



Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council

Washington County Municipal Center
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Policy Committee Meeting *Minutes of Wednesday, March 4, 2009*

Attendance:

Members:

Ralph Bentley, Supervisor, Town of Horicon
Jack Diamond, Mayor, City of Glens Falls
Keith Donohue, Mayor, Village of So. Glens Falls
Preston Jenkins, Supervisor, Town of Moreau
Bill Lamy, Warren County DPW (rep. F. Monroe)
James Lindsay, Supervisor, Town of Kingsbury
Brian Rowback, Regional Director, NYSDOT Region 1
Daniel Stec, Supervisor, Town of Queensbury
Steven Sweeney, NYS Canal Corp. (rep. Bill Rinaldi)
Louis Tessier, Supervisor, Town of Lake George
JoAnn Trinkle, Chairman, Washington County Board of Supervisors

Others:

Brian Brockway, Town of Fort Edward (rep. M. Suprenant)
Tom Donohue, City of Glens Falls
Willy Grimmke, Washington County DPW
Dan Hall, City of Glens Falls
Robert Hansen, NYSDOT Region 1
Frank Komoroske, NYSDOT
Mary Anne Mariotti NYSDOT-Region 1
Scott Sopczyk, GGFT
Mike Valentine, Saratoga County Planning Board

A/GFTC Staff:

Monika Bulman, Administrative Assistant
Aaron Frankenfeld, Transportation Planning Director
Sarah Gebbie-Measeck, Transportation Planner

I. Welcome & Introductions

1. Introductory remarks- Chairman JoAnn Trinkle called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM

II. Visitors Issues – None Administration

III. Approval of March 12, 2008 minutes

Motion was made to approve the March 12, 2008 minutes

MOVED BY : James Lindsay SECONDED BY: Ralph Bentley MOTION CARRIED

IV. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

1. Transit
 - A. GGFT Report-(handout) Scott Sopczyk – Mr. Sopczyk reviewed the capital projects as outlined in the handout. GGFT intends to make full use of the anticipated ARRA funds expected to be allocated to public transit capital improvements in the Glens Falls area. This will go towards projects that funds were not available

for previously including replacement for an in-ground vehicle lift in the garage, rehab and slight relocation of the Ridge Street terminal, and the purchase of a hybrid bus.

- B. Transit Development Plan (TDP), GGFT has been working with A/GFTC and a consultant to prepare a new Transportation Development Plan. Existing service structure is being examined and a set of recommendations for future service levels will be developed. A public Open House is scheduled March 9th so the draft recommendations will be reviewed. Final recommendations are expected this summer.

2008 Transit ridership was the highest in the history of the system which began operation in 1984. Mr. Hansen asked Mr. Sopczyk if he was still working with CDTA on the NX runs. Mr. Sopczyk said discussion is still taking place and a unified fare medium is under consideration. Discussion also took place regarding potential services generated by Luther Forest.

2. Consultant Projects

- A. Aviation Road Corridor Study-Approval, Aaron - The study is complete and has resulted in a good product. The Study has been approved by the Town of Queensbury. The core recommendations yield about 3.4 million dollars worth of potential improvements.

A motion was made to adopt the Study.

MOVED BY: Ralph Bentley SECONDED BY: Mayor Donohue MOTION CARRIED

Exit 20 Corridor Management Plan-Aaron, Expecting a draft of the final plan within a month. There are not many easy solutions along this corridor and interchange options are limited. Rte 9 is the core problem.

- B. GIS Services, Aaron-Our consultant, Fountains Spatial, has delivered to us an updated data system including a desktop map management tool bar for us. Currently they are working on a web application that will improve our ability to visualize our data, show our TIP and planning projects, etc. They are also working on a transit data ridership collection tool. Hope to complete all of these services by late spring.

- 3. 2009 UPWP Update Approval, (handouts) Aaron – There are a few active consultant projects that will carry over into this UPWP. New in the work program are the offering of road safety audits and training for municipal staff (planning and zoning boards). The training will kick off April 14 with the offering of access management training session. This is an ITE web session so it is eligible for professional development hours. The on-call engineering services are still being offered and do not require a local match. The cap is \$10K. Also planned is an update to the bike/ped plan. The overall program is smaller this year due to unreleased carryover and the threat of rescission.

A motion was moved to approve the administrative 2008 UPWP Update pending any public comments received prior to March 11.

MOVED BY: Dan Stec SECONDED BY: James Lindsay MOTION CARRIED

4. Long Range Plan, Aaron-Drafts of all the chapters are complete. Still working on the financial chapter. Once the financial element is complete, the draft LRP will be submitted to the TAC for its approval and subsequent public comment and review.

V. Transportation Improvement Program(TIP)

1. 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program
 - A. Stimulus Program (handout), Brian Rowback gave a powerpoint presentation highlighting the information on the handout. The NY share for high and bridges under the bill is estimated to be \$1.120 billion, the NY share for transit \$1.245 billion. Rail discretionary is one of the big surprises in this bill and covers high speed rail under the discretionary program, but we still do not know how the funds may be applied. Aviation also received discretionary grants. For statewide funds there are provisions that 50% must be obligated within 120 days of apportionment. For any state \$ with obligated balances, the funds will be redistributed to other states. There is a locally administered federal aid project manual available. Mr. Rowback pointed out that Mary Anne Mariotti is the key person to contact for all of A/GFTC projects, issues and concerns as it relates to DOT or federal aid.
Mr. Rowback commented that our MPO is unique in that most of our projects are local projects. Even with the stimulus package there is still a much larger need that DOT sees growing (bridges and pavements). Region 1's strategy will be to prevent all of this aging infrastructure from requiring major work simulataneously. Robert Hansen -There are some set-asides that are required to be done for rural areas and small urban areas. Bay Street in Glens Falls would help to satisfy our small urban requirement and the bridge projects in Washington and Warren Counties will help to satisfy the rural requirements.
 - B. Stimulus Amendment - Aaron - The material faxed out on Friday is different than what is in front of you (handout). Aaron summarized the projects. The bridge projects for Warren County did not include the Woolenmill Bridge project in today's handout because of a fear of not meeting the deadline date due to a lack of utility agreements to date. Also the list of Transit projects is different than what was faxed out. Aaron noted that FHWA will not require a TIP amendment in order to make transfers of existing TIP projects eligible for receipt of stimulus funds. Additional discussion included: front loading TIPs; adding new projects to the STIP as illustrative which means they do not appear in the fiscal totals and a possible round two/highway act.

A motion was made to approve the Stimulus TIP Amendment

MOVED BY: Mayor Diamond SECONDED BY: Dan Stec MOTION CARRIED

- C. Adjustment of TIP change procedures (handout), Aaron- Not too different from the previously approved amendment procedure in 2000. It identifies any TIP deletion or addition as requiring a TIP amendment. Anything that is deemed to be a TIP amendment requires public comment. The handout is self-explanatory. Bob Hansen mentioned that the scope and cost changes on our procedures are different than CDTC.

A motion was made to approve the TIP change procedures

MOVED BY: Ralph Bentley SECONDED BY: James Lindsay MOTION CARRIED

- D. Change in TIP schedule, Aaron-The stimulus program has caused uncertainty. The MPO directors, after a discussion, decided to delay TIP cycles for 6 months. DOT suggested delaying it for a year. To keep the TIP current we just need to take more action by TIP amendment or administrative modifications.
2. Recent developments or action items for ongoing federal aid projects
- A. New York State Department of Transportation, Brian Rowback/Robert Hansen-Marchiselli money may be reassigned; the CHIPS program is up in the air.
 - B. Warren County DPW, Bill Lamy -
 - The Corinth Road/ Exit 18, Have to meet a September deadline to have access to the funds needed. Last ROW of being acquired; Town is finishing up the underground utility design; Supervisor Stec is very confident the September deadline will be met.
 - The two bridges that were included in the stimulus amendment are ready to go.Mr. Hansen asked if Mr. Lamy had an updated estimate for Corinth road. Mr. Hansen would like to go through the estimate to determine if everything is eligible and that there is enough to pay for it.
 - C. Washington County, Willy Grimmke -
 - As per the amendment the railroad bridges in the Village of Whitehall are stimulated. Working with DOT and A/GFTC to address CR 12 and Lower Turnpike over the Mettawee.
 - D. Saratoga/Town of Moreau, Preston Jenkins-nothing to report
- Mr. Rowback- prior to the stimulus package which includes a 3% setaside for enhancement projects, an announcement was going to be made as to what projects were selected. Now things have to be reevaluated.
- E. City of Glens Falls, Mayor Diamond
 - Is happy the Bay Street project is back on the TIP; the city will be doing the infrastructure subsurface improvements needed; moving along with some issues on South Street

F. Town of Queensbury, Dan Stec
Thanked A/GFTC for help with the studies on Aviation Rd. and Exit 20; electrical utility work on Corinth Road is in final design; easement issues should be resolved soon; Queensbury is committed to the Corinth Road project and will meet the deadline.

VI. Revised meeting schedule, Aaron-previously a meeting schedule was distributed but it is difficult to adhere to with meeting conflicts. Tentatively a TAC meeting is planned for May and a Policy Committee meeting for June.

VII. Next meeting and adjourn
Next meeting is anticipated in June.
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:15