

**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**April 7, 2021**

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Susan Barden, 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  
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee, Secretary  
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority  
Andrew Kohout, Village of Scotia  
Elizabeth Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa  
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy  
Sean Maguire, Town of Colonie  
Randy Milano, City of Albany  
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta  
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands  
Robert Rice, NYS Department of Transportation - Region I  
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park  
Joe Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes  
Mike Valentine, Saratoga County  
Tony Vasil, Albany Port District Commission  
Tim Wainwright, NYS Thruway Authority  
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady

**STAFF AND OTHERS ATTENDING**

Christian Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Michael Burns, Town of Glenville  
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Tony Christian, Creighton Manning Engineering  
Joe Cimino, CHA Consulting  
Alyson Fletcher, Nelson/Nygaard  
Meritxell Font, Nelson/Nygaard  
David Harris, Town of Schodack  
Richard Harris, Town of Halfmoon  
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Stephanie Long, NYS Department of Transportation - Region I  
Addyson Lyons, Greenman Pederson  
Fred Mastroianni, Greenman Pederson  
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee

Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Zach Powell, City of Albany  
Monica Ryan, Town of Sand Lake  
Rima Shamieh, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Melissa Shanley, Capital District Transportation Authority  
Jordan Solano-Reed, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Steven Strichman, City of Troy  
Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Carrie Ward, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region I

## **INTRODUCTION**

Steve Iachetta opened the videoconference meeting at approximately 9:35 AM.

## **VISITORS' ISSUES**

There were no visitors' issues.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – February 3, 2021**

There were no comments or suggested revisions to the February 3, 2021 draft meeting minutes. Sean Maguire motioned to approve the February 3, 2021 minutes, Mark Castiglione seconded, and members approved the motion.

### **PRESENTATION – City of Albany Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan**

Meritxell Font introduced the vision and goals of the project, including improving walking and biking networks in the city. Key challenges include wide crossings, lack of sidewalks in some areas, high levels of traffic stress on previously identified bicycle routes, and higher pedestrian crash rates in areas with higher environmental justice sensitivity. Alyson Fletcher provided an overview of engagement activities, including online opportunities and in-person demonstration projects. She described the recommended bicycling network and treatments, and how to prioritize and select treatments based on the existing conditions. The plan also outlines policies, programs, and procedures that should be considered, including speed limits and performance tracking, and includes an outline of methods to consider for prioritizing project implementation.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **FISCAL CONSTRAINT DISCUSSION - TIP SUMMARY TABLE 4**

Mike Franchini reviewed the handout for information purposes, and noted that there haven't been significant changes since the last meeting. Mike noted that there was a change made under project selection to increase the scope on R340 at US4 and I90 and that the increased funding will come from local developer mitigation fees.

## **2019-24 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

### **A. R310, 1760.34, Sand Lake Hamlets Sidewalk Enhancements**

Monica Ryan noted that the Town of Sand Lake has worked with NYSDOT to use NYSDOT funding to conduct repair work on a portion of the project in West Sand Lake. The Town would like to reinstate a portion of scope that had previously been removed due to fiscal constraint. The Town is requesting an additional \$74,000 to include a new multi-use path between Sand Lake and Averill Park. The Town is also asking to move construction back to 20-21, as it had been moved out to 21-22 last fall. Andrew Kreshik motioned to approve the amendment for a budget, scope, and schedule change, Bob Rice seconded, and members approved the motion.

### **B. S242, 1760.42, Broadway from .12 miles South of Weaver St. to Fourth St.: Mill and Fill**

Chris Wallin noted that the project costs have increased due to anticipated asphalt and fuel costs, and also costs to upgrade existing signals to accept pedestrian accommodations. Steve Feeney motioned to approve the requested cost change, Bob Rice seconded, and members approved the motion.

## **FREIGHT PLANNING PROJECT SELECTION**

Chris Bauer noted that CDTC has funding for one freight planning initiative this year. In January and February staff shared an online survey with the Freight Advisory Committee and Planning Committee to seek input on six potential options. The two highest ranking were for a Regional Truck Parking Study, and for a Local Delivery Optimization. Chris advised that we are asking the Planning Committee to make a selection today. Sean Maguire motioned to conduct the Regional Truck Parking Study, Andrew Kreshik seconded, and members approved the motion.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **TIP APPLICATION AND EVALUATION UPDATE**

Sandy Misiewicz noted that the packet included a summary of staff progress in general. Jen Ceponis provided an overview of the qualitative score method used along with the quantitative scores, and also provided an overview of the types of changes suggested for the merit evaluation process used for the qualitative scores. This included updating the format for consistency, reducing duplication, and providing references to relevant state or federal laws and priorities.

### **CAPITAL COEXIST TRAFFIC SAFETY AMBASSADOR MINI-GRANT PROGRAM**

The program made \$25,000 available in grants up to \$5,000 each for traffic safety and outreach projects. The newest round saw seven new applications for a total of about \$21,000. All were funded. Jen also noted that five projects from last year were unable to be completed due to the pandemic, and will be completed by the end of 2021.

### **2021 COMMUNITY PLANNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SOLICITATION**

Sandy announced that the solicitation for the technical assistance program is re-opened on a rolling basis through the beginning of December. The criteria remain the same.

**CDTC PROJECT DELIVERY UPDATE**

Jacob Beeman noted that the Town of Clifton Park obligated construction for its Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) project in February. The City of Schenectady received design approval for Francis Avenue over I-890 in January. In February the City of Rensselaer let its PSAP project, submitted PS&E for the 3rd Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation project and obligated right-of-way incidentals for the South Street Bridge Replacement. PS&E was submitted for Schenectady County’s Nott Street and Balltown Road intersection safety improvements project in March.

Ross Farrell provided an update on the Washington/Western BRT project. He described the history of already-completed components and outlined the upcoming final phase which will include site work at six additional stops, the busway from Brevator through the UAlbany campus, as well as the shelters, buses and transit signal priority for the entire line.

**NYS DOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE**

Greg shared the final project list for this year, as shown below, and noted that this year will see a busy local project season. Bob Rice thanked everyone for their timely responses.

Table 1: NYS DOT LET RD Commitment List – CDTC Region 1 SFY 21/22

PIN	Title	Let Date (as of 4/1/21)	Total Construction Cost
152888	I-90 PAVEMENT CORRECTIVE MAINTENANCE EXIT 10 TO THRUWAY	08-Apr-21	7,647,055
108979	RT. 4/I-90 INTERSECTION SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS	22-Apr-21	4,716,172
181126	INTERSTATE OVERHEAD SIGN STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT, SFY 21	22-Jul-21	3,159,000
152539	I-890 BRIDGES OVER ERIE BLVD. ELEMENT SPECIFIC REPAIRS	19-Aug-21	13,000,000*
100716	BIN 1038070 RT. 144 OVER HANNACROIS CREEK, COEYMANS	21-Oct-21	3,500,000
108540	HSIP, ROUTE 146, CARMAN ROAD SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS, GUILDERLAND	21-Oct-21	5,000,000
111141	ROUTE 20 OVER SCHOHARIE CREEK, BRIDGE REPLACE, BIN 1054370	18-Nov-21	2,000,000

\* Most Recent Cost Estimate – A TIP amendment may be forthcoming.

Table 2: LOCAL LET RD Commitment List – CDTC Region 1 SFY 21/22

PIN	Title	Let Date (as of 4/1/21)	Total Construction Cost
176114	BRIDGE NY CULVERT PARTITION ST OVER QUACKENDERRY CRK, RENS	14-Jun-21	700,000
176120	BRIDGE NY HANS CREEK RD OVER HANS CREEK, SARA CNTY	15-Jun-21	545,000

176165	RENSSELAER, 3RD AVE PAVEMENT REHAB & BIKE/PED IMPROV.	21-Jun-21	495,000
176122	BRIDGE NY FOX HILL RD OVER LITTLE HANS CREEK, TOWN EDINBURG	22-Jun-21	560,000
176095	PSAP CITY OF SCHENECTADY PEDESTRIAN ENHANCEMENTS	29-Jun-21	781,000
176166	GUILDERLAND AND HELDERBERG AVE PAVEMENT PRESERVATION, TOWN OF ROT	15-Jul-21	306,000
176119	BRIDGE NY CAMPBELL AVE OVER WYNANTS KILL BRIDGE REHAB, TROY	15-Jul-21	2,843,000
104358	RT. 9 AND 20 SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION, TOWN OF EAST GREENBUSH	19-Jul-21	680,515
176124	BRIDGE NY STOP 13 RD OVER WYNANTS KILL, TOWN OF SAND LAKE	12-Aug-21	916,000
176034	SAND LAKE HAMLETS SIDEWALK ENHANCEMENTS, TOWN OF SAND LAKE	25-Aug-21	580,000
176079	TAP/CMAQ - GUILDERLAND HAMLET SIDEWALK CONNECTION	15-Sep-21	608,000
176117	BRIDGE NY CULVERT JAMES ST. OVER EAGLES NEST CREEK, COHOES	15-Sep-21	730,000
176118	BRIDGE NY FRANCIS AVE OVER I-890 BRIDGE REHAB, CITY OF SCHENECTADY	15-Sep-21	2,666,000
176042	BROADWAY MILL AND FILL, WEAVER ST. TO FOURTH ST., SCHENECTADY	01-Oct-21	972,000
176062	ROSA RD, WENDELL AVE, NOTT ST. INTERSECTIONS, CITY OF SCHENECTADY	01-Oct-21	295,000
176057	BRANDYWINE AVENUE SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS, CITY OF SCHENECTADY	15-Oct-21	1,008,000
176092	PSAP CITY OF ALBANY PEDESTRIAN ENHANCEMENTS	29-Nov-21	1,101,000
176110	BRIDGE NY CULVERT MORNER RD OVER MILL CREEK, EAST GREENBUSH	15-Dec-21	327,000
176111	BRIDGE NY CULVERT MANNIX RD OVER MILL CREEK, EAST GREENBUSH	15-Dec-21	348,000
176086	TAP/CMAQ - SARATOGA SPRINGS GREENBELT DOWNTOWN CONNECTOR	03-Feb-22	1,207,000
175895	BIN 2203130, KINGS ROAD (CR 65) OVER CSX, BR RECONSTR, CITY OF SCHENECTADY	03-Feb-22	4,996,000

## **STATUS OF CDTC PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

### **A. Ballston Spa Bike/Ped Master Plan**

Jacob Beeman noted that the team held its second advisory committee meeting last month. Members held a socially distanced site walk to learn about problem and opportunity areas, and are reviewing the draft existing conditions report. Public involvement will be in the format of themed focus groups and is planned for May, followed by a wrap-up public meeting.

### **B. Menands Land Use Regulations Update**

The contract has been executed and the project team is planning the kick-off meeting, the public participation plan and a self-directed field visit for committee members.

### **C. Scotia Downtown Connections Plan**

Andrew Tracy said the study advisory committee held its first meeting and is reviewing the draft website. The consultant is currently working on the draft existing conditions report.

### **D. Local Bridge Preservation Report**

Andrew noted that the project is on a slightly accelerated schedule to accommodate the Bridge NY solicitation. The consultant is currently working on a draft study report, after completing bridge field visits in Albany, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties. Andrew asked for anyone in Rensselaer County who may be on the call to contact him after the meeting.

### **E. ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plans for Pedestrian Infrastructure**

Carrie noted that CDTC hired a consulting firm to create municipal Transition Plans of pedestrian infrastructure. The municipal solicitation for this program is open again, with a deadline of April 30th.

## **STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

### **CDRPC**

Mark Castiglione showed the Economic Recovery dashboard, including daily traffic volumes, enplanements and cargo tonnage at the Albany International Airport, and CDTA ridership. It also includes address changes from NYC boroughs to Capital Region counties, showing a large increase in the number of address changes from NYC coinciding with the COVID pandemic. CDRPC's spring webinar series is continuing and can be found on the CDRPC website.

### **CDTA**

Ross Farrell noted that ridership has been over 30,000 per weekday in the last few days, after having been below that level for a number of months. In 2019 weekday ridership was about 55,000 and had been increasing before the pandemic started. Ridership in September will be a good indicator, as people return to schools and colleges.

### **NYS DOT**

Bob Rice reminded members that the Bridge NY solicitation is out, and that cost estimates are important because funding increases are not possible after grant award. The bridge for the Albany

Skyway was closed on Monday and construction is underway. DOT will continue telecommuting until at least July 2nd, although most staff is now in the office at least two days per week. NYSDOT is reworking the scope for the 378 bridge study and hopes to have it released by the end of April or May. Pete Melas retired and Craig Blake is now the acting Region I regional construction engineer. CHIP allocations were restored to at least 95% of previous levels for this year. There may also be a program for projects on state touring routes under municipal jurisdiction.

#### **New York State Thruway Authority**

Tim Wainwright noted that the Thruway is transitioning from winter to summer staffing. The all-electronic toll collection project is ramping up again after the winter, and will continue removing the old toll booths.

#### **Albany County Airport Authority**

Steve Iachetta said that traffic has been restoring, and is at about 3,000 passengers departing per day, whereas 5,000 would be normal. Rapid COVID testing is available at the airport. The Authority will install touchless elevator buttons on all elevators. About \$5 million in taxiway rehabilitation is underway. They are holding many stakeholder interviews as part of the 20-year master planning process and will hold another public meeting in late June or July.

#### **Albany Port District Commission**

Tony Vasil reported that the Port implemented the winter port marketing concept in the second quarter of last year to develop business during closure of the Great Lakes. Among other, there were two ships with steel for auto facilities were in port in January and February and there is currently a ship with 32 wind towers for a project in western New York. The Port will be building an assembly facility for wind towers for the Empire and Beacon Wind Projects. Construction is expected to begin in 2022.

#### **Local Planning Activities**

Mike Franchini noted that he plans to retire mid-July this summer.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS**

Steve Iachetta summarized upcoming meetings as noted on the agenda.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Steve Iachetta motioned to adjourn, Bob Rice seconded, and the members approved the motion at 11:26 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting will be on May 5, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael V. Franchini  
Secretary