

BINGHAMTON METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE
December 15, 2011
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Peter Andreasen, at 10:10AM

Roll call and quorum determination by Jack Williams.

Members Present

- ♦ Supervisor Peter Andreasen, Town of Vestal, Chair
- ♦ Supervisor Michael Marinaccio, Town of Dickinson, Vice-Chair
- ♦ Patrick Brennan, Broome County Executive
- ♦ Legislator Michael Roberts, Tioga County
- ♦ Mayor Matthew Ryan, City of Binghamton
- ♦ Commissioner Joan McDonald, NYSDOT, represented by Regional Director Jack Williams
- ♦ Elaine Jardine, STERPDB
- ♦ Kevin McLaughlin, Regional Director, NYS Department of Economic Development

Others Present

Cyndi Paddick, BMTS
John Sterbentz, BMTS
Scott Reigle, BMTS
Jennifer Yonkoski, BMTS
Zach Nersinger, BMTS
Pam Eshbaugh, RPPMO NYSDOT Region 9

- Approval of minutes of March 3, 2011. Moved McLaughlin, second Marinaccio. Approved by consensus

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair, Peter Andreasen opened the floor for comment. None was offered.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

The Vice-Chair, Mike Marinaccio, presented a resolution and certificate to Mr. Andreasen for his service to BMTS and the Binghamton Metropolitan Region.

- Special Resolution**, Recognizing, Town of Vestal Supervisor, Peter Andreasen for his service to BMTS and the Region. Approved by consensus.

- Special Resolution**, Recognizing Broome County Executive Patrick Brennan, for his service to BMTS and the Region. Approved by consensus.

The Vice-Chair then presented a resolution and certificate to Mr. Brennan.

- Special Resolution**, Recognizing Town of Union Supervisor, John Bernardo for his service to BMTS and the Region. Approved by consensus.

Mr. Bernardo's resolution and certificate will be mailed to him.

ACTION ITEM: Limited English Proficiency Plan

Cyndi Paddick explained that it was a federal requirement that BMTS have a Limited English Proficiency Plan. The Plan was actually completed by Steven Gayle before he retired and the draft was approved by the BMTS Planning Committee in October 2010. Paddick asked if there were any questions on the report. Being none, a motion for approval was made.

- Resolution 2011-11**, Approving the Limited English Proficiency Plan. Move Patrick Brennan, second Ed Arrington. Approved unanimously by consensus.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on the Traffic Signal Maintenance Study

Jennifer Yonkoski updated the committee on the progress of the study. It will be going to the Planning Committee for review and approval at their February meeting and will then be forwarded to the Policy Committee for action at the March 2012 meeting. The report provides information for the municipalities to use when making future decisions related to signal maintenance.

BC Transit On-Board Survey

Jennifer Yonkoski reported that BMTS with the help of Binghamton University had completed the 3rd biennial On-Board Transit survey. 460 surveys were completed. This year the survey also included questions related to transportation during the flood, including evacuation procedures and travel information. The report is being finalized and will be sent to the Planning Committee at their February meeting and then forwarded to the Policy Committee for action in March 2012.

Greenway Sign Plan and Design Guide

Scott Reigle gave the committee a briefing on what the project would entail. The goal of the plan is to develop a consistent signing plan for the Greater Binghamton Greenway. The plan will identify locations for directional and interpretive signing as well the design of the signs. Peter Andreasen asked if the existing signs will be incorporated into the plan. Reigle explained that the intent is to develop a design that will be compatible with existing signing. The RFP has been reviewed internally and will be advertised soon. A committee with representation from the Planning Committee will review the consultant proposals.

Mobility Management Program

BMTS is currently working with the Rural Health Network of South Central New York that has obtained a Mobility Management Grant from the Harriet Ford Dickenson Fund to train two full-time Mobility Management positions using AmeriCorps employees. The mobility management positions are housed at the United Way of Broome County in the "211" call center. In addition to serving as a one-stop shop for transportation service information and trip planning, they will promote Broome-Tioga Greenride and reach out to employers to create their own Greenride portals. A January 2012 roll out of the program is planned.

NYSDOT Program Update

Jack Williams provided an update on NYSDOT activities and project statuses.

Jack thanked the municipal leaders for all of their help during the September flood. He said that NYSDOT was able to respond quicker than in the 2006 flood, due to better sharing of resources across the regional boundaries.

The Prospect Mountain project was awarded in September to Lancaster Construction and Tully Construction. Mike Marinaccio asked about the high mast lighting on the project. The project will begin in the spring of 2012.

The project for I86 designation for RT17 from the Tioga County line to Elmira will be accelerated. The project is now scheduled for July 2012.

Jack mentioned that on December 9th, Governor Cuomo announced the Infrastructure Investment Act which includes \$1 billion of funding and the ability to use "design/build" contracts. More information will be forthcoming.

Jack discussed the Regional Program Update that has just been completed. He discussed the joint meeting that was held in Albany with the NYSDOT Regions and the MPO's around the State. The key elements of the update are preservation first, systems not projects, maximize return on investments, and make it sustainable. The regions were also encouraged to look at disinvestment opportunities in their systems.

Jack asked if there were any questions. Pete Andreasen thanked Jack and the Department for the work that was completed on the RT201 project and for how smoothly the project progressed through the planning stage and then construction.

Ed Arrington asked Jack if NYSDOT would be able to install generators for the pumps that are located under the RR underpass on North Avenue (RT96/RT38) in Owego; Jack will look into this. Arrington thanked Jack and NYSDOT for all of their help.

Jack asked Kevin McLaughlin to update the committee on the Economic Development Councils. Kevin outlined the funds that the area received for flood damage. He outlined the funds that were awarded directly to Amphenol and BAE and the grant funds that are available to businesses. Kevin briefly went over how money was distributed to the Economic Development Councils and told the Committee that there will be another round of funding during the summer of 2012.

BMTS 2012-2013 UPWP

Cyndi Paddick told the committee that she was in the process of developing the work program for next year. A call letter has been sent out to everyone. If you have a study that you are interested in having completed, please let her know.

Washington Update- Transportation Funding

Paddick gave a brief update on the House and Senate language for the new Transportation Bill (MAP-21) that is being developed. The extension on the existing bill expires at the end of March 2012. The highlight of the bill is the proposal to consolidate the transportation funding

categories (seven reduced to 5); all indications are that funding levels for transportation will remain flat.

Another proposal that is particularly important to BMTS is the elimination of Metropolitan Planning Organizations with urbanized area populations of fewer than 200,000. The existing proposals are to create a two tier system of MPO's. Tier 1 MPO's would have populations over 1 million. Tier 2 MPO's would be all MPO's less than 1 million but greater than 200,000. BMTS is under 200,000 with a population of approximately 155,000. There is the possibility of applying for an upgrade to Tier 2, but the details have not been determined yet. Paddick explained that besides not providing funding for staff to perform transportation planning services, it also means that the Policy Committee would not exist and local decision making concerning how federal transportation funds are spent would no longer be a local decision. BMTS staff will be providing members with information to be used to contact the appropriate House and Senate members regarding this. We hopefully will have more information before the March meeting of the Policy Committee.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

No additional business was offered.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.