

**PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
of the  
Suffolk County Legislature**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Public Works & Transportation Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **March 25, 2003**.

**Members Present:**

Legislator Joseph Caracappa - Chairman  
Legislator Brian Foley - Vice-Chair  
Legislator Andrew Crecca  
Legislator Fred Towle  
Legislator George Guldi  
Legislator William Lindsay

**Also in Attendance:**

Paul Sabatino - Counsel to the Legislature  
Phyllis McAlevey - Aide to Legislator Caracappa  
Anthony Figliola - Aide to Presiding Officer Postal  
Ray Zaccara - Aide to Legislator Bishop  
Eben Bronfman - Aide to Legislator Guldi  
Jim Spero - Deputy Director/Budget Review Office  
Kevin Duffy - Budget Review Office  
Nicole DeAngelo - Intergovernmental Relations/County Executive Office  
Charles Bartha - Commissioner/SC Public Works Department  
Richard LaValle - Chief Deputy Commissioner/SC Public Works Department  
Leslie Mitchel - Deputy Commissioner/SC Public Works Department  
Tedd Godek - Suffolk County Architect/SC Public Works Department  
Keith Larson - Architect/SC Public Works Department  
Emi Endo - Newsday  
All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken By:**

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

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(\*The meeting was called to order at 3:36 P.M. \*)

**CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

We're going to start the Public Works & Transportation Committee meeting with a salute to the flag led by Legislator Lindsay.

Salutation

We do have a presentation scheduled but I'd ask the committee's indulgence if we can just get through the agenda quickly so I then can turn the meeting over to Vice-chairman Foley because I have a prior commitment.

LEG. GULDI:  
Oh no, not that.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:  
He's back. I hear Charlie laughing.

LEG. FOLEY:  
I'm taking no prisoners.

LEG. GULDI:  
Brian, I want to catch a movie at nine.

LEG. FOLEY:  
It depends on the quality of the presentation.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:  
When, nine tomorrow; is that nine tomorrow, George?

LEG. GULDI:  
Yeah, it's breakfast.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:  
Then you might make it, if you're lucky.

LEG. FOLEY:  
What a reputation.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:  
You're thorough, Brian, exceptionally thorough and we're proud of it.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:  
Okay. We're going to just go through the few agenda items that we have; in fact, I think one needs to be stricken.

1039-03 (P) - Approving extension of license for Sayville Ferry Service, Inc., for Cross Bay Service between Sayville, New York and the Fire Island Communities of Fire Island Pines, Cherry Grove and Water Island (Presiding Officer Postal). I believe this was approved at the last General Meeting, so please strike that.

1090-03 (P) - Approving Cross Bay Ferry license for Bay Shore Ferry, Inc. (Presiding Officer Postal). Where's Budget Review? Budget Review, if you are -- Phyllis, get Budget Review in here. I haven't received a copy of the report on Cross Bay and I don't believe we --

LEG. LINDSAY:  
Let's pass over it.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:  
We'll pass over it. The same holds true for Bay Shore Ferry, the next one, 1092-03 (P) - Authorization of rates for Bay Shore Ferry, Inc. (Presiding Officer Postal). Have not seen the report by Budget Review, I know they are working on it. So we'll pass over that as well.

1206-03 - Authorizing public hearing for authorization of rate alterations for Sayville Ferry Service, Inc., for Cross Bay Service between Sayville, New York and the Fire Island Communities of Fire Island Pines, Cherry Grove & Water Island (Presiding Officer Postal). Motion by Legislator Foley, seconded by Legislator Lindsay. All in favor? Opposed? That public hearing is set (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).

1207-03 - Authorizing of alteration of rates for Sayville Ferry Service, Inc., for Cross Bay Services between Sayville, New York and the Fire Island Communities of Fire Island Pines, Cherry Grove & Water Island (Presiding Officer Postal). That we have to table.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:  
Motion to table by Legislator Foley, second by myself.  
Tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).

I do believe, on 1090 and 1092, they have to be tabled as well. Here they come now. Run.

MR. SPERO:  
I don't run as fast as I used to. What's up?

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:  
Guys, 1090 and 1092, reports from Budget Review Office they're not finalized, right?

MR. DUFFY:  
They're not due till the middle of April.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:  
They're not due till the middle of April, okay. So we're going to -- we're going to table until we get the reports from you and review

them. Do you have any other comments, Kevin, on the other ferry?

MR. SPERO:  
Bay Shore Ferry or Sayville?

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CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:  
We have Cross Bay, Bay Shore.

MR. DUFFY:  
Well, what would happen as far as Bay Shore Ferry is concerned, since you're establishing a rate for a new destination, you really can't vote on their license until such time as we have done our report and you're ready also to give them the rate on that application.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:  
So we'll table both of them. Thank you, that's what we needed to know.

1090, motion to table by myself, second by Legislator Foley.  
Tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).

1092, motion to table by Legislator Lindsay, second by myself. All in favor? Opposed? Both resolutions are tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).

That does it for the agenda. We are going to have a presentation based on the old Infirmary building. Legislator Foley had asked for an update on that and at this point in time, I'm going to turn the meeting over to Legislator Foley.

(\*Legislator Towle entered the meeting at 3:40 P.M.  
and requested that his votes be recorded with the majority)

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Bartha, you have your architect who is going to --

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:  
Tedd?

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:  
Whoever. Yes, Commissioner, go ahead.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:  
I just -- you typically ask before a meeting whether there is anything I would like to say. We have assessed the condition of the roads after the difficult winter --

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:  
Yes.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

-- and we are roughly estimating at this point approximately a million dollars of damage to the roads that require repair. We're going to try to take some of it out of the strengthening and improving budget, but as we go along this process we may come back to you and ask you to supplement that budget in order to keep up the good program we have of strengthening and improving roads as well as addressing the unusual damage over the past winter. And as President of the Suffolk County Highway Superintendent's Association, being in contact with different towns, there are certainly similar problems going on in the towns, and possibly to a greater degree because the character of the roads, Suffolk County roads are better roads.

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ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Just on that point, will you be -- will the resolution be forwarded from the County Executive to be laid on the table at the April 8th meeting for the road resurfacing program?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

It is over at the County Executive's Office, I would hope to see it laid on the table.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

How long ago was that submitted to the County Exec's Office, do you know?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

About three weeks ago.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Three weeks ago, okay. People are here from the County Exec's Office; can you give us on the record whether or not a resolution will be forwarded by next Wednesday? If you could just come forward. Because we do have until next Wednesday to put a bill down. Just state your name for the record.

MS. DE ANGELO:

Nicole De Angelo, County Executive's office. As you had said, we have until next Wednesday to decide what resolutions are going to be laid on the table, so we'll wait until then.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Okay, you haven't -- no decision has been made yet then.

MS. DE ANGELO:

Not yet.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Okay. Thank you, Nicole. Commissioner, along with the appropriation you had submitted a list of roadways that you had intended to repave?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

That's correct.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Distributed well throughout the County.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Okay, that's right. All right, very good. Along with that, this additional million dollars that you need for patch work and other kinds of work, would you want to submit that by next Wednesday as well or that can wait?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

We wouldn't be prepared to give it to you in a format that we would be

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satisfied with, so we're continuing our evaluation, getting the information together.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Okay. Well, thank you. Before we hear from Chief Architect, are there any other questions that committee members may have on DPW related business, whether in your district or County-wide. Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Did we award the Raynor Park contract yet, Charlie?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Yes. Tedd, am I correct?

MR. GODEK:

Yes, we did.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

That's it? Okay. All right. I had asked for an update on the renovations to the Infirmary building, the WPA building on Yaphank Avenue. As we all know, it's part and parcel of our overall effort to reconstruct not only the old Infirmary, but also it's part and parcel of the process of reconstructing the Evans K. Griffing Building in Riverhead. And to that end, I had asked, through the Chair, to have an update as well as a presentation on where things stand with this

particular project. So Commissioner, I will hand it over to you.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Tedd has -- Tedd and Keith have prepared a nice presentation, so they'll handle it.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Are there any handouts, any material for us to read?

MR. GODEK:

At this point, no.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Okay. Go ahead.

MR. GODEK:

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, just in a brief sense a little bit of history here. Back in 1999 the County Executive proposed and the Legislature approved the Capital Program for the adoptive reuse and renovation of the old Home Infirmary. During that planning process or during the planning process that has taken place since then, we have worked through a number of alternative scenarios, a number of different programs that included at various points the location of the Sheriff's Academy at this facility, the location of a child care center in this building and at one point a temporary headquarters for the County Clerk while his space was being renovated in Riverhead. All of those were considered and at one point presented in one form or another to members of the Space Committee and so on.

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We have ultimately come up with our program for occupying that building, and what it entails now is the occupancy of Purchasing; the Sheriff's Civil Department; two divisions of the Health Department, Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection; and certain maintenance custodian or custodial and storage areas, some storage for the Board of Elections, and the auditorium which we anticipate being used by any number of people. The footage in that building totals approximately 86,000 square feet. Purchasing will be taking up about 6,500, and I'm using round numbers; the Sheriff's Civil Department accommodating 67 persons will be taking up approximately 13,000; Environmental Quality almost 20,000 servicing 18 -- I'm sorry, 86 people.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Now, Environmental Quality -- and Tedd, after today I would hope that you could reduce this to writing or to print so we can review it in the future.

MR. GODEK:

Okay.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Environmental Quality, that's taking -- there's two different divisions now, there's one in Riverhead and there's one in Hauppauge and you're going to join the two together in Yaphank?

MR. GODEK:

We're going to consolidate them in Yaphank, yes.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Okay, good. Go ahead.

LEG. GULDI:

Mr. Chairman, just to back up.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Yeah, Legislator Guldi.

LEG. GULDI:

That is the Sheriff's Civil Division, 67 people, 13,000 square feet, 500 square feet per person? The Civil Division occupies about 3,000 square feet now, does it not?

MR. GODEK:

Yes, and they put in an SAR at one point for rental pass that totals somewhere in the vicinity of 13,000 feet.

LEG. GULDI:

What's the -- I don't understand why the utilization for those personnel is so heavy, could you explain that?

MR. GODEK:

It is personnel intensive, there is desk space, there is file space. There are also spaces for the general public to come in and be serviced, so it is -- appears to be larger than usual but, in fact, the space is utilized effectively and efficiently.

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ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

It's 3,000 square feet right now, George?

LEG. GULDI:

Well, the small building I'm guessing from just an eyeball of the small building they're using in Westhampton.

MR. GODEK:

Yeah --

LEG. GULDI:

They're consolidating other facilities. The question is is the ratio still 500 square feet per person which is a little bit --

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Quadrupling the size.

LEG. GULDI:

Well, it's a little bit high and I just wanted to -- do you have a breakdown on the utilization, do you have the detail on how you derive that figure?

MR. GODEK:

I don't have that with me, no.

LEG. GULDI:

No, but you do have it and can provide it.

MR. GODEK:

Yes.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Commissioner, if you can speak into the microphone please. And I think it would be helpful if you give this presentation to the Space Management Committee, too.

LEG. GULDI:

Well, I'm sure we've had it ad nauseam at Space.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

That's before you got on the committee, George.

LEG. GULDI:

I don't think that time exists any longer. I'm sure the rest of the committee feels the same way.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Having the ability to sit back and look at this, I think the arithmetic is more like 200 square feet.

MR. GODEK:

That's correct.

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ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

That's why it would have been helpful to have this in written form for

us, but that's okay. Go ahead, Tedd.

MR. GODEK:

Okay. Also under the Health Department we have Environmental Protection which is coming over from Riverhead also, they've got 11,000 square feet and 61 people will be occupying that space. The auditorium as we envision it right now is about 1,750 square feet. We're making a bit of a modification to the rear of the area and we can put 175 people in that space.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

What modification are you making? That's where the projector used to be, correct?

MR. GODEK:

That's correct. Basically what we're doing is at some point in time they added an elevator to the back of the room, we are now squaring that off. It left us with sort of a truncated L-shaped room, we'll be squaring that off and making it more rectangular.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Jim, why don't you come over on this side of the horseshoe, please. And how do you intend to take care of the murals that the WPA artists had --

MR. GODEK:

Those murals will be protected during construction.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Okay.

MR. GODEK:

At this point in time, we haven't made any provisions for any restoration or preservation but we'll be looking at that once the bids on the overall project come in; if we have some available funds we'll look at --

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

It's my understanding -- not only my understanding, but what I had requested years back was to make sure that in the meantime that those murals would be protected, and the answer from the department was that they were in fact being protected.

MR. GODEK:

Yes, they will be.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

I mean, they have been over the last number of years, even though the building has not been used.

MR. GODEK:  
Right.

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ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

All right. So there's no -- it's not cracking or molding or none of those problems are occurring with the murals. Okay, go ahead.

MR. GODEK:

All right, just for the sake of layout, on the first floor the Sheriff's Civil Department will occupy the entire easterly half of the building. The two westerly wings will be shared by Purchasing and the Environmental Quality Division of the Health Department. The second floor will be occupied by -- solely by the Health Department in their Environmental Quality Division and their Environmental Protection Division.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

And they're moving from where, the second floor Health?

MR. GODEK:

They're coming from Riverhead and, in fact, is allowing us to -- just as a little bit of an aside here. With this people moving out we can effectively consolidate all the rest of the Health Department occupancies in a single wing of the Riverhead County Center.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

And then you'll free up the space to be used by whom?

MR. GODEK:

Various other departments, and there's a list of them. Basically what that does, though, is it helps us with security in that area, too, because we can dedicate the entire -- as I said, the entire wing for the Health Department use and not have Health Department people throughout the rest of the building.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Just on that point and the sufferance of my fellow committee members, I'll put on my Health Committee hat for a moment. Over a period of time I know the Health Department has asked to have larger space for the Riverhead Health Center, giving that there's going to be increasing need particularly to serve that part of the County. How does the Riverhead plan, the Evans K. Griffing plan address that, if you are going to be moving all the Health Department people into one wing?

MR. GODEK:

The Evans K. Griffing plan doesn't anticipate any sizeable addition to the health center per se. We are moving a couple of administrative

functions upstairs which is where we're freeing up the space. The lower floor which is dedicated to the health center is basically staying as it is.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Is there any room down there for expansion of the health center, if you move some things upstairs?

MR. GODEK:

You're very limited, very limited at this point.

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ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

All right. Go ahead with the Infirmary.

MR. GODEK:

Okay. The lower floor will be occupied by various miscellaneous uses. Public Works Maintenance will be down there, Public Works Custodial will have some space, the Board of Elections will be using some of the area for voting booth storage and the Environmental Quality Division will be using some of that area down there for storage also.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

What was the old kitchen area, the large kitchen area where people used to go eat; was that downstairs or was it on the first story?

MR. GODEK:

That's downstairs.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

And how is that being used?

MR. GODEK:

That's being used for miscellaneous space, storage and things like that.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Okay.

MR. GODEK:

As far as the building itself is concerned, we will be updating the exterior of the building, not making any major changes to it per se except for cleaning it up, bringing back some of the historic fabric that was lost during improvements that have been made over the years. What you're looking at here is a picture taken back in 2000 before it was cleaned up. We will be looking to, as I said, restore some of the historic detailing in the windows, in the doors, in the {transom} panels and in the trim. The accessible ramp that is presently placed on the west side of the building will be located to the south side,

thus cleaning up the front facade.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

So efforts are being made to replicate the early architecture of the building.

MR. GODEK:

That's correct.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Including the windows and the windows panes and the like, correct?

MR. GODEK:

Yes. As a matter of fact --

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Very good. Excellent.

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MR. GODEK:

On the south side of the building, that so called sun porch will be removed and, again, we'll look to restore it to its original historic fabric with the colonnade} and the doors and so on.

The site improvements that we are anticipating at this point, we need to add parking to the site which we've done along the south side of the building and we've managed to do that with a minimum of disruption to the trees that are there. Some people look at the parking layout and think it a bit strange, that is so because we're trying to get around the trees. The miscellaneous buildings on the west side will be taken down and a parking lot will be built there. In both cases, the gazebos both on the north side and the south side will be maintained as will all the trees on the north side of the building. We are doing some planting on the east side in front of the main entrance, there will be new trees planted, some ground plantings and a small berm created.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Repeat that.

MR. GODEK:

I'm sorry. New plantings on the east side will include a berm along the -- in front of the parking that we'll get some new trees, some new shrubbery, as I said, a low berm.

ACTING CHAIR. FOLEY:

Could you tell us why the parking isn't on the north side which is actually closer to the Expressway, on the south side you would then have an uninterrupted flow of yard and trees flowing towards the

agricultural lands that Cornell farms.

MR. GODEK:

The interior layout of the building is such that we are bringing people in through the east side and the south side.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

You're bringing employees in.

MR. GODEK:

Yes.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Why couldn't you bring the employees in from the north side?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

What Tedd also indicated, you may not have been aware that parking was laid out very much to save trees that are there.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

I understand that. No, and I -- all kudos to the department for being sensitive about that particular feature. So with that said, though, why couldn't we on the north side do this?

MR. GODEK:

The north side of the building has loading docks, features that didn't

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lend itself to bringing the public in through that side so we were faced with bringing them through the south, as I said, and the parking then develops there.

With some berming, we hope to screen that a little bit so it doesn't become so obvious from the street. But as I said, the trees remain, the gazebos remain --

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

The gazebo which has a lot of sentimental value to the old Infirmary and also is part of the history of the Infirmary, so that will remain as well there.

MR. GODEK:

Yes, sir.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Very good. Okay, continue.

MR. GODEK:

Then we get to our favorite subject, cost. Legislator Guldi, cost?

LEG. GULDI:

Cost; I might have missed it.

MR. GODEK:

Not likely. As we estimate the project right now, currently we have \$15.6 million appropriated for construction. Our current estimates prebid are \$9 million for general construction; 270,000 -- again, round numbers -- for plumbing; HVAC, three million point three or four; and electrical, one million point nine, totaling fourteen million seven; again, round numbers. So we appear to be in good shape budget-wise.

The time frame. Currently we are looking to bid during the summer and start construction in July. We're looking at an 18 month time period for the renovation of Phase I which is 75% of the building; that would put us at completion of that phase in December, 2004.

Purchasing presently occupies space there now, they will be moved and their space renovated. Their movement will take about a month to accomplish and their renovation about five months. After moving in all the remaining departments from the various areas of the County that they're being drawn from, we're looking at an ultimate occupancy of July of 2005, so it's about a two year process.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

That's it?

MR. GODEK:

That's it

MR. GODEK:

That's it.

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ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:

Well, that's a very good presentation. And as I say, if you could please quickly follow-up with that in writing and print to the committee members. I appreciate the overview, particularly the importance that you've given to the finer historical, architectural details and making hopefully what will be minimal impact to the landscaping of the area. I thank you very much for keeping those two things particularly in mind, and I know that you have given also attention to the concerns of the Civil Bureau.

The only respectful correction that I would make for the record and for posterity is the record should reflect that prior to 1999 for a number of years the Budget Review Office had in their recommendation and analysis of the County Executive's proposed budget, throughout the

90's, the need to come up with a plan for the old Infirmary building. So through the Budget Review Office and then Chair of the Public Works Committee and currently the Vice-Chair, we had worked together to, in took, place this into the Capital Program. So I would just make that one correction as to where the genesis was for this. But certainly, the cooperation now of the County Executive is crucial in order to move this project forward.

And I'm happy to see that we'll be starting this year, putting a variety of trades to work and at the same time preserving for another I would say, what, Tedd, another 75 years this building once we construct it?

MR. GODEK:  
At least.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:  
At least; that's the beauty of these WPA buildings, it could last another hundred years. So the historic public use of that property is going to continue for the next 75 to 100 years thanks to the care that the department has taken in developing the reconstruction plans for the facility.

Commissioner, is there anything else you would like to add on this?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:  
No. Thank you for the opportunity.

ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:  
Okay. So with that said, we'll have a new element on Yaphank Avenue, a large element of the Health Department which we've never had before, so that's going to make for a more interesting mix.

Just by and by, Tedd, in the past we had a presentation made about the child care center at the Dennison Building and how it's under subscribed and how that could have an impact on what we do or don't do for a child care center at Yaphank. Has Mr. Smith reached out, Bob Smith reached out to --

MR. GODEK:  
Yes, he has,

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ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:  
Okay.

MR. GODEK:  
And I'll be sitting down with Mr. Smith to discuss that very subject.

**ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:**

Okay, very good. Legislator Lindsay?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I just want to comment that the plan, you guys did a good job.

**MR. GODEK:**

Thank you.

**ACTING CHAIR FOLEY:**

Thank you. Any other questions for the committee -- from the committee for the department? Hearing none, thank you very much. Meeting adjourned.

(\*The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 P.M.\*)

Legislator Joseph Caracappa, Chairman  
Public Works & Transportation Committee

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