

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

June 28, 2017

Meeting Minutes

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1  
Melissa Cherubino, City of Cohoes  
Kevin Corcoran, Town of Glenville  
Todd Fabozzi, Capital District Regional Planning Commission  
Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority  
Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee,  
Secretary  
Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority, Chair  
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy  
Robert Leslie, Town of Bethlehem  
Randy Milano, City of Albany  
Lisa Ramundo, Albany County  
Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville  
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park  
Jeremy Smith, City of Watervliet  
Joseph Teliska, representing Wayne Bonesteel, Rensselaer County  
Tony Vasil, Albany Port District Commission  
Tim Wainwright, NYS Thruway Authority  
Christopher Wallin, City of Schenectady

**STAFF AND OTHERS**

Lauren Alpert, City of Albany  
Bill Anslow, Albany County  
Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Bridget Beelen, Capital District Transportation Authority  
Anne Benware, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Daniel Berheide, Alta Planning + Design  
Jen Ceponis, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Robert Cherry, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1  
Bryan Cross, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1  
Lorenzo Distefano, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1  
Dan Holdsworth, Capital District Transportation Authority  
Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Jeff Pangburn, Creighton Manning  
Laura Sanda, McFarland Johnson  
Ed Snyder, GPI  
Chris Spencer, City of Albany  
Jeff Twitty, Town of Niskayuna  
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1

**INTRODUCTION AND VISITORS' ISSUES**

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

## ADMINISTRATION

### Previous Meeting Minutes - May 3, 2017

Members approved the May 3, 2017 minutes.

### PRESENTATION- ALBANY WATERFRONT MULTI-USE PATH CONNECTION FEASIBILITY STUDY

Daniel Berheide of Alta Planning and Design gave a presentation on this Study. The Study examined alternatives to connect the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail and the Albany County Rail Trail. The Study area was divided into three sections. For the Section 1, a cycle track on South Pearl Street was recommended as the preferred alternative. For Section 2, locating the trail on the ramps adjacent to I-787 northbound ramps was recommended. For Section 3, utilizing the space under the elevated section of I-787 was recommended. In addition to providing the path for the bike-hike trail, this space can be developed as a "low-line" trail, analogous to the High Line rail-trail in Manhattan. This option will help to make this area a community activity space rather than being perceived as a barrier.

Steve Iachetta suggested that signs could be used to describe the historic nature of this area.

Daniel said that the cost of the recommended improvements would be about \$2.0 million.

Mike Franchini commented that this will be a really important connection between two popular bike-hike trails. The demand is strong. Chris Spencer said that Albany is separated from the river by I-787, and the City wants to look at ways to activate the space under 787 in a low cost way. Mike Franchini said that NYSDOT owns the space under I-787 and they have been very supportive of this project.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

#### **A. CDRPC Tasks Revisions**

Mike Franchini said that the memo in the mail out describes proposed changes to the CDRPC 2017-18 PL budget. CDRPC would like to reallocate \$23,000 to support Census work and the creation of a new regional dashboard; and to use \$48,000 to establish a new Technical Assistance Program. The proposed budget changes are budget neutral. Members approved the proposed CDRPC budget revisions.

#### **B. NYSAMPO Funding Adjustment**

Mike Franchini explained that this funding adjustment is needed to use unexpended funds from the 2016-17 NYSAMPO Shared Cost Initiative to cover the 2017 NYSAMPO Summer Conference. He said that the NYSAMPO

conference in Syracuse was a great success, with 190 attendees and great speakers. Members approved the NYSAMPO Funding Adjustment.

### C. 2016-17 UPWP Budget Revision

Mike Franchini explained that this budget revision is necessary to close out the FTA grant for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year. FTA requires the books to be balanced to the penny. Members approved the UPWP budget revision.

### **FTA TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT FINAL RULE**

Mike Franchini explained that the development of performance measures and targets, which are federally required, will represent a major effort in the coming year. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) transit asset management (TAM) performance measures are the first that need MPO approval. Safety performance measures and targets will be coming very soon and will also require CDTC action.

Sandy Misiewicz reviewed the fact sheet in the mail out. There are four TAM performance measures: Rolling Stock; Equipment; Facilities; and Infrastructure. She said that the effective date of the federal Metropolitan Planning Rule requires reporting TAM Targets to the MPO before completion of CDTA's federally required Transit Asset Management Plan in 2018.

Dan Holdsworth said that CDTA has been working on this for a year and a half. They have been cataloguing assets, and they have refined the process to track assets. Now they need to develop targets. Ross Farrell said that many of the requirements are really aimed at rail based authorities. CDTA does not have rail assets, which makes this effort somewhat bureaucratic. CDTA already has a fleet replacement plan, and CDTA views bus replacement/asset management as very important.

Mike Franchini said that this effort involves a lot of work and some have called it an unfunded mandate. Targets are difficult. You can make them easy, or you can make them aspirational. Either way you will be held accountable. In response to a question, Ross said that the Rensselaer Rail Station is considered to be a CDTA asset, and will be included. Sandy said we are ahead of many MPOs because we have a good relationship with CDTA. Mike said that we are lucky to have only one transit agency, and to have a good relationship with CDTA.

Steve Iachetta said that we will request action on this issue at the August 2nd meeting.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### SECTION 5310 ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM PROJECT SOLICITATION

Anne Benware reported that NYSDOT announced the 2017 solicitation for the FTA Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program on June 23, 2017. The 5310 Program funds projects that serve the transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities beyond traditional public transportation services and ADA complementary paratransit. Capital projects such as human service agency vehicles, related equipment and mobility management (i.e. "traditional projects" requiring a 20% match), and other non-capital or operating projects such as development of a regional driver training curriculum (i.e. "enhanced projects" requiring a 50% match) are eligible.

Funding available for the Albany-Schenectady (Troy) urbanized area is \$979,025. Funding available for the Saratoga Springs urbanized area is \$226,593. The application deadline is August 21, 2017.

Anne said that she and Carrie would be available to answer questions and could serve as a bridge to NYSDOT for specific questions.

### BIKE TO WORK DAY (May 20<sup>th</sup>) WINNERS

Mike Franchini said that the Bike to Work Day Workplace Challenge was sponsored by CDTC (with Bikeatoga) for the third year. 515 people registered for the challenge. Albany Public Library won the trophy for most riders in Albany County; RPI had the most riders in Rensselaer County; the Saratoga Springs Public Library had the most riders in Saratoga County; and Union College had the most riders in Schenectady County. The longest commute was 85 miles round trip. The City of Cohoes won the municipal challenge with the highest percent participation.

### CDTC PROJECT DELIVERY UPDATE

Mike Franchini said that Aaron Xaevier has left CDTC to move to Arizona with his fiancé. He did a great job here at CDTC. Anne Benware has agreed to take over the project delivery update. Anne said that project tracking will track progress with respect complete streets and performance measures. Anne reviewed the list and asked if any project sponsors would like to provide a brief status report on their project.

Bill Anslow reported on the Dalessandro Boulevard project. The project will provide a pavement treatment and rehabilitate some deteriorated catch basins. The pavement treatment will be hot in-place recycling approximately 1-1/2" in depth followed by a 3/4" polymer asphalt overlay. The work will begin 600 feet south of Meeting House Road and continue to Airport Boulevard. The project limits were coordinated with the I-87 Exit 4 Airport Connector project to make sure there was no duplication of effort. Construction cost is

estimated to be \$800,000, plus \$150,000 for parking lot improvements. Design is in-house.

Chris Wallin said that the Erie Boulevard project is moving forward, with installation of water lines underway. Water line construction will be done next week, and roadway construction will start in the next couple of weeks. The roundabout will be done next week.

Jeff Pangburn reported that in East Greenbush, the Luther Road Sidewalk project has been let. The Town is looking for a new Planning Director.

#### **NYS DOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE**

Frank Bonafide commented that the project schedules look good. He said that bids for preservation projects are steady, but bids for more complicated projects are escalating. He said the I-87 over the Mohawk River is progressing with State funding.

Joe Teliska asked when we will not be constrained on TIP amendments. Mike Franchini said that after October 1<sup>st</sup> we may have somewhat more leeway. Joe said that of six bridge preservation projects in Rensselaer County, one has been selected for BRIDGE NY. Other projects may need cost increases. Frank Bonafide said that one option with bridge preservation is to design all the bridges, then build, for example, the first three bridges. Mike Franchini said that bridge components deteriorate over time and previous inspections may be out of date.

Chris Wallin asked about the best way to track program budget changes over time. Greg Wichser said that the best time to get a snapshot of the balance is during the program update. Frank Bonafide said that funding changes occur during construction and simply monitoring TIP amendments may not give a totally accurate balance. Mike Franchini said that staff will include a copy of the latest TIP Table 4, which shows the TIP over-programming and under-programming, in the Planning Committee mail-out so that members will know the TIP financial status before they approve or do not approve a TIP amendment.

#### **STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

##### **CDTC**

Mike Franchini said that CDTC is advertising to fill two planner positions, and 30 resumes have been received. We are working to close out the I-787 Study. Sandy Misiewicz said that a public meeting is likely to be held in September. CDTC will develop and RFP for the Regional Safety Plan.

##### **CDRPC**

Todd Fabozzi said CDRPC is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary.

CDRPC is in the first year of a three year effort deploying NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program. CDRPC is advertising for a sustainability planner.

CDRPC released Community Growth Profiles for all cities and towns in the four-county Capital District region. In twenty years between 1995 and 2015, new single family homes added land at 5.6 times the rate of population growth. Maps coming out in the next newsletter will show six years of data by municipality. Cities have lost population in the last six years, except for Cohoes and Saratoga Springs (and Albany at a very low rate). Overall growth in the region has been much slower in the last six years. The region added 12,000 people in the last six years, which is less than half the rate of the previous period.

Steve Iachetta commented that the Albany-Schenectady CSA has gone from the 46th largest to the 45th largest in the nation in 2016. Todd said that the Capital District has low unemployment, although we are growing suburbia, not cities, and therefore may not be positioned to attract millennials.

#### **CDTA**

Ross Farrell said that construction projects are progressing for the River Corridor BRT and the Washington Western BRT at sites that currently have high ridership, including three sites in Troy, one site in Cohoes and five sites in the City of Albany. Improvements include new signals and new sidewalks. The project at Lark/Washington in Albany will consolidate a few bus stops, and construction will start soon. Bikeshare will start at the end of July/early August. Sam Wells left CDTA and went to the City of Albany. Bret Irving is the new employee for CDTA.

#### **NYS DOT**

Frank Bonafide said that Tom Hoffman will be the Regional Design Engineer and will also be the Acting Regional Construction Engineer. Chris Ward is the Acting Regional Director of Operations. Mark Kennedy retires today and Mark Pyskadlo will be the Acting Regional Traffic Engineer. Rob Cherry announced that he will be retiring at the end of September.

#### **NYSTA**

Tim Wainwright said that the paving project between Exit 24 and Exit 25 is wrapping up.

#### **Albany County Airport Authority**

Steve Iachetta said that the airport is experiencing moderate passenger growth at 2%. LED conversions are ongoing. The airport is now offering non-stop service to Pittsburgh.

## Albany Port District Commission

Tony Vasil said that the Port is experiencing modest growth. The Port is the premier heavy lift project cargo port in the Northeast. Longshoreman hours increased from 15,000 hours last year to 32,000 hours through May. The annual Port Industry Day on June 15 was very successful.

## Linkage/Local Planning Activities

Sandy Misiewicz said that tomorrow night there will be a public meeting for the Schenectady Bike Plan. The Albany Shaker Road Corridor Study public meeting was well attended by about 120 people.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael V. Franchini  
Secretary

