

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting**

Meeting Summary

December 21, 2010

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members

Present:

Alan Adin	City of Kingston Engineering Department
Joel Brink**	Town of Ulster
Barbara Budik**	Town of Saugerties
Bob DiBella	UC Area Transit
Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Board/UCTC Staff
Terry Dungan*	Village of New Paltz
Jack Hohman**	NYS Thruway Authority
Joe Katz*	Town of Gardiner
Rich Peters**	NYSDOT Region 8
Ed Pine	UC Department of Public Works
Sue Ronga**	UC Department of Public Works
Terrie Rosenblum*	Town of Woodstock
Carolyn Ryan	NYSDOT Region 8
Ralph Swenson**	City of Kingston Engineering Department
John Valk*	Town of Shawangunk
Sweta Basnet	UCTC Staff
Burt Samuelson	UCTC Staff

Others

Present:

Mark Albrecht	Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Glen Gidaly	Barton and Loguidice
Tom Johnson	Barton and Loguidice
Kathy Nolan	UC Trails Advisory Committee
Anne Noonan	New York Trailways
Ziona Rubin	Metro-North Railroad
Marleen Stein	Metro-North Railroad

*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

There were no citizen comments.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 14, 2010 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the meeting summary from the October 14, 2010 Technical Committee meeting. **Motion to approve by Ms. Budik, seconded by Mr. Brink. All in favor.**

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA): Mr. Doyle stated that the MTA will make a presentation about the use of unallocated Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009 and 2010 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 and 5340 Capital Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA) by Metro-North to replace/rehabilitate Undergrade bridges in Orange County. The Resolution 2010-13 had failed to achieve consensus of the Policy Committee. The resolution was circulated through the mail ballot process in November 2010. Concerns were raised by the members of the Council with respect to the use of funds in terms of whether the funds should be transferred. Mr. Doyle added that Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council (PDCTC) and Orange County Transportation Council (OCTC) both have to approve the resolution for the transfer. (PDCTC and OCTC have approved the resolution.) The Resolution 2010-13 will be forwarded to the Policy Committee for the consensus of the Technical Committee. Representatives from MTA will then explain to the Council how the money will be used and why they need it.

Mr. Peters stated that distribution of FTA Section 5307 funds happens by Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Transit operators report their operation statistics to the FTA based on which the funds are allocated to use within UZA 89 which include the urbanized portions of Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties. The three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) get together and allocate these funds. The competition held in the past for the allocation of the 5307 funds was not very efficient. Now a fund has been created which can be used by any transit operator with a good project. Mr. Peters added that Dutchess Loop had also requested for funds for its transit facility. It no longer needs the money because they have been awarded the FTA State of Good Repair Grant for the project. Mr. Doyle stated that UCTC was the recipient of approximately \$1.5 million of this funding to purchase buses for commuter carriers in the previous FFY. Mr. Doyle added that the use of unallocated funds is essentially designed by the Council to take care of lump some funding needs that come up from time to time. The request for funds by Metro-North is an example of that.

Mr. Albrecht stated that Ms. Rubin would make the presentation on the use of 5307 and 5340 funds. Ms. Rubin is the Project Manager for Capital Engineering at Metro-North. Ms. Rubin handed out copies of the presentation. Presentation is attached in the agenda packet. Ms. Rubin asked if there were any questions about the presentation. Ms. Ryan asked whether the bridge replacement was going to be done by Metro-North or through a bid. Ms. Rubin stated that the work was going to be done by Metro-North. Mr. Doyle asked if Metro-North has any plans to cut service in the Port-Jervis line. Mr. Albrecht stated that there were no such plans. Mr. Doyle thanked Ms. Rubin for the presentation.

Draft Resolution 2010-13: Apportionment of Unallocated FFY 2009 and 2010 FTA Section 5307 and 5340 Capital Funds in the TMA: Mr. Doyle stated that the presentation by the MTA was related to the resolution. The resolution will transfer the unallocated FFY 2009 and 2010 FTA Section 5307 and 5340 Capital Funds in the TMA to Metro-North to replace/rehabilitate Undergrade bridges in Orange County. Mr. Doyle asked whether there was a consensus in the Technical Committee to pass the Resolution 2010-13 to the Policy Committee for consideration. Consensus was achieved. The Resolution 2010-13 to be passed to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update: Mr. Doyle stated that UCTC is working on the UPWP update. Mr. Doyle added that he would like Technical Committee

to provide suggestions as to what should be included on the UPWP. Mr. Doyle stated that he anticipates a meeting in February 2011 to adopt the UPWP for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2011-2012. Mr. Dungan stated that he would like to have a study done for an intermodal facility location in New Paltz. The current location is small. Mr. Valk suggested doing a study to find what would be best possible alternative for Borden Road in the Town of Shawangunk. The road has been closed for more than 10 years. Mr. Brink asked about the status of the study on the extension of Frank Sottile Boulevard in the Town of Ulster. Mr. Doyle stated that the study has been done and efforts are on to find funding for it. Mr. Doyle stated that from the staff's perspective, UCTC is looking to complete a Transit Development Plan (TDP) which should be done in 2011. Mr. Doyle added that UCTC is also considering a Safe Route to School (SRTS) Program to look at sidewalk locations as well as an education program within the school itself. The idea is to have the Council establish a template as well as to look at the routing system for schools. Ms. Rosenblum stated that Woodstock would be interested. Mr. Valk stated that the Hamlet of Walkkill would be interested as well. Ms. Budik stated that Saugerties would be interested. Mr. Doyle stated that UCTC is also considering looking at the segment of Route 9W around the mall in the Town of Ulster for access management, capacity, safety, and signal timing. Mr. Doyle stated that the UPWP needs to be adopted by the end of March 2011.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

There was no other/old business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATE

Kingston I-587 at Albany Avenue Intersection Study Update: Mr. Doyle stated that draft report has been completed. A presentation was made to the Technical Committee at the October 14, 2010 meeting. Mr. Doyle stated that the recommendation is for a round about. One of the recommendations is also to remove designation of I-587 as an interstate highway.

Traffic Monitoring Program: Ms. Basnet stated that the Traffic Count report is complete and was mailed out at the end of November 2010. Ms. Basnet stated that the report has counts collected by UCTC and New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). Ms. Basnet added that the data shows a decline in the traffic volume from 2007. The report is also available on the UCTC website at: <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/planning/tcount.html>. UCTC is working on the contract for the next count cycle.

Travel Time Survey (TTS): Mr. Doyle stated that the administrative portion of the TTS is being handled by OCTC. TTS involves the collecting data for the congested roads in the three counties. Ms. Basnet stated data collection for Ulster County is done except for Route 209 due to construction. Ms. Basnet stated that the MPO staffs are reviewing the draft report. Ms. Basnet stated that the MPO staffs are communicating with the consultant on a regular basis to finalize the details of the report. The data collection includes AM, PM, mid-day and Saturday and Sunday runs depending on the route. The consultant will also provide countywide map for each county to show congestion for different time periods. Ms. Basnet stated that routes in the City of Kingston, sections of Route 299, Route 32, and Route 9W show congestion. Mr. Doyle stated that the findings of the TTS will be used to select projects for the UPWP.

Commuter Parking Lots Capacity Analysis and Needs Assessment: Ms. Basnet handed out copies of the occupancy data for the commuter parking facilities in the county. Ms. Basnet stated that UCTC staff collected the occupancy data for these commuter parking facilities from Monday through Friday in the week of October 18, 2010. Ms. Basnet added that the average occupancy for commuter parking facilities in Ulster County declined in 2010. The new commuter parking facility on Route 32 (south bound) in the Village of New Paltz has been included in the report. The report also includes the commuter parking facility at the Diner/Super Lodge Motel on Route 28. NYSDOT has leased the parking spaces through Metropool to address the parking problem at the commuter parking facility by Thruway Exit 19. Ms. Basnet stated that the final report should be done early next year.

Annual Federal Aid Obligation Report: Ms. Basnet stated that the Annual Federal Aid Obligation Report for FFY 2010 is complete. The report includes the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funded projects only. Ms. Basnet added that total of \$17.055 million was obligated in FFY 2010. The obligation for FFY 2010 exceeded the annual target of \$15 million set in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the county's obligation performance in FFY 2010 was similar to that in FFY 2009. Ms. Basnet stated that total amount eligible for obligation in FFY 2010 was \$25.470 million. Ms. Basnet added that \$8.415 million, which was eligible, was not obligated. Ms. Basnet added that that lot of the total federal funds obligated in FFY 2010 was associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) signed into law by President Obama February 17, 2009.

UCTC Operating Procedures Update: Mr. Doyle stated that UCTC continues to take a look at its Operating Procedures. UCTC staff is looking at various issues such as the consensus issue. Staff is also looking at who should be in the Policy and Technical Committees, with the idea of adding the Traffic Safety Board in the Policy Committee.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update: Mr. Doyle stated that the final TIP documents will be available once the eSTIP is working fine. Mr. Peters stated that the NYSDOT has been working to fix it. Mr. Doyle stated that the final draft TIP is available on the UCTC website at: <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/planning/tip.html>. Mr. Doyle stated that UCTC continues to work with NYSDOT to find offsets for funding requests for the three projects on the TIP. The projects include Mud Tavern Road, Town of Shawangunk (PIN#875666); Hudson Valley Rail Trail, Town of Lloyd (PIN#875914); and the D&H Canal/O&W RR Trail, Town of Wawarsing (PIN#875925). Ms. Basnet stated that NYSDOT has also made an amendment request for the Route 9W at Young Avenue Intersection Improvements project in the Town of Marlborough (PIN#823938). The request for amendment was received on December 17, 2010. Ms. Basnet handed out the TIP strips with the proposed amendment. Ms. Basnet stated that the proposed amendments include Detailed Design (DD) to be pushed back from FFY 2010 to FFY 2011. Ms. Basnet stated that the Preliminary Design (PD) has already been obligated. Ms. Basnet added that NYSDOT has requested for additional money for PD and right-of-way acquisition (RA) and for the RA to be pushed back to FFY 2011. Mr. Peters stated that the project is in active design and is scheduled for construction in FFY 2011. Mr. Doyle stated that the proposed amendment will require approval of the Policy Committee because it adds a phase to FFY 2011. Mr. Doyle stated that NYSDOT has already found offset for the funding. Mr. Doyle asked if there is consensus from the Technical Committee to pass the amendment to the Policy Committee for approval.

Safe Route to School (SRTS)/Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP): Ms. Basnet stated that NYSDOT indicated that there may be funding available for SRTS and TEP projects in FFY 2011. Ms. Basnet stated that funding in the amount of \$10 million for SRTS and \$25 million in TEP may be available statewide. NYSDOT will do a 'call for projects' for SRTS and TEP. Ms. Basnet added that the UCTC staff will keep the Council posted about the availability of funds. Ms. Ryan stated that these fund type cannot be used for purchasing right-of-way (ROW). Ms. Ryan asked the project sponsors to be realistic about the costs.

Transportation Management Area (TMA) Staff Update: Mr. Doyle stated that PDCTC, OCTC and UCTC have a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to work together. TMA staff meets on a regular basis to discuss various issues. The allocation of FTA Section 5307 funds have to be agreed upon by the three MPOs. The idea is to think more as a region rather than individual counties. Substantial number of Ulster County's work force work in Orange and Dutchess counties. Mr. Doyle stated that Orange County has agreed to coordinate the TMA for 2011.

Mail Ballot Update: Ms. Basnet stated that the resolution to Transfer the unallocated FFY 2009 and 2010 FTA Section 5307 and 5340 TMA funds to Metro-North has been approved by PDCTC and OCTC. Ms. Basnet added that the resolution 2010-14 (amend the FFY 2011-2015 TIP to modify the schedule for River Line Crossing Safety Kings Highway/Saugerties project) and Resolution 2010-15 (transfer the FFY 2009 and 2010 FTA Section 5316 and 5317 funds to Dutchess and Orange Counties) was approved by the Policy Committee in November 2010.

Upcoming UCTC Meetings: Mr. Doyle stated that the next Technical Committee meeting should be scheduled in February 2011 and the Policy Committee in March 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:11 AM.