

Capital District
Transportation Committee

January 23, 2017

The Community and Transportation Linkage Planning Program for 2017-18

Introduction

The Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) has continued its support of the Community and Transportation Linkage Planning Program (the Linkage Program) in Federal Fiscal Year 2017-18 by reserving roughly \$100,000 for consultant assistance and \$75,000 for staff technical assistance in CDTC’s 2016-2018 Unified Planning Work Program. CDTC solicited for new projects in November 2016 with a December 16, 2016 deadline. Two submissions were received requesting \$112,500 in federal planning funds for consultant assistance. Project summaries are provided below.

	Consultant Total	Federal Planning Funds Requested	Local Cash	Additional CDTC staff Assistance Requested
Patroon Creek/Washington Avenue Corridor Study, City of Albany	\$90,000	\$67,500	\$22,500	\$10,000
Carr Road Area Complete Streets Implementation Plan, Town of Wilton	\$60,000	\$45,000	\$15,000	\$2,500
Total	\$150,000	\$112,500	\$37,500	\$12,500

*In-kind services assigned directly to the project beyond the consultant budget are proposed by the Town of Wilton (\$7,500).

Application Summaries

Patroon Creek/Washington Avenue Corridor Study, City of Albany

The City of Albany seeks to study a segment of Washington Avenue roughly bounded by NY-85, I-90, the Harriman Campus and the University at Albany’s Uptown Campus. This particular area has had and continues to undergo development such as private dormitories, hotels and other commercial uses, leading to increases in vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Due to the width of Washington Avenue and the locations of the campuses in this area, pedestrians seek to cross at unsignalized locations, creating potential conflicts between pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Through this effort, the City intends to examine the study area to make recommendations for pedestrian and traffic safety improvements and to better align the transportation network with the built environment.

Carr Road Area Complete Streets Implementation Plan, Town of Wilton

The Town of Wilton recognizes the importance of creating an environment that promotes healthier lifestyles and provides optimal transportation accessibility and choices for its residents and visitors. In 2016 the Town, through an engineering consultant, completed studies to address and identify operational and safety needs in the Carr Road/McGregor Links Golf Course area and the potential to

provide non-motorized connections to key locations in the vicinity. The construction of Roundabouts at two locations and the provision of a multi-use path or bike lanes were identified as desirable and feasible. The Town has recognized that providing a non-motorized connection in the Carr Road area could provide key linkages to and from the Gavin Park, Dorothy Nolan Elementary school, the McGregor Links Golf course and restaurant and the over 1,000 homes in the area including the Birch Meadows Mobile Home Park on Jones Road. The Town is pursuing Linkage Program funding to further examine the alternatives identified to refine the budgets for implementation, identify likely property and environmental impacts, and provide for public input.

Evaluation Process

Following CDTC's evaluation procedures, CDTC staff screened the applications to ensure they were complete and met all program requirements. All proposals were noted as being complete and were categorized as Tier 2 projects as noted in the Table on page 4.

An evaluation team consisting of staff from CDTC, NYSDOT, CDTA and CDRPC then used the following evaluation criteria to discuss each of the proposals in detail. The evaluation criteria are not presented in order of importance however an indication of their relative importance is noted. All efforts are required to meet the first two criteria with the first criterion serving as an initial priority rating. Addressing the remaining six criteria will help improve the priority of the submission. Submissions that best meet all eight evaluation criteria will be considered first for funding.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Is the initiative eligible and consistent with the Linkage Program strategies? What is the need for the project? Is there a sense of urgency? (mandatory and improves priority)
2. Is the proposed scope of work reasonable for the proposed budget? (mandatory)
3. What is its Tier placement (as described in the Linkage Program solicitation material) and is there a completed Linkage Study, other locally adopted plan or adopted complete streets policy in place related to the effort? (improves priority)
4. What is the sponsors' plan for implementation? Is the intent to adopt, endorse or accept the plan? Does the proposal indicate a path for success? (improves priority)
5. Will the project have a positive impact on the transportation system when implemented? (improves priority)
6. Is the proposal an inter-municipal initiative? (improves priority)
7. Is the submission supported locally through complementary activities and/or funding commitments beyond the minimum match requirements? (improves priority)
8. For past sponsors of Linkage studies: Was the sponsor's performance adequate and appropriate as determined by CDTC staff? (improves priority)

Programming Recommendation

The evaluation team discussed the merits of both submissions and a summary of how each project relates to the evaluation criteria is provided in the Table on page 4. Based on the available financial resources (\$100,000 in federal funds), information provided by the project sponsors in the application and through follow up conversations with CDTC staff, the evaluation team recommends the City of Albany Patroon Creek/Washington Avenue Corridor Study for funding. The team felt that this study was needed given the context of the situation on Washington Avenue. The roadway is at a critical point as the current design does not support a 30 MPH speed limit and the road as designed does not support the City's future vision for the area as identified in the proposed new zoning code.

If approved by CDTC's Planning Committee, the project would be added to the 2016-18 Unified Planning Work Program using \$67,500 in federal planning funds for consultant work with an additional \$10,000 in CDTC staff technical assistance supporting the effort. The project sponsor will also be committing to the following minimum milestones beginning on April 1, 2017:

1. Within 1 year – Execute the Memorandum of Understanding with CDTC, hire a study consultant and have a kick-off meeting.
2. Within 2 years – 50% of the study scope of work completed by the consultant.
3. Within 3 years – 100% of the study scope of work completed by the consultant. This does not include legislative adoption of the study findings.

If the City of Albany fails to meet these requirements it must come to CDTC's Planning Committee to provide an explanation for the delay and request more time to meet the milestone. If the sponsor fails to make this request, Linkage funds will be forfeited.

2017-18 Linkage Program Proposal Evaluation Summary

Evaluation Criteria	Washington Avenue / Patroon Creek Corridor Study	Carr road Area Complete Streets Implementation Plan
1. Is the initiative eligible and consistent with the Linkage Program strategies? What is the need for the project? Is there a sense of urgency? (mandatory and improves priority)	Eligible – Y Consistent with Linkage - Y (2 strategies) Need: Land use has changed on the north side of Washington Avenue resulting in increased pedestrian activity. Design and character of roadway is not consistent with posted speed limit or proposed zoning for the area. Urgency: Road design concepts need to be explored to support a posted speed of 30 MPH. A large amount of City resources are being spent on enforcement in the area.	Eligible – Y Consistent with Linkage - Y (2 strategies) Need: Desire to create a more walkable community Urgency: Community growth has led to increased requests for walking and biking options and increased interest in complete streets. A previous engineering evaluation has identified some operational improvements the town would like to see further explored and vetted with the public.
2. Is the proposed scope of work reasonable for the proposed budget? (mandatory)	Consultant effort: \$90,000 Yes, Study area limited to Washington Ave between I-90 Exit 2 and the NY 85/Brevator area. 19,400 AADT	Consultant effort: \$60,000 Yes. Study area limited to Carr/Jones Road (town owned roads). 6,600 AADT and 8,100 AADT respectively.
3. What is its Tier placement and is there a completed Linkage Study, other locally adopted plan or adopted complete streets policy in place related to the effort? (improves priority)	Tier 2. Supporting adopted plans include: • Albany City Code Chapter 323, Article VI – Complete Streets (adopted) • Excerpt from Albany 2030 (adopted) • Bicycle Master Plan (adopted) City is about to adopt a new zoning code. This area is proposed to be Mixed Use Community Urban which provides for a wide variety of retail, residential, and commercial uses serving an area larger than a specific neighborhood in an urban setting characterized by relatively small blocks, and designed for convenient access by autos, bicycle and pedestrians.	Tier 2: Supporting plans include: • Gavin Park Neighborhood Path Feasibility Study, Oct 2008 • Town wide Traffic Study Update, Jul 2015 (Adopted July 2015) • Traffic Engineering Studies at Carr Road May 2016 (Adopted July 2016) • Town of Wilton Bicentennial Trail Plan Nov 2016 (Planned adoption in 2017)
4. What is the sponsors' plan for implementation? Is the intent to adopt, endorse or accept the plan? Does the proposal indicate a path for success? (improves priority)	The City has a history of pursuing implementation of Linkage studies, most recently the South End Multi-Use Path, and the City will pursue implementation of the plan to support the new zoning code, once adopted.	Town Board anticipates adopting a resolution for future implementation of the study findings.
5. Will the project have a positive impact on the transportation system when implemented? (improves priority)	Likely. Pedestrian safety is a key aspect of the study.	Likely. Providing transportation options is a key aspect of the study.
6. Is the proposal an inter-municipal initiative? (improves priority)	No but the University at Albany is a partner	No.
7. Is the submission supported locally through complementary activities and/or funding commitments beyond the minimum match requirements? (improves priority)	In-kind support and support from the University at Albany.	In-kind support
8. For past sponsors of Linkage studies: Was the sponsor's performance adequate and appropriate as determined by CDTC staff? (improves priority)	Good recent experience. Additional City staff resources are now available in both the Traffic and Planning Departments.	Challenging process in 2010 when the last Linkage Study was funded in Wilton. Some staff and most of the elected officials are different now.