

TRANSPORTATION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 28, 2015

Present: Allan Bowdery, Gail Gallerie, Mark Sherman, Tom Weiner and Shelly Wright

Guest: Dr. Scott LeVine, Department of Geography (SUNY New Paltz)

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Motion to accept the minutes of the March 24 meeting made by Shelly Wright, seconded by Allan Bowdery. Adopted after clarification of the requested left turn signal for southbound traffic on N. Manheim.

Chair's Report

Gail welcomed Professor LeVine and thanked him for converting the final report of the Transportation/Land Use Project to PDF for use by his classes at the college. He provided Gail with a copy which has been shared with the Town/Village Clerks for posting on municipal web sites.

Gail noted that the end of the academic year demands likely accounted for the absence of the three students who had attended the last meeting. She also recognized the contributions Jesse Ginsburg, SA Executive V.P., who is graduating, had made to improving LOOP service during the last year and wished Committee Reports

A. BPC. Cf. Carmine Liberta Bridge Replacement below

B. LOOP reports

The reports for March and first quarter had been transmitted to the committee with the agenda materials. Gail noted that weekday ridership has continued to lag over the same period in the prior year and Allan reminded everyone that the figures likely reflect winter conditions having kept people at home.

Old Business

A. Updates

1. Carmine Liberta Bridge replacement. The second meeting of the technical advisory committee had been held on April 8. Discussion had focused on options for the design of the new bridge and BPC Chair Weinstein's advocacy for including a second bridge for pedestrian use as part of this project. Mr. Weinstein's email to Dennis Doyle, Ulster Co. Planning Director detailing the research and considerations that resulted in BPC withdrawing its support for placing a second bridge next to the main bridge had been shared with this committee in advance of the meeting. The BPC had concluded that the entire project funding be devoted to the bridge replacement, including wider shoulders for bicyclists and sidewalk for pedestrians. It was suggested that Rte. 299 be widened, beginning at the Rail Trail intersection with 299, to create increased safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

2. Intermodal Transportation Hub.

Cf. Allan's 4/17 email. The options had been narrowed to 3: (1) the current bus station site; (2) Village Hall; and (3) Rte. 32 N. next to the park & ride. A meeting for the public to discuss these options had been scheduled for May 7.

3. Rte. 299 Speed Reduction

Harry Ellis had shared with the committee an email from the Mohonk Preserve (cf. 4/19 email) reporting on their efforts to effect a reduction in the speed limit to 45 mph from the Carmine Liberta Bridge west to the 44/55 intersection. Harry was unable to attend this meeting but had asked that the committee endorse this effort with the Town. It was noted that this committee had supported the consideration of this change in November 2013 following Harry's initial presentation. Gail is to follow-up with the Supervisor to encourage the Town's follow-through on this. During discussion, a consensus emerged among those in attendance that a speed limit reduction from the bridge to the intersection of 299/Butterville and Albany Post could be justified but not further west of that intersection. In response to a question, Tom Weiner explained that a request for this reduction would be made to Ulster County which would likely approve but that final approval rests with DOT.

4. DOT Funding for Main/Manheim Improvements

Gail had asked Tom Weiner to provide an update on the status of the funding that DOT had committed to implementing recommendations resulting from the Transportation/Land Use Project. Tom explained that the entire \$7 million committed by DOT was from State funds. After a 2 yr. consultation process, improvements to the Main St./Manheim Blvd. intersection were identified as our highest priority. In the 12 years since that commitment was first made and 5 since Regional Planning and Program Manager Director Rich Peter's November 2010 written confirmation of that commitment, substantial cuts have been made to the State funding DOT receives and the \$7 million is no longer available and other funding will have to be sought. Although the pledge to New Paltz was exclusively State funds, this project was added to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). It is still on the TIP with a small amount of money for project scoping beginning in 2017 but the current TIP is up for review and revision starting this fall with adoption of the next TIP scheduled for summer 2016.

5. Main/Manheim Signal Adjustments

TIC request for the addition of a left turn signal for south bound traffic on So. Manheim still under review by DOT.

6. Bus Shelters

Ariana was not in attendance so there was no update on the status of those proposed for bus station area. Gail read email from town highway superintendent outlining additional requirements for right-of-way clearances from DOT for the installation of the shelter at the youth center.

7. Grates and crosswalk updates

Cf. Tom Weiner's 3/24 follow-up. It appears that the problematic grates are within the Village of New Paltz jurisdiction but Village DPW has been relying on NYSDOT for any repairs. In short, needed repairs will need to await either DPW or NYSDOT, in conjunction with other scheduled work, having an opportunity to address.

B. Village Parking Proposals

Item tabled due to Sally's absence and pending Village elections.

VI. New Business

A. Town Grant Writer

Draft of BPC Chair Weinstein's letter to Town Board re: grant writing assistance for town committees had been circulated prior to the meeting. It had been reported that the services of the town's grant writer were not available to committees. After discussion, it was agreed that TIC should join BPC in seeking town council's support to making grant writing assistance available to its committees for grant applications approved by the town supervisor/ board. (Ed. Note: a subsequent email exchange between Gail and Supervisor Zimet established that this assistance is available to committee for projects approved by the town.

Meeting adjourned 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Gail K. Gallerie, Secretary Pro Tem