

Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study
Planning Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 24, 2022 1:30 pm
Broome County Office Building
6th Floor, Legislative Conference Room & Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Leslie Boulton at 1:31 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Leslie Boulton, Chair, Broome County Public Works
Vernon Myers, Vice-Chair, Town of Vestal
Josh Holland, Village of Johnson City
Beth Lucas, Broome County Planning
Gregory Kilmer, Broome County Public Transportation
Gary Hammond, Tioga County Public Works
Lou Caforio, Town of Union
Pam Eshbaugh, NYSDOT Region 9 Planning
Ron Lake, City of Binghamton Engineer
Anthony Bates, Village of Endicott
Cameron Williams, Village of Endicott
Alex Urda, Town of Chenango
Lisa McCaferty, Tioga County

Others Present:

Jennifer Yonkoski, BMTS Central Staff
Leigh McCullen, BMTS Central Staff
Scott Reigle, BMTS Central Staff
Ashley Seyfried, BMTS Central Staff
Cynthia Paddick, BMTS Central Staff

Approval of December 2, 2021 minutes. Motion made G. Kilmer seconded by J. Holland.
Approved by consensus.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment.

ACTION ITEMS

- **2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program**

[Resolution 2022-01, Recommending Policy Committee approval of the Draft 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program and associated grant budgets

- J. Yonkoski described the Unified Planning Work Program for fiscal year April 1, 2022-March 31, 2023. There are several federally required planning factors, national planning goals, and planning emphasis areas to be incorporated into the UPWP. J. Yonkoski highlighted the larger tasks included in this UPWP and discussed the staffing organizational chart.

- ✓ R. Lake made a motion, seconded by G. Kilmer, to approve Resolution 2022-01. The resolution was approved by unanimous consent.

- **Public Participation Plan Update**

[Resolution 2022-02, Recommending Policy Committee approval of the draft BMTS Public Participation Plan]

- A. Seyfried described the 2022 Updated Public Participation Plan. The plan describes the methods employed for engagement for public participation. This update focuses primarily on the use of virtual public involvement tools and equity in public participation.

- ✓ J. Holland made a motion, seconded by R. Lake, to approve Resolution 2022-02. The resolution was approved by unanimous consent.

- **2020-2024 TIP Amendments**

[Resolution 2022-03, Recommending Policy Committee approval of an amendment to the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program, addition of new Bridge NY project, PIN 975513, CR 20 over Main Street, bridge rehabilitation, project sponsor: Broome County]

[Resolution 2022-04, Recommending Policy Committee approval of an amendment to the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program, addition of new Bridge NY project, PIN 975514, Main Street over Big Choconut Creek, bridge replacement, project sponsor: town of Vestal]

[Resolution 2022-05, Recommending Policy Committee approval of an amendment to the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program, addition of new Bridge NY project, PIN 975526, Prospect Valley Road over Prospect Valley Creek, bridge replacement, project sponsor: Town of Candor]

[Resolution 2022-06, Recommending Policy Committee approval of an amendment to the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program, addition of new freight project, PIN 950125, I-81 over Loughlin Road, pile retrofit, project sponsor: NYSDOT]

[Resolution 2022-07, Recommending Policy Committee approval of an amendment to the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program, addition of new freight project, PIN 950127, I-81 over 990G, general bridge repairs, project sponsor: NYSDOT]

- L. Boulton described the first three projects and the locations. P. Eshbaugh

discussed the freight plan that was approved in 2019 - the two freight projects were included from a prior solicitation for projects and do not come out of the pot of money.

- ✓ G. Hammond made a motion, seconded by G. Kilmer, to approve resolutions 2022-03- 07. The resolution was approved by unanimous consent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS / UPDATES

Bike/Ped Counter Data and Update/Cost share request

J. Yonkoski described that bicyclist and pedestrian counts are down compared to 2020 and 2021. J. Yonkoski highlighted that BMTS is still waiting to hear back from several municipalities regarding the cost share request.

Village of Johnson City Sign Inventory

A. Seyfried provided an overview of the sign inventory completed for the Village of Johnson City. The inventory includes all municipal signs in the village and is to be used as a proactive safety tool to address issues. V. Myers stated his interest in having a sign inventory for the Town of Vestal.

Functional Class Changes

C. Paddick described that previously BMTS received a request to include VanWinckle Drive onto the Federal Aid System. Census data and updated urban area boundary data are to come in 2022 which would be a good time to update the functional class and federal aid system. The MPO agrees with changes, DOT then looks at it, then Data Services in Main Office of NYS, then FHWA for the final determination. This is a clean-up currently of the data. C. Paddick went over the draft preliminary additions and deletions from the federal aid system and asked the committee for feedback and questions. The committee will review the draft.

TIP Update: 2023–2027

J. Yonkoski described that the TIP subcommittee has met several times thus far going over projects and cost estimates. The MPO will be provided with fund sources and updated costs from DOT and the committee will reconvene then to further analyze the projects.

L. Boulton described that the TIP subcommittee has been analyzing existing projects and existing costs for the current TIP, emphasizing that it is difficult currently as projects are having overruns and extra money needed. J. Yonkoski stated that the MPO is not expecting any current TIP projects to go into the future TIP, and if members know that their project will not be delivered, the committee needs to be aware of it.

E-bike Regulation Guide

S. Reigle provided an overview of the BMTS E-Bike & E-Scooter Multi-use Trail Regulations Guide, a study that looks into what types of micromobility options should be permitted on multi-use trails. Significant increases in micromobility options and sales have been seen in recent years nationally and locally. He described differences between various micromobility options that are

currently available and what are considered legal. In 2020, NYS passed legislation on roadways but did not define uses on trails.

G. Hammond asked about class 3 bikes on roads over 30 mph, stating that NYS does not legally permit them on roads over 30 mph. S. Reigle confirmed that is the current law and that committees, including NYSAMPO, are going to NYS to state that the law should permit these options, as regular bicycles are permitted on these roads.

Broome County and Vestal are currently the only municipalities locally that have current regulations on their trails. S. Reigle continued to define the benefits of including electric and assisted vehicles on trails. S. Reigle stated that for most concerns, it is not the e-bike that is the issue but rather the trail etiquette on the trails; so rather than regulating the types of micromobility options allowed on trails, etiquette should be the focus. S. Reigle emphasized that regulations should be uniform for the most part as it would be confusing going from municipality to municipality.

BMTS regulations guidelines: prohibiting gas powered vehicles on trails, permitting class 1 & class 2 e-bikes as well as other micromobility devices, setting a speed limit for all users, and emphasizing trail etiquette. Education elements should also be included.

BUSINESS OFFERED FROM THE FLOOR

- No business offered from the floor.

Motion to adjourn made by G. Hammond, seconded by J. Holland and approved by consensus. Meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm. Next meeting is Thursday, April 28, 2022.