

**Agenda**  
**Transportation Committee**  
Monday, November 27, 2017 10:00 AM  
Legislature Chambers

- 1. Call to Order (10:00)**
- 2. Changes to Agenda (10:00)**
- 3. Comments from the Public (10:05)**
- 4. Minutes Approval (10:10)**
  - a. October 23, 2017
- 5. Chair's Report (10:10)**
- 6. Comments from Committee Members (10:15)**
- 7. Dryden Rail Trail Crossing Route 13 - Robert Beck (10:20)**
- 8. Route 13 Traffic Study Update - Fernando de Aragon (10:30)**
- 9. General Discussion (as available) (10:50)**
  - a. Airport
  - b. Highways
  - c. Mass Transit
  - d. Rail Roads
- 10. Adjournment (11:00)**

**Transportation Committee**  
 Regular Meeting Minutes (same as Notes) – Draft 11-15-17  
 Monday, October 23, 2017 10:00 AM  
 Legislature Chambers

**Attendance**

| <b>Attendee Name</b> | <b>Title</b>                                  | <b>Status</b> |
|----------------------|---|---------------|
| Michael Lane         | Chair   | Present       |
| David McKenna        | Vice Chair                                    | Present       |
| Glenn Morey          | Member  | Present       |
| James Dennis         | Member  | Present       |
| Katrina McCloy       | Deputy Clerk, Legislature                     | Present       |
| Michael Hall         | Airport Manager                               | Present       |
| Katie Borgella       | Acting Planning & Sustainability Commissioner | Present       |
| Thomas Knipe         | Tourism Coordinator                           | Present       |
| Marcia Lynch         | Public Info. Officer, County Administration   | Present       |
| Dooley Kiefer        | Legislator                                    | Present       |

**Call to Order**

Mr. Lane, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**Changes to Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Comments from the Public**

There were no members of the public present to speak.

**Chair's Report**

Mr. Lane stated that Peter Stein has resigned from the Legislature and will no longer be on the Committee; he does not plan on filling the vacancy at this time.

Mr. Lane believes it is important for the Committee to receive updates on some of the transportation issues that have been discussed earlier in the year. He spoke of the Committee having been designed to bring attention to transportation issues.

**Comments from Committee Members**

Committee members had no comments.

**Minutes Approval**

August 28, 2017

Minutes  
 Transportation Committee  
 Monday, October 23, 2017

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ACCEPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | James Dennis, Member                   |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | David McKenna, Vice Chair              |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Lane, McKenna, Morey, Dennis           |

### Airport Projects Update

Mr. Hall provided an update on Airport projects. He explained that later in the week he will be traveling to New York City for an annual meeting with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to discuss the priorities in the federal funding. He said in early December the Small Community Air Service Development Grant application is due and they are currently working of a draft to be used for that application. He explained that this year there is a focus on adding Chicago service to the Airport and noted that Newark Airport (60% reliability rating) and Philadelphia Airport (70% reliability rating) are less reliable than Chicago. He said Detroit (80% reliability rating) currently is the more reliable airline with local service and they have restored their early morning flight from Ithaca through the end of 2018. He spoke of Chicago's reliability rating being at 80% and the Chicago Airport recently was named "the number one global hub", which would match nicely with "Global Cornell" and the global connectivity for this very international community. Mr. Hall said Joel Molina, Cornell University, has requested to be included in any discussions with American Airlines regarding service to and from Chicago because this is important and needed by the University as they strive to be a top ten global university.

Mr. Hall explained there is one Governor's Prize Grant that has not been awarded and he has maintained discussions with a representative from the Governor's Office regarding this. Mr. Hall was recently told that everything requested could not be done but the representative he was talking with will do what he can for the proposal. Mr. Hall reminded Committee members that the proposal was a two-part proposal consisting of the Airport property and the Transportation Park. He said discussions have taken place regarding the Transportation Park being located in the City; he does not object to that. He spoke of New York State Department of Transportation having been interested in the sight at the Airport for their facility. He is hopeful that within the next month he will have further information regarding this.

Mr. Hall stated if no funding is provided from the Governor's Prize, he has a "Plan B" that includes a smaller scale terminal rehabilitation and building a US Customs facility that would make the Airport an International Airport. He said there is a need to fix the terminal. The State funding proposal provided to the Governor's Office included a two-level terminal and he has since been made aware of a ground-level terminal that would work locally. He stated the overall construction cost is \$1 to \$2 million cheaper, it would be less disruptive to service during construction, and the maintenance costs would be lower. He spoke of some of the proposed details of terminal renovations.

Mr. Hall stated Corning, Inc., has worked with United Airlines and the Airline will be bringing service back to the Elmira-Corning Regional Airport. He will be speaking with someone involved in those negotiations and see if Cornell University could do something similar to bring jet-service to and from Chicago to Ithaca.

Mr. Hall stated that during his trip to New York City later in the week he will ask how much Federal funding will be available. He is not supportive of bonding for the project as the bonds will take approximately 30 years to pay off.

Mr. Hall explained a "Plan C" that involves a minimum amount of work for the Airport to remain

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Oct 23, 2017 10:00 AM (Minutes Approval)

Minutes  
 Transportation Committee  
 Monday, October 23, 2017

functional. The funding will be in part from Passenger Facility Charges (PFC) and he estimated the cost to be approximately \$5 to \$6 million.

Mr. Hall said the Department has elected to spend approximately \$20,000 of Fund Balance to purchase Mamava, a lactation station for nursing mothers. His plans include installing one on the non-secure side at the terminal and one on the secure side after renovations are made.

Mr. Morey inquired if there was any kind of announcement from Governor Cuomo or any future plans regarding this grant. Mr. Hall explained that \$168 million in grant funds have been awarded and there has been no indication of where or when the remaining \$32 million will be awarded. Mr. Hall remains hopeful that a portion of those funds could be awarded to the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport that will assist in supporting economic development in the area.

Mr. Lane believes the County should still be supportive of the DOT Facility relocation to the Airport area. He stated the area being proposed by the City for the relocation of the facility is subject to flooding and poor soil conditions. He said the Regional DOT expressed their interest in relocating to the Airport area in a letter received by the County.

Mr. Lane inquired about the Customs Facility and the staffing involved with it. Mr. Hall explained the Customs Offices would provide a “fee for services facility”, which cost the Airport \$120,000 annually and they provide the staff. He has had discussions with representatives from Elmira Corning Airport about sharing Customs if it was based in Ithaca and they are enthusiastic about the idea. Mr. Hall explained some of the possible plans for the facility and stated in addition there is a need for a County Emergency Operations Center at the Airport that includes dedicated stations and computers for those involved in an emergency.

Mr. Lane spoke of an announcement President Pollack, Cornell University, made regarding the increase of the Freshman Class by nearly 1,000 students in the next five years. He asked if it was included in the proposal to the Governor’s Office. Mr. Hall stated it was and has discussed global Cornell with the airlines.

Mr. Lane inquired if the Drone Corridor announcement affects the Airport. Mr. Hall stated it did not and explained that drones are involved with Cornell research and have no real direct connections to the Airport.

Mr. Lane asked if there was any further information regarding the Department of Motor Vehicle testing site. Mr. Hall said representatives from C & S will be attending a meeting in New York City with him and they are preparing a project description that includes this.

### **Trails Projects Update**

Ms. Borgella and Mr. Knipe provided an update on Trails Projects in the County. Ms. Borgella stated the a large amount of the work being done on Trails followed the release of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan that included an action to obtain priorities from the Legislature as to the desired role in trails development. During the last 18 months a large amount of that work has taken place.

Mr. Knipe distributed and reviewed a document entitled Tompkins County Trails Strategy, Key Action Summary - 10/23/17 Updates and Accomplishments. He explained the document is an update to the Key Action Summary on page 5 of the Tompkins County Trails Strategy that was distributed to all Committee members in advance of the meeting. He stated the Strategy includes what can be done in the

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Oct 23, 2017 10:00 AM (Minutes Approval)

Minutes  
 Transportation Committee  
 Monday, October 23, 2017

next two to five years to develop the communities potential for multi-use trails and is now included in the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council's (ITCTC) long-range transportation plan. The Planning and Sustainability Department is working on advancing the trails where they can and the Strategy focuses on fifteen short-term actions to develop the network of trails.

Mr. Dennis inquired about trail maintenance. Mr. Knipe stated that it is dependent on the trail, but the Black Diamond Trail is maintained by the State Parks.

Mr. Knipe explained that the Department staffs the Ad Hoc Parks and Trails Network that has done a great deal of work on the trails system and helped develop a website to promote the use of the trails. He said a tourism grant aided in the funding of the IthacaTrails.org project headed by Elizabeth Thomas, Town of Ulysses, and can be utilized as a resource to find out more information regarding the various trails in the County.

Mr. Knipe spoke of the excitement surrounding the trails in Dryden and recent connection of the Villages of Freeville and Dryden following a long awaited easement agreement with the William George Agency. He said the Dryden Rail Trail Task Force, an official committee of the Town of Dryden Board, is moving the trail system forward.

Mr. Lane stated the Task Force reported they have met with representatives from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regarding the Game Farm Road area and will be working with the Town regarding a proposed revocable use-agreement. He also said the Task Force has settled on naming the trail the Dryden Rail Trail and the Jim Schug section will remain the same.

Mr. Lane believes the next task for that would be to look at a trail from Freeville to Groton. Mr. Morey stated the Groton Rotary Club looked into a trail many years ago and they discovered the trail would involve working with about 200 landowners.

Mr. Knipe suggested updating the Tompkins Priority Trails Strategy in a few years. He said the ITCTC's multi-use trail map was last updated in 2010 that identifies corridors that could be developed. Ms. Borgella spoke of spurring the interest in the Groton area by having a group that is interested meet with the Dryden group. Mr. Morey stated he would begin to speak to people about it.

Mr. Lane is supportive of developing a strategy to promote the trails network overall including the solicitation of grant and private funding and a plan for property acquisition. Mr. Knipe stated that the common objection to and fear of trail projects from homeowners is that the project will degrade their quality of life. He and staff have tried to show them the results from the Town of Ithaca's pre-trail and post-trail surveys that show concerns regarding resident's quality of life were nearly non-existent.

Mr. Knipe explained the Ad Hoc Parks and Trails Network is an informal but very effective group in the promotion of the trail projects county-wide.

### **General Discussion**

Mr. Lane stated Mr. de Aragon would be in attendance at the next meeting to provide a Transportation Update.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.