



Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council

11 South Street, Suite 203

Glens Falls, NY 12801

p: (518) 223 – 0086 f: (518) 223 – 0584

info@agftc.org

www.agftc.org

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

Attendees

Agency

A/GFTC Committee Members

Kevin Geraghty, Chair	Chairman, Warren County Board of Supervisors
Ed Bartholomew	EDCWC
Rob Cherry	NYS DOT Region 1
Chris DeBolt	Washington County Planning Department
Wayne LaMothe	Warren County Planning Department
Keith Osborne	Town of Lake George Planning Department
Scott Sopczyk	Greater Glens Falls Transit
John Strough	Supervisor, Town of Queensbury
Frank Thomas	Supervisor, Town of Stony Creek
Mike Valentine	Saratoga County Planning Department

Consultants

Lou Bach	Greenman Pedersen, Inc.
Fred Mastroianni	Greenman Pedersen, Inc.
Chris Round	The Chazen Companies
Edmund Snyder	Greenman Pedersen, Inc.

A/GFTC Staff

Aaron Frankenfeld

Kate Mance

- 1. Welcome and Introductions** - Chairman Geraghty called the meeting to order at 1:32; participants introduced themselves.
- 2. Visitors Issues**
- 3. Lake George Gateway Project Update** - Aaron gave a brief summary of the project's origins and introduced Ed Snyder of GPI. Ed, as Project Manager, reviewed some of the project priorities identified in earlier planning efforts that would be incorporated in to the project's design, including bicycle and pedestrian improvements, green infrastructure, access management, and corridor aesthetics. Lou Bach discussed the project alternatives (null, full median with roundabouts, and hybrid center median), indicating that the hybrid center median option that would include two 11' travel lanes, 5' bike lanes and 5' sidewalks in each direction was emerging as the most feasible alternative that satisfied the project objectives. The project timetable was also reviewed; the project is on an accelerated schedule and will need to be able to be let in March of 2015 in order to qualify for construction funding through the Strategic Transportation Enhancement Program administered by New York State. Final design approval is sought by mid-November. A speed limit reduction is being

pursued. Scott Sopczyk emphasized the need for clearly identifiable transit stop and suggested that additional crosswalk locations be identified. John Strough noted that any crosswalks needed to be well-lit. Accommodations for and mitigations to snowmobiling would be included in the design. The impacts to parking at the A&W restaurant were noted; GPI replied that no response to outreach efforts was received. Rob Cherry credited GPI on their outreach and adherence to a tight design schedule. GPI in turn acknowledged Region 1 staff's responsiveness. Aaron requested a copy of the draft design report for staff review.

4. Annual Work Program

A. Summary of completed and ongoing tasks - Aaron listed the following updates:

- Regional Bicycle and pedestrian plan was completed and adopted by this committee in August
- Bridge preservation analysis - A/GFTC recently signed a contract with GPI to review all inspection reports for all locally owned bridges in the area and develop a preservation strategy to provide a recommend sequence of bridge repairs
 - Project is being funded with capital dollars rather than planning dollars, DOT has identified a mechanism to relieve us of the required local match
 - Each county will be provided with a bridge asset management plan
 - Results will inform future bridge program project selection
 - \$57,000; schedule to be complete by February
- River Street - Warrensburg
 - Plan will include recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian improvements and streetscaping enhancements for the River Street / 418 corridor, including a focus area for the developed area west of the Judd Bridge
 - Selected Chazen Companies in July
 - Kickoff meeting, field visits and existing conditions analysis are complete
 - Conceptual designs are being drafted for committee review
 - Completion anticipated within 2-4 months
- Electric Vehicle Network Analysis:
 - Analyze public parking areas within the Urbanized Area to determine which sites may be desirable locations for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.
 - Demand is currently low for public charging stations, the need is anticipated to increase quickly.
 - Focus is on public parking locations; project could also be expanded to be applicable to private parking areas if desired.
 - GIS analysis complete. Initial findings to be presented to TAC at next meeting, to determine best format for the information (likely a digital, web-map approach).
- Warren County Safety Screening
 - Crash data for local and county roads will be analyzed, using a methodology that relies upon statistics from the Highway Safety Manual
 - Data has been entered; waiting on traffic counts from DPW
 - Results, along with prior analyses for the other counties, will be used to inform project selection for our Highway Safety Improvement Program funds
- Jackson Heights Elementary School Transportation Study
 - RSG was selected to develop recommendations for the City and school district to improve congestion and safety issues around the school
 - Worked with the PTA to identify issues and review preliminary concepts
 - Several programmatic, operational and capital improvements were identified and shared with the GF Board of Public Safety

- School is favoring implementation of a temporary one-way circulation pattern during arrival and dismissal, similar to what has been done at Glens Falls HS/MS
- Document is available for public comment now through 10/28

5. Greater Glens Falls Transit Update (advanced in sequence from original agenda)

Scott Sopczyk distributed a summary report (handout) and discussed the following:

- facility overhead doors (ca. 1989) have been replaced
 - a replacement trolley has been purchased (new vehicle is larger and better accommodates standing passengers)
 - overall system ridership is up despite a compressed calendar for the summer tourist season
 - GGFT has been working with NYS to assign more non-emergency Medicaid trips to public transit
- B. (continued from 4.) Adoption of Route 9 / Exit 17 Land Use and Transportation Study - Aaron reported the following:
- Conducted for the Town of Moreau in recognition that planned expansions of sewer network along Route 9 would likely increase development and traffic pressures
 - Creighton Manning and Behan Planning conducted an inventory of undeveloped property, existing land uses and zoning to produce development forecasts and potential traffic impacts
 - if the corridor was to be fully developed as available acreage and zoning currently allow (2m SF, 900 residential units, which is very unlikely), travel times along the corridor would likely quadruple without major changes to the transportation system
 - the corridor can however accommodate up to 500,000 sq of additional commercial development and 250 additional residential units with capacity improvements at intersections, signal timing, and zoning changes
 - Recommendations:
 - Promotion of a development threshold
 - Zoning changes to improve operations and community character, promote access management
 - Prepare a Generic Environmental Impact Statement associated with the sewer expansion to identify impacts and shared public and private responsibilities for necessary transportation improvements
 - Longer-term concepts: if development were to approach full build, a major expansion (5-lane section) could be the necessary mitigation to preserve travel times
 - Final report has been delivered to A/GFTC and the study committee following the conclusion of the public comment period
 - A committee vote to adopt the document would acknowledge receipt of the final and allow A/GFTC to entertain and support planning and capital project requests that are related to the findings and recommendations

A motion was made to adopt the Exit 17 / Route 9 Transportation and Land Use Study.

Moved by: Mike Valentine

Seconded by: John Strough

Motion Carried

Chris DeBolt asked if there was an estimated timeframe for attaining the development thresholds based upon local historic growth patterns. Aaron replied that while historic data was used in preparing background growth assumptions, the forecast was not time-based given

that previous growth rates would not likely be comparable to development associated with extended sewer coverage.

C. 2015-16 program

Program solicitation for next year's work program will be developed in the next couple of weeks, pending receipt of guidance letter from NYSDOT. Level funding is expected, but the new federal emphasis on performance based planning could have an impact on staff and consultant resources. Draft program will be developed by staff and TAC, released for public comment, and voted on by the Policy Committee in March.

6. Transportation Improvement Program

A. Capital Project Updates (major developments since March 2014)

- 1) Warren County - no update provided; Aaron would follow up with DPW and pass along any information provided.
- 2) Washington County - DPW notified Aaron that they would be unable to attend, but did provide a list of updates, including:
 - CR 16 over Halfway Brook (Fort Ann) - Deck was poured on October 10, approach slabs within one week
 - CR 10 over the Poultney River (Whitehall) - State of Vermont is lead agency; public information scheduled for 10/23, 4PM, West Haven Town Hall.
 - GPI has been designated as the project consultant for the CR 113 over the Batten Kill bridge replacement.
- 3) Saratoga County - Mike Valentine informed Rob Cherry that NYSDOT may be contacted by the Village of Glens Falls regarding some ongoing pavement quality issues associated with the Route 9 rehabilitation.
- 4) City of Glens Falls - Ed Bartholomew reported the following:
 - Broad Street was complete with the exception of traffic signals. Operational issues with curb extensions and access for longer vehicles will require additional consideration by Creighton Manning Engineering.
 - Public comment period on draft design report for Hudson Avenue has expired. Comments received are under consideration; would like final design by the end of the year.
- 5) Town of Queensbury - John Strough reported the following:
 - Ribbon cutting for Aviation Road roundabout was held on October 10. Feedback to his office from the public has been overwhelmingly positive.
 - The Chazen Companies will be preparing revised zoning coverage for the Exit 18 corridor. A/GFTC will participate in review of potential traffic impacts.
 - Town is still working to conduct a meeting of property owners along the Exit 20 corridor to establish consensus on priorities, which has not been evident to date. Grant funding is being sought for additional study of the area. Talks have progressed with the Sheriff's Department regarding limiting access to the Law Enforcement Center.

Mike Valentine commented on the continued challenge of implementing access management practices at the local planning board level.
- 6) NYSDOT - Rob Cherry noted the successful year in program delivery at the local and State level. Capital project updates included Route 28 over 13th Lake Brook, NYS 9L resurfacing, and planned paving projects for Route 8 in Thurman, Route 40 in Easton, and Route 32 in Kingsbury and Queensbury.

B. Funding Opportunities - Aaron listed the following:

- 1) TAP announcement - An announcement of projects selected by NYS was scheduled for October 8 but was not issued - staff has no additional information at this time.
- 2) Pavement and bridge preservation programs - pavement - A/GFTC will conduct solicitations for design and construction of pavement preservation projects - design in FFY 14-15 and construction in FFY 15-16; approximately \$1.6M in programmed funds ; bridges -solicitation will be developed following the preservation analysis mentioned earlier - approximately \$3M available for FFY 15-16 construction
- 3) Highway Safety Improvement Program - Here again, solicitation will be developed based upon results of the safety screenings; safety money has been challenging to program, previous solicitations have not generated much interest; \$1.26 M this year, approximately \$700,000 in subsequent years
- 4) FTA 5310 - program to provide transportation services to the elderly and disabled. Project application process is still under refinement at NYSDOT; effectively no change in status since last meeting.
- 5) Make the Connection Program:
 - program has been temporarily suspended pending a review and refinement of selection procedures
 - program has had some successes, but overall delivery record has been poor
 - projects require a significant amount of oversight, particularly when inexperienced sponsors are involved
 - funds will carryover into either a revised specific solicitation or returned into a general project solicitation with expanded eligibility considerations.

C. TIP Update - Aaron - The TIP update cycle was delayed on account of the lack of a long-term federal transportation bill. Barring additional delays, it is expected that we will begin the program development process this Summer or Fall. Staff is hopeful that the State will restore a greater degree of capital improvement programming eligibility but has no information to suggest that more funds will be available - the last TIP was the smallest roster in terms of dollars programmed since the mid 1990s.

7. **Other Items** - Wayne LaMothe noted that the proposed interchange reconfiguration included in the Exit 17 study could have air quality impacts within the Capital District air quality nonattainment area (that includes all of Saratoga County). Aaron concurred that reductions in operational efficiencies could have a negative consequence by way of increased emissions. The conceptual realignment was intended to be a safety improvement rather than a capacity project. Project-level conformity demonstrations are no longer required within the Capital District due to recently updated regulations.
8. **Next meeting and adjourn** - next meeting tentatively scheduled for March 11, 2015. The meeting was adjourned at 3:01.