CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2013

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Carm Basile, Capital District Transportation Authority, Vice Chair
Thomas Dolin, representing Harry Buffardi, Town of Rotterdam
Rocky Ferraro, representing Michael Stammel, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Alan Grattidge, Saratoga County
Bruce Hidley, representing Mayor Michael Manning, City of Watervliet
Terrence Hurley, Albany Port District Commission
Steve Iachetta, representing John O'Donnell, Albany County Airport
Mayor Scott Johnson, City of Saratoga Springs, Chair
Joseph LaCivita, representing Paula Mahan, Town of Colonie
Michael Loftus, NYS Thruway Authority
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
Tom Richardson, representing Mayor Anthony Sylvester, City of Mechanicville
Ann Shaughnessy, representing Martin Reid, Rensselaer County
Ralph Signoracci, representing Shawn Morse, Albany County
Ed Tremblay, representing Mayor George Primeau, City of Cohoes
Linda von der Heide, representing Kathleen Jimino, Rensselaer County
Christopher Wallin, representing Mayor Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady
Thomas Werner, Saratoga County
Sam Zhou, NYS Department of Transportation-Region 1, Secretary

STAFF AND OTHERS

Nancy Benedict, Citizens for Transportation
Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation-Region 1
Chris Desany, Capital District Transportation Authority
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee
David Jukins, Capital District Transportation Committee
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee
Barbara Tozzi, City of Troy

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Johnson opened the Capital District Transportation Committee meeting at 3:07 PM and welcomed those in attendance. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the September 5, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The September 5, 2013 meeting minutes were approved by the members.

Nominating Subcommittee

Mayor Johnson said that the nominating subcommittee had met and nominated Mayor elect Kathy Sheehan of Albany for the position of CDTC Chair. Members approved Mayor Elect Kathy Sheehan as CDTC Chair.

Administrative & Financial Standing Subcommittee

Mike Franchini reported that the A & F met on November 14th. They reviewed a CDTC audit, which showed compliance with standards; approved a budget amendment; and reviewed the agenda for the Policy Board.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Nancy Benedict said that she would like to see more funding for CDTA. She said that and BRT on Western Avenue will mean less service on local routes. She would like to see the same service on local routes maintained. This is especially important for people with disabilities and the elderly. She said that it is important for the new Albany Medical Center development to provide bus shelters and she would like to see Albany Medical Center employees provided with free bus service. She said it will be important for the new Albany Medical Center bus shelters to be shoveled out in the winter. She would prefer to see no parking garage at all because it will cause traffic congestion. Mass transit is preferred for Albany Medical Center.

She said that she would like to see buses going into Colonie Center and buses going to Global Foundries. She said that Route # 1 is very crowded.

PRESENTATION - Washington/Western BRT & 40 Miles of BRT

Carm Basile said that the BusPlus is highly successful. He said the 17 mile service has a reduced number of stops, increased amenities, and developers want to develop around the stops. The Washington Western Corridor will have a protected right of way in the State Office Campus and in the UAlbany campus. The river corridor BRT will connect Albany, Menands, Watervliet, Troy, Cohoes and Mechanicville. All ridership is up 10% this year because of the BRT service, employer and university contracts.

Ross Farrell explained that BRT is a cost effective version of light rail. The Washington Western corridor has over 3.3 million riders per year. It serves downtown Albany, the College of Saint Rose, UAlbany—three campuses, student neighborhoods, the Harriman Campus, and

Crossgates. The BRT will be operating nearly 24 hours a day, with BRT buses arriving every seven to eight minutes during peak times. CDTA will strive to have only minor reductions in frequency for local routes. He reviewed the three alternatives and their respective operating and capital costs. Alternative 2 has the best access to key destinations; the most reliable service because of the exclusive right of way; the highest ridership growth potential; and the highest economic development potential.

2013-2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

SA277 (1SB905): Mohawk Towpath National Scenic Byway: Improved Recreational Access to the Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve

Frank Bonafide explained that the Scenic Byways program is run out of the Main Office of NYSDOT, and funding is not a competitive pot of money. Members approved the TIP amendment for SA277.

TIP SET-ASIDE SOLICITATION CALL LETTER

Mike Franchini explained that the call letter for the TIP Set-Aside is included in the mail out. It describes 8 of 9 local set-asides. The Bridge Preservation Set-Aside for Non-State Roads will not be included in this solicitation. Instead, a working group has been formed to look into an engineering evaluation of bridge candidates.

The deadline for project applications for the eight set-asides is January 31. The Project Justification Package (PJP) to be used in project applications is included in the mail out. We are also asking applicants to list their priorities. CDTC staff will develop a benefit-cost analysis for each candidate project, as well as other evaluation criteria. This information will presented to the Planning Committee for approval, and then to the Policy Board for final approval. Members approved the call letter and PJP.

NEW VISIONS PLAN UPDATE - COMMITTEES

Mike Franchini explained that invitation letters have gone out for participation in the New Visions subcommittees. Many responses have already been received. Broad ideas will be developed by June, and then a broad public participation process will explore what our residents want for our transportation system for the next 25 years.

STATUS OF PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

NYSTA

Michael Loftus said that the Thruway project between Exits 23 and 24 should is finished. A new radar detection system is in place in Buffalo with great promise to alert wrong way drivers.

NYSDOT

Sam Zhou reported on the TEP program (Transportation Enhancement Program). A review committee was established consisting of representatives from CDTC, A/GFTC, Greene County, Essex County, and NYSDOT Region 1. The committee prioritized the list and submitted it to the Main Office. The final selection of projects is expected to be announced early next year.

Funding has been approved for the I-787 Livable Corridor Planning Initiative, under FHWA's TCSP program. NYSDOT has backfilled several high level positions effective early next year.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta reported that the Albany International Airport is continuing to progress $5 million in pavement rehabilitation projects.

Albany Port District Commission

Terry Hurley said that the Rensselaer Port is doing well. The maritime activity has increased between 7% and 10% from last year.

CDTC

Mike Franchini said that Linkage applications are due Monday December 16.

Mike Franchini thanked Mayor Johnson for his service as CDTC Chairman. Mayor Johnson said that he was grateful for the opportunity to serve as Chairman, and that his six years as a member of CDTC have been very informative and positive.

Bruce Hidley expressed appreciation for his participation in CDTC, as this would be his last meeting at CDTC representing the City of Watervliet after serving on the board for 21 years. He is especially grateful for the 19th Street project sponsored by CDTC.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Zhou
Secretary