



Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE A/GFTC TAC January 27, 2011

Attendees

Agency

Members

Brian Abare	Village of South Glens Falls DPW
Edward Bartholomew	City of Glens Falls
Frank Bonafide	NYS DOT-Region 1
Robert Cherry	NYS DOT-Region 1
Mike Fiorillo	Village of Hudson Falls DPW
Kevin Hajos	Warren County DPW
Preston Jenkins	Town of Moreau
Wayne LaMothe	Warren County Planning
Scott Sopczyk	GGFT
Steven Sweeney	NYSCC
Scott Tracy	Washington County DPW

Others

Jocelyn Blanchard	SAIL
Edward Doughney	Warren County DPW

Staff

Aaron Frankenfeld	A/GFTC
Sarah Gebbie-Measeck	A/GFTC
Monika Bulman	A/GFTC

Minutes of the Meeting

- 1. Welcome & Introductions** – Aaron Frankenfeld called the meeting to order at 1:30
- 2. Visitor Issues** – Aaron introduced Jocelyn Blanchard, the Coordinator for the Southern Adirondack Independent Living Center located at Glenwood Avenue. The role of the Center is to be an advocate for people with disabilities and Ms. Blanchard's interest in coming to a meeting is to learn more about transportation options available for individuals who cannot drive and to make certain that ADA compliance is given consideration. Aaron noted that part of the A/GFTC program, both through planning and capital improvements is for non-motorized transportation. The update of the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan for the region is programmed for this upcoming year. Ms. Blanchard was invited to assist with the update of the HSTP.
- 3. Administrative Items** –
 - TAC Co-chairman election results: Aaron reported that the TAC elected Mike Valentine to co-chair that committee. He will be the TAC signatory and preside over any issues raised that involve potential staff conflicts.
 - Operations Plan/Host Agency agreement: Aaron stated that there was nothing to report other than the RPB was successful in getting loan to cover short-term gaps between paying A/GFTC expenses and receiving reimbursements.
 - Revision of billing procedures: Aaron reported Region 1 staff and AGFTC staff have had extensive discussions regarding billing practices that apparently were somewhat unusual when compared to other MPOs in the State. The A/GFTC program is reconciled on an annual basis with the UPWP rather than a monthly basis. We will try

to resort to a reporting methodology that is consistently more proportional on a month to month basis. It is hoped that this lessens the concerns of the Expenditures Unit at DOT. Rob Cherry noted that the outcome from the meetings regarding the above situation has been met with favorable feedback.

4. Transit

- A. GGFT Update: Scott Sopczyk reported the following: In 2010, overall ridership was on fixed routes was up 3% and trolleys and FAME were up 2%. Typically as the economy improves, ridership numbers increase. The new low floor buses used last year were very well received. Delivery of a hybrid low floor bus is expected in about 6-8 weeks. Two replacement vehicles will be procured for the FAME service. The Transit Development Plan was completed several years ago and public outreach for changes will hopefully take place soon once the Governor's budget comes out. Bolton and the Lake George Chamber of Commerce have been in touch with GGFT concerning changing some trolley service. Wayne LaMothe asked if GGFT services are provided to Warrensburg. Currently it is not, but the Town is completing their master plan and would like to establish some kind of transit service. Scott Sopczyk pointed out that in order to provide service to rural areas, a Service Agreement that provides a local match is necessary.

5. Annual Work Program

- A. Review of Staff and Consultant Activities
1. Local Transportation Planning and Engineering Assistance Program
 - a. Lake George Gateway Corridor (Aaron) - The plan has been completed. It was well-received by the Town and has generated additional capital and planning requests.
 - b. Glens Falls residential traffic calming (Aaron) – On hold until spring 2011. Kathy Varney from GF Hospital is involved in advancing pedestrian issues and through grants may be able to purchase some traffic calming devices that could be loaned to various municipalities. Scott Sopczyk reported that Glens Falls Schools are thinking of changing their starting time and possibility changing the traffic pattern flow.
 2. Travel Demand Modeling contract (Aaron) – A new, functional travel demand Model (TransCAD) is in place. We are awaiting the final calibration, methodology report and users guide to the model.
 3. GIS Services contract - Sarah reported that not much is new since the last meeting. Fountains Spatial finalized an agreement with us to host our traffic count and projects viewers and make some updates as required. Our ridership application is finished and our pavement application is 99.9% finished.
 4. Village of Greenwich bicycle and pedestrian assessment (Sarah) -We have a draft bike/ ped assessment for the Village that was conducted in the summer and fall. It is out for comment to the Village and DOT. DOT Region 1 has some questions regarding its content and what are we planning to do with the assessment. Rob Cherry felt the document seemed to help to identify conditions of existing facilities. Identifying where the specific needs are would add value. Mr. Cherry was not certain what the intention of the assessment was. Aaron pointed out that we wanted to provide the Village with an inventory and some general strategies that they may wish to consider. Additional discussion included ADA requirements. Ms. Blanchard requested a copy of the draft.
 5. iPoolNorth update (Sarah) -There are 96 enrolled users. We renewed our contract with Ecology Environment. We are waiting for CDTC's iPool2 to renew to the upgraded platform Green Ride Connect. Wayne LaMothe asked what the duration of this effort was and if he should direct interested parties to the site. Aaron replied that it is ongoing effort with extensive prior commitment.

B. Upcoming Activities

1. WWIDA Shovel Ready Certification (Aaron) - Met with Tom Jarrett to discuss some of the needed data that we would need to run some preliminary traffic analysis for Phase II of the Airport Industrial Park. The data should be available in about a week. Our highway capacity software has finally been delivered to us.
 2. HUD Community Challenge grant (Aaron) - The City of Glens Falls was successful in obtaining a grant that has elements of improving non-motorized transportation. We have committed to work with the City to get the most out of their investment. Ed Bartholomew reported there have been 2 three-hour conferences with the representatives in Washington reviewing the budget. It will probably be another 2 to 3 months before this project gets on the ground.
 3. Queensbury commercial/industrial access road (Aaron) – Preliminary discussion had taken place with Queensbury Supervisor Stec regarding carrying this task as an element of the upcoming work program. The interest was reaffirmed at a meeting on 1/26.
- C. 2011-2012 Work Program - Aaron went over the summary that was distributed around the table (handout). Only the known savings was programmed as opposed to the estimated savings, which would have resulted in an additional \$190,000 being programmed. Mr. LaMothe noted that the current bike pedestrian plan was developed in 2000. Warren County has appointed an advisory committee to develop recommendations on new bike routes. The advisory committee asked that the Planning Department help write the new plan and Mr. LaMothe wondered if A/GFTC could assume a role in that process. Aaron felt we could help Warren County develop their bike/ped plan and then incorporate that into our regional plan. Also discussed: Exit 18 improvements originally included a bike lane that came down Luzerne and Richardson to connect to the Feeder Canal. Kevin Hajos noted that those are being progressed. Steve Sweeney informed the committee of the availability of a draft Canalway Trail plan.

A motion was made to approve the draft UPWP for a 30 day public comment period, with the inclusion of assistance to Warren County for their bicycle and pedestrian plan under Task 3.5 and additional revisions that are forthcoming from Mr. Cherry.

MOVED BY: *Wayne LaMothe* **SECONDED BY:** *Scott Sopczyk* **MOTION CARRIED**

6. TIP

A. Project Updates

1. Warren County (Kevin Hajos)-No significant development since last meeting; Corinth Road has a skeleton crew doing underground utilities; Milton St. Bridge in Warrensburg and the Alder Brook Bridge in Chestertown are shut down for winter; Harrington Road Bridge is out to bid; propose to move the Middleton Road Bridge about 1½ miles north of current location; Mr. Hajos introduced Edward Doughney, Warren County's new senior engineer. Mr. Doughney will be involved with the federal aid projects. Mr. Doughney proceeded to report that proposals have been received for four projects. One project is the reconstruction of Hick's Road; one is a bridge replacement in Johnsbury; and two element-specific bridge projects: Lanfear Road and Palisades Road.
Aaron added, based upon advice from NYSDOT that the Beach Road project needs to be divided into 2 distinct phases, one that incorporates the County-owned portions of the roadway and second that incorporates the state owned portion.

A motion was made to approve this modification

MOVED BY: *Wayne LaMothe* **SECONDED BY:** *Mike Fiorillo* **MOTION CARRIED**

Mr. LaMothe reported that the Warren County Planning Department is working with ANCA, with DOT funding, to redefine the old Dude Ranch Trail. The Scenic Byway will be replaced by the First Wilderness Trail.

2. Washington County, Scott Tracy-No new report: Dewey's Bridge has been closed to traffic; two public information meetings have been held regarding County 61 over the Battenkill and a third meeting is planned with much discussion centering on the design of the bridge.
 3. Saratoga County, Mr. Jenkins-The project on Rte 9 near Exit 17 is about done. It is a tremendous improvement.
 4. NYSDOT, Frank Bonafide- NYS 9N over the Hudson was let last week; currently there appear some savings on jobs, but those may not last long given commodity pricing trends. Rte 4 is in design; the Route 9 safety project is being advanced. Lorenzo DiStefano will be assuming some of Ozzie Priotti's responsibilities. He advised local project sponsors to continue to send in their project reimbursement requests as FHWA was applying greater scrutiny towards projects that appear to be inactive.
- B. Amendments and Modifications
1. City of Glens Falls request to reprioritize projects (Aaron)-This was a previously approved action by this committee to approve for public comment the City's request to reorganize their planned TIP projects which would replace their existing number one priority, Hudson Avenue reconstruction and rehabilitation, with a similar project for Broad Street, in turn delaying Hudson Avenue and putting Hudson Avenue in Dix Avenue's place. We were waiting for comments from DOT regarding project justification. We have the approval to move forward with public comment now.
- C. Make the Connection solicitation (Sarah) - MTC is a reimbursement program to fill gaps in bike/ped networks. In October, we sent a solicitation to municipalities and received 8 proposals, requesting more money than we have. Four projects were awarded: Warren County for shared use lanes along West Mountain Road; Warren County for a new connection from the bikeway along Rte 149 to the Rte 9 outlets; Village of Argyle, for sidewalks along Sheridan Street; Village of Granville (which was a joint application between the Village and the Town) for sidewalks along Quaker Street. Award letters have gone out to all of our successful municipalities informing them that the next step is for them to meet with A/GFTC and Region 1 staff to discuss the locally administered aid process. The selection process favored construction of new facilities over maintenance related activities. Region 1 identified some concerns with issues with the Granville application that have been resolved. A/GFTC staff will revise application and ranking procedures to satisfy additional concerns raised by NYSDOT staff.
7. Other Items: Discussion regarding the future transportation economic climate took place. Region 1 expects to receive about \$120-\$140 million less than forecasted. There is no sense of how much money will be available. Wayne LaMothe asked if the Smart Growth Policy applied to existing roads and bridges. Rob Cherry replied that this issue has not been resolved.
 8. Next meeting schedule and adjourn - Policy Committee meeting will take place in March.

Mr. LaMothe moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:25.