



Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council

Washington County Municipal Center
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MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE A/GFTC TAC July 16, 2008

Attendees	Agency	Phone	Fax
<u>Members</u>			
Brian Brockway	Town of Fort Edward	747-5501	746-1071
Michael Fiorillo	Village of Fort Edward	747-5426	747-5597
Mark Galough	Wash. County Planning	746-2290	746-2293
Willy Grimmke	Wash. County DPW	746-2442	746-2441
Preston Jenkins	Town of Moreau	792-1802	792-1062
Wayne LaMothe	Warren County Planning	761-6410	761-6411
William Lamy	Warren County DPW	761-6556	623-2772
Mayor Phinney	Village of So. Glens Falls	793-1455	793-3063
Scott Sopczyk	GGFT	792-1086	792-7952
Joe Sullivan	City of Glens Falls, DPW	761-3834	
Steven Sweeney	NYS Canal Corp.	471-5033	471-5035
Mike Valentine	Saratoga County Planning	884-4705	884-4780
<u>Others</u>			
Frank Bonafide	NYS DOT-Region 1	388-0440	388-0430
Chris DeBolt	Wash. County Planning	746-2290	746-2293
Robert Cherry	NYS DOT-Region 1	388-0228	388-0430
Sarah Gebbie-Measeck	LC/LGRP B	668-5773	668-5774
Kevin Hajos	Warren County DPW	761-6556	623-2772
Lisa Penistan	Warren County DPW	761-6556	623-2772
Mayor Traver	Village of Fort Edward	747-4023	747-2493
<u>Staff</u>			
Aaron Frankenfeld	A/GFTC	746-2199	746-2441
Kristina Hong	A/GFTC	746-2199	746-2441
Monika Bulman	A/GFTC	746-2199	746-2441

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Welcome & Introductions –TAC Chair Bill Lamy called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm.

2. Visitor Issues – None

3. Administrative Items –

A. Approval of last meeting's minutes

A motion was made to approve the February 8th meeting minutes with the minor corrections Mr. Valentine requested.

MOVED BY: *Wayne LaMothe* **SECONDED BY:** *Joe Sullivan* **MOTION CARRIED**

B. Personnel update

Kristina Hong announced that she will be leaving A/GFTC to attend law school. A personnel search was conducted and effective August 4th Sarah Gebbie-Measeck, from the RPB, will be joining our staff.

Dave Rettig has left the NYSDOT Region 1 in for the Main Office of DOT. Bob Hansen will be the acting Regional Planning and Program Manager.

Mark Galough will be leaving his position and Chris DeBolt, County Planner, will be representing the Washington County Planning Department at A/GFTC meetings.

Aaron requested a motion to endorse the hiring of Sarah Gebbie-Measeck.

MOVED BY: Willy Grimmke SECONDED BY: Mayor Phinney MOTION CARRIED

4. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

A. Transit

1. GGFT Update, Scott Sopczyk

There has been unprecedented interest in contacts regarding ridership from local service, Warrensburg, North Creek, etc. Yesterday Aaron and Mr. Sopczyk met with CDTA to look at ways to link certain operations. Ridership for GGFT through May is up 7%. Since 2006 trolleys have seen an increase of 27%. Despite ridership being up, fuel prices have escalated. Transit systems around the entire country are faced with this problem. GGFT took delivery of 4 new small buses and is in the process of developing a specification to purchase 4 replacement large transit buses for 2009. The larger buses are needed for service to Fort Edward, the Mall, and upper Rte. 9. Mr. Valentine had questions regarding the evening services. There is no evening service in the summer, but GGFT hopes to start it again in September.

2. Transit Development Plan

The last adopted UPWP includes a task to prepare a Transit Development Plan; the RFP is nearly complete. The Study will allow an outside perspective to take a comprehensive look at the service routes, frequencies and intervals.

Mr. Valentine asked how the AlterNet Rides program was working. Aaron replied that membership to the car pooling service is growing. Approximately 20 people are signed up. Glens Falls Hospital has sponsored their own site. We will continue to push the AlterNet Rides program. Mr. Sopczyk said that at CDTA, people have been inquiring about service connections between Albany, Saratoga and Glens Falls.

3. 5310 / Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, Aaron

This is the vehicle procurement program for transportation operations to assist elderly and disabled clients. As part of the Plan, at the MPO level, the recommendations we make will be given more consideration at the State level than in the past. This MPO has 3 applications to review and a subcommittee of the human services transportation working group has

been assembled to do so. They will meet on July 29th.

4. *FTA passenger mile survey, Aaron*
Kristina is working to complete the data collection before her last day with A/GFTC.

B. Consultant Activities

1. *Aviation Road Corridor study, Aaron*
Wilbur Smith is drafting the final document and it will be presented to the public at a work session to be held at the Ramada Inn on July 31 at 6:30. The recommendations from that work session will be brought before the Study Advisory Committee for review before a final document is approved.
2. *GIS Services, Aaron*
The selection committee comprised of Washington County DPW, Warren County Planning, Saratoga County Planning, Washington County RPS/GIS took part in the reviewing the three presentations. Two of those presentations were very strong. The committee recommended that the contract be offered to Fountains Spatial, Inc. based in Schenectady.

Aaron requested a motion to approve the hiring of Fountains Spatial

MOVED BY: Willy Grimmke SECONDED BY: Mike Valentine MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Grimmke pointed out that the selection process had nothing to do with execution of the presentation; content was the issue.

3. *Exit 20 Corridor Management Plan, Aaron*
Out of 7 responses to our RFP, Creighton Manning Engineering was the clear favorite once scores from various reviewing municipalities were averaged. CME has already conducted the first introductory meeting with the study advisory committee. The intent of this study is to come up with a manageable, fiscally constrained short term solution that will take care of the issues on the corridor and analyze bigger picture items that have been floating around for a while (Exit 20 reconfiguration, 149 flyover and the direct access to the Great Escape). CME has put together an aggressive schedule. Hope to have this plan completed by December. Service roads need to be reconsidered. Access management will play a big role. Mr. LaMothe would like to be involved with this study. Mr. LaMothe indicated that there were 27 curb cuts from Exit 20 to 149.

C. Staff Activities

1. *Long Range Plan, Aaron*
Draft chapters have been circulated for review. There are 3 draft chapters left to complete: freight, bike/ped, finance. The environment chapter will be revisited to incorporate energy independence

A brief discussion took place regarding travel trends and changes due to increase in fuel prices. VMTs appear to be going down but not all data is available.

2. *Local System Short Term Accident Reduction, Aaron*

A project solicitation went out. A Road Safety Audit that we hosted through a statewide contract with the MPO Association was performed at the intersection of County Route 12 and Hatch Hill Road in Granville. Two days were spent on how to conduct a safety audit and a team actually went out to conduct a field visit and do a visual assessment. Washington County has indicated that it will use the resulting RSA documentation as support of an STAR-LH application. The regional solicitation that went out offered 2 million dollars to the eight counties in Region 1. Mr. Bonafide explained the intent of this program was to partner with the 8 counties and find the best candidates and to look for a mechanism to determine where there would be the most benefit based on data provided. Mr. Bonafide encouraged everyone to go back to see if there are additional safety candidates that have demonstrable (data-supported) accident histories. A/GFTC will assist with this at municipal request.

5. TIP

A. *Amendments, Aaron*

1. *NYS149 – use of toll credits*

Mr. Bonafide- there is a 200 million dollar gap in State Dedicated Funds and there is a need to find ways to move the program forward without the money. One of the ways was to look at the State-funded projects and to see if there were other opportunities to fund a project. NYSDOT looked at toll roads and knew if the criteria the Feds set up was met, credits would be the compensation. At some point the credits can be used as a match for Federal Aid project. This results in funding changes from 80/20 split to 100% federal with the Toll Credits. A part of WAR 59 is still 100% SDF. Local projects will not be affected by this. There will be a September 18 letting. After additional discussion,

A motion was made to approve the NYS149 amendment request.

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

Note: Mr. Sweeney abstained from voting.

2. *NYS 197 over the Hudson River bridge rehabilitation*

Earlier in the year, DOT approached the committee to request a change in scope for the project and an amendment to change the bridge replacement to rehabilitation. A/GFTC requested that DOT re-engage the public in reviewing options. Do we want to preserve a bridge that is functionally obsolete for the kind of traffic it carries? NYSDOT feels that spending 4-5 million makes it safe and useful for 20 years. Given funding shortages and declining structural conditions, NYSDOT generally cannot entertain functional obsolescence as a selection criterion. A new bridge would be over 10 million. Mayor Traver questioned the possibility of waiting five years. Mr. Bonafide pointed out that the money for a replacement bridge may not be available in five years or even ten years.

A motion was made to forward this to the Policy Comm. for consideration.

MOVED BY: *Wayne LaMothe* **SECONDED BY:** *Mark Galough* **MOTION CARRIED**

3. *GGFT amendment, Scott Sopczyk*
There are vehicles that were replaced several years ago, but because of their condition they are not in service. Because of capacity, the fleet needs to be increased and two new trolleys are required. Capital money will be used in the upcoming grant application to FTA in late September.

A motion was made to approve the GGFT amendment

MOVED BY: *Steven Sweeney* **SECONDED BY:** *Willy Grimmke* **MOTION CARRIED**

B. Project Updates

1. *Warren County, Lisa Penistan*

Mr. Lamy introduced Kevin Hajos, who joined the Warren County DPW staff on Monday.

Grist Mill Road and Tannery, ROW acquisition and final design are in the works; Middleton Bridge, the will be a public meeting August 6 in Warrensburg; Woolen Mill Bridge, finalizing ROW acquisition; Alder Brook, Beach Road, and Harrington Bridge all are in the design phase; Corinth Road, the Town of Queensbury is in the process of acquiring ROW.

Mike Valentine asked about the status of the underground utilities. Mr. Lamy told him that the underground utilities will be part of the project and will be funded by either National Grid or the Town of Queensbury. Aaron inquired about the Beach Road public outreach; a member of the LG Town Planning Board had approached Aaron to indicate that he felt out of the loop. Mr. Lamy said there had been several meetings and the department would be happy to accept calls. Mr. Sopczyk requested a copy of the scoping document as did Aaron. Mr. LaMothe reported that Mr. Tessier came to the Planning Department with plans for the redevelopment of the Gaslight Village property.

2. *Washington County, Willy Grimmke*

County Rte. 61 over the Battenkill, have the state grant application; hope to get the engineering going quickly since it was red flagged again; County Rte. 42 awaiting approval of a change order; Clinton and Division, there were some design revisions enhancements to accommodate ongoing drainage issues. Mr. Brockway asked about Rte 42. Mr. Grimmke said weeds had been removed taking care of visibility problems; once the grading is completed there shouldn't be an issue.

3. *Town of Moreau, Preston Jenkins*

Route 197 and Rte 9 Intersection, no turn lane lights; this is a problem; this was contracted out but nothing has been done. Mr. Bonafide will find out what is happening with the situation. Mayor Phinney added that next week the Village of So. Glens Falls will be exercising the grant to resurface the Betar Byway.

4. *NYS DOT, Frank Bonafide*

149-Rte372, are on track; Rte. 4, work is going on right now; Rte 4 phase 2, locally people are concerned about security and scheduling.

Mr. Galough noted that Washington County has 1 million dollars coming in for the rehab for the Battenkill Railroad.

Mr. Lamy had a question regarding the correct procedure for bridge and highway projects and TIP money based on planning figures that are outdated. As the bidding phase comes up, Mr. Lamy knows things will be higher than noted in the TIP or engineer's estimate and wondered if there will be money to cover these shortages and if the process to move a TIP amendment forward is quick enough to keep the bids valid? The issue of rising costs has been problematic for years, but Aaron asserted that A/GFTC's TIP amendment processes are about as responsive as they can be.

5. *Next meeting and adjourn* - Next meeting will take place September 17th at 1:30. The meeting adjourned at 3:10.