



Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council
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A/GFTC Planning Committee Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Zoom Meeting – all participation from remote locations

Attendees (voting members or proxy in bold)	Representing
Stu Baker	Town of Queensbury Community Development
Dan Barusch	Town of Lake George
Mike Breault	Washington County DPW
Paul Cummings	The Chazen Companies
Allison Gaddy	LC-LGRP
Joe Cimino	CHA
Lorenzo DiStefano	NYS DOT Region 1
Deb Donohue	Washington County DPW
Steve Godlewski	Creighton Manning Engineering
Harry Gutheil, Jr.	Village of South Glens Falls
Kevin Hajos	Warren County DPW
Wendy Holsberger	VHB
Maiken Holmes	Warren County DPW
Pamela Landi	Washington County EDC
Fred Mastroianni	Greenman – Pedersen Inc.
Laura Oswald	Washington County EDC
Dan Rourke	Barton and Loguidice
Laura Sanda	McFarland Johnson
Scott Sopczyk	Greater Glens Falls Transit
John Strough	Town of Queensbury
Mike Valentine	Saratoga County Planning Department
Lisa Wallin	MJ Engineering and Land Surveying
Tim Zinn	Washington County DPW
Staff	
Aaron Frankenfeld	A/GFTC
Jack Mance	A/GFTC

1. **Welcome / Municipal Roll Call** – Aaron initiated the meeting at 10:02 AM and listed participants.
2. **Administration**
 - A. Staffing / office update – Aaron reported that staff continues alternating office days. The arrangement is working out well with an occasional technology glitch and will continue; nothing new to report. A NY State Executive Order allowing remote public meetings has been extended through October 4.
 - B. Environmental Justice update – Warren County Planning has provided draft base maps depicting TIP project locations and transit services against low and moderate households and minority populations. A change in methodology may be warranted

given the disparity of median household income between the three counties. Once this is reconciled, the draft maps and write-up will be sent around for committee review.

3. **Public Transportation Update** – Scott Sopczyk reported the following: the summer was somewhat challenging, as a shortage of trolley drivers resulted in scaled-back trolley services. Demand was also down, given the absence of J1 workers and the Great Escape being closed. Trolley capacity was reduced by 50%. No fares were collected; mask compliance was generally very good. The fixed route system is operating full schedule; screens are installed on the larger buses. The reduced capacity will be a challenge. Fare collection will begin again on September 15; punch cards will be discontinued in favor of tokens. There have been no positive Covid-19 tests within GGFT staff. There are two strong candidates for the vacant Deputy Director position; GGFT hopes to have that filled by the end of the year. Mayor Gutheil asked if the Hudson Headwaters facility on Route 9 in Moreau was generating additional ridership. Scott replied that the South Glens Falls run had seen strong ridership throughout the pandemic and that service to the facility was worthwhile, but the location itself is not a high-volume generator.
4. **UPWP**
 - A. Moreau / Old West Road truck traffic analysis – Aaron reported that the Town of Moreau had requested an assessment of crashes, vehicular speeds and truck traffic on two Town Roads leading to Hiram Hollow transfer station, which is just outside of the A/GFTC planning area in the Town of Wilton. Creighton Manning completed data collection and a draft write-up. The summary results are that while truck volumes are high, trucks are not contributing to crashes. Speed does not appear to be an issue. Supervisor Kusnierz has conveyed his satisfaction with the completed product. Mike Valentine requested a copy of the report.
 - B. Chestertown pedestrian improvements – Creighton Manning was awarded the project to develop a conceptual plan to extend pedestrian facilities southward from the hamlet of Chestertown to the community health center. Previous plans have been reviewed, traffic data has been collected, and the Town Supervisor joined NYSDOT, CM and A/GFTC staff on a corridor walk-through. The project schedule calls for a summary presentation at the November Chester Town Board meeting.
 - C. Traffic counts – Jack reported that we were in the final year of the traffic count cycle. Some counts have been completed; others are still to be collected. The count contract expires at the end of this year. Jack will be updating the online viewer with the new data, with an eye on possibly consolidating with NYSDOT's viewer, which is much more robust. Supervisor Strough asked how the respective counts would be depicted for comparison; Jack replied that it has taken four years to count all locations once. Analyzing growth will take multiple cycles. Mike Valentine asked if Warren County DPW conducted counts, noting that Saratoga County did them every year. Kevin Hajos and Aaron replied that while the County is able to collect counts, A/GFTC has shifted its efforts over to the county systems as a service to the counties.
 - D. Quaker Road adaptive signal technology – Supervisor Strough reported that there was no official announcement of the award of the project. Jack reminded the committee that A/GFTC staff was providing a large portion of the in-kind match for the project via staff services. Stu Baker reported that the draft contract for the project is being reviewed by NYSERDA and NYSDOT.
 - E. Bicycle plan update – Jack reported that work has been ongoing for a couple of months. GIS layers have been updated. A goal of the work effort is to make the plan

more viable as an online deployment, rather than relying on paper or fixed scale digital maps. Data would be limited to the priority bicycle network. Jack is also working on updating the priority project list by collecting information from our committee members and their municipal plans, extending that request to our consultant partners as well. A meeting is scheduled for next week to review some of these projects and their presentation. Supervisor Strough asked what comprised the priority network. Jack replied that that would include existing designated routes as well as roadways or facilities that provide potential connectivity and should be upgraded. Supervisor Strough updated the committee on the Halfway Brook trail and the Halfway Brook – Feeder Canal connector and asked if the ongoing connections would be in the plan. Jack replied that that was major component of the plan – identifying progress on the existing network as well as future connections. Supervisor Strough added that the Town of Queensbury and the City of Glens Falls were working on establishing a parking area on Dixon Road to facilitate access to the new trails.

5. TIP

A. Updates from project sponsors

- 1) Warren County – Maiken Holmes provided updates on the Middleton Bridge, South Johnsbury Road bridge, Palisades Road bridge, Sunnyside and Sunnyside East pavement, Bay Road bridge over Halfway Creek, Johnsbury bridge replacements, Olmstedville Road reconstruction, Oxbow / Moon Hill Road, and CR 16 pavement rehabilitation projects.
- 2) Washington County – Deb Donohue and Tim Zinn reported on the CR 46 pavement, CR 113 bridge replacement, Dr. Johnson / Cemetery Road bridge preservations, CR 61 bridge, CR 35/36 pavement preservation, and Church Street bridge replacement projects.
- 3) Saratoga County – Mike Valentine reported on the Clark Road and CR 29 bridge preservation and CR 28 pavement preservation projects.
- 4) City of Glens Falls – no report.
- 5) NYSDOT – Lorenzo DiStefano reported on the Exit 17 project; public involvement has been initiated. Design on the ramps is progressing. Aaron requested that staff be included on the outreach efforts. Lorenzo reminded sponsors to avoid projects being declared inactive; DOT staff will reach out to sponsors to request bills.

B. TIP Amendment requests

- 1) Battenville Bridge – scope change – Aaron reported that Washington County requests to remove CR 153 bridge preservation from the TIP and complete in-house. CR 61 over the Batten Kill (Batten-Dugan) has been identified as a replacement rather than a preservation candidate. The cost increase is significant – a total of \$5.264M. Washington County would like to start design in TIP year 3 (FFY 21-22) and construct in TIP year 5 (FFY 23-24). Bridge NY funding will also be pursued. This is a Policy Committee action; a motion would be required to approve for public comment. A TIP update between now and then will allow for a revisitation of schedule based upon progress.

A motion was made to release this amendment request for public review and comment prior to Policy Committee consideration.

Moved by: Laura Oswald

Seconded by: Stu Baker

Motion Carried.

- 2) Webster Avenue pavement rehabilitation — Aaron reported that the City of Glens Falls has requested a new project to rehabilitate paving, sidewalks, and curbing as well as improve intersection operations at the Fire Road / Webster Avenue intersections with Glen Street, consistent with a recent A/GFTC report. The City seeks to construct the project in FFY 21-22 at a total project cost of \$1.46M.

A motion was made to release this amendment request for public review and comment prior to Policy Committee consideration.

Moved by: Harry Gutheil Seconded by: Stu Baker Motion Carried.

- 3) Wrong Way / Bridge Hits signing – Aaron reported that NYSDOT has requested a total of \$1.965 for a regional signing and pavement marking project to address wrong way ramp driving and low clearance bridge hits. Lorenzo noted that this programming would not impact any local projects.

A motion was made to release this amendment request for public review and comment prior to Policy Committee consideration.

Moved by: Kevin Hajos Seconded by: Stu Baker Motion Carried.

- 4) CR 31 / North Branch Creek bridge – Aaron reported that Saratoga County DPW has requested an additional \$0.402 in Construction and Construction Inspection funds to address emerging complexities related to soils. Laura Oswald asked if there was a financial impact to other existing projects; Aaron replied that he was not aware of any direct impact of that scale. Of request.

A motion was made to approve this amendment request.

Moved by: Laura Oswald Seconded by: Deb Donohue Motion Carried.

- 5) STIP performance adjustments – Aaron reviewed a list of proposed schedule adjustments. Discussion was afforded to each project, with sponsor disposition on each project suggestion affirmed.

6. **Other Items of Interest** – Aaron asked Lorenzo if he had any news regarding the State-administered targeted program solicitations, noting that there a number of questions received regarding Bridge NY and TAP in particular. Lorenzo replied that he was unaware of any new developments.

7. **Next Meeting and Adjourn** – next meetings – December 9 (Planning Committee)
October 14 (Policy Committee)

Meeting ended at 11:08.