



## GOVERNMENTAL POLICY AND LIAISON COMMITTEE

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Chairperson, ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR., Executive, Oneida County  
Secretary, JAMES J. GENOVESE II, Commissioner, Oneida County Dept. of Planning

Vice-chairperson, VINCENT J. BONO, Chairman, Herkimer County Legislature  
Clerk, DANA R. CRISINO, Director, Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Council

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### **Minutes for the September 9, 2021 Governmental Policy & Liaison (GP&L) Committee Quarterly Meeting – Q3 2021 Room 242 Herkimer County Office Building**

*Administered by:*

*Herkimer – Oneida Counties Transportation Council (HOCTC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)*

*A recording of this meeting is available upon request.*

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Chairperson Anthony J. Picente, Jr. called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM.

#### **Roll Call**

##### Voting Members present:

Anthony J. Picente, Jr., Chairperson

Vincent J. Bono, Vice-Chairperson

James Wallace

Timothy Seymour

*Mary Austin Pratt*

*David Wood*

Philip Sacco

Michael Waterman

*E.J. Moses*

Scott Musacchio

Joseph Smith

Deborah Windecker

Oneida County Executive

Vice-Chairman, Herkimer County Legislature

Administrator, Herkimer County

Commissioner, Herkimer County Social Services

Legislator, Oneida County Board of Legislators,  
*representing Gerald J. Fiorini, Chairman, Oneida County  
Board of Legislators*

*representing George Joseph Majority Leader, Oneida  
County Board of Legislators*

Minority Leader, Oneida County Board of Legislators

Public Works Committee Chairman, Oneida County Board  
of Legislators

Director of Facilities, Central New York Regional  
Transportation Authority, *representing Nicholas Laino,  
Chairman, Central New York Regional Transportation  
Authority*

Supervisor, Town of Verona

Supervisor, Town of Trenton

Regional Planning and Program Manager, NYSDOT,  
Region 2, *representing Marie Therese Dominguez,  
Commissioner, New York State Department of  
Transportation*

Non-voting Members present:

James Genovese, Secretary  
Dana Crisino, Clerk  
Mark DeRocco

Commissioner, Department of Planning, Oneida County  
Director, HOCTC  
Assistant Regional Planning and Program Manager,  
NYSDOT, Region 2  
Principal Planner, HOCTC  
Planner, HOCTC  
Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Works,  
Oneida County

Barb Hauck  
Alexander Turner  
Christopher Burtch

Voting Members arriving late:

*Christopher Lawrence*

Planner, City of Utica, *representing Robert Palmieri,  
Mayor, City of Utica*

Voting Members absent:

Glenn Asnoe  
Raymond Smith

Supervisor, Town of Frankfort  
Chairman, Highways Committee, Herkimer County  
Legislature

Joanne M. Mahoney

Chair, New York State Thruway Authority Board of  
Directors

Jacquelyn Izzo  
John Piseck

Mayor, City of Rome  
Executive Director, Herkimer County Industrial  
Development Agency

David Catalfamo

Director, Economic Development, Oneida County

• **Approval of Minutes**

- Motion to accept the minutes of the June 17, 2021 meeting made by: Vincent Bono
  - Seconded by: Mary Austin Pratt
  - Discussion: None
  - Voting: Passed, 12-0-0

• **Public Comment**

- No public comment.

• **Director's Report**

- Dana Crisino gave the following report on behalf of the Herkimer – Oneida Counties Transportation Council:
  - The MPO has been working to support Oneida County and COVID-19 Pandemic data requests.
  - The Environmental Justice Analysis update and the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Plan for Oneida and Herkimer Counties is being finalized with a presentation to be given later in the meeting.
    - The Transportation Atlas is being developed with a draft document to be complete by Thanksgiving or the end of the year. The document is a

buildout of the Long Range Transportation Plan with the goal to be that the document contain demographics, trends, and how things link together with regards to transportation.

- The new federal transportation bill is a topic of discussion nationally and across all of the MPOs in New York State. Dana will let the committee know of developments.

*Christopher Lawrence attends the meeting*

- **NYSDOT Region 2 Report**

- Deb Windecker gave a report on the activities that NYSDOT Region 2 has performed in the last quarter
- The following projects are scheduled for lettings between September and November
  - Utica Pedestrian Action Plan
    - This program will address intersection and midblock crossings in Utica. \$432,000 of Highway Safety Improvement funding with an award forthcoming.
  - Oneida Street over Sauquoit Creek Bridge Replacement in the Village of Clayville for \$1.2 million.
  - Reconstruction of Middle Settlement Road in the Town of New Hartford from Route 5 to Clinton Street for \$4.6 million. This project is 100% State and local funded.
  - Route 825 Bridge Rehabilitation in the City of Rome for \$2.7 million.
- The following projects are currently under construction:
  - Stage 1 of the Route 8 bridge replacement over Routes 5, 8, and 12 for \$12 million has been completed. The interchange will be opened in the winter. There has been challenges with obtaining the steel necessary for the bridge replacement. Stage 2 will not commence until spring 2022 at which time the interchange will be closed again.
  - Route 28 in the Village of Mohawk for \$1.5 million. The curb work is underway with milling and paving to commence at the conclusion of the curb work.
- The U.S. Senate passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act on August 10. This would authorized \$1.2 trillion in funding for transportation nationwide with \$550 billion in funding, \$110 billion of which would be for roads and bridges. Furthermore, there were new programs proposed such as electric vehicle charging stations and an increased in bicycle and walking infrastructure. A resiliency program to harden infrastructure against flooding was also proposed. A new bridge and culvert program to address fair and poor rated bridges was proposed too. The U.S. House of Representatives recently approved \$3.5 trillion Public and Human Infrastructure bill. The FAST Act transportation bill will expire on September 30.
- The Transportation Alternatives Program will have another round coming funded in the amount of \$62 million with support for walking, bicycling, and multi-use trails. The awards for each project will range from \$500,000 to \$5 million. The funding split will be 80% federal funds and a 20% local sponsor match. The applications for the program are due September 29. Deb anticipates an early 2022 announcement of award of projects.

- **Other Reports**

- 2020 Census Results
  - Alexander Turner gave a report on the results of the 2020 Census.
  - The Census Bureau released the first set of results for the 2020 Census on August 12.
  - Only general population counts, household counts, and race data are available now. Every municipality in Herkimer and Oneida Counties has specific population counts available.
  - The MPO lost 7,133 people between 2020 and 2010, representing a drop of 2.39%. Herkimer County accounted for a population loss of 4,380 representing a decrease of 6.79%. Oneida County accounted for a population loss of 2,753 representing a decrease of 1.17%.

- **Presentations**

- Environmental Justice Analysis & Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Plan for Oneida and Herkimer Counties
  - Dana Crisino gave a presentation on the Environmental Justice Analysis 2021
  - Executive Order 12898 of 1994 mandates that each Federal agency make Environmental Justice part of its policies and activities by identifying and addressing the effects of all program, policies, and activities on minorities and low-income populations. The current federal legislation, FAST Act, continues to mandate EJ requirements and updates focused on vulnerable populations. The EJ Analysis 2022 updates previously identified areas to reflect the most recent statistics on vulnerable populations.
  - The Environmental Justice Analysis if utilized for transportation planning decisions in order to identify and compile strategies to mitigate adverse effects on the following populations: poverty, disabled, minority, Limited English Proficiency, elderly, zero-vehicle households, and renters.
  - Dana gave a timeline of the development of the Environmental Justice Analysis. Data gathering began in June. Public outreach will be complete by mid-September. A 30-day public review and Agency comment period will occur in the month of October with the TPC and GP&L Committees reviewing the analysis in November and December. The plan will go into effect in January 2022.
  - As a part of the analysis, a compilation of greatest needs based on environmental justice categories was developed. A comparative score for every Census block group in the MPA was determined alongside a threshold for identifying where future transportation planning efforts could be focused to be most beneficial. Statistics on the data categories was given that showed a decrease of poverty, Limited English Proficiency, Zero-Vehicle Households, and Renters for the HOCTC MPO since the last Environmental Justice update. There was an increase in the categories of disability, minority, and the elderly since the last update.
  - Barb presented the following as the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Plan for Oneida and Herkimer Counties 2022-2025.
  - USDOT requires the development of a Human Service Coordinated Transportation Plan for each urbanized area under the direction of an MPO in accordance with 49 USC 5303. The FAST Act upheld and expanded the requirement for the “locally developed coordinated transit-human services transportation plan that directs the

coordination among recipients for human services transportation, and to update that plan every four years.”

- The 2022-2025 Plan will to be used to: assess transportation needs of the elderly, disabled, and poverty populations, identify transportation providers and any potential gaps in service, identify ways to improve system efficiency and to reduce redundancies, and to strengthen partnerships through the HOCTC Transportation Coordination Committee.
- The components of the plan include an introduction, methodology, regional profile, inventory of existing transportation services, coordinated planning efforts, unmet needs and gaps, and coordination strategies and improved service priorities.
- The timeline of the development of the plan began with a review of the previous plan and data gathering in June 2021. A 30-day public review process will occur in October. A public hearing will be scheduled during the 30-day public review period. The TPC and GP&L Committees will review, recommend, and approve the plan in November and December. The plan will then go into effect in January 2022.

- **Old Business**

- **HOCTC Resolution 2021 – 24: Amendment to the 2021 – 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Budget**

- Motion to untable the resolution made by: Michael Waterman
  - Seconded by: Philip Sacco
  - Voting: Passed. 13-0-0
- Description: An amendment to the 2021 – 2022 Unified Planning Work Program budget to rectify the actual expenditures from the FHWA PL backlog.
- Discussion: Dana states that the amendment is to revise the UPWP budget due to actual expenditures differing from the expected expenditures. The committee tabled the resolution in June due to ongoing discussions with NYSDOT on the budget. The UPWP had originally programmed an estimated \$450,000 in FHWA Planning backlog/savings but actual expenditures had resulted in a backlog/savings of \$283,098.
- Motion to approve the resolution made by: Scott Musacchio
  - Seconded by: David Wood
  - Voting: Passed, 13-0-0

- **New Business**

- **HOCTC Resolution 2021 – 25: Amendment to the 2020 – 2024 TIP to revise a Preventative Maintenance Pavement Rehabilitation Project**, presented by Mark DeRocco.

- Description: A project on the MPO TIP, PIN 205686 – Route 8: Black Creek to West Canada Creek in the Town of Ohio, Herkimer County, will be revised to increase the project cost by \$3,780,000 from \$6,333,000 to \$10,117,000.
- Discussion: None.
- Motion to approve the resolution made by: Vincent Bono
  - Seconded by: James Wallace
  - Voting: Passed, 13-0-0

- **HOCTC Resolution 2021 – 26: 2022 Traffic Safety Performance Measures Targets** presented by Dana Crisino.
  - Description: Approval of the NYSDOT Safety Performance Measures for the HOCTC MPO for 2022.
  - Discussion: None
  - Motion to approve the resolution made by: Christopher Lawrence
    - Seconded by: Deborah Windecker
    - Voting: Passed, 13-0-0
  
- **HOCTC Resolution 2021 – 27A: Amendment to the 2020 – 2024 TIP to revise a Bridge Deck and Superstructure Replacement Project** presented by Mark DeRocco.
  - Description: A project on the MPO TIP, PIN 280669 – Multi-Site Bridge Deck and Superstructure Replacement shall be revised to reflect a cost decrease in the project from \$7,540,000 to \$2,940,000 due to the removal of a bridge (BIN 4025690) from the project as it was found not to be suitable for a superstructure replacement.
  - Discussion: None
  - Motion to approve both HOCTC Resolution 2021 – 27A and HOCTC Resolution 2021 – 27B together made by: Vincent Bono
    - Seconded by: James Wallace
    - Voting: Passed, 13-0-0
  
- **HOCTC Resolution 2021 – 27B: Amendment to the 2020 – 2024 TIP to add a Bridge Deck Replacement Project** presented by Mark DeRocco.
  - Description: A project to be added to the TIP, PIN 202970 – Route 5s Over Route 51 Deck Replacement (BIN 1074020) funded in the amount of \$1,485,000 for FFY 2021 and 2022.
    - *Resolution passed in previous motion.*
  
- **HOCTC Resolution 2021 – 28A: Amendment to the 2020 – 2024 TIP to revise a Cyclical Highway Maintenance Project** presented by Mark DeRocco.
  - Description: A project on the MPO TIP with the designation of PIN 2TM242 – Block Fund Bridge 24 Preventative Maintenance Project, shall have its funding revised to reflect a decrease in the project cost from \$11,788,000 to \$680,000. Part of the removed funds will be moved to a project outside the MPO, PIN 200810.
  - Discussion: None
  - Motion to approve both HOCTC Resolution 2021 – 28A and HOCTC Resolution 2021 – 28B together made by: David Wood
    - Seconded by: Scott Musacchio
    - Voting: Passed, 13-0-0
  
- **HOCTC Resolution 2021 – 28B: Amendment to the 2020 – 2024 TIP to add a Bridge Deck Replacement Project** presented by Mark DeRocco.
  - Description: A project will be added to the MPO TIP, PIN 230350 – Route 46 Over Erie Canal Bridge (BIN 4025690) Replacement Project funded in the amount of \$9,310,000 for FFY 2021 - 2024.
    - *Resolution passed in previous motion.*

- **Administrative Modifications to the 2020 – 2024 TIP**

- Dana gave a report of the administrative modifications made to the MPO TIP in the last quarter as the following:
  - 2021-09MOD: PIN 275456 – BRIDGE NY 2018: West German Street/Bellinger Brook (BIN 2266820). A ROW Incidentals and ROW Acquisitions phase will be added to the project.
  - 2021-10MOD: PIN 275456 – BRIDGE NY 2018: West German Street/Bellinger Brook (BIN 2266820). The funding year for the Construction and Construction Inspection phases will be changed from FFY 2023 to FFY 2022.
  - 2021-11MOD: PIN 282176 – Transit Bus Purchase for Centro of Oneida – Utica. The NFA funding is corrected to \$380,000 for the project, from \$760,000, due to a processing error.

- **Other Business**

- Open forum of the committee
  - Scott Musacchio poses a question related to BRIDGE NY applications and the timing of when the awards will be made. Deb states that she anticipates the award notification will be sent later this fall or winter by the latest.

- **Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn the meeting made by: Scott Musacchio

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 AM.

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Respectfully submitted by Alexander Turner, HOCTC