

CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2019

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Patrick Barnes, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1, Secretary
Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice-Chair
Bradley Birge, representing Mayor Meg Kelly, City of Saratoga Springs
Louis Esposito, Town of Princetown
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County
Executive
Patrick Jordan, Esq., Albany Port District Commission
Ed Kinowski, Town of Stillwater
Andrew Kreshik, representing Mayor Patrick Madden, City of Troy
Joe LaCivita, representing Paula Mahan, Town of Colonie
Joe Landry, Schenectady County
Charles Moore, representing Mayor Richard Mooney, City of Rensselaer
George Penn, representing Dan McCoy, Albany County Executive
Mayor Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair
Jeremy Smith, representing Mayor Michael Manning, City of Watervliet
Joe Stahl, NYS Thruway Authority
Mike Stammel, Rensselaer County Legislature
Kevin Tollisen, Saratoga County Board of Supervisors
Chris Wallin, representing Mayor Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady
Tom Werner, Saratoga County

STAFF AND OTHERS

Nancy Benedict, Citizens of Public Transportation
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jim Digioia, NYS Office of General Services
Todd Fabozzi, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee
Keith Irish, Citizens of Public Transportation
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Claire Miller, Capital District Transportation Authority
Lois New, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jason Pandich, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Robert Rice, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Mark Schaeffer, Capital District Transportation Authority
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Lorenz Worden, Citizens of Public Transportation

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Kathy Sheehan opened the Capital District Transportation Committee meeting at 3:05 PM. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the June 6, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The June 6, 2019 meeting minutes were approved by the members.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Jim Digioia said that he previously complained about problems related to truck traffic and the Routes 9 & 20 bridge over Amtrak. The maintenance and protection of traffic has greatly improved and he thanked NYSDOT for their responsiveness.

Nancy Benedict said that Pat Fahy's office is working on bills for safer and more convenient pedestrian access to transit. She mentioned that when people park at a bus stop, it makes access difficult, and that in some places the curb cuts are in the wrong places.

PRESENTATION NYSDEC - NEW YORK STATE CLIMATE LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT

Lois New gave a presentation on this topic. She reviewed the goals of the new law:

- 100 percent, economy-wide net-zero carbon emissions by 2050; 85 percent of the reductions must come from New York's own energy and industrial emissions; the remaining 15 percent can come from carbon offsets (e.g., from forestry or agriculture).
- 70% of electricity used in the state to come from renewable sources such as wind, solar and hydro by 2030
- 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2040

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority are the lead agencies, and the New York State Department of Transportation will participate. Equity for disadvantaged communities is an important part of the law.

New York State is part of the Transportation & Climate Initiative, which includes 12 northeast and mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia. The goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. There are six major policy actions identified:

1. Price pollution transparently and reinvest proceeds
2. Electrify all travel modes
3. Incorporate smart growth, zoning changes, transit-oriented development and affordable housing in plans
4. Encourage all modes of transportation
5. Support alternative fuel use
6. Improve ports and other freight facilities

All 13 jurisdictions are participating in the process to "design a regional low-carbon transportation policy proposal that would cap and reduce carbon emissions from the combustion of transportation fuels... and allow each TCI jurisdiction to invest proceeds into low-carbon and more resilient transportation infrastructure".

2019-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

A. T122, Hudson River Corridor BRT, CDTA

Carm Basile explained that the River Corridor BRT will connect Albany, Troy, Cohoes, Menands and Watervliet. Small Starts is the most competitive FTA program and CDTA was fortunate to be approved for \$31.9 M in federal funding. Construction has started. The project will include a significant infrastructure investment, including new signals, crosswalks and an expansion of the Troy garage. Members approved the amendment as presented.

NEW VISIONS 2050 QUALITY REGION PRESENTATION AND UPDATE

Mike Franchini reported that staff is working on the update to the New Visions 2040 Plan. Task Forces and Advisory Committees will be preparing recommended updates to each chapter by preparing white papers. The Policy Board will serve as the Quality Region Advisory Committee. He reviewed the Quality Region principles and recommendations in the existing New Visions Plan. Five of the recommendations have been completed and nine new recommendations have been proposed:

1. Encourage drivers to drive less by developing a stronger Travel Demand Management (TDM) Program.
2. Promote and support the New York State climate change strategy of "cap and invest."
3. Promote and support the change-over of petroleum fueled vehicles to electric vehicles.
4. Improve the collection of transportation data to support regional transportation planning and analysis, especially in the new technology modes such as ride-hailing and bikesharing.
5. Regarding self-driving vehicles, promote and support ridesharing and the "purchase of miles" instead of longer commuting and increases in vehicle miles traveled (VMT).
6. Promote and support the pedestrian safety strategy, "Vision Zero", in all our communities.
7. Work more closely with regional economic development agencies, e.g. Chambers of Commerce and CEG.
8. Promote economic development efforts between public and private sector.
9. Continue to promote regional solutions.

Mike Franchini reviewed the Big Ticket Initiatives from New Visions 2040 Plan and recommended removing "Guideway Transit System with Transit-Oriented Development" and adding three new Big Ticket Initiatives:

1. VMT, Carbon Tax, or Carbon Cap, Reduce, and Invest
2. Ride Sharing System for all Users
3. Regional Electric Vehicle Charging System

Mike Franchini led a discussion about regional population growth. Todd Fabozzi explained that so far this decade population is growing at half the rate of growth for 2000-2010. Mayor Sheehan said that most of the growth is from immigration. Mike Franchini said that Congressman Tonko has been advocating for the importance of the 2020 Census in measuring regional population.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDTC

Mike Franchini handed out a flyer about complete streets training.

CDRPC

Todd Fabozzi said that CDRPC's Local Government Workshop will be held at HVCC on October 23rd. For the first time, the workshop is being presented in partnership with the New York Planning Federation.

CDRPC, in partnership with CDTC, the Capital Region Chamber, the Community Foundations for the Capital District and the University at Albany's AVAIL Lab, is developing a robust online indicators dashboard. The project will make a variety of data more accessible and useful by featuring data visualizations, mapping and the ability to compare data overtime. The Capital Region Chamber's non-profit business advisory group will host a presentation at the SEFCU Auditorium on September 25th during which the beta version will be presented.

CDRPC is the region's lead participant in the Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP). PSAP is the process that happens in advance of each decennial census to review and update census tracts, block groups and census designated places. Based on the input received, we have finalized the tract changes and submitted them to the Census in April for their review and approval. Most changes involved simply splitting tracts or aligning tracts better with natural or municipal boundaries.

The CDTC Planning Committee and the CDRPC board approved 5 projects to benefit from the CDTC/CDRPC Technical Assistance Program this year including the following:

- Town of Bethlehem- Development and Growth Trends Analysis
- Town of Coeymans- Guidance to Support a Coeymans Comprehensive Plan Update
- Village of Menands- Food Access and Farmers Market Best Practices and Feasibility
- City of Rensselaer- General Community Planning Assistance

- Village of Scotia- NYS Routes 5 and 50 Traffic Data & Case Study Review

CDRPC just completed a three year contract with NYSEDA for the Clean Energy Communities Program and they are hoping to renew it for five more years.

CDTA

Carm Basile said that CDTA received full grant funding for the River Corridor BRT, which will connect Cohoes, Waterford, Troy, Watervliet and Albany. Four electric buses are expected will be arriving in September for a pilot program.

NYSDOT

Patrick Barnes reported that FHWA approved the NYSDOT Freight Plan. Design approval was received for the Skyway project. Two projects, I-90 over Fuller Road and I-90 over Erie Boulevard, were combined so that a single contractor will handle work zone management on both projects in the same corridor to avoid conflicting lane closures.

New York State Thruway Authority

Joe Stahl said that the contract was awarded for the Exit 24 toll plaza to be retrofitted. The contract is a design build contract.

Albany Port District Commission

Patrick Jordan reported that Port Industry Day was a great day and well attended. The \$9 M warehouse was a highlight. The new roll-on/roll-off ramp will be completed by the end of this month.

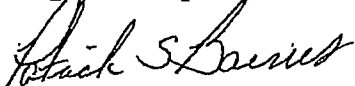
Linkage/Local Planning Activities

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Barnes
Secretary