

CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2019

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice-Chair
Louis Esposito, Town of Princetown
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County
Executive
Steve Iachetta, representing Philip E. Calderone Esq., Albany County
Airport Authority
Patrick Jordan, Esq. Albany Port District Commission
Mayor Meg Kelly, City of Saratoga Springs
Andrew Kreshik, representing Mayor Patrick Madden, City of Troy
Joe LaCivita, representing Paula Mahan, Town of Colonie
Robert Rice, representing Patrick Barnes, NYS Department of
Transportation - Region 1
James D. Shaughnessy, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Mayor Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair
Christopher Wallin, representing Mayor Gary McCarthy, City of
Schenectady
Tom Werner, Saratoga County

STAFF AND OTHERS

Nancy Benedict, Citizens for Public Transportation
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jim Davis, NYS Department of Transportation - Main Office
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee
Ellwood Hanrahan, NYS Department of Transportation - Main Office
Keith Irish, Citizens for Public Transportation
Tim Lewis, 511 New York
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands
Rima Shamieh, Capital District Transportation Committee
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Kathy Sheehan opened the Capital District Transportation
Committee meeting at 3:07 PM. Members and attendees introduced
themselves.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the September 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The September 5, 2019 meeting minutes were approved by the members.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Nancy Benedict said that during a snow storm major bus shelters should be shoveled in a more timely manner.

PRESENTATION NYSDOT - 511 NEW YORK RIDESHARE IN THE CAPITAL REGION

Tim Lewis gave a presentation on this topic. 511 started in the early 1990s and was focused downstate. It is piloting an expansion upstate by leveraging products and services from downstate. It promotes ridesharing and transit, with a transit trip planner. The Capital Region's iPool2 is powered by 511.

Mayor Sheehan said that two very large employers, Global Foundries and Regeneron, are not accessible to many in Albany. Rima Shamieh said that we are looking for ways to expand 511 and regional TDM support to address those sorts of gaps. Mayor Sheehan said that the NYS Department of Labor may have funding for workforce development. Rima said that the Watervliet Arsenal has about 33 vanpools, so these programs can make a difference.

2019-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

A. T123, 1822.15, Washington/Western BRT Phase 2

B. T124, 1822.16, Hudson River Corridor BRT Operations

Carm Basile explained that these amendments do not affect the TIP. For the Washington Western BRT, improvements will be located adjacent to the University at Albany's Downtown Campus and the new ETEC Campus located within the Harriman State Office Campus, including a road diet of the Harriman ring road from six to four lanes and bus-only lanes. For the River Corridor BRT, service and operational related expenses will be funded. Members approved the amendments A. and B. as presented.

NYSDOT PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGET APPROVAL

Mike Franchini explained CDTC is required to approve the updated safety performance measures and targets. Bob Rice said that the State needs to meet these targets to keep funding sources in place. Members approved the updated safety performance measures and targets as presented.

PROJECT SELECTION GUIDELINES ADDITION

Mike Franchini explained proposed updates to the project selection guidelines. Amendments that change fund sources from CDTC "core" funds to statewide federal funds being spent in the CDTC area will require a Planning Committee action under the new guidelines, but will not require a Policy Board action. Members approved the Project Selection Guidelines Addition 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 are completing white papers which will be finished by the end of December. The Policy Board will serve as the advisory committee for the Quality Region paper. He reviewed the Quality Region principles and recommendations in the existing New Visions Plan. Five of the recommendations have been completed and the following 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.

Mayor Sheehan suggested that equity considerations should be discussed for each topic area. This approach has worked in Albany.

Mike Franchini presented four future scenarios that are being considered in the Plan update: : A) Based-Year 2050 Trend (Status Quo), B) Sprawl Development, C) Concentrated Development, and D) Concentrated Development with Financial Incentives. He described two overlay scenarios to the four development scenarios proposed earlier based on how automated vehicles will affect the region: Optimistic AV and Pessimistic AV. Mike Franchini presented a slide that showed the potential impacts of the different scenarios. Carm Basile commented on the importance of understanding Mobility as a Service (MaaS) and the impacts it will have on transportation. CDTA will be starting a microtransit pilot program, called "Flex". It will provide coverage to areas not served well by fixed route transit and will replace less efficient routes and/or route segments.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) 2020-22 UPDATE

Mike Franchini explained that CDTC will need to develop a new UPWP by March. CDTC is expecting an increase in PL planning funds of about 1.6%. The potential of funding cuts due to rescission was removed because the rescission was repealed by Congress in the last continuing resolution.

2020 PLANNING COMMITTEE AND POLICY BOARD MEETING SCHEDULES

Mike Franchini reviewed the 2020 planning committee and policy board meeting schedules.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDRPC

James Shaughnessy said that CDRPC, with funding from CDTC, the Capital Region Chamber, the Community Foundations for the Capital District, CDRPC continues to develop an online indicators website in partnership with the University at Albany's AVAIL Lab. The website includes profiles for the 4-county and 8-county Capital Region Area, each individual county, and each city, town and village within those counties. Each profile includes roughly 50 demographic and other indicators which are categorized under Economy, Transportation, Housing, Education, Health and Social Welfare. Profiles pages feature data visualizations and ability to compare data overtime and across geographies. In addition, the platform features a mapping interface that allows users to explore data geographically down to the census tract and block group levels. The Capital Region Chamber's non-profit business advisory group hosted the launch beta version on September 25 and the 1.0 version will be launched on January 20 at the SEFCU Auditorium.

CDRPC is wrapping up "round 1" of its Clean Energy Communities program. The program helps save communities money through the adoption of clean energy strategies. Through CDPRC's work, the region's 33+ designated Clean Energy communities have received more than 3 million dollars in match-free grants for clean energy projects. One of the most popular actions under the program has been Clean Fleets, with 21 communities in the eight-county region installing electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure or purchasing EVs for their fleets. Albany County, for example, purchased four electric vehicles for their municipal fleet and installed four Level 2 charging stations at the Times Union Center as a result of the Clean Energy Communities Program grants.

CDTA

Carm Basile said that CDTA is working on a three year strategic plan and a five year TDP (Transit Development Plan). In response to the comments made by Nancy Benedict, Carm said that CDTA will do better at clearing snow from bus shelter areas. Mayor Sheehan said that the City of Albany will address this issue also.

NYS DOT

Bob Rice said that with historic snowfall in recent weeks, NYS DOT appreciated the regional cooperation. A robust paving program is being prepared for the spring as a result of funding available because of the

rescission repeal by Congress. The Empire State Trail project in Rotterdam is out to bid.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta commented that the opening of the Exit 3 Airport Connector was very exciting and received worthy press as a regional milestone project. The Airport is experiencing approximately three percent annual growth in enplanements and should soon surpass the 2004 record 3-million total passengers. 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 new garage includes new state of the art guidance and automated parking access systems and is on-schedule to open by March 31st 2020.

Albany Port District Commission

Patrick Jordan reported that the new roll-on/roll-off ramp was completed and has gotten attention in industry magazines. The Port is competing for the construction of offshore wind turbines.

Saratoga County

Tom Werner encouraged members to attend the February 5 Saratoga County Planning and Zoning Conference.

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 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Barnes
Secretary