

**CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes  
December 1, 2016

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Maggie Alix, representing Sean Ward, Albany County  
Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice Chair  
Steve Iachetta, representing John O'Donnell, Albany County Airport Authority  
Patrick Jordan, Esq., Albany Port District Commission  
Andrew Kreshik, representing Mayor Patrick Madden, City of Troy  
Joe LaCivita, representing Paula Mahan, Town of Colonie  
Joe Landry, Town of Niskayuna  
Joseph Moloughney, NYS Thruway Authority  
George Penn, representing Daniel P. McCoy, Albany County  
Ann Shaughnessy, representing Stan Brownell, Rensselaer County  
Mayor Kathy M. Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair  
Jeremy Smith, representing Michael P. Manning, City of Watervliet  
Michael E. Stammel, Capital District Regional Planning Commission  
Steven Tommasone, representing John Clarkson, Town of Bethlehem  
Linda von der Heide, representing Kathleen M. Jimino, Rensselaer County  
Chris Wallin, representing Mayor Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady  
Thomas Werner, Saratoga County  
Sam Zhou, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1, Secretary

**STAFF AND OTHERS**

Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1  
Maria Chau, Federal Highway Administration  
Jim Digioia, Office of General Services  
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee  
John Grady, Ravi Engineering and Land Surveying  
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Andy Mair, Defreestville Neighborhood Association  
Michael McGuiness, Interested Citizen  
Randy Milano, City of Albany  
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee  
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park  
Greg Wischer, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1

**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 1, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

The September 1, 2016 meeting minutes were approved by the members.

### **PRESENTATION-NYSDOT REXFORD BRIDGE PROJECT**

John Grady of Ravi Engineering gave a presentation on this project. The existing bridge over the Mohawk River will be replaced with a four lane bridge. The section of roadway between Riverview Road in Rexford in the town of Clifton Park, Saratoga County, and Aqueduct Road in town of Niskayuna, Schenectady County will be widened. A roundabout will be constructed at Aqueduct Road and Balltown Road. The project will add a pedestrian/bicycle path along Route 146 that will connect to the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail. Construction is being staged carefully to minimize delays. The new bridge is expected to open in August 2017, and the contract is expected to be complete in December 2017. In response to questions, John said that the roundabout is expected to work very well.

### **2016-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

#### **A. S247 (1760.57), Brandywine Avenue Safety Improvements, Schenectady**

Chris Wallin said that the City received NYSDOT approval for HSIP funding for this project on June 20, 2016. The project is being coordinated with the NYSDOT Route 5 project. The project will have no impact on the current TIP funding allocations. Members approved the amendment.

#### **B. A564 (1760.25), A565 (1760.26), & 1760.58 Madison Avenue Improvements, Albany**

Mike Franchini explained that this amendment will combine two related TIP projects. Randy Milano said that this project represents an excellent opportunity to combine road diet with pavement restoration. Mike Franchini said that this is a first for the region—reducing four lanes to three lanes and adding bike lanes, and the first phase is working well. It will be a precedent for the region. Mayor Sheehan commented that the new configuration will reduce confusion, and is considered to be traffic calming. It is great for new development. Members approved amendment.

#### **C. A580/R308 (1306.81), NY 7 Bridge over the Hudson River: Element Specific Repairs, Green Island and Troy**

Frank Bonafide explained that this project is funded from an MOU executed by the Governor and legislative leaders and does not count against regional planning targets. Members approved the amendment.

**D. A584 (1810.74), Menands Bike/Ped Connector, Menands**

Frank Bonafide explained that this project is related to the I-787 Study. It provides a connection between Menands and the Mohawk Hudson Bike Trail. Mike Franchini commented that this project represents an innovative reuse of existing pavement and provides a great opportunity to access the Mohawk Hudson Bike Trail. Sam Zhou said that that this project is a demonstration of NYSDOT thinking about how to get better access to the River in the I-787 corridor and how to get better use of existing pavement. Members approved the amendment.

**E. T109 (1760.59), Washington/Western BRT Phase 1, Albany**

Mike Franchini said that this amendment involves a draw down funds from the Bus Rapid Transit Set-Aside for elements of the Washington-Western Bus Rapid Transit project, including improvements to the intersection of Lark & Washington. Carm Basile said that the Washington Western corridor is the fastest growing corridor. In response to a question, he said the BRT will cross the Harriman campus as a bus only lane from Brevator Street to UAlbany, and then will continue across the UAlbany campus to Fuller Road. A new Transit Center will be built at Crossgates. The configuration of the new transit center is still being planned. Members approved the amendment.

**F. A585 (1007.19), NY 144 & NY 143 Corrective Maintenance & ADA Improvements, Coeymans**

**G. R320 (1089.75), Bike/Ped Improvements on NY 4, North Greenbush**

**H. R321 (1089.76), NY 4/Bloominggrove Road Intersection Improvements, North Greenbush**

The above three projects were considered together. Mike Franchini explained that the enactment of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 allowed the repurposing of certain earmarked federal funds, which CDTC refers to as "Demo" funds (short for federal demonstration funds). There are certain rules associated with the use of these repurposed funds. CDTC is adding three projects, funding for which come from the former I-90 Exit 4 Connector project's demo funds, R173 from previous TIP's (most recently, the 2010-15 TIP). He noted that the reference in the mail out should be changed from A584 to A585. The Planning Committee capped the federal-aid for these projects at the amounts shown. Any additional funds must come from non-federal sources.

Frank Bonafide explained that projects had to be within 50 miles of the original demo project. Two of the projects are along Route 4 and part of the Town Plan. Andrew Mair made a statement that his organization, the Defreestville Neighborhood Association, is disappointed that the I-90 Exit 8 Connector was never built. He also expressed concerns about a modified site plan that Bt Albany has submitted with access on Bloominggrove Road very near to Route 4. Mike

Franchini explained that his comments will be included in the minutes, but that the site design is the responsibility of the developer and the Town of North Greenbush. Frank Bonafide said that the Town, the County and the State have talked; Frank said his advice to Andrew Mair would be to discuss his concerns with the Town.

Members approved the amendments for A585, R320 and R321.

- I. SA304, NY146/NY146A Intersection Safety Improvements, Clifton Park**
- J. S249, Nott Street/Balltown Road Intersection Safety Improvements, Niskayuna**
- K. S248, Broadway Traffic Signal Safety Improvements, Schenectady**

Mike Franchini noted that S249 was incorrectly called S247 in the agenda. He said that two of these projects (SA304 and SA249) were approved by the Planning Committee in November. S248 was reviewed by NYSDOT and was determined to be ineligible for HSIP funding. Sandy Misiewicz explained that NYSDOT Traffic and Safety worked with the City of Schenectady to evaluate the Broadway project. HSIP funding eligibility is very data driven and the Broadway project did not meet the criteria for crash reductions.

In response to a question, Sandy explained that the Nott Street project will add a left turn lane on Nott Street. Patrick Jordan commented that the cost for the Nott Street project seemed high. Mike Franchini said that CDTC staff reviewed the cost and felt that it was reasonable, and Metroplex is contributing to the funding of the project.

Chris Wallin commented that it would be helpful if more clear guidance could be given about HSIP eligibility. Mike Franchini said that CDTC will hire a consultant to assist with the development of good safety projects.

Members approved the addition of projects SA304 and SA249 to the TIP.

#### **TAP (TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM)/CMAQ (CONGESTION MITIGATION/AIR QUALITY) PROJECT SOLICITATION**

Frank Bonafide said that TAP and CMAQ project applications were rated and ranked by different NYSDOT Regions and submitted to the Main Office. Final approval of projects will be announced next year.

#### **2017 PLANNING COMMITTEE AND POLICY BOARD MEETING SCHEDULES**

Mike Franchini reviewed the schedule for Planning Committee and Policy Board meetings for 2017. Policy Board meetings are the first Thursday in March, June, September and December. Planning Committee meetings are on the first Wednesday of the remaining months. The one exception this year is the Planning Committee meeting was changed from July 5<sup>th</sup> to June 28<sup>th</sup>, to avoid competing with the holiday.

## **2017-2018 LINKAGE PROGRAM SOLICITATION**

Mike Franchini said that there were 13 Linkage projects underway, and 7 of 13 will be completed by the end of the fiscal year. CDTC will add no more than three new Linkage studies this year. Applications are due by close of business December 16. We ask that Linkage sponsors attend at least 2 of 4 Linkage Forum meetings per year.

## **FHWA/FTA CERTIFICATION REVIEW**

Mike Franchini explained that an in person certification review is required for each MPO once every four years. The latest on-site review took place March 14-16 and was conducted by representatives from FHWA and FTA. The Certification Report was published in September 2016. A number of CDTC noteworthy practices were highlighted, including the evaluation of TIP projects and merit criteria; the Bridge Assessment Study; Freight Planning (Chris Bauer did a great job); and the ADA transition planning, including training from FHWA and assistance for our members. Corrective actions were noted. One corrective action was in regard to the Financial Plan in the Regional Transportation Plan, which did not include computer modeling to look at future infrastructure needs. The correction will be in draft form in March, completed by June. In addition, fiscal constraint needs to be documented, and staff will be working with NYSDOT on addressing this concern. The Certification Report also included recommendations and commendations. Mike Franchini commented that CDTC is one of the best MPOs because of the excellent work of the staff.

## **STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

### **CDTC**

Mike Franchini distributed a handout describing an analysis by Parks & Trails New York and Tri-State Transportation Campaign which reveals that the Capital District and Southern Adirondacks have the highest rate of investment in safer walking and biking facilities in the state. He said that we are very proud of this accomplishment; and the analysis did not even include the Menands Bike/Ped Connector and the Madison Avenue Road Diet. Mayor Sheehan said that the New Visions goal for bike ped spending is good for economic development.

### **CDRPC**

Mike Stammel said that Rocky Ferraro is retiring on December 23, and commented that he has done a marvelous job and CDRPC is proud of his efforts. Mark Castiglione, the new Director, will start today.

CDRPC is working with CDTC to develop community growth profiles for each municipality. The 2011-2015 ACS will be released on December 8<sup>th</sup>; CDRPC will update fact sheets based on the new data.

CDRPC is working on the Clean Energy Communities program, with funding from NYSEDA. CDRPC is serving as organizer for the Hudson Valley and Mohawk Valley regional programs as well as the Capital Region.

**NYSDOT**

Sam Zhou said that construction efforts are winding down for the winter. Out of 21 State projects, only two are delayed; and kudos to local staffs— out of 26 projects, 25 are on track.

**NYS Thruway Authority**

Joseph Moloughney reported on the "Move Over" campaign for safety. It is in response to two crashes in which Thruway workers were fatally injured.

**Albany County Airport Authority**

Steve Iachetta said that the Airport is only growing airport in upstate, experiencing 9 percent growth compared to the same month last year. Advancement in land acquisition for the Northway Connector project is progressing.

**Albany Port District Commission**

Patrick Jordan reported that construction of a 45,000 square foot climate control warehouse is on line. The Creighton Manning traffic study for truck concerns on Pearl Street is completed. A public meeting with residents will be scheduled.

**City of Schenectady**

Chris Wallin reported that the Casino will open on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Replacement of the rail bridge over Nott Street to add a turn lane will take place before the casino opens.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Sam Zhou  
Secretary