



Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council

Washington County Municipal Center
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Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, December 18, 2007

Attendance:

Members:

Ralph Bentley, Supervisor, Town of Horicon
Harry Gutheil, Supervisor, Town of Moreau
James Lindsay, Supervisor, Town of Kingsbury
Brian Rowback, Regional Director, NYSDOT Region 1
Dan Stec, Supervisor, Town of Queensbury
Louis Tessier, Supervisor, Town of Lake George
Steven Sweeney, NYS Canal Corp. (rep. Bill Rinaldi)
William Thomas, Chairman, Warren County Board of Supervisors
JoAnn Trinkle, Chairman, Washington County Board of Supervisors

Others:

Willy Grimmke, Washington County DPW
Bill Lamy, Warren County DPW
Dave Rettig, NYSDOT- Region 1
Scott Sopczyk, GGFT
John Wheatley, EDC Warren County

A/GFTC Staff:

Monika Bulman, Administrative Assistant
Aaron Frankenfeld, Transportation Planning Director

Prior to the official start of the meeting Aaron expressed appreciation to Mr. Thomas and Mr. Gutheil for their many years of supportive contribution to our Committee. They will be missed. We wish them well in their retirement.

I. Welcome & Introductions

- A. Introductory remarks-Chairman William Thomas introduced Mr. Brian Rowback, the new Regional Director for NYSDOT Region 1. Mr. Rowback has been in his current position since October 1, having previously worked in the Main Office in addition to previous experience with an MPO. He is working on becoming familiar with the unique regional issues and the regional program. He assured the Policy Committee he is a hands-on person and is accessible. Mr. Rowback commented on the Adirondack Park (three separate regions cover the Park) and the need for uniformity. Mr. Lamy expressed his concerns to Mr. Rowback with pass through projects and the backlog with the State Comptrollers Office. Mr. Grimmke indicated he was very happy with residency relationships.

Chairman Bill Thomas called the formal Policy Committee to order at 10:17 am.

II. Visitors Issues – None

III. Administration

1. Approval of last meeting's minutes

Motion was made to approve the June 13, 2007 minutes

MOVED BY : Dan Stec SECONDED BY: Ralph Bentley MOTION CARRIED

IV. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

1. Transit

A. GGFT Report-Scott Sopczyk (handout)

Two small buses will be replaced in 2008; an agreement will be entered to replace larger buses in 2009; new trolleys with air conditioning were put into service this year; extended evening services have started and will operate on a trial basis through June; an agreement has been entered with West Mountain ski center to operate a shuttle service between Glens Falls and the West Mountain facility to accommodate skiers and employees; overall ridership in 2007 was up except for FAME.

B. AlterNet Rides development-Aaron, GGFT brought an internet-based carpooling match finding service to A/GFTC's attention; it is now on our website. It allows members to search for or offer rides to 20 preset destinations. Membership is free. Corporate sponsorship is what A/GFTC would like to obtain to support this program. Destinations include Glens Falls Hospital, City of Glens Falls, Washington County Municipal Center, Sagamore Resort, etc. A/GFTC has paid for the web application. The Aviation Mall had security and capacity concerns for a park and ride and after some discussion, Dave Rettig has agreed to have Region 1 staff contact the mall to pursue a possible leasing arrangement.

2. Consultant Projects, Aaron

A. Access Management Study-expecting production of the final document to begin next week; the report will be presented to the Policy Committee at its next meeting for MPO adoption.

B. Aviation Road Corridor Study-the study advisory committee will be meeting today at 3; in June there was a very well attended public workshop at the Ramada; we had over 60 people; the documentation of the plan needs work; the recommendations are very solid and have good support from the School and the Town. Intersection modifications were examined; a series of roundabouts appear to be very beneficial work. A revised draft of the plan will be posted on our website.

C. Traffic Count Program-we just received our second season of traffic count data from our consultant; we are in the process of reviewing this new information against our old count data.

D. 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 that we do not have staff expertise for. The contracts are capped at \$10K and a local match of 20% is required. Brief discussion ensued regarding Exit 20.

3. Staff Activities – Aaron

A. Long Range Plan Update,

1. Status of Plan development/draft chapter

The Plan has been taken on at a chapter by chapter basis; the introductory materials, setting, goals and objectives, summary of public survey results, draft copies of the

public transportation chapter and the bridge chapter are completed; we still have considerable work remaining on the highway chapter, need to update the bicycle and pedestrian chapter and a chapter on rail and freight and finances.

2. Review and approval of draft Principles-(handout)
Aaron envisions the Principles as a conclusion to the Long Range Plan. These set general policies for the Council as it considers future projects and programs.

A motion was made to approve the Principles

MOVED BY : JoAnn Trinkle SECONDED BY: Dan Stec MOTION CARRIED

B. Coordinated Human Services Transportation Program-Aaron
This Program is a required Plan in order for areas to access three different Federal Transit Administration programs designed to provide additional transportation services for elderly and disabled individuals as well as access to jobs and reverse commuting. Since the last meeting, tabulations of a number of returned surveys from municipal department heads have been completed. A funding prioritization strategy for the program needs to be established. Hope to complete this Plan before April.

V. Transportation Improvement Program(TIP)

1. Recent development or action items for ongoing federal aid projects:

- A. New York State Department of Transportation, Dave Rettig -
Most of the projects have been shut down during winter; several projects are in design; at the last TAC meeting, Mary Ricard, Project Manager for the 197 bridge, explained the reasoning for the change in the scope of the project and the need for a TIP amendment. At the TAC the consensus was that DOT allow the public to hear more about the project before changing the original scope. There will be a public informational meeting on this project. Region 1 staff and Aaron attended a meeting at CDTC to discuss a proposed local highway STAR (short-term accident reduction) program. The MPOs agreed with the Region1 proposal to apply all of the Region's STP Safety money to this program, using a data driven approach with no suballocations. Discussion took place regarding source and use of accident data.
- B. Warren County, Bill Lamy
 - Corinth/Exit 18 Corridor-in the process of acquiring ROW; going through the actual payment of checks to property owners for about half of the of the 90 parcels that will need to be acquired. There has been a statute change in the eminent domain process resulting in the need for another public hearing. Working closely with the Town of Queensbury to come to an ultimate decision on whether the undergrounding of utilities is the way the project will be presented in final design. It is doubtful this project will be under construction in 2008.
 - The Beach Road Corridor - The County has partnered with NYSDEC to do the entire corridor. 60% of the road is owned by Warren County, 40% by NYSDEC. There have been several public informational meetings. Close to finalizing a scoping document.

- Construction on the Padanarum Road Bridge in the Town of Bolton is completed.
- C. Washington County DPW, Willy Grimmke
 - Since the last Policy Committee, the following bridge projects have been completed: County Rte. 21 over the Mettawee in the Town of Granville, and the rehabilitation Buskirk, Eagleville and Rexleigh Covered Bridges.
 - County Rte. 12 over the Mettawee in Granville is under design
 - County Rte. 42 in the Town of Fort Edward is under construction and should be complete in the spring of 2008
 - County Rte. 41 getting ready to go to consultant selection
 - County Rte. 61 over the Battenkill has been reopened
- D. Saratoga County/Town of Moreau, Harry Gutheil – no recent developments
- E. City of Glens Falls, no representation present
- F. Town of Queensbury, Dan Stec
 - Rte 149, business owners are concerned about the duration the timing of the closure on Rte. 149. Mr. Stec hoped it would be possible to pick and choose what end of the stretch the construction would start on. The suggestion was also made to have a second or off shift construction schedule to expedite the work.
 - Rte 9 will be resurfaced, going from city line to Round Pond Rd.
 - Bridge slated for replacement on 9L near Haviland Road
 - Dunhams Bay Bridge in Lake George has very low clearance and should have greater clearance.
- 2. 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Plan
 - A. Status of STIP, the STIP has been approved
 - B. TIP Changes/Amendments
 - Make the Connection Program, Aaron
 - This program allowed for small - scale bike/pedestrian projects. Our solicitations resulted in 4 applications.
 - Three applications were accommodated in full in addition to the partial funding of the fourth request.
 - C. Annual Listing of Obligated Projects, Aaron
 - MPOs have to put together a list of obligated projects. We are working on it.
 - Mr. Rowback had some closing comments, noting his favorable impression with scope of the MPO activities.
 - Mr. Gutheil asked about Exit 12.

VI. Next meeting and adjourn

Hope to have a meeting in March
Mr. Thomas adjourned the meeting at 11:40.