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ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

**Meeting Summary  
Planning Committee  
April 13, 2021 at 10:00am**

Dial-in number: (646) 876-9923

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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
Lauren Burns	Orange County Planning
Dan Coots	NYSDOT, Region 8
Nicole Farmer	NYSDOT, Region 8
Harriet Lewis	NYSDOT, Main Office
Jason Morris	City of Newburgh
Jacob Tawil	City of Middletown
Mike Sweeton	Town of Warwick
Moishe Gruber	Village of Kiryas Joel
Travis Ewald	Orange County Dept. of Public Works
Jim Brooks	Orange County Parks Dept.
Olu Folarin	MTA
Stephanie DeLisle	MTA
Lizy Philip	NYS Thruway Authority
Frank Filiciotto	Creighton Manning
Pearl and John Johnson	Public

Meeting held via Zoom. Transcript of meeting as follows:

0:00:00.089,0:00:07.859

Harry Porr: I'm going to read the list of names that I have, then, if I miss someone let us now. I have Alan Sorensen and Julie Richmond, Rob Parrington, Ashlee Long.

0:00:09.059,0:00:17.340

Harry Porr: Nicole Farmer, Harriet Lewis, Jason Morris, Travis Ewald, Olu Folarin, Lizzie Philip, Frank Filiciotto,

0:00:18.420,0:00:20.370

Harry Porr: Stephanie, Stephanie.

0:00:21.900,0:00:30.300

Harry Porr: Jim Brooks, Pearl and John, Mr G., Denise Quinn, and Jacob and that's it. Did I miss anybody?

0:00:31.680,0:00:33.420

Stephanie DeLisle: And I'm Stephanie DeLisle, MTA.

0:00:33.900,0:00:35.610

Harry Porr: MTA, thank you Stephanie.

0:00:43.080,0:00:44.010

Harry Porr: Okay, we can move to the next,

0:00:45.120,0:00:53.640

Harry Porr: next item, which is to have an opportunity for public comment. Is there any comments from any of us here today, that they would like to contribute right now.

0:00:57.660,0:01:09.900

Harry Porr: Hearing none, will move along. I'll take a vote on accepting the meeting transcript from January 25, 2021. Copies been provided to everyone. Can I have a motion?

0:01:11.640,0:01:13.140

Michael Sweeton: i'll make the motion Harry, Mike Sweeton.

0:01:13.470,0:01:15.810

Harry Porr: Sweeton, Welcome Mike. Second?

0:01:20.400,0:01:21.960

Harry Porr: Thank you, Ashlee.

0:01:23.910,0:01:25.800

Harry Porr: All those in favor say Aye.

0:01:27.480,0:01:27.980

Michael Sweeton: Aye.

0:01:28.560,0:01:42.060

Harry Porr: Thank you. Okay moving along it's going to be an efficient meeting. The Transportation Improvement Program. The first time for discussion is earmark projects opportunity and I'll turn that over to Ashlee Long for explanation.

0:01:43.320,0:01:56.610

Ashlee Long: Thanks Harry. So all the OCTC members should have gotten an email from me alerting you to the opportunity to submit projects for earmark consideration through Representative, Representative Maloney's office.

0:01:57.810,0:02:09.060

Ashlee Long: His office reached out to Orange County to let us know that there was this opportunity to submit projects for consideration in the 2021 surface transportation authorization legislation.

0:02:10.350,0:02:23.940

Ashlee Long: But just to be clear, even if you submit a project for consideration there's no guarantee that you'll be awarded the funding. So earmark funding does not affect the local program or the regional program it's a separate set of funds that's coming from Congress.

0:02:25.740,0:02:34.590

Ashlee Long: And so there's a guideline document that also went out with that email, so you should read it over and make sure you understand everything what they're asking for.

0:02:35.370,0:02:51.180

Ashlee Long: And some of the highlights of this program are that they are looking for projects to fund more quickly, so they are, we're emphasizing current TIP projects, so if you have a project on the TIP, which is the Transportation Improvement Program.

0:02:52.710,0:03:04.110

Ashlee Long: They were encouraging people with current projects to apply. If you are looking to make make up any funding shortfalls that you might have a current project, but that all the but also

0:03:05.190,0:03:08.820

Ashlee Long: new projects are eligible to apply so.

0:03:10.140,0:03:15.090

Ashlee Long: They would, you'd have to attest to the fact that they can be added to the TIP in a reasonable time frame.

0:03:15.660,0:03:29.010

Ashlee Long: Meaning that the Committee would need to discuss and then approve the amendment for it to go on the TIP, and in that same kind of vein, in terms of funding for earmarks they're, Representative Maloney's office is asking that,

0:03:31.110,0:03:42.330

Ashlee Long: or they're saying that earmark funding isn't meant to cover the full 100% cost of the project they're looking for it to be more of a portion of the project cost so,

0:03:43.380,0:03:56.640

Ashlee Long: any new projects being submitted, you would have to identify where the rest of the funding is coming from. Meaning if you have \$100,000 project and you're asking for \$20,000 you need to be able to say

0:03:57.270,0:04:08.610

Ashlee Long: we're using local funds or if it's the current project currently on the TIP we're showing these other funds to also complete the project, so it's only a portion of the project can be used for earmark funding.

0:04:10.860,0:04:23.010

Ashlee Long: And then, all projects will need to submit a sponsor letter saying you know that you're committed to the project. So whether that's a local sponsor letter or I know I had an inquiry from someone asking about a DOT project.

0:04:23.460,0:04:33.330

Ashlee Long: So you would need to you know, maybe work with DOT to figure out if that's feasible and then I would suggest, maybe DOT and the local municipality both

0:04:34.140,0:04:42.990

Ashlee Long: submitting support letters. So you at least have to submit one support letter from the project sponsor but you can submit more than that.

0:04:44.340,0:04:58.350

Ashlee Long: And then there is also still the local match, so the local match can be 20% of the total project cost, so this is not 100% funded, you would be getting 80% and then you would need to match the next 20%.

0:05:00.030,0:05:00.780

Ashlee Long: And then,

0:05:02.520,0:05:18.150

Ashlee Long: let's see, Maloney's office is also very willing to answer questions, so please feel free to reach out to me or with any questions and we can try and get them answered if you have really specific questions that's fine, but the deadline is noon on April 20.

0:05:19.650,0:05:31.050

Ashlee Long: Are there any questions or if anybody's thinking about a project, we would also ask that you let us know, so that we can just keep tabs on the projects being submitted or, if you have any questions.

0:05:32.220,0:05:33.330

Harry Porr: A couple of questions, one is.

0:05:33.990,0:05:37.140

Harry Porr: How much how much money is in this so called earmark pot of money?

0:05:38.190,0:05:44.340

Ashlee Long: I believe, each member, each representative is getting about \$15 to \$20 million for their districts.

0:05:44.970,0:05:47.040

Harry Porr: And does a Congressman have to approve the project?

0:05:49.800,0:06:00.870

Ashlee Long: I believe so, so all the projects applicants are submitting by the noon April 20 deadline and then Maloney's office is I guess reviewing and selecting which projects.

0:06:02.010,0:06:03.600

Harry Porr: This is a different process than we've experienced in the past isn't it?

0:06:06.600,0:06:07.680

Ashlee Long: I wasn't.

0:06:08.910,0:06:10.560

Ashlee Long: I didn't go through the earmark process

0:06:12.480,0:06:20.430

Ashlee Long: originally, I was only here, I've been here since they there were some outstanding earmarks that people weren't using, they were just sitting on the TIP programs.

0:06:20.820,0:06:31.950

Ashlee Long: So what they did was they looked at all of those and they repurposed them. So if you had a project that was on the TIP using earmark funds and you weren't, it wasn't moving along and you hadn't initiated it.

0:06:32.580,0:06:41.580

Ashlee Long: Basically, they rescinded those funds and re-appropriated them to like other projects. So this is a little different. This is a new call for earmark submissions for versus the last time they repurposed them.

0:06:43.770,0:06:47.700

Harry Porr: I thought your marks were thrown out a couple of years ago and we no longer had those?

0:06:47.760,0:06:48.990

Harry Porr: Like Member items up in the

0:06:49.260,0:06:50.220

Harry Porr: State legislature?

0:06:51.630,0:06:54.000

Ashlee Long: That's true, and then they just they just brought them back.

0:06:55.980,0:06:56.480

Harry Porr: New World.

0:06:58.260,0:07:01.230

Harry Porr: I'll open it up. Anybody have any questions for Ashlee regarding this?

0:07:01.650,0:07:04.020

Olu Folarin: Ashlee, this is Olu Folarin from MTA. Can you hear me?

0:07:04.740,0:07:05.240

Ashlee Long: Hi Olu, yes.

0:07:06.030,0:07:07.440

Olu Folarin: Yeah good morning. I'm

0:07:08.400,0:07:12.210

Olu Folarin: just want to find out if there's an existing projects can this

0:07:13.500,0:07:17.100

Olu Folarin: be applied or that's can this project be submitted for that money?

0:07:19.350,0:07:32.250

Ashlee Long: Yes, so if you have an existing project on the STIP/TIP it would be eligible, and so you could you would have to identify which phase of the project, you were looking to fund and how much.

0:07:33.300,0:07:35.430

Ashlee Long: And then obviously demonstrate that you can

0:07:36.600,0:07:37.890

Ashlee Long: provide the local match.

0:07:38.880,0:07:39.900

Olu Folarin: Just to clarify.

0:07:41.580,0:07:45.780

Olu Folarin: There's no specific amount that an agency can apply for is that correct?

0:07:47.580,0:08:07.920

Ashlee Long: There's no cap. There's no minimum or maximum amount, but just keep in mind that there's only \$15 to 20,000, or million, sorry, for the total district. So if you're asking for you know \$10 million you're you're less likely to be awarded that.

0:08:08.580,0:08:09.480

Olu Folarin: Okay.

0:08:09.840,0:08:11.160

Olu Folarin: Another question is, I'm sorry.

0:08:12.360,0:08:23.430

Olu Folarin: Is this money going to go through this fiscal year or you know, because we do the grant application so, is it going to go through this year or one should be looking into 2022?

0:08:25.980,0:08:35.520

Ashlee Long: I, they're looking to move it quickly, but I don't necessarily know when it would be approved, I'm sorry. I could try and find out though.

0:08:35.640,0:08:44.970

Olu Folarin: Okay, that would be good so one can have planned out so whether you want to utilize it this year. And the question is this what is the lifespan of the money?

0:08:47.370,0:08:52.680

Ashlee Long: Earmarks don't tend to run out. They don't tend to have an end date on them.

0:08:54.840,0:09:04.710

Ashlee Long: Like I just said previously, at some point, there is always the possibility that if you're not progressing your project that,

0:09:06.030,0:09:15.330

Ashlee Long: I guess there could always be a written another instance where there's another look at earmark funding and if you're not moving your project along they might repurpose it.

0:09:17.370,0:09:19.830

Ashlee Long: That could happen again, but I don't know that it would so.

0:09:21.630,0:09:22.500

Olu Folarin: Thank you very much.

0:09:24.630,0:09:25.500

Harry Porr: Anybody else?

0:09:28.980,0:09:30.480

Harry Porr: Anyone else any questions for Ashlee?

0:09:30.870,0:09:42.630

Travis Ewald: This is Travis. I had one question so um we have a project it's on the TIP that's a Bridge New York project, do you think there will be anything that would prohibit us from applying for that project?

0:09:45.390,0:09:52.320

Ashlee Long: I'm not sure if there's a cap to Bridge New York funding since you're already using funds, I can check.

0:09:54.660,0:09:55.890

Ashlee Long: I will check and get back to you.

0:09:56.310,0:09:57.090

Travis Ewald: Okay, thank you.

0:09:59.580,0:10:00.120

Jason Morris: Ashlee.

0:10:00.270,0:10:04.260

Jason Morris: Jason Morris, City of Newburgh. I actually had the exact same question that Travis just asked.

0:10:05.460,0:10:08.220

Jason Morris: You can let me know as well, thank you to both of you.

0:10:10.140,0:10:11.010

Harry Porr: Anyone else?

0:10:14.010,0:10:19.260

Harry Porr: Okay, Ashlee just keep us informed and anything you learn, share with everyone.

0:10:21.000,0:10:22.110

Next item on our agenda is

0:10:22.110,0:10:28.680

Harry Porr: local project sponsor updates. Is there anybody out there with the project would like to share an update with us? You can do that now.

0:10:30.060,0:10:31.170

Michael Sweeton: Harry, it's Mike Sweeton.

0:10:31.800,0:10:48.660

Michael Sweeton: Our project had to be re-bid. So we rejected all the bids, worked with DOT, revamped the bid packet, and it's now out on the street again. So it was just way over priced when it came back. That's the bike-hike trail project.

0:10:48.930,0:10:49.770

Harry Porr: Right right.

0:10:50.700,0:10:54.030

Michael Sweeton: Bids are due back in May 10.

0:10:55.410,0:10:56.100

Harry Porr: Good luck.

0:10:56.430,0:10:57.360

Michael Sweeton: Yeah thanks.

0:10:57.870,0:11:00.360

Harry Porr: The numbers are pretty pretty high these days I guess

0:11:01.710,0:11:05.430

Harry Porr: on all projects. Anybody else, local project update?

0:11:06.720,0:11:07.320

Jacob Tawil: This is Jacob Tawil.

0:11:07.590,0:11:08.790

Harry Porr: Good morning.

0:11:09.030,0:11:13.740

Jacob Tawil: Good morning, so what the Traffic Operation of that \$21 million project.

0:11:13.800,0:11:26.670

Jacob Tawil: We just made another submittal to DOT, and hopefully we will get, this will be the final submittal. After that we're going to proceed to advertise the project for bid. So we made it just another submittal last week.

0:11:29.250,0:11:42.720

Jacob Tawil: The ADA curbs and sidewalks. The contractor is starting again today, because they shut down over the winter and he's working on Boston Avenue to complete the project. That's all I have for you.

0:11:43.320,0:11:46.650

Harry Porr: Thank you Jacob.

0:11:46.650,0:11:48.650

Jacob Tawil: Thank you.

0:11:49.710,0:11:50.340

Harry Porr: Anyone else?

0:11:50.400,0:11:50.970

Travis Ewald: Harry this is Travis.

0:11:52.650,0:12:05.550

Travis Ewald: The Otisville Viaduct project, we received authorization to proceed to right away acquisition. We're working through that currently and that's still on schedule for throughout the construction, the fall of 2021.

0:12:07.650,0:12:19.170

Travis Ewald: Segment 2 of the Heritage Trail, we currently are on pause as we're working through some right away issues before we can complete the portion between Palmer and East Main Street.

0:12:21.360,0:12:35.940

Travis Ewald: Segment 3 of the Heritage Trail is currently in design, and then the Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project we're working through addressing comments on the PS&E submittal and we're looking for fall construction on that project.

0:12:37.470,0:12:41.580

Harry Porr: On the heritage trail I'm going to call CSX today and see if anybody answers the phone.

0:12:42.810,0:12:43.470

Harry Porr: They're hard to get ahold of.

0:12:44.760,0:12:49.950

Travis Ewald: I think that we just received some correspondence a couple minutes ago that you were copied on.

0:12:50.400,0:12:50.900

Harry Porr: Great.

0:12:51.930,0:12:54.810

jbrooks: Yeah it was a very promising email.

0:12:54.840,0:12:55.890

jbrooks: For change so I'm

0:12:56.400,0:12:59.280

jbrooks: very optimistic, for the first time in a long time.

0:12:59.790,0:13:02.700

Harry Porr: They're tough, they're tough to get their attention.

0:13:02.880,0:13:05.580

jbrooks: Well, obviously, you know what it is Harry, they knew that you were going to be calling, so.

0:13:08.130,0:13:09.090

Harry Porr: <laughs> It's not even Halloween.

0:13:10.590,0:13:14.790

Harry Porr: Okay, any other local project sponsor updates from anyone?

0:13:16.860,0:13:23.520

Harry Porr: Okay, seeing none will move on to Old Business. Is there any issue with anyone under Old Business that we like to talk about?

0:13:27.660,0:13:30.030

Harry Porr: Okay, moving on to New Business.

0:13:31.140,0:13:33.870

Harry Porr: Ashley, would you please talk about the operating procedures update?

0:13:35.460,0:13:41.400

Ashlee Long: Sure, so the next two items are the operating procedures update and the public participation plan update.

0:13:41.820,0:13:48.240

Ashlee Long: They kind of go together, but Lauren is going to be talking about the public participation plan update. So as part of this process

0:13:48.870,0:14:00.570

Ashlee Long: the staff has been looking at updating the public participation plan, which is currently housed in the Operating Procedures, and so part of this process, we were also looking back at the operating procedures an

0:14:01.710,0:14:04.410

Ashlee Long: we wanted to just touch base with members and

0:14:05.430,0:14:13.230

Ashlee Long: make sure that, you know, we didn't want to make any changes or updates to it, and so we just have a couple of things you know to kind of

0:14:14.130,0:14:24.480

Ashlee Long: talk to Members about, and you know, obviously, anyone can email us later if they have any thoughts. But so in doing the review we wanted to make sure that virtual

0:14:25.800,0:14:35.220

Ashlee Long: public input in meetings was going to be something that we could continue with once the current executive orders, you know, expired, and you know, we weren't

0:14:36.690,0:14:47.130

Ashlee Long: only being allowed to meet virtually. And so simply, we follow New York State Open Meetings Law which says that we can have this hybrid model of meeting in person

0:14:47.580,0:14:57.510

Ashlee Long: and a virtual component because we've really seen with the virtual component that there's a higher attendance OCTC meetings, which is great, and so as long as we are

0:14:58.590,0:15:08.970

Ashlee Long: giving the public and members access to a physical meeting location, once you know we kind of go back to being able to meet in person, we can continue to have the virtual aspect.

0:15:10.620,0:15:14.700

Ashlee Long: So that was good. That was something we wanted to investigate and make sure that we were able to continue doing.

0:15:15.960,0:15:22.920

Ashlee Long: And so the other thing we were looking at in the operating procedures was just adding some language about subcommittees, particularly since currently,

0:15:23.580,0:15:30.870

Ashlee Long: the Transit Subcommittee has formed and they're talking about transit issues in the County and bringing them to us, etc, and so.

0:15:31.410,0:15:37.560

Ashlee Long: We're just going to add in some draft language, I think, referring to subcommittees and their creation and the dissolution of them.

0:15:38.460,0:15:43.020

Ashlee Long: At some point so you'll be seeing some language on that in the future.

0:15:43.710,0:15:54.810

Ashlee Long: And then the other issue we kind of wanted to bring up was about air quality conformity determination statements and so for anyone not familiar with air quality conformity.

0:15:55.590,0:16:04.320

Ashlee Long: Orange County is in a maintenance area for PM 2.5 fine particulate matter and we're also in the Poughkeepsie ozone non attainment area.

0:16:06.240,0:16:09.390

Ashlee Long: And so, we're in the PM 2.5.

0:16:10.800,0:16:13.470

Ashlee Long: area with NYMTC, the New York City Metro

0:16:14.670,0:16:20.130

Ashlee Long: MPO and also with Dutchess, Dutchess and NYMTC for the the ozone.

0:16:20.850,0:16:32.430

Ashlee Long: And so oftentimes we find that NYMTC or Dutchess will trigger air quality conformity, and so that means that we have to make a statement,

0:16:33.300,0:16:34.890

Ashlee Long: put out a determination statement.

0:16:35.520,0:16:45.990

Ashlee Long: saying that either we have new non exempt projects that we had to run the model for and look at and re examine air quality and ensure that we're not you know, basically, making air quality worse in Orange County,

0:16:46.260,0:16:58.680

Ashlee Long: or oftentimes we are able to say, we have no new non-exempt projects and so we're able to reissue a previous conformity statement because nothing has changed.

And so, sometimes

0:17:00.600,0:17:09.810

Ashlee Long: the timing on these is, not, doesn't work with the OCTC schedule as set up now, and so it was suggested to us to potentially look at allowing

0:17:13.410,0:17:18.720

Ashlee Long: routine conformity statements, where there's no new non exempt projects, to potentially,

0:17:19.890,0:17:26.910

Ashlee Long: if the timing is such that it can't go to a regularly scheduled planning committee meeting, we would email members saying,

0:17:28.500,0:17:31.620

Ashlee Long: this is happening, this is why this conformity statement is

0:17:32.730,0:17:40.170

Ashlee Long: being asked for, but there's no new non exempt projects. And so we would give Members the heads up and then it would be able to go to public comment,

0:17:40.530,0:17:49.710

Ashlee Long: And then we would be able to hold a policy committee meeting on it, and it would potentially not have been discussed at a designated planning committee meeting.

0:17:50.220,0:18:00.000

Ashlee Long: It's really more of a process timing thing. We're not looking to you know skirt the procedures or anything. We just kind of sometimes, it's a little difficult

0:18:02.070,0:18:07.830

Ashlee Long: with scheduling. So that's all. Does anyone have any questions on that I know...?

0:18:07.830,0:18:08.850

Harry Porr: I do. What's an example of a non exempt project?

0:18:11.520,0:18:16.410

Ashlee Long: a non exempt project. Lauren, do you have a good example, recently?

0:18:38.850,0:18:43.320

Lauren Burns: I'm just reading through the document, I just wanted to add to Ashlee's,

0:18:44.640,0:18:59.550

Lauren Burns: what Ashlee was saying, it's we got pulled back into the Poughkeepsie ozone non attainment and with that we've been doing, like two conformity determinations per year, as opposed to the one determination that we used to do.

0:19:00.660,0:19:25.560

Lauren Burns: So it's really for when we're triggered by other MPOs like Dutchess or NYMTC where we really have no implications for air quality, and we also don't want to hold up their process as well. So that's really what the language is built in for. This is me stalling as

0:19:27.270,0:19:29.550

Lauren Burns: I look for the language on non exempt projects.

0:19:31.650,0:19:33.540

Harry Porr: Oh...

0:19:33.630,0:19:47.820

Lauren Burns: Okay exempt projects are transportation projects that enhance safety and transportation system. Non exempt projects are those for the most part, then increase the capacity of the transportation network. So currently our non exempt projects are, there is a

0:19:48.960,0:19:55.290

Lauren Burns: PIN 806242 which was an I84 ITS project.

0:19:56.850,0:19:58.680

Lauren Burns: By which was a NYSDOT project.

0:20:00.600,0:20:04.740

Lauren Burns: PIN 806243, which was also an ITS.

0:20:06.000,0:20:17.190

Lauren Burns: The PIN 882347, which is a NYSDOT, which is expansion of Orange Park and Ride Lots. 876142 is

0:20:18.570,0:20:32.250

Lauren Burns: a local project, which is the Kiryas Joel Park and Ride expansion and also previous non-exempt was 875924 which was an Orange project, and that was a Newburgh Area Bus Service expansion.

0:20:34.980,0:20:43.710

Harry Porr: How does the air quality issue effect projects like widening 17 and making it into Interstate 86?

0:20:44.910,0:20:46.500

Lauren Burns: Yeah that's a great question. So

0:20:47.010,0:20:57.300

Lauren Burns: we would go through the ICG with that, and they would determine whether or not it was exempt or non exempt and if it is not exempt it would have...

0:21:00.720,0:21:04.830

Lauren Burns: We would have to do, possibly like a hotspot analysis or other

0:21:08.220,0:21:11.550

Lauren Burns: procedures, but that's all done through the ICG.

0:21:13.530,0:21:14.580

But we just have to show

0:21:14.580,0:21:28.320

Lauren Burns: that we'll still stay, we have an emissions budget for PM 2.5 and ozone. We just have to make sure that whatever projects are added, that we stay within that budget and that budget also includes NYMTC, so we're kind of in this joint

0:21:30.420,0:21:33.270

Lauren Burns: single budget, and we have to make sure our project stay under that.

0:21:34.260,0:21:38.370

Harry Porr: If you look at Orange County economic development, I mean a lot of it is based on warehousing

0:21:38.730,0:21:40.290

Harry Porr: and transportation trucking.

0:21:41.070,0:21:43.140

Harry Porr: I don't know how our air quality is gonna get much better in the short term.

0:21:48.270,0:21:48.930

Anybody else?

0:21:55.980,0:22:07.290

Dan Coots: Hi, this is Dan Coots at State DOT. So Ashlee I unfortunately was on mute and I joined a little bit late due to some technology issues but

0:22:08.550,0:22:19.470

Dan Coots: you're absolutely right that the model captures a change it's not expansion necessarily, it's a change in the emissions characteristics.

0:22:19.920,0:22:33.780

Dan Coots: So when we have these kind of improvement projects, for example, a park and rid lot that has worth a hundred spaces, that's considered a regionally significant project, we have to account for that.

0:22:34.980,0:22:38.100

Dan Coots: The transportation issues in the network

0:22:39.330,0:22:46.680

Dan Coots: are kind of captured in the model, and the assumptions based on the social economic data that we collect.

0:22:47.940,0:22:58.200

Dan Coots: Any new projects, as as this gentleman was just eluding too, does have an impact, it impacts the transportation network.

0:23:01.320,0:23:15.180

Dan Coots: Just kind of a point of clarification, so I, I agree that I don't think there's much in a change in the network as it stands, so it's kind of a conformity statement that's status quo.

0:23:17.880,0:23:20.610

Harry Porr: Thank you. Anyone else any comments?

0:23:22.410,0:23:23.700

Harry Porr: Lauren anything else you want to add?

0:23:28.110,0:23:30.960

Lauren Burns: Um, no I think that's good.

0:23:31.650,0:23:33.690

Harry Porr: Okay. All right, then we'll close this section out and we'll move on to

0:23:33.690,0:23:38.580

Harry Porr: reports. Orange County Transportation Council staff reports. Julie anything?

0:23:39.960,0:23:49.260

Ashlee Long: Oh actually Harry Lauren's going to go over some more on the public participation plan, but I think that unless anyone had any questions about the operating procedures update.

0:23:53.100,0:23:56.670

JRichmond: The operating procedures, Ashlee apologize if you

0:23:56.910,0:23:57.660

mentioned this.

0:23:57.900,0:23:59.730

JRichmond: Weren't you just kind of kind of float it out

0:23:59.730,0:24:02.190

JRichmond: there, to the Members also just to get a sense.

0:24:02.850,0:24:03.870

in terms of

0:24:04.830,0:24:06.930

JRichmond: when things sort of transition back to

0:24:06.930,0:24:14.040

JRichmond: normal what their preference is? In terms of virtual meetings, in person meetings, hybrid

0:24:15.330,0:24:15.830

You know,

0:24:16.470,0:24:17.760

JRichmond: doing some meetings,

0:24:18.540,0:24:22.320

JRichmond: maybe voting meetings virtually, planning meetings

0:24:22.560,0:24:23.370

JRichmond: in person.

0:24:23.940,0:24:24.450

JRichmond: I just,

0:24:24.720,0:24:25.980

JRichmond: we need to get a sense of.

0:24:26.730,0:24:28.140

Dan Coots: Because I know at one point

0:24:29.370,0:24:30.600

JRichmond: the Council did not

0:24:31.380,0:24:33.240

was not in support of like a

0:24:33.270,0:24:34.290

mail in ballot.

0:24:34.920,0:24:36.120

for voting so it would be

0:24:37.980,0:24:46.290

JRichmond: interesting to get a sense. I'm sure you're experiencing this with your other boards that you're on determining how you want to move forward.

0:24:49.830,0:24:51.390

Ashlee Long: Yeah if anyone has any comments

0:24:51.540,0:24:57.870

Ashlee Long: about how they feel about virtual voting I guess versus strictly in person voting.

0:25:00.330,0:25:01.290

JRichmond: We need to address that in the

0:25:01.830,0:25:04.230

operating procedures, you know if

0:25:04.560,0:25:05.610

there's a preference and allow for it.

0:25:11.310,0:25:17.550

Dan Coots: Yeah I can absolutely confirm with Sandra but I'm under the premise that

0:25:18.870,0:25:28.710

Dan Coots: from State DOT's perspective that we would be okay with remote representation of whatever action's being proposed.

0:25:32.040,0:25:34.080

Harry Porr: I know the Stewart Airport Commission

0:25:34.080,0:25:49.350

Harry Porr: has been meeting remotely and the Chairman referenced last last meeting that he is going to try and have an in person meeting in June. Whether or not we're able to do that or not we don't know, but that's what the intention is of the Stewart Airport Commission.

0:25:50.790,0:26:01.110

Michael Sweeton: Harry, this is Mike Sweeton. I like the hybrid model, but I think, maybe, for you know, the main voting meetings, they should be in person.

0:26:02.760,0:26:05.220

Harry Porr: Let's see if the science allows that to happen.

0:26:09.120,0:26:10.440

Ashlee Long: Like I just wonder if,

0:26:12.000,0:26:23.880

Ashlee Long: The way I think open meetings law works right now works, it was written, I'm sorry, is that you're able to vote virtually if you have if you disclose your location and

0:26:25.380,0:26:29.400

Ashlee Long: you have your camera on basically. So I guess

0:26:30.690,0:26:40.530

Ashlee Long: would you still prefer the strictly in person or would you be okay, if some people were in person, and some people were voting virtually?

0:26:42.480,0:26:51.810

Michael Sweeton: I don't know i'm open, I guess, but I think meeting a person where you're sitting across the table and looking at people you get a better discussion and

0:26:52.590,0:26:55.440

Michael Sweeton: hopefully, a better result. That's just my personal feeling.

0:26:55.500,0:26:57.450

Michael Sweeton: But i'm only one vote so.

0:26:57.810,0:27:01.890

Harry Porr: Well there's two of us, because I feel the same way, but I think we're about the same age, so yes.

0:27:03.600,0:27:04.100

Michael Sweeton: That could be it Harry.

0:27:05.070,0:27:11.550

Harry Porr: Ashlee, didn't we in the past, allow people to vote over the phone if they couldn't make the meeting pre pre-pandemic.

0:27:13.170,0:27:20.610

Ashlee Long: There was one very special instance where members allowed that but that's actually really not something that

0:27:22.470,0:27:25.590

Ashlee Long: I think is permitted. If there was a voting,

0:27:26.760,0:27:30.180

Ashlee Long: a non in person voting component you'd have to be on camera.

0:27:32.250,0:27:45.930

Ashlee Long: So I think we're going to send all of these out in an email to Members that way, maybe you can digest them and think about them a little more and then maybe email us or you know contact us back with your thoughts.

0:27:47.220,0:27:49.770

Ashlee Long: Since I know that you know not everyone's on this call either so.

0:27:51.270,0:27:52.170

Harry Porr: Sort of a survey.

0:27:53.670,0:27:54.170

Ashlee Long: Yeah.

0:27:57.960,0:28:03.390

Ashlee Long: Now I think, Lauren, just the next thing would just Lauren and the public participation plan update.

0:28:03.390,0:28:05.390

Harry Porr: Lauren?

0:28:06.960,0:28:08.850

Lauren Burns: I have some slides for everyone.

0:28:10.950,0:28:12.480

Lauren Burns: Sharing, a minute to get those up.

0:28:13.500,0:28:22.800

Lauren Burns: Alright, so I'm going to give a brief presentation today on the public participation plan update, if you want to go to the next slide Ashlee.

0:28:25.290,0:28:31.920

Lauren Burns: So today I'm going to give some background on the public involvement process and what prompted the update and then I'll walk you through

0:28:32.790,0:28:39.390

Lauren Burns: kind of the plan's update process and outline the opportunities for feedback by the committee and by the public.

0:28:40.140,0:28:51.330

Lauren Burns: Then we'll do a quick overview on the plans proposed sections, as currently drafted, including the purpose statement and goals and will provide an opportunity for the committee to

0:28:52.860,0:28:54.270

Lauren Burns: give input on this call.

0:28:55.320,0:29:00.960

Lauren Burns: And then we'll end with an overview of the timeline and what to expect next in the process. Next slide.

0:29:03.000,0:29:10.440

Lauren Burns: So this is the federal requirement that kind of outlines the public involvement process and the plan.

0:29:10.890,0:29:22.290

Lauren Burns: MPOs are required to develop and document a public participation plan that defines a process for providing reasonable opportunities to be involved in the transportation planning process.

0:29:22.860,0:29:30.150

Lauren Burns: It gives us a lot of flexibility to MPOs to define their own process and which best fits their communities.

0:29:31.260,0:29:32.430

Lauren Burns: Next slide.

0:29:33.660,0:29:43.590

Lauren Burns: So just a little background on why now. So as Ashlee stated earlier, the public involvement procedure is within the OCTC operating procedures.

0:29:44.730,0:29:45.230

Lauren Burns: In the 2018 FHWA

0:29:46.680,0:29:51.960

Lauren Burns: and FTA certification review they found that the

0:29:52.980,0:29:56.730

Lauren Burns: public involvement procedure was not easily found on the OCTC website.

0:29:58.200,0:30:10.980

Lauren Burns: We have made improvements to the website, but we're hoping to create a more clear public involvement procedure through the standalone document, we also want to create a really accessible document that's living that we can update.

0:30:12.030,0:30:22.200

Lauren Burns: As well and we'd like to complete this before the upcoming certification in fall of 2021. Most importantly we've learned a lot from the

0:30:22.650,0:30:38.550

Lauren Burns: experience over the last three years, with public engagement activities. This is included the LRTP, the Long Range Transportation Plan update, the TIP update, our Regional Transit study and our ongoing study with the West Central TLC.

0:30:40.590,0:30:54.210

Lauren Burns: The LRTP was the first MPO product that we included that we use the virtual public involvement and we saw an increase in participation and then also with COVID and moving to VPI platforms, we received a lot of positive feedback.

0:30:55.560,0:30:56.130

Lauren Burns: Next slide.

0:30:58.470,0:31:01.980

Lauren Burns: So there's a graphic of the process for the PPP update.

0:31:03.150,0:31:09.000

Lauren Burns: So it started in December of 2020 we kind of created the project team and we began to research.

0:31:10.320,0:31:21.450

Lauren Burns: Which included review of regulations national best practices, best practices throughout New York, and then we began the next phase, which is highlighted in gray.

0:31:22.680,0:31:29.970

Lauren Burns: And that's the drafting phase so we've been drafting a text and we are about to wrap up that.

0:31:31.020,0:31:41.760

Lauren Burns: And so the next few phases, are the stakeholder committee review and the public review, which are both opportunities for input and feedback and then lastly.

0:31:43.200,0:31:46.620

Lauren Burns: The last phase is to adopt the public participation plan.

0:31:48.210,0:32:00.060

Lauren Burns: Next slide. So this is the outline of the sections as they're currently drafted. So the first three sections, the introduction, overview of the MPO, and the regulations

0:32:00.540,0:32:18.600

Lauren Burns: are kind of like the bones of the plan. It gives it the structure and then the next six sections are kind of the meat of the plan and they outline the process for public involvement and includes kind of like a toolbox for different strategies, some equity in the

0:32:20.070,0:32:25.830

Lauren Burns: outreach, and also including the monitoring and evaluation, and then the update procedures.

0:32:26.910,0:32:28.230

Harry Porr: Lauren, a question.

0:32:29.640,0:32:31.800

What is equity of public involvement?

0:32:35.130,0:32:38.130

Lauren Burns: Public involvement equity?

0:32:38.130,0:32:40.230

Harry Porr: Seven. What is equity a public involvement?

0:32:40.680,0:32:54.090

Lauren Burns: Yeah so, this includes, we're kind of looking at hard to reach communities and hoping to kind of identify areas of communities that are

0:32:55.140,0:33:01.800

Lauren Burns: historically disenfranchised or transportation vulnerable and include them in the process.

0:33:03.390,0:33:03.990

And so we've

0:33:04.140,0:33:08.790

Lauren Burns: created some specific strategies to reach these different communities.

0:33:14.310,0:33:22.440

Lauren Burns: So the this is kind of the opportunity for Members to give your input. I'm going to read through the draft purpose statement and the goals.

0:33:23.070,0:33:40.200

Lauren Burns: And as I'm reading through them just think if you're satisfied with the overall purpose statement and goals. If you think anything's missing, you have an opportunity to comment now or again through the stakeholder review or and through the public comment period.

0:33:41.580,0:33:42.510

Lauren Burns: So next slide.

0:33:44.490,0:33:50.730

Lauren Burns: So the purpose statement is the OCTC is committed to encouraging meaningful and informed public participation

0:33:51.060,0:33:59.880

Lauren Burns: that promotes opportunities and resources for all Community members and interested stakeholders to confidently participate in the transportation planning process.

0:34:00.510,0:34:10.440

Lauren Burns: All goals objectives and strategies evaluate equity impacts and design in the development of those etc programs and projects are inclusive inclusive of all

0:34:11.040,0:34:23.040

Lauren Burns: and effectively engage underrepresented populations, so the public participation plan provides a proactive public involvement process that increases awareness and understanding and the transportation planning process

0:34:23.490,0:34:40.170

Lauren Burns: offers complete information and timely public notice supports early and continued involvement of all stakeholders and provides opportunity these for meaningful involvement and citizen feedback. So I'll pause for a second if anyone has any comments.

0:34:43.050,0:34:47.700

Dan Coots: This is Dan coots from State DOT, and what would be the

0:34:50.130,0:34:52.950

Dan Coots: language distribution for them?

0:34:55.500,0:34:59.040

Dan Coots: It's got to be multi lingual right for those notices?

0:35:00.750,0:35:05.400

Lauren Burns: Yes, we cover that there are limited English proficiency communities.

0:35:06.900,0:35:11.070

Lauren Burns: And we identify our outreach strategies within the plan.

0:35:12.090,0:35:16.320

Dan Coots: Okay, so if you can share that that'd be, that'd be helpful to make sure that we're covered.

0:35:18.030,0:35:19.200

Lauren Burns: Yep, we are,

0:35:19.320,0:35:30.690

Lauren Burns: I'll go through this on the timeline but we'll be sending out the draft to stakeholders, so committee members and partner agencies, for your review before it goes out for public comment.

0:35:32.850,0:35:33.570

Dan Coots: Good perfect.

0:35:33.840,0:35:34.340

Thanks.

0:35:35.430,0:35:35.930

Lauren Burns: Thanks Dan.

0:35:38.940,0:35:39.750

Any other comments?

0:35:44.640,0:35:46.380

Lauren Burns: Great, Ashlee if you want to go on to the goals.

0:35:48.540,0:35:49.200

Lauren Burns: So we've

0:35:50.460,0:35:56.490

Lauren Burns: created six overarching goals and then within the plan we have sub goals that

0:35:57.630,0:36:01.290

Lauren Burns: kind of outline the overall goals, more specifically.

0:36:02.940,0:36:12.300

Lauren Burns: So the six goals, Goal One is to provide accessible and continuing opportunity for involvement and participation in the transportation planning process.

0:36:13.110,0:36:17.040

Lauren Burns: Goal Two is to encourage public involvement through effective outreach strategies.

0:36:17.760,0:36:25.260

Lauren Burns: Goal Three is to coordinate public involvement and consult, consultation processes with federal state and local agencies as applicable

0:36:25.740,0:36:38.010

Lauren Burns: to reach a larger audience and minimize costs and redundancies. Goal Four is to incorporate equity in the public involvement process, particularly for populations that are considered underserved and underrepresented.

0:36:38.940,0:36:46.050

Lauren Burns: Goal Five is to educate and inform the public about transportation planning issues and processes to create a forum that allows for

0:36:46.560,0:37:03.930

Lauren Burns: meaningful participation and involvement by citizens and stakeholders. Goal Six is to incorporate feedback received from the public for consideration and incorporation as appropriate into transportation plans programs and projects. So again I'll pause for comment, if anyone has...

0:37:04.980,0:37:07.560

Harry Porr: How is this different than anything we've done in the past?

0:37:09.720,0:37:18.810

Lauren Burns: We have not laid out goals in our, so our public involvement procedure in the OCTC does not lay out goals so

0:37:19.650,0:37:30.150

Lauren Burns: we're basically just defining them within this process, but this is really something that we've been working on in public engagement. I think we're just formalizing it in the plan.

0:37:35.460,0:37:39.450

JRichmond: Harry, it's a federally required document and

0:37:39.960,0:37:43.020

we need to have it as a separate document as

0:37:43.050,0:37:44.580

JRichmond: one of our products.

0:37:45.930,0:38:01.230

JRichmond: It needs to be housed very clearly and distinctly on the website. So it's basically and encapsulating our process that we've been doing all along, but it's memorializing it.

0:38:01.650,0:38:03.390

JRichmond: But the one thing that is

0:38:03.420,0:38:11.670

JRichmond: different is the whole virtual component of public outreach now, which COVID has changed all of that so

0:38:11.700,0:38:12.660

now we have to

0:38:13.050,0:38:14.550

JRichmond: be mindful of that and

0:38:14.550,0:38:22.710

JRichmond: figure out how best to use the the virtual component to reach the underrepresented populations.

0:38:28.890,0:38:38.730

Lauren Burns: Yep so just this last slide is the timeline so we, as I said, we're at the final phases of the draft we're just going through some revisions.

0:38:39.330,0:38:45.630

Lauren Burns: Once that's completed we'll send that out to stakeholders for review, which we asked you to provide comments.

0:38:46.230,0:38:56.040

Lauren Burns: And then we'll go into revisions and format, the plan and presented the final draft to the OCTC Committee tentatively at the June meeting.

0:38:56.940,0:39:09.600

Lauren Burns: After that will go out for the 45 days of public comment that's required, and then we'll prepare the final document and look to adopt tentatively on that the August Policy Committee meeting.

0:39:11.070,0:39:21.960

Lauren Burns: So I just want to thank everyone for their time and if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to any of the MPO staff, we look forward to sharing the plans with everyone, thank you.

0:39:23.280,0:39:24.450

Harry Porr: Any questions from anyone for Lauren?

0:39:28.200,0:39:31.710

Harry Porr: Okay let's go back to our agenda.

0:39:32.790,0:39:39.300

Harry Porr: The next Item number seven is OCTC staff reports, I'll defer to Julie. Is there anything you want to report on?

0:39:42.060,0:40:02.670

JRichmond: The only thing current right now is just a quick update on the West Central Transportation Land Use Connection Study. We are in sort of phase one of our public speaking about public participation. We're actively engaged in public participation on the plan right now. There are,

0:40:03.750,0:40:17.160

JRichmond: in light of COVID, we have forgone the concept of in person public meetings and pop up events, etc, we have recorded videos on the project website.

0:40:17.880,0:40:30.060

JRichmond: There's an overall explanation video and then there's separate videos broken out on the various components of the study being transit,

0:40:30.570,0:40:44.280

JRichmond: active transportation, and the corridor analysis, and you can watch one or all of them and there's an ability to provide feedback there that way and that has all been posted.

0:40:45.180,0:40:56.850

JRichmond: The notices of that both in English and in Spanish, and we are going to leave that open for comment until through April 25 and we do ask,

0:40:58.050,0:41:08.370

JRichmond: you know, the the OCTCMembers, you know you are our boots on the ground in terms of your communities so any way, that you can share

0:41:09.660,0:41:26.940

JRichmond: the information on the project website, you know, through your social media communities or your your Facebook Community pages or wherever you find is the most effective way to post this stuff. We do have flyers also that can be distributed so

0:41:28.260,0:41:29.730

JRichmond: that's all I have on that.

0:41:30.450,0:41:33.030

Harry Porr: Okay, anybody else from OCTC staff?

0:41:36.270,0:41:42.030

Harry Porr: Okay, if not, we have a save the date Planning Committee meeting May 11, 2021 at 10am.

0:41:43.110,0:41:51.510

Harry Porr: And we can move now to Other Member reports. I will go through some of the people we have on the call today DPW, County DPW. Is there anything you want to add today?

0:41:53.700,0:41:54.630

Travis Ewald: No Harry, thank you.

0:41:55.200,0:41:56.910

Harry Porr: Okay, how about New York State DOT?

0:42:02.370,0:42:07.620

Dan Coots: I don't think we have anything to add. Nicole are you on? Anything? I don't think so.

0:42:08.640,0:42:10.170

Harry Porr: Nicole's here and Harriet's here also.

0:42:13.140,0:42:15.060

Harry Porr: Okay, then MTA.

0:42:16.050,0:42:18.180

Olu Folarin: Nothing for now, thanks.

0:42:18.870,0:42:20.070

Harry Porr: Okay Port Authority.

0:42:24.870,0:42:26.070

Harry Porr: They must not be with us today.

0:42:27.090,0:42:28.230

Harry Porr: Thruway Authority, Lizy?

0:42:29.280,0:42:30.300

Lizy Philip, NYS Thruway: Nothing. Thank you.

0:42:31.140,0:42:33.090

Harry Porr: Okay, is there anybody else any other comments?

0:42:34.890,0:42:38.820

Harry Porr: If not, unless for a resolution, a motion to adjourn.

0:42:41.880,0:42:42.630

Michael Sweeton: So moved Harry.

0:42:42.930,0:42:45.000

Harry Porr: Thank you, Michael. And a second?

0:42:47.220,0:42:47.720

Dan Coots: Second.

0:42:48.360,0:42:52.140

Harry Porr: Thank you and all those in favor, Aye.

0:42:53.190,0:42:53.690

Michael Sweeton: Aye.

0:42:53.970,0:42:59.850

Harry Porr: We are...Thank you all so much for coming out today and for participating in this meeting, thank you.

0:43:02.280,0:43:03.480

Travis Ewald: Thank you have a great rest of the day.