

CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2021

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Susan Barden, representing Mayor Meg Kelly, City of Saratoga Springs
Patrick Barnes, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1, Secretary
Phil Barrett, Town of Clifton Park
Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice-Chair
Mayor Thomas Gifford, Village of Scotia
Steve Iachetta, representing Philip Calderone Esq., Albany County Airport Authority
Patrick K. Jordan, Esq., Albany Port District Commission
Andrew Kreshik, representing Mayor Patrick Madden, City of Troy
Caitlin O’Brien, representing Andrew Joyce, Albany County Legislature
George Penn, representing Daniel P. McCoy, Albany County Executive
Joe Seman-Graves, representing Mayor William T. Keeler, City of Cohoes
Phil Serafino, New York State Thruway Authority
Mayor Kathy M. Sheehan, Chair
Michael E. Stammel, Rensselaer County Legislature
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County
Executive Chris Wallin, representing Mayor Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady
Craig M. Warner, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Thomas Werner, Saratoga County

STAFF AND OTHERS ATTENDING

Christian Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Bob Rice, New York State Department of Transportation - Region 1
Jordan Solano-Reed, Capital District Transportation Committee
Mark Surdam, Town of Hoosick
Mayor Thomas Tobin, Village of Colonie
Carrie Ward, Capital District Transportation Committee
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Kathy Sheehan opened the meeting at approximately 3:04 PM.

ADMINISTRATION

Previous Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2021

Linda von der Heide motioned to approve the June 3, 2021 minutes, Patrick Jordan seconded, and members approved the motion.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATION BY THE CDTC

Sandy Misiewicz provided a presentation defining the Transportation Improvement Program and its relationship to the Long Range Regional Transportation Plan, New Visions, 2050. She noted that staff has developed a fillable online application form in lieu of the previous paper-based application. Sandy Misiewicz noted that staff has discussed the bridge evaluation procedure with NYSDOT and developed a proposal to increase bridge scores relative to those for other project types.

Jen Ceponis described the merit score sheet, noting its connection to New Visions. The merit score sheet scores are combined with the benefit/cost ratio scores to create an overall score for use as reference in programming projects. Since the last TIP solicitation for new projects, staff proposed language to increase consistency with federal and state priorities. She summarized additional changes made to the score sheet, including those requested by the Planning Committee to increase scores for bridges.

Chris Bauer noted that staff created a master Access database to manage the information from the applications submitted. While much of this will be behind the scenes, he showed examples of fact sheets and summary tables for each project type that will be created.

Sandy Misiewicz noted that the Planning Committee agreed on language to better define whether projects are preservation or beyond preservation and to better describe ADA applicability. Pavement preservation projects will be limited to 0.5 mile of sidewalk or shared use trail reconstruction and no new sidewalk or shared use trail construction.

The proposed TIP solicitation schedule is for a September 10th issuance date with a November 5th deadline. Staff will complete initial evaluations by December 13th and work with the Planning Committee in January/February 2022 with the Policy Board releasing the draft program in March and approving the final program in June 2022.

Finally, Sandy Misiewicz noted that there is still uncertainty regarding available federal funding, which may be clarified if Congress passes infrastructure legislation. The draft infrastructure bill

could result in a 25-30% increase in funding. In addition, CDTC staff will begin to look at the status of projects currently programmed on the TIP.

Sandy Misiewicz explained that the solicitation will be distributed to all chief elected officials and where possible to additional staff at each municipality.

TIP APPLICATION & EVALUATION UPDATE

Following the presentation, Tom Werner made a motion to approve the TIP materials, Carm Basile seconded, and members approved the TIP materials. Carm Basile made a motion to authorize issuance of the TIP solicitation for new projects, Supervisor Phil Barrett seconded, and members approved issuance of the TIP solicitation.

2019-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

SA335, 1085.52, Intersection Safety Improv. at NY 9 & NY 146, NYSDOT

Greg Wichser explained that this project is intended to mitigate the existing crash pattern driven in part by the slip lanes. The design will be determined during preliminary design but should be covered by the requested \$7M.

SA336, 1236.29, Intersection Safety Improv. at NY 29 & Rowland St, T/o Milton & C/o Saratoga Springs, NYSDOT

Greg Wichser explained that the pattern of crashes at this intersection is expected to be mitigated by the addition of turn lanes and a signal modification. \$1.3M is requested.

S273, 1525.38, I-890 Rehab from Mohawk River to Exit 3, T/o Rotterdam & C/o Schenectady, NYSDOT

This \$25M project will rehabilitate the last section of interstate with severe distress.

RG136, 1810.66, State Miscellaneous Pavement Maintenance Set-Aside, NYSDOT

Region 1 has received \$28M from Main Office to supplement pavement maintenance. Greg Wichser referenced the included attachment [available on CDTC's website] with a listing of the roadway segments to be resurfaced as part of this project.

Patrick Jordan motioned to approve all four NYSDOT amendments as presented, Phil Barrett seconded, and members approved the motion.

T107, CDTC107, Hudson River Corridor BRT: Phase 1 (two amendments), CDTA

Carm Basile explained that these two amendments on T107 will reprogram unused funding from the blue line BRT, including for the Uncle Sam Transit Center. The first action requested is to add the remaining funds of \$3.63M to the current 2019-2024 TIP.

Mayor Kathy Sheehan motioned to approve the first amendment as presented, Mike Stammel seconded, and members approved the motion.

Carm Basile then explained that the second requested amendment would return all funding currently in T107, \$7.318M, into the set-aside that had funded the project, RG131. It would also remove the Uncle Sam Transit Center from the scope of T107.

Supervisor Phil Barrett motioned to approve the second amendment as presented, Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the motion.

T137, BusPlus Red Line Upgrades, CDTA

Carm Basile explained that this new project funded out of RG131 will provide upgrades to the BusPlus Red Line, including for the purchase of articulated buses. Mike Stammel motioned to approve the amendment for the new project, Supervisor Phil Barrett seconded, and members approved the motion.

NYSDOT SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES & TARGETS

Bob Rice noted that the Safety Performance Measures and Targets for fatalities and personal injury crashes are federally required for NYSDOT and MPO's. NYSDOT has created criteria that could be reached, which the MPO's may also adopt. Sandy Misiewicz explained that the federal requirement makes it easier to compare performance across states. Carm Basile motioned to accept the state targets, Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the state targets.

2022-2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM UPDATE

Sandy Misiewicz shared a handout with proposals for the Unified Planning Work Program. She noted that she would like the Planning Committee and Policy Board to take a more active role in UPWP creation. Moving to a one-year program is one proposal, and would increase flexibility related to federal legislation and staffing changes. Another proposal is to solicit for planning projects once each year, and roll current solicitations into that solicitation. She provided a proposed schedule for soliciting projects. Pat Barnes motioned to approve the two proposals, Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the proposals.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDTC

Sandy Misiewicz noted that there will be some reorganization at CDTC, as well as modernization of the technology. She noted that she will reach out to members to understand how to make the Policy Board meetings most useful for them.

CDRPC

Craig Warner noted that CDRPC has made available the 2020 Census population and housing data for counties, cities, and towns. It includes changes from the 2010 numbers and is available at www.cdrpc.org under data. CDRPC has also completed data visualizations for census tract data for Albany and Rensselaer Counties with visualizations for Saratoga and Schenectady expected to be complete shortly.

CDTA

Carm Basile noted that CDTA is in the process of restoring service to most routes that had been suspended due to COVID, and has also added service for the state worker transportation from the remote lots. By the end of the month service will be back to about 95% of previous levels. CDTA is expanding relationships with the Albany and Troy city school districts and beginning a new relationship with the Schenectady school district. A \$10M addition on the Albany garage is underway, as well as a \$5-6M addition to the Troy garage. CDTA is piloting 85 scooters in both a docked and dockless system.

NYSDOT – Local Projects & NYSDOT Projects

Pat Barnes noted that NYSDOT let a project to replace interstate overhead sign structures, as well as the 890 viaduct rehabilitation project. Upcoming lettings will be for roundabouts on Route 146 at Old Carman and Lydius and at the 890 Thruway entrance. The Sitterly Road bridge replacement will be let later this fall.

NYS Thruway Authority

Phil Serafino noted that the transition to all-electronic tolling should be wrapping up at the end of this year. Construction to redevelop and modernize the 27 Thruway service Areas began in July. NYSTA will pilot a colored VMS sign, including two in the Albany Division.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta reported that the airport has over one million passengers projected for this year. Air cargo has expanded by 10-15% with strong FedEx and UPS flights. The first day of classes in the Aeronautical Technology Institute partnership with Hudson Valley Community College was yesterday, offering degree and certificate programs. The Authority launched \$6.5M worth of airside pavement rehabilitation. The 20-year master plan is approaching the 30% stage.

Albany Port District Commission

Patrick Jordan noted that the Port recently posted a position for a senior project manager for a three year contract. The port hosted elected officials last Friday. Three public hearings related to the expansion site are expected in the next few weeks, one in the Town of Bethlehem and two in Albany’s South End. The Port is looking into electric vehicles and public transit access. There is a concern that two or three oversight agencies are not working on the Port’s schedule for the manufacturing plant construction. The Port is working with the City and other entities to train and hire South End residents to work at the expansion site, particularly in welding.

Linkage/Local Planning Activities

Sandy Misiewicz referenced the overview table in the packet and noted that the Bus Lane Feasibility Study is getting off the ground now, with a leadership team of the mayors of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy and the CDTC, and NYSDOT Region-1 directors to help gain buy-in and achieve more progress than has been made in the past. The technical assistance program is open for applications for small scale data analysis or planning projects. Sandy Misiewicz also noted that Mike Franchini’s retirement party will be held on September 23rd at the Lost & Found in Albany from 4:30 to 6:30 PM and we are asking for \$25 donations to help defray the cost, with any excess funds donated to the City Rescue Mission. The registration information will be available soon.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Mayor Kathy Sheehan referenced upcoming meetings as noted on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Mike Stammel motioned to adjourn, Carm Basile seconded, and the members approved the motion at approximately 4:20 PM. The next Policy Board meeting will be on December 2, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Barnes
Secretary