



Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council

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Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

1:30 PM

Attendees

Agency

Stu Baker	Town of Queensbury Community Development
Frank Bonafide	NYS DOT Region 1
Mike Breault	Washington County DPW
Rob Cherry	NYS DOT Region 1
Chris DeBolt	Washington County Planning Department
Ed Doughney	Warren County DPW
Preston Jenkins	Supervisor, Town of Moreau
Joe Orlow	Mayor, Village of South Glens Falls
Shawn Raymond	Warren County DPW
Chris Round	The Chazen Companies
Dan Rourke	Barton and Loguidice
Owen Shevlin	NYS DOT Region 1
Scott Tracy	Washington County DPW
Mike Valentine	Saratoga County Planning Department

A/GFTC Staff

Aaron Frankenfeld

Kate Mance

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - Aaron called the meeting to order at 1:30.
2. **Visitor Issues** - none
3. **Federal update**
 - A. **Highway Trust Fund** - Aaron reported that a short-term funding measure was passed by Congress to address insolvency in the Highway Trust Fund until May 2015. The measure was a redirection of funds and included no long-term fix for addressing continued revenue shortfalls.
 - B. **Rulemaking Summary - Metropolitan Planning** - Aaron briefly reviewed a staff summary of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Statewide and Metropolitan Planning. The new emphasis on performance-based planning will impact the Transportation Improvement Program and Long Range Plan; rulemakings on performance measures are anticipated by December. Other core requirements for small MPOs remain largely unchanged. The New York State Association of MPOs has formulated comments and submitted those to the docket.

4. UPWP

A. Completed / Ongoing Studies

- 1) **Exit 17 Land Use Study** - Aaron reported that the public comment period had closed on August 4. Comments from NYSDOT and Harry Gutheil were compiled and sent to the consultant (CME) for consideration. CME has requested and been granted a \$5,000 supplemental agreement to complete the study. Preston Jenkins stated that the Town was still actively pursuing the expansion of sewer services along the corridor. Rob Cherry requested that a disclaimer be included in the study to state that the planning concepts were illustrative and would require additional engineering review. Aaron agreed to include language to that effect in the final document. Rob also asked how comments would be addressed within the document. Aaron said that past practice was to incorporate as many viable comments as possible without generating a formal response to each comment submitted.
- 2) **Bike/Ped Plan update** - Aaron reported that the Policy Committee had voted to adopt the Bike/Ped plan update, and he also credited Kate with the major upgrades incorporated within the newly adopted document.
- 3) **On-call Assistance Projects**
 1. **Jackson Heights ES Transportation Study** - Aaron reported that a draft plan to address congestion and safety issues has been sent to the school's principal for review and comment. Additional time has been requested for that review. Recommendations included in the draft for consideration include circulation changes, student drop-off procedure modifications, and crossing guard operations optimization.
 2. **River Street Streetscaping Concept** - Kate reported that a study advisory committee has been formed and a kick-off meeting was held on July 21. Thorough public outreach will be emphasized. A walking tour (with notice to the public) is planned. Rob Cherry reported that traffic counts were recently taken and were being processed and should be available by the end of the week. He also noted that the record plans would be available to the consultant (The Chazen Companies) from the residency. Kate also raised the issue of changing the Functional Classification (FC) of NYS 418, as the Town of Warrensburg has expressed an interest in doing so. Aaron noted that 418 is the only State-owned highway within the region that is not federal aid - eligible, but eligibility is no guarantee of funding availability. Staff does not wish for the FC issue to become a distraction. Frank Bonafide, while noting that DOT has a process in-house to evaluate proposed FC changes, added that federal aid eligibility does not necessarily improve the likelihood of improvements to State-owned infrastructure.
- 4) **EV Charging Station Network Evaluation** - Kate presented the initial results (handout) from an analysis intended to inform the potential siting of municipal charging stations for electric vehicles. This effort was modeled from a similar analysis for the City of Albany and focuses on potential locations within municipally-owned parking areas for Type II charging stations. Those areas were buffered with employment and land use data in an attempt to generate potential medium and longer-term parking stays. Discussion ensued regarding designated reserved spaces for EVs and the ability of the public to reserve those spaces. Staff will continue with this effort by producing similar analyses for municipalities within the urban area.

- 5) **Intersection Safety - Training Recap** - Kate attended an Intersection Safety training course in Albany presented by the Cornell Local Roads Program. During the course of the training, methodologies for conducting safety analyses that did not rely upon traffic count data were discussed. Intersection count data has been hard for A/GFTC to obtain in the past as local system counts are scarce. These new methods hold promise for advancing systemic safety analyses in the absence of extensive traffic counts. Kate will look to apply this approach to highways in Warren County and evaluate the results.

5. **GGFT Update** - Schedule conflict; no report.

6. **TIP**

A. Project Updates from Sponsors

1) Warren County - Ed Doughney reported the following:

- Valley Road / Combs Road is on track for an early Spring letting. Consultant is working to modify design report.
- Blair Road is also on schedule for an early Spring letting.
- Federal authorization has been obtained for the Make the Connection projects, with the exception of the West Brook sidewalks.
- A beyond preservation request is planned for the Palisades Road bridge. The County questions the value of doing element-specific work to repair a bridge with other aging and deteriorating components. Mike Valentine asked if there was a process in place to determine what projects could qualify as replacement candidates; Aaron noted that this project has been on the program well before the preservation programming mandate was established.
- Design for the three bridge preservation projects can be safely reprogrammed from FFY 14 to FFY 15 without impacting the County's construction schedule.

2) Washington County - Scott Tracy reported the following:

- Work is progressing on Cr 16 over Halfway Brook. South abutments have been poured. Schedule is aggressive.
- CR 12 /Hatch Hill Road safety project was completed in June and coordinated with two paving projects.

3) Saratoga County - Mayor Orlow noted some continuing operational concerns with the recently completed safety project on Route 9 in South Glens Falls. Queuing issues have been observed and associated with the new pavement markings, and some signal actuation appears to be delayed. Frank Bonafide offered to follow up.

4) City of Glens Falls - no report.

5) Town of Queensbury - Stu Baker reported that roundabout at the intersection of Aviation Road / Dixon Road / Farr Lane was open to traffic, with only landscaping left to be completed.

6) NYS DOT - Frank Bonafide reported that NYS 9L would likely be re-paved this year. Given existing physical and ROW limitations, there are no feasible opportunities to safely create additional shoulder space. Frank also distributed the A/GFTC-area project commitment list and reported that Region 1 was among the highest performing in the State with regards to on-time project delivery and that that

would likely continue. He then thanked the local project sponsors for contributing towards that result.

B. Amendments and Modifications

- 1) **CR 10 over the Poultney** - Washington County submitted a TIP amendment request to delay construction from FFY 14-15 to FFY 16-17. The State of Vermont is the lead agency on the project and there has been considerable uncertainty with regards to project priority and schedule. A concern was expressed that Vermont could move on the project before the delay date; Aaron reported that there was no administrative pressure to delay the project. Given the uncertainty regarding the project's existing status, the TIP amendment was tabled.
- 2) **Preservation Projects - schedule adjustments** - Aaron reported that the preservation projects appear to be on track. Some design phases will need to be moved from FFY 13-14 to FFY 14-15. Staff is unclear of status of the Town of Moreau's projects and wants to be sure that the Town is proceeding in a manner that will not jeopardize their ability to collect federal reimbursements; Supervisor Jenkins said that he would look in to it.

C. Bridge Preservation Analysis - Aaron reported that GPI sent a draft agreement without cost information to staff; that was reviewed by the committee and returned to GPI with comments and a request for cost information. A revised draft agreement has been provided that includes a cost estimate that is considerably higher than what was expected. The review committee will need to have another look; as the funding for this project is derived from the capital bridge repair setaside, staff has a goal of keeping the cost of this analysis under the amount that it would cost to design or implement a repair project.

D. Transportation Alternatives Program - Aaron reported that staff has completed its ranking of all eligible TAP projects received by Region 1; the review meeting is scheduled for 8/25. The regional review process has been successful for similar solicitations in the past.

7. Other Items / Adjourn

The next TAC meeting is December 17; a Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for October 15.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: Stu Baker

Seconded By: Ed Doughney

Meeting adjourned at 3:22.