

Transportation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes (same as Notes) – Approved 5-15-17
Monday, April 24, 2017 10:00 AM
Legislature Chambers

Attendance

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Michael Lane	Chair	Present
David McKenna	Vice Chair	Present
Glenn Morey	Member	Present
James Dennis	Member	Excused
Peter Stein	Member	Excused
Katrina McCloy	Deputy Clerk, Legislature	Present
Fernando de Aragon	ITCTC Director	Present
Ed Marx	Planning and Sustainability Commissioner	Present
Joe Mareane	County Administrator	Present

Call to Order

Mr. Lane, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Changes to Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Comments from the Public

There were no members of the public present.

Minutes Approval

February 27, 2017

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Glenn Morey, Member
SECONDER:	David McKenna, Vice Chair
AYES:	Lane, McKenna, Morey
EXCUSED:	Dennis, Stein

Chair's Report

Mr. Lane reported that the visit to New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) Offices on April 19th went well. He believes the representatives from DOT were receptive to the County's concerns and thanked Mr. Morey, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Mareane, Mr. Marx, and Mr. de Aragon for taking the time to go to Syracuse to attend the meeting.

Mr. Lane stated he was contacted by the Village of Freeville with concerns about the bridge project on New York State Route 38 and asked for assistance in contacting DOT about the project. He believes DOT is responding to their concerns.

Mr. de Aragon spoke of concerns the Village had with the project and is pleased they are talking with DOT about it and stated this is the correct time to have those conversations.

Comments from Committee Members

There were no reports provided.

Discussion Regarding the NYSDOT Visit of April 19, 2017

Mr. Lane spoke of the discussions that took place during the visit including the Route 13 Study and the DOT representatives being interested but did not offer a funding stream for it up front. As the discussions came to an end, they were discussing some possible areas it may be funded from. DOT did mention the Oswego area being in receipt of funding for a study they are working on and the need to check into where their funding came from.

Mr. Lane inquired about federal transportation funding. Mr. de Aragon stated he has not received any information yet and believes it is just a matter of time as the talks continue about infrastructure being a priority.

Committee members discussed applying for an Upstate Revitalization Initiative (URI) or Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) funding and writing such an application so that it would “get some traction.” Mr. Marx suggested focusing on the economic development and growth along Route 13 and include the increase in traffic along that corridor and the options available for continued growth without transportation becoming a hindrance.

Mr. Marx explained DOT had mentioned looking into the data they have for the two areas along Route 13. He suggested following up with them on that to ensure it is done in a timely manner. Once the County is able to see what the data shows it should have a better idea as to how it could move forward on this project. Mr. Marx said a consultant would be needed to complete the actual study. One could be hired in advance of submitting the application because sometimes the consultant doing the study would also do the application for a minimal fee. The request for proposal would need to include the correct language.

Mr. Lane asked how the Interstate 81 project, arterial route through Onondaga County, in Syracuse came to the forefront. Mr. Mareane said the precursor to that was Interstate 81 coming to end of its useful life and from that other project ideas grew. The project has attracted investment from both Federal and State funds.

Mr. Lane was surprised of the amount of \$500,000 DOT estimated for the cost of a study when the County was estimating it at about \$100,000. Mr. Marx believes DOT will review their data and suggested the County hire a consultant to look at the data and make suggestions as to how the County should move forward. He suggested a letter be sent to DOT thanking them for the meeting but also include in it the plans for the various projects as things move forward.

Mr. Marx suggested hiring a consultant to review the DOT data and make a suggestion from there as to how the County should apply for funding. A second person looking at the data with the necessary expertise could not be harmful.

In response to Mr. Morey asking about the DOT transfer, Mr. Marx stated there was a target date

of June 15th established. They will still need to supply the County with a draft copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in advance of that date.

Following discussions regarding the establishment of a timeline as to how the County could move forward with these items, Mr. Marx suggested sending a follow-up letter politely outlining the items discussed at the meeting. The letter could serve as a reminder of the items discussed including the draft memorandum of understanding being sent to the County in advance of the June 15th target date for the DOT Transfer. This will allow the County to review the document, make any necessary comments, and apply for funding if necessary. DOT also agreed to review their traffic light and signal and traffic data studies of the two areas of concern on Route 13; the intersection/overlap of Route 13 and Route 366, and the Route 13 core area in the City of Ithaca. They also agreed to look for potential funding for studies related to the Route 13 areas. This would allow for better timeline purposes for the County and goals to move forward.

The Committee agreed that Mr. Lane should be the one to send the letter.

Mr. Marx asked the Committee if there was a desire to move in a direction to draft a resolution to request funds from the Contingency Fund for an initial look at the Route 13 data to understand what would be needed for a large-scale effort. The Committee agreed and Mr. Mareane suggested a resolution go through the Facilities and Infrastructure and Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committees prior to going to the Legislature to allow for information to be presented to other Legislators.

Mr. Lane said he appreciates the improvements made to the area of the June 2015 truck accident at the bottom of the hill coming into the City. Some of those improvements include better signage installation, additional break check areas, and an increased number of truck safety inspections. The increased truck safety inspections follow the hiring and training of additional people to conduct the inspections.

Mr. Lane spoke of a recent Federal study that showed some issues in the area of Aurora and State Streets including, signage, striping, and permanency to the painted stripes with epoxy. Mr. Lane stated they informed DOT of the City Center housing project on State Street that may create additional traffic and pedestrian traffic to that area.

Mr. Lane provided a copy of the DOT's Ithaca Safety Improvements plans that was received at the meeting.

At the meeting the Route 38 bridge over Fall Creek in Freeville was discussed and DOT will be looking into including a sidewalk in the project due to new information regarding pedestrian usage including the nature trail on the north side of the bridge. Representatives from Freeville were pleased they received a response from DOT.

Mr. Morey was impressed that those in the DOT offices knew our County staff by name, the projects and facts and situations related to those projects in this area. Mr. de Aragon stated DOT representatives are very good about attending the monthly Transportation Council meetings.

General Discussion (as available)

Airport

Mr. Mareane explained that Airport staff are looking at the installation of a jetbridge and the

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possibility of receiving the reimbursement of the funds from the State grant they applied for last fall. The need for the jetbridge will only increase in the future with the additional jet services being provided to this area.

Mr. Mareane stated there has not been any news received regarding the grant application. He stated Mr. Hall makes calls to his contacts weekly to check on the status.

Mass Transit

Mr. Lane inquired about any update regarding discussions with Cortland County regarding mass transit. Mr. de Aragon spoke of the Way2Go program through Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County is working on the Together New York initiative that will assist in the coordination of transportation across county lines. A meeting is planned in Cortland with representatives from Cortland and Tompkins Counties and Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit. Mr. Lane suggested a representative from TC3 be present also.

Mr. de Aragon spoke of the sidewalk project in the City being awarded Transportation Alternative Program funds. Also, the Town of Ithaca received funds to connect the sidewalk with Ithaca College.

Mr. Marx spoke of the South Hill Trail Extension and the landowners being opposed to the project and claims being made at Town Board meetings that the residents are in negotiations with NYSEG. The County has been told NYSEG has title to the property. Nothing will move forward until the ownership issue has been resolved. Mr. Marx expects a license agreement in late spring or early summer to allow, not require, the Towns to enter into the agreement. The trail extensions could still be completed, in a different manner, if one of the Towns did not participate.

Mr. Lane suggested including the trail project in the application for URI or CFA funds when applying for the Route 13 study. The trail would improve access to the City of Ithaca, especially from the Varna area to Cornell University. Mr. Marx stated it is definitely worth looking into.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.