

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2017

MEMBERS ATTENDING

William Anslow, representing Darrell Duncan, Albany County
 Department of Public Works

Brad Birge, City of Saratoga Springs

Frank Bonafide, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1

Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission

Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam

Kevin Corcoran, Town of Glenville

Don Csaposs, Town of Guilderland

Ross Farrell, Capital District Transportation Authority

Stephen Feeney, Schenectady County

Michael Franchini, Capital District Transportation Committee,
 Secretary

Stephen Iachetta, Albany County Airport Authority, Chair

Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy

Joseph LaCivita, Town of Colonie

Robert Leslie, Town of Bethlehem

Randy Milano, City of Albany

Laura Robertson, Town of Niskayuna

John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park

Jeremy Smith, City of Watervliet

Joseph Teliska, representing Wayne Bonesteel, Rensselaer County

Michael Valentine, Saratoga County

Christopher Wallin, City of Schenectady

STAFF AND OTHERS

Tom Baird, Barton and Loguidice

Chris Bauer, Capital District Transportation Committee

Bridget Ann Beelen, Capital District Transportation Authority

Anne Benware, Capital District Transportation Committee

Joe Cimino, CHA Companies

Jim Digioia, New York State Office of General Services

Lorenzo Distefano, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1

Todd Fabozzi, Capital District Regional Planning Commission

Jeff Gritsavage, NYS Canal Corporation

Kenneth Guyer, Town of New Scotland

Karen Hulihan, NYS Department of Transportation - Region 1

Tom Johnson, TR Johnson Engineering

Teresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee

Fred Mastroianni, GPI

Kate Maynard, City of Saratoga Springs

Sandy Misiewicz, Capital District Transportation Committee

Tim O'Brien, Times Union

Chris O'Neill, Capital District Transportation Committee

Jeff Pangburn, Creighton Manning

Glenn Posca, Capital District Transportation Committee

Laura Sanda, McFarland Johnson

Garreton Smith, Capital District Transportation Authority

Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation- Region 1
Aaron Xaevier, Capital District Transportation Committee

INTRODUCTION AND VISITORS' ISSUES

Steve Iachetta opened the meeting at approximately 9:32 AM. There were no visitor issues.

ADMINISTRATION

Previous Meeting Minutes - January 4, 2017

Members approved the January 4, 2017 minutes.

PRESENTATION - SARATOGA SPRINGS BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN, AND PUBLIC TRANSIT (COMPLETE STREETS) PLAN

Kate Maynard gave a presentation on this Plan, which was the result of a CDTC Linkage study, and was adopted unanimously by the Saratoga Springs City Council on December 20th 2016. The Plan was a follow-up to the Saratoga Springs Complete Streets Policy approved in 2012. Alta Planning and Design was the consultant with GPI Engineers. She expressed appreciation for the work of Anne Benware and Chris Bauer from the CDTC staff. There were two public meetings and active participation by stakeholders in the community, and city departments.

With input from the community, the Complete Streets Plan identified potential improvements such as sidewalks, crosswalks, curb ramps, bike lanes, transit access, bike racks, signage and safety enhancements in the City. Specifically, the purpose of the plan is to:

- Examine existing and desired conditions and networks for bicyclists, pedestrians and transit users across the City consistent with the City's adopted Complete Streets Policy and sustainability goals.
- Expand and strengthen mobility choices for City residents and visitors.
- Facilitate implementation of projects and policies to specifically accommodate bicyclists, pedestrians and transit users throughout the City of Saratoga Springs.

The Plan established recommendations within four infrastructure layers: Pedestrian Sidewalks and Crossings; On-Street Bikeways; Greenways and Trails; and Transit Connections/Freight considerations.

Kate noted that early wins related to development of the plan included installation of a bike lane on North Broadway which was originally slated as a demonstration project and continuing improvements in coordination between various City departments.

ACTION ITEMS

2016-21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

A. SA280 (1759.83), SA290 (1760.11) and SA301 (1760.47), geyser Road Intersections and Bike Trail

Brad Birge explained that the amendment would combine three related projects with no increase in funding. Members approved the amendment.

B. R322 Murdock Road Bridge over the Tsatsawassa Creek

Joe Teliska explained that the Town of Nassau is the sponsor for this project. This project is part of the Bridge NY program. Members approved the amendment.

C. SA305, CR 21 (Middle Grove Road) over Kayaderosseras Creek Bridge Rehabilitation

Mike Valentine explained that this project is a bridge maintenance project awarded as part of the Bridge NY program. Funding is 95% federal funding, including 15% from toll credits. Members approved the amendment.

2016-21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FISCAL CONSTRAINT CORRECTIVE ACTION

Mike Franchini said that the TIP is fiscally constrained over five years. Based on FHWA's certification of CDTC, we are required to balance the TIP on an annual basis. Six New York State MPOs are over-programmed by year, but the other five did not receive certification this year. We have been given a March 30 deadline to resolve this issue. NYSDOT and CDTC have met to discuss a solution. The numbers are set forth in Table 4 of the mail out. One scenario that was developed involved moving projects successively from one year to the next year, and would result in modest over-programming by year as follows: \$4.3 M in the first year; \$4.9 M in the second year; and \$4.8 M in the third year. We are checking with FHWA to see if this approach is acceptable.

Frank Bonafide explained that FHWA is placing increasing importance on STIP performance. The solution that Mike described would involve moving projects such that about 75% of projects moved would be State projects, and about 25% of projects moved would be local projects. No project would move more than one year, and in most cases a project would simply move a couple of months, from the end of one fiscal year to the beginning of the next fiscal year. In this way, construction schedules would not be affected. For example, it is better to let a bridge project in the winter, to facilitate timely purchase of materials for spring construction.

Mike Franchini said that he appreciates the State assuming most of the impacts (75%). Moving projects from year to year does not need Planning Committee or Policy Committee approval, but it does require

sponsor approval. Please let us know if your project is expecting any delays, or if moving your project from the end of one year to the beginning of the next would be reasonably feasible.

Mike Franchini said that part of the scenario that was developed involved reprogramming revenues, and this would require Planning Committee approval. The proposal would be to move \$3M in revenue from year three to year one, and to move \$3M in revenue from year two to year one. Mike explained that this is part of a good faith effort to meet federal requirements.

John Scavo commented that bidding in late fall is very workable because it allows enough time for project tree clearing in March. Randy Milano commented that moving a project schedule a couple of months is generally not a problem.

After considerable discussion, a number of members felt it would be better to vote on the proposed revenue change after hearing from FHWA about whether the overall proposed scenario is acceptable. A motion was made to schedule a special Planning Committee meeting for March 1 and to table discussion until then. Members approved the motion.

2017-2018 LINKAGE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Sandy Misiewicz reported that two submissions were received for the 2017-18 Linkage Program: the Patroon Creek/Washington Avenue Corridor Study and the Carr Road Area Complete Streets Implementation Plan. An evaluation team consisting of staff from CDTC, NYSDOT, CDTA and CDRPC evaluated the submissions using criteria documented in the mail out. The evaluation team recommended approving the Patroon Creek/Washington Avenue Corridor Study. The Carr Road Area Complete Streets Implementation Plan was not recommended.

Mike Franchini said that the scope for the Carr Road submission didn't warrant a full Linkage Study; CDTC staff may be able to help them with regular staff time through CDTC's Community Services task. For example, CDTC may be able to help with the public meeting. Kate Maynard said that she may be able to help by providing information from previous work.

Members approved the Patroon Creek/Washington Avenue Corridor Study for inclusion in the 2017-18 Linkage Program.

2016-18 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) UPDATE REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Mike Franchini explained that our UPWP represents a two year budget, and mid-term adjustments are needed after one year. These adjustments are documented in the mail out. A few of the highlighted changes include Safety Planning, Freight Planning and Bike/Pedestrian Planning. There will also be a new agreement with the Town of Malta to review traffic impact studies and determine local mitigation fees, in

the same manner that we have worked with the Town of Colonie under contract for 25 years. Members approved the UPWP update as presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

BRIDGE NY TIP AMENDMENTS

Mike Franchini reviewed the Governor's press release which was included in the mail out. Two bridges which required TIP amendments were approved earlier in the meeting. The culverts will be funded with 100% State funding and do not require a TIP amendment. A third bridge in Region 1 does not require a TIP amendment because it is located outside of the CDTC area, in Essex County.

FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

Mike Franchini reported on the new administration's proposal for \$137 B in tax credits to leverage one trillion dollars of investment in infrastructure. States have been asked to submit projects for federal infrastructure funding and New York State submitted the following projects: the Champlain Hudson Power Express; the Second Avenue Subway; the Peace Bridge; the New York New Jersey Gateway. Projects have to be "shovel ready", meaning 30% of design is complete. The Democrats have submitted their own one trillion dollar infrastructure proposal, which includes \$430 B for transportation. In response to a question about whether CDTC should develop a list of projects, Mike said that he will talk to NYSDOT. Elaine Chao was approved as Secretary of Transportation. The vote was 93 to 6.

CDTC PROJECT DELIVERY UPDATE

Aaron Xaevier handed out a Local Federal Aid Project Tracking Sheet. He said that going forward, project updates will be presented.

Ross Farrell gave a report on the following project: Hudson River Corridor BRT: Phase 1. The Hudson River Corridor BRT will connect Albany, Menands, Watervliet, Troy and Cohoes. Phase 1 includes: transit signal priority, station site work, ped infrastructure, the Uncle Sam Transit Center and design work for the Troy bus garage expansion. A ten percent share will be provided by CDTA and a ten percent share will be provided by the cities. In March we will find out if the BRT is funded. The value of Phase 1 is independent. Construction is expected in the spring.

Rob Leslie gave a report on the following project: Delaware Avenue Hamlet Multi-Modal Streetscape Enhancements. This project extends for three quarters of a mile on Delaware Avenue from Adams Street to Elsmere Avenue. The project will extend streetscaping treatments and enhancements incorporated at the four corners, including new sidewalks, crosswalks, curbing, on-street parking, street trees and decorative lighting fixtures. Eleven foot lanes with three foot shoulders will be provided. A gateway will be provided to the Rail Trail, including a rectangular rapid flashing beacon and a mural on

the railroad overpass. PS&E will be next week; letting will be during March and construction will begin in May.

Andrew Kreshik gave a report on the following project: South Troy Industrial Park Road. He said that the project has a long history going back to June 2001. It will construct a new two-lane road through the South Troy Industrial Park from Main Street to Adams Street, including sidewalks and bike lanes. 4600 feet of new roadway and 1900 feet of new sidewalk will be included. A new bridge will be constructed over the Poesten Kill. The project will take traffic off of Route 4 which is a residential street. The hope is that right of way purchase will be completed in time to prevent a ten year issue. PS&E is expected in December 2017; letting is expected in February 2018.

NYS DOT PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Greg Wichser handed out a table (attached) showing the status of local and State projects. He said the main difference from the last report is that the Flower Hill project now has a letting date of February 16, 2017.

STATUS OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES

CDRPC

Mark Castiglione said that CDRPC is updating fact sheets for 79 communities based on the new 2011-2015 ACS data. CDRPC, under Todd Fabozzi's leadership, continues to execute the Clean Energy Community Program for the Eastern NY Territory. The Territory Team is currently providing technical support to over a hundred communities within the 28-county territory.

CDTA

Ross Farrell reported that CDTA's new Navigator system rolled out with smartcards. Next week service improvements are scheduled including extending routes to the Casino in Schenectady, and the establishment of a trolley service in Schenectady, both involving financial partnerships. CDTA will find out if funding will be approved for the River Corridor BRT in February or March.

NYS DOT

Frank Bonafide reported that the Governor announced the Empire State Trail initiative to establish a complete trail from New York City to the North Country and from Albany to Buffalo along the canal, with a \$200 M funding program. He said that TAP and CMAQ awards are awaiting announcement.

Albany County Airport Authority

Steve Iachetta said that the Airport experienced 8.5 percent growth from 2015 to 2016.

Albany Port District Commission

Steve Iachetta reported on Tony Vasil's behalf that there were 77 ships and barges at the Port in 2016, compared with 69 ships and barges in 2015, for a 12 percent increase.

City of Schenectady

Chris Wallin announced that the Casino will open one week from today.

City of Saratoga Springs

Brad Birge said that Saturday is the Saratoga Springs Chowderfest.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael V. Franchini
Secretary