

**CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 4, 2021**

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Patrick Barnes, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1, Secretary  
Mark Castiglione, representing Craig Warner, Capital District Regional Planning Commission  
Mayor Thomas Gifford, Village of Scotia  
Stephen Iachetta, representing Philip 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  
Sean Maguire, representing Paula Mahan, Town of Colonie  
Michael Morris, representing Andrew Joyce, Albany County Legislature  
George Penn, representing Daniel McCoy, Albany County Executive  
Joseph Seman-Graves, representing Mayor William Keeler, City of Cohoes  
Mayor Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair  
Joe Stahl, NYS Thruway Authority  
Michael Stammel, Rensselaer County  
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County Executive  
Ketura Vics, City of Rensselaer  
Chris Wallin, representing Mayor Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady  
Tom Werner, Saratoga County

**STAFF AND OTHERS ATTENDING**

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Jennifer Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Jeremy Hughes, Barton & Loguidice  
Joe LaCivita, City of Watervliet  
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Randy Milano, City of Albany  
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Jordan Solano-Reed, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Steve Strauss, Executive Director, Empire State Passengers Association  
Carrie Ward, 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 approximately 3:06 PM.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **December 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Tom Werner motioned to approve the December 3, 2020 minutes. Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the December 3, 2020 minutes.

### **Nominating Subcommittee**

Mike noted that the Nominating Subcommittee has submitted their recommendations for Policy Board officers, Policy Board members, and Planning Committee members.

The current Policy Board officers agreed to continue in their positions this year: Mayor Kathy Sheehan as Chair, Carm Basile as Vice Chair, and Patrick Barnes as Secretary.

Chris Wallin motioned to approve the three candidates as recommended by the Nominating Subcommittee, Pat Jordan seconded, and members approved the candidates.

Current Policy Board alternates from Saratoga and Schenectady Counties are both willing to continue as members: Town of Clifton Park Supervisor Phil Barrett and Village of Scotia Mayor Thomas Gifford. The Nominating Subcommittee nominated the following alternates from Albany and Rensselaer Counties: Village of Colonie Mayor Thomas Tobin, and either the Town of Poestenkill Supervisor Keith Hammond or the Town of Hoosick Supervisor Mark Surdam. Supervisor Hammond is not able to serve as the alternate, however both Mayor Tobin and Supervisor Surdam agreed to serve. Mayor Sheehan motioned to elect Mayor Tobin and Supervisor Surdam as Policy Board alternate members, Tom Werner seconded the motion, and members elected Mayor Tobin and Supervisor Surdam as alternates.

The nominating subcommittee nominated the following town and village member and alternates for the Planning Committee: Peter Comenzo Town of Rotterdam as the member, and alternates in the following order Paul Reuss, Village of Menands; Rob Leslie, Town of Bethlehem; Nadine Fuda, Town of Schodack; Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna; John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park; Don Csaposs, Town of Guilderland; Jaime O'Neill, Town of Malta; Andrew Kohout, Village of Scotia; Adam Yagelski, Town of East Greenbush; and Elizabeth Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa. Pat Barnes motioned to approve the candidates as presented, Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the candidates for the town and village member and alternates.

## **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

There were no visitors.

## **PRESENTATION BY EMPIRE STATE PASSENGERS ASSOCIATION**

Steve Strauss provided an overview of the Empire State Passengers Association (ESPA). One of ESPA's goals is to educate New Yorkers about Amtrak funding under the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008. They are also closely following the now overdue update to the state's 2009 State Rail Plan as well as the EIS for the Empire Corridor, which was submitted to FRA in 2014 and is expected to be finalized in June 2021. Other goals include reopening food service commissary in Rensselaer, restoring café car service between Albany and

New York City, adding a baggage car to the Maple Leaf line, and restoring train service to pre-covid levels by this summer. The Livingston Avenue Bridge is due for replacement. NYSDOT and FRA indicated that the Environmental Assessment is scheduled for completion in June 2021. Steve summarized a few funding options for the bridge.

## **2020-2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

### **2021-2022 Budget Carryovers**

Mike summarized the packet attachment description of budget carryovers – last year some planning initiatives were delayed. As shown in the table in the packet, we propose to carryover funding from studies into the next year.

### **Task 2.30.2 Highway Condition Inventory City of Albany**

The City requested enhancements to the database used for the inventory, which resulted in an increase in study scope and a slight increase in cost, paid by the City.

### **Task 4.21 Freight Planning**

The scope of the planned study will need to change, as one of the stakeholders determined that the planned scope is no longer necessary. The new scope is under development.

### **Task 4.30 Smart Communities**

Since no sponsors applied for the study, we are recommending a change in study scope to conduct a regional study to benefit all members.

### **Task 6.13 Transit Planning**

CDTA requested to increase the scope and budget of the planned study. CDTA will also increase its share of the study cost.

Patrick Jordan motioned to approve all 2020-2022 Unified Planning Work Program amendments as presented, Meg Kelly seconded, and members approved the amendments as presented.

## **FINAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE & APPROVAL**

Jen Ceponis summarized the proposed changes to public participation, noting that it includes strategies and performance measures. Mike Stammel motioned to approve, Meg Kelly seconded, and members approved the Public Participation Plan update.

## **2021-2022 LINKAGE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

Sandy noted that we received four applications amounting to over \$220,000. Applications were received from the City of Albany, City of Troy, City of Rensselaer, and jointly from the Towns of

East Greenbush and North Greenbush. Mike summarized the criteria used in the evaluation process. The evaluation team identified two funding options for Planning Committee consideration – both including the City of Troy and East Greenbush, with options to fund either the City of Rensselaer or City of Albany. The Planning Committee recommended funding the City of Troy, Town of East Greenbush, and City of Rensselaer applications. Mike Stammel motioned to approve the Planning Committee recommendation, Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the Planning Committee recommendation.

## **TIP APPLICATION & EVALUATION UPDATE**

Mike noted that staff has been split into three teams to update the TIP application and evaluation process. Staff teams are working on a web-based application, updates to the merit scoresheet, and data management both during and after the evaluation process.

## **CDTC/CDRPC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Sandy summarized projects approved by the Planning Committee at its January meeting: one in the Village of Ballston Spa to provide guidance and data in support of the Village's Comprehensive Plan Update, and one in the Town of Glenville to conduct a safety analysis on Hoffman Hill Road.

## **STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

### **CDTC**

The Hoosick Street study in Troy is finished and was approved by the City Council, and the City of Albany Bike/Ped Plan was just finished. New Linkage studies in Menands, Ballston Spa, and Scotia are beginning. The bridge study consultant has a draft list of bridges and preservation/repair strategies, and is expected to have a complete draft out to members this month. The Bus Lane Feasibility Study has begun.

### **CDRPC**

The 2020 US Census continues to go through a data quality assessment and will likely miss its March 1 deadline. CDRPC launched a new round of the Clean Energy Community program funded by NYSERDA, and is an opportunity for communities to access match-free grant funds and technical assistance. The spring planning and zoning webinar series will begin in March and continue through May. The COVID-19 Economic Recovery Indicators Dashboard was recently completed and will be shared with County economic development agencies. It investigates employment and unemployment by industry sector, as well as changes of address from NYC to Albany and Saratoga Counties.

### **CDTA**

No report

**NYSDOT**

Pat Barnes noted that a Bridge NY solicitation was announced, and he recommended including high end estimates because awards are capped. The deadline for pre-review of culvert applications is April 14<sup>th</sup> and the final deadline is May 19<sup>th</sup>. The pre-review deadline for bridge applications is May 5<sup>th</sup> and the final application deadline is June 9<sup>th</sup>. Pat shared the local project commitment list (Table 1) and asked everyone to let him know as soon as possible if any project dates will not be possible. He also shared the state project commitment list (Table 2).

Table 1: DRAFT Local Projects within CDTC - SFY 21/22

PIN	Project Title	Current Letting	Construction Amount	Tip Number
176079	TAP/CMAQ – GUILDERLAND HAMLET SIDEWALK CONNECTION	04/19/2021	608,000	A586
176117	BRIDGE NY CULVERT JAMES ST. OVER EAGLES NEST CREEK, COHOES	05/14/2021	730,000	A606
176124	BRIDGE NY STOP 13 RD OVER WYNANTS KILL, TOWN OF SAND LAKE	05/19/2021	916,000	R329
176085	TAP/CMAQ – SARATOGA SPRINGS GREENBELT DOWNTOWN CONNECTOR	05/20/2021	1,207,000	SA307
176045	WEST OLD STATE RD. SIDEWALKS, TOWN OF GUILDERLAND	05/25/2021	203,000	A581
176057	BRANDYWINE AVENUE SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS, CITY OF SCHENECTADY	06/04/2021	1,008,000	S247
176120	BRIDGE NY HANS CREEK RD OVER HANS CREEK, SARA CNTY	06/18/2021	545,000	SA313
176122	BRIDGE NY FOX HILL RD OVER LITTLE HANS CREEK, TOWN EDINBURG	06/30/2021	560,000	SA314
176114	BRIDGE NY CULVERT PARTITION ST OVER QUACKENDERRY CRK, RENS	07/14/2021	700,000	R348
176119	BRIDGE NY CAMPBELL AVE OVER WYNANTS KILL BRIDGE REHAB, TROY	07/15/2021	2,843,000	R328
176042	BROADWAY MILL AND FILL, WEAVER ST. TO FOURTH ST., SCHENECTADY	07/30/2021	972,000	S242
176062	ROSA RD, WENDELL AVE, NOTT ST. INTERSECTIONS, CITY OF SCHENE	08/03/2021	295,000	S245
176034	SAND LAKE HAMLETS SIDEWALK ENHANCEMENTS, TOWN OF SAND LAKE	08/25/2021	580,000	R310
176118	BRIDGE NY FRANCIS AVE OVER I-890 BRIDGE REHAB	09/15/2021	2,666,000	S258
176043	MOHAWK-HUDSON BIKE-HIKE TRAIL REHAB, ROTTERDAM	09/29/2021	176,000	S243
176111	BRIDGE NY CULVERT MANNIX RD OVER MILL CREEK, EAST GREENBUSH	12/15/2021	348,000	R347
176110	BRIDGE NY CULVERT MORNER RD OVER MILL CREEK, EAST GREENBUSH	12/15/2021	327,000	R346
176182	TAP/CMAQ NEW BIKE PED ACCESS RT. 5S, ROTTERDAM	12/15/2021	2,245,000	S267
176092	PSAP CITY OF ALBANY PEDESTRIAN ENHANCEMENTS	03/14/2022	1,101,000	A590

Table 2: DRAFT NYSDOT Projects within CDTC - SFY 21/22

PIN	Project Title	Current Letting	Construction Amount	Project Manager	Tip Number
152888	I-90 PAVEMENT CORRECTIVE MAINTENANCE EXIT 10 TO THRUWAY	04/08/2021	7,698,146	COREY BARRINGER	R341
108979	RT. 4/I-90 INTERSECTION SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS	4/22/2021	4,716,167	KELLEY KIRCHER	R340
152539	I-890 BRIDGES OVER ERIE BLVD. ELEMENT SPECIFIC REPAIRS	8/19/2021	13,000,000	JEFFREY MCGURN	S264
100716	BIN 1038070 RT. 144 OVER HANNACROIS CREEK, COEYMANS	10/21/2021	3,500,000	JEFFREY MCGURN	A576
108540	HSIP, ROUTE 146, CARMAN ROAD SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS, GUILDERLAND	10/21/2021	5,000,000	COREY BARRINGER	A583
111141	ROUTE 20 OVER SCHOHARIE CREEK, BRIDGE REHABILITATION, BIN 1054370	11/18/2021	2,000,000	DYLAN WILLSEY	S260

Pat noted that NYSDOT hopes to release a new 378 bridge PEL study scope this spring.

### **New York State Thruway Authority**

Joe Stahl reported that the Thruway is gearing up to remove toll plazas that remain, with work on Exits 23 and 25A expected to begin by the end of March, with all barriers scheduled to be removed by October 2021.

### **Albany County Airport Authority**

Steve noted that the Airport has started to see enplanements increase over the past week. The National Guard is on site for commercial flights, mandating enforcement of quarantine requirements. Cargo has continued to increase. The capital program is advancing, with over \$5 million is asphalt rehabilitation, four new passenger boarding bridges, an additional ten electric vehicle charging stations, along with additional LED lights.

### **Albany Port District Commission**

Pat Jordan noted that construction of the 60,000 square foot warehouse is expected to be finished within two weeks. This year saw the busiest longshore January in decades. The port has received NYSERDA offshore wind funding to develop over 90 acres in Bethlehem and Albany for a 600,000 square foot wind tower manufacturing plant. The Port will also construct a new high-capacity wharf in Bethlehem to support the new activities, and a new bridge between Albany and Bethlehem. About 500 jobs are expected during construction over the next 3-4 years, with about 350 permanent jobs expected. The Port is working with stakeholders including the City, workforce development entities and local schools and community colleges to get classes about welding and specialized training to work on ocean wind towers, with the goal of hiring local people for the upcoming jobs.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS**

Mayor Kathy Sheehan referred attendees to the list in the agenda.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, Tom Werner motioned to adjourn the meeting, Kathy Sheehan seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick Barnes  
Secretary