

Meeting minutes - A/GFTC Planning Committee meeting

Remote Access via Zoom

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 10:30 AM

- Welcome / Acknowledgment of Attendees** – Aaron initiated the meeting at 10:30 and listed the following attendees (voting members / proxy in **bold**):

Stu Baker	Town of Queensbury Community Development
Dan Barusch	Town of Lake George Planning and Zoning
Mike Breault	Washington County Department of Public Works
Deb Donohue	Washington County Department of Public Works
Pat Dowd	City of Glens Falls Community Development
Allison Gaddy	Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board
Ethan Gaddy	Warren County Planning Department
Chris Geroux	Creighton Manning
Brian Healey	CHA
Mary Hastings	Greater Glens Falls Transit
Maiken Holmes	Warren County Department of Public Works
Kim Lambert	Saratoga County Planning
Wayne LaMothe	Warren County Planning Department
Zachary Luckin	Federal Transit Administration
Laura Oswald	Washington County Economic Development Council
Bob Rice	NYSDOT Region 1
Chris Round	LaBella Associates
Dan Rourke	Barton & Loguidice
Laura Sanda	McFarland - Johnson
Mike Valentine	Saratoga County Planning
Tim Zinn	Washington County Department of Public Works
Aaron Frankenfeld	A/GFTC
Jack Mance	A/GFTC

- Visitor Issues – no visitors present.**
- Approval of April 2023 meeting minutes** – draft minutes of the April meeting were previously distributed to participants for comments – none were received.

A motion was made to approve the April 2023 Planning Committee minutes as final.

Moved by: Stu Baker

Seconded by: Bob Rice

Minutes approved.

- GGFT Report** – Mary Hastings reported that the fully trolley season starts June 24th with full services anticipated with the help of Capital District Transit Authority (CDTA). Ridership continues to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic levels; J-1 workers are contributing to that increase. Seasonal passes for workers have been offered to employers for \$50.00. Mary reported that Warren County has voted to join the Capital District Transit Authority (CDTA) and that CDTA will be gradually assuming GGFT operations. A transition plan is being implemented, including transfer of assets to CDTA and assessment of GGFT operations. In response to a question from Deb Donohue, Aaron stated that the communication dynamic will

likely change with CDTA representation rather than GGFT representation on A/GFTC. Mike Valentine asked if services would be upgraded in Moreau as a result of the change in operators. Mary replied that that would not be immediate but additional future connections were definitely possible. Aaron replied that now that there weren't separate operating territories, potential service enhancements between the Capital Region and the A/GFTC area have been cited as a benefit of this change. Allison Gaddy suggested inviting CDTA to the committee; Aaron agreed to do so. Bob Rice added that NYSDOT will also reach out to CDTA.

5. Unified Planning Work Program

- Aaron reported on the following tasks:
 - Maple Street bicycling improvements – staff and Creighton Manning are working towards a July meeting with the Glens Falls Board of Public Safety to review recommendations.
 - Glen St / Grant Avenue / Sanford Street – Barton & Loguidice had recently completed an intersection assessment geared towards identifying pedestrian and bicycling improvements. The City of Glens Falls is currently improving sidewalks and curb ramps in the area and the City Engineer would like to confirm that the improvements are consistent with recommendations in that plan. A/GFTC will retain B&L to provide conceptual review of the City's improvement plans.

- Jack Mance reported on the following tasks:
 - Queensbury ASCT: The final draft has been completed and the project is in the process of being closed out by NYSERDA. The project went very well once it got underway. Stu Baker thanked Jack for the all of the work on the document and is looking forward to implementation. Jack stated that the process may be applicable towards other areas that could warrant improvement of signalization. Mike Valentine asked about the Hannaford signal, which is private, and whether that was holding up implementation of the improvements. Jack noted that there were other obstacles to implementation. Mike also asked if the flashing arrows were an outcome of this study; Jack replied that they were not.
 - Rural Workforce Transportation: Revisions to the final draft are underway. We will be reaching out to CDTA within the next week to coordinate and get their input. Once a final draft is ready we will distribute to the Planning Committee and relevant stakeholders as part of the public review process – more details will be available once those details get worked out by the project steering committee. Issues related to the previous discussion regarding transit services in Moreau have been raised throughout this process.
 - Glens Falls ADA data collection: We met with RPB and Warren County GIS staff to review the parameters of the initial GIS app. After making some changes, the app itself is ready to go. It will capture ADA ratings as well as spot observations and photos. Generalized sidewalk and pavement condition data will also be collected as part of this effort. RPB staff will handle the bulk of the rating assessment, tentatively scheduled to begin in August or September. Pat Dowd added that the City has passed its ADA Transition Plan that will eventually include this data. Wayne LaMothe asked if this effort would be compliant with Title VI. Jack and Allison Gaddy replied that staff would make sure that it was consistent. Mike Valentine asked if the data collection effort would have an effect on the sidewalk project mentioned earlier at Glen and Grant. Jack replied that the focus is evaluating existing infrastructure rather than planned improvements. Those improvements will have to be ADA – compliant regardless of this data

collection effort. Pat Dowd added that the goal of this effort was to inform next steps for the City. Jack added that there were many more elements to an ADA transition plan, but A/GFTC is focusing on the transportation aspects.

- Argyle Pedestrian Assessment: A draft project scope is under development and Jack has reached out to the Village for background info on previous sidewalk assessment completed by community members in 2022. Staff have also cleaned up some GIS base mapping in anticipation of field assessments using the same app as developed for Glens Falls, tentatively scheduled for July 6.
- Fort Edward Old Junction Locks trail: A draft concept plan and technical memo was submitted by B&L on June 2 and comments have been supplied by staff. The draft will be shared with Village officials, with an anticipated public outreach period to begin once we get Village sign-off. This may include setting up a table at the farmers' market, which is located on the north side of the study area, to get feedback on the project concepts. The project will probably wrap up in late summer or early fall.
- Fort Ann – Empire State Trail connection: A request for letters of interest was sent to the on-call consultants with responses received on June 7. LaBella was selected and has been notified so we anticipate the project to begin in early July.
- White Creek: B&L submitted draft existing conditions and concept diagrams to the steering committee late last week, which are now under review. A tech memo will also be forthcoming in the next few weeks. The tentative project schedule is to present the draft reports at the Town Board meeting on July 11, with a 14 day comment period to follow. The final report will then be completed in mid-August.

6. **Long Range Plan survey update** – Jack conducted a presentation on the survey results. The survey was open for a month until June 5. Barton & Loguidice hosted the Social Pinpoint survey platform through our term agreement contract. Most survey respondents reported that they live, work, or visit in the area frequently. Improving safety, bicycling and pedestrian issues, and infrastructure conditions were reported as the most important topics. Of those that reported facing transportation issues (and most reported having no issues at all), road and bridge conditions were cited most frequently, slightly more than traffic conditions. Provision of safe bicycle and pedestrian facilities was cited as the most effective incentive to lead to less driving; carsharing and ride hailing options were comparatively unpopular. Interest in new technologies was centered on electric and hybrid vehicles and improving fuel efficiency. Twenty six respondents generated a total of 77 map-based comments citing specific issues; only 11 respondents chose to use the budgeting tool and the results were skewed heavily towards bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The total number of responses received was lower than during the 2018 plan development and future efforts may need to consider consultant-based assistance. We may wish to consider leaving the survey available permanently as an interaction tool. Laura Oswald asked if the unpopularity of Uber and Lyft was due to their unavailability in certain parts of the region. Jack acknowledged that that would be more likely if the bulk of respondents hadn't been from the urbanized area. Mike Valentine asked if staff costs could be quantified to estimate costs for outsourcing future efforts. Jack responded that the survey cost was \$4,900 and the Facebook push was \$25 but we would probably need to use the RFP process next time. Jack reported that the remainder of the plan was under development and a draft LRP would be supplied to this committee in advance of the August 9 meeting.

7. Transportation Improvement Program

A. Project sponsor updates

- 1) Warren County – Maiken Holmes noted developments on the Johnsbury bridges, County Route 19 reconstruction, Quaker Road rehabilitation, Hudson Street over Mill Creek, Adirondack and Beaver Pond Road bridges, and Culvert NY projects.
- 2) Washington County – Tim Zinn noted developments on the joint replacement and CR 37 pavement preservation projects.
- 3) Saratoga County – Kim Lambert reported on the CR 27 and 28 pavement projects.
- 4) City of Glens Falls – Pat Dowd reported on developments for the Glens Falls connector, Cole’s Woods connector, and Webster Avenue pavement projects.
- 5) NYSDOT – Bob Rice reported on the 254 closure. The steel water pipe is at ~80% failure and the remedy design has become complicated. A D-shaped culvert will be used as a liner but that needs to be fabricated. An end-of-September road reopening is targeted. NYSDOT will conduct public notifications now that a timeline has been identified. Bob also reported on the Exit 17 ,Exit 24, and I-87 over Route 9 bridge projects. Mike Arthur was announced as the new Regional Director for NYSDOT Region 1 and Celeste Harp and Kristen Morris have joined Region 1 staff.

- ### B. TIP Amendments and modifications –
- Aaron reported that a modification request arrived just this morning for project 176187 - River Street sidewalks TAP project. The Town of Warrensburg is requesting \$0.333M to cover the difference between the programmed amount for construction of the project and the amount received in the bids. In response to a question from Wayne LaMothe, Aaron and Bob Rice replied that the financial impacts of this adjustment would likely be carried forward to the next program update or future projects rather than subtracted from any ongoing projects.

A motion was made to approve the requested TIP modification.

Moved by: Wayne LaMothe

Seconded by: Allison Gaddy

Motion carried.

Mike Valentine asked if there were impacts on fiscal constraint. Aaron replied that staff checks in with Region 1 staff regarding sizeable program adjustments as needed and whether those could upset regional fiscal constraint, but the sense was that change of this size could be readily accommodated.

8. **Other items of interest** - Aaron reported that Mike Valentine was retiring and that this meeting would be his last with A/GFTC. Several committee members expressed their appreciation and wished Mike well.

9. **Next Meeting and Adjourn** – the next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for August 9 at 10:30.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 AM.

Moved by: Mike Valentine

Seconded by: Wayne LaMothe

Meeting adjourned.