



Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council

Washington County Municipal Center
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Policy Committee Meeting *Minutes of Wednesday, March 12, 2008 (draft)*

Attendance:

Members:

Brian Rowback, Regional Director, NYSDOT Region 1
Robert Shay, Supervisor, Town of White Creek
Steven Sweeney, NYS Canal Corp. (rep. Bill Rinaldi)
JoAnn Trinkle, Chairman, Washington County Board of Supervisors

Others:

Brian Brockway, Town of Fort Edward (rep. M. Suprenant)
Willy Grimmke, Washington County DPW
Bill Lamy, Warren County DPW (rep. F. Monroe)
Gina LeClair, Deputy Supervisor, Town of Moreau
Dave Rettig, RPPM, NYSDOT- Region 1
Scott Sopczyk, GGFT
Mike Valentine, Saratoga County Planning Board

A/GFTC Staff:

Monika Bulman, Administrative Assistant
Aaron Frankenfeld, Transportation Planning Director
Kristina Hong, Transportation Analyst

I. Welcome & Introductions

1. Introductory remarks- Chairman JoAnn Trinkle called the meeting to order at 1:37 PM and, on recommendation of staff, declared a quorum of affected parties.

II. Visitors Issues – None

III. Administration

1. Approval of Officers 2008-2010 (handout)
Aaron explained that the Chairmanship of each committee alternates every two years between Warren and Washington Counties. 2008 is the first year of a new two-year cycle.

Motion was made to approve officers for the Policy Committee: JoAnn Trinkle, Chairman; Dan Stec, Vice Chairman; and Brian Rowback, Secretary;
for the Technical Advisory Committee: Bill Lamy, Chairman; Willy Grimmke, Vice Chairman

MOVED BY : Bob Shay SECONDED BY: Brian Brockway MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Valentine asked if the Chairmanship would every end up in Saratoga County. Aaron answered that there was nothing to preclude that should there be interest expressed by Saratoga County – based representation.

2. Approval of last meeting's minutes

Motion was made to approve the December 18, 2007 minutes

MOVED BY : Bob Shay SECONDED BY: Bill Lamy MOTION CARRIED

IV. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

1. Transit

A. GGFT Report-Scott Sopczyk – Several weeks ago Betty Little's office contacted GGFT regarding the potential of GGFT providing transportation services to southern Washington County. It was requested that Scott put together an outline of discussion topics and hold a meeting for interested parties. Scott also wanted to express his thanks to NYSDOT for accommodating the installation of two new passenger shelters as part of the repaving project on Route 9.

B. Human Services Transportation Plan, Aaron- Seeking approval of this plan contingent on any comments received before the close of the public comment period on March 20. The plan is intended to satisfy a federal requirement that we prepare a locally developed plan addressing the issues for furthering coordinated human transportation in our area. A handout portion of the plan, (*Vision, Actions and Recommendations*), was distributed to the committee for discussion. Aaron noted that recently received NYSDOT Region 1 comments were to be incorporated.

A motion was made to approve the Plan with comments included

MOVED BY : Bill Lamy SECONDED BY: Bob Shay MOTION CARRIED

2. Consultant Projects, Aaron

A. Access Management Study, Aaron - Seeking approval today of this study. Following the last TAC meeting, members were allowed additional time to review the document and submit comments. The TAC recommended the AMS to the Policy Committee for approval. Since we don't have the ability to reopen the technical analyses, comments received from NYSDOT R1 regarding certain driveway closures on certain parcels in the Study will be noted within the document that the analysis did not take certain elements into account and that there are other considerations besides turning movements within an access change.

A motion was made to approve the Study

MOVED BY: Mike Valentine SECONDED BY: Brian Brockway MOTION CARRIED

The Study will be delivered to municipalities. Part of the Study product was the development of an educational slideshow. Mr. Valentine requested a copy be given to CDTC.

B. Aviation Road Corridor Study, Aaron - At the Town's request we have expanded the scope of the study for the consultant to take a more in-depth look at three individual roundabouts that had been emerging through the planning process as being beneficial to the corridor. The scope was expanded for a cost of \$14,500.

C. On-call engineering services, Aaron - wanted to remind everyone that we do have 3 contracts available with consulting engineering firms with the express purpose of assisting municipalities in the form of transportation engineering services. These were set up to provide municipalities with services for which we do not have staff expertise. The contracts are capped at \$10K and a local match of 20% is required. Mr. Rettig suggested that this service be brought more to the attention of our municipalities. Mr. Rowback pointed out that when we do these types of studies on state highways, the municipality stands to benefit not only from consulting services but from a working partnership with DOT.

D. Exit 20 RFP, Aaron - the RFPs for Exit 20 and GIS Services should go out within the end of the week. Hope to have consultants on board for the Exit 20 study to allow work to begin during the summer peak season. Mr. Rowback and his department will be paying particular attention to the Exit 20 study. Replacement of aging parking infrastructure at the Outlets could factor into a recommended improvement package.

3. 2008 UPWP Update Approval, Aaron - This is an administrative update to revisit the finances and list progress we made on the existing 2007-2009 program. This update was mailed to our committee members for review.

A motion was moved to approve the administrative 2008 UPWP Update

MOVED BY: Bill Lamy SECONDED BY: Brian Brockway MOTION CARRIED

4. Long Range Plan, Aaron - At previous meetings a list was circulated for members to note if they wished to review draft LRP chapters as they were completed. The drafts would be sent to those people. Drafts of the Highway and Environmental chapters are nearing completion. Dave Rettig suggested coming up with a timeline so we meet the October deadline. Aaron affirmed that it was his understanding that conformity analysis does not need to be redone providing that the horizon year 2030 is consistent with A/GFTC and CDTC.
5. Review of open funding opportunities, Aaron - This is a reminder to everyone that the Short-Term Accident Reduction Program for local highways is available. Applications should be received by April 1st. In response to a question from the Town of Moreau regarding the intersection of US 9 and NYS 197, it was clarified that we are not considering intersections with state highways as part of this program. This funding is for local, town, village and county highways. We do not know how much of the regional allocation of \$2.0M will be awarded to A/GFTC-area projects but we hope to select the best projects for \$400K or under that show a small financial investment coupled with a substantial safety benefit. We will assist applicants with obtaining accident data upon request. Mr. Rowback said that NYSDOT was not choosing to not address safety locations on its system through this program but rather that NYSDOT has its own safety selection process for its system and this local funding source was established to address accident histories on locally-owned roadways that often display a disproportionately high crash history. Furthermore he noted that the

Department did wish to be informed by local officials of suspected accident problems on the State system.

V. Transportation Improvement Program(TIP)

1. 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program
 - A. Review of TIP actions Dec 07 to Mar 08, Aaron - Two TIP actions taken since the last Policy Committee meeting included approving an additional \$1 million for the Rt. 149 job in the Town of Queensbury and reintroduced County 61 Buffum's Bridge back into the program where it belongs.
 - B. Adjustment of TIP change procedure, Aaron - This is on the agenda as it pertains to SAFETEALU and its provisions for public notification and public participation in regards to TIP changes. Any major amendment needs a 30 public comment period. We are more or less doing this since any major amendment brought before the Policy Committee goes before the TAC first, but this will be formally revised to satisfy the federal organizations.
2. Recent developments or action items for ongoing federal aid projects
 - A. New York State Department of Transportation, Dave Rettig - The public meeting for the 197 bridge over the Hudson has not been held and will probably take place in April. A/GFTC consideration for changing the scope of the project in the TIP from a replacement to a rehab has been requested. Since the last Policy Committee meeting, the department held a transportation forum on 20-year transportation needs. The existing funding mechanism rewards fuel consumption and this seems somewhat counterproductive and places NYS at a disadvantage. Over 20 years \$37 billion are set aside for transportation needs. This will only allow us to keep our system in a little better shape. Mr. Rettig is trying to set up a meeting with the public and local officials similar to one that was recently held in the Capital District. All the elected officials will be invited so they can see what has been accomplished and what is planned for the area.
 - B. Warren County DPW, Bill Lamy -
 - The Corinth Road/ Exit 18 Corridor Project is currently in ROW acquisition. Next Wednesday a public meeting on the eminent domain procedures law will be held. Options for both above ground power and buried power will be presented. The financial details are still being worked out.
 - The Beach Road Corridor Project, a completed scoping document has been received and is under review.
 - Bridge Projects, they are in various stages of planning. Stony Creek bridges questions still not answered. Dave Rettig noted that DOT has a project coming up For Route 9 resurfacing that will require coordination with construction of Beach Road. The environmental issue of West Brook still needs to be resolved.
 - C. Washington County, Willy Grimmke -
 - Rte. 42 is under construction. There have been issues with ROW with one property owner.

-Whitehall Bridges over the railroad - have ADP under review as well as comments from the Village. There has been communication regarding drainage. There is an outstanding issue that the agreement has to be clear that this is not the county's bridge. Washington County DPW is administering the project for the benefit of the Village. The understanding with the railroad is that they will be paying non-state, non-federal share. To date Mr. Grimmke has no signed agreement stating that that is the case and without that, the County will not advance the project. When it is time to go to bid, the railroad's budgeted share must be paid.

-County Rte. 61 is now HBRR-eligible; waiting for a revised proposal from consultant

-County Rte. 113 over the Battenkill and County 41 reconstruction, consultant selection is starting

-County 68, should have permission to advertise soon

- D. Saratoga/Town of Moreau, Gina LeClair – question re: 9/197 was raised earlier in meeting.
- E. City of Glens Falls – no representation
- F. Town of Queensbury – no representation

Other Items:

Availability of the enhancement program, Aaron

Deadline for enhancement projects is June 27. Workshops will be held here in April.

Brief discussion on Rogers Island project and the how the selection process is determined. Mr. Rettig will check on whether Marcheselli funds are available.

Also, question regarding 372 bridge in Greenwich was addressed to Mr. Rettig.

There will be a Village election in several weeks so the meeting should be postponed until then.

Mr. Brockway let everyone know that the Rte 4 project will start up again and that there will be detours starting on the 17th.

VI. Next meeting and adjourn

Next meeting is anticipated in June.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:57.