

**CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2019

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Patrick Barnes, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1,  
Secretary  
Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice  
Chair  
Lou Esposito, Town of Princetown  
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Steve Iachetta, representing John O'Donnell, Albany  
International Airport Authority  
Patrick K. Jordan Esq., Albany Port District Commission  
Mayor Meg Kelly, City of Saratoga Springs  
Andrew Kreshik, representing Mayor Patrick Madden, City of Troy  
Joe Landry, Schenectady County  
Mayor Gary R. McCarthy, City of Schenectady  
Randy Milano, representing Mayor Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany  
Jeremy Smith, representing Mayor Michael Manning, City of  
Watervliet  
Michael Valentine, representing Kevin Tollisen, Saratoga County  
Tom Werner, Saratoga County

**STAFF AND OTHERS**

Nancy Benedict, Interested Citizen  
Keith Irish, Interested Citizen  
Jim Mearkle, Albany County  
Clair Miller, Capital District Transportation Authority  
Luke Nathan, Troy Letter  
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1  
Stephen Williams, Daily Gazette

**OPENING REMARKS**

Carm Basile opened the Capital District Transportation Committee meeting at 3:05 PM. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Approval of the March 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

The March 7, 2019 meeting minutes were approved by the members.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

There were no comments from the floor.

## TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Mike Franchini gave a presentation on the Transportation Improvement Program. The TIP is a 5-year capital plan for federal transportation funding, with federal funding totaling about \$102 million per year. It must reflect the recommendations, goals, and priorities in the long-range regional transportation plan, New Visions 2040. It must contribute to achieving seven new performance targets. It is a rare example of regional cooperation, where the goal is to fund the most beneficial projects. Steps included:

1. NYSDOT determines the federal funding for each DOT Region. If the DOT Region has more than one MPO, the Region and the MPOs determine funding for each MPO.
2. Region 1 and CDTC determine the funding needed for projects on the existing TIP and regional set-asides. Planning Committee approves.
3. Depending on the expected fund balance, call letters are mailed to all 77 municipalities requesting project candidates.
4. Staff reviews applications and contacts sponsors to clarify information and answer any questions.
5. Staff evaluates each project for eligibility, calculates a benefit/cost ratio, and scores qualitative benefits.
6. Planning Committee reviews project scopes and evaluations, and programs projects.

There was a 60 day public comment period and a public meeting on May 7.

Project evaluations include a Benefit/Cost ratio and a merit score (qualitative). The merit scoresheet has 12 categories, with maximum points based on New Vision priorities, and scores that are specifically defined. Merit scores are assigned by staff and then reviewed by the projects sponsor and approved by the Planning Committee. Input was received from six advisory committees.

An Air Quality Conformity Determination was prepared for the TIP. Our metropolitan area is designated nonattainment for the ozone standard. Conformity is determined by an Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) consisting of representatives from FHWA, FTA, USEPA, NYSDEC, and NYSDOT. The Conformity Determination demonstrates that the TIP and the New Visions 2040 Plan meet the Clean Air Act and Transportation Conformity rule requirements for the 1997 ozone standard.

## CDTC COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN PRESENTATION

Mike Franchini gave a presentation on the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. He explained that the Plan addresses the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes. Extensive public participation and stakeholder participation was part of the development of the Plan. Needs gaps and barriers were identified. Strategies and actions include: Prioritize funding to address gaps and barriers; Continue to incentivize and prioritize

accessible features in TIP projects; Encourage transportation providers to enter into mutually beneficial partnerships; Identify mechanisms to increase location-efficient siting of facilities and housing serving transportation disadvantaged populations; and other strategies and actions. Members approved the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan as presented.

#### 2016-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

- A. A588, 1051.82, Albany Skyway, City of Albany
- B. A601, 1761.68, Delaware Avenue: Mill & Fill, Complete Streets & Road Diet, Town of Bethlehem
- C. R345, 1761.83, Rensselaer Bicycle & Pedestrians Access Improvements, City of Rensselaer
- D. S267, 1761.82, NY 5S Bike/Ped Improvements, Town of Rotterdam
- E. S268, 1761.84, Washington Avenue Bike/Ped Connection, Village of Scotia
- F. S269, 1761.86, Rosendale Road/Old River Road Intersection Improvements, Town of Niskayuna

Mike Franchini explained that TIP amendments A. through F. above were approved for CMAQ or TAP funding by NYSDOT. In addition, two CDTA projects were approved. We are asking for approval of TIP amendments A. through F. at this time. Members approved amendments A. through F. as presented.

- G. T17, T57, T6B, T72, T14B, T16, & T9: CDTA Cost Changes & New Project

Mike Franchini explained that amendment G. includes adjustments to fund sources for CDTA and is an administrative formality. Carm Basile said that these changes are needed to meet FTA requirements and he introduced Clair Miller who manages these grants for CDTA and is available for questions. Members approved amendment G. as presented.

#### 2019-24 TIP APPROVAL

- A. Public Comment Review
- B. NYS Thruway/NYSDOT Changes
- C. Changes to the Draft TIP
- D. Transportation/Air Quality Conformity Determination
- E. Self-Certification

Mike Franchini introduced Item B. first. He explained that NYSDOT, on behalf of the Thruway, is proposing to add the project "Durable Pavement Markings on the NYS Thruway" to the 2016-21 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as described in the mail out. Normally such proposals would be presented to the Planning Committee first for their

recommendation to the Policy Board. However, this was not presented to the Planning Committee. The funding comes from statewide federal funds and does not count against CDTC's fiscal constraint, but FHWA wants to see the funding broken out by MPO. The funding for this project will be \$70,000 for this season. Members approved the amendment to add the project "Durable Pavement Markings on the NYS Thruway" to the 2016-21 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as presented.

Mike Franchini explained item A. above. He said that twenty-four comments were received on the TIP. He handed out a list of the comments and CDTC responses. Fifteen of the comments were in support of Saratoga Springs projects. The CDTC response is that the Saratoga Springs Lake Avenue Corridor Improvement project is not currently programmed on the draft TIP, but the Saratoga Springs Missing Links project is programmed on the draft TIP. Because of limited funding, not all projects could be funded, but the Lake Avenue Corridor Improvement project could be considered in the next update if the City wishes. Seven comments were received at the public meeting. One comment was received on the Delaware Avenue project, and the response is based on the CDTC Linkage Study.

Mike Franchini reviewed items C. and D. above, and referred to the presentation at the beginning of the meeting on the 2019-2024 TIP and the Transportation/Air Quality Conformity Determination. He reviewed changes to the draft TIP included in the mail out. Members approved the Public Comment Review, the 2019-24 Transportation Improvement Program, and the Transportation/Air Quality Conformity Determination as presented.

Mike Franchini reviewed item E., Self-Certification. He explained that self-certification is a federal requirement for all MPOs. There is an in-person certification conducted by FHWA and FTA every four years. Members approved the Self-Certification statement as presented.

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

##### **CDTC**

Mike Franchini reported that staff has begun 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.

##### **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 this summer. CDPHP Cycle! bikeshare is going extremely well, with 80 stations, 7,000 members and 40,000 trips in two years.

CDTA has been discussing the possibility of expanding transit service into Montgomery County. The service would focus on Route 5 and Route 30. CDTA is looking for State funding for this potential service.

#### **NYSDOT**

Patrick Barnes reported that the Exit 4 Airport Connector project is moving along. Route 7 Over the Hudson was awarded and construction is underway with minimal traffic impacts. The Cohoes Boulevard project is in progress and going well. Marie Therese Dominguez has been appointed Commissioner of NYSDOT. Chris Ward is the new Schenectady County Resident Engineer. Steve Clinton is the new Acting Director of Operations.

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

Steve Iachetta gave an update on Airport contracts. The Airport has awarded all sixteen contracts for the Governor's State Aviation Capital Grant Airport Modernization initiative including the new 1,000 space terminal parking garage and terminal amenities improvements. The Airport is excited about the progress continuing on the Exit 4 Airport Connector. The Albany Airport added new non-stop service to Savannah, Georgia.

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

Patrick Jordan said that the Port has been very busy and the new roll-on/roll-off ramp is under construction. Next Thursday is Port Industry Day, and all are invited.

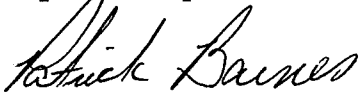
#### **Linkage/Local Planning Activities**

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Barnes  
Secretary