

BINGHAMTON METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
PLANNING COMMITTEE
MARCH 5, 2009
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Daria Golazeski at 10:05 AM.

Roll call

Members present:

Daria Golazeski, Chair, Village of Johnson City

Luke Day, Vice Chair, City of Binghamton

Pamela Eshbaugh, NYSDOT Region 9, represented by Mark Bowers

Pat Brennan, Broome County

George Bagnetto, Broome County

Phillip Krey, City of Binghamton

Kent Rapp, Village of Endicott

Debra Preston, Town of Conklin

Ron Lake, Town of Dickinson

Gordon Kniffen, Town of Kirkwood

Debra Standinger, Town of Owego

Louis Caforio, Town of Union

Gary Campo, Town of Vestal

Advisory members present:

Stacy Merola, Broome County EMC

Richard Beers, FHWA NY Division

The Chair noted that as a result of action by the Policy Committee on February 11 adopting a new Unified Operations Plan, the following are now voting members of the Planning Committee: Debra Preston, Town of Conklin; David Hamlin, Town of Fenton; Gordon Kniffen, Town of Kirkwood; and Ken DelBianco, Tioga County DPW. She welcomed them to the committee.

Approval of minutes of January 29, 2009. Moved Brennan, second Day. Approved by consensus.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair opened the floor for comment. None was offered.

ACTION ITEM: 2008-2012 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Steven Gayle explained that the Policy Committee had approved a TIP amendment that listed the projects to be funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The amendment also included the designation of a list of "illustrative" projects. These are projects for which no funding is available, but have otherwise been subject to screening, review, and public scrutiny. The consequence is that if additional funding becomes available, they can be considered for amendment into the TIP without additional effort.

NYSDOT has requested the addition of another project to the illustrative list. Mark Bowers briefed the Committee on the project, which would mill and resurface I-81 from the state line to Exit 1; and also address deficiencies in the parking areas at the Gateway Welcome

Center. The cost estimate is \$2.5 million. Gayle noted there is nothing programmed for construction inspection. Bowers indicated he would check.

There were no additional questions.

- Resolution 2009-04, Approving an administrative modification to the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program to add an illustrative project as detailed in Attachment A. Moved Campo, second Lake. Approved by consensus.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: CAPITAL PROGRAM

Gayle began a discussion of the ARRA (economic stimulus) funded projects. The Policy Committee had included in a TIP amendment eight bridge and highway projects to fit within the \$6.2 million target provided by Region 9. The single transit project will provide funds for a portion of a BC Transit bus replacement. Gayle is pleased at how well the project sponsors, NYSDOT, and BMTS staff are working together to progress the projects. All IPPs are approved, and have been submitted to Albany for processing of the STIP amendment. A project milestone spreadsheet has been e-mailed to all project sponsors. Gayle requested weekly reports on project status to allow tracking, and early identification of problems. The next step is passing of local resolutions and signing of project agreements. Region 9 is working on agreements, but waiting for language from Main Office on project reporting requirements. The ARRA law requires unique reporting so the federal government can provide the transparency that they are committed to on how the recovery money is being spent.

Kniffen asked about whether the Town of Kirkwood could do their own project inspection. It was advised that they use a consultant; Brennan offered that they could piggyback on Broome County's contract. Gayle suggested that Endicott might want to do the same, and noted that schedule coordination between Endicott's paving project and Broome County's bridge painting is critical since the projects are adjacent.

Gayle stated that there was concern that core funded projects not get delayed by all the focus on ARRA project delivery. Mark Bowers stated he did not have any information on State projects [Pam Eshbaugh was unable to attend the meeting due to an unanticipated illness in the family.] When asked about the Vestal projects, he noted that the citizens' advisory committee for the NY 201 over NY 434 and Vestal Rd project had met twice. Gayle asked for meeting minutes.

Phil Krey addressed the Court St Gateway project, stating that the FHWA ROW process appeared to very costly and onerous for what had been temporary easements, requiring substantial cost for mapping for what may be a payment to the property owner of a few hundred dollars. For a linear project with dozens of properties, this is an issue; the City had not included these ROW costs in the IPP since this was not anticipated. Krey asked about additional funding through the TIP. Gayle responded that the City should provide a cost estimate. He also asked about clarification from FHWA. Richard Beers responded that he had no information on ROW, but could provide contact information for the Division ROW officer.

DISCUSSION ITEM: 2010-2014 TIP

Gayle explained that on a normal schedule, the Committee would have been acting on the Draft 2010-20-14 TIP at this meeting. The program update had been started last fall, but put on hold because of uncertainty caused by (1) economic stimulus; (2) transportation funding

in the next State budget; and (3) transportation funding in the next Federal authorization. The NYS MPOs and NYSDOT have been in discussion about delaying the TIP update by either six months or one year. When that is resolved, Gayle will convene the TIP Subcommittee.

DISCUSSION ITEM: STAFF BRIEFINGS

Gayle briefed the Committee on the Greenride program. The County Law Department has been working on drafting a contract with the vendor, which should be done soon. Once the contract is signed, the vendor has indicated they can the program operational in about one month.

Jennifer Yonkoski briefed the Committee on the BC Transit-OCC Transport Consolidation Study. Initial meetings with Broome County Public Transportation and Binghamton University officials have occurred, as well as information gathering meetings with OCC-T staff. A recent meeting involved staff from Broome County, Binghamton University, and BMTS traveling to Ithaca to meet with officials from Cornell and Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit (TCAT). Transit systems from Cornell, Ithaca, and Tompkins County were consolidated as TCAT a number of years ago, so this was valuable for “lessons learned”. The project is expected to be completed in the coming months.

Scott Reigle reported on behalf of the BMTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee. The committee would like to establish an ongoing relationship with the Planning Committee to make sure their interests and concerns are addressed.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

The Chair opened the floor for additional business. None was offered.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.