

COMMISSION MEETING
10:00 am, Wednesday April 15, 2026

Members Present at CDRPC Office: Willard A. Bruce, Jasmine Higgins, Larry Schillinger, Judith Breselor, Wayne Gendron, Dan Casale, Jason Kemper, Craig Warner, Agatha Reid, Charles Davidson, David Hogenkamp, Gary Hughes, Yei-Mei-Han, Haileab Samuel.

Members Present via Video Conferencing: James Shaughnessy, Mike Stammel, Opal Hinds.

Members / Others Absent:, Carolyn McLaughlin, Kristin Swinton, Joe Grasso.

Staff Present: Mark Castiglione, Amy Weinstock, Josh Dranoff, Madison Hrysko, Todd Fabozzi, Fernanda Farche, Tara Donadio.

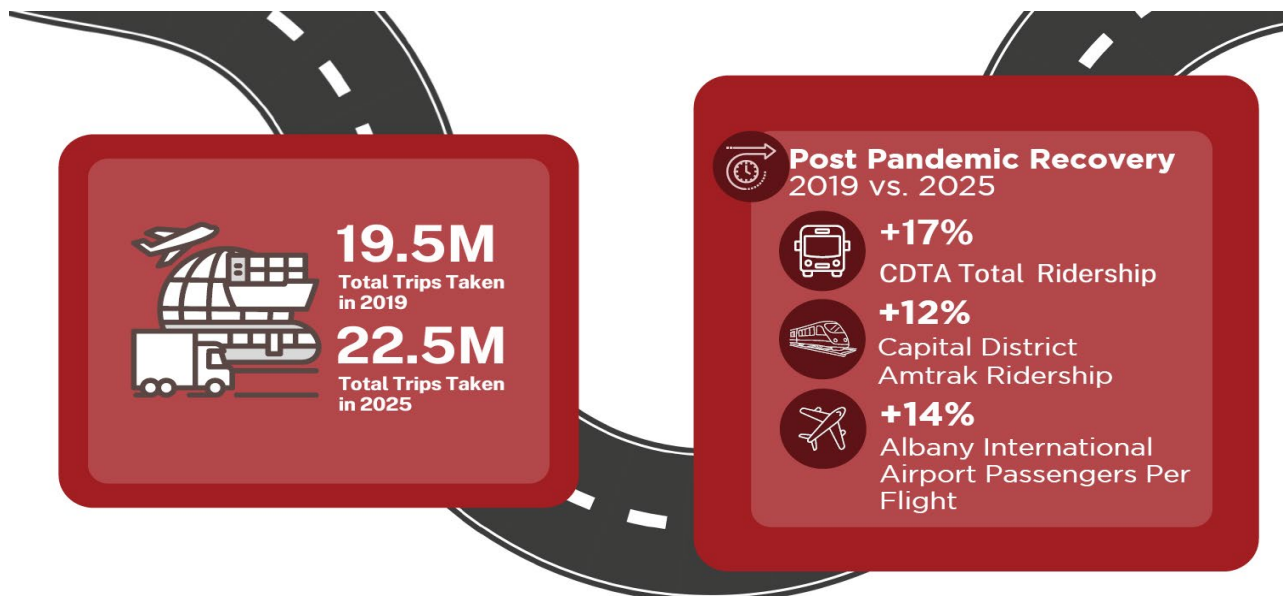
Presiding, David Hogenkamp, First Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

1. Welcome & Introductions

First Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. A new member was introduced from Rensselaer County- Dan Casale. He is taking the place of Jacqueline Stellone whose term ended December 31, 2025.

2. Presentation: *The New Normal, Transportation in the Capital Region.*
- Madison Hrysko, Data and GIS Manager.

Madison presented a slide show of information regarding all types of transportation in the capital region and their ridership pre and post pandemic. Included was CDTA and its 3 hubs: Motor Bus, Commuter Bus and Demand Response, as well as Amtrak and Albany International Airport. A summary of the discussion is in the chart below.



3. Approval of the January 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were distributed to the Board before the meeting.

Action Taken:

Haileab Samuel made a motion to approve the January 21, 2026 meeting minutes with a correction (not made because information was correct as presented and realized later) and Charles Davidson seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Financial Statements Through March 31, 2026

All invoices have been sent to the counties first quarter and semi-annual billings.

Through the fiscal year, the estimated revenues are at 19% of the budgeted amount and expenses are at 24.5%. Par is 25%. The amounts for our first quarter billings remain pending as program staff review the billings. Bills will be sent to our granting agencies within the next couple weeks.

As noted on the Balance Sheet, on March 31, 2026 we had \$299,001 cash in the bank not including amounts for the NYSEDA CECP program, NYCLASS, and the FSA account. The outstanding receivables total \$351,872. The majority of the receivables reflect the payment due to CDRPC from NYS Agencies.

2025 Pre-Audit Financials

For 2025, the revenues were at 99.73% while expenses are at 90.39% to budget based on the revised 2025 budget adopted by the board. The revenues reflect the final billings through the fourth quarter of 2025 and all expenses have been accounted for. The underperformance on the expense side is mainly driven by consultant services.

There will be some adjustments made, including noting our obligation to the NYS retirement system, but the Commission ended the year with a projected net operating surplus of \$144,503 which would increase the Unreserved Fund Balance. The Fund Balance at the end of 2025 was \$835,765. The Fund Balance does not include Compensated Absences owed to the staff nor our long-term obligations to the NYS Retirement system which are considered a long-term liabilities. Both will reduce the actual contribution to the fund balance.

A final audited financial statement prepared by the auditing firm engaged by the Commission will be presented at the June or October meeting.

Action Taken:

Larry Schillinger made a motion to approve the financial statements through March 31, 2026 and Craig Warner seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Capital Region Timber Bridge Feasibility Initiative Summary

CDRPC has submitted an application to the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) under the Timber for Transit Program – Spring 2026 for a regional feasibility initiative focused on advancing the use of domestically sourced timber products in short-span rural bridge replacements. The application was submitted under the Feasibility Award category and is intended to help rural municipalities prepare future capital bridge projects for state and federal funding.

Project Overview

The *Capital Region Timber Bridge Feasibility Initiative* will evaluate, prioritize, and advance opportunities to use engineered timber systems (e.g., glued-laminated timber and mass timber

components) in locally owned, low-volume bridge replacements across NBRC-eligible counties in the Capital Region: **Saratoga, Rensselaer, and Schenectady**.

Key activities include:

- Screening and prioritization of approximately **70–90 rural bridges** to identify timber-feasible candidates; (volume, length, span and condition of bridge)
- Development of **16–19 concept-level feasibility packages** evaluating timber alternatives, material quantities, and planning-level costs;
- Preparation of **two grant-ready timber bridge concepts** aligned with NYSDOT standards and BridgeNY requirements;
- Production of a regional **Timber Bridge Guide** and delivery of a training workshop for municipal highway and public works officials.

Budget and Funding

- Total Project Cost: \$150,000
- NBRC Funds Requested: \$90,000
- Required Match: \$60,000 (40%)

Strategic Importance

This initiative supports rural and underserved communities by reducing early-stage engineering and planning barriers that often prevent small municipalities from advancing bridge projects. It also aligns with state and federal priorities related to infrastructure modernization, climate resilience, and expanded use of domestically sourced forest products. In the longer term, the project positions the region to compete for NBRC implementation funding and NYSDOT BridgeNY support.

Next Steps

NBRC applications are due April 17, 2026, with award decisions expected later in 2026. If funded, the project would begin July 1, 2026 and be completed within the NBRC three-year performance period.

6. Capital Region Housing and Transportation Opportunity Study

Summary

CDRPC has submitted a request for Fiscal Year 2027 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funding under the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill to support a regional planning initiative titled the *Capital Region Housing and Transportation Opportunity Study*. Identical applications were filed with both U.S. Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Charles E. Schumer, consistent with Senate guidance for CDS requests.

Project Overview

The proposed study will examine housing affordability and transportation access across the four-county Capital Region: Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady. The Capital Region's polycentric development pattern presents unique challenges for low- and moderate-income households who must navigate fragmented housing markets and uneven transit access.

Key components of the study include:

- Regional housing market and affordability analysis;
- Assessment of transportation access to jobs, education, healthcare, and essential services;
- Identification of priority corridors and sites where affordable housing can best leverage existing transit and infrastructure;
- Review of policies and zoning constraints affecting housing production;
- Development of a phased implementation framework to guide future federal, state, and local investment.

The project is planning-only and does not include construction activities.

Budget and Funding

- Total Project Cost: \$750,000
- Federal Funds Requested (CDS): \$750,000
- Required Match: None

Next Steps

Senate offices will review CDS submissions during the FY 2027 appropriations process. If selected by either or both Senators, the project would be advanced for consideration by the Senate Appropriations Committee later in 2026.

7. Statewide Regional Address Integration and Census Readiness Initiative

DRPC has submitted a New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA #152271) under the Department of State Local Government Efficiency (LGE) Program for the *Statewide Regional Address Integration and Census Readiness Initiative*. This application represents the first joint, coordinated funding request submitted collectively by all Regional Planning Boards and Councils across New York State, with CDRPC serving as Lead Applicant and fiscal agent.

Project Overview

The project is a multi-year, statewide effort to modernize and standardize residential address data in advance of the U.S. Census Bureau's Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program beginning in early 2027, in preparation for the 2030 Decennial Census. The initiative integrates E911 address points, parcel data, street centerlines, Census geography, and USPS validation into a single, census-verifiable framework maintained at the regional level. The goal is to improve LUCA acceptance rates, reduce undercounts, and ensure more accurate federal formula funding allocations to New York State and local governments.

Budget and Funding

- Total Project Cost: \$1,335,031
- LGE Funding Requested: \$1,201,528
- Local Match: \$133,503

Return on Investment (ROI)

An ROI analysis was prepared using the NYS Department of State LGE methodology, which assigns costs to the implementation period (Years 1–5) and quantifies benefits in Years 6–10. The analysis incorporates three conservative components:

1. Efficiency savings from statewide coordination and economies of scale;
2. Avoided costs associated with counties no longer needing to reconstruct address datasets each census cycle; and
3. Increased federal formula funding resulting from a modest 0.5% improvement in statewide housing-unit completeness, equivalent to approximately 34,000 additional residents accurately counted.

Based on this methodology:

- Total quantified savings (Years 6–10): approximately \$205.1 million
- Present value of savings (5% discount rate): approximately \$160.7 million
- Estimated Return on State Investment: approximately 12,856%

Next Steps

CFA award announcements are anticipated later in 2026. If funded, the project would begin following contract execution (anticipated October 2026) and continue through late 2029, aligned with the federal LUCA schedule.

8. Capital District Regional Housing & Transportation Group Technical Assistance

CDRPC, in coordination with the Capital Region Transportation Council (the region's MPO), is partnering with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Thriving Communities Technical Assistance (TCTA) Program to host a Group Technical Assistance (TA) convening for local governments across the Capital Region. The TA will be delivered by HUD's national consultants, ICF and Smart Growth America, under HUD's federal contract.

Project Overview

The Group Technical Assistance session is an in-person, half-day regional workshop designed to help municipalities develop a shared understanding of the relationship between housing and transportation, identify common challenges, and clarify implementation readiness across different community types (urban, suburban, small city, rural).

Key elements include:

- A pre-session survey to establish baseline conditions, challenges, and current local efforts related to housing and transportation coordination;
- Facilitated modules addressing:
 - Integration of housing considerations into transportation planning;
 - Planning and messaging housing development in a regional context;
 - Best practices in land use and regulatory updates across community types;
- Peer learning, structured discussion, and interactive breakout exercises;
- Identification of shared themes, unresolved questions, and potential pathways for follow-up HUD Direct Technical Assistance.

Budget and Funding

- Total Project Cost: \$0
- Funding Source: HUD Thriving Communities Technical Assistance (federal contract)
- Local Match Required: None

Next Steps

CDRPC and the Transportation Council are finalizing survey design, session logistics, and scheduling with the HUD TCTA team. The session is anticipated to occur later in 2026, with outputs used directly to inform the scope and structure of the regional housing and transportation opportunity study.

9. United Way of the Greater Capital Region- Digital Inclusion Initiative

CDRPC has executed a Subaward Agreement with the United Way of the Greater Capital Region (UWGCR) to implement a targeted Digital Inclusion and Broadband Affordability initiative under NYS Department of State Contract C1001939. The subaward operationalizes a portion of the existing DOS grant by directing funds to community-based delivery partners to address ongoing barriers to broadband adoption, device access, and digital literacy. The subaward is contingent on NYS DOS approval of a previously submitted budget modification and does not increase the total value of the underlying state contract.

Project Description

Under the Subaward Agreement, UWGCR will carry out a regional digital inclusion program focused on

practical, near-term interventions delivered through trusted community institutions, particularly public libraries. Activities outlined in the Scope of Work include:

- Digital Navigator Coordination and Support: Assisting residents with enrollment in affordable broadband programs, assessing device needs, and connecting participants to digital literacy resources;
- Library-Based Mobile Hotspot Lending: Establishing or expanding hotspot lending programs to provide interim internet access for households without reliable service;
- Library-Based Device Lending: Expanding access to Chromebooks and tablets for no-fee checkout by community members;
- Training and Outreach: Supporting staff training, participant outreach, and coordination with partner institutions;
- Program Metrics and Learning Outcomes: Collecting basic data on affordability awareness, device adequacy, and program effectiveness to inform future digital equity efforts.

Subaward Budget

The total subaward amount to UWGCR shall not exceed \$106,664.55. Allowable costs are limited to the categories below, as approved by DOS:

- Equipment & Devices: \$74,860.55
(primarily mobile hotspots, Chromebooks, and tablets for library lending programs)
- Grants & Contracts: \$24,000.00
(supporting implementation partners and program delivery)
- Personnel: \$3,304.00
(limited staffing support for coordination and oversight)
- Staff Training and Outreach: \$3,000.00
- Other Than Personnel Services: \$1,500.00

Payment Structure and Timing

- An initial equipment advance of up to \$74,860.55 may be issued following DOS approval and receipt of an invoice for approved equipment purchases.
- Remaining eligible costs will be reimbursed upon submission of documentation.
- All costs must be incurred on or before September 30, 2026, regardless of the agreement end date of December 31, 2026.

Next Steps

Implementation will proceed upon DOS approval of the related budget modification. CDRPC will oversee contract compliance, reporting, and equipment accountability in coordination with UWGCR through the end of the performance period.

10. Federal Funding Update

While the Administration proposed eliminating or significantly reducing several planning and economic development programs, Congress preserved all major funding streams relied upon by CDRPC. Approximately 45.6% of CDRPC revenue is derived directly or indirectly from federal sources. Based on current appropriations and agency guidance, no programs supporting CDRPC have been eliminated, and near-term funding risk is limited.

Key Federal Program Status (with Funding)

Economic Development Administration (EDA) – Partnership Planning

- Total Award: \$280,000
- FY2025 Budget: \$70,000
- Match Requirement: \$70,000
- Contract Term: 2024–2027
- Status: Preserved; modest funding reduction enacted.

- Congress rejected the proposed elimination of EDA and reauthorized the program in January. CDRPC's four-year planning grant remains fully operative.

EPA – Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

- Total Award: \$1,000,000
- FY2025 Budget: ~\$173,500
- Match Requirement: \$0
- Contract Term: 2023–2027
- Status: Preserved; funding restored.
- Funds briefly paused in February were restored in March. EPA has advised proceeding with all approved deliverables.

Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC)

- Total Award: Up to \$110,000
- FY2025 Budget: \$0
- Match Requirement: \$0
- Contract Term: May 2025 – September 2026
- Status: Fully preserved.
- Congress rejected the proposal to eliminate NBRC. CDRPC continues as the designated Local Development District under a new three-party MOU.

U.S. DOT / NYSDOT – MPO Planning (UPWP / PL Funds)

- Total Award: \$2,416,842
- FY2025 Budget: \$170,000
- Match Requirement: \$42,500
- Total Annual Cost: \$212,500
- Contract Term: 2022–2032
- Status: Preserved.
- MPO planning funds were explicitly protected by Congress despite broader DOT reductions.

EPA / NYS DEC – Clean Water Act §604(b)

- Total Award: \$436,070
- FY2025 Budget: \$87,000
- Match Requirement: \$4,350
- Total Annual Cost: \$91,350
- Contract Term: 2023–2027
- Status: Preserved.

Both chambers rejected elimination of §604(b) and preserved the State & Tribal Assistance Grants account.

Bottom Line

- No federal funding streams supporting CDRPC have been eliminated.
- Enacted reductions are modest and do not affect existing contracts.
- All federally supported programs remain stable, operational, and in good standing.
- No immediate budgetary or programmatic adjustments are required.

11. Staff Activity Report

A copy of the staff activity report was handed out to the Board and discussed. The Board was informed that Kate Maynard will be leaving CDRPC for a new job next week.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14.

The next Commission Meeting Date: 10:00am, June 17, 2026.

Respectfully submitted, Amy

Weinstock
Office Manager

Reviewed and approved by

_____ Date: _____
Michael Stammel, Secretary / Treasurer