CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2013

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice Chair
John Evers, representing Daniel McCoy, Albany County
Flora Fasoldt, representing Philip Barrett, Town of Clifton Park
Steve Feeney, representing Judith Dagostino, Schenectady County Legislature, Chair
Alan Grattidge, Saratoga County
Terrence Hurley, Albany Port District Commission
Steve Iachetta, representing John O'Donnell, Albany County Airport
Kathleen Jimino, Rensselaer County
Mayor Scott Johnson, City of Saratoga Springs, Chair
Joseph LaCivita, representing Paula Mahan, Town of Colonie
Joe Landry, Town of Niskayuna
Michael Loftus, NYS Thruway Authority
Mayor Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady
Randy Milano, representing Mayor Gerald Jennings, City of Albany
Charles Moore, representing Mayor Daniel Dwyer, City of Rensselaer
Russ Reeves, representing Mayor Lou Rosamilia, City of Troy
Ralph Signoracci, representing Shawn Morse, Albany County
Michael Stammel, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Thomas Werner, Saratoga County
Sam Zhou, NYS Department of Transportation-Region 1, Secretary

STAFF AND OTHERS

Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation-Region 1
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee
Linda Hill, National Grid
David Jukins, Capital District Transportation Committee
Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Amber Mooney, CEG
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Brian Stewart, Capital District Transportation Committee
Barbara Tozzi, City of Troy
Linda von der Heide, Rensselaer County
Christopher Wallin, City of Schenectady

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Johnson opened the Capital District Transportation Committee meeting at 3:05 PM and welcomed those in attendance. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the June 6, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The June 6, 2013 meeting minutes were approved by the members.

Administrative & Financial Standing Subcommittee

Mike Franchini reported that the A & F met on August 22 and discussed 2013 staffing including succession planning for staff; the National Grid & Center for Economic Growth Regional Infrastructure Summit; cash flow and budget statements; and the New Visions Plan update.

PRESENTATION - National Grid & Center for Economic Growth Regional Infrastructure Summit

Linda Hill of National Grid and Amber Mooney of CEG gave a presentation on the Regional Infrastructure. They distributed a handout (attached). Linda said that with explosive growth happening in the Capital Region, having the right infrastructure in the right place at the right time will be important for the region in order to take advantage of upcoming opportunities. National Grid and CEG are sponsoring an innovative method to maximize the potential of the region called "Appreciative Inquiry". Unlike typical strategic planning, it focuses on strengths. They will sponsor a "Regional Infrastructure Forum" on October 30th and 31st. While it is a significant commitment of time, it promises to be a very worthwhile process that will engage the private sector, the public sector, communities and education in a highly constructive dialogue. Amber Mooney said that 300 stakeholders can participate in a structured dialogue.

Mike Franchini commented that he attended a one day preparatory session with 45 people and he is convinced that this will be a very positive process. He hopes that it will contribute to the New Visions Plan update.

2013-2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

RG40, Rail Grade Crossing Set-Aside

Frank Bonafide said that this project is a set-aside for $1.1 million per year. The set-aside can be spent without further CDTC action. He said that this is a non-competitive fund source with respect to CDTC, and funding can only be used for rail projects. Members approved the amendment.

A321, NY 85: Thruway to I-90
R184, NY 22 Bridge over the Walloomsac River

Frank Bonafide explained that these two projects are being designed with SDF funds, which are not subject to CDTC approval and are in the TIP for information purposes. The projects are candidates for the "Beyond Preservation" funding. The Department is requesting this amendment to place construction in the post-TIP period as a placeholder. If funding becomes available, the Department will request a TIP amendment to advance the projects to the appropriate year. These projects are not competing for regular funding. Members approved the two amendments.

FTA SECTION 5310 FUNDING

Mike Franchini explained that NYSDOT has offered to serve as the Designated Recipient for any MPOS who would like them to act in this capacity. CDTA and CDTC staffs have discussed this issue and, along with the RTCC, recommend that NYSDOT be selected as the Designated Recipient for the Albany-Schenectady-Troy and Saratoga Springs Urbanized Area Section 5310 funds, as presented in the resolution included in the mail out. Members approved the resolution.

2012-2014 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Mike Franchini explained that the FTA requires funding to be programmed exactly. This UPWP budget amendment satisfies that requirement. Members approved the UPWP budget amendment.

DRAFT ADJUSTED URBAN AREA BOUNDARIES (UAB)

Mike Franchini explained that urbanized area boundary was developed by the U.S. Census Bureau based on the 2010 Census. The urbanized areas are increasing, with the Saratoga urbanized area and the Albany-Schenectady urbanized area growing closer together because of expansion. CDTC staff used planning criteria to adjust the boundaries and preserve functional classifications as much as possible. Members approved the adjusted urban area boundary.

NEW VISIONS PLAN UPDATE

Mike Franchini explained that the CDTC New Visions Plan will be updated with a major effort that includes the eight subcommittees listed in the mail out plus an additional subcommittee called the Technology Task Force. Work will begin soon, as presented in the schedule. Public participation will be an important component. Michael Loftus asked if disaster response will be included. Mike Franchini responded that security planning is being addressed and will be incorporated into the Plan.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (TEP) SELECTION PROCESS

Frank Bonafide distributed a handout (attached) that listed the 21 applications received by Region 1 for the TEP. He said that Region 1 had the second highest number of applications received in the State. A committee consisting of staff from the two MPOs and the two rural counties in Region 1 will review and rank the applications and submit the rankings to NYSDOT Main Office. Winners will be selected by the end of the year. Mike Franchini commented that we have been successful in selecting regional projects.

TSCP - I-787 LIVABLE CORRIDOR PLANNING INITIATIVE

Mike Franchini said that we received a $240,000 TCSP grant last year for this planning effort that will examine I-787 from Albany to Watervliet. The State will contribute $60,000, the City of Albany will contribute $20,000 and CDTC will contribute $100,000. The Planning Committee approved the addition of this project to the 2013-18 TIP and Policy Board action is not required. The CDTA Board will be asked to authorize the consultant budget.

STATUS OF PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

CDRPC

Mike Stammel that CDRPC community fact sheets were updated based on Comptroller data for municipalities. Employment projections have been delayed based on delays in releasing American Community Survey (ACS)data. CDRPC is preparing and collecting regional metrics for the Capital Region Economic Development Council. NYS DEC approval is expected soon for the combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project. CDRPC, with consultant assistance, recently completed the Capital District 2010 Regional GHG (greenhouse gas) Inventory, developed to support communities participating in the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program.

CDTA

Carm Basile reported that as CDTA is currently accepting delivery of 20 new buses. A new fare collection system that allows use of smart cards was authorized. Implementation will occur over the next 12 to 18 months. CDTA is in the process of updating the Transit Development Plan (TDP). Transit ridership has gone from 12.5 million 5½ years ago to over 16 million this year. There is a need to convince our State and federal partners that more funding is needed. Many buses are at capacity.

NYSDOT

Sam Zhou reported I-87 was paved from the Twin Bridges to Exit 10 last year, and from the Twin Bridges to I-90 this year. Projects have been underway on I-890, Route 5 over Route 7, Route 7 over I-90, I-787, and the Western Gateway Bridge. The Patroon Island Bridge project just

started. A sidewalk project was completed on Route 9 between Siena College and Newton Plaza.

NYSTA

Michael Loftus said that most of the Thruway project between Exits 23 and 24 should be completed by mid-October.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta reported that the Albany International Airport is continuing to progress $5.5 million in capital projects.

Albany Port District Commission

Terry Hurley said that the maritime activity has increased between 5% and 7% from last year. The Rensselaer wharf project is going well and should be completed in the third quarter of next year.

Linkage Program

Sandy Misiewicz said that four new Linkage studies are progressing well for East Greenbush, Schodack, New Scotland, and Clifton Park. A new solicitation for the Linkage Program is planned for this Fall. The focus will be on implementation of plans.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Zhou
Secretary