

**CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes  
December 7, 2017

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice-Chair  
Mark Castiglione, representing Michael Stammel, CDRPC  
Steve Iachetta, representing John O'Donnell, Albany County Airport Authority  
Patrick K. Jordan, Esq., Port of Albany District Commission  
Andrew Kreshik, representing Mayor Patrick Madden, City of Troy  
Joe LaCivita, representing Paula Mahan, Town of Colonie  
Joe Landry, Town of Niskayuna  
Charles Moore, representing Mayor Daniel Dwyer, City of Rensselaer  
Mayor Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair  
Jeremy Smith, representing Mayor Michael P. Manning, City of Watervliet  
Kevin Tollisen, Town of Halfmoon  
Steven Tommasone, Town of Rotterdam  
Linda von der Heide, representing Kathleen M. Jimino, Rensselaer County Executive  
Thomas Werner, Saratoga County  
Mayor Joanne Yepsen, City of Saratoga Springs  
Sam Zhou, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1, Secretary

**STAFF AND OTHERS**

Peter Barber, Town of Guilderland  
Nancy Benedict, Citizens for Public Transportation  
Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1  
Jim Digioia, OGS  
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Randy Milano, City of Albany  
Alex Sutherland, City of Schenectady  
Stephen Williams, Daily Gazette  
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 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

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

## Privilege of the Floor

Nancy Benedict of Citizens for Public Transportation spoke about the importance of clean, accessible bus stops. She said that there is a problem with cars parked in bus stop areas. This is especially bad in the winter, because the snow can't be plowed and traversing from the curb to the bus is difficult, especially for wheel chairs. She recommended the installation of no parking signs to allow enforcement of no parking in the bus stop area. She recognized the City policy on sidewalk snow removal. She said that bus stops with a grassy area next to the curb make it hard for wheel chairs. She mentioned that sometimes the curb cut is far from where the bus stops.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/TITLE VI ANALYSIS APPROVAL**

Mike Franchini said that the Environmental Justice/Title VI Analysis was approved by the Planning Committee in October. Census data from CDRPC was used in the analysis. Five programs were evaluated: the TIP, the UPWP, the Linkage Program, the New Visions 2040 Long Range Plan, and Public Participation. Transit Accessibility was also evaluated. Mayor Sheehan commented that we should encourage active recruitment from the EJ community in all of these programs. Mike Franchini agreed and said that we have started an Equity Task Force, which works to ensure CDTC's conformance with Title VI and Environmental Justice. Sam Zhou asked if there was a policy on Limited English Proficiency. Mike Franchini said that the new policy on LEP was approved by the Planning Committee in November. Members approved the Environmental Justice/Title VI Analysis document.

## **STATEWIDE SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS**

Mike Franchini said that the Safety Targets developed by NYSDOT were approved by the Policy Board at the last meeting. Staff was asked to provide quarterly reports about progress for our region and the State. He handed out a summary of the latest safety performance measures through 2016 (attached). Chris O'Neill reviewed the information presented in the handout and noted that while regional trends for fatalities and serious injury crashes have been relatively flat, corresponding regional crash rates are lower than statewide crash rates. He said that CDTC is about to begin the development of a Regional Safety Action Plan that will comprehensively analyze regional safety data and identify candidate projects (site specific) or programs of projects (systemic) to address safety problems in the region. Because the New York State Department of Transportation has conducted extensive analysis of safety problems on the State system, there will be a focus on non-State owned roads in the Regional Safety Plan.

Mayor Sheehan commented that although bicycle and pedestrian crashes were combined for the statewide target, it would also be valuable to analyze bicycle and pedestrian crash data separately. Chris O'Neill said that that type of analysis will be incorporated into the Regional Plan.



Tom Werner asked how Towns and Villages which do not attend the Planning Committee or Policy Board meetings will find out about safety problems in their communities. Mike Franchini said that the study process will reach out to them.

**SECTION 5310 ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM PROJECT SOLICITATION**

Mike Franchini announced that Anne Benware will be retiring in December after 25 years of service and this will be her last Policy Board meeting as staff. He said that Anne has been a very important member of the CDTC staff and has been a valuable leader. She has been very effective at training younger staff, and she has done excellent work on complete streets, special needs transportation, Linkage Studies, and many other tasks. Members gave Anne a round of applause.

Anne explained that NYSDOT is the administrator of the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals With Disabilities Program. 2016 and 2017 FFY funds available for new 5310 projects include: Albany-Schenectady (Troy) urbanized area: \$979,025; Saratoga Springs urbanized area: \$226,539. Fourteen applications were received from the Albany-Schenectady-Troy Urbanized Area and one application was received from the Saratoga Urbanized Area. A review committee consisting of CDTC, Region-1, the New York State Department of Health, and the New York State Office for the Aging completed its evaluations of the applications that were received, and submitted their evaluations to the NYSDOT Public Transportation Bureau. When the results are received they will be submitted to the Planning Committee for consideration and approval.

**NYSDOT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ACTION PLAN (PSAP) PROJECT SOLICITATION UPDATE**

Mike Franchini said that NYSDOT solicited for local PSAP projects. There will be a \$250,000 minimum for each project. Partnerships are encouraged. Project applicants were required to attend a webinar on November 14. A second webinar is planned. \$3.49 M is available for Region-1, with a minimum of 60% going to the focus communities, the Cities of Albany and Schenectady. A/GFTC, CDTC, two rural counties, and Region-1 will evaluate projects. Frank Bonafide encouraged consolidating projects where possible.

**2018-2019 LINKAGE PROGRAM**

Mike Franchini said that applications for the 2018-2019 Linkage Program are due on December 15. This year there is an increased amount of staff time being made available (\$100,000) and an increased budget for consultant effort (\$150,000).

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A CDTC SMART COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE**

Mike Franchini said CDTC is establishing a Smart Cities Task Force and is hoping to finalize a list of interested participants by the end of

this month. The goal is to promote smart communities and clean communities and to provide municipalities with tools to achieve goals.

#### **FISCAL CONSTRAINT DISCUSSION - TIP SUMMARY TABLE 4**

Mike Franchini reviewed the summary of fiscal constraint included in the mail out. He said that the underprogramming of 2.3% in year one meets the 5% goal required by FHWA. The total four year program is underprogrammed by 1.3%. Fiscal constraint is a new emphasis area for FHWA and staff will continue to monitor the program closely.

#### **STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

##### **CDTC**

Mike Franchini reported that two new staff members have been hired, and introduced Jacob Beeman. CDTC is working on an updated Capital Region Greenway and Trails Plan with consultant assistance. The study is anticipated to be completed by next fall.

##### **CDRPC**

Mark Castiglione said that CDTC and CDRPC are close to launching a new joint technical services program. Nine communities have been designated in the clean energy communities program, including Niskayuna and Albany.

An accurate Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) process is critical to ensure everyone is counted in the upcoming 2020 Census. The deadline for local governments to register for this process was December 1 and communities will have until February to examine and update addresses for the Census. The LUCA is the only opportunity localities have to ensure New York has a complete count in the Census. There are less resources for the Census, and more will be done on line. It will be a challenge to reach those who have poor access to the internet. New York State is ramping up its participation. New tools are available from the Cornell Program on Applied Demographics that will help local governments more efficiently assess their addresses for LUCA.

##### **CDTA**

Carm Basile reported that the Navigator smart card transition piloting and testing is completed, and the system will be fully implemented in the first quarter of 2018. Cash will still be accepted. Bikeshare has been successful way beyond expectations. Bikeshare is here to stay and will grow.

##### **NYS DOT**

Sam Zhou said that Paul Karas is the new Acting NYS DOT Commissioner. Cathy Calhoun has been appointed by Governor Cuomo to serve as the Director of State Operations. Out of eight Region-1 counties, six have



new Resident Engineers, including all four counties in the CDTC area. Sam has encouraged them to reach out to the county and town DPWs.

Phase 2 of the Schenectady Rail Station project was just let. The new facility will open in the fall of 2018. ADA and resurfacing of Route 143 in Coeymans will be let next week. Routes 9 & 20 over Route 9J and Amtrak will be let in January; this will be a two year, two season project.

Frank Bonafide said that the second round of BRIDGE NY is expected before the next Policy Committee. \$200 M will be available for local bridges and \$50 M will be available for culverts.

#### **Albany County Airport Authority**

Steve Iachetta said that new airline service at the Airport will be announced on Monday. The Airport is experiencing modest growth in enplanements. A \$10 M capital program includes replacing boarding bridges and converting airfield electrical to LED. The Airport is working with DOT, Albany County, and the Town of Colonie to support the Exit 4 Airport Connector Project.

Mayor Sheehan asked if ridesharing services are reducing Airport parking. Steve Iachetta said there is no indication yet of parking being reduced. He said that Lyft is approved to serve the Airport, but Uber has not yet received approval. Eight to ten Lyft vehicles are continuously available onsite.

#### **Albany Port District Commission**

Patrick Jordan reported that the construction of a new 45,000 square foot climate controlled warehouse is well underway. Work on the wharf stopped last week for the winter. GE capacity is strong and service is continuing.

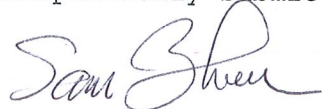
#### **Linkage Program**

Mike Franchini referred members to the Linkage status report in the mail out.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Sam Zhou  
Secretary