



ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Agenda
Policy Committee Meeting
March 2, 2021 at 1:00 PM

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Meeting Participants

Name:	Organization:
Harry Porr	Orange County Executive's Office
Alan Sorensen	Orange County Planning
Julie Richmond	Orange County Planning
Rob Parrington	Orange County Planning
Ashlee Long	Orange County Planning
Nicole Farmer	NYSDOT, Region 8
Dan Coots	NYSDOT, Region 8
Harriet Lewis	NYSDOT Main Office
Olu Folarin	Metropolitan Transportation Authority HQ
Lizy Philip	NYS Thruway Authority
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of NY and NJ
Erik Denega	Orange County DPW
Travis Ewald	Orange County DPW
Jack Farr	City of Port Jervis
Joseph Donat	City of Newburgh
Jason Morris	City of Newburgh
Jacob Tawil	City of Middletown
Robert Jeroloman	Town of Blooming Grove
Charles Carnes	Town of Crawford
Gary Spears	Town of Deerpark
Mike Sweeton	Town of Warwick
Gedalyze Szegedin	Village of Kiryas Joel
John Revella	Village of Walden
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.

0:00:00.000,0:00:04.589

hporr: I'm move quickly through who I think we have here and then tell me who's not on my list. I have Julie Richmond.

0:00:05.310,0:00:06.359

hporr: Rob Parrington.

0:00:06.930,0:00:07.799

hporr: Ashlee Long.

0:00:08.460,0:00:09.540

hporr: Nicole Farmer.

0:00:10.380,0:00:27.870

hporr: Olu Folarin, Lizy Philip, Travis Ewald, Jack Farr, Jason Morris, Jacob Tawil, Mike Sweeton, Al Fusco, Gary Spears, Charlie Carnes, and Harriet from New York State DOT. Did I miss anybody?

0:00:29.820,0:00:31.290

Jay Shuffield: Jay Shuffield from the Port Authority.

0:00:36.390,0:00:36.890

15183395727: And Dan Coots, New York State DOT.

0:00:42.810,0:00:43.310

hporr: Okay.

0:00:43.440,0:00:45.810

Erik Denega: Harry did you already mention my name in the beginning? I didn't catch it.

0:00:50.820,0:00:51.750

hporr: Yeah, we got you Erik.

0:00:54.660,0:00:55.160

hporr: Okay.

0:00:57.030,0:01:03.600

hporr: Well, first point of businesses, a call to order and Ashlee I believe we have a quorum.

0:01:03.600,0:01:04.350

OC Planning: Yes, we have one.

0:01:04.350,0:01:12.270

hporr: Okay, then we'll start with an opportunity for public comment. Does anyone have anything you'd like to share with us at this time?

0:01:15.990,0:01:18.750

hporr: Okay hearing nothing I will move on to number three.

0:01:19.770,0:01:26.490

hporr: Which is the to accept the meeting summary from November 10, 2020. Does everybody have a copy of that?

0:01:26.490,0:01:27.960

John Revella: Yes.

0:01:27.960,0:01:30.840

hporr: Okay any comments on that transcript?

0:01:36.660,0:01:37.410

John Revella: Motion to approve.

0:01:38.190,0:01:39.660

hporr: Okay, yes, motion motion.

0:01:40.650,0:01:41.880

Michael Sweeton: Second, Mike Sweeton.

0:01:42.270,0:01:43.830

hporr: Thank you. All in favor?

0:01:43.830,0:01:44.400

Group: Aye.

0:01:44.400,0:01:58.770

hporr: Opposed? Okay, thank you. Alright next is the Orange County Transportation Council resolution 2021 dash one Unified Planning Work Program and I would ask Ashlee to give us a briefing on that.

0:02:02.820,0:02:10.530

OC Planning: So this is the Unified Planning Work Program which most of you should know that this is the annual work program for the MPO.

0:02:11.190,0:02:21.480

OC Planning: We receive allocations from FHWA and the FTA annually for planning practices or you know planning work, and so we take those funds and we

0:02:21.960,0:02:35.700

OC Planning: break it down into the tasks that we are prioritizing and going to be working on for the next state fiscal year which starts on April 1, so just some of the highlights of this UPWP, the

0:02:36.720,0:02:40.050

OC Planning: program excuse me, the program is approximately

0:02:41.070,0:02:55.350

OC Planning: budgeted for \$3 million this year and we, in terms of funding, we received a little less than last year about \$4,000, so this is basically flat funding.

0:02:56.220,0:03:09.360

OC Planning: We have prioritized several larger studies for the next upcoming year, including the Route 17 study and we have the West Central Study, which is still ongoing. Does anyone have any questions about the UPWP.

0:03:12.540,0:03:13.040

hporr: I do.

0:03:14.220,0:03:23.940

hporr: County planning departments been receiving some dollars from the feds through this whole COVID business for bus transportation and it is any of that referenced in this product?

0:03:25.110,0:03:27.210

OC Planning: That's separate as a county,

0:03:28.590,0:03:37.440

OC Planning: county transportation or transit dollars and Rob could speak more to that. This is specifically for planning funding that we receive through the MPO.

0:03:38.820,0:03:40.950

hporr: Okay, then well. Are there any comments?

0:03:43.530,0:03:44.610

hporr: I'll look for a motion to approve it.

0:03:47.280,0:03:47.790

Michael Sweeton: Mike Sweeton.

0:03:48.030,0:03:49.830

John Revella: John Revella, second.

0:03:50.430,0:03:51.330

hporr: All those in favor?

0:03:51.870,0:03:52.370

Group: Aye.

0:03:54.630,0:03:58.440

hporr: Okay it's passed, and I note that the City Manager Joe Donat has joined us.

0:03:58.890,0:04:01.650

City Manager: Yes, thank you. Apologize for being a few minutes late.

0:04:01.950,0:04:04.530

hporr: No problem just getting started.

0:04:04.530,0:04:05.880

City Manager: Great.

0:04:05.880,0:04:07.500

hporr: Next item on our agenda is

0:04:08.790,0:04:12.690

hporr: Draft OCTC Resolution 21-02, the amendment.

0:04:15.210,0:04:17.100

hporr: I will ask Ashlee to give us a briefing on that.

0:04:18.450,0:04:26.670

OC Planning: Okay, so there's several projects in this TIP amendment which we've gone through in the planning committee, but we can run through them briefly.

0:04:27.180,0:04:37.140

OC Planning: Just as a refresher for everyone, so the first project is a new project it's coming in, as a DOT project in the Town of Warwick and the description is for operational and safety improvements at

0:04:37.590,0:04:52.590

OC Planning: the intersection of State Route 94 and County Route 1A. This was a discussion at the Planning Committee meeting and the Committee agreed to allocate funding in 2024 from the CMAQ and STP Large Urban PINs that we have on the TIP.

0:04:54.660,0:05:10.620

OC Planning: The next project is another DOT project, which is a new project that has an offset coming from another NYSDOT PIN, and so this is for subsurface and pavement repair in the Town of Newburgh to address a recurring depression.

0:05:11.850,0:05:14.460

OC Planning: And that looks like it's occurring in 2024 as well.

0:05:14.460,0:05:16.460

hporr: Is that 9W?

0:05:17.130,0:05:18.300

OC Planning: On 9W, yes.

0:05:22.950,0:05:36.330

OC Planning: The next one, is to delete a project and earmarked project in the City of Newburgh at the sponsors request. The City of Newburgh requested to reallocate these earmark funds to two of their bridge projects instead, and they were approved for that.

0:05:37.320,0:05:39.240

OC Planning: And the next one, is a Metro North

0:05:39.240,0:05:46.860

OC Planning: PIN for the Newburgh Beacon Ferry. MTA has asked to add MTA and 5307 funds to their, to this pin.

0:05:48.210,0:05:57.120

OC Planning: And so the amount of funding they're adding in 2021 just exceeded the 25% additional funding threshold, so that had to be an amendment.

0:05:58.020,0:06:12.660

OC Planning: And then the last two PINs are showing the CMAQ and the STP large urban blocks. They're showing the reduction in funding from that was agreed upon for the Warwick project, which was the first PIN we reviewed so.

0:06:13.890,0:06:17.130

OC Planning: Does anyone have any questions about those or any comments?

0:06:18.120,0:06:18.620

hporr: I do.

0:06:19.800,0:06:29.280

hporr: One on the City of Newburgh, the rehab. It's about two blocks from where I live. Those monies are now be put aside and attributed to a bridge project?

0:06:31.320,0:06:32.550

OC Planning: The East End Roads funding?

0:06:33.750,0:06:39.570

OC Planning: Yes, so the City asked to repurpose those funds to to two of their bridge projects in the City.

0:06:40.800,0:06:46.590

hporr: Okay, if they were to go back at some future date and want to complete the project, how would that happen?

0:06:48.180,0:06:55.110

OC Planning: It would be a new project. They would have, we'd have to identify funding and they'd have to there'd be a discussion.

0:06:56.520,0:06:57.020

hporr: Okay.

0:06:57.990,0:06:59.910

hporr: Anybody else have any questions at any of these?

0:07:02.880,0:07:06.330

hporr: Hearing none. I'll ask for a motion to approve this resolution.

0:07:08.640,0:07:09.140

JackFarr: So moved.

0:07:09.140,0:07:10.334

Gary Spears: Second.

0:07:11.370,0:07:13.590

hporr: All those in favor all right.

0:07:13.480,0:07:13.980

Group: Aye.

0:07:13.980,0:07:16.830

hporr: Opposed? And it passes.

0:07:19.110,0:07:19.950

hporr: Next item of business is 2021-03

0:07:24.990,0:07:38.280

hporr: To adopt transportation air quality conformity determination, the Orange County portion of a New York- New Jersey- Connecticut PM 2.5 maintenance area, and the 1997 Poughkeepsie New York ozone non attainment area and I'll let Ashlee translate that.

0:07:41.430,0:07:45.000

OC Planning: That's quite a mouthful but, as many, as everyone should know,

0:07:45.540,0:08:01.110

OC Planning: we're part of the PM 2.5 maintenance area that we share with NYMTC for air quality conformity and so as such NYMTC is amending their TIP and so that triggers a round of conformity determination for everyone. But in this case

0:08:02.310,0:08:15.630

OC Planning: the Interagency Consultation Group or the ICG has allowed us to, they concurred that we can use a previous emissions analysis that we've done since that basically says that we're not adding any non exempt or

0:08:16.710,0:08:28.470

OC Planning: other projects to our TIP or LRTP that would adversely impact air quality. So we are just adopting this because NYMTC is amending their TIP.

0:08:30.510,0:08:33.810

OC Planning: Does anyone have any questions on the air quality determination?

0:08:36.270,0:08:37.350

hporr: Gonna be a nice quick meeting.

0:08:39.180,0:08:44.280

hporr: Okay, if there's no further discussion on that resolution, I would ask for a motion to accept it.

0:08:44.730,0:08:45.230

John Revella: So moved.

0:08:46.200,0:08:46.740

hporr: Second?

0:08:48.330,0:08:49.230

Michael Sweeton: Second, Mike Sweeton.

0:08:49.710,0:08:50.730

hporr: Okay, thank you, Michael.

0:08:51.870,0:08:52.770

hporr: All those in favor.

0:08:52.770,0:08:54.120

Group: Aye

0:08:54.120,0:08:54.620

Lizy Philip, NYS Thruway: Yes.

0:08:55.560,0:08:56.280

hporr: Okay, thank you.

0:08:58.050,0:09:02.550

hporr: Next on our agenda is new business. Does anyone have any new business they'd like to bring before the Council today?

0:09:05.370,0:09:06.210

hporr: I see one hand up.

0:09:07.920,0:09:08.850

hporr: Do you see it Ashlee?

0:09:12.600,0:09:14.910

OC Planning: I don't, but I would encourage that person to unmute.

0:09:19.980,0:09:21.480

hporr: Okay, well then.

0:09:22.710,0:09:27.180

hporr: While we're waiting for that person, I know the City Manager might want to clarify a little bit on the Liberty Street project.

0:09:27.570,0:09:37.140

City Manager: Yeah sure. Thank you Harry. So so we're going to be using CHIPS funding for that project, and doing so will allow for the work to be a little bit cheaper and no match.

0:09:37.620,0:09:41.010

City Manager: And repurposing this earmark is, as I'm sure everyone on the call

0:09:41.790,0:09:48.780

City Manager: is well aware, has been quite a quite an ordeal and headache for the City from time to time, but we're thankful to be able to move forward in this direction.

0:09:49.590,0:10:03.720

City Manager: Lake Dr Bridge is is 99.9% completed. Would have been by now, but there was delays with getting the infrastructure and the crane in place, due to the snow last month. We're expecting the delivery of the

0:10:05.550,0:10:15.150

City Manager: the roadway sections there by March 15 or so. And then Walsh Drive is in the final design stages and we are confident, will be able to move forward

0:10:16.500,0:10:28.770

City Manager: very soon on that front too. So just to be clear, you know Liberty Street, the East End project is certainly moving forward just through CHIPS, with no match, and in doing so is cheaper for the City here.

0:10:29.190,0:10:33.810

hporr: Just just because I come from a family of historians I got to ask the question, are you going to re-brick or are you going to pave?

0:10:36.630,0:10:37.680

City Manager: <Laughs> I am a,

0:10:38.730,0:10:44.280

City Manager: we are trying to figure that out, I think I think there will be some level of a healthy compromise between the two.

0:10:44.670,0:10:46.770

hporr: Right right it's always been an issue.

0:10:47.070,0:10:48.090

City Manager: Yeah yeah yeah.

0:10:48.120,0:10:49.440

City Manager: I mean, by all means.

0:10:49.500,0:10:50.910

hporr: it's all about money right so.

0:10:51.030,0:10:54.570

hporr: Okay, any other new business anyone?

0:10:56.400,0:11:02.370

hporr: I'd like to go to a staff reports and maybe we can begin with Ashlee or the other the Department of Planning.

0:11:03.450,0:11:14.940

OC Planning: Sure Harry. Just so everyone's, a little housekeeping the next Planning Committee meeting will be held on April 13 at 10am. We'll send out a calendar invite for everyone.

0:11:15.750,0:11:24.630

OC Planning: And then we just just a little heads up. We're going to be talking about the travel model. We've kind of mentioned previously, that we've been working to update that.

0:11:25.020,0:11:37.560

OC Planning: And we've been working with Cambridge Systematics. It's a pretty extensive update so, we've actually changed platforms from VISUM to TransCAD, we've updated the traffic analysis zones,

0:11:38.880,0:11:40.170

OC Planning: we've updated the base year.

0:11:40.470,0:11:48.540

OC Planning: And so we'd like to give the Planning Committee an update on that those efforts and we'll have a little presentation for everyone.

0:11:49.470,0:11:58.410

OC Planning: And then we'll also be talking about some updates to the operating procedures and the public participation plan in the future as well. Just a little heads up for everybody.

0:12:00.000,0:12:04.260

hporr: And Rob I know you're on the call. Anything to add about transportation?

0:12:04.920,0:12:10.320

Rob Parrington: Yeah I'll tell, I wanted to talk about the CARES funding, which you mentioned earlier, the FTA CARES funding.

0:12:11.910,0:12:14.850

Rob Parrington: For the County itself, we've been collecting our

0:12:15.720,0:12:24.450

Rob Parrington: our salary information to do a reimbursement for the transit staff, and for the bus operators on the call we're just awaiting the state, the last

0:12:25.110,0:12:35.910

Rob Parrington: State operating assistance payment clean up it's called. And once we have that information we'll be able to pump out the CARES funding to the bus operators also for 2020.

0:12:37.650,0:12:44.970

Rob Parrington: The CARES funding has been extended through January of next year, so as long as we have it available and we don't run

0:12:44.970,0:12:45.720

Rob Parrington: through it all,

0:12:46.080,0:12:49.020

Rob Parrington: we'll be able to cover 100% operating expenses for both 2020

0:12:50.250,0:12:53.730

Rob Parrington: and hopefully all of 2021 for all the bus operators out there.

0:12:55.980,0:13:00.810

hporr: At this time too, the County Executive is very interested in looking at our bus routing and how we can

0:13:02.160,0:13:06.930

hporr: better design that so we can accommodate people from the inner cities to get to jobs that are out in the towns.

0:13:07.170,0:13:14.970

Rob Parrington: Right, so I'll mention that too, that we're in 2019 we started the Major Employer Transit Service Plan project.

0:13:15.630,0:13:24.150

Rob Parrington: And COVID had a bit of an effect on it last spring, but we're into the recommendation stages now. We've been working with the consultants to get that put together. So

0:13:25.080,0:13:40.860

Rob Parrington: at the end of spring, probably I think late spring early summer at the latest, will have what's called the METS Plan, the Major Employer Transit Service Plan for us to review and consider recommendations for that very purpose to get folks to work.

0:13:41.430,0:13:43.350

hporr: It's good because we

0:13:44.400,0:13:50.040

hporr: are faced with a dilemma, right now. From what I'm told by our employment training people, is that there are plenty of jobs out there, but yet

0:13:50.460,0:14:06.900

hporr: people can't get to them. So therefore they're on unemployment instead is a pro prolonging of unemployment benefit because of the COVID so there's sort of like a malaise, if you will, about unemployment, so if we can solve transportation piece and it'll help the county generally.

0:14:06.900,0:14:08.100

Rob Parrington: Yeah.

0:14:08.100,0:14:08.600

hporr: Okay, you.

0:14:10.200,0:14:12.540

hporr: Erik Denega, Public Works, anything to report?

0:14:13.860,0:14:14.580

hporr: Or Travis.

0:14:15.030,0:14:16.710

Erik Denega: Yeah I'm okay. Travis you got anything?

0:14:17.370,0:14:20.250

Travis Ewald: Yeah I can update on a couple of our projects Harry thanks.

0:14:21.390,0:14:25.380

Travis Ewald: Otisville Viaduct received authorization to proceed to right of way acquisition.

0:14:26.460,0:14:43.980

Travis Ewald: We expect that will be letting that project in the later part of 2021 so still on track there. The Pedestrian Safety Improvements project we are finishing up final design plans and we're expecting to request authorization to proceed to construction

0:14:45.510,0:14:46.560

Travis Ewald: hopefully later this month.

0:14:47.880,0:14:49.950

Travis Ewald: And Heritage Trail Segment Two,

0:14:51.120,0:14:53.670

Travis Ewald: we're looking to resume construction on the

0:14:54.690,0:15:02.550

Travis Ewald: portion from Palmer Avenue to East Main Street later this spring as well and segment three is currently in design.

0:15:03.720,0:15:12.240

hporr: Okay, thanks. Right let's move on to our other partners in crime here. New York State DOT, Harriet or Nicole, do you have anything today?

0:15:19.110,0:15:19.800

hporr: Going once.

0:15:19.920,0:15:21.000

harriet, nysdot: No, I have nothing.

0:15:21.360,0:15:22.530

hporr: Okay, thank you.

0:15:23.970,0:15:28.980

hporr: The MTA's Olu Folarin is on. Do you have anything to share with us today?

0:15:29.430,0:15:31.200

Olu Folarin: Yeah there's nothing at this point.

0:15:33.210,0:15:33.710

hporr: Okay.

0:15:36.270,0:15:39.570

hporr: And New York State Thruway Authority, Lizzie?

0:15:40.380,0:15:41.730

Lizy Philip, NYS Thruway: Uh, we don't have anything.

0:15:43.080,0:15:43.680

Lizy Philip, NYS Thruway: Nothing new.

0:15:44.070,0:15:44.670

hporr: Nothing new?

0:15:44.670,0:15:45.270

Lizy Philp, NYS Thruway: No.

0:15:45.270,0:15:49.680

hporr: Okay, and then Port Authority, Jay Shuffield.

0:15:51.060,0:15:52.260

Jay Shuffield: Nothing at this time, thank you.

0:15:52.770,0:15:54.300

hporr: Anything new going on a Stewart Airport?

0:15:56.520,0:15:57.330

Jay Shuffield: No, not really.

0:15:58.170,0:15:59.010

hporr: That's too bad.

0:16:02.100,0:16:10.710

hporr: Okay, thank you very much, I appreciate it. And anybody else I'm opening it up. Anyone else who would like to share some thoughts with the with the Council?

0:16:12.300,0:16:20.010

Michael Sweeton: Hey it's Mike Sweetom, and I just want to thank the Council for supporting that TIP amendment. That's a project that was initiated in 2004.

0:16:20.580,0:16:34.590

Michael Sweeton: Ended up going to DOT and then got caught up in the whole financial crisis, so appreciate that the Council supports that, especially with Legoland opening. It is an entrance way to Orange County from Southern Jersey so appreciate it.

0:16:34.860,0:16:39.210

hporr: No problem. Really the whole Council's been working together wonderfully whether, and that

0:16:40.740,0:16:42.360
hporr: includes Jacob <chuckles> and

0:16:43.410,0:16:44.250
hporr: I think that

0:16:45.420,0:17:01.800
hporr: it's a good group people and we're looking at the entire projects in Orange County, not just individual ones, and that way we'll get a lot of good things done. Okay, this brings us to the end of our agenda. Is there any other comment by any Member on the call today?

0:17:04.920,0:17:06.960
hporr: If not, a list for a motion to adjourn.

0:17:10.740,0:17:11.240
JackFarr: Motion.

0:17:11.970,0:17:13.590
Jacob Tawil: Second, I'll second that.

0:17:14.220,0:17:15.210
hporr: All those in favor.

0:17:15.510,0:17:16.010
John Revella: All right.

0:17:17.040,0:17:18.270
hporr: Thank you very much, everybody.

0:17:22.770,0:17:23.270
harriet, nysdot: Thanks.