



Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council

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Policy Committee Meeting Minutes - draft
Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Attendees

Agency

A/GFTC Committee Members and Participants

Mitch Suprenant, Chair	Supervisor, Town of Fort Edward
John Strough, Vice-Chair	Supervisor, Town of Queensbury
Ed Bartholomew	President and CEO, EDC of Warren County
Frank Bonafide	RPPM, NYSDOT Region 1
Rob Cherry	NYSDOT Region 1
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
Wayne LaMothe	Director, Warren County Planning Department
Scott Sopczyk	Greater Glens Falls Transit
John Strough	Supervisor, Town of Queensbury
Frank Thomas	Supervisor, Town of Stony Creek
Greg Wichser	NYSDOT Region 1
Mo Wright	Chairman, Saratoga County Board of Supervisors

A/GFTC Staff

Aaron Frankenfeld

Kate Mance

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Visitors Issues

3. Administrative Items

- A. NYSAMPO Update - Aaron - updates on federal legislation: final rule on metropolitan planning has been released:
 - two new planning factors have been established
 - improving resiliency and reliability and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation;
 - enhance travel and tourism
 - performance-based planning shall be implemented
 - performance targets will be established by the MPOs to track progress
 - target selection will be coordinated with the State and public transportation operators
 - no change in designation threshold (50,000)

- Staff is reviewing proposed rulemaking for System Performance, Freight, and Congestion Management and Air Quality. NYSAMPO will compile our comments as warranted.
- In short, performance planning is going to change the way we operate with regards to data collection, planning and programming. Staff additions may be warranted to manage data and create necessary output.

4. Greater Glens Falls Transit Update - Scott Sopczyk noted the following:

- Completed capital projects included four vehicle powertrain rebuilds, replacement of one trolley bus, and conversion of the facility heating system from oil to natural gas
- 2016 FTA grant has been awarded; planned expenditures include a replacement operations vehicle and preventative maintenance
- 2017 FTA program to include purchase of three replacement trolleys, replacement of one hybrid battery module, facility updates, and preventative maintenance
- 2015 ridership was a record high (376,000 passengers, 10.2% increase over previous year), and 2016 ridership to date is up 2.9% from 2015
- GGFT is working with CDTA to develop a real-time passenger information system
- GGFT was found by FTA during its triennial review to be in full compliance with applicable federal review areas

5. Annual Work Program (UPWP)

A. Dix Avenue Corridor Study Update - Kate summarized the following:

- Update is an opportunity to revisit previous growth forecasts and capital recommendations
- The Chazen Companies were awarded the project
- Growth projections have not been realized based on current traffic counts
- Proposed mitigations are significantly smaller in volume and in scale from the 2000 report
- Recommended improvements include signal timing changes at Dix / Quaker, and intersection modifications at the Route 4, Queensbury Avenue, and Highland Avenue intersections

A motion was made to accept the Dix Avenue Corridor Study Update as final.

Moved by: John Strough

Seconded by: Bob Henke

Motion carried.

B. White Creek Watershed Analysis - - Aaron noted the following:

- Following a public workshop held in Salem on May 23, Fitzgerald Environmental Associates has completed a draft report for the White Creek Watershed Infrastructure Flood Vulnerability and Mitigation Assessment.
- The creek, like many in the northeast, has been heavily manipulated by residential and agricultural uses
- The volume of water channeled in White Creek during flood events may have been underrepresented based upon USGS regional classification
- 10 of the 17 bridges over White Creek are limited to passing a ten year flood or less;
- There are many conceptual improvements that can help lessen the impacts of small and moderate floods in the upstream section, including berm removals, restoration of prior floodplains, embankment stabilization, and buffer restoration

- Village alternatives include berm removal, channel widening and deepening, removal of the Archibald Street bridge and abutments, and property acquisition for the purpose of flood plain restoration
 - Town, County and property owners need to continue discussions regarding community priorities and feasible alternatives
 - Study notes that better coordination is needed among watershed partners in order to advance mutual goals (ex - creating aquatic habitat without exacerbating flooding conditions)
 - The study is on our website and has been emailed to our Technical Advisory Committee ; Policy Committee will be asked to approve it following the conclusion of the public comment period
- C. Rural Mobility RFP - Aaron - an RFP for the examination of rural transportation mobility needs and an identification of options has been released; project is intended to guide potential investments in rural transportation by quantifying actual needs and identifying potential solutions, while building off of the AGC's HUD Sustainable Communities work; due date is 6/24
- D. Traffic Count RFP -Aaron - staff is researching various traffic count RFPs from other MPOs and looking to coordinate efforts with other municipalities with an eye towards conducting our own complementary program starting in 2017. Avoiding duplication of effort and ensuring that our counts are useful to our local municipalities are key considerations.
- E. Other ongoing activities - Aaron - Queensbury School access project underway; project added to the UPWP by this committee in March; intent is to optimize access and safety for traffic operations between Aviation Road and Queensbury Schools; Barton and Loguidice was selected , data collection has been completed.

6. Transportation Improvement Program

- A. Capital Project Updates and Review (major developments and/or planned activities for 2016)
- 1) Warren County - no update provided
 - 2) Washington County - Aaron conveyed update provided by Steve Haskins, including:
 - CR 10 - call scheduled with VTrans to discuss cultural resource coordination.
 - CR 113 - SHPO notice of adverse effect received; may impact construction schedule
 - Bridge painting projects (176005) kick off meeting held.
 - Contractor closeout underway on Fenimore Bridge painting project.
 - 3) Saratoga County - nothing new to report.
 - 4) City of Glens Falls - Ed Bartholomew reported that the Fire Road kickoff meeting would be held soon; CME is the consultant.
 - 5) Town of Queensbury - John Strough noted the Aviation Road project that Aaron mentioned earlier. Developer agreements have been negotiated for traffic and access improvements associated with new hotel projects at Exit 18. Another hotel project at Exit 19 has yielded a developer agreement to construct an access to the mall property. EDCWC Exit 20 study is getting underway. Looking to continue discussions with NYSDOT regarding Route 9L improvements.
 - 6) NYSDOT - Frank Bonafide reported the following:
 - The Critical Bridges over Water (CBOW) program includes five bridges in the A/GFTC area. Route 4 over the Feeder Canal will remain open during

construction, but Route 196 over the Feeder Canal will be closed between July and September. A public information session on those projects is scheduled.

- Bridge painting projects include Route 418 over the Schroon River, Lock 6 over the Champlain Canal, and Route 149 over the Champlain Canal.
- Route 9 over Trout Brook is underway; new structure will carry widened shoulders.
- Work on the Route 9 Gateway Project continues; contractor on track for completion this year.
- Paving project on Route 40 to be done this week.
- Route 32 paving (Kingsbury) is complete.
- Future paving projects (2017 and beyond) include sections of Route 22 in Hebron, Route 9N in Bolton and Lake George, Route 8 near Wevertown, Route 9L in Queensbury and Route 418 in Warrensburg.

B. 2016-2021 TIP Update - Summary of Content - Aaron

- draft TIP was approved by the Technical Advisory Committee for public comment in May
- minor changes have been implemented since that approval and are reflected in the project tables
- public comment period was completed yesterday
- total program over five years is \$117.998
- some leniency from the programming instruction and considerable funding source flexibility was extended in order for us to compile a semblance of a meaningful program - thanks in large part to Region 1
- program features much more off-system bridge money than we could expect on account of trading National Highway Performance Program funds
- still struggling with highway funding; no site specific local highway projects are programmed; all moved into pavement preservation setasides
- MTC is now lumped into one solicitation rather than annual or biannual, in order to encourage larger projects
- transit capital program is sufficient to allow GGFT to continue to sustain existing services

C. Self-Certification - Aaron - included in TIP, this document provides an update as to the status of core MPO products and asserts that A/GFTC is conducting its regional transportation planning and programming processes in accordance with federal procedures

D. Approval of TIP and Self-Certification - **A motion was made to approve the 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program and 2016 Self Certification.**

Moved by: Bob Henke **Seconded by:** Ed Bartholomew **Motion carried.**

Frank Bonafide credited A/GFTC and its Technical Advisory Committee for working cooperatively within challenging funding constraints.

E. Ongoing and upcoming solicitations / funding opportunities

- 1) Pavement Preservation Program - Aaron - local projects being solicited by A/GFTC; deadline has been extended until 6/10.
- 2) FTA 5310 - Kate reported that an abbreviated project solicitation for previously unspent FTA 5310 funds is being conducted by NYSDOT.
- 3) Transportation Alternatives Program - Frank - NYSDOT is discussing upcoming solicitation, expected later in the year.

- 4) Repurposed earmarks - Frank - last federal omnibus bill allows for the repurposing of previously unspent earmarks within 50 miles of the original project location. A/GFTC area eligibility appears limited. NYSDOT Regions are awaiting instructions.
- 5) Bridge NY / Pave NY - Frank - Pave NY - \$100M to be distributed to municipalities using the CHIPS formula; Bridge NY - 60% of \$100M to go to upstate local bridges; details forthcoming.

Bob Henke asked if facilities that could support snowmobile usage were eligible for the TAP program. Aaron will check the existing guidelines.

7. **Other Items** - Wayne LaMothe reported that the Department of State has awarded funding to study the potential economic development impacts of extending a rail service connection between the Saratoga and North Creek Railway south to Rensselaer station. The IBI Group has been selected to conduct the study; an advisory committee will include CDTA and Saratoga County Planning. The contract amount is \$109,000 and 4-6 month completion time is anticipated.

8. **Next meeting and adjourn**

(Next Technical Advisory Committee is July 27, 2016; next Policy Committee meeting is 03/2017).

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 AM.

Moved by: Cassie Fedler

Seconded by: Bob Henke

Meeting adjourned.