

**Planning Committee Meeting
November 2, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending

Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County, Chair
Anna Feltham, Town of East Greenbush
Patrick Jordan, Albany Port District Commission
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy
Sean Maguire, Town of Colonie, Vice-Chair
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee, Secretary
Bob Rice, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Joseph Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes
Mike Valentine, Saratoga County
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady

Staff and Others Attending

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jennifer Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Joseph Cimino, CHA Companies
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Christophe Desany, Capital District Transportation Authority
Kristin Diotte, City of Schenectady
Lorenzo DiStefano, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1
Tess Drauschak, City of Cohoes
Steven Golding, City of Watervliet
Elizabeth Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa
Teresa La Salle, Capital District Transportation Committee
Alaina Livechi, Capital District Transportation Committee
Rebecca O'Dell, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta
Megan Quirk, Capital District Transportation Authority
Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna
Chaim Simon, Capital District Transportation Committee
Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee
Carrie Ward, Capital District Transportation Committee
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1

Introduction

Sean Maguire opened the meeting at approximately 9:37 AM.

Visitor's Issues

There were no visitor's issues.

Presentation – CDTA BusPlus Red Line Upgrades

Ross Farrell provided a presentation on upcoming BusPlus upgrades on the Red Line, which sees about a quarter of CDTA's ridership. COVID didn't impact the Red Line to the same extent as other routes in the system. The biggest difference between BusPlus and other routes relates to roadway and pedestrian infrastructure. Upgrades on the project will include articulated vehicles to increase capacity, sidewalk and station improvements with new branding panels, solar power and heating in shelters, heated sidewalks, and new lighting. The treatments in downtown Albany and Schenectady may include transit priority measures such as priority signaling and queue jumpers.

The Gateway Transit Center in Schenectady will see improvements extending along State Street, Railroad Avenue, and Church Street, with traffic calming at South Church Street, a new queue jumper at State Street, and heated sidewalks. New mobility options will be included with carshare, bikeshare, and electric vehicle charging. In outer Schenectady and outer Albany, there will be full intersection and roadway reconstruction with a series of queue jumpers. In downtown Albany there will be more focus on the roadway and operations, with queue jumpers.

Administration

Previous Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2022

Sean Maguire motioned to approve the October 5, 2022 minutes, Randy Milano seconded, and members approved the motion.

Draft Performance and Expenditure Report (April 1 – September 30, 2022)

Sandra Misiewicz provided an overview of the contents of this report covering the last six months. Much work went into building the new Transportation Improvement Program. There are numerous consultant-led planning studies, update of the regional travel demand model is underway, and the Smart Communities Toolbox is wrapping up.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Fiscal Constraint – Summary Table 4

Jacob Beeman noted we are within the fiscal constraint boundaries, and we are under-programmed in the current fiscal year. We are still using the 2019-2024 TIP. When the new projects are brought in, we will still be under-programmed, but to a lesser extent.

Action Items

2019-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

1. RG131, CDTC.31, Bus Rapid Transit Implementation, Multi-County, Regional Transit
2. T137, CDTC137, BusPlus Red Line Upgrades, Multi-County, Regional Transit

Ross Farrell explained that these amendments will draw down the BRT Set-Aside to fund the red line upgrades discussed in the presentation. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Andrew Kreshik seconded, and members approved the motion.

CDTC ADA Solicitation

Carrie Ward noted that we received four applications, of which we anticipate the ability to complete three on this year's contract. Staff scored all four applications, which ranked in the order of Ballston Spa, Troy, Guilderland, and Clifton Park. Staff recommends funding the first three this year and completing a Self-Analysis and Transition Plan for Clifton Park if funding allows. Patrick Jordan motioned to approve the evaluation committee's recommendations, Ross Farrell seconded, and members approved the motion.

Bridge NY

Bob Rice explained that this year's solicitation for Bridge NY will be programmed similarly to core program funds to provide more flexibility. There will be at least one recipient in each County, with allocations by County based on the square footage of deficient bridge deck on locally owned bridges within the County. The solicitation will go through an MPO and DOT review process. Greg Wichser noted that there will also be a culvert solicitation using state funding, with a County and a Town representative on the evaluation committee. Locations that currently have a culvert will be eligible for the culvert funding.

We expect the application deadline to be in late December or January, after approval of an evaluation methodology at today's meeting and by the Policy board in early December, with awards by March. Sandra Misiewicz provided a draft simplified evaluation methodology, with facility condition and facility importance as well as a few merit evaluation categories: complete streets, freight, resiliency and security, and equity/environmental justice.

Chris Wallin made a motion to approve the funding targets and evaluation criteria as provided, Randy Milano seconded, and members approved the motion.

Discussion Items

CDTC Analysis of Traffic Changes Due to COVID-19

Andrew Tracy noted that staff has been tracking the impacts of COVID-19 on all modes of transportation in the region since March 2020. Around the spring of 2021, regional VMT returned to the pre-COVID baseline. At a national level, it appears that there are fewer downtown trips now with an increase in suburban trips, fewer office trips particularly in technology fields, a rise in local deliveries, and fewer medical trips.

Beginning late in 2021, CDTC engaged a consulting firm to conduct traffic counts around the region, including some around locations where COVID may have had a lasting impact on traffic. Using NYSDOT pre-COVID counts at most of the same locations, we then compared the counts pre- and post-COVID. At office complexes, daily traffic counts declined about 40%, by colleges and universities daily traffic counts were down about 12%. At important freight links, there was a decline in daily traffic by about 10% but an increase by about 30% in freight vehicles. Finally, many locations are now seeing a flattening of the peak hour. Staff put together a fact sheet comparing the pre-and post-counts at each location. CDTC will be entering into an on-demand motor vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian counts contract. Please contact Teresa LaSalle if you have locations where you think there may have been a shift in traffic patterns. Staff are also available to provide analysis on local count data.

Complete Streets Design Guide

Carrie Ward provided an overview of the design guide. It was a recommendation from New Visions 2040 in 2015. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requires expenditure on Complete Streets planning, and strongly encourages adoption of Complete Streets design standards. Sandra Misiewicz noted that municipalities need to coordinate with NYSDOT on NYSDOT-funded projects and those on state roadways. There was a suggestion to bring the guide to legislators.

CDTC TIP/Infrastructure Committee

Jacob Beeman noted that a subset of the Planning Committee will discuss the TIP update process and make recommendations on possible improvements. Staff propose an initial four meetings to debrief on the TIP process, review existing materials, and develop a TIP policy document with suggested changes to the evaluation, application, and programming processes. This will be brought to the Planning Committee for approval, after which staff will begin working on changes for the next TIP update. Thereafter, the committee could continue to meet on a quarterly basis to discuss infrastructure and resiliency.

Equity Policy Update

Staff are working on putting together draft equity policy language and getting feedback from Equity Advisory Committee members.

Long Range Transportation Plan

Jennifer Ceponis provided an outline of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan update that we anticipate beginning early next year. We plan to do a major update, beginning with collecting existing conditions next year and including robust input from Planning Committee, Policy Board, and the public. Sandra Misiewicz noted that this will be a resource intensive effort.

Summary of 2019-2024 TIP Project Selection Moves

Jacob Beeman noted this month there were 14 project selection moves, which are small changes in scope and schedule that don't require approval. This month there were fourteen. Two were made to align fiscal year 23 on the new and old TIP, three roll-over changes with unobligated funding in year '22, and 9 STIP performance changes to move construction funds from '23 to '24 to improve STIP performance for this federal fiscal year.

CDTC Project Delivery Update

Jacob Beeman noted that R195A South Troy Industrial Park Road in Troy was let in July, though Andrew Kreshik advised that it was then pulled due to excessive claims over eminent domain. NEPA concurrence was approved in September for S267 NY 5S Bike/Ped Improvements in Rotterdam. Monthly sponsor updates will begin again in January with Bethlehem, Watervliet, and Guilderland.

NYSDOT Project Delivery Update

Bob Rice noted that bid opening for the Glenridge Road overheight bridge detection project is tomorrow. There have been some projects recently with low bids significantly below the estimate, which have been inflated to try to anticipate inflation.

Status of CDTC Planning Activities

Sandra Misiewicz referenced the table linked in the agenda.

Status of Regional and Local Planning Activities

1. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that the workshop last week was successful. CDRPC has been working on a storymap of regional growth trends. Bids are expected back on the expansion of the juvenile detention facility in January.

2. CDTA

CDTA has an RFP out to update the Transit Development Plan and restructure the route system. While ridership is returning, the patterns are different post-COVID.

3. NYSDOT

Bob Rice noted that the NY 378 Bridge Planning and Environmental Linkages study is underway. There will be a public meeting at Hudson Valley Community College on Wednesday November 16th. Yesterday a design team was tentatively designated for the 787 study. Ron

Schaffer is moving to Main Office working on the statewide STIP. Tracy Balogh is retiring in a few weeks.

4. NYSTA
There were no updates provided at this meeting.
5. Albany County Airport Authority
There were no updates provided at this meeting.
6. Albany Port District Commission
Tonnage and ships are still up. DEC approval for the next phase of the expansion project is anticipated by next week, and federal approval for the waterside is anticipated in December.


Upcoming Meetings/Events/Deadlines

Sandra Misiewicz noted that upcoming meetings are listed on the website. There will be an information session for Walk & Roll to School this Friday. Chris Bauer noted that November 9th there will be a joint Freight Advisory Committee and Capital District Clean Communities meeting, with vehicle demonstrations, including electric skid steers and electric fleet management systems.

Adjournment

Chris Wallin motioned to adjourn at approximately 11:37 am, Randy Milano seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Misiewicz, AICP
Secretary