PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2013

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Melissa Ashline-Heil, City of Cohoes
Brad Birge, City of Saratoga Springs
Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation R-1
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Todd Fabozzi, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee
Bruce Hidley, City of Watervliet
Steve Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority
Patrick McCarroll, representing Michael Loftus, NYS Thruway Authority
Barb McHugh, Town of Halfmoon
Randy Milano, City of Albany
Charles Moore, City of Rensselaer
Mike Morelli, Town of Bethlehem
Russ Reeves, City of Troy
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands
Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville
Joe Teliska, representing, Wayne Bonesteel, Rensselaer County
Mike Valentine, Saratoga County
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady

STAFF AND OTHERS

Bill Anslow, Albany County
Anne Benware, Capital District Transportation Committee
Rob Cherry, NYS Department of Transportation R-1
Joe Cherubino, Town of East Greenbush
Mike Cooper, Bergmann Associates
Fred Erickson, Town of Sand Lake
Bob Hansen, Creighton Manning
Karen Hulihan, NYS Department of Transportation R-1
David Jukins, Capital District Transportation Committee
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee
Fred Mastroianni, Greenman-Pederson
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Sree Nampoothiri, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris O’Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jason Purvis, Capital District Transportation Committee
Jim Rivers, Greenman-Pederson
Nelson Ronsovalle, Town of Halfmoon
Ben Syden, Laberge Group/Village of Colonie
Barb Tozzi, City of Troy
Meghan Webster, Town of East Greenbush
Bd Wolk, Capital District Transportation Authority

VISITORS’ ISSUES

Steve Iachetta opened the meeting at approximately 9:35 AM. There were no visitors’ issues.

ADMINISTRATION
Previous Meeting Minutes – April 3, 2013

Mike Morelli commented that Rob Leslie should have been listed as representing the Town of Bethlehem. With this comment noted, members approved the April 3rd minutes.

CDTA WASHINGTON/WESTERN BUSPLUS PROJECT STATUS

Ross Farrell gave a presentation about the Washington/Western Bus Rapid Transit Alternatives Analysis. He described the three alternatives that are being considered. It will be necessary to prove to the Federal Transit Administration that the alternative which is selected as the preferred alternative is as cost-effective as possible. Next steps include stakeholders’ meetings, Study Advisory Committee meetings, public input meetings, a final report and then a locally preferred alternative endorsed by CDTC and CDTA.

ACTION ITEMS

2013-18 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED CHANGES

Mike Franchini explained that since the February Planning Committee meeting, the need for several minor changes to the draft 2013-18 have become apparent. He referred to a memo in the mail out as well as a handout (attached) that was distributed with project listings corrections. Glen Posca reviewed these two documents. Members approved the proposed changes to the TIP as presented.

Mike Franchini pointed out that appendices for the draft TIP were included in the mail out for information.

DRAFT ADJUSTED URBAN AREA BOUNDARIES (UAB)

Mike Franchini explained that every ten years the U.S. Census Bureau delineates urbanized area boundaries based on very specific population and population density criteria. FHWA looks to the State and MPOs to “smooth” or adjust the urbanized area boundary for use as a “federal aid urban boundary”. Teresa LaSalle reviewed the methodology that was used by CDTC staff to adjust the 2010 Urbanized Area Boundary for federal aid purposes and described the boundaries prepared by CDTC staff as illustrated on the maps presented. With Planning Committee approval, CDTC staff will submit the proposed changes to NYSDOT. Once NYSDOT has approved the adjusted draft UAB, the Policy Board will be asked to approve the draft plan and release it for a 30-day comment period. The Planning Committee and the Policy Board will be asked to approve the final plan at their respective August and September meetings, with a resolution needed by Policy Committee. After discussion, members approved a motion to advance the draft plan to the Policy Board for approval for public review in June.

NYSDOT PROPOSED FUNCTIONAL CLASS CHANGES

Rob Cherry explained that in September, FHWA asked for corrections to all Principal Arterials and facilities planned for the National Highway System with a very short deadline. As a refinement to that process, Region One identified a list of two State-owned facilities in the CDTC area and one State-owned facility in the A/GTTC planning area. Rob reviewed documentation included in the mail out for upgrading two routes to Principal Arterial: Route 67 (from the
Montgomery/Saratoga County Line to the start of the Route 50/67 overlap) and Route 29 (from Route 9 to the Saratoga/Washington County line). Frank Bonafide pointed out that with these recommended changes, these routes will be eligible for NHPP funding, and there is potentially more NHPP funding than STP funding. Members accepted the two functional classification changes, subject to Policy Board approval.

JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE (JARC) PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Mike Franchini explained that Anne Benware has been working with the Regional Transportation Coordination Committee (RTCC). Anne Benware referred to the last page of the JARC memo included in the mail out which summarized the recommendations from an evaluation committee, approved the previous day by the RTCC. The RTCC is recommending approval of funding for two JARC projects for CDTA (Enhanced Mobility Late Night/Weekend Service for Albany-Schenectady and Troy and CDTA Mobility Management for Saratoga Springs); and one JARC project for Catholic Charities (Wheels & Ways to Work Car Loan Program). Members approved the RTCC recommendations to the Planning Committee.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) ADDITION

Mike Franchini explained that NYSERDA has approached CDTA with funds for encouraging use of compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles. The primary goal of this effort is to assess CNG adoption barriers, propose methods to lower these barriers, and provide methods and tools to ensure CNG benefits and adoption opportunities are known by a variety of potential markets in New York State. Members approved this UPWP addition.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS PROGRAM (STEP) UPDATE

Mike Franchini reviewed a letter received from Joan McDonald, Commissioner of NYSDOT, which was included in the mail out. The letter says that there is no funding for the STEP at this time. Brad Birge commented that it was disappointing that there is no funding, since a fair amount of work was expended in anticipation of funding, and expectations were raised.

2013 TIGER (TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT GENERATING ECONOMIC RECOVERY) COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Mike Franchini referred to the announcement in the mail out and explained that this is the fifth round of federal TIGER funding. Project candidates must be ready to be obligated by October 1, 2014, and shovel ready projects are encouraged.

STATUS OF CMAQ PROJECTS

Glenn Posca reviewed the CMAQ project status in the mail out.

Chris O’Neill reported that CMAQ funding approval for the Sheridan Hollow Sidewalks project has been received. There had been an issue reported at the previous meeting over the eligibility of sidewalk reconstruction for CMAQ funds. Randy Milano then submitted photos and documentation that indicated that while some of the sidewalks will be reconstructed, a significant amount of new sidewalk construction will
be part of the project. With the City of Albany committing to use CMAQ funding for the new sidewalk sections, and City funding for sidewalk reconstruction, FHWA approved the use of CMAQ funding for this project.

**NYS DOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE**

Frank Bonafide reported on a number of upcoming construction projects including the First Alley Connector Sidewalk (City of Rensselaer), US 4 Mannix Road Roundabout, I-787 NYS Thruway Exit 23 to South Mall Expressway Complex, and the Northway Twin Bridges.

**STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

**CDTC**

Mike Franchini reported that CDTC will be working with NYS DOT on the upcoming solicitation for the Transportation Enhancements Program (TEP). There will be a workshop the week of June 17th at the Town of Colonie library for those who are interested in submitting applications for TEP projects. $30 million is available statewide.

The Complete Streets Working Group has been meeting, with strong interest in the agenda.

The Freight and Fuels conference was held on April 24th and was highly successful. Staff will be working to update the Freight priority network.

Staff is working on developing a scope for the I-787 Integrated Corridor Study.

**CDRPC**

Todd Fabozi reported that TAZ level projections of population through the year 2050 are completed. Mapping is complete and is available on the CDRPC website.

**NYS Thruway Authority**

Patrick McCarroll reported that construction is continuing between Exits 23 and 24, with enforcement of the 55 mph speed limit.

**Albany County Airport Authority**

Steve Iachetta reported that the Albany International Airport was experiencing stable enplanements, while comparable airports are declining in enplanements.

**Port of Albany**

Tony Vasil reported that he and Rick Hendricks were active participants in the Freight and Fuels conference. He said that the Hudson River tidal estuary provides a great advantage for the Port of Albany.

**Linkage**
Sandy Misiewicz reminded members that the next meeting of the Linkage Forum is May 9.

**Safety Task Force**

Sandy Misiewicz reported on the work of Safety Working Group of the New York State Association of MPOs. They have prepared a fact sheet about New York’s statewide traffic safety program. It includes information about the NYSDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan, and the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) Highway Safety Strategic Plan, as well as other traffic safety resources. The brochure is available on the NYSAMPO website.

**City of Watervliet**

Bruce Hidley said that there will be a meeting of the City of Watervliet Bicycle Master Plan on Monday May 6.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Steve Iachetta reviewed upcoming meetings.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:37 PM. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for July 3, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Franchini
Secretary
Capital District Transportation Committee

May 1, 2013

Capital District Transportation Committee
Additional Proposed Changes to the Draft 2013-18 TIP During Public Comment Period

These corrections surfaced after the mailout for the May 1, 2013 Planning Committee meeting.

1. **Project Listings Corrections**: These projects have engineering funds in the committed or first year and construction in the post 2018 period of the draft TIP. Engineering phases should’ve been in the fifth year (2017-18). The project listings have been corrected.

   a) A290 (1347.07), Selkirk Bypass
   b) A295 (1753.60), New Karner Road (NY 155), from US 20 to NY 5: Corridor Improvements
   c) R238 (1043.34), US 9 over NY 9J and 9 over AMTRAK & CSX: Bridge Replacement or Repair