

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**  
**Technical Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Summary**

February 9, 2010

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
Toni Hokanson	Town of New Paltz
Jeremy Kane**	Town of Saugerties
Joe Katz <sup>+</sup>	Town of Gardiner
Nadine Lemmon	Town of Gardiner
Bruce Loertscher	Town of Plattekill
Rich Peters**	NYS DOT Region 8
Ed Pine	UC Department of Public Works
Adam Pizer**	UC Executive Office
Jim Quigley <sup>+</sup>	Town of Ulster
Charles Schaller	UC Traffic Safety
Phil Serafino**	NYS Thruway Authority/Albany Division
John Valk*	Town of Shawangunk
Alex Wade	Village of Saugerties
Fred Zimmer*	Town of Esopus
Bill Tobin	UCTC Staff
Sweta Basnet	UCTC Staff

**Others**

**Present:**

Shelly Johnston	Creighton Manning Engineering
Mary McNamara	Lower Esopus Watershed Partnership
Dr. Kathy Nolan	Town of Shandaken
Anne Noonan	New York Trailways
Tami H. Rice	MetroPool

\*Permanent Voting Member

\*Current Voting Member (Until June 4, 2011)

\*\*Voting Proxy for Permanent Voting Member

<sup>+</sup>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**

Ms Lemmon stated that the Town of Gardiner is having problems getting people on board for the shared services grant. Mr. Doyle stated that the county received some money to do the additional work. Mr. Doyle added that twelve communities had signed on to the

original grant to look at shared services. Shared services committee has been meeting on the snow plowing initiative. About 264 miles of local roads have been identified that the county would like the local municipalities to do the snow plowing. The next portion of that grant will be for implementation. This is now moving from the study phase to implementation phase. Mr. Doyle urged the communities to participate. In addition, there is also Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system grant that some of the communities have signed on.

## **APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2009 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the meeting summary from the December 7, 2009 Technical Committee meeting. **Motion to approve by Mr. Brink, seconded by Ms. Lemmon. All in favor.**

Mr. Tobin stated that he would like to discuss comments received from New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Local Projects Unit concerning the January 20, 2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Tobin stated that Ms. Carolyn Ryan from NYSDOT wanted to clarify the following concerning the enclosed meeting summary:

- The minutes have been corrected to read "Ms. Ryan added that if a construction phase has already been obligated then American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) money can't be used."
- The minutes have been corrected to read, "Ms. Ryan stated that "Preliminary Design, ROW Incidentals and Final Design are obligated as a block."
- The minutes have been corrected to read "Ms. Ryan added that "If STP Flex funds are added to a Transportation Enhancements Project, funds would have to be programmed specifically for Construction and Construction Inspection phases."

Mr. Tobin stated that he has made the corrections.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Draft SFY 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update. Mr. Tobin stated that the second page of the agenda packet has an outline of all the tasks that are proposed. Highlights include program support and administration and continue with the Functional Classification roadway map update. Mr. Tobin stated that the update process has been ongoing for four years and there hasn't been any progress. The functional classification updates are important for funding projects and TIP update. Funding for the project on South Putt Corners Road is based on these updates. A discussion followed concerning the status of the Functional classification system update. Mr. Peters agreed to look into delays at the Region 8 Office.

Other UPWP update highlights include Census data analysis, Traffic Monitoring Program, Congestion Management Process tasks, LRTP Update, TIP Update, I-587 at Albany Avenue Intersection Study and a City/County Transit Development Plan.

Mr. Peters offered a number of comments for staff to consider incorporating into the UPWP.

**Draft FFY 2010 TIP Amendments Presented.**

Greenkill Avenue/Broadway Bridge Replacement, City of Kingston, BIN 2019580: Design funds were advanced to FFY 2010.

Mud Tavern Road (CR 9)/Dwaarkill; Bridge Replacement. Town of Shawangunk: Right of Way Acquisition phases was advanced to FFY 2010.

Glasco Turnpike/Plattekill Creek: Bridge Replacement (Was PIN 8T9746), Town of Saugerties, BIN 3347690: All phases for this project were delayed.

Mossy Brook Road/Coxing Kill: Bridge Replacement (Was PIN 8T9748), Town of Rosendale, BIN 3347040: All phases were delayed.

Tillson Ave: From Route 92 to Route 44/55: Safety Alignment Work. Town of Highland: Design phases were advanced to FFY 2010.

Hickory Street/Beerkill Bridge Rehabilitation, Town of Ellenville and Wawarsing, BIN 2262790: Construction was advanced to FFY 2010.

Kingston Rail Trail, City of Kingston and Town of Hurley: Ulster County assumed sponsorship of the project. Design advanced to FFY 2010. Project utilized New York Legislature member item as State match to Federal aid. No local match required.

Denning Road/East Branch of Neversink River: Bridge Replacement, Town of Denning, BIN 3347090: Mr. Tobin stated that the ROW acquisition phase has been scheduled for FFY 2010. The construction will probably go back 2 years because ROW acquisition process is time consuming. Mr. Tobin added that the project is high priority for the county Department of Public Works (DPW) and Town of Denning.

D & H Canal/O&W RR Trail: Town of Rochester Line to Eastern State Correctional Facility, Town of Wawarsing: Mr. Tobin stated that the town is advancing the Detailed Design and Preliminary Design right now. The funds have been obligated. The town has selected the consultant and has submitted invoices for reimbursement. The project is moving along. Construction is scheduled for FFY 2013.

Boices Lane @ Morton Boulevard: Boices Lane Repaving Project, Town of Ulster: Mr. Tobin stated that the MPO has worked with the NYSDOT Local Project Unit and Mr. Pine to revise the dollar amount for the project. The cost has been lowered. The project is moving along. Mr. Pine stated that the consultant has been selected for the project.

Enterprise Drive: Repaving from Boices Lane to Lohmaier Lane, Town of Ulster: Mr. Tobin stated that the Boices Lane and the Enterprise Drive repaving project are interrelated. They are scheduled in the same year for construction (FFY 2010). Mr. Tobin added that these projects are also found in the ARRA 2 list.

South Putt Corners Repaving: SR 299 to SR 32, Town of New Paltz: Mr. Tobin stated that there are two issues with the project. First, the county will have to take the lead on the project but there has been issue finding the resources to move the project forward. Because of the lack of activity, the project was moved back. The other issue relates to the South Putt Corners Road not being on the federal aid system. It is not currently

eligible to receive federal aid. Ms. Basnet stated that the application for the Functional Class changes for South Putt Corners Road has been submitted to NYSDOT. NYSDOT is looking at these changes. UCTC staff has yet to hear back from NYSDOT. The application has to first go through the regional office, then to the main office before it goes to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for approval. Mr. Peters stated that he will look into the delay issue. Mr. Doyle stated that there are requests for other functional classification changes as well.

Sam's Point Preserve access road improvements including drainage repair and roadway reconstruction, Village of Ellenville, SAFETEA-LU high priority project: Mr. Tobin stated that this is a congressional earmark. Mr. Tobin stated that there are some funds available for FFY 2010 and 2011. The funding for the project has been pushed back to FFY 2014. Mr. Tobin stated the village hasn't opposed the new schedule. It looks like there hasn't been any activity on the project. Mr. Peters stated that Detailed Design, Preliminary Design and ROW Incidentals were obligated in September 2007. Mr. Tobin added that the E-STIP shows that the funds were never obligated to begin with. Mr. Peters stated that he will check the status of this obligation and get back.

Village of Saugerties Downtown Area Pedestrian improvements including the replacement/repair of sidewalks, high visibility crosswalks, lighting, signs, bicycle racks, and landscape. SAFETEA-LU, High priority project: Mr. Tobin stated that the project is ready to go. The project is also on the ARRA 2 list. Change in funding type will have to be changed if ARRA 2 happens. Mr. Wade stated that there is no ROW acquisition issue with the project. Mr. Wade stated that the Preliminary Design will be submitted on Friday, February 12, 2010. The project involves street lights and crosswalks. The project is scheduled for construction in FFY 2010.

Gardiner Sidewalks - Route 44/55: From Walkill Valley Rail Trail to Town Meeting Hall, Town of Gardiner: Mr. Tobin stated that the cost had to be increased to finish the project and phases have been broken down at the request of NYSDOT. Town of Gardiner is OK with the new funding scenario and schedule. Mr. Katz stated that the final plans are in approval now.

I-587 @ Albany Avenue & Broadway intersection reconstruction including improvements to sidewalks and pedestrian facilities as needed. Detailed capacity/safety improvements will be developed during the scoping phase. City of Kingston (PIN # 88126): Mr. Tobin stated that this is a new PIN # 88126 for an existing project. There is a minor increase in funding and a minor change in schedule. Mr. Peters asked if inflation has been included in the cost. Mr. Tobin stated that he got the numbers from Ms. Gunsch. Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Peters to send the cost that includes the inflation for the mail ballot.

Kingston Area Intermodal Center: Mr. Tobin stated that it is not clear what is going to happen with the project. So there is no sense in putting money down for the project. Mr. Doyle stated that no one has stepped forward as project sponsor. And the project costs five times as much as the county's total annual federal aid allocation.

Kingston/Ulster River Line Crossing. Railroad crossing improvements, City of Kingston, Town of Ulster, Ulster County. Mr. Tobin stated that there has been no activity on the project. A project sponsor hasn't been identified for the project. The funding has been pushed back until project sponsor is identified. The project implements the Kingston-Ulster quiet zone study recommendations.

Ulster and Delaware RR Trail Stage 1 (PIN 8T0454): Mr. Tobin stated that the project needs a sponsor. The project has been pushed back because of a lack of sponsorship.

Mr. Tobin stated that there is a need to move on the project amendments. There are number of projects that have been programmed for implementation in FFY 2010. The next call for projects will probably be in FFY 2022 because of the backlog of projects. Mr. Doyle suggested doing a mail ballot for the discussed changes. Mr. Doyle asked for approval to send out mail ballot for TIP amendments discussed at the meeting. **Motion to approve by Mr. Katz, seconded by Mr. Valk. All in favor.** Mr. Tobin stated that the mail ballot will go out within the next day or two.

### **Draft Economic Stimulus Part 2 List of Projects**

Mr. Doyle stated that there is a possibility of another Jobs Bill (Economic Stimulus Part 2). Within the Jobs Bill there may be transportation projects similar to the ARRA 1 last year. ARRA 2 may have some changes that may impact the projects. ARRA 1 had 120 days period to obligate projects. ARRA 2 may have only 90 days to go to contract. The Governor's office wants to set a deadline for all the projects statewide. If the deadline is missed the project won't go forward. The other change is ROW acquisition. There should be no ROW acquisition issue with the project. The ROW acquisition has to be complete and approved at the time of the passage of the bill. Mr. Peters stated that there should be not be any requirement for ROW acquisition or temporary easement to build the project. Mr. Peters added ARRA 2 will require the use of state specifications. Mr. Doyle stated that based on these criteria, the MPO reached out to the municipalities to develop a draft ARRA 2 list. The list is in the agenda packet. Mr. Tobin stated that the list has been updated since the agenda went out. Mr. Doyle stated that Hickory Street/Beerkill Bridge Replacement project in the Village of Ellenville will be eligible for ARRA 2. The City of Kingston Reconstruction of Pike Plan may be eligible as well. That project is ready to go to bid.

Mr. Doyle stated that most of other projects on ARRA 2 list are paving projects because of time constraints and eligibility requirements. There is about \$ 14 million of paving projects. Mr. Doyle stated that the numbers for the paving projects have been generated by the sponsors and he hasn't seen the breakdown or details for those numbers. Mr. Doyle stated the idea is to brief the council about the projects before posting for public review. This will help to receive public comments on the project prior to making the final decision should the Jobs bill pass. Mr. Doyle asked if there have been any guidance on the transit side. Mr. Peters stated that the guideline may be similar to ARRA 1 but the timeline may be shorter. Mr. Doyle stated that the MPO has reached out to UCAT and Kingston CitiBus regarding their priority projects.

Mr. Peters suggested putting the ARRA 2 draft project list for public review so that the policy committee can take a quick decision when the bill is passed. Mr. Doyle suggested getting the Technical Committee's consensus to put this list for public review. Mr. Doyle asked for approval to put out the ARRA 2 draft project list for public review. **Motion to approve by Ms Lemmon, seconded by Mr. Brink. All in favor.**

**Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) Presentation.**

Mr. Doyle stated that Mr. DiBella will provide an update to the council about UCAT.

Mr. DiBella stated that he has been working at UCAT for some time. UCAT is looking at improving transit service in Ulster County. In the past, UCAT worked on a deviated fixed route system, and along the way, if some people couldn't get to the route then the bus would go 3/4 of a mile off the route to pick them. A survey has been done about UCAT services and some changes have been made. The service has been changed from deviated fixed route to fixed route, which means the fixed route will continue on a given route at a given time. For the people who are off-route, UCAT is offering paratransit service with smaller buses that will provide curb-to-curb service. In the past, the deviation of service caused delays, had limited access to the mall area and SUNY Ulster, and the bus schedules were hard to understand. The system has the county system map with the area routes, schedules are easier to read, each schedule has a route map, the stops numbers coincide with stops along the way, there is a mall area shuttle, more service to SUNY Ulster and paratransit service. More service for SUNY Ulster has been added.

UCAT will have limited services through the Broadway corridor in the City of Kingston to avoid duplication or service. Passengers transferring from CitiBus to UCAT will receive a transfer ticket. The county system map shows what service one needs to take in order to get to their destination. Bus schedules that coincide with the routes are available in the bus. UCAT now has a fare zone system that corresponds with the municipal boundary line. It cost \$1 dollar to get on the bus and 25 cents per fare zone. The stop number coincides with the time giving people a better idea about where the bus is going to be at what time. UCAT has now instituted the mall area shuttle. The fare structure has been increased because of 3% reduction in state operating assistance. This year the reduction has been 4%. The base fare has been raised from 75 cents to a dollar. UCAT has been charging less than Kingston CitiBus and Dutchess County and other transits facilities in New York State. Mr. DiBella stated that there is \$20,000 in the budget for advertising that UCAT will be using to make people aware of the services offered and recent changes implemented.

Mr. Doyle introduced Ms. Rice of MetroPool and asked about MetroPool's efforts in Ulster County and the Region. Mr. Rice stated that MetroPool is working on an Ulster County transit guide that should be distributed soon. MetroPool delivers transportation demand management solutions to improve mobility and ease the movement of people, improving workforce effectiveness, economic well being and quality of life. MetroPool provides free commuter services to employers and commuters with the support of NYSDOT. MetroPool advocates the use of transportation alternatives such as carpooling, vanpooling, riding the bus or train, bicycling, walking, compressed work weeks and telecommuting.

**OTHER/OLD BUSINESS**

There was no other/old business.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATE**

Mr. Doyle stated that UCTC will be sending out mail ballot with respect to TIP update for FFY 2010.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.