

POLICY BOARD MEETING
March 3, 2022
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS ATTENDING

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

STAFF AND OTHERS ATTENDING

Christian Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Bob Rice, New York State Department of Transportation – Region 1
Chaim Simon, Capital District Transportation Committee
Mark Surdam, Town of Hoosick
Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee
Mayor Thomas Tobin, Village of Colonie
Mike Valentine, Saratoga County
Carrie Ward, Capital District Transportation Committee
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Kathy Sheehan opened the meeting at approximately 3:00 PM.

ADMINISTRATION

December 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Joe Landry motioned to approve the December 2, 2021 minutes, Patrick Jordan seconded, and members approved the motion.

Nominating Subcommittee

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the Nominating Subcommittee met to discuss nominations for Policy Board officers as well as Policy Board at-large members, with one in each county. Each year, two towns or villages are at-large members and two are alternates. For Policy Board officers, the Subcommittee nominated City of Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan for Chair, Carm Basile from CDTA for Vice Chair, and Pat Barnes from NYSDOT Region-1 for Secretary. Joe Landry motioned to approve the Officer nominations as presented, Mark Castiglione seconded, and members approved the motion.

For Policy Board at-large members, the Subcommittee nominated the current alternates Village of Colonie Mayor Tom Tobin and Town of Hoosick Supervisor Mark Surdam. The nominees for alternates are Town of Malta Supervisor Mark Hammond and Town of Glenville Supervisor Chris Koetzle. Joe Landry mentioned that the nominee was in fact Jaime Puccioni of the Town of Niskayuna. Sandra Misiewicz indicated that she would need to confirm that with the Nominating Subcommittee and so that nomination was tabled. Patrick Jordan motioned to approve the at-large members as presented with the exception of Supervisor Chris Koetzle, Joe Landry seconded, and members approved the motion.

According to CDTC's operating procedures, the Planning Committee at-large members rotate annually. One of the at-large members has been nominated since 2015. The Subcommittee proposed using a rotational at-large member at the Planning Committee, with a list of alternates based on the seniority of individuals who regularly attend Planning Committee meetings. The Subcommittee nominated Adam Yagelski from the Town of East Greenbush to serve as the at-large member of the Planning Committee. Patrick Jordan motioned to approve the proposal to rotate the nominee and the nomination, both as presented, Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the motion.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATION - NYSDOT REGION 1 PLANNING TARGET DEVELOPMENT FOR FEDERAL FUNDS IN THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Greg Wichser provided a presentation on Region 1's Federal Aid Planning Targets. The Planning Targets are made up of the highway bill, advance construction and a redistribution of funds in August. Advance Construction can borrow up to two years of the federal funds that will be available. In August FHWA reviews expenditures by state to determine amounts that won't be expended in the fiscal year, making those funds available to states that can immediately obligate them.

NYSDOT's planning targets assembly is made up of multi-site preservation, site specific preservation, and system renewal projects. Planning targets then take available funding into consideration, which is mostly NHPP with federal funding. After meeting federally mandated preservation targets, a small amount of funding remains that can be used for enhancement, renewal, and additional preservation projects. The highway bill increases federal aid funding to NYS by about \$4.6M over five years.

2022-2023 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Sandra Misiewicz provided a presentation of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and explained how it relates to New Visions 2050 and the Transportation Improvement Program. The UPWP is a federally required document and includes task descriptions, who will perform the work, time frames, funding amounts, and fund sources. The Planning Committee reviewed and approved the solicitation for work tasks, in the categories of the Linkage Program, Regional Plan Implementation, and Community Planning Technical Assistance Program. Six proposals were received and the Planning Committee recommended four projects be included in the proposed UPWP. In December NYSDOT issued UPWP guidance for FHWA and FTA planning funds, though there may be changes to the FTA amounts. The draft addresses new federal planning factors and planning emphasis areas. The Planning Committee approved the draft in February, and public comments were collected through yesterday, with a total of about 30 comments.

Sandra Misiewicz provided a broad overview of tasks included in the draft UPWP. Appendix B will reflect comments received, including a number requesting an additional study to redesign I-787. As a result of the comments received, additional funding is proposed to refresh traffic modeling that was included in the I-787 Hudson Waterfront Corridor Study, as well as to calculate economic benefits of transportation projects. In addition, Kelly Hoffman will now be representing the Rensselaer County legislature. Mayor Sheehan motioned to approve the Unified Planning Work Program with the outlined changes, Carm Basile seconded, and members approved the motion.

2019-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

A593, 1761.63, Henry Johnson Boulevard, Sheridan Avenue to Livingston Avenue: Mill & Fill

Randy Milano explained that pending private development projects and the need for gas infrastructure replacement with National Grid have led to schedule and scope of work conflicts.

The City is no longer seeking federal aid for the project. Pat Jordan motioned to delete the project, Carm Basile seconded, and members approved the motion.

A595, 1051.85, Dunn Memorial Bridge WB To I-787 SB Element Specific Repairs

Greg Wichser explained that NYSDOT determined that the original scope can be reduced while keeping the bridge in acceptable condition. This amendment reduces the budget for the project by about \$9.4M.

A596, 1528.83, Everett Road Over I-90, Bridge Repair, BIN 1034529

This \$10.6M repair project is proposed for removal due to known long-term growth in the corridor, and an expected need to redesign the interchange, which would need to be accomplished along with a bridge replacement. The bridge will undergo smaller interim repairs.

R313, 1001.32, RT. 2 Over RT. 22 at Petersburg, Bridge Replacement, BIN 1000250

This amendment adds about \$1.6M due to an estimated cost increase to complete the scope. Carm Basile motioned to approve the A595, A596, and R313 TIP amendments as presented, Joe Landry seconded, and members approved the motion.

2022-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) UPDATE

Update Status

Sandra Misiewicz noted that we would normally have a draft program for review at this meeting. State projects can't be released yet, which means that we can't publicize the candidate list. We have worked through the status of existing projects, and the list of roll-in projects is ready. Next week's tentative Planning Committee meeting has been cancelled. Federal program guidance for a number of programs has been released recently.

2022-27 Transportation Improvement Program Existing Project Roll-In

Jacob Beeman referenced the mail-out list of projects rolling from the existing TIP with funding in years 3, 4, and 5 that will roll into the new TIP. The other list shows projects that will roll off of the TIP. The third list shows projects that have been in the post TIP for demonstrative purposes. Those that submitted applications in the latest solicitation will be included if funded this round, and the other projects will be removed. Pat Jordan motioned to approve the roll-in projects as presented, Carm Basile seconded, and members approved the motion.

Authorize Planning Committee to Release Draft TIP for Public Comment

Because of the delay, the Policy Board won't be able to release the draft TIP without an additional meeting. Mayor Sheehan requested that the Policy Board receive 48-hour notice of the draft TIP before it is released to the public. Mayor Sheehan made a motion to delegate release of the draft TIP to the Planning Committee with a 48-day prior notice to the Policy Board, Carm Basile seconded, and members approved the motion.

CDTC PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN AMENDMENT

Jen Ceponis referred to a handout on a new public review period for the Public Participation Plan, and noted that we are asking to reduce the review period for most of CDTC's products. Mark Castiglione motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Carm Basile seconded, and members approved the motion.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDTC

Sandra Misiewicz noted that we have hired two new staff, Stephen Maples and Chaim Simon. We plan to hire one additional staff person.

CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that CDRPC is hiring for a planner and analyst. The spring webinar series will be held every Wednesday in May. The Off-Shore Wind Supply Chain Study is wrapping up this month. The broadband study continues, and CDRPC is posed to roll out the new Climate Smart Communities Program. The Census Bureau is expected to release 5-year American Community Survey data on March 17th. The Capital Region Indicators website includes dashboards for all zip codes and school districts in the 8-county region. This summer CDRPC, in partnership with CDTC and CDTA, will host an experiential program called Future Leaders in Policy and Planning for high school students.

CDTA

Carm Basile noted that CDTA's expansion to Montgomery County is expected in the third quarter of 2022, assuming adequate state funding. Construction on Washington and Western Avenues in the City of Albany will begin this spring and will lead to operation of the third BRT line in 2023. It will include a busway through the Harriman Campus and UAlbany. Season 6 of the CDPHP bikeshare program will roll out this year, including e-bikes and scooters. A new carshare program called Drive is expected to roll out in late spring.

NYSDOT

Pat Barnes noted that NYSDOT has noticed its bid prices increasing. The I-890 pavement rehabilitation project was released as well as the Route 20 bridge over the Schohaire Creek. NYSDOT is also hiring, Craig Blake is the new regional construction engineer. Kelly Kircher has joined the local program and management group. Joe Thompson is also new to Region 1 and Alex Poland joined the planning group.

NYSTA

Phil Serafino noted that work on the Berkshire Connector project on the Castleton Bridge will start again next week, with work on the westbound side of the bridge. There will be one lane in each direction, both located on the eastbound side of the bridge.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta reported that passenger counts are at about 80% of 2019 levels. Work on taxiway A is wrapping up. There will be meetings on the master plan this summer. The website is alb-master-plan.com.

Albany Port District Commission

Patrick Jordan noted that congestion along the eastern seaboard has led to an increase of ships to the Port, with both wood pulp and steel. The Town of Bethlehem Planning Board approved the Final Environmental Impact Statement as complete. It is anticipated that they will adopt the findings statement in two weeks, ending the SEQR review. The Stockbridge-Munsee tribe advised that the alterations will have no adverse effects on their lands on the eastern side of the Hudson River, with changes to move the transmission pieces behind a stand of trees that the Port will maintain.

Non-CDTC Regional/Local Planning Activities

There were no updates.

OTHER

There was no other business.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Mayor Sheehan referenced upcoming meetings as noted on the agenda, noting the cancellation of the March 9th Planning Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Pat Jordan motioned to adjourn, Mark Castiglione seconded, and the members approved the motion at approximately 4:01 PM. The next Policy Board meeting will be on June 2, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Barnes
Secretary