

CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2020

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Patrick Barnes, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1, Secretary
Patrick Collins, representing Andrew Joyce, Albany County Legislature
Louis Esposito, Town of Princetown
Mayor Meg Grenier, Village of Menands
Steve Iachetta, representing Philip E. Calderone Esq., Albany
County Airport Authority
Patrick Jordan Esq., Albany Port District Commission
Mayor William Keeler, City of Cohoes
Mayor Meg Kelly, City of Saratoga Springs
Andrew Kreshik, representing Mayor Patrick Madden, City of Troy
Joe Landry, Schenectady County
Sean Maguire, representing Paula Mahan, Town of Colonie
Mayor Charles Patricelli, City of Watervliet
Nancy Perry, Town of Sand Lake
Mayor Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair
Joe Stahl, NYS Thruway Authority
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County
Executive
Chris Wallin, representing Mayor Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady
Craig Warner, Capital District Regional Planning Commission

STAFF AND OTHERS

Nancy Benedict, Citizens for Public Transportation
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Jim Digioia, NYS Office of General Services
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee
Glenn Gaznon, Mohawk Ambulance
Keith Irish, Citizens of Public Transportation
Tammy Kelley, Saratoga County Partnership
Eric Krous, UAlbany
Joe LaCivita, City of Watervliet
Dr. Catherine Lawson, UAlbany
Darlene McGraw, Interested Citizen
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Mark Schaeffer, Capital District Transportation Authority
Tim Wainwright, NYS Thruway Authority
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1

ADMINISTRATION

December 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Members approved the December 5, 2019 minutes.

PRIVELEGE OF THE FLOOR

Nancy Benedict said that a lack of snow clearing of curb ramps after the early December snowstorm made it difficult to walk in the community for one to two weeks. Darlene McGraw said that complete streets are needed, as well as transit service between the Wilton Mall and Latham Farms.

PRESENTATION BY CDRPC - CAPITAL REGION COMMUNITY INDICATORS PROJECT

Mark Castiglione introduced the new data visualization tool that uses data to tell a story of the region's changes over time. The project is a partnership among CDRPC, CDTC, the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region, and the Capital Region Chamber of Commerce, and is implemented by the University at Albany Visualization and Informatics Lab. The project creates baseline data that multiple agencies and the community could use to start a conversation, to evaluate programmatic effects, and to incorporate into grant applications. Version 1.0 launched in January 2020 exclusively sourced from 5-year American Community Survey data from the US Census Bureau. Future enhancements include school district data. The 50+ indicators are organized into economy, social welfare, health, education, housing, and transportation. Green and red indicators on the left side of the data pages depict whether trends are getting better or worse. The site includes a maps tool. Contact mark@cdrpc.org to request a presentation to your agency.

2019-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

A. RG144, TWSE.19, NYS Thruway Durable Pavement Markings Set-Aside, NYSDOT

Greg Wichser explained that funds to be used for NYS Thruway restriping need to appear on the individual Transportation Improvement Programs in regions where funds will be spent. The action adds funds for this FFY and the next two. It does not impact CDTC's core funds. Members approved the amendment as presented.

B. A583, 1085.40, Carman Road Safety Improvements, NYSDOT

Greg Wichser explained that the requested scope change from a two-way turn lane with new sidewalks & pedestrian accommodations to two roundabouts (one at Carman Road and Lydius Street and one at Carman Road and the Ramp to I-890/I-90) will provide both safety and mobility benefits. It was determined that the two-way turn lane would not be feasible. Members approved the amendment as presented.

DRAFT NEW VISIONS 2050 APPROVAL TO RELEASE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mike Franchini explained that the first draft of New Visions 2050 is ready for review and was completed in-house. There will be two comment periods. Chris O'Neill noted that numerous technical and advisory committees contributed to draft white papers with the overall goal of a quality region. Chris described each of the 15 Planning and Investment Principles in the plan, as well as the three different future scenarios related to land use and new technologies. The Financial Plan assumes funding levels will be relatively constant with inflation. The Plan also includes several "Big Ticket" initiatives that would be supported if there were additional funding. Jen Ceponis noted that staff has developed a number of public input opportunities. Contact us at newvisions@cdtcmppo.org to request a presentation. In addition, we will provide materials for people to use independently, at their own meetings, and we will partner with CDTA to conduct in-person surveys. If approved today, the first comment period will extend through April and in June staff will request approval to release the final draft for a second 60-day public review. Members approved releasing for public comment the draft New Visions 2050 as presented.

2020-2021 LINKAGE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CDTC received nine applications. Mike Franchini said there were many good applications and he hopes those that are not funded will apply in the future. The selection committee of CDTC, CDRPC, CDTA, and NYS DOT staff recommended approving three projects, one each in the Villages of Ballston Spa, Menands, and Scotia. Members approved the selection committee's funding recommendation as presented.

2020-2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) UPDATE REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Mike Franchini explained that the Unified Planning Work Program includes tasks for the next two years, and budget tables for those tasks. He highlighted the following new programs: local Transition Plan creation by municipal solicitation, a renewed local bridge study, a traffic signal retiming program, a trail feasibility study based on the Regional Trails Plan, and a bus-only lane feasibility study with CDTA. In addition, Mike noted one change since the mailout. The change adds a contract on behalf of the state's MPO's to develop transit data and tools, which will also be available to transit agencies in the state. Finally, Mike requested member assistance with CDTC's required local share, by documenting in-kind contributions from members, including document review. Mayor Kathy Sheehan asked if there is a template for this information and Mike offered to distribute the format to members. Members approved the Unified Planning Work Program as presented.

TITLE VI (AND OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS REGULATIONS) PLAN APPROVAL

Mike Franchini explained that the document for approval is an update and includes some Chinese and Spanish translations.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN APPROVAL

Mike Franchini explained that the Limited English Proficiency Plan explains what we should do to communicate with people who do not speak English well.

Members approved both the Title VI (and other Civil Rights Regulations) Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan as presented.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDRPC

Craig Warner advised that applications for the 2020 CDTC/CDRPC Community Planning Technical Assistance program are due April 3rd. Completed 2019 projects include a Bethlehem growth analysis, Menands Food Access Study and Comprehensive Planning Assistance for the Town of Coeymans. CDRPC has received several proposed census boundary changes from the US Census Bureau and is working with affected localities on a response. April 1 is Census Day. Households will begin receiving census mailings in mid-March with instructions on how to complete the 2020 census online. Decennial census data is expected in the spring of 2020. Four projects and individuals will receive CDRPC's Erastus Corning, 2nd Awards for Intermunicipal Cooperation on March 26th at the University Club in Albany. CDRPC's Spring Local Government workshop will be May 23rd at Hudson Valley Community College. Local board members can secure all required planning and zoning board credits at the event.

NYS DOT

Patrick Barnes noted that Chris Ward will be the new Acting Albany County Resident Engineer and Chad Corbett will be the new Acting Schenectady County Resident Engineer. The I-90 over Fuller Road project was bundled with the I-90 over Erie Boulevard in Albany project, however the contractor withdrew its bid. It will need to be relet and implementation may extend over two years. The Empire State Trail work in Rotterdam and Pattersonville will be going forward differently. Pat reviewed the 2020 harsh winter paving list of projects: on Rte. 32 in Westerlo, Rte. 2 in Petersburg, Rte. 9N in Saratoga/Greenfield, and Rte. 406 in Rotterdam.

New York State Thruway Authority

XXXX advised that the Authority will be replacing Old State Road between Exits 24 and 25. Implementation of all-electronic tolling is underway. Mayor Kathy Sheehan expressed concern about the impact on people whose license plates are in bad condition or who don't have credit cards or bank accounts. Public meetings or an education campaign are needed to reach out to these residents.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta reported that there was continued growth in January/February over 2019 and this year appears to be on-track to match the 2004 3-million total passenger record. \$154M in terminal and garage improvements are on schedule for final completion March 30th. The Authority will also be starting a new master plan and replacing four passenger boarding bridges this year.

Albany Port District Commission

Pat Jordan said that no ice-breakers were needed this year, which tripled the normal amount of winter traffic. Activity from the wood pulp business has been increasing, and the Port now has a contract with a timber company. These increases have resulted in many longshoreman hours. The Port is seeking offshore wind producing customers in Bethlehem. The site could be used for the manufacture and/or finishing of wind turbine equipment that would be shipped along the east coast. The project would bring hundreds of millions of dollars to Albany County and over 900 jobs.

Linkage/Local Planning Activities

Mike Franchini advised that the Craig-Main study is complete and was approved by the City's Council. The Hoosick-Hillside study is expected to be complete this fall. Work on the Albany Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan recently began.

Other

Mayor Kathy Sheehan noted that we should all be anticipating workforce development needs that may result from long-term planning work that we do.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick S. Barnes, P.E.
Secretary