



Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council

11 South Street, Suite 203

Glens Falls, NY 12801

p: (518) 223 – 0086 f: (518) 223 – 0584

info@agftc.org

www.agftc.org

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

1:00 PM

Attendees	Agency
Brian Abare	Village of South Glens Falls DPW
Stu Baker	Town of Queensbury Community Development
Frank Bonafide	NYS DOT Region 1
Tracy Conlon	Trustee, Village of Fort Edward
Paul Cummings	The Chazen Companies
Lindsay Donnellon	FHWA NY Division
Ben Fischer	FHWA NY Division
Karen Hulihan	NYS DOT Region 1
Steve Haskins	Washington County DPW
Fred Mastroianni	Greenman - Pedersen Inc.
Scott Sopczyk	Greater Glens Falls Transit
Jeff Tennyson	Warren County DPW
Mike Valentine	Saratoga County Planning Department
Greg Wichser	NYS DOT Region 1

A/GFTC Staff

Aaron Frankenfeld

Kate Mance

- 1. Welcome and Introductions** - Aaron called the meeting to order at 1:00.
- 2. Visitor Issues** - none.
- 3. UPWP**
 - A. 2014-15 Work Program activities** (Kate)
 - 1) EV Network Screen - The final revision was released for a two-week public comment period. Substantive comments were received from SUNY Albany (possibly resulting from a presentation that Kate did for Capital District Clean Communities at CDTC) and will be incorporated into the document, which will then be transmitted to the urban area municipalities. Scott asked if any materials were available for Earth Day activities at SUNY Adirondack; staff agreed to check.
 - 2) Crash Data Analysis - The draft Warren County report is complete and being reviewed by DPW. It should be ready for committee review by the June 17 meeting. The report could be used as a template for other areas. New data includes roadway departures and intersection analyses; the new content is a significant improvement over previous staff-based analyses.
 - 3) River Street Conceptual Plan - The draft has been made available for public comment (Kate circulated copies of the document). A public meeting was held in conjunction with the Warrensburg Town Board meeting. Comments were generated at the meeting, and a

volume of comments have been received from NYSDOT. The final draft will be sent to the TAC in May with a goal of a June approval to support any CFA applications that may be forthcoming from the Town. The Town is happy with the plan. Kate thanked Paul Cummings of Chazen for helping to prepare a solid report. Jeff Tennyson asked if the report had generated any controversy; Kate noted that there was no dispute from the public. A detailed cost estimate was prepared by Chazen but is not being included in the final report.

- 4) GGFT brochure - Kate noted the ongoing work on behalf of GGFT; Scott Sopczyk circulated a draft. The new version consolidates all route information into one handout.

B. 2015-16 Work Program activities (Aaron)

- 1) Dix Avenue reassessment - This project will review a 2000 corridor study and update of conceptual improvements and assessment of forecasted traffic and growth. RFPs were sent to over 20 consulting firms; target cost at \$35,000; responses are due Friday. Volunteers will be sought to evaluate the proposals.
- 2) Exit 18 rezoning and trip generation analysis - The Town of Queensbury has requested a traffic impact analysis of proposed zoning changes in the Exit 18 area to:
 - determine the effects of maximum buildout on the surface transportation system
 - conceptual improvements needed to accommodate buildout
 - applicability of impact fees and cost-sharing models
 - and potential changes to the zoning that would prevent capacity from being exceeded

The Town is in a position to move this and has indicated to staff that this is a high priority. We will work on a request letter with the Town and circulate to our on-call consultants. This effort will force us to put Halfway Brook Trail connector on hold to limit cash flow issues with host. This project would be administered as an on-call project. The committee concurred that this was worthwhile effort.

- 3) Performance-Based Planning Transition Strategy - A/GFTC staff has been advised by our NYSAMPO staff consultants to hold off on this, pending further developments at the State and national level.
- 4) Development of an Indirect Cost Rate - NYSDOT has communicated to A/GFTC that there is a federal requirement to develop an indirect cost rate (the ratio of costs not attributable to any particular deliverable to direct costs, including salaries and project related expenses). The value of this exercise remains unclear. This appears to be a requirement of the host agency and is to be established between it and its largest federal contributing agency. LC-LGRP has no such rate in place. The risk is perceived to be inability for the feds to reimburse for our expenses, so we will be working with LC-LGRP and their accountants to satisfy the requirement. **A motion was made to request that LC-LGRP share in the accounting cost to satisfy this requirement.**

Moved by : Frank Bonafide Seconded by: Stu Baker Motion Carried.

Jeff Tennyson asked what office of NYSDOT was requesting this information; Frank Bonafide replied that it was the Statewide Planning bureau in the Main Office.

- 5) NCHRP Project - Commercial Vehicles in Smart Growth Environments - The National Cooperative Highway Research Program has contracted with Cambridge Systematics to develop a guide for incorporating commercial vehicles within smart growth environments. They have identified Glens Falls as smart growth environment by virtue of

being retrofitted aging commercial corridor, and would like to include this area as a case study. They have looked to A/GFTC to help put this together and assemble a stakeholder meeting. After some discussion pertaining to the role of NCHRP, it was determined that there was no committee objection to staff assisting Cambridge Systematics with this request.

Aaron noted to Tracy Conlon that staff would be in touch with the Village regarding the planned trail project in Moreau.

4. **GGFT Update** - Scott Sopczyk reported that GGFT was preparing for trolley season. A second larger trolley has been received. These new vehicles accommodate standees better than the older fleet vehicles and will be used on the Glens Falls to Lake George runs. GGFT is actively seeking drivers for the summer season. Ridership is up in 2015 by 7.4% compared to the quarter of 2014; this is noteworthy given the long winter. The value of the brochure (agenda Item 3.A.4.) was discussed. Scott noted that GGFT was working with a private venture that is looking to obtain operating authority to provide transit services between Warrensburg and Glens Falls. There are some apparent logistical issues associated with the application. GGFT is interested in having the proposed new service connect to existing GGFT operations, possibly in Lake George or at the Warren County Municipal Center.

5. **TIP**

A. Bridge Preservation analysis - Aaron - A revised application including prior comments and a cost estimation utility was circulated to the DPWs and DOT for comment; no additional comments were received. GPI is working to incorporate data from all three counties by the end of the month, with the report to follow.

B. Amendments and Modifications

- 1) STP Off System Bridge Program - Aaron - amendments to the bridge program have been processed following PC approval; some eSTIP issues persist.
- 2) Route 9 over Trout Brook - Aaron - TIP amendment request for a new project from NYSDOT. Bridge preservation had been proposed, but the structure's condition is beyond preservation and is a candidate for replacement. The funding offset has been identified as a rural county pavement preservation setaside. Frank reported the costs as \$2.1M for construction and \$0.240M for construction inspection. Design is being advanced with State funds. New projects require Policy Committee approval. **A motion was made to approve this request for public comment and Policy Committee consideration.**

Moved by : Mike Valentine Seconded by: Scott Sopczyk Motion Carried.

- 3) CR 10 over the Poultney River - Aaron - The State of Vermont has requested that it be allowed to move ahead with this bi-state project, with future reimbursements from Washington County. They are only looking to advance design at this point; Frank noted that it is anticipated that the construction schedule can be coordinated with development of the TIP update. Discussion ensued regarding the source of funds; Frank indicated that we will continue to be overprogrammed in STP Off System Bridge funds. **A motion was made to program \$0.150M for the reintroduced PE phase.**

Moved by : Mike Valentine Seconded by: Frank Bonafide Motion Carried.

4) Transit

- i. Facility Rehabilitation - Scott articulated the request to move FFY 14-15 facility improvement funds to FFY 15-16. This constitutes an administration modification; no amendment is required. Staff will make the change.
- ii. Operations Vehicle - Scott Sopczyk communicated GGFT's request that a project be added to the TIP to allow GGFT to replace the 2003 operations vehicle. The project cost is \$0.026M. Aaron stated to the committee that since this constitutes a new project, a public comment period and Policy Committee approval were necessary. **A motion was made to approve this request for public comment and Policy Committee consideration.**

Moved by : Mike Valentine

Seconded by: Jeff Tennyson

Motion Carried.

C. Project updates from sponsors

- Warren County - Jeff Tennyson - Working on scope change for Palisades Road from element specific rehab to replacement; Valley Road bids were opened on the 7th and were under budget. Blair Road is in the ROW acquisition phase, letting in August. The bridge painting project will proceed this month. MTC projects will be constructed this year.
- Washington County - Steve Haskins - CR 113 bridge design agreements are being signed and returned.
- Saratoga County - no ongoing projects
- City of Glens Falls - no report
- Town of Queensbury - Stu Baker - final payments and closeouts for Aviation Road will follow last billing.
- NYSDOT - Karen Hulihan distributed the Regional Directors commitment list for the preceding year; local delivery of projects was good. Frank Bonafide noted that there were 31 local projects administered by the Region during the year, totaling \$60M. The large program was a strain on capital and staff resources. The negative funding balance may have to be accommodated within the TIP update. Route 9 Gateway is let, \$1M under estimate. Frank credited GPI for getting the project designed within a year. Maintenance paving projects include Route 40 in Easton, Routes 32/911E/254 in Hudson Falls and Queensbury, Route 8 in Thurman and Johnsbury (31 miles).

D. Capital Project Setasides

- 1) Pavement Preservation - Aaron - A/GFTC received \$4.365m in applications (14 projects) against approximately \$1.819 in available funds.
- 2) Bridge Preservation - Aaron- there is \$1.561M tied up in hard-to spend STP Flex eligible bridge preservation. Committee may wish to consider moving that money to pavement preservation. Doing so yields \$3.380M, enough to fund priority pavement projects 1 and 2 from Warren County and Saratoga County, as well as 1, 3, and 4 from Washington County. Frank Bonafide has explored trading in that STP Flex for STP Off System, which is much more in demand within A/GFTC. This may not be permissible; Frank is awaiting a response from NYDOT Main Office. Jeff Tennyson noted that he would prefer to have more flexibility with bridge funding, as the paving projects are easier projects to administer with County resources. If allowed, we could move some to pavement and some to Off System bridge. Frank should have an answer within 2 weeks. The decision to award pavement projects was deferred pending receipt of additional information regarding funding options.

3) FTA 5310

- i. Solicitation process - Aaron briefly noted the program and the lapsed solicitation schedule. Kate explained the Sharepoint application process is new and issues had to be resolved. Once up and running, it should be an improvement.
- ii. Selection criteria - Kate - MPOs will be rating and ranking the projects for the first time (formerly a State responsible). A priority listing of goals from Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan was distributed. That list is intended to serve as a guide for applicants and reviewers. Committee members will be asked to assist with project evaluations. Scott asked if sustaining operations was identified as a priority. Kate replied that since the priorities were developed from an operator survey, that wasn't specifically called out in the list. We will add that to the list for emphasis.

E. Proposed revisions to the Make the Connection program solicitation - Kate - In an attempt to address project deliver issues associated with MTC, staff has revised the solicitation narrative. Changes include:

- sidewalk repairs are not eligible
- no ROW is emphasized
- allowing design as an eligible expense; requiring new sponsors to apply for design only
- project minimum (\$50,000 fed) for construction and \$20,000 for design
- 2 year solicitation
- no in-kind service matches

Frank asked what the implications of design-only projects might be on the ten year rule. He also noted previous discussion encouraging applicants to have design completed before approaching the MPO for funding. Discussion ensued regarding sponsoring municipalities, staff assistance to applicants, increasing the project minimum, staff-facilitated training, outside funding opportunities, and consultant - assisted training. Aaron asked that the committee review the draft and be ready to provide comments to Kate within a couple of weeks.

F. State transportation budget - no specific details were discussed. Jeff asked Frank for a listing of ongoing State-sponsored transportation projects to provide information to town and county officials.

6. **Other Items** - Aaron noted that a solicitation for the TIGER program was underway. Frank noted the following changes: Matt Driscoll has been announced as the new NYSDOT Commissioner; Rosemary Powers is the new Chief Operating Officer. Karen Hulihan and Greg Wichser will be responsible for the development of the Region's entire State and local capital program.
7. **Adjourn** - next meetings are June 17, then September 16. **A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:20.**

Moved by : Frank Bonafide

Seconded by: Brian Abare

Motion Carried.