

**Meeting Minutes- A/GFTC Planning Committee meeting**

Remote Access via Zoom

Wednesday, August 10, 2022 10:00 AM

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- 1. Welcome / Acknowledgment of Attendees** – Aaron initiated the meeting at 10:02 and acknowledged the following attendees:

Tom Baird	Barton & Loguidice
<b>Stuart Baker</b>	<b>Town of Queensbury</b>
<b>Dan Barusch</b>	<b>Town of Lake George</b>
<b>Mike Breault</b>	<b>Washington County Department of Public Works</b>
Joe Cimino	CHA
Meghan Fennell	NYS Department of Transportation
Aaron Frankenfeld	A/GFTC
<b>Allison Gaddy</b>	<b>Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board</b>
Steve Godlewski	Creighton Manning
<b>Maiken Holmes</b>	<b>Warren County Department of Public Works</b>
Kelley Kircher	NYS Department of Transportation Region 1
<b>Wayne LaMothe</b>	<b>Warren County Planning Department</b>
Jack Mance	A/GFTC
<b>Laura Oswald</b>	<b>Washington County EDC</b>
<b>Scott Sopczyk</b>	<b>Greater Glens Falls Transit</b>
Laura Sanda	McFarland Johnson
John Strough	Supervisor, Town of Queensbury, Chairman, A/GFTC
<b>Mike Valentine</b>	<b>Saratoga County Planning Department</b>
Lisa Wallin	MJELS
<b>Greg Wichser</b>	<b>NYS Department of Transportation Region 1</b>
<b>Tim Zinn</b>	<b>Washington County Department of Public Works</b>

- 2. Visitor Issues** – no visitors present.

3. **Approval of May and July 2022 meeting minutes** - Aaron reported that the draft meeting minutes from May and July were reviewed by attendees prior to distribution to the remainder of the committee last week.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the May and July 2022 meetings as final.

Moved by: Mike Valentine

Seconded by: Laura Oswald

Minutes approved.

4. **Transit**

- A. GGFT report – Scott Sopczyk reported that the 2023 grant application to FTA includes the purchase of two replacement transit buses that are expected to be delivered by late 2023. GGFT has been experiencing equipment issues (notably turbos on trolleys) and difficulty procuring replacements. The J1 and summer worker pass program has been a success, with a 65% observed increase in trolley ridership on the Lake George to Glens Falls run from 2021 and reduced roadside pedestrian activity where poor pedestrian accommodations exist. Scott also shared the observations from transit drivers that the traffic signal at the Exit 20 NB off-ramp appeared to be dedicating far too much green light time to the off movement in the absence of vehicular demand. Wayne LaMothe shared a similar observation. Greg Wichser agreed to look in to the issue.
- B. Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan update – consideration for release of draft – Jack Mance summarized the draft document. It is a required document on a four-year update cycle. It provides a framework for coordination among regional human services transportation agencies with a particular emphasis on services for the elderly and disabled. In compiling the update, A/GFTC and GGFT staff collaborated on an online survey that went out to approximately 70 recipients, yielding 22 individual responses from 16 agencies. Changes associated with Covid-19 impacts and responses were noted in the draft. Priorities and projects are largely unchanged from previous versions of the document.

A motion was made to approve the draft CHSTP for release for public review and comment prior to Policy Committee consideration.

Moved by: Wayne LaMothe

Seconded by: Stu Baker

Motion carried.

5. **Unified Planning Work Program – ongoing and recently completed projects**

- A. Salem pedestrian improvements plan – Jack reported that the final draft had been distributed to this committee. The focus of the plan is on the center of the former Village area. Previous planning efforts were considered and enhanced. The steering committee was very actively involved in reviewing study products. Notable recommendations include pedestrian-specific improvements to the Main and Broadway intersection and a proposed flush median on Main Street ( a raised median was determined to be potentially unworkable due to the volume of ‘low-boy’ trailers traversing the area).

A motion was made to approve the draft plan for release for public review and comment prior to Policy Committee consideration.

Moved by: Wayne LaMothe

Seconded by: Laura Oswald

Motion carried.

Allison Gaddy stated her support for the proposed median treatment and suggested including the Hudson River Valley Greenway as a possible funding source. Laura Oswald asked about a request for follow-up funds from Salem; Jack affirmed that A/GFTC did receive a TIP project request for sidewalks and that would be eligible for the Make the Connection program solicitation. Aaron concurred with Jack’s response and said that he would contact the Town to clarify the disposition of the application.

- B. Rural Workforce Transportation Plan – Jack reported that LC-LGRPБ had collaborated on a scope for the project to examine potential barriers to rural transportation within the context of workforce mobility. Previous efforts were more broadly based. A steering committee has been identified; A/GFTC will do mapping and analysis and LC-LGRPБ will coordinate the effort and conduct outreach. A kick-off meeting is scheduled for August 16; committee members are invited to attend.
- C. Glen / Sanford / Grant pedestrian safety study – Jack reported that an initial draft of the study has been reviewed by staff and sent to the consultants (Barton & Loguidice) for revisions. The revised draft will be shared with the Glens Falls Police Department. Recommendations include signing and signal improvements. In response to a question from Allison Gaddy, Jack clarified that crosswalk markings were also included in the recommendations. In response to a question from Scott Sopczyk, Jack replied that the report notes the presence of a transit stop on the northeast corner of the intersection. The report did not note specific conflicts that impacted transit vehicle operations during the analysis period.
- D. Maple Street bicycling improvements - Data collection will begin in September to capture travel associated with school operations.
- E. Brant Lake pedestrian improvements – A draft report is expected by 8/19.
- F. Other activities - Aaron noted that the office had recently experienced a technology failure resulting in necessary and immediate repair to the data server. Staff productivity loss was confined to a single afternoon., but the resulting cost of \$5-6k was not included in this year’s budget; funds will need to be redirected from another category.

## **6. Transportation Improvement Program**

- A. Project sponsor updates – Maiken Holmes provided updates on the South Johnsbury road bridge, Palisades Road bridge, Bay Road bridge replacement, Johnsbury bridges replacements, Olmstedville Road reconstruction, Oxbow Hill / Moon Hill Road reconstruction, Quaker Road pavement, and three non-federal culvert projects. In response to a question from Wayne LaMothe, Maiken clarified that the scope of the Olmstedville Road project was from the Essex County line to Hidden Lake Road. Tim Zinn reported on Church Street over the Mettawee River bridge, CR 61 over the Batten Kill (Shushan) bridge, CR 37 pavement, and CR 61 over the Batten Kill (Batten-Dugan) bridge projects. Greg Wichser reported that NYSDOT will participate in the regional Safe Streets for All planning study application being coordinated by LC-LGRPБ. Greg also reported on the Exit 24 bridge, the Exit 17 bridge and the I-87 bridges over Route 9 in Lake George projects. In response to a question from Aaron, Greg confirmed that NYSDOT Regions 2 and 7 have also agreed to participate in the SS4A study if awarded. A/GFTC Chairman John Strough noted recent NYSDOT activity on the Gurney Lane bridge and reminded the committee of the former recommendations to include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations in any future bridge replacement there. Greg replied that the activity noted was the result of a routine bridge inspection that revealed that the structure had been struck; repair options are under evaluation. In response to a question from Wayne LaMothe, Greg replied that it was almost certain that two-lane traffic would be returned to the I-87 bridges over Route 9 during the winter months.
- B. 2022 – 2027 TIP Update – consideration for approval as final – Aaron reported that the public comment period for the draft TIP had closed on July 29 with no comments received. Greg Wichser noted the typical October 1 effective date will not be met this year; a mid-November effective date is anticipated. Aaron and Greg agreed that sponsors that need to advance project phases that are consistent with the new TIP will not be required to request formal amendments as result of the delay in approving the STIP.

A motion was made to approve the draft TIP, 2022 Self-Certification, and 1997 Ozone Non-attainment Area Transportation / Air Quality Conformity Determination as final.

Moved by: Stu Baker

Seconded by: Mike Valentine

Motion carried.

Greg and Aaron thanked the committee for its understanding and cooperation during an unusually challenging programming cycle.

**7. Other items of interest** – none offered.

**8. Next Meeting and Adjourn** – Aaron reported that the next Policy Committee meeting is 9/14; next Planning Committee meeting is Nov 9.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:42.

Moved by: Maiken Holmes

Seconded by: Wayne LaMothe

Meeting adjourned.