



Planning Board

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

William Santos
Chairman

Monroe County Planning Board Meeting Minutes, March 12, 2026 – **DRAFT**

A meeting of the Monroe County Planning Board (MCPB) was held on March 12, 2026, at 3:00pm, in person, via Zoom, and live streamed on YouTube.

Members Present: William Santos, MCPB Chair; Mike Wiedemer, Vice Chair; Dave Watson, citizen member; Tyrese Bryant, citizen member; Elizabeth McDade, citizen member; Milton Pichardo, citizen member; Victor Sanchez, citizen member (joined 3:07); Rachel Barnhart, Legislator (via zoom through 4:13); Adrienne Green, Assistant Co. Exec.; Jennifer Cesario, Dir. of Finance, Richard Tantalo, Dir. of Public Safety; Sean Murphy, Chief of Engineering & Facilities Mgmt Dept. of Environmental Services

Alternates Present: Conor McMahon (for Deputy Co. Exec. Amy Grower); Joe Taddeo, Finance; Kristina Daugherty (Public Safety); Andy Fraser (DES)

Planning Staff Present: Ana Liss, Dir. Planning & Development; Pat Gooch, Sr. Associate Planner; Yixuan Lin, Sr. Planner, Secretary to the Board; Grace Sherburne, Planner II; Lisa Huntoon, Asst. to the Secretary to the Bd.

Others Present:
(In Person): Dept. of Public Safety: George Markert, Chris Fish, Kristine Durante, John Clark
Dept. of Transportation: Tom Frys, Tom Polech
Information Services: Ken Forney
Law Dept: Bridget Cook
Monroe County Hospital: Darren Vogt
Monroe Community College: Craig Ross, Quent Rhodes, Antonia Custodio,
Monroe County Sheriff's Office: Jennifer Curley, Chief Deputy Michael Fowler

Others Present
(Via zoom): Monroe County Library System: Katy Hasselwander
Dept. of Health – Toxicologist: Rebecca Hartman
Parks Department: Patrick Meredith, Director; Robert Kiley, Deputy Director; Thomas Morrissey, Senior Staff Assistant; Ashlee Long, Parks Administration Manager
Public: Shaun Nelms

Chairman Santos called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS:

Ms. Yixuan Lin shared that an addendum The Estimated Annual Impact on the Operating Budget for the proposed 2027-2032 CIP was emailed to board members and provided hard copies of the addendum in the meeting. There is no change to schedule or programs and the tables will be added to the final CIP recommended to the County Executive.

MOTION TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING:

Motion: Mr. Watson

Seconded: Mr. Weidemer

Vote: Motion Approved

The Public Hearing was opened at 3:07 pm by Chairman Santos.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mr. Santos opened the *Public Hearing* on the County's proposed 2027-2032 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and introduced Patrick Gooch, Sr. Associate Planner to start the presentation. Mr. Gooch began by going through the steps to access the CIP on the County's website and then gave a slide presentation on the CIP process and an overview of the proposed CIP (attached). The proposed CIP report can be found at <https://www.monroecounty.gov/planning-cip>

At the conclusion of the presentation, there was an opportunity for questions and/or comments, below are responses:

- Mr. Gooch shared that Monroe County, when compared to other counties, is a large urbanized county and is in the top 1,000 in the entire US in term of size (of roughly 3,143 counties). The county has a relatively advanced capital improvement program with significant funding.
- In regard to the Monroe Community College (MCC) Master Plan, Mr. Gooch shared that there will be a presentation from MCC next week. He also shared that capital improvements are funded equally by the County and MCC (50/50).
- Mr. Murphy from DES explained the green projects (bonding) noted in the CIP on some projects comes from the facilities side. There is a green building policy for any building that is larger than 5,000 sf and has to go through a green policy evaluation. The goal is to try and decrease any environmental impacts and they are always trying to look these projects from a "green" perspective.
- The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is how DOT facilitates with the Genesee Transportation Council where federal dollars flow down into our local region. That is how federal funds get programmed into the CIP.
- Ms. McDade shared her appreciation for bicycle lane considerations in the CIP. Mr. Fry's stated the bike lanes are proposed subject to space availability and municipal concurrence
- Mr. Gooch spoke about the Airspace Protection Program and explained the Federal Aviation requires that all airports make certain there are no obstructions in the way of the runway landing and takeoff areas. For example, trees could be fine for many years but as they grow, they can become a problem.

Chairman Santos stated that the closing date for submitting public comments and/or questions is March 18, 2025.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING:

Motion: Ms. McDade

Seconded: Mr. Bryant

Vote: Motion Approved

The Public Hearing was closed at 3:42 pm by Chairman Santos.

Chairman Santos, on behalf of the Board thanked the department representatives for attending the Public Hearing.

APPROVAL OF THE March 5, 2026 MEETING MINUTES:

Motion: Mr. Murphy

Seconded: Mr. Tantalo

Vote: Motion Approved

DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION:

a) Department of Transportation

Presenters: Tom Frys and Tom Polech

Discussion:

Mr. Frys provided an overview of the Department of Transportation's responsibilities, sharing the functions of its five divisions: Major Maintenance and Traffic Engineering, Transportation Engineering and Permits, Transportation Operations, Traffic Signal Engineering and Operations, and Administrative and Planning. He then spoke about the increase in overall materials costs which in turn has increased project costs. DOT does get state and federal funding on some projects where Monroe County is only responsible for 5% of the cost.

At the conclusion of the presentation, there was an opportunity for questions and/or comments, below are responses:

- Mr. Frys explained there are crosswalk and bike path flashers at the crossings where criteria has deemed it helpful.
- With railroad crossings, if DOT receives complaints or notices issues, they will pass them along to the corresponding agency. Transportation is not allowed to go within their right-of-way.
- Regarding potholes, etc. people can call and report them to dispatch, there is also an online form to report on the county DOT website. They will take a look and repair within 24-48 hours.
- Painting of the Bay Bridge is a NY State project.
- Some projects are determined to be Capital Projects based on the work and scope of the project.
- DOT primarily uses local consultants.
- The Countywide Active Transportation Plan was completed in 2023 and currently the County is working on the Active Transportation Implementation Plan for County facilities.

- Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) is a joint collaborative effort among departments of DOT, Public Safety and Planning. It is the first in New York State. The CTST members meet regularly to address public road safety concerns.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 2025 CAPITAL BUDGET PROJECT PRIORITY VOTE:

Mr. Gooch reviewed the instructions on the Priority Vote which can be completed online or by paper ballot. The instructions were handed out to any Board member present who wanted one. Mr. Gooch asked the Board members to have their voting completed by Wednesday, March 18th, so he can tally the results which will then be reviewed at the next Planning Board meeting on March 19th.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

March 19, 2026 at 3:00 pm - Department CIP Presentation, CIP Votes, Budget year priority project vote and regular action items

March 26, 2026 at 3:30 (tentative)

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: Ms. Cesario

Seconded: Mr. Tantalo

Adjournment: 4:30 pm

