

BINGHAMTON METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
PLANNING COMMITTEE
September 13th, 2018
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Bennett at 1:34 pm.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Robert Bennett, Chair, Village of Johnson City Public Services
Vernon Myers, Vice-Chair, Town of Vestal
Frank Evangelisti, Broome County Planning
Greg Kilmer, Broome County Public Transportation
Leslie Boulton, Broome County Public Works
Gary Hammond, Tioga County Public Works
Elaine Jardine, Tioga County Planning
Kent Rapp, Village of Endicott
Debra Standinger, Town of Owego
Lou Caforio, Town of Union
Pam Eshbaugh, NYSDOT Region 9 Planning

Others Present:

Lisa McCafferty, Tioga County Public Health Department
Jennifer Yonkoski, BMTS Central Staff
John Sterbentz, BMTS Central Staff
Leigh McCullen, BMTS Central Staff
Scott Faulkner, McFarland Johnson
Ron Coleman, NSDOT Region 9

- Approval of minutes from June 7th, 2018 meeting. Motion made by F. Evangelisti, seconded by G. Hammond. Approved by consensus.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments.

ACTION ITEMS:

NYSDOT Targets for Performance Measures – Bridge & Pavement Conditions, System & Freight Performance

J. Yonkoski introduced Resolution 2018-10 to approve NYSDOT Targets for Performance Measures-including Bridge and Pavement Conditions, System Performance, and Freight Performance.

J. Yonkoski stated that by approving the NYSDOT proposed targets rather than coming up with MPO-specific targets the Planning Committee would be agreeing to program projects that would help the state meet their goals as measured by the performance targets.

Vern Myers questioned why the out-year targets were lower than the baseline numbers. Leslie Boulton asked if bridge and pavement targets applied to the National Highway System (NHS) only. Pam Eshbaugh stated that the targets only applied to the NHS.

- ✓ Resolution 2018-10, Recommending Policy Committee support the NYSDOT Performance Standards related to Bridge & Pavement Conditions and System & Freight Performance

G. Kilmer made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-10, E. Jardine seconded the motion.
Approved by consensus.

NYSDOT Targets for Safety Performance Measures

J. Yonkoski introduced Resolution 2018-11, asking the Committee to approve NYSDOT's 2019 Targets for Safety Performance Measures.

- ✓ Resolution 2018-11, Recommending Policy Committee support the 2019 NYSDOT Performance Standards related to Safety.

F. Evangelisti made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-11, G. Kilmer seconded the motion.
Approved by consensus.

2017-2021 TIP Amendments

J. Yonkoski introduced Resolution 2018-12 recommending Policy Committee approval of an amendment to the TIP that would allow the Broome County Department of Public Transportation to accept a grant award of two million dollars of Section 5339 funds to purchase 3 diesel hybrid buses.

G. Kilmer talked about the grants for diesel hybrid buses and discussed the geo-fencing feature that would allow them to run on electric-only power within certain geographic areas, specifically, the Binghamton University campus, thereby reducing diesel emissions in those areas. G. Kilmer stated that the vehicles would be purchased from a local manufacturer, BAE Systems, and that BCDOPT would engage in data sharing with BAE Systems through a Living Laboratory agreement.

Gary Hammond asked about the cost/benefit of diesel hybrid vs. conventional diesel buses. G. Kilmer stated that the cost premium of diesel hybrid vs. conventional diesel was approximately 35%, and that the projected fuel saving did not cover the cost premium. G. Kilmer stated that only diesel hybrid buses were eligible to be purchased with the grant funds.

V. Myers inquired as to the reasoning used to select the Binghamton University campus for low-emission electric-only operation as compared to other areas such as the Binghamton CBD where high development density made low-emission bus operation appropriate. G. Kilmer stated that it was possible that electric-only operations would be considered for other geographic areas.

- ✓ Resolution 2018-12, Recommending Policy Committee approval of an amendment to the 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program] Allow BC Transit to accept an award of \$2.04M of Section 5339 funds to purchase 3 hybrid diesel buses.

G. Kilmer made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-12, F. Evangelisti seconded the motion.
Approved by consensus.

DISCUSSION ITEMS / UPDATES:

Binghamton Bridge Pedal

J. Yonkoski stated that the Binghamton Bridge Pedal that took place on August 25th, 2018. She reported that there were about 85 riders and the ages ranged from 4 years old to 83 years old. She gave a brief overview of the stops along the route and the sponsors of the event.

Household Travel Survey - Results

John Sterbentz made a presentation to the Planning Committee regarding the 2018 BMTS household travel survey (The Broome-Tioga Transportation Study). J. Sterbentz discussed the methodology of the previous BMTS household travel survey, completed in 2008, and compared the survey instrument used in 2008 (paper travel diaries) with the survey instrument used in 2018 (smartphone app, online travel diaries), and stated that there were advantages in data accuracy associated with the smartphone method of data collection.

J. Sterbentz discussed some of the results from the 2018 household travel survey with regards to vehicle availability, travel mode, and travel frequency, and detailed the relationship between certain variables such as household income or age, and differences in the average amount of daily travel, the number of vehicles per household and travel mode splits. The differences in travel mode choice based on trip purpose were presented (e.g., walking is a more common mode for social and recreational trips when compared to other trip types; auto travel is the choice for a large majority of trips to work). J. Sterbentz discussed other data from the survey including the relative prevalence of telecommuting, the relatively small number of survey participants who used smartphone-based car services such as Uber, and the travel mode choices of off-campus Binghamton University students who answered the survey.

F. Evangelisti asked about the seemingly high number of individuals who listed walking as their travel mode for work trips (5.7 %). J. Sterbentz agreed the number seemed relatively high and stated the subject merited further study.

Elaine Jardine of Tioga County Planning requested a copy of the household travel survey presentation.

2020-2024 TIP

J. Yonkoski told the Committee that BMTS was expecting a call from NYSDOT to update the TIP. Once received, BMTS would put out a call for projects for the 2020-2024 TIP.

2018 Pavement Ratings

J. Yonkoski presented to the committee the pavement survey results for non-State owned Federal Aid roads in the Binghamton area put together by Scott Reigle. J. Yonkoski stated that S. Reigle will be distributing the data in a report format to the municipalities, and talked about BMTS pavement condition goals, and how the constituent municipalities have been successful in meeting those goals. J Yonkoski stated that the pavement survey data and report will be made available at the BMTS website. She also stated that NYSDOT will possibly begin collecting the non-State FA pavement condition data, previously collected by BMTS, and that we are awaiting further details regarding this development.

Rt. 434 Greenway Project

Kate Mangan from NYSDOT Region 9 Planning and Program Development discussed the Route 434 Greenway Visual Preference Survey conducted by NYSDOT Region 9. K. Mangan talked about the design of the survey, and stated that 500 respondents took the survey, resulting in 400 completed surveys, and that the number of completed surveys was impressive considering that it took 15 minutes to complete the survey. She stated that the results will be used to inform the project design report.

J. Yonkoski asked about the proposed design of the 434 Greenway walls. K. Mangan stated that results from the visual preference survey will be used as a design input.

LOCAL PROJECT UPDATES

R. Coleman provided a handout and brief overview of the schedule status of all BMTS local projects.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

V. Myers stated that Town of Vestal owned traffic signals operate with very old signal control hardware, and asked if signal block grant funds could be used to replace controllers (only) without completing a total signal redesign that would include ADA redesign and other requirements, that can be very expensive in terms of local match.

J. Yonkoski stated that this will be a topic for the upcoming TIP update as many municipalities have signal needs. Does BMTS want to continue to fund a yearly signal block or would municipalities consider submitting projects that include multiple signals.

The next meeting will be on December 6th, 2018 at 1:30pm.

Motion to adjourn made by G. Kilmer, seconded by F. Evangelisti.

Meeting adjourned at 2:22pm.