



Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE A/GFTC TAC February 2, 2012

Attendees

Agency

Members

Brian Abare	Village of South Glens Falls
Stuart Baker	Town of Queensbury Community Development
Edward Bartholomew	City of Glens Falls
Frank Bonafide	NYS DOT-Region 1
Robert Cherry	NYS DOT-Region 1
Edward Doughney	Warren County DPW
Mike Fiorillo	Village of Hudson Falls
Kevin Hajos	Warren County DPW
Preston Jenkins	Town of Moreau
Tori Riley	Washington County LDC
Scott Sopczyk	GGFT
Steven Sweeney	NYS Canal Corporation
Scott Tracy	Washington County DPW
Mike Valentine	Saratoga County Planning Board

Others

Staff

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

Minutes of the Meeting

- 1. Welcome & Introductions** – Aaron Frankenfeld called the meeting to order at 1:08
- 2. Visitor Issues** – none
- 3. Administrative Items, Aaron**
 - A.** Federal legislation update-The House is considering HR7, which is their version of the transportation reauthorization bill. Currently it is proposed as a 5-year bill at about 260 billion dollars with a present shortfall of approximately 50-60 billion dollars. Similar to the Senate bill, the House attempts to consolidate or eliminate a number of programs. The set-asides for Enhancements would be eliminated, as would the Safe Routes to School program. Emphasis area include streamlining of review and accelerated project delivery. The House bill does preserve small MPOs, unlike the Senate bill. The House bill is scheduled go to the floor on the 13th.
 - B.** Host Agency agreement- The Host Agency agreement has been signed by the Regional Planning Board for a term of ten years as prescribed by the NYS DOT.
 - C.** Warren County Planning Board Review Applications-Because Warren County has disbanded their Planning Board, there is no entity within the County that can legally process planning review applications. General municipal law 239, those planning board reviews can be transferred to a Regional Planning Board. The Lake

Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board will take over reviewing the applications on a temporary basis until legal issues at Warren County are resolved (2-3 months estimated). Kate Mance and Aaron will assume these responsibilities on behalf of the LC-LGRP.

4. Annual Work Program

A. Ongoing Activities

- 1) Warren County Bicycling Master Plan, Kate -At the last TAC meeting a presentation of the draft plan was given. Comments from the TAC and DOT were integrated into the document. The draft will be presented to the Warren County DPW Committee on February 28th. Once sign-off is made, the draft will go to the full Board of Supervisors in March to get the Plan adopted. The Healthy Communities Coalition in Washington County is interested in a similar plan. Ed Bartholomew asked about the involvement of the Warren County Safe and Quality Bicycling Organization. Kate stated that they provided recommendations and will take the implementation part of the plan to the County and local municipalities. Additional discussion included the Community Challenge Grant, printing of bike maps, draft plan posting to web site.
- 2) Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, Kate-DOT requested an update to the CHSTP for 2012. Kate has been working on the Plan, which will not be a full re-write but rather an update of Census data, mapping and integration of results from an online survey that was sent to transportation providers. There was a 76% response rate to the survey. A draft will be sent to all of the agencies that we will follow up with a stakeholder meeting. It is hoped that the Plan update will generate the necessary level of interest to pursue a Regional Mobility Management Plan.
- 3) Queensbury Commercial / Industrial Access Road, Aaron - A draft document has been reviewed by staff and the advisory committee. The next public meeting will be February 7 at 6:30 at the South Queensbury Fire House. The findings concluded that construction of a new connector road does not alleviate any existing traffic conditions on Quaker Road and Dix Avenue. Upgrading the traffic signal at Quaker and Dix Avenue could result in some substantial improvements. Rob Cherry suggested that a statement in the draft report that suggested that "public funds" could be used towards the project be refined. Aaron agreed to revisit that clause.
- 4) Traffic engineering services, Aaron- Since the last TAC meeting, the following on-call services contracts have been initiated.
 - A. Signal warrant analysis – Bay/Cronin: Warren County would like an intersection evaluation of Bay/Cronin Roads in the Town of Queensbury. This intersection has a significant crash history. Creighton Manning will conduct the analysis. At the County's request, an aggressive schedule has been set for the completion of this study.
 - B. GFSD circulation issues: This study, requested by the City of Glens Falls on behalf of the Glens Falls School District, will analyze traffic conditions around the middle and high schools relating to circulation (student drop-off and pick-up). Access to the school from one of the primary roads has been restricted during periods of high traffic, and this restriction has diverted traffic into the adjacent neighborhood. Resource Systems Group is the consultant on board for this study.

- 4) iPoolNorth update, Kate- The software developer decided they needed to update their platform. A complete overhaul of the system was needed and took much longer than originally anticipated. The new software should go on-line by February 6th. The new system will better along-the-route matching. The interface looks better and is easier to navigate. The in-house site management will also be improved. Upon reviewing our usership, Kate found our site had been spammed with numerous fraudulent accounts. Kate will reboot the Facebook page. Mike Valentine wanted to know how many users we had. Kate replied that users totaled around 120-150. Questions were posed as to how we would market the availability of the site, and adding profile to the presence of existing park and ride facilities was suggested.

B. 2012-13 UPWP

- 1) Financial summary (handout) – Aaron briefly reviewed the financial summary for the upcoming work program.
- 2) Task summary (handout) - Aaron briefly reviewed the summary of tasks for the upcoming work program. Additional detail was provided for the following listed tasks:
 - A. Climate Change Adaptation Vulnerability Assessments: Kate attended a FHWA training session that explored ideas about climate change mitigation. A large segment of the seminar was on adaptation, which is planning to preserve infrastructure that could be adversely affected by weather events that result from continuing climate changes. We propose a county- or region-wide assessment study to figure out which climate conditions will actually effect us, what the effects would be on infrastructure and operations, and what measures may be possible to mitigate or prevent those effects. After discussion, it was agreed to retain this project listing within the draft.
 - B. Regional Mobility Management Plan: Aaron stated that the request that is most frequently asked of A/GFTC is to do something about transportation services for rural areas. A plan that would identify the necessary steps to establish a system of mobility management is the logical progression of the HSTP.
 - C. Long Range Plan 2035 update: Aaron explained that the due date for the LRP update is two years away, but, given the amount of data collection and outreach that is required, it is not too early to start working on that update during the upcoming program year.
- 3) Approval for release for public comment- a motion was made to release the UPWP for public comment and for Policy Committee consideration at a meeting in March.

MOVED BY: *Stu Baker* **SECONDED BY: *Mike Fiorillo* **MOTION CARRIED****

Rob Cherry noted that he had some minor revisions to make to the UPWP. The committee agreed staff's request to entertain those changes.

5. Transit Update – GGFT, Scott Sopczyk

2011 was the best ridership year ever. Planning for the summer is taking place. Trolley changes will be made due to new events coming to Lake George and work on Beach Road. The schedule should be finalized by early March. Many things hinge on the

Governor's Budget/State budget. Fortunately, no cuts to transit are anticipated. Glens Falls Hospital will be working with Transit. GGFT is exploring the development of a smartphone-friendly version of its website with Mannix Marketing with the hope of that being ready by the summer season. GGFT is working with the Washington County Economic Opportunity Council as they are exploring rural transportation options.

6. TIP

A. Project Updates

- 1) Warren County – Ed Doughney reported the following:
 - Corinth Road: the project is complete and the books are being reconciled
 - Middleton Bridge: no significant progress since last TAC, looking at forest preserve status on the land and to relocate the existing bridge
 - Milton Street: project is complete
 - Harrington Road: project is complete, the final change order went to DOT
 - Beach Road: PS&E was dropped off to DOT at 11 AM today, the ROW is in process, anticipating an end-of-March letting
 - Alder Brook Road: project is complete and closeout is starting
 - Hicks Road: A public meeting was held on January 25; project is not controversial and was well received; the draft design should be at DOT within the next two weeks
 - Lanfear and Palisades Bridges: projects are in the same stage, design approvals should be issued tomorrow
 - Crane Mountain bridge: draft design report is being reviewed in-house
 - Make the Connection projects: West Mountain Road Bike Improvements have been completed and reimbursement request is ready; the Bikeway / 149 connection will be done in the spring
 - Valley Road over Patterson Creek Bridge - Creighton Manning should start work by the end of March. An amendment to change the dates for obligation for ROW will be needed.
 - Blair Road: Could be progressed ahead of original schedule/
- 2) Washington County - Scott Tracy reported the following:
 - CR 16 over Halfway Brook: consultant (GPI) selected; kick-off meeting was held
 - CR 12 over the Mettawee River: meeting was recently held between consultant and utility reps
 - CR 61 over the Batten Kill: final design approval has been received
 - Dewey's Bridge, Fort Ann: the bridge is advertised for reuse and an RFP is out for lead paint testing
- 3) City of Glens Falls - Ed Bartholomew reported that the South Street project is being closed out and the Broad Street project with Creighton Manning is beginning.
- 4) Town of Queensbury - Stu Baker reported that Creighton Manning has been selected for the design of the Aviation Road / Dixon Road / Farr Lane intersection
- 5) Saratoga County/Moreau/South Glens Falls – Aaron reported on the follow-up meeting with SGF and DOT staff regarding the proposed safety project on Rte 9 in So. Glens Falls. Concerns persist regarding the proposed design and impacts on parking. The Village continues to pursue coordination with desired infrastructure upgrades and this project.

- 6) NYSDOT – Frank Bonafide reported that design approval is complete for Route 29 over Black Creek and a May 2012 letting is anticipated. A July letting is anticipated for Route 4 in Hudson Falls. Three bridges (Route 197 over the Hudson River, Route 4 over the Champlain Canal, and Route 28N over the Hudson River) all are 2013 lettings but are currently being scrutinized to determine if rehabilitations are feasible alternatives. NYSDOT is leaning towards pursuing rehabilitations in all three cases.

B. Amendments and Modifications

- 1) Capital Program Update - Frank Bonafide reported that the program was submitted to the Commissioner in September was rejected. To meet preservation goals, almost every major road rehabilitation or reconstruction project with the exception of Route 4 in Hudson Falls was removed from the program. A requirement now is that any project that is deemed “beyond preservation” (major rehabs, replacements, reconstruction) require an in-depth explanation. Local projects fall under the new stipulations. The current fiscal climate will require that we collectively look to extract every day of usable life out of all of our assets.
- 2) New York Works Program - The Governor’s program aims to put people to work quickly and the best way to do that is to put money into infrastructure repair in NYS. The Governor is proposing 1.16 billion dollars in addition to the regular transportation allocations. There will be \$250 million statewide for pavement preservation, \$212 million for bridge preservation, \$700 million for signature transportation projects throughout the state. Signature projects are large accelerated projects around the state that are on the program now or those that were no longer affordable. This will be funded with advancing construction funding (borrowing forward upon future allocations) of Federal Aid, which exposes NYS to the risk that the reimbursements may not be available. The timeframe is very short. Aaron noted that this is only for state-owned infrastructure and that the timing is interesting as NYSDOT just subjected all MPOs in the state to a TIP readjustment in light of future funding uncertainty.

Frank also reported the Governor has also proposed consolidating the eleven NYSDOT regions down to six statewide. There is no information available yet. Also, by the end of March, Region 1 will be moving their offices from Schenectady to the main office in Albany.

Preston Jenkins had some questions about NYS 197 between Routes 9 and 32 and the depth of the ditches on the north and south side as pertaining to potential flooding. Frank agreed to look into the issue.

- 3) Make the Connection project solicitation, Aaron
Nine project applications were received. A selection committee, of not directly involved committee members, will meet to review the applications and made the selections on February 16.

7. **Other Items:** Rob Cherry complimented Mike Valentine on the success of the recent Planning Conference held in Saratoga.

8. Next meeting schedule and adjourn

A Policy Committee meeting will be held on the first week in March. Preston Jenkins made a motion to adjourn at 2:57.