

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

February 1, 2005

Ulster County Community College
Stone Ridge, NY

Members

Present:	Elliot Auerbach	Village of Ellenville
	Michael Campbell**	Village of Saugerties
	Mircea Catona	UC Public Works Department
	Linda Cook	Town of Hurley
	Fred Costello Jr.	Town of Saugerties
	James Dolaway	Town of Wawarsing
	Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Board
	Steve Finkle**	City of Kingston
	Nancy Hammond	Town of Lloyd
	Jack Hohman**	NYS Thruway Authority-NYC Division
	Stan Kern	Town of Kingston
	Nadine Lemmon**	Town of Gardiner
	Stan Longyear	Town of Woodstock
	Richard Peters**	NYSDOT Region 8
	Jill Ross-Schmelz**	NYS Thruway Authority-Albany Division
	Cynthia Ruiz	Ulster County Area Transit
	Charles Schaller	UC Traffic Safety Board
	Robert Shepard*	Town of Lloyd
	Fred Wadnola ⁺	Town of Ulster
	Bob Yerick*	Village of Saugerties

Others

Present:	Joel B. Brink	Town of Ulster
	John Dragun	Village of Saugerties
	Gilbert Hales	Town of Saugerties
	Tom Jackson	Ulster County Area Transit
	Mark Morano	NYSDOT Region 8
	Russ Robbins	NYSDOT Region 8
	Mark Sargent	Creighton Manning Engineering
	Al Wegener	Roundout Coalition

Staff

Present:	Michele Bager	NYSDOT-Albany
	Marianne Davis	UC Planning Board
	Bill Tobin	UCTC - Kingston

⁺Permanent Voting Member

^{*}Current Voting Member (Until June 4, 2005)

^{**}Current Voting Proxy

[^]Current Advisory Member

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 10:03 a.m. with Mr. Tobin welcoming those in attendance. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Hales, resident of Saugerties, asked the Council to consider bicycle and hiking trails when performing the business of transportation planning in Ulster County. Mr. Hales wanted the Council to keep in mind that bicycle riding reduces automobile traffic congestion and pollution. He would like bicycle safety issues addressed.

Cynthia Ruiz added that all of the UCAT buses are bike friendly, and given 24-hour notice, a vehicle capable of carrying bicycles could be made available to the public.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Tobin presented the December 7, 2004 Technical Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Tobin stated that his office had received a call requesting that the discussion following the Town of Ulster's Washington Avenue Corridor presented by Creighton Manning Engineering be more detailed for the record. Mr. Tobin handed out an amendment to the meeting summary and noted it would become part of the permanent record. Mr. Tobin asked for any other comments or corrections. None were received. Ms. Ruiz made a motion to approve the December 7, 2004 minutes as amended. Ms. Ross-Schmelz seconded the motion. Motion was approved by consensus to adopt the December 7, 2004 meeting minutes as amended.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Tobin noted that the Transit Advisory Committee held a meeting on Monday, January 31, 2005 to meet with Walt Cherwony of Abrams-Cherwony & Associates to discuss the status of the Countywide Transit Study. Stakeholder group meetings for the long-range transportation and public transportation plans are scheduled for February 15 & 16.

Mr. Doyle announced the UCTC has filled the Senior Transportation Planner position. Tom Mank, of Ithaca, New York has joined the UCTC from the Tompkins County Planning Department. Mr. Mank's first day is scheduled to be February 15, 2005.

Mr. Tobin noted that today's agenda package contains the UCTC's Third Quarter Financial Report.

Mr. Tobin noted that today's agenda packet also includes a revised list of ranked transportation projects representing the UCTC's first draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The ranking of projects is based on the Technical Committee's recommendation to fund bridge and paving projects first and then begin funding all other projects. Mr. Tobin noted this list will be reviewed by the Policy Committee on March 1, 2005 for further discussion and any merit considerations. The Policy Committee will revisit the Draft TIP on May 3, 2005 for a follow up discussion, consider public comments received, any merit considerations, and adopt the TIP accordingly.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Tobin presented a draft copy of the SFY 2005-2006 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for discussion purposes. Mr. Tobin noted that the work program for the coming year is estimated to be approximately \$600,000 to include staff salaries and consulting services to assist with planning studies.

Mr. Tobin briefly explained highlights of the draft UPWP and presented a slide show for featured planning studies in the coming year. The following proposed planning studies include:

- City of Kingston's I-587 at Albany Avenue Intersection Alternatives Analysis. This 18 month planning study is proposed to be performed by NYSDOT's design unit and will not be charged against the UCTC's planning program budget.
- City of Kingston's Washington Avenue at Route 32 Intersection Alternatives Analysis. An amount of \$30,000 has been budgeted for this 18 month study.
- City of Kingston/Town of Ulster CSX Railroad Corridor Train Detection, Pedestrian Crosswalk, and Grade Separation Scoping Study. An amount of \$80,000 has been budgeted for this 18 month project. Discussion followed and the Town and Village of Saugerties requested the study be extended to the Village and Town of Saugerties. Mr. Schaller requested the UCTC expand the study to the Town of Esopus.
- Town/Village of Saugerties 9W Corridor Alternative Alignment Analysis. An amount of \$150,000 has been budgeted for this 36 month project.
- Village of Saugerties Ulster Avenue at Market Street Intersection Alternatives Analysis. An amount of \$30,000 was proposed for this 18 month planning study. However, NYSDOT agreed to do the work and will not charge the UCTC's planning program budget for the study.
- Town of Woodstock Route 212 at Route 375 Intersection Alternatives Analysis. An amount of \$30,000 was proposed for this 18 month planning study. However, NYSDOT agreed to do the work and will not charge the UCTC's planning program budget for the study.
- Route 209 Corridor Study from the Town of Ulster to the Village of Ellenville. An amount of \$200,000 has been budgeted for this 36 month project.
- Town of Lloyd/Town of New Paltz Route 299 Corridor Congestion Management and Traffic Safety study. An amount of \$200,000 was budgeted for this 36 month project but Mr. Shepard withdrew the request.

Mr. Tobin provided a summary of project costs by municipality for the SFY 2005-2006.

Mr. Doyle noted that the UCTC is short of monies available to fund the \$750,000 worth of studies. Mr. Doyle asked for partners with these study efforts.

Mr. Tobin stated the Town/Village of Saugerties would provide staff support to the 9W Corridor and Ulster Avenue at Market Street intersection studies.

Mr. Finkle asked if Mr. Doyle is looking for more than just managing projects.

Mr. Doyle stated the current contract between the State and Ulster County requires a 5% local match. We are looking for funding partners.

Ms. Ruiz asked Mr. Peters if he could give examples of how other MPOs deal with ambitious work programs with a shortage of matching funds.

Mr. Peters responded that other MPOs are not as ambitious with their studies.

Mr. Doyle asked if the Council should establish priorities.

Mr. Peters stated the Council should prioritize projects with direct beneficiaries such as the Route 209 Corridor study, Saugerties 9W study, and the railroad corridor project.

Mr. Finkle asked if there should be a ranking system implemented or focus project proposals on urban areas and safety.

Mr. Peters asked if projects would be put out for competitive bid. Mr. Doyle said yes.

Mr. Finkle asked once the studies were done, where would the funding be acquired for project implementation?

Mr. Tobin responded that one source could be the TIP.

Mr. Finkle then asked what kind of projects the Council could afford to do.

Mr. Peters responded to avoid future work, look at land use and wise investment of funds. For example the grade crossing study is a good short term reasonably affordable project but with a very expensive long term solution. Completing studies and identifying problems helps to attract funding.

Mr. Finkle stated that money may be available from Senators and Assemblymen as "Ear Marks."

Ms. Ruiz suggested asking local boards to contribute to planning and construction costs.

Ms. Ross-Schmeltz stated it's better to wait for the money.

Ms. Bager stated the current Long Range Plan effort is underway and nearly completed.

Ms. Bager suggested waiting until the completion of the long range plan before proceeding with certain planning studies.

Mr. Doyle summarized by saying that NYSDOT was generous with their assistance with UCTC's planning work program and may not have an issue with the Planning Board's budget. Also, Mr. Doyle stated the UCTC will need to look at Transportation Management Area (regional) issues as well as NYS Thruway traffic.

Mr. Doyle stated that he would like to empower municipalities receiving funds and projects from the UCTC planning work program to share the work load with staff. Mr. Doyle will encourage the Legislature to meet the 5% local match needed to fund as many projects as possible (out of the Planning Department's budget - \$170,000).

Mr. Doyle then asked for letters from Saugerties, Woodstock, City of Kingston, and the Route 209 Corridor municipalities to agree to help UCTC staff with local committee coordination. We (UCTC) will handle contractual work and with the project's scope of work. NYSDOT may be managing at least one planning study.

Mr. Tobin added by asking community leaders to tell us you are willing to agree to help manage the study. We will need a local committee coordinator, contact person, meeting schedule and a project scope of work.

Mr. Doyle thanked the Town of Lloyd for withdrawing their project.

Ms. Ruiz stated that a bus schedule was in the works for earlier and later route times from the 299 Park & Ride to the train station to help commuters.

Mr. Tobin noted that text had been added to explore the possibility of revisiting and refining the TIP project selection criteria.

Ms. Lemmon stated she thought legitimate concerns were raised at the last meeting.

Mr. Doyle reminded the Council that we have two (2) years to revisit the TIP project selection criteria and may want to consider this issue in next year's work program given the work program proposed.

Mr. Doyle asked for a consensus on the projects proposed for SFY 2005-2006 UPWP. Those in attendance arrived at a consensus to adopt the SFY 2005-2006 work program as presented and forward to the Policy Committee for further discussion and adoption.

Mr. Doyle thanked NYSDOT and the Town of Lloyd once again.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

No further announcements were provided. A consensus was reached to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Bill Tobin