

BINGHAMTON METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE

MARCH 6, 2013

11:30 AM

Broome County Office Building, 6th floor Legislative conference room

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mike Marinaccio, at 11:06 a.m.

Roll call and quorum determination was made by .

Members Present

- Supervisor Michael Marinaccio, Town of Dickinson, Chair
- Legislator Michael Roberts, Tioga County, Vice-Chair
- Supervisor Donald Castellucci, Jr., Town of Owego
- Mayor Greg Deemie, Village of Johnson City
- Mayor Matthew Ryan, City of Binghamton
- County Executive Debra Preston, Broome County, *represented by Bijoy Datta*
- Mayor John Bertoni, Village of Endicott
- Mayor Kevin Millar, Village of Owego
- Supervisor Hal Snopek, Town of Chenango
- Kevin McLaughlin, Director, Southern Tier Regional Office, Empire State Development
- Elaine Jardine, STERPDB
- Commissioner Joan McDonald, NYSDOT, *represented by Jack Williams, RD, Region 9*

Others Present

Cyndi Paddick, BMTS

Nancy Dutta, BMTS

John Sterbentz, BMTS

Jenn Yonkoski, BMTS

Scott Reigle, BMTS

Thomas McElhenney, BMTS

Kent Rapp, Village of Endicott

Pam Eshbaugh, NYSDOT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 17, 2012, MEETING

Mayor Millar motioned to approve the minutes, Mayor Deemie seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair, Mike Marinaccio opened the floor for comment.

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

TIP Amendments

- **2013-2014 Unified Planning Work Program**
 - **Resolution 2013-02, Approval of the Draft 2013-2014 Unified Planning Work Program and associated grant budgets**
 - Cyndi Paddick, BMTS, reported that Broome County has asked BMTS to investigate the feasibility and cost of converting the BC Transit fleet to CNG and determine what changes have to be made to the BC Transit facility to accomplish this including fueling stations and maintenance. This may also impact other municipalities.
 - Mayor Ryan suggested looking into using hybrid busses built locally by BAE. Cyndi noted that no type of alternate fuel vehicle is off the table, but CNGs are considered to be the most reliable.
 - Mike Roberts said he is doing a study on his whole fleet. It was suggested BMTS should coordinate their findings with Tioga County.
 - BMTS will do road safety assessments at high crash locations. The municipality and county would be notified ahead of time.
 - BC Transit is conducting an on-board survey, which is done every other year. This survey gives us valuable information.
 - Local signals (non-state signals) will be studied (Main Street, Binghamton, Hooper Road, Endwell) to see if there can be better progression between them to keep traffic moving and update the timings. If anyone has any other areas to they would like studied, please let Cyndi know.
 - BMTS will be working with Broome County Planning, NYSDOT Main Office & NYSDOT Region 9 for an Extreme Weather Vulnerability Study. Because of the recent weather incidents, this will help us be proactive and get better information out to the public.
 - John Sterbentz, BMTS, will update the Binghamton Regional Travel Model. Currently it only covers the BMTS planning area. John will incorporate all of Broome and Tioga Counties into the model.

The overall budget is \$588,860, which will be federally funded.

Cyndi stated that if you have any questions regarding the budget, call her.

Mayor Deemie motioned to accept the resolution, Mayor Millar seconded.

The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Resolution 2013-03, Approval of the Draft 2013-2014 Unified Planning Work Program Staffing Plan**

BMTS will continue with their current staff and anticipate hiring two traffic counters and one intern over the summer. They are not expecting any changes.

Mayor Deemie motioned to accept the resolution, Supervisor Castellucci seconded.

The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Functional Class Changes, [Resolution 2013-04] Approval of proposed functional class changes**

Cyndi Paddick, BMTS, described the resolution. The resolution supports the upgrade of functional classification of:

Route 12A in the Town of Chenango (Route 12, Hinmans Corners to Route 7/End of Route 12A) from Urban Minor Arterial to Urban Principal Arterial.

Airport Road (CR 69) in the Towns of Dickinson and Maine (NYS Route 17 WB to Greater Binghamton Airport) from Urban Minor Arterial to Urban Principal Arterial.

The purpose of the reclassification is to eventually progress the roads to the National Highway System, where they will receive a higher priority in funding.

The functional class will be under review and approval/disapproval of the functional class change.

Supervisor Snopek motioned to accept the resolution, Mayor Deemie seconded.

The motion was unanimously approved.

TIP Amendments

- **Resolution 2013-05, Approval to add two HSIP projects to the 2011-2015 TIP (City of Binghamton, Front St./Clinton St. intersection and NYSDOT CARDS project**

Two HSIP project will be added to the existing TIP.

The first project is for the Clinton Street/Front Street intersection in the City of Binghamton. This is a high accident intersection. NYSDOT Region 9 applied for funding of this project on behalf of the city. NYSDOT Main Office accepted it and agreed to 100 percent funding.

The pavement will be lowered under the existing railroad bridge to provide sight distance to intersection. The intersection improvement will cost \$3 million.

Cyndi Paddick thanked the NYSDOT Traffic and Safety Unit for the detail in the write-up which helped secure the funding.

The second project is for the installation of rumble strips for the centerline of approximately 200 miles of rural, two-lane highways in Broome, Chenango, and Tioga Counties.

Mayor Deemie motioned to accept the resolution, Mayor Ryan seconded.

The motion was unanimously approved

- **Resolution 2013-06, Approval to add a Safe Routes to School project in the Village of Windsor to the 2011-2015 TIP**

This resolution is a “safe routes to school” project in Windsor which will replace sidewalks and add ADA compliant curb ramps along Grove Street.

Mayor Deemie motioned to accept the resolution, Mayor Millar seconded.

The motion was unanimously approved

- **Resolution 2013-07, Approval to add three HSIP Railroad projects to the 2011-2015 TIP**

This resolution is being proposed by NYSDOT Region 9. It is for flasher/gates at various railroad sites and crossing improvements in the town of Chenango at Kattelville Road, Prentice Road, and Nowland Road, and in the Town of Port Dickinson at Old State Road.

Supervisor Snopek motioned to accept the resolution, Mayor Deemie seconded.

The motion was unanimously approved

DISCUSSION ITEMS

UPWP Projects

Draft Pedestrian Plan

Scott Reigle, BMTS, gave an update on the pedestrian plan. A draft is available on the web site to review at: <http://bmtsonline.com/bmts/pedestrian-plan>. Scott will take comments until next Monday, March 11th.

The Plan is scheduled to have all the changes and comments incorporated into it and ready for the next Planning Committee Meeting on April 4th, and the Policy Committee meeting on June 5th.

The pedestrian plan has become separate from the bicycle plan. A bicycle plan will follow.

Changes are reflected in the new Plan regarding NYS Vehicle and Traffic Laws, Federal laws and policies, local policies, updated demographics, inventory data, accident data. Also included are relationship with community health, relationship to economics, and relationship to multidisciplinary partnerships, coalitions, and cooperation.

Draft BMTS – Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan

Jennifer Yonkoski, BMTS, spoke about the Plan. The previous plans (2007 and 2009) included the BMTS area; it will now include all of Broome and Tioga Counties. BMTS is using the updated census data and looking at gaps and redundancies in the current plan. BMTS is hoping to coordinate the services of the current transportation providers for cost savings and better efficiency.

The Plan will be presented to the BMTS Planning Committee in April and the BMTS Policy Committee in June for approval.

Proposed Project List for the 2014-2018 TIP

Cyndi Paddick, BMTS, talked about the new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for 2018 currently being put together. She is working with the TIP subcommittee and Planning Committee.

The TIP subcommittee has been meeting and prioritizing projects. They are now to the point where the projects have been prioritized. Both local and state projects are on the list.

Pam Eshbaugh, NYSDOT, put together a spreadsheet showing federal aid. She explained that the prioritized list is subdivided by fund source, from there it would depend on the funding source to see if projects could be funded.

Jack Williams, NYSDOT, spoke about the Strategic Transportation Enhancement Projects (STEP). Over the past years, preservation projects have consumed 70 percent of the NYSDOT program and discretionary projects (beyond preservation) use 30 percent. NYSDOT Commissioner Joan McDonald was interested in the projects that resided in the regions that contributed strategically in some way. A committee will assess whether these projects can be included in the statewide capital program and their impact on asset management. Commissioner McDonald requested the NYSDOT regions to solicit projects from municipalities and submit five for statewide prioritization. NYSDOT Region 9 has received 20 projects and submitted five. NYSDOT will be informed in a few months if any of the projects will be selected for inclusion in the capital program.

Cyndi Paddick, BMTS, told the committee that BMTS may or may not hear back before TIP has to be published for review in April. The Planning Committee is meeting in April to approve the list of projects. The Policy Committee will have final approval at the June 5th meeting. The TIP will then get incorporated into the statewide program.

Update on the Regional Economic Development Councils

Kevin McLaughlin, Empire State Development, reported that the Southern Tier was awarded \$91 million in December for projects. The projects ranged from shovel ready

projects for industrial development, commercial revitalization, and agricultural funding. The Southern Tier Economic Development Council encompasses the following counties: Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung, Tompkins, Tioga, Broome, Chenango, and Delaware. Round 1 of funding has been approved; Round 2 was submitted to the Empire State Development board and funding should be ready in April. Kevin is anticipating another solicitation for projects later this spring.

FHWA Peer-to-Peer Heavy Freight Exchange

Cyndi Paddick, BMTS, submitted a proposal for an FHWA peer-to-peer exchange regarding freight and the issues and impacts of heavy vehicles related to gas drilling. FHWA has expressed a desire to go forward with this in our area.

The forum will be by invitation only, and all expenses for peers will be paid for by FHWA. FHWA will bring in expert peers from other states to discuss heavy freight with respect to drilling issues and transportation impacts to the roadways. The forum is tentatively scheduled for the week of May 13th and is expected to be one to one and a half days long. An agenda has not been developed yet.

There will be no policy making at the forum. The peers will speak about their experience and what they did to deal with the heavy freight concerns.

FHWA will coordinate with BMTS regarding logistics.

Blueprint Binghamton

Mayor Ryan, City of Binghamton, spoke about Blueprint Binghamton. Consultants were in town this past weekend. Blueprint Binghamton is a good opportunity for everyone in the community to present ideas. There is a lecture series beginning on March 7th on different topics which are listed on the website: <http://www.blueprintbinghamton.com/>

Prospect Mountain

Jack Williams, NYSDOT, gave an update of the upcoming work of the I86/Prospect Mountain Project which is entering into its second construction season.

There will be two meetings held on March 15th, at the project field office for updates on what will be happening on the project this year. In the morning, DOT will meet with federal, state, and local elected officials and the media. In the afternoon, DOT will meet with emergency services.

The Prospect Mountain project is currently the only project in the NYSDOT that has a Facebook page, which is working out very well. Other regions may now implement social media.

2013 Meeting Schedule

The next Policy Meeting is proposed for Wednesday, June 5, 2013, at 11:00 a.m.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

No additional business was offered.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kevin Millar, seconded by Mike Roberts. Vote was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

