

BINGHAMTON METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
PLANNING COMMITTEE
MARCH 8, 2007

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Daria Golazeski at 10:10 AM

Roll call:

Members present:

Daria Golazeski, Chair, Village of Johnson City Planning
Peter Olevano, Vice-Chair Town of Union Commissioner of Public Works
Pamela Eshbaugh, NYSDOT Region 9
Rita Petkash, Broome County Planning and Economic Development
Henry Weissmann, Broome County Public Works represented by Stephen Elko
Luke Day, City of Binghamton Public Works
Gary Crandell, Broome County Public Transportation
Gary Campo, Town of Vestal Engineering
Ed Gent, Town of Chenango
Ron Lake, Engineer Town of Dickinson
Elaine Jardine, Tioga County Planning
Debra Standinger, Town of Owego

Advisory Members present:

Stacey Merola, Broome County Environmental Management Council
Robert Augenstern, STERPDB

Others present:

Steven Gayle, BMTS staff
Scott Reigle, BMTS staff
John Sterbentz, BMTS staff
Cyndi Paddick, BMTS staff
Karen Ouimette, NYSDOT Region 9
Brenda Longstreet, City of Binghamton Engineering

- Approval of minutes of February 1, 2007. Moved Olevano, second Petkash, approved by consensus.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair opened the floor for public comment. None was offered.

ACTION ITEM: 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program

Steven Gayle briefed the Committee on the Draft 2008-2012 TIP, distributing project tables for FHWA and FTA funding. He apologized for not making the information available sooner, but stated that NYSDOT Region 9 and BMTS staff were still working on the update to make sure the tables were accurate.

He began with a review of general issues, noting that the update had proved to be very difficult because of the funding challenges that had been reviewed at previous meetings; and because of design deliverability issues that Pam Eshbaugh had reviewed with the TIP Subcommittee. She confirmed that the draft program schedule had been constructed based on the design analysis, and that was supported by the Regional Director. While this would cause some disruption in the short term, it would result in a more credible program where projects do not get repeatedly delayed.

Gayle reviewed the project tables for each fund source. Eshbaugh noted that there may be some additional changes; the value engineering analysis of the I-86 Prospect Mountain project proposed combining the two phases into a single project. NYSDOT was continuing to analyze the feasibility of doing that.

Gayle asked Luke Day about the Court Street Gateway project letting moving to June 2008. Day responded that was inaccurate and did not know where NYSDOT had gotten that impression. The City's plan is to hold a public information meeting next month, and to let the project in the fall of 2007. Day also introduced Brenda Longstreet as the City's new Senior Engineer; her duties will include managing the Federal aid transportation projects.

Gayle asked Eshbaugh about corrected funding for the bridge repair block and ITS Operations & Maintenance block. She responded that additional information would be provided.

Gayle stated that there was no funding available for adding local Federal projects from the BMTS candidate project list.

He asked Cyndi Paddick to present recommendations for the FY 2007 and 2008 Local Traffic Signal Improvement block. She distributed a listing of all signals that had been submitted, with traffic volume, accident history, and system relationship. The recommendations for FY 2007 are Hooper Rd/Country Club Rd and Hooper Rd/Farm-to-Market Rd. The recommendations for FY 2008 are Henry St/Prospect Ave (needed for the Intermodal Terminal) and Hawley St/Collier St. Paddick further recommended that the signals on Hawley St from Exchange to Court be coordinated.

Gayle presented the FTA program for both operating assistance and capital projects. He asked Gary Crandell the status of the hybrid bus purchase, explaining that Broome County was buying buses through a procurement by San Francisco Muni. Crandell replied that FTA approvals were in place, and the last actions were being taken between Broome County and San Francisco. Bus delivery will be approximately 2 years after the order is placed. Gayle noted that there are large bus replacement projects in 2009 and 2011 for which no funds are identified. Crandell noted that Broome County is receiving seven used buses from Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority in Buffalo, disposed of as surplus.

Gayle asked that Resolution 2007-05 be amended. Because there are still pending changes in the program, he asked that the last "resolved" clause be struck, regarding recommending Policy Committee approval of the TIP. This can come at a later date when the draft is finalized.

- Resolution 2007-05, Releasing the Draft 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program for further public comment. Amendment to strike the last "resolved" clause, and to strike from the title "and recommending Policy Committee approval"; moved Lake, second Olevano, approved by consensus. Amended resolution moved Campo, second Petkash, approved by consensus.

**ACTION ITEM: COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES
TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Scott Reigle presented the plan. He noted that it is a new requirement in SAFETEA-LU, consolidating the planning requirements for all of the transit grant programs addressing transportation of elderly, disabled, and low-income individuals. These include the §5310 program which funds human service agency vehicles used to transport elderly and handicapped clients; §5316 Job Access Reverse Commute program, now formula-based; and §5317 New Freedom Program, funding transportation services that extend beyond the base requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Plan was developed by a steering committee that includes stakeholders of all the interested populations. Development of coordination will be an ongoing process supported by quarterly meetings of that group. SAFETEA-LU requires funding to be awarded through a competitive application process that reflects the priorities of the Plan. Applications will be initiated once the plan is approved by the Policy Committee.

Ed Gent inquired about whether transportation is available for older people outside the BC Lift service area. Gayle responded that the Broome County Office for Aging provides service to anyone over 60 years of age, regardless of physical abilities, and not bounded by the BC Lift (ADA) service area. He noted however, that service is often at capacity; and that medical trips are typically prioritized. The Broome County Dept of Public Transportation operates the service using BC Lift vehicles.

- Resolution 2007-06, Recommending Policy Committee approval of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Service Transportation Plan. Moved Jardine, second Gent. Approved by consensus.

ACTION ITEM: BINGHAMTON CBD PARKING STUDY

Gayle reported that BMTS staff had completed the Binghamton CBD Parking Study. Much of the data collection was done by a college intern last semester. This included creating a new data base of the square footage of each land use, occupied and unoccupied, by parcel and by block with the CBD. This forms the basis of estimating parking demand. Parking supply is reflected in an inventory of on-street metered and unmetered spaces; and off-street lots and structures. Supply and demand are compared by block and within subareas of downtown, with the recognition that people's willingness to walk is related in part to their end destination.

- Resolution 2007-07, Accepting the Binghamton CBD Parking Study as complete. Moved Campo, second Day. Approved by consensus.

DISCUSSION ITEM: TRANSIT SURVEYS

Gayle reported that the BC Transit On-Board Survey is being conducted by a graduate class in the MPA program at Binghamton University, at no cost other than printing and postage. Ron Hirst of Gary Crandell's staff has developed a sampling plan, and the survey will take place in mid-April.

An RFP for the Broome County Public Transit Household Attitudinal Survey was advertised in the Contract Reporter on February 19. There have been 17 requests for the RFP. Proposals are due March 16. Consultant selection will be done by Steven Gayle, Pat Brennan, Gary Crandell, Scott Reigle, and Ron Hirst.

There being no business offered from the floor, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.