

CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2015

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice Chair
Frank Bonafide, representing Sam Zhou, NYS Department of
Transportation -Region I, Secretary
John Evers, representing Dan McCoy, Albany County Executive
Alan Grattidge, Town of Charlton
Terrence Hurley, Albany Port District Commission
Andrew Kreshik, representing Mayor Lou Rosamilia, City of Troy
Joe LaCivita, representing Paula Mahan, Town of Colonie
Joe Landry, Town of Niskayuna
Charles Moore, representing Mayor Dan Dwyer, City of Rensselaer
Joseph Moloughney, NYS Federal Thruway Authority
Paul Sausville, representing Matthew Veitch, Saratoga County
Ann Shaughnessy, representing Stan Brownell, Rensselaer County
Legislature
Mayor Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany
Jeremy Smith, representing Mayor Michael Manning, City of Watervliet
Mike Stammel, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Ed Tremblay, representing Mayor George Primeau Sr., City of Cohoes
Linda Von der Heide, representing Kathleen Jimino, Rensselaer County
Chris Wallin, representing Mayor Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady
Thomas Werner, Saratoga County

STAFF AND OTHERS

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee
Keith Irish, interested citizen
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Peter Plumeau, Resource Systems Group
Aaron Spies, Capital District Transportation Committee
Tony Tozzi, Town of Malta
Victor Waldron, Federal Transit Administration
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 September 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The September 3, 2015 meeting minutes were approved by the members.

PRIVELEDGE OF THE FLOOR

Keith Irish commented that State legislation is biased toward New York City infrastructure, and he would like to see more attention to upstate infrastructure. He was disappointed that at a meeting of the Center for Public Transportation, CDTA made no mention of the new flexible bus which was announced the next day. He said that the loss of transit service in Saratoga is a concern.

CDTC REGIONAL FREIGHT AND GOODS MOVEMENT STUDY

Peter Plumeau of RSG gave a presentation about the Draft CDTC Regional Freight and Goods Movement Plan and referred to the Executive Summary in the mail out. The Study describes current and future commodity flows; land use planning for freight related activities; performance measures and recommendations. A gaps and needs analysis was completed that identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Stakeholder engagement has been an important part of the Study. A Freight Priority Network was developed as a more fine-grained update to the previous freight priority network. The Study will serve as the Regional Freight Plan when final approval is received.

Chris Wallin commented that the Freemans Bridge Road Grade Crossing Separation project will be very good for economic development in the City of Schenectady, and he would prefer that it could be accomplished sooner than the long range time frame. He also noted that this project is in Glenville, not Scotia. Peter Plumeau commented that this would be a good public/private partnership project.

Chris Bauer reviewed the schedule for the Study.

DRAFT REGIONAL FREIGHT PLAN RELEASE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members approved the release of the draft Regional Freight Plan for a sixty day public review.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM STATUS AND SOLICITATION

Mike Franchini explained the table in the mail out describing funds available. He said that there will be \$28.34 M of matched federal dollars per year available for a competitive solicitation. A solicitation for projects will go out this month. The new full project evaluation system will be used and tested for this solicitation. This system will include CDTC's Benefit/Cost Ratio, as well as the merit score based on a number of project characteristics

that are not directly evaluated as part of the Benefit/Cost Ratio. The merit score is based on the relationship of the project to the New Visions 2040 Plan and CDTC policies. Projects applications will be due at the end of January. A significant staff effort will be needed to evaluate the projects applications and prepare for Planning Committee and Policy Board review and selection of projects for the 2016-2021 TIP. Frank Bonafide commented that both CDTC and NYSDOT staffs have been working really hard on this effort.

COMPLETE STREETS WORKSHOPS

Chris Bauer reported on the Complete Streets Workshops task. With the assistance of a Consultant Selection Committee made up of regional agency representatives, Planning 4 Places with Sam Schwartz Engineering was the team chosen to develop and conduct the workshops. CDTC staff sent out a solicitation package to all local jurisdictions. CDTC received three applications from the following municipalities: City of Troy - Workshop Type C (Implementation); Town of Malta - Workshop Type C (Implementation); Town of Niskayuna - Workshop Type A (Basics). Staff has met with all three communities to start planning for the workshops. Next steps include selecting workshop dates and working with them to ensure participation of key officials, staff and appropriate stakeholders.

2016-2017 LINKAGE PLANNING PROGRAM SOLICITATION

Sandy Misiewicz said that the Linkage Program is now fifteen years old. This year's solicitation will focus on implementation. Two projects will be selected, in order to focus staff efforts and there are new milestone requirements so that projects do not linger.

CAPITAL COEXIST TRAFFIC SAFETY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM/BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MINI-GRANTS

Jen Ceponis reported on this new program. The Traffic Safety Ambassador Program will make \$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. Examples of eligible projects, programs & events include group bike ride/tour event, rodeos, demos, new materials, podcasts, and apps. There is no set minimum for requests but each project type has a \$5,000 maximum request. Applications are due January 15, 2016.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDTC

Mike Franchini said that staff will be preparing the UPWP update in January. CDTC is scheduled for an in-person recertification March 14th through 16th. Mike introduced and welcomed Victor Waldron of the

Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Mike also introduced and welcomed Aaron Spies, who recently joined the CDTC staff.

CDRPC

Mike Stammel reported that the CDRPC continues to update and maintain GIS to provide GIS products and services for local governments, agencies and citizens on request. The five year 2010-14 American Community Survey (ACS) was released today and staff will be updating the Community Fact Sheets to incorporate this new data. This will be the first opportunity to perform an ACS time series comparison without overlapping years. CDRPC will be collaborating with UAlbany's Rockefeller College Graduate MPA program to do a geographic time series comparison of the 2005-09 and 2010-14 year ACS data sets of our region to comparable metropolitan areas in New York State and across the country. CDRPC completed the third and final year of the NYSDA-funded Climate Smart Communities Pilot Grant. CDRPC has applied for a multi-year Community Partnership Grant under the Cleaner Greener Communities funding program to expand on the pilot program. Continued progress continues to be made on the Albany Pool Combined Sewer Overflow Project.

CDTA

Carm Basile commented that the new federal transportation bill is good for transit but not great for transit. The bill will keep pace with inflation. Fortunately the proposal to cut transit funding for the seven most densely populated states was not approved. CDTA ridership continues to be very high. It was \$17.2 million last year and should be close to that this year. Mayor Sheehan said that the Upstate Revitalization Working Group recognizes how important transit is for economic development—for accessing jobs for people living in urban centers.

NYS DOT

Frank Bonafide said that all work that affects rush-hour traffic for the Patroon Island Bridge will be finished this month. The Exit 4 project will have some landscaping work completed in the spring. Preliminary work has begun on the Rexford Bridge, with construction starting in the spring. For the Route 85 project, the campus section will be done in the spring and the whole project will be finished next year. The Washington Avenue Extension project is wrapping up. The Route 32 over the Mohawk project has been let, but not yet awarded.

Sam Zhou is now serving as interim Regional Director for Region 2 while also remaining Regional Director for Region 1.

Albany County Airport Authority

Mike Franchini said that Jet Blue is starting service to the Albany International Airport on December 10.

Albany Port District Commission

Terry Hurley reported that 2015 has been a very good year at the Port. Scrap steel is the number one export.

Saratoga County

Tom Werner said that annual Planning and Zoning conference will take place in Saratoga Springs on January 27.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Zhou
Secretary