

BINGHAMTON METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
PLANNING COMMITTEE
MAY 6, 2009
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Daria Golazeski at 10:00 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 represented by Len Raychel
George Bagnetto, Broome County
Ken DelBianco, Tioga County
Phillip Krey, City of Binghamton
Kent Rapp, Village of Endicott
Ed Gent, Town of Chenango
Debra Preston, Town of Conklin
Ron Lake, Town of Dickinson represented by Joel Kie
Gordon Kniffen, Town of Kirkwood represented by Richard Jones
Louis Caforio, Town of Union
Richard Biery, Northern Tier RPDC

Advisory members present:

Stacy Merola, Broome County EMC
Robert Augenster, STERPDB
Larry Brinker, Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce

Approval of minutes of March 5, 2009. Moved Gent, second Preston. Approved by consensus.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

Daria Golazeski announced that she would be leaving the Village of John City after May 15, and would be working for the Town of Union. She presented a letter from the Village Board appointing Bob Bennett as their Planning Committee representative.

The Unified Operations Plan states that in the event the office of Chair becomes vacant, the Vice-Chair will fill the remainder of the term. As such, Luke Day will become Chair at the conclusion of the meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING SUBCOMMITTEES

It is the responsibility of the Chair to appoint members to the standing subcommittees in April following their election.

Daria Golazeski announced that she had made the following appointments:

Program and Finance Subcommittee:

Luke Day
Rita Petkash
Pam Eshbaugh
Lou Caforio
Debra Preston

Transportation Improvement Program Subcommittee

Luke Day
Pam Eshbaugh
Ed Gent
Gary Campo
Ken DelBianco

ACTION ITEM: 2008-2012 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Steven Gayle introduced the item. He noted that TIP amendments were required for a number of different reasons. The TIP Subcommittee met last week and reviewed and approved all of the actions that are being presented. Two NYSDOT projects which are being funded with ARRA funds went directly to the Policy Committee for approval because of the need to progress the projects rapidly.

Gayle reviewed the projects in the proposed amendment:

- ♦ Two projects that were awarded under the Transportation Enhancement Program 2008 application cycle; awards were announced recently.
- ♦ Two projects that were previously funded under the State Dedicated Fund. Pam Eshbaugh noted that because of financial problems with the Fund, the only projects that can be awarded are those that have an immediate impact on public safety. The Region has federal funds available for the projects in question.
- ♦ A bridge repair block project, engineering only. Eshbaugh explained that by initiating engineering, they may be able to add the construction work if additional ARRA funds become available.
- ♦ Bridge inspection consultant contract. Eshbaugh explained that this contract is always let by NYSDOT Main Office, and has not previously appeared on the TIP, but needs to.
- ♦ Owego Riverwalk, Congressional earmark. NYSDOT determined there had been an oversight by not submitting this for the TIP previously. There was a discussion about the bids coming in over estimates, and that the Village of Owego had not yet made a decision about how to proceed.
- ♦ Transit project. George Bagnetto explained that ARRA included funding for the rural transit program; NYSDOT had allocated \$400,000 to Broome County, which they intend to use for BC Country bus replacement.

There was no further discussion.

- Resolution 2009-05 Recommending Policy Committee approval of this amendment to the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program. Moved Bagnetto. Second Caforio.
Approved by consensus.

Gayle informed the Committee that an administrative modification to the TIP was also needed. Pam Eshbaugh explained that the Policy Committee had approved an ARRA funded project to improve 5 highway-rail grade crossings. The Region had later been advised that

they should progress this as separate projects for each of the 2 railroads involved. The administrative modification will divide the original project into two new PINs.

- ☑ Motion to approve the administrative modification to the 2008-2012 TIP. Moved Gent. Second Preston. Approved by consensus.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: PROGRAM STATUS

Gayle noted that BMTS has programmed 10 ARRA projects – 8 highway and bridge, and 2 transit. He explained that project sponsors must not lose sight of ARRA deadlines. NYSDOT has developed new targets to help insure the 120 day/50% obligation deadline is met. Region 9 has a new target of \$56 million, but must obligated \$39 million by the deadline to access the rest. ARRA reporting requirements also have inserted another step prior to obligation. After PS&E packages are submitted to NYSDOT and approved, projects are added to a certification list. The Governor periodically submits a certification to Washington, listing approved projects to be posted on the recovery.gov website. Only then can FHWA obligate the funds. This can add 3 weeks or more to the timeline, making it all the more critical to move projects quickly to PS&E.

Gayle asked each project sponsor to report on project status.

- ♦ City of Binghamton: Main Street paving. 70% complete. Need SAFETAP. PS&E in two weeks
- ♦ Johnson City: Arch Street bridge. Report received from consultant. PS&E next week.
- ♦ Broome County: Vestal-Endicott bridge painting. DDR approved. PS&E by the end of May
- ♦ Broome County: Vestal Rd paving. DDR circulated. PS&E in two weeks
- ♦ Town of Kirkwood: Barlow Rd culvert. All permits done. PS&E in two weeks
- ♦ Tioga County: Southside Drive bridge. PS&E submitted last week
- ♦ Village of Endicott: Vestal Ave paving. PS&E by end of May
- ♦ Town of Vestal: Mason Rd bridge. [Gary Campo not present but had reported by e-mail] Design at 50%, permits complete. PS&E early July.

George Bagnetto reported on the transit projects. Urban formula funds to be used to purchase 6 or 7 hybrid buses for BC Transit. Have arranged to acquire contract options from Houston Metro, which will facilitate timeline and guarantee procurement of BAE/Orion buses. Expect to have agreement in place shortly, followed by County Executive certification, then grant application. Rural formula funds transferred to urban program for ease in grant application. Purchase 4 minibuses for BC Country service. Expect to include in same certification.

Gayle noted that focus has been on ARRA, but must not lose track of core funded program. He asked for review of core funded projects.

- ♦ City of Binghamton:
 - Court Street Gateway. Design approval granted. Final design proceeding, as is ROW mapping for properties needing TEs. Letting in August. Begin construction this year.
 - Front St/Clinton St Intersection Improvements. Eminent domain challenge resolved, moving on final parcel acquisition. Expect September letting, construction 2010.
 - Front Street Gateway. Negotiations concluded with design consultant, work to begin. Letting moved to 2012 to accommodate needed funding offset.
 - Exchange Street bridge. Scope/fee negotiations underway with Delta. Because of flags, NYSDOT doing load ratings; need to remove from Delta contract. 2010 letting.

- Prospect/Henry traffic signal. In design.
- ◆ Town of Union:
 - Hooper Rd/Country Club Rd intersection and signal. Let this summer
 - Traffic signal improvements. Later this year.
- ◆ NYSDOT
 - NY 201 over NY 434 and Vestal Road. Draft Design Report recently circulated. Citizens Advisory Committee still meeting to review options.
 - NY 434/Rano/Sycamore. Draft Design Report due out soon.
 - I-86/Prospect Mountain. Phase 0 (high mast lighting and ITS) May 21. Phase 0A (demolition of acquired and vacated properties) August. Phase 1 construction: some indications that funding for Statewide Significant projects may be in jeopardy, pending federal reauthorization. Currently pushed back to 2011.

Ken DelBianco reported that construction on the Glen Mary Drive bridge, which had been added to the TIP in an emergency move last year, was completed.

DISCUSSION ITEM: STAFF BRIEFINGS

GreenRide. Gayle reported the contract has been executed. Delays incurred in developing graphics for website because we are out of the building. Has contracted vendor asking to initiate launch. Will be meeting with BU, where there is interest in a program for staff and faculty.

BC Transit-OCCT Consolidation Plan. Jennifer Yonkoski reported that she was making progress on the study. Met with OCCT coordinator, who provided operations and budget information. Met with Joann Navarro, Assoc VP from BU, who will provide results of transportation survey.

NYSDOT High Speed Rail Initiative. Gayle reported that the NYSMPO association had received a report from Don Hannon of NYSDOT. There is \$8 billion in ARRA for high speed rail, limited to previously designated corridors. The Empire Corridor has been long since designated; Niagara Falls to Buffalo-Albany-New York City. NYSDOT is working with CSX, the rail owner; and Amtrak, the operator; on a package of 18 projects worth about \$3 billion. Will reduce travel time between Buffalo and Albany by 2 hours, and improve reliability. Binghamton may not benefit directly, but will through access to Syracuse.

Federal Transportation Authorization. Gayle reported that with SAFETEA-LU expiring at the end of September, Congress has begun work on a new bill. He joined two others from AMPO to meet with senior staff of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and majority and minority senior staff of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to discuss metropolitan transportation planning needs. Intent of Chairman Oberstar to introduce bill in committee by June 1.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.