

CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2018

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice
Chair
Frank Bonafide, representing Sam Zhou, NYS Department of
Transportation - Region 1
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Jack Conway, Town of East Greenbush
Steve Feeney, representing Anthony W. Jasenski, Schenectady
County Legislature
Patrick K. Jordan Esq., Albany Port District Commission
Mayor Meg Kelly, City of Saratoga Springs
Joe LaCivita, representing Paula Mahan, Town of Colonie
Joe Landry, Schenectady County
Mayor Gary R. McCarthy, City of Schenectady
Charles Moore, representing Mayor Daniel J. Dwyer, City of
Rensselaer
Jeremy Smith, representing Mayor Michael P. Manning, City of
Watervliet
Joseph Stahl, NYS Thruway Authority
Michael Stammel, Rensselaer County Legislature
Steven Tommasone, Town of Rotterdam
Michael Valentine, representing Ed Kinowski, Saratoga County
Board of Supervisors
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer
County Executive

STAFF AND OTHERS

Michael Allen, Behan Planning and Design
John Behan, Behan Planning and Design
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Joanne Coons, Interested Citizen
Don Csaposs, Town of Guilderland
Paul Deiterschagen, Interested Citizen
Christine Diotte, City of Schenectady
Rich Harris, Town of Halfmoon
Keith Irish, Interested Citizen
David Jukins, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Ralph Signoracci, City of Cohoes
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Adam Yagelski, Town of East Greenbush

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Kathy Sheehan opened the Capital District Transportation Committee meeting at 3:04 PM and welcomed those in attendance. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the December 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The December 7, 2017 meeting minutes were approved by the members.

Nominating Subcommittee

Dave Jukins 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 these nominations for the respective positions.

New town and village at-large members for representation on the Policy Board were nominated as follows: Peter Barber (Supervisor of the Town of Guilderland) and Jack Conway (Supervisor of the Town of East Greenbush) were proposed as members; and Vincent De Lucia (Supervisor of the Town of Malta) and Louis Esposito (Supervisor of the Town of Princetown) were recommended as alternates. Members approved the nominations for the respective positions as proposed.

The Nominating Subcommittee recommended maintaining the practice of selecting the town and village at-large Planning Committee member based on seniority, which means that Kevin Corcoran, Town of Glenville, would be the member. Alternates will be selected based on seniority. Members approved maintaining the practice of selecting the town and village at-large Planning Committee member based on seniority and approved the nomination of Kevin Corcoran for Planning Committee member as proposed.

Carm Basile commented that the regional approach of CDTC represents regional government at its best. The CDTC Regional Transportation Plan serves the region well and shouldn't be taken for granted. There is tremendous cooperation at CDTC that doesn't get enough attention.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Joanne Coons spoke in favor of a plan by Stewart's Shops to install 100 DC fast charge electric vehicle charging stations. The stations would be powered from the Mechanicville Hydro-Electric Plant. No public funding is needed. The proposal is being held up by a technicality. The Governor has asked the New York State Public Service Commission to take another look at this proposal.

Jen Ceponis commented that the Capital District Clean Communities has been doing planning for Level 2 EV charging stations and also continues

to support and provide assistance to local governments who request assistance.

CAPITAL DISTRICT TRAILS PLAN PRESENTATION

Jen Ceponis gave an overview of the ongoing trail planning initiative and previous trail surveys and counts conducted by CDTA. The 2006 Regional Trail Perspectives included trail user surveys, manual trail counts and residential surveys. The 2007 Tech Valley Trails highlighted 10 trail concepts. Two have been constructed and several pieces have been started; two will be completed by 2020. Regional Trail Perspectives began in July 2016. It conducted and analyzed surveys, including surveys of trail users (536) and adjacent homeowners (128/550). Trail counts were conducted and use was estimated. Counts were conducted at nine trails, including 22 count locations. 2016 key findings included:

- 1.6 million visits annually
- Visits were up about 24% since 2006
- Lions Park in Niskayuna is the most visited trail location in the region
- Trail users came from 93 different zip codes (61% within region)
- Trail tourists mostly visited the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail and Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail-Trail
- Lack of wayfinding signage, trail surfaces, & lack of restrooms were biggest problems identified on trails
- Trails generate spending, mostly on takeout food & gear

Michael Allen presented information about the Capital District Trails Plan, now underway. A kickoff meeting was held in December and four stakeholder workshops with local officials and trails groups were scheduled, one in each county, with three of them complete and one more to be held in Schenectady County on March 9. Once the draft plan has been developed, the team expects to present the findings and recommendations as part of a Regional Trails Summit.

2016-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

- A. T6B, CDTA STAR Buses Replacement and Expansion
- B. T17, CDTA Transit Bus Replacement/Expansion
- C. T57, CDTA Preventive Maintenance
- D. T72, CDTA Safety and Security

Carm Basile explained that the 5307 FTA funding is formula based funding for transit only. One reason that transit funding estimates increased is that CDTA has been spending less on purchasing new buses and more on preventative maintenance. Members approved these four proposed TIP amendments (items A. through D. above) as presented.

E. R320, NY 4 & Bloomingrove Road Intersection and Pedestrian Improvements Along NY 4, Town of North Greenbush, Rensselaer County

Frank Bonafide explained that this project is using repurposed earmark funds from the Exit 8 I-90 Connector Phase 2. The project will make highway, intersection, ADA, bike-ped and streetscape improvements along NY Route 4 from the Troy City Line to NY 43. The project has received additional repurposed earmark funding to redesign the Route 4/Williams Road/Glenmore Road Intersection. A roundabout and center turn lanes are being considered. The funding source is not competitive. Michael Stammel asked if signals were being considered because there is a big need in the vicinity of Valley View Boulevard. Frank said that he believes they are looking at signals, but comments should be directed to the Town because the Town is administering the project.

Members approved the amendment as presented.

**DRAFT UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) REVIEW AND APPROVAL
2018-2019 LINKAGE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dave Jukins explained that the UPWP has six emphasis areas: Infrastructure Renewal; Community Livability; Mobility; Safety; Reliability; and Technology. Notable accomplishments of the 2016-2018 UPWP include: the new website; infrastructure - condition inventory; GEIS support; the Financial Plan; initiation of the Regional Safety Action Plan; the Regional Trails Survey; ADA Training; the sidewalk inventory; the Regional Transportation Coordinating Committee facilitation; Tools of the Trade Workshop; Section 5310 project solicitation; the establishment of the Environmental Justice Task Force; completion of twelve Linkage plans; the I-787/Hudson Waterfront Corridor Study; and four complete streets educational workshops.

He reviewed the major themes of 2018-2020 UPWP:

- New Visions Update
- Infrastructure Assessment
- Regional Operations planning/Technology
- Transportation Improvement Program
- Regional Safety Plan
- Trails Plan
- Complete Streets
- Smart Communities
- Linkage Program
- Performance measurement

Dave Jukins reviewed the Linkage Program applications and recommendations. Eight applications were received, totaling \$420,000 in federal share funding. An evaluation team consisting of staff from CDTC, CDTA, CDRPC and NYSDOT reviewed and rated the applications. The evaluation team recommended the City of Schenectady Craig-Main Complete

Streets Study and City of Troy Hoosick Street Parkway Implementation Study. Together the two studies total \$135,000 in federal share.

Members approved the 2018-2020 UPWP. Members also approved the recommendation of the evaluation team to fund City of Schenectady Craig-Main Complete Streets Study and City of Troy Hoosick Street Parkway Implementation Study.

Chris O'Neill presented a graphic that shows travel times on Balltown Road northbound from River Road to Aqueduct Road in the PM peak period from February 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. Travel times ranged from 15 to 22 minutes prior to the opening of the new Rexford Bridge on July 31 and were reduced to an average of 3 minutes after the opening of the new Rexford Bridge. The graph was developed from a new data set called NPMRDS (National Performance Management Research Data Set). This data is provided by FHWA to all MPOs and State Departments of Transportation. It shows travel times every five minutes, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year on all NHS system highways. The NPMRDS data will be used to evaluate newly required system performance measures.

PROJECT SOLICITATIONS STATUS

A. Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program

Dave Jukins explained that NYSDOT is the administrator of the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals With Disabilities Program. Announcement of awards have been delayed. When the results are received they will be submitted to the Planning Committee for consideration and approval.

B. NYSDOT Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP)

Dave Jukins said that project applications are due on March 1.

C. Complete Streets Workshops

Dave Jukins said that Planning4Places (prime) with Sam Schwartz Engineering (sub) was selected as the consultant.

Applications will be due March 2, 2018 to allow for any necessary Board/Council actions. There is no local cost share. The host is responsible for providing the meeting space and ensuring attendance by key stakeholders.

D. CDTC/CDRPC Technical Assistance Program

Mark Castiglione said that this is an exciting new program which supports the New Visions Plan. He invited anyone with ideas to talk to him after the meeting. March 9 is the deadline for applying for the initial phase of the program. The first phase can be regarded as a pilot program. Ideally, it will develop into applications on a rolling basis.

E. New York State BRIDGE NY Program

Dave Jukins explained that the Governor announced a second round of the New York State BRIDGE NY Program. \$120 M is available for nine regions. Only 5% match is required. Frank Bonafide said that letters to every municipality have been sent. Applications for culverts are due on April 13. Applications for bridges are due April 27. He said to call with any questions. The process is well documented on the website.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CDTA SMART COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE

Jen Ceponis explained the first meeting of this new Task Force will be March 7 and reviewed the summary in the mail out. A GoToMeeting webinar format will be used. Anyone can participate. If you are interested send Jen an email at jceponis@cdtcmpo.org.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDRPC

Mark Castiglione announced that CDRPC will hold a Community and Economic Development Workshop on April 26, 2018, partnering with CEG.

CDTA

Carm Basile reported that the Navigator smart card is fully implemented and starting April 1. Paper products will not be accepted. Cash will still be accepted. Bikeshare has been successful way beyond expectations. Bikeshare will double this year.

NYS DOT

Frank Bonafide said that Route 9 over Route 9J and Amtrak was bid. The Route 787 Cohoes Boulevard project will be bid in May. The project will include streetscaping, traffic calming and bike-ped improvements.

Route 146/Route 146A is scheduled for construction in 2019; a roundabout is being considered.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta said that new direct service to Buffalo began on February 1, and new direct service to Myrtle Beach will be available in a few weeks.

Albany Port District Commission

Patrick Jordan reported longshore hours are up 30% this year, which is the second best in the last decade. The Port is pushing through a lot

of GE products. The Port is working with CDTC on the South Pearl Street traffic study.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Zhou". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sam Zhou
Secretary