

**Policy Board Meeting
December 1, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending

Patrick Barnes, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1, Secretary
Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice-Chair
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Peter Crummey, Town of Colonie
Rory Fluman, Schenectady County
Patrick Jordan, Esq., Albany Port District Commission
Steve Feeney, representing Anthony Jasenski, Schenectady County Legislature
Andrew Kreshik, representing The Honorable Patrick Madden, City of Troy
Caitlin O’Brien, representing Andrew Joyce, Albany County Legislature
The Honorable Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady
George Penn, representing Dan McCoy, Albany County Executive
Joe Seman-Graves, representing The Honorable William Keeler, City of Cohoes
Phil Serafino, New York State Thruway Authority
The Honorable Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair
Mark Surdam, Town of Hoosick
The Honorable Thomas Tobin, Village of Colonie
Mike Valentine, representing Theodore Kusnierz, Saratoga County Board of Supervisors
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County Executive
Tom Werner, Saratoga County

Staff and Others Attending

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jacob Beeman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority
Mark Hammond, Town of Malta
Steve Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority
Sean Maguire, Town of Colonie
Stephen Maples, Capital District Transportation Committee
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Rebecca Odell, Capital District Transportation Committee
Bob Rice, New York State Department of Transportation– Region 1
Chaim Simon, Capital District Transportation Committee
Andrew Tracy, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Carrie Ward, Capital District Transportation Committee
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation – Region 1

Opening Remarks

The Honorable Kathy Sheehan opened the meeting at approximately 3:02 PM.

Administration

September 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Linda von der Heide motioned to approve the September 1, 2022 minutes, Patrick Jordan seconded, and members approved the motion.

Final Performance and Expenditure Report

Sandra Misiewicz noted that the Performance and Expenditure Report is federally required and summarized CDTC's accomplishments in the last six months.

Privilege of the Floor

There were no public comments.

Presentation – CDTA BusPlus Red Line Upgrades

Carm Basile noted that CDTC has supported CDTA's BRT system, which currently consists of the Red and Blue Lines and will soon include the Purple Line between downtown Albany and the University at Albany. The BRT Set-Aside at CDTC's table has helped CDTA to be successful in federal grant programs to support all three lines. The funding is used to improve infrastructure for pedestrians and other drivers as well as for CDTA's services. Ross Farrell provided a presentation on the upgrades coming for the Red Line, along Route 5 between downtown Albany and downtown Schenectady. Many of the improvements center around intersections. The Red Line sees about 20% of CDTA's ridership and had the lowest drop during the pandemic.

The upgrades will improve pedestrian amenities that have been added to the BRT routes since implementation of the original Red Line, including heated sidewalks to help with snow clearing. Moving west to east, improvements will be seen at the Gateway Mobility Hub in Schenectady, including pedestrian infrastructure on surrounding roadways; from the Veeder/Nott intersection to the Schenectady City line there will be redesigned intersections to improve pedestrian crossings as well as short "queue jump" bus lanes at intersections; and in the City of Albany similar improvements will be coordinated with the upcoming Central Avenue traffic calming project. Later improvements may be made to three stations in Colonie. Necessitated by the high level of ridership, the project will add more articulated buses to the route, reaching 50 by 2024.

2019-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

A. T150, CDTA06, Expansion of CDTA's Electric Bus Fleet and Charging Infrastructure

Carm Basile explained that CDTA was awarded a \$25M competitive grant to upgrade the electric infrastructure at the Albany garage to support an electrified fleet with overhead charging. Steve Feeney motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Rory Fluman seconded, and members approved the amendment.

Bridge NY Program Call for Projects

Bob Rice explained that the upcoming Bridge NY program will include funding for each county based on the square feet of bridge deck as well as the number of deficient bridges. CDTC will hold a solicitation for bridges, which will be funded with federal funding and NYSDOT Region 1 will hold a separate solicitation for culverts. Only local owned bridges will be eligible, including bridges not on the federal aid system. Local governments will be responsible for a 5% match. The solicitation will use 2.5 years of the 5 years of funding allocated in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. CDTC staff will use an evaluation system based on the bridge traffic volume and detours if the bridge were closed, the bridge condition rating, and merit evaluation related to complete streets, freight, security/resiliency, and equity. The solicitation will be released by CDTC with an application deadline of January 6th. Funds must be programmed by April 1st. There was a request to include the list of eligible bridges in each municipality with the solicitation notice. Pat Jordan motioned to approve the call for projects, Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the motion.

Safety Performance Measure Targets Approval & Resolution

Sandra Misiewicz noted that states and MPOs are required to develop performance measures. CDTC can use the same as the targets as New York State or develop its own. The safety targets are based on five-year rolling averages. Since 2020, the Capital Region saw declines in all performance measure categories except in serious injuries. New York State did not meet all of its 2020 targets and is therefore proposing a reduction target of 1% for all safety performance measures in 2023. CDTC staff recommend adopting the state targets. Steve Feeney motioned to approve the NYSDOT safety performance targets, Tom Werner seconded, and members approved the motion.

CDTC Analysis of Traffic Changes Due to COVID-19

Andrew Tracey noted that vehicle travel nationally recovered in spring of 2021, and this trend is also true for the Capital Region. Nationally ongoing changes include fewer trips in downtown core areas, fewer trips to offices, fewer transit trips, and more mid-day travel with smaller morning peaks. CDTC collected volume and classification counts in April 2022, which CDTC staff was able to compare to NYSDOT 2019 counts in some locations. Office complex daily traffic volumes declined by 40%, on roadways serving colleges and universities it declined by 12%, important freight corridors saw an estimated 10% reduction in all traffic but 30% truck volume increase. Overall, traffic is spread more evenly throughout the day. CDTC staff is available to conduct comparative analyses on recent locally conducted counts. Chaim Simon described fact sheets created for each comparison site.

Complete Streets Design Guide

Sandra Misiewicz noted that staff has been working on developing this Design Guide as a recommendation of the previous Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The Complete Streets Advisory Committee assisted in developing the document, which references a wide range of nationally accepted guidance. The Design Guide includes chapters on street typologies, sidewalks, roadways, intersections, and curbsides.

2023-2024 Transportation Planning Solicitation Update for the Unified Planning Work Program

Sandra Misiewicz noted that CDTC recently held a call for projects, which were due yesterday. She shared a list of lead applicants, project names, and funds requested. There are 18 applications for a total federal funding request of \$1,253,670. CDTC staff will evaluate the projects and bring recommendations to the Planning Committee in February and Policy Board in March.

Status of Planning Activities

A. CDTC

Sandra Misiewicz noted that CDTC will now begin updating the long-range plan, with a more graphic and succinct focus. Next year staff will be updating regional trends, the Congestion Management Plan, the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan, and drafting a public participation approach. In 2024, staff will develop regional growth and development scenarios, build the draft plan, and begin air quality conformity analysis.

B. CDRPC

Mark Castiglione noted that CDRPC will proceed with population projections once the census data is released. The Clean Energy Communities and Climate Smart Communities programs are progressing. Contact CDRPC for technical assistance with those programs. CDRPC is looking for volunteers for a Sourcewater Protection Plan in Saratoga County and Schenectady County. Sourcewater Protection Plans for the Tomhannock Reservoir and Watervliet Reservoir are complete.

C. CDTA

There were no additional updates.

D. NYSDOT

Patrick Barnes noted that the low bid for the overheight detection for the Glenridge Road bridge was about \$1.4M, which is under the engineer's estimate. The project is expected to be constructed in 2023. There was a successful public meeting with about 60 attendees for the NY-378 Study in mid-November. The Livingston Avenue Bridge project is awaiting Federal Rail Administration sign-off.

E. NYSTA

Phil Serafino noted that construction season is wrapping up. There is a toll increase proposed for 2024 and 2027, which would be the first increase since 2010.

F. Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta noted that he is planning to retire at the end of January and is training his replacement. The terminal reconstruction project is being launched.

G. Albany Port District Commission

Patrick Jordan reported that the total count of ships and barges are up over last year, as are longshore hours. Three weeks ago, DEC gave approval of permits for ground and sitework. The Port continues to work on in-water permits from DEC as well as air quality impacts.

H. Regional/Local Planning Activities

Mike Valentine announced that Saratoga County's 2023 Planning and Zoning Conference will be Wednesday February 1st at the Civic Center in Saratoga Springs. Chris Wallin noted that supply chain issues continue to make it difficult to close out projects. Sandra Misiewicz noted that staff is proposing renaming CDTC, possibly the Capital Region Transportation Planning Organization. Staff will share a rebranding scheme at the next meeting.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Sandra Misiewicz referred to the provided handout on upcoming meetings and noted that next year's meeting schedule will be released soon.

Adjournment

Chris Wallin motioned to adjourn at approximately 4:26 pm, Patrick Jordan seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Barnes

Secretary