

BINGHAMTON METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE

September 5, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Broome County Office Building, 6th Floor Legislative Conference Room

Also, via Zoom at

<https://broome.zoom.us/j/88549283001?pwd=hya357deVNC5NtgEFDQbpfSfqnxOEv.1>

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Mike Marinaccio, at 11:01 a.m.

Members Present

- × Michael Marinaccio, Supervisor, Town of Dickinson, Chair
- × Megan Heiman, Deputy Mayor for Mayor Jared Kraham, City of Binghamton
- × Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner, NYSDOT, *represented by Andrew Stiles, Region 9*
- × Colleen Wagner, Executive Office for Jason Garnar, County Executive, Broome County
- × Ron Ciotoli, Tioga County Legislator
- × Martin Meaney, Mayor, Village of Johnson City
- × Cameron Williams, for Nick Burlingame, Mayor, Village of Endicott
- × Maria Sexton, Supervisor, Town of Vestal
- × Lew Grubham, Supervisor, Town of Kirkwood
- × Rob Mack, Supervisor, Town of Union, Vice-Chair
- × Ashley Seyfried, Southern Tier 8

Policy Members Absent

- Supervisor Michael Lumsden, Town of Chenango
- Mayor Mike Baratta, Village of Owego
- Don Castellucci, Supervisor, Town of Owego
- Highway Superintendent, Mike Roberts, Town of Owego
- Omar Sanders, NYS Department of Economic Development

Policy Committee Advisory Members Absent

Nicole McGrath, Community Planner, FHWA NY Division

Zach Luckin, Community Planner, FTA Region II

Others Present

Jennifer Yonkoski, BMTS

Scott Reigle, BMTS

Leigh McCullen, BMTS

Katy Mangan, NYSDOT

Erin Cavanagh, NYSDOT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES June 13, 2024. POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Mayor Martin Meaney motioned to approve the minutes; Supervisor Lew Grubham seconded. No one commented for discussion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jennifer Yonkoski, reminded everyone that the TIP runs on the Federal fiscal year which ends on September 30th. Any phases that were programmed for this year but didn't get obligated in this fiscal year will need to be moved to the next fiscal year.

ACTION ITEMS

▪ **2023-2027 TIP Amendments**

Broome County received an \$8.884 million dollar award from a competitive grant through the Federal Transit Administration towards the purchase of seven fully electric busses. This project, because it includes federal dollars, will need to be added to the TIP.

In addition to the \$8.884 million dollars, Broome County Transit would like to use \$1 million of their previously programmed operating assistance and \$1.25 million of Section 5339 funds from each Federal Fiscal year 2024 and 2025 for a total of \$12.384 million.

- [Resolution 2024-14, Approving an amendment to the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, Addition of new project, PIN 982201, capital purchase of busses, BC Transit.]

Supervisor Lew Grubham motioned to adopt the resolution; Regional Director Andrew Stiles seconded.

The resolution was put under discussion by Mayor Martin Meaney who dissented from the vote based on experience with a Johnson City electric school bus that has been nothing but trouble. Inoperable more than operable. He stated that as the technology catches up it will be a good expense, however at this time, especially with our cold climate and the busses having to drive hills, the question of how long they can run was brought up.

Supervisor Rob Mack said he was at a NYSEG meeting last week and was shocked to hear the county doesn't have enough electricity for the number of electric busses at their facility. They can't get any more electricity until NYSEG builds a new substation across the river from where the present Goudy Station is. The Supervisor asked if we aren't putting the cart before the horse with this initiative.

Chairman Michael Marinaccio said he participated at a NYSEG roundtable discussion where he asked if there was enough power here to charge all the electric vehicles being purchased and he was told no, there is not. There are plans to build a new substation on top of Reynolds Road and another across from the Goudy Station on the Vestal side at the end of Commerce Road.

Supervisor Rob Mack said the bottom line is that we are getting rid of power plants, think there has been 9 nine power plant closures in New York State over the last decade. We have not replaced that with enough solar and wind to make up the difference. Making goals of 2030, 2050, he doesn't see how that can happen.

Chairman Michael Marinaccio asked to clarify when the funds will be spent and was advised that it is going to be programmed for federal fiscal year 2025.

Supervisor Maria Sexton advised that one of the Town Engineers also expressed concern about the problems of electric busses. She said she doesn't know if some series of busses are better than others but thinks it's a question to be explored.

Chairman Michael Marinaccio expressed reluctance to vote and asked if the vote could be put on hold.

Jennifer Yonkoski said the vote can be held until December, or convene a special meeting either in person or via Zoom

A question was asked about the number of busses and Supervisor Rob Mack said he believes that the most busses the County could handle is 14, for charging purposes. What about backup with alternatives and why aren't we considering hybrid busses that can charge themselves? Concern with pushing for all this without infrastructure support.

Michael Ponticello addressed the committee regarding the electric busses. He advised that Broome County has enough electricity for the phase they are doing now. The goal is to replace half the busses and it is 16 or 18 busses now. New York Power Authority is doing all the electrical design for it. There will also be a megawatt of solar also on site with onsite battery storage to help with peak demand. These charging sites draw so much power they need to be geographically separated. Broome County is moving ahead with the project and delivery of some previously ordered busses is slated for the end of the year, early next year. There are already busses coming, this proposal is for an additional 7. Currently have 18 charging stations.

Chairman Michael Marinaccio asked if more people buy electric vehicles, would it impact their ability to charge the busses and was told no.

Michael Ponticello advised this is why NYSEG is doing the Oakdale Commons redesign of their substation to bring more power to the community because we do not generate any power in the community anymore other than solar and wind. We do not generate any traditional fuel.

Jennifer Yonkoski asked if Michael knew of or anticipated any issues with the busses. There has been some trouble with electric school busses. Will there be backup buses in case there is an issue with an electric bus?

Michael stated that for every 4 four diesel busses, you need a backup. With electric you need a backup for every two. More redundancy built into it. Will have a natural gas generator for co-generation which can be supported on the natural gas side.

Martin Meaney asked about the runtime on the busses. Michael Ponticello stated that he believes they can do a full day but do need to have intermittent charging at some point and is weather dependent.

Michael Ponticello stated that these buses and this type of modeling has been done across the county and many lessons have been learned and have been incorporated into the design process.

Lew Grubham asked about the lifespan of the busses, but Michael Ponticello did not have that information at this time.

Maria Sexton questioned the whether the issue with Johnson City had been resolved and asked if better busses were coming out?

Michael Ponticello advised a tremendous amount of research and development has been done and noted these busses are not first-generation public transit. Broome County expects learning curves and challenges as with any new initiatives.

He also advised we are mandated to transition the whole fleet, there are no options. Also, any new diesel busses that we were scheduled to purchase will be bought as hybrids. We have a great track record with them, and they are built here at BAE.

Mayor Meany asked when the mandate takes place. He was advised that it is 2030.

Another questioned the lifespan of the batteries and advised that batteries are used for 10-15 years.

Mayor Martin Meany searched and said all heavy-duty vehicles must be electric by 2045. And he wondered if it is prudent to spend the money now or wait until the technology is better.

Michael Ponticello advised the technology will continue to evolve and the busses need to be purchased now to begin transitioning the fleet.

Mayor Martin Meany commented that it didn't make sense to spend the money if the bus cannot run their whole route. It would mean double redundancy.

Rob Mack asked what the local share was for this purchase and Jennifer Yonkoski advised the funding is coming from various federal, state and local venues and she believes it is an 80/20 split.

Rob Mack asked if hybrids were purchased rather than electric, would the funding still be available and would there still be an 80/20 split for finding. The answer was unknown but probably not.

Maria Sexton asked if there are any funding consequences to holding the vote until the next meeting?

Chairman Michael Marinaccio requested to hold a decision due to so many unanswered questions. He also asked additionally if the repairs to these busses are handled in house or outside and was told repairs are currently handled in house. They are working on a plan for the maintenance of the electric buses.

K. Mangan stated that some of the money is FFY 24 and we need to be sure to roll it into FFY25.

All agreed to hold the vote over and schedule a special meeting to address additional questions and get additional information.

The next resolution is a New York State DOT Project for resurfacing of Route 17 from Owego to Apalachin. Moving the final design, construction and inspection out of fiscal year and decreasing the cost from \$22 million to \$12.5 million due to a change in the scope of work from a crack and seat to a mill and fill.

Regional Director Andrew Stiles advised the change in the scope of work is because the cost became prohibitive, and a full crack and seat project cannot be afforded at this time. The project scope has been revised.

- [[Resolution 2024-15](#), Approving an amendment to the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, PIN 906797, Rt. 17 Resurfacing, Owego to Apalachin, NYSDOT]

Mayor Martin Meany motioned to adopt the resolution; Supervisor Rob Mack seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved.

Jennifer Yonkoski said Resolutions 2024-16 through 2024-20 are five (5) projects within Broome and Tioga County awarded through the latest Bridge New York Program. These were the only projects awarded within the BMTS area.

- [Resolution 2024-16, Approving an amendment to the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, Addition of new project, PIN 975577, CR 13 over Bradley Creek, BNY 2023, Broome County]

Supervisor Lew Grubham motioned to adopt the resolution; Supervisor Rob Mack seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved.

- [Resolution 2024-17, Approving an amendment to the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, Addition of new project, PIN 975578, Glenwood Road over Big Choconut Creek, BNY 2023, Broome County]

Mayor Martin Meany motioned to adopt the resolution; Supervisor Lew Grubham seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved.

- [Resolution 2024-18, Approving an amendment to the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, Addition of new project, PIN 975580, Baker Hill Rd over Tracy Creek, BNY 2023, Town of Vestal]

Supervisor Lew Grubham motioned to adopt the resolution; Regional Director Andrew Stiles seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved.

- [Resolution 2024-19, Approving an amendment to the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, Addition of new project, PIN 975582, McNair Road over Tuscarora Creek, BNY 2023, Town of Windsor]

Mayor Martin Meany motioned to adopt the resolution; Supervisor Lew Grubham seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved.

- [Resolution 2024-20, Approving an amendment to the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, Addition of new project, PIN 975597, Straits Corners Road over Pipe Creek, BNY 2023, Tioga County]

Supervisor Lew Grubham motioned to adopt the resolution; Mayor Martin Meany seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved.

Jennifer Yonkoski said this resolution is regarding the Federally mandated NEVI Program. NYSDOT was required to develop a NEVI Plan. It is a National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan adopted by the Federal Government and they are receiving funds to install this network, meeting certain criteria across priority corridors. This was sent to us by the DOT Main Office but needs to be put on our TIP because it's within our planning area. This project provides funding to the New York Power Authority for the operation and maintenance of EV charging infrastructure on Court Street in the Village of Owego. However the Tioga County Representative believes it may be a clerical error because they thought the charging stations were being installed on Park Street in the Village. We would still ask for approval today even with the clerical change.

Legislator Ron Ciotoli advised there are some easement and parking space issues which are being worked out. The project will still take place in that vicinity.

- [Resolution 2024-21, Approving an amendment to the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, Addition of new project, PIN NEVI16, O&M of EV Charging Infrastructure, Court Street, Owego, NYSDOT]

Legislator Ron Ciotoli motioned to adopt the resolution; Supervisor Lew Grubham seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved.

Jennifer Yonkoski stated that the next amendment is for the Main Street Safety Project. This project has been in the works for several years. At one point there were additional funds added for some increased safety improvements. This is safety money, HSIP money, so it has specific eligibility requirements. As it is moving closer into final design and construction next year, there is a cost increase. The City has contributed \$577,600 of local dollars for paving which is not eligible for Safety Money and the additional that is eligible as Safety Money is \$692,000. Region 9 receives this safety funding allocation and due to the cost benefit analysis and other criteria that a project has to meet to be eligible for these funds, Region 9 has additional funds available to provide to this local project. We are asking you to add \$692,000 of Safety Money from the Region 9 allocation to this local project for Main Street.

- [Resolution 2024-22, Approving an amendment to the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, PIN 975437, add additional HSIP funds, Main Street Safety Project, City of Binghamton]

Supervisor Rob Mack motioned to adopt the resolution; Regional Director Andrew Stiles seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS / UPDATES

- **Annual Traffic Count Program**

Leigh McCullen, BMTS stated the BMTS' annual traffic count program is underway. The goal is to count all the signalized intersections on a 3-year basis. This year BMTS identified about 100 traffic signal locations that will be counted. There are also a few segment counts. The map shows these in yellow. In the coming weeks you may see our consultants putting up cameras.

Jennifer Yonkoski advised this information is available on the website along with any historical counts.

- **Pavement Ratings**

Scott Riegle stated that typically in the summer and the fall we do pavement ratings and condition ratings for the Federal Aid eligible roadways in the BMTS area. It is done visually with a driver and observer who inputs a score. This year there is a contractor, using AI and a cell phone to video the roadways and then the video is uploaded and processed to create a score. We will see if this is a more effective and objective, and a way to make the process quicker and only need one person.

The County has done all of their roadways, and we are finishing up with the Federal aid eligible roads within the urban area that goes into Tioga County too.

We are also getting information on sign inventory. It is a very labor-intensive process. This technology cannot determine sign condition. We will have to evaluate whether we know how much work it will take to determine sign conditions. It can record pavement markings as well. We will see about keeping an inventory as well.

There has been some mixed results with the signs and there are some issues with misidentifying of signs or they need to create a classification for local signs because it doesn't recognize what those are. But the AI can adapt. Look to finish up in the next two weeks. Once the video is in place, BMTS can start generating reports. The goal is to make the reports comparable to previous reports and will gauge the ease of making the reports.

Look at how useful the sign information inventory is and will speak with other municipalities about their experiences with using AI and compare processes and cost effectiveness.

▪ **Binghamton Bridge Pedal Recap**

August 10, 2024, was the Binghamton Bridge Pedal, the day after Tropical Storm Debbie. 90+ people participated this year, 50% were new to the Bridge Pedal. Event hosted since 2006. Partners include BMTS, Broome County Planning, TechWorks Museum, the City of Binghamton and others to encourage bike riding. This 10-mile ride has a police escort and makes use of the Two Rivers Greenway. A nominal fee is charged to cover T-Shirts, insurance and administrative costs. There were four stops, MacArthur Spur, the Kilmer Mansion, Recreation Park and finally north end of Front Street, near the Bevier Street Bridge. Each stop had a discussion about volunteering or interesting local information, also future trail development in the works. A promotional drone video was made.

▪ **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)**

Jennifer Yonkoski reported that not much has changed, a kickoff meeting was held on 8/19 with consultant WSP. BMTS and WSP are starting to collect data. WSP to build public outreach materials and website to add to the current one. Working to establish a project steering committee and stakeholder list. This is just for awareness.

▪ **Long Range Transportation Plan**

Jennifer Yonkoski did a recap of the public outreach that was done this summer. Received more than 350 responses from the online survey. Results are being analyzed now. The locations were a good choice, people were talkative. Although many questions about maintenance of roadways, there was a shift to questions about alternative modes of transportation.

▪ **NYSDOT Project Updates**

Andy Stiles, NYSDOT, updated the status of the following projects:

Announcement: There has been an official FHWA designation change received for Route 17 in Tioga County to I-86. Working on sign details. Kathryn Mangan advised there is still some areas further east that are not updated yet due to interchanges and other issues.

I88/81 Connector Bridge

- Second year of bridge rehab work.
- Still on schedule to finish up this construction season.
- Ramp from 88 to 81 North is currently closed and will reopen later this season.

Route 17 Crack and Seat, Apalachin

- Still working on the westbound side and the bridge.
- Plan to wrap up that side this construction season and have traffic restored on both sides for the winter months.
- Will do the same in the opposite direction next construction season.

I81 Over Loughlin Road, Kirkwood

- Pile retrofit project – progressing well.
- Traffic is currently one-way signal operation but anticipate reopening by winter.

I81 Over 990 G, Kirkwood

- Some detours have occurred over the past month or so, detouring traffic down into Kirkwood.
- Still progressing on schedule.

Route 11, Court Street

- Resurfacing project for most of the summer.
- Most of the work to date was the ADA ramps and drainage is nearing completion.
- Paving work will be done at nighttime and should start next week.

Route 11, Bridge Overlays

- Ongoing up by Front Street, mostly working in the area of Dunkin and Weis. Wrapping up soon.
- Route 11 to Castle Creek was already completed.

Route 17C and 26, Town of Maine

- Signal project starting this month.

Noteworthy Projects Upcoming

- US Route 11 Retaining Wall Project on the east side of Binghamton scheduled to be let in August was moved to a September 26th letting.
- Route 201 Noise Wall had been removed due to structural concerns and will be reinstalled as part of a project being let in November.

Supervisor Rob Mack asked about the 201 Lights:

- Route 201 lighting update, there has been a lot of troubleshooting, some repairs have been made and additional repairs have been scheduled and more lights are back online. There has been some progress.

Supervisor Lew Grubham asked about Route 17/I-86 Kirkwood plans:

- We are planning to pave it this year, over the next couple of months.

BUSINESS OFFERED FROM THE FLOOR

- None

2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

- Scheduled for December 12, 2024
- Special Session regarding Resolution 2024-14 to be determined.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Martin Meany, it was seconded by Supervisor Lew Grubham

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.