

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting**

Meeting Summary

December 7, 2009

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members

Present:

Alan Adin	City of Kingston Engineering Department
Joel B. Brink**	Town of Ulster
Ray Costantino	Town of Lloyd
Bob DiBella	UC Area Transit
Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Board/UCTC Staff
Terry Dungan*	Village of New Paltz
Jean Gunsch	NYMTC Staff
Roy Hochberg	UC Legislature
Jack Hohman	NYS Thruway Authority/NYC Division
Toni Hokanson	Town of New Paltz
Jeremy Kane**	Town of Saugerties
Joe Katz ⁺	Town of Gardiner
Nadine Lemmon	Town of Gardiner
Bruce Loertscher	Town of Plattekill
Rich Peters**	NYSDOT Region 8
Ed Pine	UC Department of Public Works
Terrie Rosenblum*	Town of Woodstock
Phil Serafino**	NYS Thruway Authority/Albany Division
Ralph Swenson**	City of Kingston Engineering Department
John Valk*	Town of Shawangunk
Bill Tobin	UCTC Staff
Sweta Basnet	UCTC Staff

Others

Present:

Shelly Johnston	Creighton Manning Engineering
Dr. Kathy Nolan	Town of Shandaken
Jim Quigley	Town of Ulster

⁺Permanent Voting Member

^{*}Current Voting Member (Until June 4, 2011)

^{**}Voting Proxy for Permanent Voting Member

[^]Non-Voting Advisory Member

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 10:00 AM. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

Dr. Nolan stated that she would like to discuss the Ulster & Delaware (U & D) Railroad Trail Stage 1 (Pin # 8T0454) on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project list to be implemented in FFY 2010. The project phase has been identified as preliminary design (PD), right-of-way incidentals (RI). Dr. Nolan stated that she is unaware of anyone in the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) being involved in the scoping of the project. The

project should be listed as scoping. Action taken for any projects in that corridor has to be in agreement of the railroad company as well as trail community. The project needs much more work before preliminary design.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 16, 2009 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the meeting summary from the July 16, 2009 Technical Committee meeting. **Motion to approve by Mr. Brink, seconded by Mr. Valk. All in favor.**

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Resolution 2009-18: Apportionment of Unallocated FFY 2007, 2008, and 2009 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 and 5340 Transportation Management Area (TMA) Allocations: Mr. Doyle stated that FTA 5307 funds are generated within the TMA region of Ulster, Dutchess and Orange counties by the public and private transit properties. The three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in the TMA have developed a methodology for use of these funds. The methodology provides funding based on the preventive maintenance cost of the private operators in the region and provides the remainder of the funds to public operators while maintaining an unprogrammed balance. The unprogrammed balance is to be used by competitive projects. The methodology was changed in the last round to allow the unprogrammed funds to be awarded on the merits of a project. The projects are proposed by TMA staff and approved by consensus of the TMA without a competitive process.

Resolution 2009-18 provides funding for the projects that are recommended by the three MPOs without a competitive process. The resolution recommends providing operating assistance to the Newburgh-Beacon ferry; purchasing two coach buses to be leased to Adirondack Trailways for service between Ulster County and Manhattan; and providing funds for building rehabilitation for the Poughkeepsie train station. The recommendations were made in participation of the three MPOs, NYSDOT, private carriers and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). Adirondack Trailways made the request for the purchase of the buses to Ulster County. Ulster County pursued the request through the TMA process. There is substantial support from NYSDOT for the purchase. The Ulster County bus purchase project will have \$0.932M in federal money. 10% local match will be met by Adirondack Trailways. Mr. Doyle asked for the approval of the draft Resolutions 2009-18. **Motion to approve by Mr. Valk, seconded by Mr. Dungan. All in favor.** Mr. Tobin requested this resolution be circulated via mail ballot to expedite its approval. The Committee agreed to circulate the Resolution to the Policy Committee for approval via mail ballot.

Draft Resolution 2009-19: Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) TIP Amendment: Mr. DiBella stated that the resolution will transfer the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5311 funds to FTA 5307 funds to support UCAT's operating expenses. UCAT is making this request to ease the budgetary constraints for the county. Mr. Tobin stated that this is 50% federal fund and 50% local match and no state match. Mr. Doyle added that 5307 funds are for urbanized areas whereas 5311 is for rural areas. Mr. Doyle asked for the approval of the draft Resolutions 2009-19. **Motion to approve by Mr. Dungan, seconded by Mr. Valk. All in favor.** Mr. Tobin requested this resolution be circulated via mail ballot to expedite its approval. The Committee agreed to circulate the Resolution to the Policy Committee for approval via mail ballot.

Update on Economic Stimulus Projects Implementation: Mr. Doyle asked the project sponsors to provide an update on their projects.

Round 1 Highway and Bridge Projects

Mr. Costantino stated that the Town of Lloyd received \$3.26 million in stimulus money for the Hudson Valley Rail Trail project. The project has been advertised in the New York State Contract Reporter and needs to be awarded by January 7, 2010. This rail trail construction project connects to the Walkway over Hudson and the existing Hudson Valley Rail Trail.

Mr. Pine stated that the contract is on board for the Main Street over Rondout Creek Bridge Rehabilitation project in Kerhonkson. Mr. Pine added that there is another project that includes two bridges over the rail trail in Lloyd that has Governor's approval but is being held up due to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) authorization to get the get the utility agreement signed.

Mr. Peters stated that the Route 209 project is underway. The project was let a long time ago. The Preventative Maintenance Initiative (PMI) project located in Ulster and Orange Counties is underway. Mr. Doyle made a request for a GIS map with the paving locations from NYSDOT. Mr. Peters stated that the paving for the section of Route 28 that was let earlier has been complete. The remainder has yet to be completed. Mr. Doyle thanked NYSDOT for their effort in scheduling additional funds for the project. Mr. Doyle added that about \$8.26 million was allocated for the Route 28 paving which is about 47 lane miles. Paving limits include Route 28 from Route 375 to Route 28A and from Route 214 to the Delaware County line. The paving work is scheduled for Spring of 2010.

Ms. Lemmon stated that the Town of Gardiner had requested an additional \$185,000 for phase 1 of the Gardiner Hamlet Sidewalks project. Mr. Lemmon added that they are in the process of submitting the final design report to NYSDOT for phase 2 of the project. There is no right-of-way (ROW) issue for phase 2. Mr. Doyle stated that in the past there have been no supplemental funds for Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) projects. Ms. Lemmon stated that the additional \$185,000 is based on the engineering estimates. Mr. Doyle asked the town to keep the Council informed of the town's ability to move the project forward. Mr. Doyle added that the funding for phase 2 is from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Ms. Lemmon stated that phase 2 is not dependent on phase 1, but the Town would like both of phases to go out to bid together. Mr. Doyle suggested submitting engineering cost increase estimates in writing to Council staff.

Mr. Swenson stated that the City of Kingston Pedestrian Waterfront project is substantially complete. Relocation of electric services and excavation for the walkway is underway. Installation of chambers has begun. Mr. Swenson handed out images from the project site construction effort.

Mr. Tobin stated that 100% of the ARRA funding for Ulster County has been obligated, which totals approximately \$32 million. Mr. Peters stated that he would like to thank the sponsors for getting the work done diligently. The local project unit at NYSDOT worked hard to get this done.

Round 1 Transit Projects

Mr. DiBella stated that UCAT is finishing the construction of the transit center and installing a 15,000 gallon fuel storage tank. Five Cutaway buses are in service. UCAT will receive the two hybrid buses in October 2010.

TIP update and project confirmation

Mr. Tobin stated that due to the stimulus funding issue, the TIP update was set aside for nearly a year. The TIP update is need of its biennial update. There is a need to look at all the projects on the current TIP and shuffle them around to meet the constraints as it relates to funding allocations. The next update will be October 2010 and that will be for five years (to October 2015.) Mr. Tobin added that the TIP subcommittee should meet to determine whether the projects on the TIP are still a priority. Projects that are ready to go could be advanced.

Mr. Doyle asked the municipalities to notify Council staff whether they will be able to meet the project deadline. The Region's entire local project allocation for FFY 2011 is proposed for the Crane River Bridge project in Westchester County. Municipalities with projects on the list should update Council staff about their readiness. If the projects are not ready to go, the money could be moved to other projects that are ready to go.

Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Pine to provide an update on the county projects listed for implementation in FFY 2010. Mr. Pine stated that the Glasco Turnpike over Plattekill Creek bridge replacement (PIN # 875712) project and the Mossy Brook road over Coxing Kill bridge replacement project (PIN # 875714) are not ready to go. The county has yet to get a consultant to begin their design. They are both funded with Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation (HBRR) funds. Mr. Tobin stated that this money may have to go for another bridge project.

Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Peters for an update on the allocations for FFY 2010. Mr. Peters stated that NYSDOT got a new set of allocations for the next TIP update. The allocation is lower, particularly the amount of state funding. The intent is to keep the local program at \$47 million a year in federal dollars. All MPOs in Region 8 are looking at projects that can be done in 2010. It is late for the project sponsors to move on the FFY 2010 projects now. The real estate issue may take longer than anticipated. Mr. Peters stated that sponsors should try and get the project done this year since money available. Mr. Tobin added that there is a need to bring forward new projects. There have been talks of second stimulus and if that happens there may not be any projects to fund. Mr. Tobin asked the municipalities to start on new projects and get them into the system so that they can be funded when money becomes available.

Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Pine if there are any bridge projects eligible for federal money that can be started FFY 2010. Mr. Pine stated there are two. One bridge is on Mud Tavern Road and other is in the Town of Denning. Mr. Doyle added that the collector road for Kings Highway safety project does not have the dollar amount. Mr. Doyle mentioned that he would like to get a sense of prioritized projects that will help to spend the available funds. Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Pine if the county will be able to move the South Putt Corners Road (PIN # 875990) project this year. Mr. Pine stated that he would have to check with Commissioner Sheeley.

Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Pine to come up with bridge projects that should be moved forward and to submit cost estimates to Council staff. And check with Commissioner Sheeley whether to move forward with preliminary design on South Putt Corners Road.

Mr. Doyle stated that he would like to address the question raised by Dr. Nolan regarding the Kingston Rail Trail (PIN # 875804) project. Mr. Doyle stated that there has been an agreement between the legislature and NYSDOT for funding the Ontario and Western (O & W) Railroad corridor. Mr. Peters stated the Route 28 rail trail is one of the state dedicated fund (SDF) projects. It makes the project eligible to use it as match to federal dollars. Mr. Tobin stated that another important issue is if there is a need to reassign a lead agency for the project. Mr. Doyle stated that the health committee of the legislature is considering memorializing a resolution that would place the responsibility for some of this funding within the county. The legislature is also considering an amendment to the Ulster County's capital program. Once this is done, the next step would be to establish a capital project to provide funding for the initial design. Mr. Doyle stated that one of the county's agencies is going to get the responsibility for implementing the project. It is yet unclear which agency that would be. Mr. Doyle added that the City of Kingston is on board for this. Mr. Doyle stated that this project is going to be picked up into design phase by the county. Mr. Tobin stated that the Council may have to do a TIP amendment concerning this issue.

Mr. Doyle asked about the U & D Rail Trail Stage 1 (8T0454) project. The project is on the existing TIP and STIP for \$400,000. The project was not included in the capital needs assessment provided to the state legislature by NYSDOT. The TIP update was then set aside due to stimulus. Mr. Doyle stated that the project is still fundable because it is on the STIP. Some of that money can be used to fund some design work associated with the legislative item. The SDF will provide the match. Mr. Peters suggested looking at the environmental work for the entire corridor and do the design work for the section that is ready to go. Then, do design work for the corridor in pieces. Mr. Doyle stated it is not clear who the lead agency on the project design or construction is going to be.

Mr. Tobin stated that he listed the City of Kingston Intermodal Facility as not ready because the previous scoping identified in the STIP was not obligated. The project has been delayed. It is not clear who the lead agency is going to be.

Mr. Tobin stated that he hasn't heard from the Village of Ellenville about their intentions to do the Intermodal Facility Site Location study. The project may not be moving forward.

Mr. Tobin stated that the Kingston/Ulster River Line crossing improvements project is not moving forward. The funding was previously programmed but wasn't claimed or obligated. The lead agency hasn't been identified.

Mr. Tobin stated that for the Village of Saugerties Downtown Pedestrian improvements project the Village believes that they don't have any ROW to acquire. The Village wants to modify the TIP phase concerning right-of-way acquisition (RA) to construction. Mr. Peters stated that the issue of RA is not clear until the design phase. Mr. Tobin stated that he will convey to the Village that they need to finish their design work before a final determination is made on the need for RA.

Mr. Doyle asked about ready to go projects in the City of Kingston. Are there any phases of Abeel Street that do not have ROW issues and could go to construction this year? Mr.

Adin stated that Creighton Manning Engineering has indicated that the section of the project from Dock Street to Broadway could be redesigned within the next 60 days to be ready for construction soon after. Mr. Doyle suggested doing this phase this year.

Mr. Swenson stated that the City has listed the Greenkill Avenue bridge project as the top priority. The City is currently working on Request for Proposal (RFP) for a design consultant. Mr. Swenson stated that the project is not on the list. Mr. Tobin stated that the project may be for FFY 2009 or it could be an oversight on his part. Mr. Tobin stated that he will check on the project. Mr. Tobin suggested the City work on a paving plan for the federal aid roadway system and signalized systems in Kingston.

Mr. Doyle suggested the County should look at bridge, rail trail and South Putt Corners Road projects. There should be some news on the rail trail soon in terms of where it will go. Mr. Doyle asked the City to provide an alternative to the Abeel Street project that can be done this year. And to provide a cost estimate for the Greenkill Avenue Bridge project if it was not listed for FFY 2009.

Mr. Tobin suggested scheduling a TIP subcommittee meeting in January 2010 and work out these details. This will give something to present at the February meeting and get the TIP adopted, possibly, at the March meeting. Mr. Tobin stated that the TIP subcommittee meeting in January can discuss the method to update the TIP. There is a need to look at whether a call for projects is needed since there are already projects to be funded. Mr. Peters stated that other MPOs in the region are not soliciting projects. Mr. Doyle stated that there is a need to look at the issue of obligating funds. On one hand there are complaints about lack of funding and on the other hand there are funds that are not being obligated. Also there is a need to look at advancing paving projects countywide since they are ready to go on short notice. Mr. Doyle suggested setting aside a block of money for paving. Mr. Peters stated that the PMI requires a safety analysis on the roads being paved. Mr. Doyle suggested identifying federally aided local and county roads and set money aside.

Mr. Doyle stated that the MPO staff will reach out to the municipalities that have projects on the TIP and reach out to the local projects unit at NYSDOT to find out what projects have been filed with them and their time frame. Mr. Tobin added that he will review the NYSDOT TIP Update Guidance in advance of the TIP subcommittee meeting. Ms. Lemmon asked to send out letters to the municipalities, as recommended by Mr. Peters, asking whether the municipalities are willing to go ahead with their projects on the TIP. Mr. Tobin suggested asking project sponsors at the January TIP subcommittee meeting when revisiting the project list.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATE

City of Kingston Intermodal Center Site Location and Conceptual Design Analysis: Mr. Doyle stated that public hearing has been scheduled for December 10, 2009. This is for the Kingston Intermodal Center site. This could be the last phase of the project. New designs for this site are available on the UCTC website. There is a conceptual site plan prepared for the latest site being considered. The former Kingston Uptown parking garage site has been ranked against other sites that were studied earlier. The estimated cost for construction at the former Uptown garage site is over just \$30 million. City of Kingston had requested the Transit Advisory Committee to look at this site. It does not look like a winner in terms of the cost.

City/County Transit Development Plan: The RFP has been developed. It has not been released.

I-587 at Albany Avenue Intersection Study: The contract has been developed and is being reviewed by the Ulster County Contracts Management Department. The study is anticipated to begin January 2010.

Long Range Transportation Plan Update: The plan needs to undergo its required five year update. The plan needs to be developed and adopted by September 2010. Approximately \$70,000 is programmed to complete tasks. Council staff may reach out to the short-listed group of consultants for assistance with the Plan's update.

Second Quarter Financial Report: Mr. Tobin stated that he attended the NYSMPO meeting in Albany on December 4, 2009. There is possibility of a rescission totaling \$2,500 for the current SFY. This will out of the unprogrammed funds balance. Mr. Tobin added that NYSDOT has hinted at the possibility of up to a 30% rescission in next year's planning funds allocation.

Upcoming UCTC Meetings: Mr. Tobin discussed the schedule for upcoming meetings. Meetings have been scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2009 and Thursday, March 18, 2009. Outcome from the January TIP Subcommittee meeting will be discussed.

Mr. Doyle stated that the MPO is in the process of developing the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Doyle stressed on the need to do studies that focus on the link between transportation and land use. A transportation linkage study has been done on the Route 9W Corridor in Saugerties, in Marlborough and uptown Kingston. The biggest transportation linkage study was done in New Paltz for \$500,000. Mr. Doyle asked the municipalities that have not done a transportation study in the past to look at the need for a study. Particularly, the Town of Lloyd for the Route 299 Corridor and the Town of Shawangunk should look into this and submit to Council staff in writing what should be done. This could go into next year's UPWP.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 AM.