



ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Meeting Transcript
Policy Board Meeting
March 1, 2022 at 1:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Dial-in Number: 646-876-9923

Meeting ID: 892 4105 4778

Passcode: 682655

Join Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89241054778?pwd=M1YvR0x0VmYrN05HS3ZjdWF5NFVKUT09>

Meeting Participants

Name:	Organization:
Harry Porr	Orange County Executive's Office
Alan Sorensen	Orange County Planning
John Czamanske	Orange County Planning
Lauren Bennett	Orange County Planning
Jessica Ridgeway	Orange County Planning
Zack Coleman	Orange County Planning
Emma Barrett	Orange County Planning
Nicole Farmer	NYSDOT, Region 8
Lance MacMillan	NYSDOT, Region 8
Sandra Jobson	NYSDOT, Region 8
Olu Folarin	Metropolitan Transportation Authority HQ
Kristen Resnikoff	NYS Thruway Authority
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Ryan McGuire	Orange County DPW
Jason Morris	City of Newburgh
Jacob Tawil	City of Middletown
Charles Carnes	Town of Crawford
Mike Sweeton	Town of Warwick
Gedalyze Szegedin	Village of Kiryas Joel
David McFadden	Village of Tuxedo Park
Michawl Amabile	Creighton Manning
Sharon Soons	Vision Hudson Valley
Al Fusco	Fusco Engineering, T/Deerpark, T/Chester, T/Woodbury, T/Tuxedo, V/Greenwood Lake, V/Florida

Meeting held via Zoom. Transcript of meeting as follows.

0:00:06.000, 0:00:27.900

Harry Porr: OK, we are called to order, and what I'd like to do, I was talking with Alan and Lauren about this the other day prior to the meeting, is to actually take attendance, so we know that we have a quorum that we can conduct business and everyone else will know who is on the call. So Lauren, would you take attendance for us and let us so first who the voting Members are, as you do that?

0:00:30.000,0:00:30.570

Harry Porr: You're on mute.

0:00:31.500,0:00:33.090

Lauren Bennett, OCTC: That's going to be Alan who is going to take that.

0:00:33.810,0:00:35.400

Harry Porr: Alan? Thank you, Alan.

0:00:36.270, 0:00:45.330

Alan Sorensen: OK, um so just going through the list, we have we have Harry representing Steve Neuhaus.

0:00:45.960, 0:00:54.390

Alan Sorensen: Lance McMillan representing Marie Therese Dominguez. Do we have anyone from the New York State Thruway Authority?

0:00:56.220,0:00:57.840

Kristen Resnikoff: Hi, it's Kristen Resnikoff.

0:00:58.710,0:01:00.060

Alan Sorensen: Okay, Kristen. Thank you.

0:01:03.000,0:01:08.000

Alan Sorensen: Olu, representing New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, I see you, you're on the line, correct?

0:01:08.040,0:01:10.410

Olu Folarin: Thank you, yes.

0:01:11.580,0:01:14.850

Alan Sorensen: Jason Morris representing Todd Venning, City of Newburgh.

0:01:18.480,0:01:22.290

Alan Sorensen: And Jacob is, with us, representing City of Middletown.

0:01:23.760,0:01:27.150

Alan Sorensen: Do we have anyone representing the city of Port Jervis?

0:01:30.270,0:01:39.810

Alan Sorensen: Okay, so one absence there. Just going to the town and village representation, Town of Newburgh? Gil?

0:01:41.070,0:01:47.910

Lauren Bennett, OCTC: Scott Manley usually sits in. He let us know that he may be late. He had a prior engagement, so he may jump on later.

0:01:48.810, 0:02:01.620

Alan Sorensen: Okay. And I spoke to Brian Mahar earlier, I don't believe he'll be on the call today. Mike Sweeton is on for the Town of Warwick.

0:02:02.430,0:02:05.250

Alan Sorensen: Do we have Anthony Cardone for the town of Monroe?

0:02:05.700,0:02:07.830

Michael Sweeton: He is not feeling well today, Alan.

0:02:08.670,0:02:11.640

Alan Sorensen: Okay Mike, thank you for that.

0:02:13.140,0:02:21.570

Alan Sorensen: We have Charlie Carnes representing Town of Crawford and Town of Deerpark, Gary Spears, are you on?

0:02:23.520,0:02:24.020

Alan Sorensen: OK.

0:02:25.380,0:02:30.210

Alan Sorensen: We have John Revella representing the Village of Walden, and Gedalye have you joined us yet?

0:02:31.710,0:02:32.790

Gedalye Szegedin: Gedalye's here.

0:02:33.270,0:02:35.100

Alan Sorensen: Okay, good Thank you okay.

0:02:36.150,0:02:38.520

Alan Sorensen: So we definitely have a quorum.

0:02:41.640,0:02:46.590

Alan Sorensen: Right now, I guess, do you want me to go through the non-voting members? I'm not sure if there's

0:02:47.610, 0:02:49.680

Harry Porr: Yes. If you have a list, do that.

0:02:50.820,0:02:53.700

Alan Sorensen: Okay, so anyone from Federal Highway Administration?

0:02:58.380,0:02:59.910

Alan Sorensen: New York State Bridge Authority?

0:03:05.850,0:03:06.600

Alan Sorensen: FTA?

0:03:11.520, 0:03:19.110

Alan Sorensen: And Port Authority of New York and New Jersey? I think we did have, yes, Jay Shuffield, thank you.

0:03:22.230,0:03:22.730

Alan Sorensen: Okay.

0:03:23.220,0:03:24.870

Harry Porr: Okay, all right, thank you.

0:03:26.790, 0:03:50.190

Harry Porr: First item on the agenda is opportunity for public comment and again that anyone is feel free to have anything that you may want to get off their mind and share with us today. After the public comment is over, then only those members of our organization will be speaking. There won't be any additional public comment beyond what we're doing right now. So we'll open it up right now. Does anyone have anything they want to share with us today?

0:03:54.030,0:03:54.530

Harry Porr: Gedalye?

0:03:58.710,0:03:59.550

Harry Porr: You're on mute.

0:04:03.780,0:04:04.590

Gedalye Szegedin: Can you hear me?

0:04:04.890,0:04:06.000

Harry Porr: Yes, now I can hear you.

0:04:06.510, 0:04:22.020

Gedalye Szegedin: Okay, thank you. Is it the appropriate time to talk about the park and ride issue that we had a conference call last week?

0:04:23.730,0:04:24.330

Harry Porr: Alan, what do you think?

0:04:25.620, 0:04:29.970

Alan Sorensen: We can probably better cover that under new business. That would be my recommendation.

0:04:30.300,0:04:32.430

Harry Porr: Okay sounds good. That's what we'll do, Gedalye.

0:04:33.120, 0:05:09.450

Gedalye Szegedin: Also, I did reach out to DOT and follow up. The 17 widening, where the PEL study is leading us, in light of the fact that the governor in the State of the State, State of the State address talked about it, I understand that there is going to be progress on EIS. And we're hopeful that someone is going to keep the OCTC up to speed on progress on the EIS an any other progress related to that project.

0:05:13.380,0:05:13.880

Harry Porr: OK, alright.

0:05:15.030,0:05:15.900

Harry Porr: Anyone else?

0:05:17.040,0:05:18.600

Harry Porr: I see Mr. Fusco has joined us.

0:05:21.750,0:05:22.250

Harry Porr: Good.

0:05:24.030,0:05:25.410

Harry Porr: And Sharon Soons as well.

0:05:26.310, 0:05:32.250

Vision Hudson Valley (Sharon Soons): And I just want to say hello to everybody. And I'm enjoying the slalom with the potholes. I'm sure everybody is.

0:05:33.390, 0:05:37.920

Harry Porr: Jason Morris, City of Newburgh? I see your hand is up.

0:05:41.580,0:05:42.180

Harry Porr: You're on mute.

0:05:44.160,0:05:47.160

Jason Morris: No comment, Harry, sorry.

0:05:47.220,0:05:54.120

Harry Porr: Okay, I saw your hand up so I thought you had something to say. All right, we're still in the public comment period, does anybody else have anything else you want to contribute today?

0:05:59.760,0:06:04.770

Harry Porr: Going once, going twice. We are going to move on, thank you, closing public comment.

0:06:05.970,0:06:10.140

Harry Porr: Number three is to accept the meeting transcripts, can I have a motion on that please?

0:06:10.830,0:06:11.580

Michael Sweeton: So moved, Harry.

0:06:12.270,0:06:12.810

Harry Porr: Second?

0:06:16.290,0:06:17.970

Jacob Tawil: I wasn't there, so I can't second.

0:06:19.230,0:06:20.010

Harry Porr: I will, I will.

0:06:21.180,0:06:23.640

Harry Porr: Any comments regarding the transcripts?

0:06:25.650,0:06:27.120

Harry Porr: All those in favor of accepting it?

0:06:27.990,0:06:28.490

Group: Aye.

0:06:31.200,0:06:46.620

Harry Porr: Okay. Next we move to the OCTC Resolution 2022-01: SFY 2022-2023 the Unified Planning Work Program Adoption. Any I would like to have a Lauren give us a briefing on that.

0:06:52.530, 0:09:44.940

Lauren Bennett, OCTC: Alright, so as a reminder UPWP, the Unified Planning Work Program, presents the annual work program for the OCTC. It describes the planning and administrative activities programmed to be undertaken during the year. It's funded through annual allocations of two primary sources: FHWA's Metropolitan Planning funds, or PLs, and FTA's Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program, or MPP funds. These were all, both these funds were authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, IJJA, or otherwise known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, or BIL.

The annual cycle for the UPWP is based on the state fiscal year, so it runs April 1 through March 31, and the OCTC is the MPO for Orange County and is the entity responsible for coordinating federally funded transportation activities within the County. So as a reminder, this year's allocations for Federal Highway PL and MTA, or FTA sorry, MPP funds was approximately \$877,000. Including the previous backlog of allocations, our funding level is expected to be at about \$2.6 million for this state fiscal year. The draft UPWP was presented at the January Planning Committee meeting. Updates were made, based on planning comments that were received from the committee and the draft was sent to planning committee members, where no further comments were received.

The draft, then went out to public comment, a 14-day public comment period, from February 11 through February 24 and also received no public comment. The draft UPWP was also reviewed by NYSDOT Main Office and received two comments concerning the funding tables. The first comment was on tables five through 11, the FTA tables, and they just asked that we remove the "Toll Credits" that was added by accident in error when copying and pasting. So those were removed. And then the second comment was the way we showed NYSDOT's In-Kind Services. They sent us updated tables for that in the audible budget for tables 5 through 11 and that that impacted the table 3 summary tables. There was no changes to the total funding in any of the tables and there were no changes in the narrative section. So we ask to take action today on adopting the UPWP.

0:09:45.840,0:09:53.280

Harry Porr: Thank you, Lauren. Let's open up for comment. Anyone have anything to add or contribute or quiz?

0:09:55.050,0:09:57.750

Harry Porr: Lance, maybe you might want to say something from New York State DOT?

0:09:59.160,0:10:06.720

Lance MacMillan: I don't know, Harry, you're putting me on the spot. Nothing, nothing urgent on this. It seems this is, I mean, Sandra anything you want to add to this resolution?

0:10:08.760,0:10:18.090

Sandra Jobson: No, I looked it over earlier today and it looks pretty standard, I think the comments you received are very minor and easy to address, so thank you.

0:10:19.140,0:10:23.520

Harry Porr: Thank you both. Anyone else? Any of our voting members want to contribute something?

0:10:24.300,0:10:28.530

Michael Sweeton: Harry, I just say to thank the staff for doing a good job with it.

0:10:28.650,0:10:35.070

Harry Porr: Thank you very much. Okay, with, with that I'll ask for a motion to accept this resolution.

0:10:35.790,0:10:36.290

So moved.

0:10:36.930,0:10:37.620

Harry Porr: Second?

0:10:37.920,0:10:39.200

Jacob Tawil: I'll second.

0:10:39.240,0:10:41.340

Harry Porr: Discussion?

0:10:41.340,0:10:42.270

Harry Porr: All those in favor?

0:10:42.660,0:10:43.560

Group: Aye.

0:10:43.920,0:10:47.610

Harry Porr: Thank you. It passes. Alright.

0:10:48.870, 0:11:04.020

Harry Porr: Our next item on the agenda is Orange County Transportation Council Resolution 2022-02, the Orange County TIP Amendment 20-12. And again I'll ask Lauren to brief those present on the resolution. Lauren?

0:11:05.190, 0:11:32.760

Lauren Bennett, OCTC: Yes, so this TIP amendment 20-12 has a single NYSDOT project on it, PIN 881355. It's the repairing the wall along 9W in the Town of Highlands. This was presented at the planning committee meeting in January, it went out for public, a 14-day public comment period, from February 11 through the 24th and did not receive any comments.

0:11:34.590,0:11:36.060

Harry Porr: Would anybody like to make a comment now?

0:11:37.170,0:11:44.010

Jacob Tawil: I missed the meeting Harry, last January, I apologize, but the additional funding what is that coming from, Lauren?

0:11:46.740,0:11:58.350

Lauren Bennett, OCTC: This is from a PIN on the Mid-Hudson South TCC TIP so it's all NYSDOT funding. So Sandra or Lance or Nicole, if you guys have any other comments to add on that.

0:12:01.980,0:12:10.920

Sandra Jobson: I do not. I don't know the exact project that we are offsetting it from I mean, I see the PIN listed, it might have been a bridge project, Nicole?

0:12:12.720,0:12:14.220

Nicole Farmer, NYSDOT R8: That's correct. It's a bridge project.

0:12:18.750, 0:12:26.520

Harry Porr: Okay, hearing no other comment, I'd like to call, have somebody make a motion to accept this resolution.

0:12:26.940,0:12:28.350

Jacob Tawil: I'll make the motion, Harry. Jacob.

0:12:28.710,0:12:30.000

Harry Porr: Thank you. Second?

0:12:32.070,0:12:32.570

Michael Sweeton: Second.

0:12:32.970,0:12:35.220

Harry Porr: Thank you, Michael. Okay all those in favor?

0:12:35.580,0:12:37.230

Group: Aye.

0:12:38.160,0:12:38.790

Harry Porr: Opposed?

0:12:39.840,0:12:40.950

Harry Porr: It passes. Thank you.

0:12:42.090, 0:12:50.760

Harry Porr: Okay, next item is new business and I'll open it up, maybe Gedalye, you can talk now about the park and ride. We'll start with that.

0:12:54.810, 0:18:28.230

Gedalye Szegedin: So uh we had a conference call last week with, I think was last week or something like that. We do have a park and ride project, expansion on the TIP, an ongoing project. And The Village currently has three parking areas. And the Village Board has determined to enlarge a different project, different parking lot than they originally proposed. We raised the issue and again I'm proposing it now in very short form, after having lengthy discussions with OCTC staff and DOT staff. On this issue, so I'm not repeating all the details, the general concept is that we have an expansion of a park and ride project currently on the TIP funded with CMAQ funding that the Village requested to modify the project description from one location within the Village to another parking lot location within the Village. And the response we got from DOT and OCTC staff was that, instead of doing it as a modification to the TIP of modifying the project location, it has to be done by closing one TIP project with the current location and reopening a brand new TIP number for the enlargement of the other parking lot municipal parking lot within the village. It's this it's going to stay at the same budget with the same funding from CMAQ with the same general concept of adding additional park and ride spaces to, to the parking to the to the needs of the community, but instead of having it located at a park and ride facility on Bakertown Road corner County Route 105, it's going to be enlarging of a park and ride at Forest Road and Garfield Road.

So because it's not going to be a simple change of project description, it's going to be a closure of one PIN number and an opening up another PIN number, the issue had to be presented to the OCTC for a vote because, technically speaking, when a TIP is, when a PIN number is closed, the money technically goes back into the larger part and then the money is given to the new PIN number which requires action formal action by the OCTC.

I'm raising the issue now in an informal way for a general discussion as per the advice of the of the Planning Commissioner and other OCTC staff and DOT staff, of course, the formalities are going to be brought up and put together by DOT giving us a new PIN number and a strip. Again, it's the same amount of funding that is currently on the TIP, CMAQ funding for expansion of parking capacity within the Kiryas Joel community, it's just changing it from one location to another location. I want to add to that, that whatever funding was already used for location number one and it's not going to be utilized the Village has already committed to reimburse the State for all the funding that was used, so there is going to be no lost funding, but there were many challenges with and reasoning for the changing of the location of the phase two of a parking facility, including factors which is, which was created and highlighted by the COVID impact, but also other impacts on transportation and where people work from and where people travel from, some of the community characters.

So in light of that, we're looking to use the same amount of funding for the same general purpose but we're going to be submitting for a new project application under new PIN number using the same amount of money for the same purpose. Whatever the formalities we're going to have to do, we will be working with staff, but I wanted to brief the committee on the general concept.

0:18:29.850, 0:18:32.730

Harry Porr: Thank you. Alan, do you want to respond?

0:18:34.440, 0:20:30.150

Alan Sorensen: Yeah. Based on that meeting, we absolutely agree that the current project needs to be closed out, because the Village has decided not to proceed with that project and so the question that comes, that's going to come up, and first of all, I just want to back up and say, I think the continuation of this discussion, needs to be moved to the planning committee, to a planning committee meeting, because there's still details that needs to be worked out, but our recommendation would be to go close out the PIN 8764.41 as they have agreed to do. And to reimburse State DOT for the dollars that were expanded on the draft design report. And the question I that I think OCTC and you know it's going to have to take up is what to do with the 2.3 million and CMAQ funding that was programmed for that for fiscal year 2023. And I think the question is going to be the suggestion is that it should be placed back into the CMAQ block in 2023 and then placed, then that they were from there, there would be a new call for projects. And so it doesn't mean that the Village couldn't come back in and request a new project, but I think there are some steps, procedural steps that need to be taken that need to be taking place. I think the Village is asking that that money just be set aside specifically for the for the Village. I'm not 100% certain that we can do that, so that's some of the details that we need to work out.

0:20:32.430,0:20:36.900

Gedalye Szegedin: The work we're leaving it for the planning committee a next planning committee meeting.

0:20:37.620,0:20:39.420

Alan Sorensen: Yes.

0:20:41.400,0:20:41.900

Harry Porr: So.

0:20:42.690, 0:20:59.670

Sandra Jobson: I think it might be helpful, just one thing I wanted to add real quick, I think it would be really helpful to just to if the Village wanted to go ahead, I think it would be helpful to make sure that your new project idea is federally aid eligible. Have you looked into that yet?

0:21:02.430,0:21:03.960

Gedalye Szegedin: You're asking me, Sandra?

0:21:03.960,0:21:04.470

Sandra Jobson: Yeah.

0:21:04.470,0:21:08.100

Gedalye Szegedin: How would I be able to answer that question?

0:21:08.490, 0:21:45.240

Sandra Jobson: Okay um well, you can have your consultant do it if there's anyone that you have access to that could help you with that. Or we could have OCTC staff and our local program staff take a closer look at your project idea. And you know just kind of vetted a little bit to make sure it's federal aid eligible, because I do know, in the past, we've run into problems with how properties were acquired, so its just a good thing for us to do. If we have some time between now and the next meeting, I think we should look into that.

0:21:45.900,0:21:46.400

Gedalye Szegedin: Okay.

0:21:46.950, 0:22:06.030

Gedalye Szegedin: And I would appreciate your help looking into that. We can share that this this property is owned by the Village for probably I would say over 20 years, so what we're going to share those documents with the staff and you come back with your analysis on that.

0:22:08.430,0:22:09.510

Sandra Jobson: Sounds good, thank you.

0:22:11.220, 0:22:41.400

Michael Sweeton: Alan, can I ask a question, based on what you just said right we, I think, in the spirit of the Village, you know getting what they need, which is more park and ride space right you're saying we can't. We have to solicit projects, but I think I would think we would want some sense that we're going to support the Village if it's simply if it's eligible and it's moving it there I'd hate to see, you know, something scoop in and grab funds, right.

0:22:42.900, 0:24:24.840

Gedalye Szegedin: And that was that was part of the discussion we had last week. We understand that technically it when you close the project, the money goes into the pot, technically becomes open for everybody. The Village therefore asked for it to be a project modification from location A to location B, that couldn't be done, we were looking for some sort of moral understanding that this is Kiryas Joel's funding on the TIP for expansion of parking capacity, and it should be honored as such. Going forward, even though technically the money goes from the PIN to the pot to the next PIN. And if there is a clear understanding within the members of the of the OCTC what this money is, we trust that we have a close enough working relationship with other members of the of the OCTC that that could be clearly stated and understood. So people understand that, even though maybe on paper, it looks like a call for projects, but it's really the 2.3 million that's there allocated for Kiryas Joel expansion of parking. Going back to the pot for a technical reason, and then the applicant for that 2.3 million for expansion of parking is the village of Kiryas Joel going forward. And I appreciate, Michael, you bring that to the forefront yeah.

0:24:25.020,0:24:28.500

Michael Sweeton: Okay, no problem. So we'll hash that out the planning meeting how soon.

0:24:28.680,0:24:30.540

Gedalye Szegedin: Yeah.

0:24:30.900,0:24:31.410

Michael Sweeton: Thank you.

0:24:32.610,0:24:36.690

Jacob Tawil: Jacob here. Gedalye, would you need this funding in 2023?

0:24:37.380, 0:25:09.540

Gedalye Szegedin: No, no, we could, if the money is now available for 2023, if it could help any other Community by us pushing it off, maybe 2024, we could live with that. If you have any other project in mind that could use CMAQ funding for 2023, we have done that, before for Middletown and for Port Jervis pushing off projects to accommodate other communities and we're absolutely open for that going forward.

0:25:10.350,0:25:11.280

Jacob Tawil: Understood, thank you.

0:25:11.970,0:25:12.720

Gedalye Szegedin: Thank you, Jacob.

0:25:13.530,0:25:15.240

Harry Porr: Okay, anyone else? Any other comments?

0:25:15.900, 0:25:31.410

Lauren Bennett, OCTC: Well, just that CMAQ funding does have its own rules to it, so the project would have to be CMAQ eligible to receive CMAQ funding. So I just want to make sure that's understood as well.

0:25:33.630,0:25:34.830

Harry Porr: Okay, and who's going to explore that?

0:25:37.560, 0:25:45.960

Alan Sorensen: Lauren and I will coordinate with DOT local projects to evaluate the proposed projects to ensure they're eligible.

0:25:47.340,0:25:52.950

Harry Porr: So on the planning committee agenda next time we meet, this item will be on there and to close that pin?

0:25:54.600, 0:26:36.300

Lauren Bennett, OCTC: Yes, we can add that, I'll work with Nicole, and we can have an action to close out the PIN and we'll also we're looking, we're still waiting on the allocations for this year, so we do need to have a discussion on future funding so hopefully our next planning committee will have those allocations and we can look at the different funding levels for each year. We also had all of our meetings with project sponsors, so we have a good idea of which projects need extra funding, what the timelines are, and whatnot, so we hope to go over all that at the next planning committee meeting.

0:26:36.960, 0:27:19.710

Gedalye Szegedin: But I do wanna, I do want to correct what Harry just said, I would prefer not to have a vote to close the PIN until we have more clarity on the second prong, which is the application process

for the new PIN. I would rather not have a couple months lapse between closing of the pin and having the money sit in the pot, without the process for applying for the money again, so I would rather not close the pin until we have that clarity. It could be done simultaneously.

0:27:21.450,0:27:23.490

Harry Porr: Lauren, Alan, any comment on that?

0:27:25.140, 0:27:38.910

Lauren Bennett, OCTC: We can create the TIP strip for that and we can wait to put it on to the policy committee to actually have it go through. Is that correct Nicole? So we could have that you could see it would just not

0:27:40.860, 0:28:04.080

Sandra Jobson: Yeah, this is Sandra. I would definitely say that it should be done voted on during the same meeting, so, and same action so. There will be the first action to remove the one project, and then, you know, another action potentially to add this other project. So I don't see there's a reason why you can't you know just wait and do them both at the same time.

0:28:04.410,0:28:07.440

Harry Porr: We won't rush to close it then, we'll wait until everything is coordinated.

0:28:08.610,0:28:14.040

Sandra Jobson: Yeah because it would probably be clearer, too, when you do that, when you go for public comment.

0:28:16.050,0:28:16.550

Harry Porr: Okay.

0:28:17.310,0:28:17.810

Gedalye Szegedin: Thank you.

0:28:18.750, 0:28:23.760

Harry Porr: Anyone else on this topic? If not, I'll open up to any other new business.

0:28:24.960,0:28:26.070

Harry Porr: Anyone? Any member?

0:28:26.820,0:28:43.650

Gedalye Szegedin: Just general, everybody read in all the newspapers about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, when is it trickling down to the communities? When is there going to be money available for new rounds of projects? All the communities are desperate to get going on it.

0:28:46.050, 0:28:48.000

Harry Porr: Lauren? Or Lance?

0:28:49.020, 0:29:10.560

Lance MacMillan: Yes, Gedalye. Yes, yes and yes to all the things you just said. I can't wait. I'm in the same position you are. The digestion of the bill and in conjunction with the governor's budget, as you know, we went through a Capital Program Update so I'm hoping good things are to come in the couple of months ahead here and we can get some tangibility to all the potential for future funding and solicitations.

0:29:11.460,0:29:17.280

Gedalye Szegedin: Make sure that some crumbs fall to the locals as well, not only to DOT and to the Feds.

0:29:17.370, 0:29:36.390

Lance MacMillan: No, I think I think it could be pleasantly surprising for all. I think the paper popper money could be a target for hands chips funding and different things so again I don't have all the metrics, I'm not even read in on how it will all work out but I've heard that it could be pretty decent so let's see what happens.

0:29:36.450,0:29:37.350

Gedalye Szegedin: Thank you, Lance.

0:29:37.620, 0:30:03.510

Lance MacMillan: And then Gedalye, you also asked about the EIS for the 17 PEL continuation, I know we responded to you last week, when you asked. Again, we're kind of in a holding pattern here, seeing what happens with the governor's budget. And again, we will keep you informed as we see light and progress on that front as well, you will be an active participant in all the public hearings moving forward, you know we certainly want your input and ideas.

0:30:04.320,0:30:13.890

Gedalye Szegedin: Last week I asked with a different hat, that was the Kiryas Joel hat. Now I asked on behalf of the of my colleagues, as the OCTC members.

0:30:14.190, 0:30:23.040

Lance MacMillan: One of these days I gotta have coffee with you, Gedalye, so I can understand all the hats you wear. I get Every time that you pop up with a different hat on, I gotta make sure I know which one you're wearing.

0:30:25.110,0:30:25.610

Harry Porr: Okay.

0:30:25.920, 0:30:34.170

Gedalye Szegedin: It seems, it seems that COVID is giving us some room for coffee, these days, so your offer is well taken.

0:30:35.910, 0:30:46.680

Harry Porr: The political cynic in me seems to think that will be hearing more about infrastructure projects, as we get closer to Election Day. Is there any other new business?

0:30:47.850,0:30:53.670

Gedalye Szegedin: I think the Election Day for this purpose is primary day, so let's hope.

0:30:55.440,0:30:56.700

Harry Porr: We have lots of elections this year.

0:30:57.750,0:31:01.230

Harry Porr: Okay anybody else under new business? Any other topics?

0:31:02.610,0:31:16.740

Harry Porr: All right, if not we'll move on, number 7 reports. Orange County Transportation Council staff reports. And I will go to Alan and Lauren to talk about the West Central Transportation and Land Use Connection Study.

0:31:18.120, 0:35:39.990

Alan Sorensen: Okay. We are kind of in the final stretches of completing the West Central - we call it the West Central TLC Study. Just wanted to provide a little context of the study, back in 2004, the County OCTC had undertaken the Southeastern Orange County Traffic and Land Use Study, that was completed back in 2004. In 2012 there's another transportation and land use study that was conducted for the Newburgh area. It's called the Newburgh Area Transportation and Land Use Study. That covered the towns of Cornwall, New Windsor, and Newburgh, City of Newburgh, and Town of Montgomery. And that report was completed in 2012. One of the projects that was an outgrowth of that effort was the redesign of the fixed route bus service in the Newburgh area. And then being that really the eastern portion of the County had been covered, the decision was made back in 2019 to undertake the West Central Transportation and Land Use Connection Study and so that basically covered the remaining geographic area of the County and so that's the geographic area that the West Central Study focuses on.

The study is analyzing several hotspot areas as determined by analysis of traffic flows, traffic congestion, transit, land use within the study area. As part of this study, the bus services provided in and around the City of Middletown and Town of Wallkill were also examined, and the project was kicked off in the summer of 2019. There were four study advisory group meetings that were held and the focus areas that were identified that are included in the report are Route 17 Dolson Avenue, Route 17M Dolson Avenue, Route 211 corridor from 17, New York State Route 17 off ramp to Goshen Turnpike, Route 94 Academy Avenue in Chester area and Route 94 Main Street and Colonial Street in Warwick. So we are in the process of wrapping up that study. The consultant is AKRF. The sub consultant on that plan, one of the sub consultants is Cambridge Systematics.

One of the things that is has become apparent is kind of an outgrowth, similar to the outgrowth of the 2012 Newburgh study is, there's a record, a realization that the existing fixed route service serving Wallkill and the City of Middletown, there's an opportunity to reexamine that service. And so that will likely be a subsequent study that will that we'll be getting underway to actually begin to look at that in more detail and come up with a design for redefining that route. There's propensity for transit service in Scotchtown area for fixed route bus service, that's something we want to take into consideration. We'll of course, before we get that effort underway, will be reaching out to the City and the Town and other and OCTC to bring you up to speed on that. And, as we wrap up the West Central Study or get the final draft we will be looking to schedule both a virtual study advisory group meeting and to bring a presentation back before the Orange County Transportation Council.

So sorry for that long winded background, but that's where we are with the project and we're looking forward to wrapping it up and coming forth with some of the key recommendations coming from the study.

0:35:41.640,0:35:43.980

Harry Porr: Any comments, questions, many of our members?

0:35:49.080, 0:36:00.360

Jacob Tawil: Harry, it really sounds to be very, very important studies, all of the aspects of it, and we'll look forward to working with it and looking forward to it.

0:36:00.930,0:36:07.920

Harry Porr: It's a very interesting county being urban and rural and trying to get everybody connected it's a real task but we're working on it.

0:36:09.300,0:36:18.870

Harry Porr: The next item is, Jessica Ridgeway is here, and it's the Save the date for the Transit Subcommittee virtual meeting on March 16. Jessica, any comments?

0:36:20.040,0:36:30.180

Jessica Ridgeway, OCTC: Yep, just to save the date. The subcommittee was established in 2019, it meets quarterly, and our next scheduled virtual meeting will be Wednesday, March 16 at 11am.

0:36:31.860,0:36:33.090

Harry Porr: Any questions for Jessica?

0:36:36.000, 0:36:56.820

Gedalye Szegedin: Question for Jessica, let's see. Looking at a calendar, March 16, okay March 17 is Purim holiday, okay March 16 is fine. What did what does that cover? Is there going to be an agenda sent out for that meeting, for the transit meeting?

0:36:57.780,0:37:01.170

Jessica Ridgeway, OCTC: Yes, there will be an agenda sent out a week before.

0:37:01.770,0:37:03.090

Gedalye Szegedin: Oh, thank you.

0:37:03.660,0:37:06.420

Michael Sweeton: Jessica, I had that down at 10. Did the time get changed?

0:37:09.240,0:37:13.860

Jessica Ridgeway, OCTC: You, I think, have, yes it they get changed, you have an internal save the date.

0:37:14.490,0:37:15.270

Michael Sweeton: Alright, thanks.

0:37:15.870,0:37:21.450

Jessica Ridgeway, OCTC: There will be another one, with all of the Zoom information and that will be updated to be at 11.

0:37:22.200,0:37:22.700

Michael Sweeton: Thank you.

0:37:25.140, 0:37:43.260

Harry Porr: Then our next item on the other reports. Now that we are coming out of COVID, we're trying to organize ourselves a little bit better, a little more efficiently, and we want to talk about the Policy Board Voting Member appointments and I'll turn it over to Alan to give us a briefing on where we were, where we've come from, and where we're going.

0:37:44.970, 0:39:27.840

Alan Sorensen: Harry, thank you. I'm going to keep this actually very brief. One thing that we noticed is that that the board appointments for the for the rotating town and village members, there should have been a reappointment for the for the term of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. Looking back at our notes, we do not believe that that occurred, so those terms have carried over. We discussed this

internally and we're not looking for any action today. What we're recommending is that we just kind of continue with the current membership through the remainder of 2022 but that we will reach out to the town and village representatives to ask them to begin the process of selecting the new town and village representatives for the term beginning January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024. But we will, staff will send out an email to that effect. And, of course, this only affects the Voting Members from the towns and the villages. The other members are permanent voting members.

0:39:29.040,0:39:41.550

Harry Porr: And the way that works out, the villages get together, they pick two of their members to represent them on OCTC. The towns have six members, they get together the towns, they make the recommendations.

0:39:42.450, 0:40:20.070

Alan Sorensen: Yeah, it is, but with the towns there, there are actually three sub-areas. So there's a Newburgh Urbanized Area, which includes Town of Newburgh, Town of Montgomery, Cornwall, and New Windsor, so they select two representatives. There's the Southern Area, consisting of Town of Warwick, Town of Monroe, and Also Blooming Grove, Chester, Highlands, Palm Tree, Tuxedo, Woodbury, they select two members. And then there's the Western Gateway Area, which includes Town of Crawford, Town of Deerpark, Goshen, Greenville, Hamptonburgh, Minsink, Mount Hope, Walkkill, and Wawayanda.

0:40:21.930,0:40:28.770

Harry Porr: When should they conduct that kind of voting, if you will? When should they organize themselves?

0:40:29.940, 0:41:38.100

Alan Sorensen: We're thinking that we would give them, we would start this process, perhaps in April or May and give them several months to coordinate that effort. I'm thinking also because you know, there are some village elections that will take place in in March, there's no sense starting it before then, and then with the goal of you know. Making those appointments in December. November or December of this year. So you know, give adequate lead time for deliberation and discussion and we're still thinking, there's never really been a, like a formal ballot process or anything like that, so we're, anything that we're talking in internally staff just about how we can help to streamline that. But there should be, you know some agreed upon response, you know, in writing back to staff so that you know we can get it on the agenda and have those appointments.

0:41:38.640, 0:42:01.980

Michael Sweeton: Harry, historically our association will can talk about this and have in the past, you know towards the Fall and make recommendations. You know once those subgroup supervisors agree among themselves, I mean I know we sent emails in the past as a confirmation but however you guys want to handle that we'll discuss it certainly at an association meeting.

0:42:02.490,0:42:02.990

Alan Sorensen: Michael, that's helpful.

0:42:05.340,0:42:07.890

Harry Porr: Everything is done, you know, according to

0:42:08.580,0:42:11.520

Michael Sweeton: Correct.

0:42:12.630, 0:42:47.550

Gedalye Szegedin: And to be clear, villages cannot select before towns are selected, because the bylaws says that a village cannot be chosen if the town where the village is located is already chosen. So let's say the Village of Washingtonville cannot serve if the Town of Blooming Grove is already chosen. So the towns have to choose first. And then, all those villages are dropping off so let's say out of the 20 villages only 10 are in the rotation.

0:42:48.150,0:42:53.700

Harry Porr: That's correct. All right, any other comments from any of our members on this topic?

0:42:55.470, 0:43:04.380

Harry Porr: Okay. I guess we'll move to other member reports and I'll just go around. State DOT, anything you'd like to share with us tonight?

0:43:05.100, 0:43:47.310

Lance MacMillan: Nothing critical on my end, just as Gedalye pointed out, anxiously awaiting the trickle down of some of the funds. Thanks to Sandra on our team, we have done a Capital Program Update, which hopefully will go transparent the next month or two, showing everybody on this call, as well as the people that Hudson Valley, what our five year look ahead envisions, as far as capital investments so. I know we've been working behind the scenes to populate funded and unfunded lists of what's going to be in that program and not, I'm anxious to get that out, so we can start the dialogue on those that are funded and then agree upon wish list items that are projects that we would love to see funded in the future, but aren't currently encompassed within our five year program. Sandra, Nicole, anything else you guys want to add?

0:43:49.980,0:43:50.700

Sandra Jobson: No

0:43:50.970, 0:44:05.790

Gedalye Szegedin: So Lance, are we going to hold off on finalizing the TIP for those funding availabilities because if there is going to be a new call for project for local municipalities, we want that, on the next TIP.

0:44:07.200,0:44:11.880

Lance MacMillan: Understood. Sandra, what do you envision with how that would play out over the course of the next couple of months?

0:44:12.900, 0:45:21.180

Sandra Jobson: Yeah, well what we understand right now is that you know, hopefully soon we'll be getting what we call planning target and we'll be able to give that information to the MPOs and then at that point the MPOs are going to build their Capital Program. There isn't going to be a lot of time, so I know a lot of the other MPOs in the Hudson Valley are envisioning block funding that they will approve for their TIPs and then do call for projects, maybe in the fall or early next year. And maybe as part of that, you know, Lauren earlier talked about she is aware of some existing projects that are short of funding, so I do know that you know, sometimes the MPOs decide to make those projects fall as part of you know, this TIP update that we're going to be going through over the next few months. So I think there's a lot of different options, probably, and I think Lauren kind of alluded to the fact that that's going to be a really good conversation for the next planning committee meeting.

0:45:23.040, 0:45:26.850

Lance MacMillan: We'll try not to grab money from undeveloped park and ride projects.

0:45:28.140,0:45:28.640

Harry Porr: Leave the City of Newburgh alone, too.

0:45:32.880,0:45:33.390

[inaudible]

0:45:41.130,0:45:49.650

Gedalye Szegedin: On cross examination, what's the status with the TAP program? Many applications in Orange County are still pending.

0:45:52.890,0:45:56.010

Sandra Jobson: Yeah, I don't have any information on the TAP program, sorry.

0:45:57.330,0:45:59.580

Sandra Jobson: I think there was another question from someone.

0:45:59.970, 0:46:02.900

Lauren Bennett, OCTC: Yeah, John Revella. Go ahead, John.

0:46:02.900,0:46:03.653

John Revella: Is there a timeframe the TIP has to be approved?

0:46:08.220,0:46:14.130

Sandra Jobson: Yeah, I think most MPOs are planning on approving, in the end of, by the end of June.

0:46:14.580, 0:46:29.820

Lauren Bennett, OCTC: We're August, because we are tied to NYMTC with the Air Quality Conformity for PM2.5 so we also have to go through that process so.

0:46:31.170,0:46:31.670

John Revella: Okay. Thank you.

0:46:33.420,0:46:34.050

Harry Porr: Okay.

0:46:37.140,0:46:38.850

Jacob Tawil: Harry, can I, I'm sorry, go ahead.

0:46:39.270,0:46:41.820

Harry Porr: No, go ahead, Jacob.

0:46:41.970, 0:47:53.820

Jacob Tawil: Yeah, I just wanted to give you an update about the Traffic Operations Project. We just had our pre-construction meeting with DOT. And the contractor local projects with the contractor and our consultant and we're moving forward. We have already requested an additional funding of \$1.8 million from Orange County Transportation Council from the available funding there, and we are short of more funding in there for construction inspection, for which we will be submitting another request, sponsor request for additional funding. I have advised the Planning Department staff of that and we will be working on that second funding so I'm really anxious, we are really anxious to find out what money is available. You know I respect what KJ is trying to do, and we will work with that most definitely for their park and ride project and but, however, if the, you know, the money that is remaining on the TIP, we would like to take advantage of it, so that this project, our project, traffic operation would move forward 100% without impacting any other project.

0:47:55.590,0:47:57.150

Harry Porr: Okay, thank you.

0:47:58.680, 0:48:12.030

Lauren Bennett, OCTC: Harry, I would just add if anyone that has any project sponsor request forms, please get those in so we know the funding requests, when we talk about the TIP.

0:48:13.830,0:48:27.210

Gedalye Szegedin: Are those, are those forms available? Can you add that to the next package for the next meeting so sponsors have those forms available for completion?

0:48:28.080, 0:48:40.740

Lauren Bennett, OCTC: Yes, I've been sending them to anyone that asked for money that's had any funding shortfalls, I've sent that to them, but yeah I can send out an email to all the OCTC members if that helps.

0:48:41.280,0:48:47.640

Gedalye Szegedin: So you're referring only to project shortfalls, existing projects on the TIP? You're not referring to new projects?

0:48:47.850,0:48:48.660

Lauren Bennett, OCTC: Yes, exactly.

0:48:49.080,0:48:52.980

Gedalye Szegedin: I see. Why don't you send us that form as well.

0:48:53.910,0:48:54.410

Lauren Bennett: Okay. I'll do that.

0:48:54.750,0:48:55.250

Gedalye Szegedin: Thank you.

0:48:56.730,0:49:01.770

Harry Porr: Okay we'll continue the reports. MTA, Olu Folarin, would you like to report anything?

0:49:02.250,0:49:04.290

Olu Folarin: Nothing to report at this time.

0:49:04.980,0:49:07.830

Harry Porr: Okay, well, thank you. Thruway Authority?

0:49:12.900, 0:49:18.870

Harry Porr: No, okay. Let's go to Orange County DPW. Are you out there Travis or Eric?

0:49:21.450,0:49:23.490

Ryan McGuire: Ryan McGuire here, covering for Travis.

0:49:23.550,0:49:25.500

Harry Porr: Ryan, go ahead. Anything to report from DPW?

0:49:26.670, 0:50:50.760

Ryan McGuire: Just that we're going to be finalizing and closing out our growth track project and by the next couple days here I think we've got all our final documents in. And Otisville Viaduct project is moving along, we're just trying to finalize right of way on that. So, once we have that, probably in the next two months, we're looking to probably get that out to bid late spring, early summer. Heritage Trail Segment 2. The Palmer Avenue to East Main Street is looking to probably be open late March, early April. And they just have to put up some railing on the Genung Street bridge and civilian paving at some of the crosswalks and I guess that's almost ready to go. And Heritage Trail Segment 3, and the design is progressing from West Main to and Ingrassia Rd there so we're continuing on that. And then, our PSAP sidewalk project is almost done, we had a winter shut down just because of some temperatures, but that's going to get rolling again, we should be doing the crosswalks and some of the stuff like that. Probably throughout April and maybe into May. And that's it for active projects. We just started our initiation backwards for the New Bridge New York projects, and those are coming along and progressing as well.

0:50:52.440,0:50:57.540

Harry Porr: Okay, well, thank you, Ryan. And Port Authority, are you going to announce any major investments in the Stewart Airport?

0:50:59.160, 0:51:21.660

Jay Shuffield - PANYNJ: Not at this time. I don't have anything new to report but you know, we hadn't been at these meetings for a little while. We've had some, had some staffing cuts and there hasn't been anything specific on the OCTC agendas that really required our input, but I did want to you know show up and make sure that people didn't think that we'd forgotten about you.

0:51:22.200,0:51:24.180

Harry Porr: We're glad you're here. Thank you for coming. Appreciate it.

0:51:25.590, 0:51:39.720

Harry Porr: Okay let's see, we have a classic with us too today. John Czamanske, do you have anything you'd like to contribute or add to our meeting? John? No, he must have stepped out. Okay.

0:51:39.720,0:51:41.720

Harry Porr: John, go ahead.

0:51:42.870,0:51:55.920

John Czamanske: Thanks, Harry. Yeah I was on mute. Yeah it's just my temporary assignment is ending tomorrow so just wanted to thank the County and it's been a pleasure to help out. Good luck with everything.

0:51:56.460,0:51:58.770

Harry Porr: Thank you, thanks for your help, very much appreciated.

0:51:59.250,0:52:00.090

Alan Sorensen: Yes, thank you.

0:52:00.630, 0:52:10.820

Harry Porr: Rob Parrington, anything on transit you want to share? Rob?

0:52:11.550,0:52:12.570

Lauren Bennett, OCTC: I don't think Rob's on. He had another call.

0:52:14.190, 0:52:22.200

Harry Porr: We'll have to wait for next month then. Okay, is there anyone else in the group who would like to share anything on the reports or other items or business?

0:52:23.700,0:52:25.110

Jason Morris: Yeah, hi Harry. Jason, City of Newburgh.

0:52:25.620,0:52:26.250

Harry Porr: Yes, go ahead.

0:52:27.900, 0:53:06.150

Jason Morris: We have the Lake Street Route 32 bridge currently under construction. That's near the New Windsor line on Route 32. Our Walsh Road bridge project is currently in the final stages of right away acquisition we're having some issues acquiring right away from CSX railroad. But we are moving forward with that, and then we were going to get that project out to bid by the summer for hopefully a construction start later this year. We also have Broadway pedestrian and traffic signal improvements project which is nearing completion of final design and that should go out to bid this year as well.

0:53:08.580,0:53:12.750

Harry Porr: Okay, thank you, Jason. Anyone else? Anything you want to contribute? Anybody?

0:53:15.360,0:53:16.410

John Revella: Harry, its John Revella. I had a question.

0:53:17.640,0:53:18.150

Harry Porr: Go ahead.

0:53:19.350,0:53:20.910

John Revella: Was there any update on the midpoint yard?

0:53:23.250,0:53:26.310

Harry Porr: I do not have any update to provide today on that.

0:53:28.590,0:53:29.090

John Revella: Thank you.

0:53:29.460, 0:54:07.740

Harry Porr: I will report though from the MTA meeting that I was at earlier last week there is a capital project committee that is putting forward a number of projects and I asked them to look at the old chestnut of having a Stewart Airport connection by rail, either to the Graham Line in Cornwall, or as part of the infrastructure bill, there is money there also, to study a possible link from Stewart Airport to the Beacon train station. And that will be done in conjunction with Dutchess County. So those things are out there, wherever they'll go, we don't know, but they are there, and they will be looked at.

0:54:10.050, 0:54:15.030

Harry Porr: Okay. Anybody else with today's meeting?

0:54:16.230,0:54:19.800

Harry Porr: Then okay, then I'll ask for a motion to adjourn.

0:54:21.030,0:54:22.110

Jacob Tawil: I'll make it. Jacob.

0:54:22.500,0:54:24.360
Michael Sweeton: Second.

0:54:25.140,0:54:26.520
Harry Porr: Okay, all in favor?

0:54:26.850,0:54:27.350
Group: Aye

0:54:28.590,0:54:34.230
Harry Porr: We are adjourned. Thank you all so much for participating today. Much appreciated. Thank you, Lauren. Thank you, Alan.

0:54:34.710,0:54:35.760
Alan Sorensen: Thank you.