

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
October 7, 2020
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bill Anslow, Albany County
Bradley Birge, City of Saratoga Springs
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Donald Csaposs, Town of Guilderland
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Vice-Chair
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee, Secretary
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority, Chair
Liz Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Sean Maguire, Town of Colonie
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Jaime O'Neill, Town Malta
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands
Robert Rice, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Joseph Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes
Mike Valentine, Saratoga County
Tim Wainwright, NYS Thruway Authority
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady

STAFF AND OTHERS

Christian Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Joe Cimino, CHA Consulting
Todd Fabozzi, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Jeremy Hughes, Barton & Loguidice
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee
Stephanie Long, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Fred Mastroianni, Greenman Pederson
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Manny Salorio, CHA Consulting
Rima Shamieh, Capital District Transportation Committee
Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority
Merton Simpson, Albany County Legislature
Jordan Solano-Reed, Capital District Transportation Committee
Dalia Szarowicz, Town of East Greenbush
Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee
Carrie Ward, Capital District Transportation Committee

Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Benny Zlotnik, Town of Milton

INTRODUCTION

Steve Iachetta opened the videoconference meeting at approximately 9:31 AM.

VISITORS' ISSUES

There were no visitors' issues.

ADMINISTRATION

Previous Meeting Minutes – August 5, 2020

Sean Maguire motioned to approve the August 5, 2020 minutes. Bradley Birge seconded and members approved the motion.

PRESENTATION – CDRPC'S CAPITAL DISTRICT ATLAS

Todd explained that CDRPC's newly updated [Capital District Atlas](#) is now available online, and anyone can download individual maps for use in their own work. He showed examples of different types of maps that are in the atlas and discussed land use and demographic aspects of development patterns in the last few decades.

ACTION ITEMS

FISCAL CONSTRAINT DISCUSSION - TIP SUMMARY TABLE 4

Mike Franchini noted that there have been changes to TIP Summary Table 4 since the last meeting. These include a number of rollovers, as well as changes made through project selection with NYSDOT. The latter are listed on the reverse side of the handout and do not require Planning Committee action.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

A. SA297, 1760.46, Ashdown Rd. Bridge over the DHRR: Replacement

Mike Valentine explained that this amendment is for a cost increase that requires Planning Committee approval. As a result of the CP Rail force account for the project, there will be an increased cost and duration of construction. Chris Wallin motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Andrew Kreshik seconded, and members approved the motion.

B. T134, Washington/Western BRT Phase 4

Ross Farrell noted that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced Small Starts funding for the Washington/Western BRT project in May. The funding needs to be added to the TIP prior to grant agreement with FTA. Anticipated rollout of the project is in 2022 or 2023. Brad Birge motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Bob Rice seconded, and members approved the motion.

C. T125, 1824.62, Washington/Western BRT Phase 3

D. RG131, CDTC.31, Bus Rapid Transit

Ross Farrell explained that T125, for Phase 3 of the Washington/Western BRT, was funded out of RG131, for Bus Rapid Transit. RG131 includes both STP-Flex and NHPP funding. T125 was funded with NHPP. After discussion with the FTA regarding the ineligibility of the T125 components for NHPP funding, this amendment seeks to switch the fund source of T125 to STP-Flex. This will use STP-Flex funding out of RG131 and return NHPP funding to RG131. In addition, the amendment increases funding in T125, again with funding from RG131, to accommodate high quotes received. Bradley Birge motioned to approve the amendments as presented, Bob Rice seconded, and members approved the motion.

STIP PERFORMANCE CHANGES

Mike Franchini referred to the attachments explaining the reasons for the proposed changes, as well as the list of changes. STIP performance is a concern of the Federal Highway Administration every year. It is necessary to balance the TIP by fund source and year. Staff worked with NYSDOT to suggest changes to local sponsors, and compiled the proposed list of changes after hearing back from everyone. Bradley Birge motioned to approve the performance changes as presented, Steve Feeney seconded, and members approved the motion.

NYSDOT PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGET APPROVALS

This agenda item is to approve NYSDOT's safety performance targets. MAP-21 initiated a requirement to have performance targets. The attachment shows the state's progress to date. Bob Rice noted that the intent is to reduce fatalities. Chris Wallin motioned to approve the performance targets as presented, Steve Feeney seconded, and members approved the motion.

DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE AND APPROVAL TO RELEASE FINAL DRAFT TO THE PUBLIC

Mike Franchini explained that COVID encouraged us to improve on our public participation plan. Jen Ceponis presented an overview of the updated plan's contents. It calls for a seamless and integrated process and the use of an equity lens for outreach. Notable changes include integrating equity at the beginning of projects, assessing outreach efforts, and a toolkit of outreach methods. Brad Birge motioned to approve the final draft of the updated Public Participation Plan as presented for public review, Sean Maguire seconded, and members approved the motion.

TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY AWARD APPROVAL

Mike Franchini explained that the UPWP included this project to help to implement the recent update to the Capital District Trails Plan. All applications were for quality projects. In total there were five proposals for a total of \$315,000 in funding. The selection committee met at the end of August to evaluate the applications, and recommended awarding the Patroon Greenway trail for a feasibility study. The selection committee consisted of staff from CDTC, NYSDOT, and the Empire State Trail. Mike Valentine noted that the applicants received a letter on September 3rd stating that the selection had been made, and informing each applicant whether or not their application was funded, but Planning Committee hadn't acted at that time. Mike Valentine asked for more information about who made the decision, when, and how it was made without Planning Committee involvement.

Mike Franchini replied that the letters received by the applicants should have said that a project had been recommended, not funded, and that the selection committee’s recommendation remained valid. Steve Iachetta said that staff would endeavor to improve communications. The next solicitation for trail feasibility studies is expected to be at the end of 2021. Steve Feeney motioned to approve the selection committee’s recommendation to award the Patroon Greenway trail application, and Chris Wallin seconded. Mike Valentine and Andrew Kreshik abstained. Members approved the motion.

Mike Valentine said there have been previous discussions with the Committee about rural versus urban and small versus large communities. The trail feasibility applications were mostly urban applicants and focusing on environmental justice leads to urban projects. He suggested looking at dividing solicitations into urban and rural/suburban portions.

2021-2022 LINKAGE PROGRAM SOLICITATION

Mike Franchini noted that this is an annual solicitation for linkage studies. We have noticed a concern this year with the ability for municipal participation in programs. Sandy Misiewicz said the proposed solicitation would allow up to 15% of the project to be in-kind match with 10% cash match. This is instead of the 25% cash match normally required. The option for technical assistance only is removed since we now have a stand-alone program.

The application will ask how the applicant will reach out to any disadvantaged populations in the study area. The spirit of the program is connecting land use and transportation. We propose keeping the December 16th deadline but later considering shifting to a rolling deadline if applications are not forthcoming. Mike Valentine motioned to release the Linkage Program solicitation as presented, Liz Kormos seconded, and members approved the motion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CDTC PROJECT DELIVERY UPDATE

Jacob Beeman said that there is no member update for the meeting, and noted the importance of providing updates in a timely manner. The tracking worksheet is posted with the meeting materials.

NYSDOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Greg Wichser noted that some work will be done on I-90 over Fuller Road before winter. Route 2 over the Poestenkill will be let in a couple of weeks. Northway preservation work will get underway in December. NYSDOT staff has begun working on the overhead signs project, within the I-787, I-90, and NY7 area. Public meetings were held for the Carman Road project, for which design and construction will begin this winter. Greg shared the following table in the meeting.

NYSDOT Projects within CDTC - SFY 20/21

PIN	Project Title	Current Letting	Letting Organization	Design Project Manager
172257	I-87 RESURFACING EXIT 11 TO SARATOGA SPRINGS CITY LINE (SOUTH)	04/23/2020	NYSDOT	JOSEPH FELICE JR
181029	ADA COMPLIANCE SFY19	04/23/2020	NYSDOT	JOSEPH FELICE JR

172268	TWIN BRIDGES PRESERVATION BINs 4033181, 4033182	06/04/2020	NYSDOT	DYLAN WILLSEY
152882	I-90 OVER FULLER RD, DECK REPLACE, ALBANY CITY, BIN 1034479	06/18/2020	NYSDOT	DYLAN WILLSEY
105182	ALBANY CORNING PRESERVE BIKE AND PED CONNECTOR RAMP	09/24/2020	NYSDOT	COREY BARRINGER
100136	RT. 2 OVER THE POESTENKILL, BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, BIN 1000190	10/22/2020	NYSDOT	JEFFREY MCGURN
172258	I-87 RESURFACING SARATOGA SPRINGS CITY LINE (SOUTH) TO EXIT 15	12/03/2020	NYSDOT	JOSEPH FELICE JR
181126	INTERSTATE OVERHEAD SIGN STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT, SFY 20	12/15/2020	NYSDOT	KENNETH DAVIS
108540	HSIP, ROUTE 146, CARMAN ROAD SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS, GUILDERLAND	02/18/2021	NYSDOT	COREY BARRINGER

STATUS OF CDTC PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Albany Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

Carrie Ward explained that this project will update the 2009 Bicycle Plan and create a new Pedestrian Plan. The team is now working on a draft. All public participation had been scheduled after March and was changed because of COVID-19. Online meetings were well attended but not evenly among neighborhoods. The team used the two scheduled demonstration projects to collect general input on the plan, worked with Catholic Charities to talk to people in line for food distribution, and called people who live in Common Council wards that were underrepresented in online meetings.

Ballston Spa Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

Jacob Beeman noted that this project is just getting started and will recommend new bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in the Village, including connections to the Zim Smith Trail.

Hoosick Hillside Study

Rima Shamieh noted that this project is nearing completion by the end of the month. It focuses on the neighborhoods on either side of Hoosick Street and how to connect them. The project team created a pre-recorded presentation, available online, and blanketed the neighborhood area with fliers to advise of the availability of the presentation.

CDTC/CDRPC Technical Assistance Program

Sandy Misiewicz said there are currently four projects and the program is still accepting applications. The final report for the Comprehensive Plan & Zoning Code Analysis on NYS Route 50 in Glenville is underway. Staff has provided the Town of Westerlo with existing conditions materials as part of that town's Comprehensive Plan Committee Assistance. Staff has also provided the Town of East Greenbush with existing conditions for the Gilligan Road Complete Streets Enhancements, and is working with the Town's consultant on the recommendations. Work on the Western Clifton Park Development & Conservation Trends Analysis has begun and the team is developing the public process to be used.

Local Bridge Study

Andrew Tracy advised that the selection committee awarded the project to CDM Smith. The project will fully update the 2015 study with new treatment recommendations and cost estimates. Please let Andrew know if you would like to participate in the study.

NY 7 Freight & Land Use Study

Mike Franchini advised that this project will look at truck parking, land use conflicts, and circulation on NY7 near Thruway Exit 25A. Staff has developed a draft Request for Expressions of Interest with the Towns of Princetown and Rotterdam, and the County and NYSDOT are now reviewing the draft. Chris Bauer is now assembling the advisory committee. Please contact Chris if you are a stakeholder and would like to participate.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDRPC

Mark Castiglione advised that there are eleven more sessions scheduled for the webinar series. NYSERDA is expected to announce a funding opportunity soon for the second iteration of the Clean Communities program. CDRPC continues to update the [COVID-19 data dashboard](#).

CDTA

Ross Farrell announced that the River BRT will roll out November 8th. The station work is almost finished, and the Troy garage was expanded. Ridership is now down 30% from last year.

NYSDOT

Bob Rice advised that the 2021 federal fiscal year has started. The FAST Act was extended through September of next year, and obligations are funded through December. NYSDOT is still involved in the COVID response effort. 25% of staff is in the office, and an agreement has been reached with the unions to extend telecommuting at least until January 1st. NYSDOT will re-advertise the PEL 378 study after tightening the scope to only include the environmental hot spots and a high-level modeling analysis. The Skyway bids were due a couple of weeks ago and were significantly higher than expected.

New York State Thruway Authority

Tim Wainwright advised that this is a busy time of year for the Thruway Authority. The Old State Road project is wrapping up and diamond grinding is underway between Exits 23 and 24. The Authority is also moving material for the COVID response effort.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta reported that the Airport Authority is wrapping up four new Blackhawk helicopter hangars which cost \$1 million each, and is holding steady at about 1,000 passengers per day. NYS Department of Health staff is on hand for people coming from quarantine states. Cargo and military traffic is strong. The dual boarding bridge will be retired.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Steve Iachetta summarized upcoming meetings as noted on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob Rice motioned to adjourn, Steve Iachetta seconded, and the members approved the motion at 11:35 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting will be November 4, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael V. Franchini
Secretary