

BINGHAMTON METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE
March 11, 2011
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Peter Andreasen, at 2:10 PM

Roll call and quorum determination:

Members present

- ♦ Supervisor Peter Andreasen, Town of Vestal, Chair
- ♦ Supervisor Michael Marinaccio, Town of Dickinson, Vice-Chair
- ♦ County Executive Barbara Fiala, Broome County,
- ♦ Legislator Michael Roberts, Tioga County
- ♦ Mayor Matthew Ryan, City of Binghamton
- ♦ Supervisor Harold Snopek, Town of Chenango
- ♦ Supervisor Donald Castellucci, Jr., Town of Owego
- ♦ Acting Commissioner Joan McDonald, NYSDOT, represented by Regional Director Jack Williams
- ♦ Elaine Jardine, STERPDB

- Approval of minutes of September 27, 2010. Moved Williams, second Roberts. Approved by consensus

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

The Chair distributed a Special Resolution recognizing Barbara Fiala, Broome County Executive for her service to BMTS and the Binghamton Metropolitan Region.

- Special Resolution**, Recognizing Broome County Executive, Barbara Fiala for her service to BMTS and the Region. Moved Marinaccio, second Castellucci. Approved by consensus.

The Chair then presented a certificate to Mrs. Fiala.

The Chair distributed a Special Resolution recognizing Margaret Turna, Town of Chenango Supervisor, for her service to BMTS and the Binghamton Metropolitan Region.

- Special Resolution**, Recognizing, Town of Chenango Supervisor, Margaret Turna for her service to BMTS and the Region. Moved Snopek, second Castellucci. Approved by consensus.

The Chair then presented a certificate to Mrs. Turna.

ACTION ITEM: 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program

Paddick reviewed the highlights of the proposed UPWP. A task has been added, Regional Smart Growth and Sustainability, to follow up and begin implementing the strategies outlined in

the long range plan update "Creating a Sustainable Future: 2035". The Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan that was completed in 1996 will be updated with two separate plans. A study of the traffic signal signals within the City of Binghamton to determine if they are still warranted and a study for the Village of Endicott and some of their problem intersections. Many of the typical tasks are still included: traffic engineering, road safety audits, transit monitoring, traffic model maintenance and continued work implementing the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan.

The Broome-Tioga Greenride will be continuing this year with some enhanced features.

A new project that will be undertaken is the Greenway Sign Plan and Design Guide. This study will develop a consistent wayfinding and interpretive sign plan for the Greenways (Vestal Rail Trail, Otsiningo, Binghamton Riverwalk etc.) that travel through various municipalities. It is anticipated that this will be completed by a consultant.

- Resolution 2011-03**, Approving the 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program and associated grant budgets. Moved Marinaccio, second Ryan. Approved unanimously by consensus.

ACTION ITEM: 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program Staffing Plan

Paddick explained that the only change in this years staffing plan is that the Traffic Engineer position is included as a part-time position. Steve Gayle retired under the New York State retirement incentive. A stipulation is that a cost savings in personnel expenditures of 50% has to be shown for two years or 100% for one year.

- Resolution 2011-03**, Approving the 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program Staffing Plan. Moved Ryan, second Snopek. Approved unanimously by consensus.

ACTION ITEM: Certification

Paddick explained that each year the Policy Committee must certify that the planning process was carried out in conformance with all applicable federal and state laws governing the planning process for MPO's, and that the planning activities undertaken support the transportation issues facing the area. The certification is for the 2010 fiscal year.

- Resolution 2011-04, Certification that the Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study is in compliance with all Federal laws and regulations governing metropolitan planning. Moved Marinaccio, second Castellucci. One nay vote (Ryan). Approved by consensus.

ACTION ITEM: Accepting the BCT/OCCT Consolidation Study as Complete.

Jennifer Yonkoski presented the background and the findings of the BCT/OCCT Consolidation Study. She explained that three different alternatives were investigated and the impacts of each were evaluated. A conclusion recommending a preferred alternative was not made. The intent of the study was to evaluate each option for strengths and weaknesses, and present the impacts.

Ryan asked Yonkoski what the impact of small busses would be on BC Transit and OCCT. Yonkoski cited a previous study that she had completed where it's more of a perception issue to the public than an actual cost savings of running smaller buses.

Williams questioned what authority we had to move forward with consolidation? Yonkoski explained that we don't have the authority, but this document could serve as resource to the parties involved. Yonkoski agreed to add language stating that.

Andreasen felt that the report was complete as a "Planning" study, but not as a consolidation study. To be a consolidation study it needed to include costs for each alternative.

- Resolution 2011-05**, Accepting the BCT/OCCT Consolidation Study. Andreasen motioned for approval with the title change of "Consolidation Planning Study" second Castellucci. Approved by unanimous consensus.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on the Traffic Signal Maintenance Study

Yonkoski explained that she had obtained information from each municipality that owned and maintained signals. The objective of the study was to review the current practices and determine if there was a more efficient cost effective method to deal with signal maintenance. The data gathering portion of the study was almost complete and the next step is to analyze the data. The study should be completed by the end of March.

Update on the Tioga Greenride Program

Reigle reported that 432 accounts have been created since the service began during July of 2009. Naturally, as more accounts are created, we are seeing more rideshare matches occurring. There are accounts created by people whose commutes are as far as a one hour radius from the Binghamton Urban Area. There are five active employer portals that include BU, Broome County, Lourdes Hospital, UHS, and Delta Engineers. Two more, by BCC and the City of Binghamton, will be started soon. BMTS will continue to seek more employers to create their own portals that they can administer.

BMTS is in the process of transitioning to the new website platform called GreenRide Connect, which we'd like to have done during late March or April. Broome-Tioga Greenride will still be accessed at www.BroomeTioga.Greenride.com, but the new platform will include new features and options including:

Simplified administration and More client controlled content maintenance to reduce total cost of ownership; More intuitive user interface; Social to help you build a customized program; networking support (e.g. Facebook); and **One Time Events** can be posted for user matching, which is particularly useful for BU students traveling between school and home.

The cost of the rideshare website will also be reduced from \$16,400 annually to \$9,500 annually.

Additionally, BMTS is currently working with the Rural Health Network of South Central New York that has obtained a Mobility Management Grant from the Harriet Ford Dickenson Fund to train two full-time Mobility Management positions using AmeriCorps employees. In addition to serving as a one-stop shop for transportation service information and trip planning, they will promote Broome-Tioga Greenride and reach out to employers to create their own Greenride portals.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

No additional business was offered.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.