

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

November 7, 2013

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Ralph Swenson	City of Kingston
Alan Adin	City of Kingston
John Dittus	Town of Hurley
Mike Warren	Town of Marbletown/Supervisors Association
Jeanne Walsh	Town of Rosendale
Alex Wade	Village of Saugerties
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
David Bolles	Ulster County DPW
Susan Ronga	Ulster County DPW
Edward Pine	Ulster County DPW
Andrew Emrich	Ulster County DPW
Robert DiBella	Ulster County Area Transit
Diane Beitzl	Ulster County Safety Officer and Traffic Coordinator
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Kristen Resnikoff	NYS Thruway Authority
Anne Noonan	Adirondack Trailways
David Gilmour	Gilmour Planning

Staff:

Brian Slack	UCTC Staff
David Staas	UCTC Staff

CALL TO ORDER

The Technical Committee portion of the meeting was called to order by Mr. Slack at 10:00am. Roll call was conducted by Mr. Slack.

CALL FOR CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Slack asked if there were any citizen comments. David Gilmour of Gilmour Planning and on behalf of the Cornell Cooperative Extension: Creating Healthy Places project commented on the development of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) regarding complete streets integration into future plans. Mr. Gilmour stated appreciation regarding the existing UPWP. However the following recommendations were made:

- Context sensitive planning that considers complete streets design principles in all projects including “fix it first” projects to facilitate intermodalism.
- Review and update the Ulster County complete streets policy
- Leverage funding sources from other agencies for UPWP projects

- Increase the number of small intersection studies with branding for the communities.
- Increase transparency with regards to design standards used in projects.
- Adopting the regional sustainability plan.
- Update the Non-Motorized transportation plan before the LRTP update
- Consider intermodal element for the LRTP

No further citizen comments were submitted.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2013 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Slack requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 9/24/13 meeting of the UCTC Tech Committee. Susan Ronga made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Joel Brink. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received since the last meeting of the council.

Tom Weiner announced that the local projects unit would be reaching out to project sponsors for projects that were supposed to have project phases obligated in FFY 2013 but were not obligated.

Supervisor Warren announced that a rail trail bridge over Rest Plaus road would be delivered in the beginning of December. Work was also started on the Kripplebush Creek bridge as part of the O&W Rail trail, completing 8.3 Miles of the Trail through Marbletown. Additionally, a connection between the O&W rail trail and the Walkill Valley rail trail is being examined to bolster interconnectivity of the trails, further increasing use and tourist activity.

No further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Revisions to Resolution 2013-05: To Define the Urbanized Area Boundary and Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary for the Ulster County Transportation Council.

Staff have identified an error in the language used in Resolution 2013-05 which was approved at the July 23, 2013 UCTC Policy Committee meeting

Mr. Slack requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Ralph Swenson; second by Susan Ronga.

Mr. Slack explained that the language in the resolution incorrectly referenced Census Tracts instead of Census Blocks. The boundary as mapped in the resolution was correct but the verbal description was inconsistent with the units used in establishing the boundary.

No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

Draft Revised Resolution 2013-12: Allocation of Previously Unallocated Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Formula Funds for Various Transit Projects:

The Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area has a total of \$3,211,480 in un-programmed FTA Sec. 5307 funds available for future programming. UCTC has requested one-time funding in the amount of \$300,000 to support UCAT transit service in the TMA portion of Ulster County. This request was supported by the UCTC Technical and Policy Committees through Resolution 2013-09. Revision: The joint request from Orange and Dutchess Counties for \$500,000 in funds to continue the Newburgh-Beacon ferry has been withdrawn; it was determined that the ferry is adequately funded for the next year. Total unallocated request equals \$300,000 to TMA MPOs.

Mr. Slack requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Susan Ronga; second by Ralph Swenson.

Mr. Slack noted that all other members of the TMA must pass similar resolutions to allow for the funding to be allocated to UCAT.

Joel Brink asked if ferry service was to be discontinued as the funding request was retracted. Mr. Slack clarified, indicating that the ferry was adequately funded and that the previously requested unallocated 5307 funds were not needed to continue operations.

No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

SFY 2014-15 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The UCTC will begin preparing its 2014-15 UPWP in November. UCTC invites members to recommend transportation planning projects or identify issues of concern that they would like to see addressed in the UPWP. In SFY2013 UCTC was allocated a total of \$445,005 in Federal FTA and FHWA funds; \$212,155 was programmed for projects that required consultant assistance. Among UCTC priorities in 2014 include the commencement of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update, which needs to be completed by August 2015. This will be accomplished through a mix of staff and consultant support.

Mr. Slack reviewed some of the studies done in the past which can be broken down into the following categories:

- Transportation Infrastructure Planning
- Circulation Access and Parking studies
- Corridor studies
- Parking management
- Wayfinding/signage plans

Although there are many categories of work which can be performed with UPWP funds, detailed design is not eligible for funding through the UPWP.

To have a project included on the UPWP, municipalities are encouraged to submit proposals with a brief project description and cost estimate for consideration. Proposals should conform to the goals of the LRTP.

A request was made for examples of what types of studies would be considered.

Mr. Slack reiterated the categories previously identified and noted projects such as the Boices Lane Rail Corridor study, the I-587 intersection study, and the PIL study.

Supervisor Warren asked what roads were eligible under the PIL program. Mr. Slack indicated that local, county, and state roads are eligible for consideration under the PILs program. The UCTC PIL study aims to identify areas of high congestion and accidents and provide recommendations to improve safety.

Tom Weiner noted that NYSDOT operates their own PIL program which identifies areas with high levels of accidents given the volume for particular segments of roadways. However, limited funds and a high number of locations allow for only the most severe locations to get addressed each year.

Mr. Slack asked if any members had any projects in mind already for the UPWP. John Dittus responded, asking if the Wyncoop Road Bridge over the Esopus Creek in the Town of Hurley could be considered. Ed Pine indicated that the Ulster County DPW has already begun design work and the structure is currently scheduled to be worked on in the spring of 2014.

Mr. Slack further informed members that a direct email request for projects will occur detailing the application process.

Boices Lane Rail Safety Study – Presentation of Findings

The final project presentation was delivered to the Town of Ulster Town Board on October 17 by Creighton Manning Engineers; all project deliverables have been accepted. The project is complete pending submission and payment of final invoice. The final report is available on the UCTC website at <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/planning/tdoc.html>.

Mr. Slack presented findings from the study, highlighting the existing issues and then presenting recommendations from the report. Three short term solutions were developed as follows:

- Traffic signal maintenance
- Widen and extend east bound right turn lane on Boices Lane Morton Blvd by 250'
- Widen the crossing within the existing ROW

These improvements are estimated to cost \$455k (repair) - \$935K (replacement) and may be eligible for FHWA§130 Railway-Highways Crossing Program Funds

Tom Weiner indicated that the FHWA§130 funds are only available for the grade crossing itself, and are controlled by NYSDOT Main Office Rail Safety. A field visit has been scheduled with the Rail Safety staff to look at the crossing to identify what the funds could be used for.

In addition to these short term solutions, three long term solutions were also developed. Of these three solutions the “Modified Tech City” design has been identified as a preferred alternative. This long term solution will provide the following improvements to the facility

- Complete the pedestrian network
- Provides good signal operations

- Addresses roadway capacity and alignment needs
- ROW from 50' to 74'
- Relocation of RR equipment
- Clarifies driver guidance

These improvements are estimated to cost \$3.1m with no program funds currently identified for the project.

Diane Beitzl asked if the signals would be addressed as one of the primary outcomes. Mr. Slack responded indicating that they were a priority but identifying funds for the replacement may be difficult.

Tom Weiner indicated that Safety funds could be utilized but the project must provide a clear benefit in the reduction of accidents.

Jeanne Walsh asked about the nature of the accidents identified at the crossing through the study. Mr. Slack responded noting that the underlying factor behind the accident is not always known and it is suspected that the configuration of the intersection and the gate action may contribute to driver confusion, leading to accidents. Current accident reporting methods do not always indicate if the crossing was activated or that it was a contributing factor. Reporting of accidents at the location should be more detailed to help quantify the benefit of improvements at the facility to make the project more viable for safety funds.

No further discussion.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

Draft Resolution 2013-06: Apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year 2013 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (MHVTMA)

Resolution 2013-06 continues to remain draft as negotiations between NY and NJ continue in an effort to determine the final funding split between the two states. Until a funding split can be determined, this resolution will remain tables. Mr. Slack, in consultation with Robert DiBella, indicated that a final resolution would need to be passed by June of 2014 when the next grant applications are being written.

Tom Weiner explained that the funding split has not been determined as a larger UZA further downstate is facing similar issues and is of a higher priority.

2014 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program

On September, 30th 2013 the New York State Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) was approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), therefore approving the UCTC TIP as it is contained by the STIP. Copies of the UCTC TIP were distributed to UCTC member agencies.

New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program

Jeanne Walsh explained that the Governor created a program to rebuild communities impacted by Hurricanes Sandy and Tropical Storm Irene. Within Ulster County, a number of communities have partnered together in an effort to create a stronger application. UCTC members are encouraged to attend the meetings to garner more input.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

The Transportation Alternatives Program is a new program set forth under MAP-21, replacing the existing Transportation Enhancements program from SAFETEA-LU. The Transportation Alternatives program will have less available funds than the TEP program which will make the program more competitive. Members considering putting forth applications are encouraged to contact and coordinate with UCTC staff to help create strong applications and for potentially creating joint applications with other entities.

FTA §5310 - Upcoming Solicitation

Announcement for funds is expected in 2014 to provide for new transit services for elderly and disabled populations within Ulster County.

2013 TEP Solicitation

The regional applications have been reviewed and forwarded to NYSDOT Main Office for review and selection. Awards are expected to be issued within the next several months.

Complete Streets Fact Sheet 2.0

New York State Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (NYSAMPO) has published a two page fact sheet aimed towards municipal officials, planners, and citizens that provides a summary of the benefits of complete streets. Printed copies will be provided upon their arrival.

Mid Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area Certification Review

Results from the Triennial review are expected within the next few weeks

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Slack reviewed the following ongoing projects:

- 44.23.02-01: Initiate a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Demonstration Project – The Contract with Alta Planning has been finalized; project anticipated to commence with a Technical Advisory Committee Kick-Off meeting in early November 2013.
- 44.23.02-05 Kingston Broadway Corridor Study – RFP was issued in early October with a deadline of 10/30/13. Selection Committee will be convened shortly thereafter in order to review all proposals received. It is anticipated that as many as 10 proposals may be received from consulting firm for consideration.
- 44.23.02-06 Rosendale Circulation Study - Final RFP issued by Ulster County Purchasing Department on October 22, 2013; deadline for submissions is November 21, 2013.

- 44.26.15: Initiate a Study of the Need and Location for an Intermodal Facility to Serve the Greater New Paltz Area: Behan Planning in association with Nelson Nygaard and Alfandre Architecture have been hired as the consultant team for this project. A Technical Advisory Committee has been formed and conducted 1 in-person meeting and 2 conference calls. Consultants will produce a series of Technical Memoranda that will define the transit service area and land use characteristics; develop a comprehensive list of facility requirements; analyze the study area for potential location and site selection; and develop concept plans for one or more preferred locations. A final report compiling this information and summarizing recommendations will be produced and presented to the community in a public forum. The first of two public workshops have been scheduled for November 21 at 7:00 PM at the SUNY New Paltz Student Union.
http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/planning/npaltz_ifp.html
- 44.22.03: 2012 Traffic Monitoring Program: The 2012 traffic monitoring report has been completed. There were a number of unexplained variations in the count data for this year. Data agreement levels have been assigned to each count location to provide a clear indication of count reliability.

Jeanne Walsh, along with Mike Warren requested that UCAT consider adding a transit stop at the Rondout Valley Municipal Community Center. Programming of events at the location is expected to grow, increasing the need for transit access to the location.

Joel Brink commended the Ulster County DPW for their work on the bridge over I-87 on Sawkill Road in the Town of Ulster.

No further discussion.

Mr. Slack requested a motion to adjourn; motion made by Susan Ronga; second by Joel Brink.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:45am.

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