

## **TIP Project Monitoring, Tracking and Amendments**

### **Statewide Effort**

The NYSDOT Main Office is spearheading a task intended to result in better (more timely, accurate and reliable) information on locally sponsored projects on the TIP, which, if successful, should help NYSDOT manage a “combined on-system and off-system encumbrance target”. The task includes taking inventory of current MPO and Regional DOT practices statewide for gathering and tracking project status and milestone information for all TIP projects. The task will also include examination of measures to hold project sponsors accountable for project delivery and incentives for timely project delivery.

Aspects of this are consistent with desires expressed by CDTC staff and some Planning Committee members to more carefully monitor projects and prevent excessive project delays and unexpected cost or scope change requests. This is also consistent with some discussion from the May 2011 Planning Committee meeting to solidify project schedules and potentially reevaluate some projects during the amendment process.

### **TIP Amendment Concerns**

Another aspect of the discussion from the May 2011 Planning Committee meeting involved re-evaluation of projects for which an amendment is requested. As a starting point for discussion on this topic, re-evaluation is already suggested for some amendments involving fund source changes. In CDTC’s Project Selection Guidelines, it is stated that for a change of fund source other than 1) any federal fund source to IM and 2) any STP fund source to any other STP fund source; *“in order to approximate equity with other candidate projects, the Planning Committee should consider the priority of the subject project relative to other candidates that did or will compete for those funds. This could necessitate that the project be evaluated and compared to projects in the previous solicitation.”* Expanding the range of amendments that require re-evaluation is an option available to the Planning Committee.

These issues have been initiated separately, but are related. Planning Committee discussion of improved project monitoring should be linked to a goal of early detection of issues and avoidance of requests for significant cost/scope/schedule changes late in the project development process.