



Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council

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Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Attendance:

Members:

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

Ralph Bentley, Supervisor, Town of Horicon

Frank Bonafide, NYSDOT Reg. 1 (rep. Mary Ivy)

Preston Jenkins, Supervisor, Town of Moreau

James Lindsay, Supervisor, Town of Kingsbury

Frank McCoy, Supervisor, Town of Lake George

Daniel Stec, Chairman, Warren County Board of Supervisors

Mitch Suprenant, Supervisor, Town of Ford Edward

Steven Sweeney, NYS Canal Corp. (rep. Michael Loftus)

Mike Valentine, Saratoga County (rep. Thomas Wood)

Others:

Michael Fiorillo, Village of Hudson Falls

Wayne LaMothe, Warren County Planning

Mary Anne Mariotti, NYSDOT-Region 1

Joseph Rich, Federal Highway Administration

Jeff Tennyson, Warren County DPW

A/GFTC Staff:

Aaron Frankenfeld, Transportation Planning Director

Monika Bulman, Administrative Assistant

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chairman Dan Stec called the meeting to order at 1:37

2. Visitors Issues – None

3. Administration

- A. Host Agency agreement (Aaron): Another municipality, the City of Glens Falls, has presented itself as a possible host agency. GGFT has indicated that their experience with having the City as a host has been positive. At times the LC/LGRPBB has experienced cash flow problems resulting in late payments to consultants, but a bank loan recently acquired by the RPB may help avoid future late payments.

A motion was made to establish a committee to explore alternative hosting arrangements.

MOVED BY : Jeff Tennyson SECONDED BY: Ralph Bentley MOTION CARRIED

4. Transit

- A. 5310 Program- (Aaron) This is a federally funded, state administered program for vehicle purchases for private not-for-profit transportation providers that serve elderly and disabled passengers. The deadline to submit applications is May 4, 2011. A/GFTC will assist in the review and selection of applicants.

- B. GGFT Update – In absence of a full report from GGFT, Aaron briefly noted that GGFT was planning to hold public workshops to present possible service changes as identified in the Transit Development Plan.

5. Annual Work Program

- A. Review of Staff and Consultant Activities
 - 1) Local Transportation Planning and Engineering Assistance Program
 - a. Glens Falls residential traffic calming (Aaron): RSG is continuing to work on the methodology for a spring 2011 deployment of data collection and neighbor surveys.
 - b. Request from GGFT for design services (Aaron): GGFT has requested using our Local Traffic Engineering Assistance Program with design, striping, signing and utilization of space at City Hall for the bus terminal. This would also include specs for materials. The program has sufficient funds to carry this project and no committee approval is required to advance this.
 - c. Request from Town of Lake George (Aaron): Stemming from their recent gateway corridor study facilitated by A/GFTC, the Town of Lake George has requested assistance for development of a wayfinding signing plan. Mr. McCoy reported that currently the corridor has cluttered signage and lacks pedestrian and landscaping. Improved signage is the first step in the Town's vision for an improved corridor. Frank Bonafide noted that signs placed in state rights-of-way would require DOT review. Aaron recommended that this project be initiated following completion of the GGFT and City of Glens Falls projects noted above. Mr. McCoy stated that this was acceptable.
 - 2) Travel Demand Modeling contract (Aaron): Warner Transportation Consulting is completing the methodology report and users guide for the new model, and is also attempting to reconcile model outputs with data used by the Interagency Consultation Group in their review of air quality conformity. The entire project should be completed within two months.
 - 3) GIS Services contract (Aaron): The data collection tools are complete and include a transit passenger data collection tool (this will allow us to assist GGFT with FTA ridership requirements), pavement scoring data collection device and on-line TIP project and traffic count browsers. GGFT has requested a transit map browser which we will work over the course of the upcoming state fiscal year pending UPWP approval.
 - 4) iPoolNorth update (Aaron): We currently have 115 people signed up. The increase is due to Glens Falls Hospital publicizing the program to its employees. Additional increases are likely to coincide with rising fuel costs.
- B. Upcoming Activities
 - 1) WWIDA Shovel Ready Certification (Aaron): A preliminary traffic generation estimate for IDA in support of their shovel-ready certification request from New York State is on hold pending data collection done on behalf of Warren County as part of the Hicks Road reconstruction.
 - 2) Bicycle Map update/reprint (Aaron): Reprinting of the regional bicycle map is on-hold as Queensbury and Glens Falls consider designating additional on-street bicycle routes.

- C. 2011-2012 Work Program
 - 1) Review of Draft (Handout): Aaron summarized the work program and pointed out that we had to make a change of \$142.00 from the initial draft. The total program amount is \$656,799. We are anticipating an additional \$190K carryover in savings from the 2010-2011 year but, because those savings have not been released by FHWA, they were not included in the draft program. Without these funds, A/GFTC has adequate funds to accomplish the tasks in the UPWP. If we find that mid-year we need the carryover funds for additional tasks, the UPWP can be amended.

A motion was made to approve the 2011-2012 UPWP.

MOVED BY : Mike Valentine SECONDED BY: Ralph Bentley MOTION CARRIED

6. TIP

- A. Make the Connection (MTC) Awards (Aaron): Four projects were awarded: Warren County for establishing bicycle space along West Mountain Road; Warren County for the bikeway a new connection between the Warren County Bikeway and the factory outlet stores on Route 9; Village of Argyle for sidewalks along Sheridan Street; Village of Granville (joint venture with Town) for sidewalks. Recommendations for improvements to the application and the selection process are a high priority. Jeff Tennyson wondered if some of the additional UPWP funds could be used towards the development of stronger MTC projects. Aaron noted that A/GFTC was not leaving the additional funds on the table but that those were savings from prior years and that the TAC could explore MTC project development in greater detail as the year progressed.
- B. Project Updates
 - 1) Warren County (Jeff Tennyson) Consultant selection for Crane Mountain Road Bridge (Creighton Manning Engineering) and Hicks Road reconstruction (Greenman – Pedersen Inc.) has taken place; bids are in for Harrington Road Bridge; the utility phase for Corinth Road is nearing completion.
 - 2) Washington County: No one was present to give project report, but Jim Lindsay expressed concerns about the limitations of the bridge program as related to Dewey's Bridge over the Champlain Canal. A new road could easily be constructed for what it would cost to replace the bridge, which doesn't see much traffic. Aaron agreed that the proposed road solution was something that A/GFTC generally concurs with but that that is not a permissible solution within the current program. Funding programs could change as part of the new federal highway bill.
 - 3) Saratoga County (Preston Jenkins): The Spier Falls safety project had good results, there are concerns about dark conditions along Route 9 between Exit 17 and the new intersection. Mr. Jenkins also expressed concern with vehicular speeds exiting I-87 at Exit 17 to Route 9 northbound. Mary Anne Mariotti agreed forward these concerns to the appropriate personnel at NYSDOT R1.
 - 4) NYSDOT- (Mary Anne Mariotti): Design for the Route 4 project in Hudson Falls is progressing; there will be public meeting in the summer, the soil on John Street is being tested. The beams are being installed for the Route 372 bridge project in Greenwich.

Frank Bonafide reported that the new DOT Commissioner is Joan McDonald. The Federal Transportation Act has been extended through the end of September. The new bill could be ready at the end of the fiscal year.

Joe Rich stated that the \$38 billion included in the extension is approximately 2/3 of what is needed for basic maintenance of the existing transportation system.

Mitch Suprenant wanted to know the status of the 197 bridges over the Hudson River. NYSDOT responded that work on the west branch structure is scheduled to begin in spring of 2013. Because of recent repairs, the east branch (concrete arch) structure is currently in better condition than the west branch structure and it is not currently programmed for rehabilitation or replacement.

Jeff Tennyson noted his concerns with state reimbursements for federal aid project costs incurred at the local level. The delays have forced the County to bond certain projects and increased project costs. Frank Bonafide acknowledged the problem and noted that cash flow is an issue for many state agencies.

C. Amendments and Modifications

- 1) City of Glens Falls request to reprioritize projects (Aaron): The City of Glens Falls has requested adding the Broad Street project to the TIP, while deferring the Hudson Avenue and Dix Avenue projects as necessary to preserve fiscal constraint. The thirty-day public comment period for this amendment is complete.

A motion was made to approve adding the Broad Street project to the TIP.

MOVED BY : Frank McCoy SECONDED BY: Jim Lindsay MOTION CARRIED

- 2) Aviation Road scope expansion (Aaron): The Town of Queensbury has requested a scope of expansion of the existing Aviation Road / Dixon Road intersection project to include the entrance to Queensbury Schools. Chairman Stec noted that installation of a right turn lane was included as a possible alternative within the recently completed Aviation Road Corridor Study. Aaron indicated that, working with NYSDOT R1, we believe that we have found a sufficient amount of financial offset to add the project. Additional funds for design have already been included.
- 3) Route 9 Outlets/Exit 20 ramp Discussion took place regarding the possibility of a rear access road behind the outlets (east side of Rte 9). There is land available for this road. The Town of Queensbury may come forward with a more formal request for this project.

7. Other Items

Mr. Suprenant referred back to the Fort Edward Truck Access study and asked about the recommendation for constructing a new access road between Route 4 and County Route 37. Aaron stated that a TIP project request was never received from the Town.

8. Next meeting and adjourn

At 3:20 a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY: Frank McCoy SECONDED BY: Ed Bartholomew MOTION CARRIED