



Policy Committee Minutes

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 10:00

Meeting facilitated by Zoom; no in-person participation

Attendees (voting members or proxy in bold)	Organization
Samuel J. Hall, A/GFTC Chairman	Chairman, Washington County Board of Supervisors
John Strough, A/GFTC Vice-Chairman	Supervisor, Town of Queensbury
Deb Donohue	Superintendent of Public Works, Washington County
Cassie Fedler	Supervisor, Town of Cambridge
Edna Frasier	Supervisor, Town of Hague
Kevin Hajos	Superintendent of Public Works, Warren County
Dan Hall	Mayor, City of Glens Falls
Todd Kusnierz	Supervisor, Town of Moreau
Wayne LaMothe	Director, Warren County Planning Department
Aaron Mattoon	NYS Canal Corporation, rep. J. Moloughney
Dave O'Brien	Chairman, Lake Champlain – Lake George RPB
Scott Sopczyk	Transportation Director, Greater Glens Falls Transit
Frank Thomas	Chairman, Warren County Board of Supervisors
Mike Valentine	Sr. Planner, Sar. County Planning Department, rep. P. Allen
Greg Wichser	Regional Program Coordinator, NYSDOT R 1, rep. P. Barnes

Staff

Aaron Frankenfeld	A/GFTC
Jack Mance	A/GFTC

- 1. Municipal roll call** – Upon staff confirmation of a quorum present, Chairman Hall initiated the meeting at 10:03.
- 2. Visitor Issues** – no visitors present.
- 3. Administration / office staffing update – Developments since last meeting** – Aaron reported the following: In adherence with State protocols, staff transitioned to work-from-home detail and remained that way until 06/15. Following the formulation of a re-opening plan, the office is now staffed during regular business hours with only one staff person present at a time. Visitors are seen by appointment only. Staff is prepared to continue this arrangement indefinitely as it entails very little risk.
A continuing resolution has been passed to extend the FAST Act federal highway bill through September 30, 2021. The annual NYSDOT-sourced work program call letter that contains formula allocations to fund the organization is expected in November. Typically, this committee acts on the work program in February.

4. Staff update of SFY 2020-21 accomplishments

A. Completed projects – Jack Mance reported the following:

- Town of Moreau / Old West Road traffic data assessment – project requested by The Town of Moreau to collect traffic data related to truck volumes and speeds along Old West Road and Washburn Road. Creighton Manning concluded that while truck volumes were high as a result in part of access to Hiram Hollow Transfer Station, the truck volumes did not have a direct correlation to vehicle crash history or excessive speeds. The project has been completed to the satisfaction of Supervisor Kusnierz.
- Bridge preservation candidate assessment tool -- completed by GPI to the satisfaction of the participating County DPWs, awaiting closeout documentation.
- North Creek/Ski Bowl Connectivity Study – completed by MJELS to the satisfaction of Supervisor Andrea Hogan and already approved by this committee.

B. Ongoing Projects – Jack Mance reported the following:

- Regional Bicycle Plan – work is ongoing with a tentative goal of a draft plan by late November/early December. This update has a heavy online mapping component, which is where the bulk of the effort has gone so far. Staff is also working with a subcommittee of interested planning staff and stakeholders to guide the project and help define priorities. If all goes well, we will be looking to this group to approve the final plan at the next Policy committee meeting in February.
- Traffic counts – The Traffic Group is currently doing the final batch of recounts for this season. Once all the counts are collected, we will have a recent count for all of the non-federal aid county highways in Warren and Washington counties (Saratoga County has its own count program for Moreau and South Glens Falls). This is the final year of the current count contract, so in 2021 we'll have to put out another RFP for services. The goal is to keep a relatively current count schedule for the rural highways – basically anything not counted by NYSDOT. These counts are supplied to the county DPWs to supplement their own data and we're looking to identify a way to provide the data to NYSDOT Main Office so that the counts can also supplement their online viewer.
- Chestertown Pedestrian Improvements – This project kicked off in late August to study options to connect the existing pedestrian network south on Route 9 to the new health center. CME was awarded the project through our Engineering Assistance program. A field visit has been conducted, CME has collected traffic data and begun their existing condition analysis, and the public outreach component has begun. Due to ongoing social distancing, CME is conducting two online surveys, one for the general public and one targeted towards business owners in the project corridor.
- Greenwich zoning – This is a project for the Village of Greenwich to update their local land use codes to be consistent with the 2019 Main Street Streetscape Plan, including Complete Streets policies and ADA regulations. This will involve a review of the Zoning Ordinance in regards to topics such as parking, curb cuts, and mixed use development. The RFP is ready to go and staff is awaiting confirmation from Mayor Fuller that the project can commence.
- NYSERDA / Quaker Road project – As a reminder, staff assisted the Town of Queensbury to apply for a NYSERDA innovation grant for a study of Adaptive

Signal Control Technology for the Aviation/Quaker corridor. Although there has not yet been an official announcement of the award, our understanding is that this is forthcoming. Once the project begins, staff will be working closely with the Town as part of the in-kind match.

Scott Sopczyk asked if the traffic counts for 2020 would need to be qualified in some context given travel restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. Jack replied that the decision was made to go forward with the counts, acknowledging that the data may differ from a typical year. The counts were conducted after most of the travel restrictions had been lifted.

5. Local Project Sponsor Summaries – Calendar Year 2020 Accomplishments and Upcoming Projects

- A. Greater Glens Falls Transit – Scott Sopczyk updated the committee on capital and facility upgrades, trolley operations and ridership, and fixed routes services. Impacts of the pandemic on staffing and ridership were noted.
- B. Warren County – Kevin Hajos reported on the following projects:
 - Middleton Bridge over the Schroon River
 - South Johnsbury Road over Mill Creek bridge replacement
 - Palisades Road bridge replacement
 - CR 39 / CR 54 pavement preservation
 - Bay Road over Halfway Brook bridge replacement
 - Johnsbury bridge replacements
 - County Route 19 reconstruction
 - Oxbow Hill / Moon Hill Road reconstruction
 - East River Road / Call Street pavement preservation
 - Quaker Road pavement preservation
- C. Washington County – Deb Donohue reported on the following projects:
 - Completed preservation projects
 - CR 61 over the Batten Kill (Shushan) bridge rehabilitation
 - Church Street over the Mettawee River bridge replacement
 - County Route 10 over the Poultney River bridge replacement
- D. Saratoga County – Mike Valentine reported on the following projects:
 - Clark Road over the Snook Kill and CR 29 over the Snook Kill bridge preservation
 - CR 28 pavement preservation
- E. City of Glens Falls – Mayor Hall reported on the following projects:
 - Coles Woods Connector
 - Feeder Canal access
 - Dix Avenue pavement preservation

- 6. NYSDOT Update** – Greg Wichser reported on the Exit 17 bridge replacement and access modification project as well as the Route 4 over Slocum Creek culvert / bridge replacement. Related to the Exit 17 project, Supervisor Kusnierz asked about potential impacts or improvements to existing traffic conditions along the Route 9 corridor as a result of the project. Greg replied that there could be slight improvements to ramp queueing at the interchange, the project is not intended to address capacity issues. Supervisor Kusnierz then asked if any corridor improvements were under consideration. Greg replied that capacity enhancements were not being considered at this time despite the acknowledgment of peak

congestion issues, and was hopeful that property redevelopments as considered by the Town could provide incremental opportunities for access improvements and possible ROW concessions to accommodate a future roadway re-design.

7. TIP Amendment requests –

- A. **Washington County DPW – Batten-Dugan Bridge** – Aaron summarized this request as follows: This is currently two bridge repair projects grouped into a single listing. Washington County requests to remove CR 153 from the TIP and complete in-house, shifting capital construction funds to design for CR 61. CR 61 over the Batten Kill (Batten-Dugan) has been identified as a replacement candidate rather than a preservation candidate. The cost increase is significant – a total of \$5.264M to replace rather than repair the structure. The County would like to start design in TIP year 3 (21-22) and construct in TIP year 5 (23-24). Policy Committee action is required for project cost changes in excess of \$1M. Staff recommendation is to approve this project for construction in year 5.

A motion was made to change the TIP listing to add CR 61 over the Batten Kill as a replacement project with construction funding programmed for Year 5.

Moved by: Cassie Fedler

Seconded by: Frank Thomas

Motion Carried

- B. **City of Glens Falls – Webster Avenue rehab w/ Glen Street signals** - Aaron summarized this request as follows: 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 cost of \$1.46M with design. Policy Committee action is required on new projects and for project changes that exceed \$1M in total costs. Staff recommendation is to approve this project as a Year 4 project (22-23), with the caveat that if the City has completed the design process AND sufficient funding exists within the regional capital program to allow the City to construct in Year 3 (22-23), then we can consider accelerating the project at that time. Mayor Hall noted the significance of the underground water and sewer utilities beneath Webster Avenue as well as the pedestrian access issues associated with the traffic signals.

A motion was made to add the Webster Avenue project to the TIP with construction funding programmed for Year 4.

Moved by: John Strough

Seconded by: Cassie Fedler

Motion Carried

- C. **Wrong Way / Bridge Hits signing** – Aaron summarized this request as follows: 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. A portion of that \$1.965M, not all of it, would be spent within the A/GFTC area. NYSDOT staff had previously reported to the Planning Committee that the combination of fund sources directed by DOT to this project would not impact existing or future local project capacity. Greg Wichser noted that these were statewide safety initiatives to combat hazardous wrong-way driving on the Interstates and noted local examples of low-clearance bridges.

A motion was made to add the new wrong way driving and low clearance bridge hits mitigation project to the TIP.

Moved by: Edna Frasier

Seconded by: Todd Kusnierz

Motion Carried

- 8. Other items of interest** – no additional report from staff. Chairman Hall and Supervisor Kusnierz thanked staff for its continued work and availability. Staff in turn expressed thankfulness that it could be of continued service.
- 9. Next Meeting and Adjourn** - Aaron reported that the next Planning Committee meeting will be December 9. The 2021 meeting calendar would be developed in consultation with the Planning Committee. Staff requests that next Policy Committee be scheduled for Feb 17 to consider the draft work program for the upcoming State Fiscal Year.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:05.

Moved by: Cassie Fedler

Seconded by: Frank Thomas

Meeting adjourned