

Meeting Summary
Planning Committee Meeting
April 16, 2019 at 9:00AM
255 Main Street, Goshen, NY
Community Room

Meeting Participants

Name:

Julie Richmond
Rob Parrington
Ashlee Long
Lauren Burns
Todd Atkinson
Al Fusco
Gary Spears
Sandra Jobson
Lizzy Philip
Jacob Tawil
John Bell
Michael Sweeton
Anthony Cardone
Frank Palermo

Organization:

Orange County Planning
Orange County Planning
Orange County Planning
Orange County Planning
J. Robert Folchetti & Associates
Fusco Engineering
Town of Deerpark
NYSDOT, Region 8
NYSTA
City of Middletown
Village of Chester
Town of Warwick
Town of Monroe
Town of Woodbury

On the Phone:

Oluseye Folarin	MTA
Jason Morris	City of Newburgh
Chad Wade	City of Newburgh
John Revella	Village of Walden

Call to Order and Introductions

Ms. Richmond called the meeting to order. The meeting began with introductions.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Ms. Richmond asked if there was any public comment; there was none.

Approve January 15, 2019 Meeting Summary

The meeting summary was accepted as drafted.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2017-2021

TIP Administrative Modification OCTC17-Z

Ms. Long gave a brief introduction of the TIP to the new attendees of the Planning Committee Meeting and introduced TIP Administrative Modification OCTC17-Z to the Committee. OCTC-Z includes three transit projects:

- PIN 8TRO78 (Purchase 12 Passenger Buses with 5307 funds) to roll the Miscellaneous phase from FFY18 to FFY19

- PIN 8TRO84 (Purchase 2 Passenger Buses with 5311 funds) to roll Miscellaneous phase from FFY18 to FFY19
- PIN 8TRO87 (5307 funding for Paratransit services) to combine funds from FFY16, FFY17, and FFY18 with FFY19 funds

There are no questions about the FTA funds or the Administrative Modification.

FFY 2020-2024 TIP Update

Ms. Long introduced the latest draft FFY 2020-2024 TIP spreadsheet to the Committee. Since the last Planning Committee Meeting OCTC Staff has worked with local project sponsors on realistic project schedules to update each federal fiscal year and ensure the overall TIP is fiscally constrained. From these discussions, the TIP spreadsheet was updated and redistributed one large deficit in FFY20 to two smaller deficits of funding between two of the federal fiscal years, FFY20 and FFY21. FFY23 and FFY24 also have a small surplus of CMAQ and STP LG Urban funding. The Committee discussed possible actions to better balance the funding deficit in FFY20 and FFY21, including: moving (PIN 8758.75 – Traffic Signal Upgrades in the City of Newburgh) out to FFY22 and possibly switching the funding sources from CMAQ to STP LG Urban, converting an Orange County project PIN 875705 (Heritage Trail Segment 3) funds in the ROWACQU phase from CMAQ to STP LG Urban and pushing ROWACQU to FFY21, and moving a City of Middletown project (PIN) out to FFY21.

Ms. Jobson did not suggest splitting any construction phases within a project to meet fiscal constraint. She stated that over-programming for a funding source in a federal fiscal year is okay if it is due to a single project. This is the case of PIN 876098 (Middletown Traffic Operations Stage 2) that is programmed for \$4.500 of CMAQ funds in FFY2021 when OCTC is allocated \$3.030 of CMAQ per year.

Mr. Sweeton noted that the conversion of CMAQ funding to STP LG Urban to meet fiscal constraint within each federal fiscal year may have adverse implications for project sponsors down the road. He suggested having a larger pot of unallocated STP LG Urban funding because the fund source is less restrictive than CMAQ and can be applied to more projects in the future.

Ms. Long stated that the Committee will be creating block PINs for unprogrammed funding. These unprogrammed funds include STP LG Urban and CMAQ in FFY23 and FFY24.

City of Middletown Funding Request (PIN 8761.49 – ADA Sidewalks in Middletown)

The City of Middletown is looking for an offset of \$0.800 (\$0.400 for Design and \$0.400 for C/CI) of STP LG Urban funds for PIN 8761.49 – ADA Sidewalks in Middletown. Mr. Tawil said the cost estimates came back higher than anticipated, and the City is committed to obligating the construction funding this calendar year. Ms. Jobson reminded the Committee that the project's repurposed earmark funding needs to be obligated in September. She suggested obligating the requested funding in early FFY 2020 since the project is at high risk to lose the funding if it does not obligate for construction within this federal fiscal year. The Committee agreed to provide the offset of STP LG Urban for PIN 876149 with the stipulation that if the City did not obligate the Repurposed HPP funding by the end of FFY19, then the Committee would not guarantee STP Lg Urban for the project in FFY20.

Other projects are also at risk of losing funding if they do not obligate for construction within this federal fiscal year.

The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) is in need of STP LG Urban funds in FFY21. NYDOT Region 8 office has reached out to OCTC Staff to discuss the possibility of allocating \$1.000 of the OCTC STP LG Urban unallocated funding to the DCTC TIP, to be returned in a future year. Ms. Long said this would benefit both MPO's and set OCTC up to have additional funds in a future year for

offsets of current projects, or in the event of OCTC soliciting new projects. There were no objections from the Committee.

The Committee asked what the project solicitation process would look like and what type of projects would be able to apply. There has not been a call-for-project in Orange County for over a decade. Ms. Long said she would work to put the process in place this summer for the official call later in the calendar year. The projects would be ranked based on meeting funding requirements and having areawide significance. The Committee will approach this topic later in the year after the 2020-2024 TIP is adopted.

Ms. Jobson also noted that OCTC will have unallocated STP Off System Bridge funding (\$0.700/year) and suggested working with Orange County's Department of Public Works (OC DPW) to host a group PIN to paint bridges or repair steel. Ms. Jobson referenced a similar successful model that worked for the Greater Buffalo and Niagara County Transportation Council (GBNCTC). Erie County contracts with local communities to upkeep off-system bridges with projects that do not require environmental review or right-of-way acquisition. This allows more bridges to benefit from the funding by aggregating small projects together and only needing to go out to bid once and cutting down on administrative costs. Ms. Jobson requested to continue the discussion at the next planning meeting in May and invite the OC DPW Commissioner.

Mr. Cardone asked about the process of obtaining federal funding for the Village of Monroe on the realignment of a roadway near State Route 17M and State Route 208. Ms. Long invited the Village of Monroe to the next planning committee meeting and said she would circulate documents outlining the federal aid process to the Committee.

Local Project Sponsor Updates

Mr. Tawil gave an update on the Green Infrastructure project that does not use federal aid, but is a substantial project going out to bid soon as part of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative.

Mr. Morris said he would give an update on the City of Newburgh projects in person at the May Planning Committee Meeting.

PIN 876002 –Town of Warwick Trail and Bicycle Facilities project. Mr. Sweeton said there was an extension request put in due to confusion with the September 2019 funding deadlines and the 10-year PE deadline in May 2019. Mr. Sweeton said the consultants are working on submitting environmental questions and are waiting to get final comments on the design report from the Local Projects Unit (LPU) before submitting the final documents. Ms. Jobson suggested working on the extension request from FHWA and moving the project forward concurrently but said she would follow up with Region 8 staff on the project.

PIN 875664 – Route 6 Bridge Replacement over the Neversink River. Mr. Spears gave an update for the City of Port Jervis since Mr. Farr could not attend. The two-lane temporary bridge is now open, and traffic is flowing.

PIN 848743 – Route 52 to Most Precious Blood School Sidewalk project. Mr. Revella stated the project was set to start next month in May 2019.

Congestion Management Process Presentation

Ms. Burns presented a summary of the Mid-Hudson Valley Transit Management Area's Congestion Management Process (CMP) update. The CMP update includes new data, tools, and best practices, particularly those related to the National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS). The Final CMP and accompanying resolution are anticipated to be adopted at the June Policy Committee meeting.

For more information on the Congestion Management Process, please contact Lauren Burns at lburns@orangecountygov.com.

Ms. Jobson also noted that the MPO can consider working with NYSDOT to complete major reconstruction projects on regionally significant state roads with unprogrammed CMAQ funds as an alternative to helping alleviate congestion on the National Highway System (NHS). She stated that the MPO does not have to hold itself to local and county roads and can work with NYSDOT to complete regionally significant projects. Mr. Sweeton stated that NYSDOT finished an intersection improvement project on Route 94 in the Village of Warwick but never finished putting in the turning lane, pushing the project off the TIP.

Ms. Richmond transitioned the conversation to highlight the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) call for ideas as the perfect opportunity to capture such notable projects throughout the County. The LRTP Advisory Group Meeting will be held immediately following the Planning Committee Meeting, where the call for ideas will be discussed.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Update to OCTC Operating Procedures

Ms. Long informed the Committee that the Operating Procedures is being updated to include the Town of Palm Tree in the member listing and to update the resolution number of the last update, which was in June 2016. Any update to the Operating Procedures requires 45 days of public comment and will start in mid-May, to be on the agenda at the June Policy Committee Meeting.

Reports

Staff Reports

Ms. Long reminded the Committee that there will be an LRTP update meeting directly after this meeting.

Ms. Long also reminded the Committee of multiple upcoming OCTC meetings, including:

- Transit Sub-Committee will be meeting on May 9th in Goshen.
- Next Planning Committee Meeting will be held on May 21st at 10am at the Emergency Services Center.
- Policy Committee Meeting on June 18th at 1pm at the Emergency Services Center.

Ms. Long reminded the Committee about the Policy Committee Attendance Policy, per the Operating Procedures. After a discussion about the slight confusion on meeting times and spaces, Ms. Long said she would create an outlook meeting and send it out to members for their convenience.

Ms. Richmond updated the Committee on the Regional Transit Study, also known as Connect Mid-Hudson. The Study has two components: overview of services and capital inventory. The study is 45% complete. The next steps include a review of the capitol investment projects and field visits to all the operators. The second Technical Memo on the service assessment has an anticipated deadline of May.

The Western Gateway Study was renamed to West Central Transportation and Land Use Study, or West Central TLC. The Study had an internal kick off meeting and is working on the draft Public Participation Plan (PPP), which is looking at creative ways to reach out to stakeholders and the public. Ms. Richmond informed the Committee that anyone interested in participating in the Study Advisory Group (SAG)

should contact her. The SAG will hold approximately four meetings throughout the Study, with the first one tentatively planned for mid-May.

The County's Comprehensive Plan, which features a Transportation Chapter, is going through the Legislature and is set to be adopted soon. The newly formed OCTC Transit Sub-Committee is implementing the Plan's Transit Recommendations through its vision and goals.

The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update will include a "call for ideas" to help better understand the long-term planning needs throughout the County and is asking all municipalities to participate by submitting ideas, studies, projects, etc. The LRTP will undergo its first public meeting in Newburgh at SUNY Orange on May 7th and will include two sessions: one in the late afternoon and one in the evening. Details will be available at the OCTC website.

The committee adjourned at 10:56 am