting, members agreed to include projects 50 and 41 in a tentative draft list of projects for the new TIP.

50	US 9W Over CSX/CP Rail Bridge Replacement	\$12.147M
41	NY 67 Over B&M RR Bridge Replacement	\$6.616M

Pavement Preservation

Randy Milano said that the two highest scoring project candidates on this list (project candidates 7 and 8) are also the City's highest priority projects. He said that while he would certainly welcome funding for additional projects, given the limited amount of funding available he would be willing to defer other lower ranking City of Albany projects to give a chance to other sponsors.

7	Henry Johnson Boulevard Rehabilitation	\$0.964M
8	Lark Street Rehabilitation	\$0.744M

Charles Moore said that this project is significant to the City and is relatively low cost. In response to a question he said that ideally he would like the project to be scheduled next year but he would be flexible on schedule.

13	Third Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation & Bike/Ped Improvements	\$0.575M
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Sandy Misiewicz reported that AADT threshold on the table for Local Low Volume projects was calculated as 2000. If the Committee would prefer to use 2600 as the threshold, then the Craig Street project (project 16) would move to the Local Low Volume category as the highest ranking project in that category; and the Snyder Road project (project 60) would also move into the Local Low Volume category. The Committee preferred this approach.

Steve Feeney recommended skipping City of Albany project 6 and going to City of Schenectady project 16. Chris Wallin said that the Craig Street project is based on a Linkage Study. To supplement the project, the City is improving adjacent Main Street with local dollars, and expects to use TAP funding for sidewalks. Craig Street is a complete streets project and it is the City's highest priority.

16	Craig Street Pavement Rehabilitation	\$0.785M
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Steve Feeney said he would prefer to substitute project 71 for project 70. If Schenectady County was awarded only one project, project 71 would be preferred.

70	Guilderland Avenue Pavement Preservation Project	\$0.375M
71	Helderberg Avenue Pavement Preservation Project	\$0.718M

Greg Wichser recommended including seven Interstate repaving projects: 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30. He said that the Department is already beyond the paving cycle for these projects. If pavement condition deteriorates, FHWA requires a higher, more expensive treatment. So paving these Interstate facilities now is the most cost effective approach. He said this is the last NYSDOT request except for safety projects. NHPP funding would be used. Region received additional NHPP funding with the understanding that it would be used on the Interstate system.

24	I-87 Resurfacing Exit 16 to CDTC Planning Area Boundary	\$2.097M
25	I-87 Resurfacing Exits 11-13	\$4.370M
26	I-87 Resurfacing Exits 13-15	\$4.370M
27	I-87 Resurfacing Exits 15-16	\$4.370M
28	I-90 Pavement Corrective Maintenance Exit 10.5 (at Kraft Road) to NYS Thruway	\$7.641M
29	I-90 Pavement Corrective Maintenance Hudson River to Exit 10.5 (at Kraft Road)	\$7.868M
30	I-787 Pavement Corrective Maintenance Exit 3B to Exit 7 (NY 378)	\$7.677M

Rob Leslie asked why project 29 should be programmed ahead of project 74, since its score was lower. Greg Wichser said that the reasons include: the importance of the Interstate asset, the fact that it is most cost-effective to do this project now, and because there is limited opportunity for merit score points for this Interstate project.

Rob Leslie recommended that project 74 be included in the draft list of projects. Andrew Kreshik recommended that project 19 be included in the draft list of projects.

19	NY 2 Corridor Project	\$4.035M
74	Delaware Avenue Complete Streets & Road Diet Project	\$5.410M

Joe Teliska commented that projects 19 and 74 are expensive on a per mile basis. Steve Feeney asked why it would make sense to jump over higher scoring projects. Brad Birge suggested that both Schenectady County projects (70 and 71) be added to the draft list of projects in addition to projects 19 and 74. Sandy Misiewicz said that project 19 may be eligible for HSIP funding.

Without voting, members agreed to include projects 7, 8, 13, 16, 70, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 19, 74, and 71 in a tentative draft list of projects for the new TIP.

Pavement Reconstruction

Lisa Ramundo said that project 1, New Karner Road had merit previously, and still has merit, even more so now. Project 2, Watervliet Shaker Road would greatly upgrade a well-traveled road. She said they would welcome both projects, but would be happy with one, and New Karner Road would be their first priority. Year three would be the County's preference.

1	NY 155/CR 157 New Karner Road Corridor Rehabilitation	\$5.521M
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Greg Wichser said the Department would like to pass on the other NYSDOT projects in this category due to cost. Brad Birge commented that the Route 50 corridor should be considered for future funding.

Without voting, members agreed to include project 1 in a tentative draft list of projects for the new TIP.

Local Low Volume

Sandy Misiewicz explained that this category was revised to include projects with AADT less than 2600. Project 16 (Craig Street) is the top rated project in this category, and was already added to the draft list of projects.

Joe Teliska recommended projects 60, 59, 57, 58, 56, and 54. They total about \$1.7M and represent 6 out of 9 of the Rensselaer County projects.

60	Snyders Lake Road (CR 68) Pavement Preservation	\$0.583M
59	River Road (CR 120) Pavement Preservation	\$0.150M

57	Fogarty Road (CR 126) Pavement Preservation	\$0.152M
58	Pershing Avenue (CR 68) Pavement Preservation	\$0.238M
56	Eastern Union Turnpike (CR 49) Pavement Preservation	\$0.212M
54	Best Road (CR 55) Pavement Preservation	\$0.391M

Mike Franchini said there were questions about projects 57 and 55 because they represent pavement preservation for pavements with a condition rating of 5. Joe Teliska said that this is the regular treatment consistent with Rensselaer County practice, and that this treatment has worked in the past.

Robyn Reynolds presented information about project 95, a project which was submitted by Green Island. She said this project will provide a very important connection for the Mohawk Hudson Bike Trail and Empire State Trail improvements being made in Cohoes. It will be consistent with improvements proposed by NYSDOT for Cohoes Boulevard. Mike Franchini commented that Green Island does a good job delivering projects.

95	Cohoes Avenue Transportation Improvement Project	\$1.048M
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Charles Moore said that project 12 is top priority for the City of Rensselaer. It would include a new sidewalk will provide a missing pedestrian link for the surrounding neighborhoods.

12	South Street Bridge Replacement & Pedestrian Improvements	\$2.194M
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Mike Valentine said there were four Saratoga County project candidates and the County would like to program two of them: 66 and 64. These are rural area bridges.

66	Lasher Road Bridge over the Mourning Kill Rehabilitation	\$0.851M
64	Coons Crossing Road over Anthony Kill Bridge Replacement	\$1.375M

Without voting, members agreed to include projects 16, 60, 59, 57, 58, 56, 54, 95, 12, 64, and 66 in a tentative draft list of projects for the new TIP.

Intersections

Greg Wichser said that Region 1 passes on project 36 due to cost. John Scavo said he is hoping that project 80 will be eligible for HSIP money because of crashes, and there is congestion and new development expected as well. Sandy Misiewicz said that project 80 does not have safety benefits as high as other candidates. John Scavo said that project 44 is a higher priority for Clifton Park. Peter Comenzo said that the Five Corners project is consistent with the Linkage Study and is an important need. Greg Wichser suggested that we could look for core funds for this project. Peter Comenzo suggested putting the Five Corners project (project 36) on the post five year TIP; it had been there before.

Without voting, members agreed to tentatively include projects 36, 91 and 80 on the Post Five Year TIP for the new TIP.

36	NY 7 at 5 Corners	\$6.083M
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91	NY 67 and Eastline Road Intersection Improvements	\$3.944M
80	NY 146/Miller Road/Tanner Road Intersection Improvements	\$2.658M

Safety

Lisa Ramundo said that the County strongly supports project 81, which comes from a Linkage Study. She said if the Town had not proposed this project, the County would have proposed it. Mike Franchini said that the Linkage Study had broad support from the Town and the County.

Greg Wichser said that Region 1 supports all four safety candidates for now, especially since HSIP is not fully subscribed Statewide. It is possible that Region 1 could get additional HSIP from other regions.

Without voting, members agreed to include projects 81, 49, 44 and 22 in a tentative draft list of projects for the new TIP.

81	Albany Shaker Road Corridor Improvements	\$0.563M
49	US 4/I-90 Intersection Safety Improvements	\$4.434M
44	NY 146 Safety Project	\$4.849M
22	I-87 Exit 6 Interchange Safety Improvements	\$1.998M

Other

Mike Franchini explained that these projects were placed in the "Other" category because they do not fit in any other category. Project 4, the Albany Skyway, is really a park project and may not be eligible for transportation funds. Project 3 is a barge project which may be eligible for statewide CMAQ funding. Greg Wichser said that project 46 is a study of how to replace the Route 378 Troy Menands Bridge in the long term. It should be eligible for an FHWA Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study. A PEL study would allow us to study project alternatives without starting the ten year project clock. A PEL study would not count against our regular funding. Andrew Kreshik commented that improvements to the bridge will be important to the City of Troy.

Mike Franchini said that project 96 would move water and people under Route 9 to Round Lake. Bob Rice said that the cost for this project would be much higher than shown in the project application, and he recommended not programming this project.

Project 34 is already covered in the State Set-Asides.

Without voting, members agreed to include project 46 as a study with a different fund source that does not count against CDTC's regular funding.

46	NY 378 Troy Menands Bridge Replacement Study	\$0.866M
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Bicycle/Pedestrian

Brad Birge said that he would like to remove project 14 (Lake Avenue Corridor Improvement Project) from consideration and reduce project 15 (Saratoga Springs Missing Links Program) to \$2.0M. Project 15 will be

refocused to the inner district of the City. Mike Franchini asked Brad to please put this in writing, and staff will reevaluate the score.

Steve Feeney said that project 86 (the Freemans Bridge Multi-Use Path) is very important, and creates a connection between the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail and Collins Park trail which are part of the Empire State Trail project. The connection has been talked about in various planning and trail studies. Mike Franchini said that the section north of the bridge was recommended by the Linkage Study and has great support.

Chris Wallin said that he recommends project 17 (Franklin Street Cycle Track) be included. Charles Moore said that there is strong support for project 11 (Rensselaer Bicycle & Pedestrian Access Improvements). In response to a question he said he would be willing to reduce the scope. Andrew Kreshik suggested that in general the Set-Aside should be for smaller projects, while understanding there are special cases.

Because the pending outcome of the State TAP/CMAQ solicitation could greatly simplify the discussion of Bicycle/Pedestrian projects, members agreed to table the discussion of Bicycle/Pedestrian projects until the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 PM. The next Planning Committee meeting will be determined by Doodle Poll, which will include the following options: March 13th or 20th.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael V. Franchini
Secretary