

CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2016

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Maggie Alix, Albany County Legislature
Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice Chair
Alan Grattidge, Town of Charlton
Terrence Hurley, Albany Port District Commission
Steve Iachetta, representing John O'Donnell, Albany County Airport Authority
Mayor Kris Kastberg, Village of Scotia
Joe LaCivita, representing Paula Mahan, Town of Colonie
Joe Landry, Town of Niskayuna
Mayor Patrick Madden, City of Troy
Joseph Moloughney, NYS Federal Thruway Authority
Mayor Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany
Jeremy Smith, representing Mayor Michael Manning, City of Watervliet
Linda Von der Heide, representing Kathleen Jimino, Rensselaer County
Chris Wallin, representing Mayor Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady
Thomas Werner, Saratoga County
Arthur Wright, Saratoga County
Mayor Joann Yepsen, City of Saratoga Springs
Sam Zhou, NYS Department of Transportation -Region I, Secretary

STAFF AND OTHERS

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Nancy Benedict, interested citizen
Anne Benware, Capital District Transportation Committee
Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation -Region I
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Todd Fabozzi, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee
Keith Irish, interested citizen
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Aaron Spies, Capital District Transportation Committee
Bessie Thompson, interested citizen
Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Kathy Sheehan opened the Capital District Transportation Committee meeting at 3:05 PM and welcomed those in attendance. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the December 3, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The December 3, 2016 meeting minutes were approved by the members.

A subsequent e-mail from Keith Irish noted that the reference on page 2 to "Center for Public Transportation" should be corrected to "Citizens for Public Transportation".

Nominating Committee

Mike Franchini presented the recommendation of the nominating Committee: Mayor Kathy Sheehan of Albany for the position of CDTC Chair, Carm Basile for the position of CDTC Vice-Chair, and Sam Zhou as Secretary. Members approved the nominations for the respective positions as proposed.

Kris Kastberg (Mayor of the Village of Scotia) and Alan Grattidge (Supervisor of the Town of Charlton) are finishing their service as town and village at-large members at today's meeting. New town and village at-large members for representation on the Policy Board were nominated as follows: John Clarkson (Supervisor of the Town of Bethlehem) and Lou Desso (Supervisor of the Town of North Greenbush) were proposed as members; and Steven Tommasone (Supervisor of the Town of Rotterdam) and Edward Kinowski (Supervisor of the Town of Stillwater) were recommended as alternates. Members approved the nominations for the respective positions as proposed.

The Nominating Subcommittee nominated town and village at-large members to serve on the Planning Committee. Proposed nominations were:

Member: Kevin Corcoran, Glenville

Alternate: Peter Comenzo, Rotterdam
Paul Reuss, Menands
Tony Tozzi, Malta
Rob Leslie, Bethlehem
Nadine Fuda, Schodack
Laura Robertson, Niskayuna
John Scavo, Clifton Park

Members approved the nominations for the respective positions as proposed.

Administrative and Financial Standing Subcommittee

Mike Franchini reported that the A & F met on February 25th. They reviewed cash flow and staffing.

PRIVELEDGE OF THE FLOOR

Nancy Thompson of the Citizens for Public Transportation said that there is a problem in the City of Albany with cars parking in bus stops. This makes it particularly hard for people with wheelchairs, but also for others. She recommended that bus stops should receive the same treatment as fire hydrants with respect to parking prevention. Bessie Thompson of the Citizens for Public Transportation said that curbs by bus stops should be painted yellow with Navy paint to let drivers know not to park there, and there should be enforcement. She said that cars parked at bus stops create dangerous situations. She was almost hit by a car when she was left off of the bus in the street due to a car parked in the bus stop area. She said that more STAR bus service is needed, and more STAR bus drivers are needed. She said bus customers soiling seats is a concern, and that more bus shelters are needed. She commented that CDTA needs more money.

PRESENTATION - NYS DOT 2016 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Sam Zhou gave a presentation about the NYSDOT construction projects this year. He distributed two handouts (attached) which mapped the locations of projects at the regional level and at the county level. He said that the total value of projects under construction in the 2016 season for Region 1 is \$418.8 M. This total includes \$149.8 M for NYWORKS projects; \$65.0 M for the Statewide Capital Prioritization Projects; \$75.5 M for Critical Bridges over Water projects (FEMA funding); \$122.1 for Core funding projects; and \$6.4 for Statewide HSIP projects. NYWORKS Projects include I-90, Patroon Island Bridge and I-787/ I-90 Interchange ("the Stack") Rehabilitation (\$149.8 M)

Statewide Capital Prioritization Projects include:

- Route 85 Reconstruction, from the Albany City Line to I-90, City of Albany \$18.5M.
- Route 146 from Aqueduct Road in Niskayuna to Riverview Road in Rexford (Clifton Park) \$32.5M.
- Washington Ave. Ext. Rehabilitation, City of Albany \$7.2M.
- Route 9 Lake George Gateway from Route 9N to Beach Road \$7.0M.

Statewide Highway Safety Improvement Program projects include:

- I-890 Exit 4 Ramp Reconfiguration , City of Schenectady, \$4.6M.
- Route 5, Central Avenue / State Street Pedestrian Safety Improvements, Albany, Colonie and Schenectady, \$1.8M.
- Route 146, Hamburg Street Reconstruction, Rotterdam to be let 2017 \$7.5M plus \$3.5 for Town sponsored Sewer installation.

Regional Core Program projects include:

- Rehabilitation of I-787 from Thruway Exit 23 to the South Mall Expressway, City of Albany, \$28.6M.

- Rehabilitation of the Empire State Plaza South Mall Arterial crossing Eagle St., I-787 and the DHRR, City of Albany \$22.4M.
- Bridge Preservation work on nine structures (\$4.2M) including :
 - o Route 22 / Hoosic River, Rensselaer County.
 - o I-787 SB ramp over Broadway, City of Albany.
 - o Route 9 & 20 / I-90, Rensselaer County.
 - o Route 351 / the Poesten Kill, Rensselaer County.
- Maintenance Paving, \$5.7M
 - o Routes 144 & 155 in Albany County.
 - o Routes 29 & 50 in Saratoga County.
 - o Route 50 in Schenectady County.
- Bridge Replacements, \$3.9M
 - o Route 29 over Fish Creek, Town of Saratoga, Saratoga County.
 - o Route 7 over the Sunkauissa, Town of Pittstown, Rensselaer County.

DRAFT 2016-21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM RELEASE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Mike Franchini distributed two handouts (attached); the first summarized the results of the project evaluation process; the second listed corrections to the project listings in the mail out. Overall there were 18 projects totaling \$37 M that were rolled over from the existing TIP into the new TIP. Set asides were limited as much as possible from 29 to 4. The four remaining set asides include

- NYSDOT maintenance for about \$22 M per year.
- Transit set aside—this set aside previously used CMAQ funding which is no longer available because the CDTC area is now in attainment. This set aside is for \$3.4 M per year for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Travel Demand Management (TDM).
- Bicycle/pedestrian set aside for \$1 M per year.
- Set aside for low volume, local (non-State) bridges, pavements and culverts, for \$1 M per year.

All FTA funding was programmed for CDTA.

122 project applications were received. Three were found to be not eligible for federal funding. 119 projects worth \$413 M were evaluated. Each project was modeled to calculate benefits. Costs were adjusted by inflation. Benefit to cost ratios (B/C) were calculated and scaled to keep all B/C scores to less than or equal to 50. Merit scores were calculated for each project based on a well-defined rating system. The merit scores were scaled and added to the B/C score. Merit scores and B/C ratios are shown in the hand out for each project. Mike said that he gives the staff a lot of credit for completing this extensive evaluation process in three weeks. Mike reviewed the tables in the mail out that summarized funding by project type. He said that 41 new projects were selected totaling over \$97 M. Sixteen different project sponsors were represented and a good

geographic balance was achieved. He said a lot of credit goes to the Planning Committee members who worked hard, including extra meetings and one all-day meeting. He said a lot of credit also goes to DOT for offering some really good proposals.

Mike said that the next step is a sixty day public review period for the draft TIP. Terrance Hurley commented that the product is very impressive, and that the process has been very thorough and very open. Mike Franchini said that the merit score process is very well defined and very fair and defensible. He said that the merit score encourages project sponsors to develop good projects that are supportive of the New Visions Plan.

Members approved the release of the draft TIP for the sixty day public comment period.

DRAFT REGIONAL FREIGHT PLAN APPROVAL

Chris Bauer gave a briefing on the significant revisions made to the Regional Freight & Goods Movement Plan, resulting from the recent Plan review periods. The Final Draft is available online at: <http://www.cdtcmpo.org/freight/study.pdf>. Chris said they addressed approximately 150 comments from CDTC Staff, the Planning Committee, the Freight Advisory Committee, the public, and others. Chris highlighted some of the significant revisions including: the I-87 Northway Exit 4 Airport Access project was added to the long-range recommendations, a revised project recommendation regarding a Tandem Trailer Lots Relocation Study, and Freight Data Collection and Local Delivery Optimization Programs were added to the programmatic recommendations. Chris gave an overview of the Draft Plan's review process. Mike Franchini emphasized the amount of effort that went into developing the Freight Plan, including an extensive stakeholder outreach process. Members approved the Regional Freight & Goods Movement Plan.

DRAFT UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Mike Franchini explained that the UPWP is the work program for the staff, including all of our tasks for two years. It is required for MPOs. Page V presents key accomplishments of the last two years. Page IV presents emphasis areas, which include performance-based planning, with development of measures and targets; complete streets planning; and ladders of opportunity for environmental justice, including seniors, disabled and disadvantaged. A new program will be explored to provide assistance for municipalities to evaluate safety needs and to develop safety projects. There will be a new task to develop a system to track project delivery and report project status to the Planning Committee. Members approved the UPWP.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDTC

Carrie Ward said that Bike to School week will be on May 4. This year CDTC is expanding support for Bike to School Day. By county, the school with the most participating students will be awarded a trophy. This year, Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 20th. Participants can ride to work any day that week. CDTC will continue to support Bike to Work Day and is sponsoring a competition among employers and municipalities.

Jen Ceponis reported on the Capital Coexist Traffic Safety Ambassador Program/Bicycle and Pedestrian Mini-Grants. The Traffic Safety Ambassador Program made \$20,000 in Federal funding available for capacity building projects designed to assist public, private, and non-profit organizations in the Capital Region in providing bicycle and pedestrian safety education and training. Eleven applications totaling \$32,000 were received. Eight projects were chosen totaling just under \$20,000.

Anne Benware reported that CDTC is hosting a free Workshop for Senior and Disability Services Transportation Providers on Thursday, April 14th, 2016 at the Crossings of Colonie from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Thirty-five people have signed up.

CDRPC

Todd Fabozzi reported that an online Census Mapping Application is nearing completion and almost ready to launch. Any user with a web browser and internet connection will be able to query and create regional thematic maps. CDRPC has been approved for a NYSERDA Community Partnership Grant under the Cleaner Greener Communities Program. This task will include three other regions as well as our own and will be managed by CDRPC. Communities can participate in programs to reduce energy and transition to clean energy sources, and if they achieve "Clean Energy Community" status they can apply for additional NYSERDA funding for project implementation.

CDTA

Carm Basile reported that CDTA has a new operating plan that will increase service. Ridership is up for the sixth consecutive year.

NYSDOT

Sam Zhou said that in developing pedestrian safety action plans, NYSDOT will be reaching out to local communities.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta said that the Airport experienced 13% growth from January to January and 17% growth from February to February. He said that annual ticketed passengers now exceed three million. He said that Jet Blue started service to the Albany International Airport in December.

Albany Port District Commission

Terry Hurley reported that the Port is experiencing robust maritime activity and exports are up. The Port will host the third annual Port Industry Day on May 12.

Linkage/Local Planning Activities

Mike Franchini reviewed the status of planning activities in the mail out.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Sam Zhou
Secretary

