



Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council

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Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Attendees

Agency

A/GFTC Committee Members

Mitch Suprenant, Chair	Supervisor, Town of Fort Edward
John Strough, Vice-Chair	Supervisor, Town of Queensbury
Frank Bonafide	RPPM, NYSDOT Region 1
Mike Breault	Washington County DPW
Gardner Congdon	Supervisor, Town of Moreau
Cassie Fedler	Supervisor, Town of Cambridge
Kevin Geraghty	Chairman, Warren County Board of Supervisors
Bob Henke	Chairman, Washington County Board of Supervisors
Dana Hogan	Supervisor, Town of Kingsbury
Laura Oswald	Washington County
Scott Sopczyk	Greater Glens Falls Transit
Frank Thomas	Supervisor, Town of Stony Creek
Mike Valentine	Saratoga County Planning Department
Mo Wright	Chairman, Saratoga County Board of Supervisors
Timothy Zinn	Washington County DPW

Other Participants

Amy Collins	City of Glens Falls
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A/GFTC Staff

Aaron Frankenfeld
Kate Mance

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Visitors Issues

3. Administrative Items -

- A. 2016 Committee Update - Aaron listed the updated committee roster (distributed as handout) for Calendar Year 2016:
 - chairmanship of the Transportation Council has rotated back to Washington County for 2016; thanks to Mitch Suprenant, Supervisor of the Town of Fort Edward, for agreeing to once again chair the Policy Committee and thanks as well to Warren County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Kevin Geraghty for serving as Chair for the last two years.
 - John Strough, Supervisor of the Town of Queensbury, has been selected by Kevin Geraghty to serve as Vice-Chair
 - Sam Zhou, Regional Director of NYSDOT Region 1, continues as Council Secretary

- Welcome to our new members, including:
 - Bob Henke, Chairman of the Washington County Board of Supervisors
 - Gardner Congdon, Supervisor, Town of Moreau
 - Catherine Fedler, Supervisor, Town of Cambridge (Wash. County Rural Representative)
 - Dana Hogan, Supervisor, Town of Kingsbury
 - Mo Wright, Chairman of the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors
- B. In-kind Services - data update - Aaron explained the In-kind services form (distributed as handout). This information is required from all committee members in order for staff to document the mandatory local match for the services and support that we provide through use of FHWA and FTA planning funds. Members were asked to complete and return the form to the A/GFTC office.
- C. FAST Act Summary - Aaron provided a summary of the FAST ACT, the multi-year authorization for FHWA and FTA programs (attached as handout). Frank Bonafide noted that the act falls short of providing a comprehensive financial solution for deteriorating infrastructure.

4. Annual Work Program (UPWP) - (Aaron)

- A. Summary of completed and ongoing tasks from SFY 15-16 - Aaron summarized previous accomplishments during the last year (distributed as handout). Specifically noted were:
 - Exit 18 rezone study - analysis of potential traffic impacts associated with changes to commercial zoning around Exit 18; analysis determined that full buildout allowable under proposed zoning could have serious congestion impacts that would require significant alteration of the transportation network; CHA recommended changes to the zoning to encourage development that would entail more reasonable mitigation; Town has engaged development community on discussions to jointly pursue intersection improvements. John Strough provided additional detail regarding the evolution of this study and the positive impact that the discussion of rezoning had had upon economic development activity.
 - Greenman-Pedersen Inc. completed a thorough inventory of locally owned bridges and identified maintenance and preservation work needed for qualifying structures; that will help information will help guide A/GFTC's bridge preservation programming activities. Mike Valentine requested a copy of the report.
 - CME completed a safety evaluation for the intersection of CR 21 and CR 18 in the Town of Whitehall; recommended improvements included a number of signing improvements, continued data monitoring, and consideration of physical modifications to improve sight distances if the signing enhancements are ineffective.
 - The Dix Avenue Corridor Study reassessment is underway; initial conclusions are that the growth projections formulated in the 2000 study have not been realized and many of the projects recommended in that study are not supported by existing or forecasted conditions; Chazen Companies is working on a revised draft for committee review. Kate Mance expanded upon some of the traffic count results and capital project recommendations. Mitch Suprenant noted that the lack of sewer service has limited development in the corridor.
 - Chazen also completed a streetscaping and bike/ped improvement plan for River Street in the Town of Warrensburg
 - Staff provided data collection and a prioritization approach for pedestrian facilities in the Town of Queensbury as part of an ADA Transition Plan; this was part of a federal audit conducted because Queensbury was the recipient of federal transportation funds; we could see more of these become necessary. Frank Bonafide noted that this information was also be asked of CHIPS recipients.
 - An infrastructure flood vulnerability assessment is underway for Washington County for the White Creek Watershed in Salem; Fitzgerald Environmental Associates has conducted public outreach, completed survey of bridges and began developing the hydraulic model.

B. Approval of Draft Documents - public comment period closes today on the following draft documents. with acknowledgement from sponsors that the work is complete:

- 1) CR 21 / 18 Intersection Evaluation - A motion was made to approve the CR 21/18 Intersection Evaluation as final:

Moved by: Bob Henke Seconded by: Frank Bonafide Motion Carried

- 2) Exit 18 Rezone Study - A motion was made to accept the Exit 18 Rezone Study as final:

Moved by: Frank Thomas Seconded by: Gardner Congdon Motion Carried

C. 2016-17 program summary - Aaron reported that the draft work program has been developed in consultation with the Technical Advisory Committee and released for a 30-day public comment period that closed on Monday (summary distributed as handout). The following elements were noted:

- revised planning allocations associated with the FAST Act have increased the total program with match by \$8,251 to a total of \$815,999
- New Administration tasks: website upgrade, replacement of aging office hardware, database management training
- New Comprehensive Planning tasks: transition to performance based planning, collection of traffic counts, data reporting, on-call planning and engineering assistance projects; GIS development
- New Long Range Planning tasks - travel demand model calibration; rural transportation needs assessment; bike/ped planning projects, including evaluating connection alternatives to the new Champlain Canalway Trail from the Feeder Canal; completed White Creek watershed infrastructure analysis; assessment of locally-owned traffic signals; Route 9 corridor study from the Hudson River to Round Pond Road
- New task added during public comment period (not in preceding draft) - assessment of QUFSD access options from Aviation Road. John Strough noted prior discussion leading to this request.

Mitch Suprenant asked if A/GFTC would be involved in a requested speed limit change for NYS 197 in Fort Edward. Aaron said that A/GFTC typically has no role in that process; Frank Bonafide suggested that Mitch contact Mark Kennedy. John Strough asked at what level of government would performance measurements be likely to have an impact; Frank Bonafide surmised that they would be aggregated first at the State level and then at the local government level. Noting the new project under consideration for the TIP, Mike Valentine asked how the relative funding amounts for each task category were determined. Aaron replied that those amounts were determined more by historically splits than by current task content. It would be unlikely that those funding amounts would need to be adjusted based upon workload, and there is flexibility allowed before an amendment process is needed.

D. Approval of 16-17 UPWP - A motion was made to approve the 2016-17 UPWP as final.

Moved by: John Strough Seconded by: Dana Hogan Motion Carried

5. **Greater Glens Falls Transit Update** - Scott Sopczyk noted ridership statistics and ongoing and completed capital projects (list distributed as handout). Overall system ridership in 2015 was an all-time high for GGFT. Implementation of a real-time passenger information system is under consideration. Scott also noted that, due to formula limitations in funding distributions that are dependent upon service mileage, state funding assistance for small upstate transit systems has not kept pace with demand or with other federal and local contributions. In response to a question from Gardner Congdon, Scott replied that trolley ridership accounted for 25-30% of overall system ridership. Mike Valentine asked about where the 10% annual increase in ridership could be attributed; Scott replied that fixed route services were up 5% and Freedom and Mobility Express services were down slightly.

6. Transportation Improvement Program

- A. Capital Project Updates and Review (major developments for 2015 and/or planned activities for 2016):
- 1) Warren County - no report provided
 - 2) Washington County - Mike Breault reported on recent developments for the CR 10 over the Poultney River, CR 113 over the Batten Kill, and bridge painting projects.
 - 3) Saratoga County - no new developments outside of pavement preservation projects. Gardner Congdon stated that traffic was worsening in the Exit 17 area and wanted to raise that issue for committee consideration.
 - 4) City of Glens Falls - no report provided
 - 5) Town of Queensbury - no new developments. John Strough reported that the Aviation Road roundabout project has been largely successful.
 - 6) NYSDOT - Frank Bonafide listed several upcoming pavement maintenance projects for NYS Routes 32, 254 and 911E. Planned bridge painting projects include 418 over Schroon in Thurman and 149 over the Champlain Canal in Kingsbury. The Route 9 Gateway project in Lake George will be under construction in 2016. Bridge preservation projects include Route 29 over the Batten Kill and Baldwin Corners Road over the Champlain Canal.
- B. 2017-2021 TIP Development Update (Aaron) - Staff has collected project priorities from our capital project sponsors; those project requests basically exceed planning targets by twofold. After accounting for State highway system preservation needs, approximately \$5.2M per year is available for local project programming, with over 1/2 of that eligible for bridges only. That we have that much bridge money is attributable to programming flexibility offered by Region 1, allowing us to trade money basically only eligible for interstates for local system bridge money. Frank Bonafide explained that MAP-21 prioritized most funding eligibility towards the highest classification of roads, and NYS has shifted towards a preservation-first strategy and has encouraged local sponsors to do the same. Technical Advisory Committee has deferred program formulation to a subset of project sponsors, including Counties, staff and NYSDOT. That group will be meeting in the next month to review a draft program prior to consideration by the TAC; after public comment on the draft, this group will meet in June to approve final program.

7. Other Items - none

8. Next meeting and adjourn

(Next meeting of the Policy Committee is scheduled for 6/8; next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is 4/20)

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:24.

Moved by: Dana Hogan

Seconded by: Mo Wright

Meeting Adjourned