



Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council

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MEETING MINUTES OF THE A/GFTC TAC

October 19, 2010

10:00 - 11:30

Holden Room, Crandall Public Library

251 Glen Street, Glens Falls

Attendees

Agency

Members

Stu Baker

Mike Fiorillo

Tori Riley

Mary Anne Mariotti

Scott Sopczyk

Steve Sweeney

Jeff Tennyson

Mike Valentine

Richard Wilson

Walter Young

Town of Queensbury Community Development

Village of Hudson Falls DPW

Washington County LDC

NYS DOT Region 1

GGFT

NYS Canal Corporation

Warren County DPW

Saratoga County Planning Department

Washington County DPW

LC-LG RPB

Staff

Aaron Frankenfeld

A/GFTC

Sarah Gebbie-Measeck

A/GFTC

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Aaron Frankenfeld called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.
2. **Visitor Issues** - none
3. **Administrative Items**
 - A. Co-chairman election - Aaron reported that the voting is currently in progress. If a tie occurs the committee will deal with it at that time.
 - B. Items from August meeting – In regards to the Chocolate Moose RV Campground issue that was brought up at the last TAC meeting, Aaron reported that A/GFTC sent a letter to the Town of Fort Ann Planning Board to let them know what staff services were available to them when considering matters of regional transportation impact. A/GFTC also sent along the resolution from the last meeting to DOT asking that they consider requesting further analysis of the proposed campground. DOT did apply additional consideration to the issue. They have indicated that in granting the Town's requested speed limit reduction, in conjunction with the local enforcement efforts that were committed as part of the request as well as the Campground's intent to prohibit pedestrian trips out of the facility, they are willing to issue the required highway work permit pending site approval from the Adirondack Park Agency. DOT also reaffirmed that a stop light at Tripoli/Hadlock/149 intersection is still not warranted. Stu Baker reported that the APA has approved the project.

- C. iPoolNorth contract – Sarah reported that A/GFTC has renewed a 3 year contract with Ecology and Environment for \$7,900 a year with a free upgrade in website platform when CDTC upgrades in conjunction. This was negotiated down from the \$10,000 a year fee that was originally proposed.
- D. Operations Plan / Host Agency agreement – Aaron reported that A/GFTC will be drafting an operations plan. Stu Baker, Wayne LaMothe (previously), Mike Valentine and Scott Sopczyk agreed to review the plan. Part of the operations plan includes A/GFTC's host agreement that will expire in April 2012. Walter Young reported that the LCLGRP is fine with continuing to host A/GFTC aside from the occasional late reimbursements from DOT. The LCLGRP is applying for a line of credit from Glens Falls National Bank to cover A/GFTC expense in the event of lapsed reimbursements. The loan is still in the process of being approved.

4. Transit

- A. GGFT Update – Scott Sopczyk reported that GGFT is still in the process of completing its ARRA projects. The shelter at Ridge St. is done and much improved over the old one. A bus is on order for March. They are also replacing a lift in the garage but have incurred delay due to environmental conditions. They will also be replacing FAME vehicles in 2011. Ridership is up 3% for 2010. The trolley season is over and went well. More traffic back up at 149/9 intersection is anticipated next summer. Scott asked about consideration for directional signing that would encourage north- and southbound freight traffic to use Exit 21 instead of Exit 20 to decrease congestion. Aaron will speak with NYSDOT R1 regarding the warrants for such signing.

5. UPWP

- A. Consultant / Staff Activities
 - 1) Local Traffic Engineering Assistance Program
 - a. Lake George Gateway Corridor – Aaron reported that the draft plan includes strategies to address pedestrian issues, stormwater runoff, and traffic calming. The Town of Lake George wanted to know if DOT could build some of these recommendations into their planned Route 9 pavement reconstruction. Mary Anne Mariotti reported that the project was already let and therefore they could not alter the design at this point. Mary Anne will also make sure that a DOT response to the draft Corridor plan has been sent to the consultant.
 - b. Glens Falls residential traffic calming – Aaron reported that A/GFTC received 2 proposals and selected the one from RSG.
 - 2) Travel Demand Modeling contract – Aaron reported that the consultant is still working on calibrating the model and anticipates meeting with him in a couple weeks. A/GFTC has purchased the TransCAD model software.
 - 3) GIS Services contract – Sarah reported that Fountains Spatial has completed a traffic count viewer that lists data on traffic counts on the non-State system in the A/GFTC area. It can be found along with the TIP project viewer on the A/GFTC website under the Projects tab. A pavement application is also currently being created to help A/GFTC and county DPWs score pavement. DOT provided A/GFTC and DPW staff with a pavement score training session,

which was very helpful and informative. Aaron reported that the transit ridership application, also created by Fountains Spatial, will be used this following Spring for GGFT's triennial passenger mile data collection requirements.

- 4) Village of Greenwich bicycle and pedestrian assessment – Sarah reported that A/GFTC is currently halfway done with collecting data for the assessment. Aaron and Sarah will go out again on October 22nd to collect the rest of the data and will compile and create a prioritized list of streets based on bicycle and pedestrian accessibility for the Village. The Village will use this list to help determine where improvements are needed and where to best spend funds.
- 5) Bicycle map update – Sarah reported that A/GFTC will be updating their bicycle map. A survey of other MPO bicycle maps was done to see how many currently rate their roads based on bikeability. About half do. Various members of the TAC noted that rating the roads requires a lot of data and can be controversial. The ratings would have to be defined. Jeff Tennyson noted that A/GFTC would have to be cautious about avid bicycle groups pushing for funds to improve roads based on the ratings given. It was also noted that preserving the distinction between a map and a guide is important. Aaron has told bicycle advocacy groups before that if they get a municipality to designate a road as a bicycle route then it would be put on the map as such.
- 6) WWIDA Shovel Ready Certification – Aaron reported that the WWIDA has requested A/GFTC's help with obtaining shovel ready certification by satisfying the need for a traffic evaluation. A/GFTC's software for this kind of evaluation is currently out of date and would cost \$1,250 to purchase/update. CME gave a cost estimate of \$2,500 for a traffic evaluation. Mary Anne reported that Rob Cherry did review CME's scope and besides a few issues it would be adequate. Mike Valentine felt it was reasonable to ask the WWIDA to pay for the cost of CME to conduct the traffic evaluation in full. Tori Riley agreed. Aaron will inform the IDA of the TAC's decision.

6. TIP

A. Project Updates

1) Warren County – Jeff Tennyson reported that Tannery Bridge in Stony Creek will be open soon. Construction has started on the Milton St. Bridge in Warrensburg. The box beams are being set for the Alder Brook Bridge in Chestertown. Corinth Rd. is still in the utility phase. A thin overlay will be put down for traffic over the winter. Responding to an inquiry from Scott Sopczyk, Jeff will check to see if the Media Drive intersection will be done before winter. Harrington Road just received federal authorization. A winter bid and spring construction start are anticipated. A mid- to late summer bid for a fall construction schedule is anticipated for Beach Rd in order to avoid construction during peak summer traffic. A public meeting will be held for this project on October 28th at 6:30 PM at the Town of Lake George town hall. Jeff also reported that the County's current salvage policy (working salvage for steel, cut stone etc into bids) has allowed them to save costs on temporary bridges, culverts, bank stabilization other projects where they can reuse the salvaged materials. He encouraged others to look into similar policies.

2) Washington County – Dick Wilson reported that he is still trying to get up to speed on all the projects. He is aware that the railroad bridge project in Whitehall is on a tight schedule, but plans to be done on time. They have one more bridge deck to pour. The County is currently trying to finish up projects. Aaron reported that Dewey's Bridge over the Champlain Canal is county owned and action does need to be taken on it or the federal aid eligibility will expire. The County is not interested in replacing it with another truss bridge. Aaron has asked FHWA if the County can use federal funds to demolish it if it is not to be replaced. Aaron also reported that he is working with DOT to address the shortfall of funds for County Route 68 over Little White Creek due to a technical issue with the STIP.

3) Saratoga County – Mike Valentine asked about the status of the Route 9 project at Exit 17 and of the Route 9N bridge replacement over the Hudson River in Hadley/Luzerne. Mary Anne Mariotti reported that the Route 9 project was let in May 2010 and that the Route 9N bridge replacement will be let January 2011. She will check on the status and timing for both.

4) NYSDOT – Mary Anne Mariotti reported that Bob Hansen is officially retired. Mary Anne's group has lost 4 people to early retirement and the entire DOT Region has lost 70 people. The two I-87 bridges will be done next year. The Route 372 bridge in Greenwich had a delay, but should be done next year as well. There are still problems being reported with trucks hitting the railroad bridge over the project. The I-87 resurfacing is largely complete to Exit 20 and the rustic rail has been replaced up to Exit 23. There is a settlement issue with vertical curve on Route 149 in Warren County that will be corrected next Spring.

B. Amendments and Modifications

1) City of Glens Falls request to reprioritize projects (handout) – Aaron reported that the City of Glens Falls has requested a TIP amendment that would effectively add a project for Broad Street as their top priority, switch Hudson Avenue to their second priority and take Dix Avenue off of the TIP. Aaron reported that a public comment period and subsequent Policy Committee approval would be required. Questions arose about cost estimates, project description and fund sources. Aaron noted that the fund source and cost estimates would have to be the same in order to preserve fiscal constraint. A motion was made to forward this TIP amendment request on to the Policy Committee (and open it for public comment) pending the City adequately answers the questions raised by the TAC regarding funding estimates.

MOTION BY: Mike Valentine **SECONDED BY:** Stu Baker **MOTION CARRIED**

C. Make the Connection solicitation – Aaron reported that A/GFTC will send out a solicitation for MTC projects soon. It is a \$200,000 annual program that is made available to the A/GFTC region. Projects must be municipally sponsored. Jeff Tennyson asked if the construction of shoulders could be included. Aaron would look into it and see if that was a fitting project. Jeff also offered to share other ideas regarding improvement opportunities. A/GFTC staff will follow up with Jeff prior to the new solicitation.

- 7. Other Items** – Mike Valentine asked about the status of Safe Routes to School. Aaron noted that he was just on a conference call with DOT and the rest of the MPOs in regards to the next SRTS and Transportation Enhancement Program solicitations. There is currently one year of accrued funding for both programs. SRTS would have only about \$9 million available statewide and TEP would have approximately \$27 million available statewide.
- 8. Next meeting schedule and adjourn** – Aaron reported that the next meeting will be held sometime in January 2011. A Policy Committee meeting will be planned for December. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.