



## **Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council**

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### **Policy Committee Meeting Minutes Friday, December 10, 2010**

#### **Members:**

Ed Bartholomew, City of Glens Falls (rep. Jack Diamond)

Ralph Bentley, Supervisor, Town of Horicon

Rob Cherry, NYSDOT Region 1 (rep. Mary Ivey)

Mike Valentine, Saratoga County (rep. Willard Peck)

Steve Sweeney, NYSCC (rep. William Rinaldi)

#### **Others:**

Wayne LaMothe, Warren County Planning

Mary Anne Mariotti, NYSDOT Region 1

Kevin Hajos, Warren County DPW

Scott Sopczyk, GGFT

John Wheatley, EDC Warren County

#### **A/GFTC Staff:**

Aaron Frankenfeld, Transportation Planning Director

Sarah Gebbie-Measeck, Transportation Planner

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Aaron called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM.

#### **2. Visitor Issues**

None

#### **3. Administrative Items**

- A. TAC Co-chairman Election Results - Aaron reported that the TAC elected Mike Valentine as the committee co-chair.
- B. Operations Plan / Host Agency Agreement  
The current host agency agreement with the Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board will expire in April 2012 and the agreement takes about a year to renew. Aaron reported that the LCLGRP has been challenged to cover our finances due to late reimbursements from NYSDOT. The LCLGRP recently obtained a line of credit to help with these cash flow issues and are agreeable to continuing to host A/GFTC. Wayne LaMothe asked if there were other options. Warren County and the City of Glens Falls were listed as possible alternatives.
- C. In-kind Reporting  
Aaron reported that A/GFTC will be contacting TAC and Policy Committee members to request information that will allow staff to better document committee member in-kind time.

#### **4. Transit**

- A. GGFT Update  
Scott Sopczyk reported GGFT capital projects have included adding two new trolley buses to replace to old ones, executing a bid award for one new

hybrid bus, completing the relocation of the Ridge Street transfer station and the update of computer and telephone systems. A radio system replacement and new in ground vehicle lift are planned for early 2011.

GGFT has seen 2010 ridership increase by approximately 2%. Work is continuing on the implementation of the Transit Development Plan recommendations. A new shared website with A/GFTC has been developed. Scott also noted data (handout) that demonstrated, that despite the comparatively small scale of its operations, GGFT achieved very low operating costs per mile and operating costs per passenger

Discussion ensued regarding an estimate of the percentage of ridership that originated from tourist trips. Scott estimated that approximately 1/3 of all trolley trips were taken by tourists. Bolton has also seen an increase in ridership and GGFT will be looking into increasing the frequency of trips to Bolton.

B. FTA 5310 Awards

Aaron reported that two out of the four applications from the A/GFTC area were awarded FTA 5310 (services for elderly and disabled passengers) funds – Community, Work & Independence (CWI) and Battenkill Community Services. CWI's application was ranked #1 statewide by NYSDOT.

**5. Annual Work Program**

A. Review of Staff and Consultant Activities

1) Local Transportation Planning and Engineering Assistance Program

a. Lake George Gateway Corridor

Aaron reported that the Gateway Corridor study is essentially final and anticipates that the Town of Lake George will consider the document for adoption at its 12/13 meeting.

b. Glens Falls Residential Traffic Calming

Aaron reported RSG was hired as the consultant for this project. A neighborhood walk through was conducted. The methodology for the project will be refined over the winter and data from demonstrations will be collected in the spring. This will include assessing local residents' perception of vehicle speed. The primary concern of residents seems to be speed of vehicles and safety for pedestrians.

2) Travel Demand Modeling Contract

Aaron reported that Warner Transportation Consulting has created a working model continues to refine calibration. We should have a complete model within another month and a half.

3) GIS Services Contract

Sarah reported that Fountains Spatial has completed a Traffic Count viewer, a TIP Project viewer (both on the A/GFTC website) and a Transit Ridership application (which will assist GGFT with calculating their passengers per mile as required by FTA). The Pavement Scoring application will completed very soon. The last of the issues were being worked out this morning.

4) Village of Greenwich Bicycle and Pedestrian Assessment  
Sarah reported that, as part of A/GFTC's UPWP and in conjunction with the Washington County Healthy Communities Coalition, a bike/ped assessment was completed for the Village of Greenwich this past fall. Each Village street was assessed for bicycle and pedestrian accessibility and assigned a score and then ranked. A draft assessment was given to the Village for their comments and then A/GFTC will open it up to NYSDOT comments.

5) iPoolNorth Update  
Sarah reported that Ecology and Environment agreed to lower the annual maintenance fee from \$10,000 to \$7,900 for iPoolNorth based on the smaller user base. iPoolNorth currently has 94 users. We will upgrade to new platform (GreenRide Connect) when CDTC (ipool2 is the Capital District's ridesharing site) does. A/GFTC is considering expanding iPoolNorth to include commuters in Essex County. Mary Anne Mariotti asked to be notified as to what A/GFTC decides to do.

B. Upcoming Activities

1) WWIDA Shovel Ready Certification

Aaron reported that the WWIDA asked A/GFTC for assistance with completing an informal traffic impact analysis in order to obtain shovel ready certification. An estimate to complete such an analysis by a consultant would be \$2,500. The TAC felt the WWIDA should use their own funds for such an analysis. WWIDA presented this at their last meeting and have decided not to hire a consultant, but will request A/GFTC staff assistance to complete this. This is contingent upon A/GFTC upgrading its HCS software and travel demand model, which is currently being done. A/GFTC staff will complete as much of the analysis as they feel they are capable of doing.

2) Bicycle Map Update / Reprint

Aaron reported that it is time to reprint and update the existing bike map. There is one trail segment that is currently shown as stone dust and it has since been paved. The Warren County Safe and Quality Bicycling Organization has expressed an interest in having the map show additional cycling routes, Aaron has indicated to both Queensbury and Glens Falls that they will need municipal designations of routes in order for them to be included on the map. Wayne LaMothe noted that there is an interest to expand the Warren County bikeway through Lake George and into the towns of Warrensburg and Chestertown and would like to explore the process for local municipalities to designate portions of State highways.

3) HUD Community Challenge Grant

Ed Bartholomew reported that the City of Glens Falls was awarded a planning grant for \$200,000. This will assist with planning for a parking structure in downtown Glens Falls with the possibility for a GGFT stop/access and housing for community elements such as the Glens Falls Farmer's Market and other festivities. A/GFTC has agreed to provide staff time for in-kind services.

C. 2011-2012 Work Program

1) Candidates for inclusion

Aaron reported that GGFT has approached A/GFTC about adding some upgraded mapping to the transit website. Aaron also reported that the Town of Queensbury has mentioned potentially

doing a feasibility study for a connector road between Quaker Road and Queensbury Avenue (south of the airport). Scott Sopczyk added that A/GFTC could include a study to assess the park and ride adequacy at each exit along I-87 and tie in with CDTA's current park and ride study (which only goes to Exit 20).

2) Solicitation

Aaron asked if the committee would like A/GFTC to go ahead with a formal solicitation. The committee responded that yes a formal solicitation should be conducted.

**6. TIP**

A. Project Updates

1) Warren County

Kevin Hajos reported that Tannery Road bridge has been completed. The Milton Street bridge has wrapped up construction for this year and will finish next year. Corinth Road will have a skeleton crew working on utilities over the winter and then full road reconstruction will begin in the spring. Beach Road is still in the design phase. Harrington Road bridge will go out to bid in 2011. The RFP just went out for Hicks Road and Crane Mountain Road. Warren County will also be submitting a few applications for the Make the Connection program.

2) Washington County – no report

3) Saratoga County

Mike Valentine reported that the Route 9 project at Exit 17N now has striping in, but the light is not operational yet. Mary Anne Mariotti reported that the light should be working by the end of the month. Aaron noted that NYSDOT will be in contact with the Village of South Glens Falls and the Town of Moreau regarding their safety project shortly.

4) NYSDOT

Mary Anne reported that the Route 9 bridge over the Hudson River in Hadley/Luzerne will be completed in 2012. The resurfacing of Route 9 and drainage on West Brook Road in Lake George is starting now. The resurfacing of I-87 is complete to Exit 20. The two bridges on I-87 over the Schroon River will resume March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Route 372 in the Town of Easton will also resume March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Trucks were not being rerouted and DOT will work with online programs like mapquest and google maps to fix this.

Aaron reported that he met with the Village of Hudson Falls and DOT last week to confirm the Route 4 project design limits. The project will be designed up to the Feeder Canal bridge.

Wayne LaMothe reported that Warren County is working with the Town of Corinth to identify ways to increase the railroad services between the two counties. Wayne also noted maps that the NYS Rail Plan needs to be corrected to show that Warren County's rail line is active. Wayne would like to start an amendment process to clarify this with DOT.

B. Amendments and Modifications

1) City of Glens Falls request to reprioritize projects

Aaron reported that the City of Glens Falls has asked to reprioritize their projects in the TIP. They would like to replace their number one priority (Hudson Ave) with a new project (Broad Street) and replace their number two priority (Dix Ave) with Hudson Avenue. The TAC previously approved this amendment pending resolution of questions posed by DOT, which is ongoing.

- C. **Make the Connection Solicitation**  
Aaron reported that A/GFTC is soliciting for projects under the Make the Connection program. In past years A/GFTC has been able to fund all project applicants. This year we are anticipating more requests than we can fund. We will be asking committee members to serve on a subcommittee to rank and select project awards after the proposals are due on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Wayne LaMothe indicated he'd be available to serve on that committee.

**7. Other Items**

None reported at this time

**8. Next meeting and adjourn**

Aaron reported that the TAC will meet in mid-January and mid February to approve the draft 2011-2012 UPWP. The Policy Committee can then expect to meet again in early March to adopt the final UPWP.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM