

BINGHAMTON METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
POLICY COMMITTEE

December 14, 2023

11:00 a.m.

Broome County Office Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Legislative Conference Room

Also, via Zoom at

<https://broome.zoom.us/j/88549283001?pwd=hya357deVNC5NtgEFDQbpfSfqXOE.1>

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Mike Marinaccio, at 11:05 a.m.

Members Present

- × Supervisor Michael Marinaccio, Town of Dickinson, Chair (Zoom)
- × Mike Ponticello *for* County Executive Jason Garnar, Broome County
- × Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez, NYSDOT, *represented by Andrew Stiles, Region 9*
- × Mayor Linda Jackson, Village of Endicott
- × Mayor Jared Kraham, City of Binghamton
- × Mayor Martin Meaney, Village of Johnson City
- × Supervisor Lew Grubham, Town of Kirkwood
- × Supervisor Rob Mack, Town of Union
- × Joann Lindstrom *for* Town Supervisor Donald Castellucci, Jr., Town of Owego

Policy Members Absent

- Supervisor Michael Lumsden, Town of Chenango
- Mayor Mike Baratta, Village of Owego
- Supervisor John Schaffer, Town of Vestal
- Ron Ciotoli, Tioga County Legislator
- Vacant, NYS Department of Economic Development
- Jennifer Gregory, Southern Tier 8

Policy Committee Advisory Members Absent

Steve Fisher, District 4 Representative, PennDOT

Nicole McGrath, Community Planner, FHWA NY Division

Ayla Schermer, Community Planner, FTA Region II

Others Present

Jennifer Yonkoski, BMTS

Brian Cohen, BMTS

Scott Reigle, BMTS

Katy Mangan, NYSDOT

Erin Cavanagh, NYSDOT

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES SEPTEMBER 14, 2023. POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING***

Mayor Martin Meany motioned to approve the minutes; Supervisor Rob Mack seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

***PUBLIC COMMENT***

There was no public comment.

***ELECTION OF OFFICERS***

Per By-Laws must elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair every two years, starting on an even year (2024).

Michael Marinaccio, has been nominated and is willing to accept the Chair position. Rob Mack has volunteered and has been nominated and is willing to accept the Vice-Chair position. Lew Grubham motioned, Andrew Stiles seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

### ***BMTS CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION***

**Mayor Linda Jackson** – Outstanding Service to the People and Communities of the Binghamton Metropolitan Area through her participation on the BMTS Policy Committee from 1/1/2020 through 12/31/23.

**Supervisor John Schaffer** - Outstanding Service to the People and Communities of the Binghamton Metropolitan Area through his participation on the BMTS Policy Committee from 1/1/2012 through 12/31/23.

### ***ACTION ITEMS***

□ **NYSDOT Targets for Safety Performance Measures**

**(Yearly Request – 5<sup>th</sup> Year)**

[Resolution 2023-14, Recommending Policy Committee support the 2024 NYSDOT Performance Standards related to Safety]

Jennifer Yonkoski, BMTS, presented a resolution recommending that the BMTS Policy Committee support the NYSDOT Targets for Performance Measures related to Safety. Historically, BMTS has accepted DOT targets. Details of the latest targets were included in the packet handed out. Includes Graphs, Statistics and Measures noting 5-year Baseline, Trends and Caps of serious injury and fatalities.

Supervisor Rob Mack motioned to adopt the resolution Mayor Linda Jackson seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved.

□ **2023-2027 TIP Amendment**

[Resolution 2023-15, Recommending Policy Committee approval of an amendment to the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, Deletion of original PIN 975535, utilize funding for PIN 975563 and PIN 975564]

[Resolution 2023-16, Recommending Policy Committee approval of an amendment to the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, addition of PIN 975563, Airport Road Resurfacing, Broome County]

[Resolution 2023-17, Recommending Policy Committee approval of an amendment to the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, addition of PIN 975564, Glenmary Drive Resurfacing, Tioga County]

[Resolution 2023-18, Recommending Policy Committee approval of an amendment to the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, PIN 9PM024, 2024 Pavement Marking Contract, increase construction and construction inspection, NYSDOT]

Jennifer Yonkoski presented four TIP amendments total, each is a separate amendment, but three are related and will be discussed as a group. First one, Resolution 2023-15, Owego Road Bridge Over Tracy Creek was originally programmed on a TIP update in 2022. Town of Vestal applied for and awarded “Bridge New York Funding” which freed up 2.99 million dollars on our TIP. The TIP Sub-Committee decided with the extra funds they would fund the next two projects in line from the original TIP submission, Airport Road Resurfacing, Towns of Union & Maine, Broome County (PIN 975563) and Glenmary Drive Resurfacing, Towns of Tioga, Tioga County

(PIN 975564). **Summary** - Plan to delete original PIN 975535 and use the funding to offset 2 new projects in the MPO (975563 & 975564).

**Motion to adopt 2023-15** – Mayor Linda Jackson, Second, Supervisor Rob Mack, Unanimous approval.

**Motion to adopt 2023-16** – Andrew Stiles, Second, Mayor Linda Jackson, Unanimous approval.

**Motion to adopt 2023-17** – Andrew Stiles, Second, Mayor Linda Jackson, Unanimous approval.

Jennifer Yonkoski presented the fourth TIP, 9PM024-2024 Pavement Marking Project Contract reflecting the increased costs related to the project. DOT pavement marking project offsetting costs using an out-year pavement marking BLOCK – additional work is in Sullivan County but because portions of the money will be used in the MPO Block it needs to be approved even though it will not affect any projects in the MPO area.

**Motion to adopt 2023-18** – Supervisor Rob Mack, Second, Andy Stiles, Unanimous approval.

□ **Announcement – Good News**

Received official notification on 12/13/2023, awarding FS4A Grant. Submitted in July, it awards \$600,000 for a project. \$480,000 Federal Funds and the rest from local partners NYSDOT Region 9, Broome County, Tioga County. First time eligible, project kick off in Spring of 2024 with 12–13-month timeline, completion slated for Spring 2025. Hire Safety Analysis Consultant to help determine safety projects for the region.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS / UPDATES**

□ **Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Plan Update**

Scott Reigle reported an update to the BMTS Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan).

Background:

Most studies have included just the Urban Areas of BMTS, but this study will include the entirety of both Broome and Tioga Counties. Background: SAFETEA-LU for FTA programs for underserved populations transportation needs. Plan is updated every five years, Last done in 2018. Any project funded through Federal Transit Program Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program is required to be derived from a locally developed Coordinated Plan. Results also used to guide spending and allocations of other Federal Transit Programs.

Key Element of the Coordinated Plan;

Assessment of transportation need, inventory of available services Identification of gaps and redundancy, approaches to the gaps and redundancy, implementation strategies, potential coordination of resources and ongoing coordination and evaluation.

Methodology & Outreach:

Surveys (Transportation and Human Service providers, public input), Stakeholder Communications (Food and Transportation), listening sessions, findings and recommendations from agency plans and studies, US Census and American Community Survey Data, Transportation inventory.

Transportation Service Gaps;

Geographic (improve first/last mile connections to public transit and popular destinations. Lack

of public and other access in rural areas. Lack of suburban and rural access, travel between counties, early morning and late evening availability. Access to necessities such as pharmacy and groceries.

Capacity and affordability options. Lack of affordable options, wheelchair options, driver shortages, paratransit curb to curb and door to door transit. Demand is increasing, aging population.

Service Time. Increased need for nights and weekends, especially for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift workers, and religious/worship services, Sunday service in general.

Policy, Education and Awareness. Improve public awareness of services, increase instruction on how to use services. Increase funding. Non-emergency funding shortfalls due to remittance rates and increased costs of service. Lack of drivers. Lack of service cost awareness, viability of walking and bikes (regular and electric-assist) for short distances. Increase safe-driving awareness access and exposure to other forms of transportation, especially for seniors.

#### Approaches - Addressing Gaps

More effective use of funding between agencies, Increase the role of mobility management. Sustainability of non-Emergency Medical Transportation. Walking and biking alternative awareness, use of existing transportation plan, conduct new transportation studies.

#### Implementation Strategies

Use Section 5310, FTA and other available funding to enhance and expand transportation and mobility management.

Non-emergency transportation(NEMT) advocacy, subsidies and private operator opportunities.

Walking & Bicycling - Micromobility – Per existing BMTS policies; while working with local municipalities to develop and work their own. Recognizing benefits of E-bikeshare programs. Coordinate land use and development with transportation needs in mind.

#### Potential Coordination Activities

Develop alternative transportation for suburban and rural areas, alternate and access to paratransit transport. Coordinate and maximize existing services. Volunteer programs, joint purchasing of resources, education to all stakeholders, travel instruction and use of current technology.

#### Ongoing Coordination Activities

Utilize stakeholder forum used by Getthere Advisory Committee in bi-monthly meetings to coordinate existing services and develop new ones to meet transportation need.

Work with Broome County Department of Public Transportation, Chemung County Transit, Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit (TCAT) and Tioga County to perform analysis and identify opportunities to increase and enhance services.

Agencies collaboration and study for efficiency and feasibility to fill transportation gaps. Facilitate culture shift to encourage public transportation. Be mindful of opportunities to enhance operations.

Mixed use development for higher density and redevelopment is favored for efficient public transit in addition to facilitation of walk and bike destinations and decreasing dependency of

personal private transportation.

Increasing senior populations increases the need for awareness of safe driving programs and alternate forms of transportation, cultivating a shift away from personal vehicle use. CARPET program by Broome County Health Department.

#### SUMMARY

This plan is under a 30-day review and will be on the website. Link will be sent out to the committee. Final approval to be March 2024.

#### Questions:

Rob Mack – Working in healthcare, see many people waiting up to four hours for a ride home after doctor appointments or hospital visits. Wonder if we need to use an UBER model, that we would pay a moderate remittance to private drivers. Most established companies can't gear up with enough vehicles and drivers to fill the need, and with DOT requirements of drug testing, training and other "red-tape".

#### □ **2020 Census – Urban Area Boundary Update**

Leigh McCullen – When a census is completed, the Federal Highway Administration reevaluates the urban area boundaries all across the country. There are some small changes to the BMTS Urban Area boundary. Leigh reviewed the changes to the roadways that are now included in the boundary. The largest change is that the portion of Pennsylvania that was in the BMTS boundary will no longer be included. BMTS will no longer be required to coordinate with Pennsylvania. This will be approved and finalized by Federal Highways sometime in 2024.

NYS DOT Main Office will collect information from all the MPO's and check over the boundaries. Will then be returned to FHWA for final approval.

#### □ **Burbank Avenue Rural Safety Assessment (RSA)**

Leigh McCullen - Conducted along Burbank Avenue in Johnson City, along with Pedestrian accommodations at present as there are plans to repave it this year. There have been neighbor complaints about an intersection by the Cemetery regarding stop sign adherence and accidents. Crash history did not provide any significant issues. Standard type recommendations and pedestrian safety measures to be ADA compliant. Recommendations for crosswalks, curbing stations and roundabouts at the south end of the cemetery. Done as a digital assessment this time.

#### □ **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) – Supports NYS Climate Goals; Helps Communities deliver safe, transformative and innovative programs for accessibility and travel.**

Jennifer Yonkoski announced an FYI. Applications due January 9, 2024. \$103 Million available Statewide. Minimum award \$500,000; maximum award \$5 million. 80/20 split on project cost. Mandatory Webinar attendance required to apply. Johnson City did make an application.

#### □ **Bridge New York Program**

- BMTS receive bridge applications of municipalities within Broome and Tioga Counties.
- BMTS TIPS Sub-Committee to review and score applications.
- Applications due 1/26/24, funding decisions after 4/1/24.  
Minimum project \$500k, maximum \$5M
- Projects funded 95%/5% local match.
- Target amount higher this year, includes leftover funds from last year; Broome County

target \$8.36M/Tioga County target \$4.43M in federal funding.

- 2024-2025 UPWP
  - Looking for projects from local municipalities, also would like to do two Road Safety Assessments per year.
  - Project approval at next meeting in March. Project dates 4/1/24 to 3/31/25.

□ **NYSDOT Project Updates**

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

I81 Pedestrian Crossing/Walking Bridge

- Bridge has been removed:
  - Some finish work to be completed (Spring seeding, planting).

I88/81 Connector Bridge

- Ongoing, buttoned up for this construction season. Project half done.
- All lanes open until Spring 2024.

Route 17 Crack and Seat, Tioga County

- Project awarded after second letting.
- Work started. Contractor working to get at least one crossover constructed before Spring.

I81 Over Loughlin Road

- Pile retrofit project.
- Paint removal.
- Plan to work over winter season, one way traffic signal to be installed for Spring construction.

Route 11, Court Street, City of Binghamton

- Resurfacing Project to be let in March.
- Pavement, ADA ramps, drainage.
- Work will begin next construction season.
- Temporary repairs have been done.

Route 11, Bridge Overlays

- Near Front Street, Sonny Manny and Dunkin'.
- Couple of structures to have bridge overlays.
- Route 11 near church to have the same treatment.
- Planned for Spring 2024

Route 17C, Route 26 Signal Project

- Scheduled to be let and constructed March 2024

***BUSINESS OFFERED FROM THE FLOOR***

Mayor Linda Jackson asks what can be done about the Railroad Bridges? They really need to be painted. They look terrible. Who can she speak with?

- Chairman Marinaccio suggested to speak with Mayor Kraham who has faced the same issue.

Chairman Marinaccio wants to thank Jennifer and all the staff at BMTS for significant and necessary work they do.

Introduce Brian Cohen, new Transportation Analyst.

***2024 MEETING SCHEDULE***

- The next Policy Meeting will March 7, 2024. An announcement will be sent out prior.

A motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Robert Mack, it was seconded by Mayor Linda Jackson.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.