



Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE A/GFTC TAC January 16, 2013

Attendees

Agency

Members and Participants

Brian Abare	Village of South Glens Falls DPW
Stu Baker	Town of Queensbury
Ed Bartholomew	City of Glens Falls
Frank Bonafide	NYSDOT
Mike Breault	Washington County DPW
Paul Cummings	Chazen Companies
Ron Conover	Town of Bolton
Dennis Dickinson	Town of Lake George
Ed Doughney	Warren County DPW
Preston Jenkins	Town of Moreau
Wayne LaMothe	Warren County Planning
James Lindsay	Town of Kingsbury
Scott Sopczyk	GGFT
Steve Sweeney	NYS Canal Corp.
Scott Tracy	Washington County DPW
Michael Valentine	Saratoga County Planning

Staff

Aaron Frankenfeld	A/GFTC
Kate Mance	A/GFTC
Monika Bulman	A/GFTC

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Welcome & Introductions – Aaron called the meeting to order at 1:35.
2. Visitor Issues – Paul Cummings from Chazen Companies presented the plan that calls for restoration and revitalization of the Route 9 Lake George Gateway Corridor. The initial planning document was funded by A/GFTC and the Town wants to get a project listed on the TIP. The total cost for related improvements (in 2015 \$) is over \$6 million. Recently the project was awarded \$550,000 from the NYS Environmental Facility Corporation. This would fund a significant portion of sidewalk work. The Town is looking at other funding sources. Aaron pointed out that we have about \$6 million worth of total non-preservation capital for the entire region over a four year program period. Funding is so limited that we did not conduct a program solicitation for new projects. We are trying to accommodate existing projects. Frank Bonafide stated that the sponsor of the project needs to be clearly identified, reiterated NYSDOT's Preservation First strategy, and requested that if the project were to be included in the TIP that it should be an illustrative project and include a notation that no funding beyond that obtained from EFC had been identified. Paul Cummings felt if there was a budgetary change in the future, we need to not miss an opportunity of getting this project on the TIP. Ed Bartholomew and Wayne LaMothe both supported the notion that this project was warranted from a regional perspective and noted its standing as a project that had planning support. Aaron suggested that we could give it a project listing but assign it beyond the active years of the TIP.

A motion was made that we add this project to the post-TIP period as long as it does not impact existing projects.

MOVED BY: Wayne LaMothe SECONDED BY: Michael Valentine MOTION CARRIED

There was a discussion regarding whether a solicitation should go out for illustrative projects. Dennis Dickinson reiterated that the Town of Lake George is committed to this project.

3. Administrative Items

A. Approval of 12/19 Minutes A motion was made to approve the minutes.

MOVED BY: Wayne LaMothe SECONDED BY: Michael Valentine MOTION CARRIED

B. Draft Operation Plan - Aaron At the last meeting this was briefly discussed. Organizationally we lack strong guiding documentation. An Operations Plan would help to formalize procedures and clarify our relationship with our Host Agency. Whether we go forward with the Plan depends upon committee input. Does the group wish to continue with consensus voting for the MPO or do we wish to make a change to this procedure? There is nothing in Federal statute that says MPOs have to be consensus. After a lengthy discussion it was decided we would continue with consensus voting. Given that that is unchanged from existing A/GFTC procedure, the Operations Plan will be put on hold unless necessitated by other events.

4. UPWP

A. Completed/Ongoing Activities - Aaron

The Accident Analysis for Washington County is nearly done. We received some data from the Town of Moreau.

Safety Analysis for Crandall and Orville- there was a public hearing at the City of Glens Falls to consider installing stop signs as a result of the technical analysis we did at that intersection. Those have since been installed.

Crossing Guard Analysis- GFPD has taken the initiative of moving one of the crossing guards in advance of any final report we had done. The move was based upon public feedback and initial data collection results.

The public hearing has been set for the Town of Warrensburg prior to implementation of the recommended changes to the subdivision and street standards.

B. 2013-14 Unified Planning Work Program (handout)

1) Summary - Aaron, we need to approve a draft UPWP for public comment. Aaron reviewed the handout and also pointed out that it was available online with all of the financial tables. The reduction in carryover from FHWA is a result from a discrepancy that always exists between staff accounting versus what FHWA has officially released as savings. Aaron listed the new projects that were included in the upcoming program.

- 2) Approval for Public Comment - **A motion was made to approve the draft UPWP and make it available to the public for a 30 day comment period.**

MOVED BY: Wayne LaMothe SECONDED BY: Ed Doughney MOTION CARRIED

5. Transit

- A. GGFT Update: Scott Sopczyk - Transit had a record high ridership (343,000). GGFT is working on an update to its capital program. Still concerned about the impact of the Rte 4 project on Exit 20 traffic this summer. Trolleys may have to use I-87 to bypass congestion near the Outlets. An RFP is out for roof replacement for GGFT offices.
- B. 5316/5317 Solicitation, Aaron - Discussed this at last meeting and elected to allow NYSDOT to conduct the solicitation on our behalf. The solicitation is out with a deadline in the *Contract Reporter*, but there is no information on the State website and local parties have not been informed. There is a February 15th deadline which does not allow much time for completion of the application.

6. TIP

- A. Amendments and Modifications: Aaron - The Putnam Rail Crossing Amendment and the Rte 9 Safety Project Amendment have both been processed.
- B. Make the Connection Program - Aaron - the TAC had consented not to conduct a subcommittee evaluation of the two projects we had received and approved them pending DOT review. Frank Bonafide said that we could go ahead and notify the sponsors of their successful applications.
- C. 2014-19 Program Outline, Aaron - Region 1 has gone through the exercise of identifying what is required to satisfy the preservation target associated with the upcoming capital program. (Handout) Frank has separated out the State set-aside needs from the program, identified an amount that is potentially available for local preservation type projects, and identified an amount that is potentially available for local non-preservation type projects. Aaron stated that the absolute numbers aren't necessarily fixed, but the order of magnitude between programs is likely close. The Department is not seeking any non-preservation project candidates. Due to local system eligibility requirements, the Region has made efforts to shift as much of its program to the National Highway Performance Program where applicable to free up STP funds for local use.

Frank - We have gone through our program and we've pretty much decided what we need to do to meet the goals that we have been given. The *Available Planning Target for Preservation* guide, covering a four year period, on the handout was explained in detail. After subtracting for State system preservation needs, the balance for local system preservation projects totals \$23.289 million. Frank also explained the funding for *Available Planning Target for Beyond Preservation*.

Aaron noted that he had added the Unresolved Projects to the handout, including CR113 over the Batten Kill, Middleton Bridge over the Schroon, CR 10 over the Poultney and Dix Avenue rehab. All except for Dix Avenue were likely to be non-preservation projects and thus difficult to accommodate within the new program.

Ed Doughney raised the objection from Warren County regarding the preservation mandate, as Warren County already does preservation work at its

own expense. He stated that while preservation-first may be an effective strategy for dealing with State infrastructure, it was not in the best interest of Warren County to shift so much funding away from substantial capital projects. There was a discussion on what Warren County spends on bridge preservation. Frank noted that there will be opportunities to transfer local preservation work to the federal program and thus free up some local capital for other purposes. Aaron acknowledged that there will be funds available for municipalities that choose to advance preservation candidates but noted the unfortunate heavy-handed nature of the programming instruction; Frank countered that this was the Department's attempt to preserve as much infrastructure as possible given the limited capital resources.

Aaron asked Frank if was any committee action required given the emergence of some internal NYSDOT programming deadlines that had little relation to the A/GFTC timetable. Frank said that he would like a program that represents the TIP/STIP into their database by the end of January. CDTC has a 60 day public comment period for their TIP, and it is necessary to review the entire R1 program as a whole. Frank was clear that this is the program being proposed that meets the guidelines and balances the budgets. Aaron pointed out that the preservation requirements don't kick into our TIP until the second year. We have a federal fiscal year of time to get some of our existing capital commitments in line, executed and delivered.

6. Other Items

Handout - State Fiscal Year 2013 Listing Projects, Consultants, etc

Frank emphasized the importance of adhering to project delivery schedules.

7. Next meeting and adjourn

The next TAC will be March 20 and the Policy Committee will meet February 20th.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 was made.