Since early September, the CDTC staff has been working with the New York State Department of Transportation, Capital District Transportation Authority, and other Planning Committee members to solicit projects for the new program. Letters were sent to the region’s 78 municipalities, public agencies, and others soliciting candidate projects for consideration in this year’s program update. CDTC received 84 applications for funding for a wide range of projects totaling roughly $500 million. At this time, the estimate of federal funds available for new highway projects ranges between $75 million and $100 million. The amount of funding for transit projects has not yet been determined. CDTC staff will be meeting with NYSDOT and CDTA in the coming weeks to determine available funds for programming.

The candidate projects are listed in the attached table. Project costs shown in the table may change as CDTC reviews the proposals.

Project Screening and Evaluation

The CDTC staff has been working on project screening and merit evaluations. Projects will be evaluated for merit using a benefit/cost analysis and a qualitative assessment of how each project will advance the goals and objectives of CDTC’s New Visions Plan. Using this information, CDTC’s Planning Committee will meet to discuss the results and form a balanced program. The Planning Committee will be relying on the principles and budget emphasis of New Visions. TIP programming choices will be guided by the New Visions 2030 Plan. The Plan contains budgets for 17 project categories, allowing the new program to reflect the balance of the Plan. Therefore, there will be a solid connection between the Plan and TIP.

The screening results, confirmation of costs, and calculation of benefits for 83 projects required a large staff effort. Summary material is being compiled and will either be e-mailed to members or distributed at the meeting.