

**POLICY BOARD MEETING  
December 2, 2021  
Meeting Minutes**

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

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  
Mayor Charles Patricelli, City of Watervliet  
Joe Seman-Graves, representing Mayor William T. Keeler, City of Cohoes  
Mayor Kathy M. Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair  
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County Executive  
Craig M. Warner, Capital District Regional Planning Commission  
Tom Werner, Saratoga County

**STAFF AND OTHERS ATTENDING**

Christian Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission  
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Ron Epstein, NYS Department of Transportation Main Office  
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Randy Milano, City of Albany  
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Bob Rice, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1  
Rima Shamieh, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Mark Surdam, Town of Hoosick  
Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee  
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 3:02 PM.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Previous Meeting Minutes – September 2, 2021**

Linda von der Heide motioned to approve the September 2, 2021 minutes, Patrick Jordan seconded, and members approved the motion.

## **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

There were no public comments.

## **PRESENTATION - FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT**

Ron Epstein provided a presentation on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which includes funding for surface transportation, airports, broadband, and wastewater infrastructure. The provisions for surface transportation generally mirror FAST Act policies, but prioritize climate, resilience, and bridges/culverts. The bill includes three types of funding for surface transportation – the Highway Trust Fund, Advanced Guaranteed Appropriations, and General Fund Authorizations. It also includes unprecedented levels of discretionary funding.

It does not address the long-term sustainability of the Highway Trust Fund. 90% of the funding from the Highway Trust Fund will continue to be apportioned through formula funding. The bill amends Buy America to include most construction materials.

The bill provides guaranteed funding, formula funding for bridges and culverts, enhanced eligibility for resiliency and greenhouse gas emission reductions, allowance of funds for non-engineering activities under the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), longer timelines for repairs under the Emergency Relief Program, enhanced funding for rail crossing safety and closures, and new eligibility for public transportation and freight rail.

The estimated apportionments to New York are expected to increase by about \$4.6 billion. About 41% of the new funding is for bridges and 28% for NHPP [National Highway Performance Program] funds, although up to 15% of NHPP can now be used on any federal aid eligible facility for protective features to mitigate the risk from climate change. The Surface Transportation Program retains the amount sub allocated to areas based on population and expands eligibility to include resiliency, electric vehicles, and wildlife crossings. It also increased the off-system bridge set-aside from 15 to 20%. The bridge formula program creates a new program with 75% of apportionments to replace poor bridges and 25% to rehabilitate fair bridges. New programs include a carbon reduction program to reduce greenhouse gas and other transportation related emissions. Eligibility under the highway program is expanded to include construction of BRT corridors and bus lanes, signal prioritization, and intersection redesign. There is a PROTECT program to

enhance resilience by hardening infrastructure and restoration of ecosystems, especially for aquatic species and another new program for electric vehicle charging.

Other highlights include an increase from 50 to 59% of the Transportation Alternatives program funds that must be sub allocated to areas of the state based on population, as well as a requirement to prioritize projects that support high-need areas. Changes to the HSIP program include flexibility to use up to 10% of funds for non-infrastructure projects. Changes to the National Highway Freight Program include an increase of funding that may be used for multi-modal projects from 10 to 30%.

Ron Epstein noted a number of new competitive programs that USDOT will be administering. This includes a program to eliminate or address railroad grade crossings.

The bill provides additional funding for public transit. About 60% of the new funding will be for the Urbanized Area Formula Program. In addition, there is additional apportioned funding, including for airport modernization.

Risks that remain include a need for a federal budget to appropriate funds, the need to address long term insolvency of the Highway Trust Fund, the number of new competitive programs and the need to create guidance and administer them, the impact of inflation, the availability of materials and labor shortages, the two-percent property tax cap, and expectations compared to available funding.

## **2019-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

### **A607, 1085.46 Route 146 Over Normanskill Bridge Replacement**

Greg Wichser explained that this project is intended to advance a bridge replacement of Route 146 over the Normanskill in Guilderland. It will be funded from NHPP-NY, and outside of Regional Planning Targets. Construction will be expected in 2023. Pat Jordan motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Tom Werner seconded, and members approved the amendment.

## **2022-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SOLICITATION UPDATE**

Sandra Misiewicz acknowledged that we have not yet received program instructions. She provided an overview of the current schedule, noting that the application deadline is tomorrow, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. According to the current plan, we will have a draft project list for approval and release for public review in March. As of now, we have about seventy-one applications. The TAP/CMAQ program is still under departmental review.

## **CDTC PERFORMANCE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT REVIEW**

Sandra Misiewicz noted that this is the new name for what used to be called the progress report. It documents progress on planning activities for each six-month period in the fiscal year that begins on April 1st. Highlights include the following: the Town of Glenville adopted its ADA Self-Analysis and Transition Plan, projects were solicited for possible

includes in the Unified Planning Work Program, staff remains very active on NYSAMPO [New York State Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations] committees, five technical assistance projects have been initiated, Quality Counts has been hired to collect traffic counts and local road curve data, staff completed pavement rating data collection for the City of Albany and Albany County, staff refined the consultation process with the New York State Interagency Consultation Group for all TIP amendments related to air quality impacts, the Local Bridge Preservation Study was completed, a number of webinars pertaining to the long range plan and New Visions were held, a Smart Communities Toolbox is in development, four Traffic Safety Ambassador Program projects were completed, the Patroon Greenway Feasibility Study was initiated, a workshop for human services transportation was held, the Bus Lane Feasibility Study with CDTA is progressing, and a Ditch the Car challenge was held between June and October.

## **2022-2023 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM SOLICITATION UPDATE**

Sandra Misiewicz shared the results of the UPWP solicitation, with proposals from the Town of Brunswick, Village of Colonie, City of Saratoga Springs, City of Schenectady, and Town of Wilton for Linkage Planning Studies, and from the Town of Hoosick for an Asset Management/Capital Plan. Staff will evaluate the proposals and provide a recommendation to the Planning Committee.

## **2022 PLANNING COMMITTEE & POLICY BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

Sandra Misiewicz shared a draft schedule for next year's meetings and noted it will be posted to the website and is subject to change due to the Transportation Improvement Program update.

## **STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

### **CDTC**

Sandra Misiewicz noted that CDTC is in the process of hiring two new staff.

### **CDRPC**

Craig Warner noted that there is no new information on the release of the 2020 census data. It's still tentative for some time in 2022. CDRPC has partnered with CEG to conduct a \$130,000 supply chain study and an application to the federal Build Back Better Regional Challenge focusing on the off shore wind industry. CDRPC will be awarded \$176,000 from the Northern Border Regional Commission to conduct broadband planning in Saratoga, Schenectady, Rensselaer and Greene Counties. CDRPC was awarded \$1.2 Million from the DEC to administer the Climate Leadership Coordinator program across 28 counties in the state.

### **CDTA**

Carm Basile noted that CDTA is finalizing work on the Troy garage expansion, and is in the middle of Albany garage improvements. Both of these projects were funded with competitive grants. The Bikeshare program is wrapping up for this year, and a new Carshare program will be rolled out soon. Bus ridership is back up to 80% of pre-pandemic levels, although it is now more compressed on the high-ridership routes.

### **NYSDOT – Local Projects & NYSDOT Projects**

Pat Barnes noted that NYSDOT is hiring. Two roundabouts on Route 146 are moving forward. Both are on Carman Road, with one at Lydius Street and one at the Thruway entrance. The temporary bridge on Sitterly Road will be replaced over the summer. The Rensselaer County Resident Engineer retired and Blake Buckner is Acting Resident Engineer.

### **NYSTA**

No status report.

### **Albany County Airport Authority**

Steve Iachetta reported that the regional advisory committee and technical meetings will be meeting Wednesday at 10am and 1pm respectively. The website is alb-master-plan.com and will be updated tomorrow.

### **Albany Port District Commission**

Patrick Jordan noted that the Port has already surpassed last year's longshore worker hours, and by the end of the year expects to have the highest number of port calls in the last three to four years. Port development for the new manufacturing facility is in full swing and the team is getting all parties together to hire locally in the South End and/or the City for new positions. The scope of the project has expanded, and the project is expected to hire about 550 positions, and increase the size of the plant by about 15-20%. Mayor Sheehan noted that the project presents a large workforce development opportunity, as well as an opportunity to provide transportation to the site.

### **Linkage/Local Planning Activities**

Sandra Misiewicz noted that staff is continuing to work on 6-7 linkage and local planning studies.

### **OTHER**

Supervisor Phil Barrett introduced an intern at the Town, noting that the Town has an internship program with the school district. In addition, he thanked NYSDOT for the design of the new Sitterly Road bridge with improved pedestrian access.

Mayor Sheehan noted that the Chamber provided an economic outlook this morning, predicting inflation to settle at 3.5% and that the four-county region is expected to add almost 28,000 jobs next year.

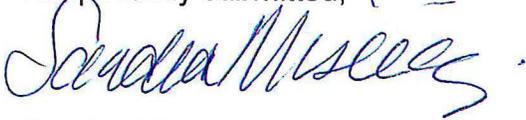
## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Mayor Sheehan referenced upcoming meetings as noted on the agenda.

## ADJOURNMENT

Carm Basile motioned to adjourn, Tom Werner seconded, and the members approved the motion at approximately 4:16 PM. The next Policy Board meeting will be on March 3, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra Misiewicz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping tail.

Sandra Misiewicz, AICP  
Secretary