

A/GFTC Planning Committee meeting – draft minutes

Remote Access via Zoom

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

10:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3380598825?pwd=NE4vUi9Ec01sSXNNU0oyOE9HMxISdz09&omn=81874106562>

Meeting ID: 338 059 8825

Passcode: 586562

1. **Welcome / Acknowledgment of Attendees** – Aaron Frankenfeld initiated the meeting at 10:32, introduced himself and Jack Mance, and noted the following municipal attendees:

- **Bolton – Chris Belden**
- **CDTA – Michael Williams**
- **City of Glens Falls – Pat Dowd**
- **Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board – Allison Gaddy**
- **Lake George – Dan Barusch**
- **Moreau – Josh Westfall**
- **NYS DOT – Greg Wichser, Dan Harp**
- **Queensbury – Stu Baker**
- **Saratoga County Planning – Kim Lambert**
- **South Glens Falls – Mayor Nick Bodkin**
- **Warren County DPW – Kevin Hajos, Maiken Holmes**
- **Warren County Planning – Ethan Gaddy**
- **Washington County DPW – Deb Donohue, Tim Zinn, Mike Breault**
- **Washington County EDC – Laura Oswald**

Others in attendance:

Tom Baird, Barton & Loguidice
Norabelle Greenberger, LaBella Associates
Wendy Holsberger, VHB
Bob Rice, Creighton Manning
Dan Rourke, Barton & Loguidice
Lisa Wallin, MJELS

2. **Administration**

- A. Approval of April 2024 minutes – Aaron reported that the draft minutes were reviewed by attendees and sent out to the full committee last week.

A motion was made to approve the minutes as final.

Moved by: Nick Bodkin

Seconded by: Kim Lambert

Minutes approved

- 3. CDTA update** – Mike Williams reported that the trolley service continues to be productive. CDTA is conducting ride checks on all the routes in and around the Glens Falls area to assess ridership at the stop level as well as surveying customers – these will inform future infrastructure investments and service changes. Potential adjustments could be considered in mid-October. While no specific changes have been finalized as of yet, improved connections to shopping and retail at Routes 9/254, Glens Falls public schools, and a future connection to the Saratoga / Wilton area are under consideration. Adjustments to the stop locations in the current network are being implemented now based upon ridership and observations. CDTA is also working with the Town of Lake George on its DRI application to improve trolley stop infrastructure and with Warren County on coordinating the Transit Development Plan update with the County’s Comprehensive Plan update.

- 4. Unified Planning Work Program project updates - developments since last meeting** – Jack updated the committee on the following planning projects:

 - GFSD Access Study – completed; adjustments to the school start times (recommended in the study) will be implemented for the upcoming school year (consultant: CME)
 - Fort Ann / EST Wayfinding Plan – technical work completed; awaiting municipal approval (consultant: LaBella)
 - Hudson Avenue Pedestrian Crossings Improvements – technical work completed; City of Glens Falls has communicated acceptance as final (consultant – Barton & Loguidice)
 - Argyle Pedestrian Plan – nearing completion; draft report is under review. September completion is anticipated (consultant: CME)
 - Town / Village of Greenwich Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan – existing conditions assessed and public outreach conducted; next step is to formulate draft recommendations (consultant: LaBella)
 - Granville Rail-Trail / CR 24 Complete Streets Analysis – just underway; kickoff meeting scheduled for next week (consultant: Barton & Loguidice)
 - Warrensburg Main Street Plan – kickoff meeting held in July and data collection is underway (consultant: MJ ELS)
 - Queensbury East-West Bicycling Connections Improvements – contract awarded to Barton & Loguidice
 - Glens Falls City Bike Plan – staff effort to consolidate prior efforts, just underway
 - CDTA Stop Improvements – awaiting CDTA review of priority locations
 - South Glens Falls Traffic Study – yet to be initiated
 - Lake Luzerne Corridor Study – yet to be initiated, early 2025 initiation anticipated
 - SS4A – participating, led by LC-LGRP – safety summit held in late June
 - Glens Falls Thriving Communities – participating - site visit conducted by City of Glens Falls and consultant team

- 5. Make the Connection bicycle / pedestrian setaside – draft solicitation** – Aaron reported that the draft program solicitation was sent around last week for review. This is the \$1.5 million dollar capital project setaside for bicycle and pedestrian improvement-specific projects that was included in the 2022 A/GFTC Transportation Improvement Program for a mid-cycle obligation. A track changes version was distributed so that committee members could see the changes from the previous solicitation – those are minor. Consideration will be given to sidewalk repair projects that are part of another project that otherwise expands or improves access; purely repair projects will be given low priority. There were no committee comments

on eligible / ineligible activities. Project minimums are acknowledged to be low with an aim towards inclusivity / award distribution. Intended schedule is for it to be awarded and obligated during the upcoming fed fiscal year but before the TIP update for clarity. Greg Wichser agreed getting the solicitation out before the TIP update process begins is likely beneficial.

Ethan Gaddy asked if additional solicitations would be conducted if the full programmed amount was not awarded in this round. Aaron replied that past practice has been to return any unawarded programming back to the core programs for use in supplementing other existing projects, not necessarily bike-ped specific projects. Allison Gaddy stated a release of the solicitation earlier than September 1 would be beneficial to municipalities to allow more time for completion of applications. Ethan Gaddy added that a one-month application deadline does not allow for an adequate amount of time for a County grant application. Laura Oswald concurred. Aaron agreed to release the solicitation in August and extend the application deadline to the end of October.

6. Transportation Improvement Program – developments since last meeting

A. TIP amendments and modifications

- 1) CDTA – program lapsing funds – Aaron summarized for CDTA - CDTA has identified additional FTA funds that are at risk of lapsing and proposes to add them to the existing TIP listing for the project for Transit Bus Replacement and Expansion. The total amount requested is \$0.588M; funds would be used to purchase a third (rather than 2) trolleys for use in the A/GFTC area and offset expenses towards a larger \$13M regional vehicle purchase. The funds must be programmed prior to September 30th pending expiration.

A motion was made to approve the CDTA TIP amendment request.

Moved by: Stu Baker

Seconded by: Pat Dowd

Motion carried

- 2) Saratoga County pavement preservation – request additional funds – Aaron reported that Saratoga County DPW is requesting an additional \$0.482M for the Bluebird Road and Fort Edward Road combined pavement preservation projects to account for an updated Engineers’ Estimate. Reasons cited for the increased costs include advanced deterioration of the roadway, inflation, and the inclusion of upgraded pedestrian signalizations at the Route 9 and Route 32 intersections of Bluebird Road.

A motion was made to approve the Saratoga County DPW TIP amendment request.

Moved by: Nick Bodkin

Seconded by: Greg Wichser

Motion carried

Kevin Hajos asked if any delays or offsets to other projects would be necessary to accommodate this increase. Aaron replied that no immediate adjustment was necessary, but project increases have a cumulative effect on our future programming capacity. Organizational precedent has been to sustain ongoing projects and make any necessary adjustments to future project schedules. Greg Wichser added that the TIP update is beginning soon and that is where the finances will be adjusted. The magnitude of this request is able to be accommodated within the regional program in the short-term.

- 3) Add Bridge NY projects – Washington County and Town of Johnsbury – Aaron reported that the Bridge NY awards have now officially been announced, NYSDOT has requested that A/GFTC add these projects to the TIP. As a reminder, the two awards for A/GFTC are Goodman Road over Halfway Creek in the Town of Fort Ann in Washington County and Crosby Road over Pine Ridge Brook in the Town of Johnsbury in Warren County.

A motion was made to add the Bridge NY - awarded projects to the TIP.

Moved by: Laura Oswald

Seconded by: Kevin Hajos

Motion carried

- B. Local project sponsor updates
- 1) Warren County – Maiken Holmes updated the committee on the Adirondack bridge replacements, Call Street / Corinth Road pavement rehabilitation, Hudson Street over Mill Creek bridge replacement projects, as well as the Culvert NY projects.
 - 2) Washington County – Tim Zinn updated the committee on the CR 61 (Bettn-Dugan) bridge, CR 37 pavement preservation, Gray Lane bridge, Lock 8 Way bridge, bridge joint repair, CR 3 bridge projects.
 - 3) Saratoga County – Kim Lambert reported that there were no updates.
 - 4) City of Glens Falls – Pat Dowd updated the committee on the Webster Avenue pavement rehabilitation and Cole’s Woods Connector projects.
- C. NYSDOT updates – Greg Wichser reported that Structures Engineer Richard Stark has retired and Luis Rehder has been named Acting Regional Structures Management Engineer. Resources available for the upcoming TIP update should be clearer by this fall; the scale of the upcoming program is anticipated to be similar to the current program. Utilization of Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds is encouraged. Systemic approaches are eligible. Maiken Holmes asked if the I-87 bridge replacements over Route 9 in Lake George would impact the Warrensburg Garage Sale. Greg was hopeful that the bridges would be fully open by that point. An emergency closure of Route 29 in Schuylerville for culvert repairs will be announced shortly. A short car-specific detour will be implemented (the truck detour will be longer) that will hopefully minimize impacts to the Washington County Fair. This has already been communicated to local officials. ***(Staff note: the closure has since been delayed by NYSDOT until after the Washington County Fair has concluded)***. Jack asked if the HSIP funds could be applied towards applicable Make the Connection requests; Greg encouraged this where possible. Aaron congratulated Greg for his promotion to Regional Planning and Program Manager, succeeding Bob Rice who has retired from NYSDOT and joined Creighton Manning.
7. **Other Items of Interest** – none offered.
8. **Next Meeting and Adjourn** – Aaron reported that the next A/GFTC meeting was scheduled to be a Policy Committee meeting in September. This meeting is typically held for end-of-FFY adjustments to the TIP. Staff suspects that this meeting will not be required, and proposes cancelling this meeting and rescheduling the November Planning Committee meeting to October. **The next meeting of the A/GFTC Planning Committee will be October 9; the September Policy Committee will be cancelled.**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 AM

Moved by: Kevin Hajos

Seconded by: Kim Lambert

Meeting adjourned.