

CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2018

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Peter Barber, Town of Guilderland
Patrick Barnes, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1,
Secretary
Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice
Chair
Brad Birge, representing Mayor Meg Kelly, City of Saratoga
Jack Conway, Town of East Greenbush
Steve Iachetta, representing John O'Donnell, Albany
International Airport Authority
Patrick K. Jordan Esq., Albany Port District Commission
Joe Landry, Schenectady County
Mayor Patrick Madden, City of Troy
Mayor Gary R. McCarthy, City of Schenectady
Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County
Mayor Kathy M. Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair
Ralph Signoracci, representing Mayor Shawn M. Morse, City of Cohoes
Jeremy Smith, representing Mayor Michael Manning, City of Watervliet
Joseph Stahl, NYS Thruway Authority
Michael E. Stammel, Rensselaer County Legislature
Tom Werner, Saratoga County

STAFF AND OTHERS

Nancy Benedict, Interested Citizen
Kate Better, Rensselaer County
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee
Mark Gronich, Interested Citizen
Tom Hoffman, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Keith Irish, Interested Citizen
Darlene McGraw, Interested Citizen
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jeff Pangburn, Creighton Manning
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Bob Rice, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Rima Shamieh, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jordan Solano-Reed, Capital District Transportation Committee
Steve Strichman, City of Troy
Brian Viggiani, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1
Linda von der Heide, Rensselaer County
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Kathy Sheehan opened the Capital District Transportation Committee meeting at 3:02 PM. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the September 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The September 6, 2018 meeting minutes were approved by the members.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Nancy Benedict talked about the importance of allowing buses into Colonie Center and she described the efforts of Citizens for Public Transportation to advocate for this position.

Darlene McGraw said that there is a need for better options for transportation to social services for residents in Clifton Park, Malta, and other locations in the Capital District. Access is especially difficult for pedestrians.

NYS DOT COHOES BOULEVARD (SR 787) PRESENTATION

Tom Hoffman gave a presentation on this project. He said there is a high accident rate including two pedestrian fatalities in five years. He said the facility looks like an expressway which encourages speeding. The project will include traffic calming features: horizontal alignment shifts, raised intersections, reduction of shoulder widths, landscaped medians, and other traffic calming features, which will justify posting a lower speed limit. Four enforcement pull-offs will be included. Bicycle and pedestrian improvements include improved lighting and pedestrian exclusive phases at signals. The project started in September 2018 and will finish in November of 2019.

2016-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

R195, South Troy Industrial Park Road, City of Troy, Rensselaer County

Mayor Patrick Madden explained that this is an important economic development project and an important goal is to remove truck traffic from residential streets. A great deal of progress has been made on this project over the past year. Significant obstacles will require another year to complete right of way acquisitions in the northern section of the project. However, the southern section is on schedule for construction. Therefore the City is requesting that CDTC split the project into a Southern Section (from Main Street/Burden Avenue (US 4) to Monroe Street) and a Northern Section (Monroe Street to Adams Street), and move only the Northern Section to 2019/20 FFY. This will allow the City to begin construction on the Southern Section in 2019. The southern section has independent utility and will pull significant truck traffic out of the South Troy neighborhoods. Splitting the project will provide additional time for the Salt Pile Relocation in the northern section to proceed at a normal pace. The City is committing to fund any cost overruns. In 2020, both sections should be complete. Members approved the amendment as presented.

NYSDOT PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGET APPROVALS

Mike Franchini explained that at the last Policy Board meeting, CDTC approved NYSDOT performance targets for Safety, Bridges and Pavements, System Performance Measures, Freight Performance and On-Road Mobile Source Emissions. Since then, in preparing New York State's October 1 Performance Management submission to FHWA, NYSDOT has discovered an error in the formula used to determine the 2018 baseline for the Level of Travel Time Reliability measures (LOTTR - Interstate; LOTTR - Non-Interstate NHS). NYSDOT has now recalculated the 2018 baseline, and has recalculated the 2020 and 2022 targets for these measures (the method and underlying data have not changed). A revised Fact Sheet for these measures is included in the mail out, with the new figures noted in red. Members approved the revised targets as presented.

PORT OF ALBANY ROAD FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION CHANGE

Chris Bauer explained that the City of Albany and the Albany Port District Commission initiated a request to CDTC to investigate a change in functional classification of the roads serving the Port of Albany. Currently, Smith Boulevard, Raft Street, Normanskill Street, and South Port Street are classified as Urban Local, owned by the City of Albany, but maintained by the Albany Port District Commission. Church Street and Boat Street/South Seventh Street are classified as Urban Major Collector. Likewise, on the eastern shore of the Hudson River/City of Rensselaer side of the Port, all of the internal roadways, including Broadway, Riverside Avenue, American Oil Road, and Stewart Port Expressway, are classified as Urban Major Collectors.

CDTC staff recommends changing the functional class of the internal Port roadways to Urban Major Collector, including Smith Boulevard, Raft Street, Normanskill Street, and South Port Street, for the following reasons:

1. Support Freight and Goods Movement New Visions 2040 Plan Principles: by providing access to the Port of Albany, the roadways serve an important function vital to the region's economy;
2. Consistent with functional classifications on eastern shore of the Hudson River/City of Rensselaer side of the Port (currently classified as Urban Major Collectors);
3. Provide a connection to the NHS Intermodal Connector (Church Street) and the greater NHS/Interstate System;
4. Provide for a system of continuity by allowing continuous access to, from, and through port via the arterial and interstate roadway networks;
5. Roadway characteristics support the change.

Mayor Sheehan commented that the study was clear that this has an environmental justice impact by removing 1400 trucks from a low income residential neighborhood. Businesses would prefer to go through the Port rather than a residential neighborhood.

Members approved the functional classification change as proposed.

TIP PROJECT SOLICITATION STATUS AND SCHEDULE

Mike Franchini reported that TIP applications have been received and are being reviewed. Staff is talking to sponsors. At the January Planning Committee, a list of projects with descriptions will be presented, without evaluations. Advisory Committee meetings will be held to receive comments. At the February 7 Planning Committee meeting we will have all of the evaluations. After that, we may need to meet every two weeks.

2019 PLANNING COMMITTEE AND POLICY BOARD MEETING SCHEDULES

Mike Franchini reviewed the 2019 Planning Committee And Policy Board Meeting Schedules included in the mail out.

PROJECT SOLICITATIONS STATUS

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

Mike Franchini said that the 5310 Program funds projects serve the transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities beyond traditional public transportation services and ADA complementary paratransit, as well as driver training. CDTC approved the program for this year and is prepared for the next solicitation.

B. New York State Bridge NY Program

Mike Franchini said that awards for the Bridge NY Program were announced on November 13.

C. TAP/CMAQ

Mike Franchini said that awards for TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) and CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program) have not been announced yet.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDRPC

Mark Castiglione said that work on 2020 Census tract boundaries will start in January, with a 120 day time line. The CDRPC Local Government Workshop has been rescheduled for January 9. CDRPC will present its Erastus Corning Awards for Intermunicipal Achievement during the workshop.

Four communities are proceeding with projects under the CDTC/CDRPC Technical Assistance Program.

CDTA

Carm Basile said that work continues on the River Corridor BRT, which will connect Albany, Troy, Cohoes and Waterford. He said that there is

a possibility that CDTA may get four electric buses. Season two of the Bike Share program finished yesterday. It was very successful, with 3,500 rides and 6,500 members.

NYSDOT

Patrick Barnes introduced himself as the Acting Regional Director. He said that Sam Zhou is now the Assistant Commissioner for Operations and Asset Management. Patrick Barnes presented a movie describing the Exit 4 Airport Connector project. The contract has been awarded. Mike Lashmet is the new Resident Engineer for Rensselaer County. Paul Korowajczyk was at Schenectady County and is now Acting Resident Engineer for Saratoga County. Hans Dunderdale is the new Acting Resident Engineer for Schenectady County.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta said that the Airport Authority is grateful to NYSDOT for progressing the Exit 4 Airport Connector project. The Airport is experiencing growth 2% to 3% growth enplanements compared to the same month in the previous year. Travel demand continues to be strong. Pedestrian improvements will be a great enhancement.

Albany Port District Commission

Patrick Jordan expressed appreciation to the Committee for the functional classification change. The 45,000 square foot, climate controlled rail track inside the facility Big Lift Warehouse is open. The Port closed on the Beacon Harbor site project, 82 acres which represents a 27% increase in land.


Saratoga Planning Conference

Tom Werner spoke about the importance of this conference.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Patrick Barnes
Secretary