**Regional Transportation Study**

**Client Committee Meeting**

**January 20, 2012**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Meeting Summary**

**Members present**:

Fernando de Aragon- Executive Director, ITCTC

Dan Dineen - Director of Planning, Cortland County

Harriet Haynes – Planner, Seneca County

Jenna Lenhardt- Global Initiatives Coordinator, TC3

David Lieb- Associate Director of Transportation, Cornell

Joe Turcotte- General Manager, TCAT

Doug Swarts – Service Development Manager, TCAT

**By phone:**

Dwight Mengel – Chief Transportation Planner, Tompkins County DSS

Jan Dempsey – Mobility Management Coordinator, Seven Valleys Health Coalition

**Consultants present:**

Marlene Connor – Project Manager, Wendel

Cyd Averill – Arch Street Communications

Jim McLaughlin – Wendel

The meeting started with introductions. Marlene Connor briefed the committee about the stakeholder interviews that she and Jim McLaughlin conducted during the week of January 16-20. As discussed at the Coalition meeting yesterday they met with a number of different stakeholders including representatives from Chemung, Tompkins, Schuyler and Cortland Counties and TCAT. Team member Jack Reilly met with representatives from Cornell, Ithaca College and SUNY Cortland. The information gathering is an essential first step. They will return in a few weeks to conduct interviews with stakeholders not contacted in this initial effort.

Marlene reinforced another point from the Coalition meeting that projects have been either planned or initiated by counties or agencies in the study area that have attributes that should be complementary with the work of the RTS but need to be incorporated into the study and that one of the RTS goals will be to incorporate all potential project plans and to share those plans with the Client Committee and the Coalition to ensure that these diverse projects are considered in the mobility planning process.

Discussion centered on the need to inform the public that the Regional Transportation Study is now underway and to encourage counties and agencies to share information among each other. Currently, the information sharing process is not typically occurring, primarily because there have not been many regional planning activities.

Another challenge in the RTS is that some of the outlying counties relate to activity centers and counties outside the study area—for example, Cayuga County has areas that relate more strongly to the Syracuse area and that Seneca County is connected to Rochester. .

Marlene indicated that the study team is working to get information on human services usage, especially looking at inter-county travel. Dwight noted that the potential to access data is being discussed with the state and that Tompkins County had developed its own data on out-of-county travel; he suggested a regional analysis may have to be done county by county.

Census data may be helpful. Tom Mank is knowledgeable about this information.

Local Coordination Plans contain a lot of information—and plan updates are being finalized for Chemung, Schuyler and Tompkins County. In addition, Cortland County has previously completed a Needs Assessment that Dan will provide. Also, Harriet mentioned that Seneca County was part of a plan update for the Genesee/Fingers Lakes Regional area completed for the Rochester MPO, Although the southern half of Seneca County tends to associate more with Ithaca and Watkins Glen than Rochester. Harriet also suggested that the “needs” be indicated as a percentage of population, versus the raw numbers; the raw numbers are small in rural areas, but percentages of those needing services may be significant.

Committee members suggested others who should be contacted: Director of the Office for Aging in Cayuga, leaders of county tourism boards, the Tompkins County Council of Governments (municipal and county elected officials).

With respect to information technology, the group discussed the roles of the 211 and 511 networks in disseminating transportation information. The 511 service was seen as focusing more on major roadways than on local travel; the 211 service is planned to contain more information on transportation choices and, per Dwight, plans to coordinate with Way2Go. The group agreed that outreach should be focused on stakeholders initially. Public input will be sought when recommendations have been developed.

Marlene will check the county calendars to determine the best time for the next round of meetings. She and Jim have a number of potential follow up meetings, including connecting with Way2Go and a potential Zimride meeting on February 17; Jack Reilly will be meeting with transit providers.

**Action items:**

The Public Involvement Plan will be developed and sent to the Client Committee for review. The presentation and the summary of the Coalition meeting will be sent to all Coalition members.

The meeting concluded at 10:00 a.m.