

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

June 23, 2010

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members

Present:

Alan Adin	City of Kingston Engineering Department
David Bolles	Ulster County Department of Public Works
Joel B. Brink**	Town of Ulster
Vincent Bruno	Town of Saugerties
Barbara Budik	Town of Saugerties
Ray Costantino	Town of Lloyd
Bob DiBella	UC Area Transit
Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Board/UCTC Staff
Terry Dungan*	Village of New Paltz
Toni Hokanson	Town of New Paltz
Jack Hohman	NYS Thruway Authority
Jeremy Kane**	Town of Saugerties
Joe Katz ⁺	Town of Gardiner
Cindy Lanzetta*	Town of Marlborough
Rich Peters**	NYS DOT Region 8
Ed Pine	UC Department of Public Works
Sue Ronga	UC Department of Public Works
Charles Schaller	UC Traffic Safety
Phil Serafino**	NYS Thruway Authority/Albany Division
Ralph Swenson**	City of Kingston Engineering Department
Alex Wade	Village of Saugerties
Fred Zimmer*	Town of Esopus
Bill Tobin	UCTC Staff
Sweta Basnet	UCTC Staff
Burt Samuelson	UCTC Staff

Others

Present:

Kathy Dewkett	Erdman Anthony
Anne Noonan	New York Trailways

*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

Ms. Lanzetta stated that she had some comments about the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Lanzetta requested the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) to begin the Route 9W/Young Ave project scheduled for 2011 and the Route 9W/Westen Ave/Young Ave sidewalk project scheduled for 2012 at the same time. Ms. Lanzetta suggested asking the NYSDOT to take the sidewalk project out

of the local queue and to do it with the improvements at Route 9W/Young Ave. Ms. Lanzetta added that It would make so much more sense to do these projects together from taxpayer point of view because it is the same corridor. Mr. Tobin stated that the issue has been addressed. NYSDOT has put the sidewalk project with the 9W/Western Ave project. These two projects will be done together in the next 2-3 years.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 9, 2010 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the meeting summary from the February 9, 2010 Technical Committee meeting. **Motion to approve by Mr. Brink, seconded by Ms. Budik.**

Mr. Tobin stated that the minutes incorrectly mention Mr. Zimmer as the permanent voting proxy (two stars). Mr. Tobin stated that he will correct it to one star. Mr. Tobin added that there were also some minor typos in the minutes, which will be corrected.

Mr. Doyle asked for approval with these corrections.

All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Doyle stated that the meeting's agenda is fairly long. Mr. Doyle stated that the UCTC is trying to combine its Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2035 update effort with the effort to update the TIP. Mr. Doyle stated that the adoption of TIP has to be coordinated with the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The state has asked UCTC to put out the draft TIP by the first week of August. Mr. Doyle stated that he would like to ask the council to look at the draft TIP as well as the draft LRTP. Mr. Tobin stated that the LRTP update is 70% complete and is available for download on the UCTC website. Mr. Doyle stated Mr. Tobin will give a presentation on the draft LRTP 2035 update.

a. Draft Year 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update: Mr. Tobin stated that the web link for the draft LRTP was sent via email. Mr. Tobin stated that he is going to discuss the completed chapter posted on the website and also discuss what remains to be completed. Mr. Tobin went over the slide show to provide details on the draft plan.

Questions/Comments on the draft LRTP presentation

Mr. Doyle commented on the Air Quality issue for Ulster County. Mr. Doyle stated that Ulster County was in attainment before the standards were changed. Mr. Doyle added that UCTC staff, NYSDOT, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) went over this. UCTC and NYSDOT supported continuing the county as an in-attainment. Unfortunately, DEC has decided that the monitor is in the wrong place therefore the county should be in nonattainment. The monitor is located at Belleayre Mountain. They have also added Greene and Columbia County as nonattainment. (00:26:00)

Mr. Peters asked whether the future projection for congestion (Volume/Capacity) was done for scenarios with the TIP projects. Mr. Peters stated the signal timing improvement and the roundabout at Colonel Chandler Drive would relieve some congestion on the Broadway corridor. Mr. Tobin stated that the next update could start to look at that. Mr. Peters stated that since the projection is for 2035 some of the TIP projects should be

taken into consideration. Mr. Peters stated that it is based on the assumption that these projects will be done in the next twenty-five years. Mr. Peters added that if the county becomes nonattainment then modeling for the projects will be required. Mr. Doyle stated that UCTC will identify these projects and run it in the model.

Mr. Wade commented about Traffic signal map. Mr. Wade asked whether the new traffic signal in the village of Saugerties has been added. The signal is by the diner on Washington Ave, south of the village. There was another signal at Mount Marion in Saugerties. Mr. Tobin stated the first has already been added. The signal by the diner needs to be added. Mr. Katz stated that the Town of Gardiner got a new signal last year at the intersection of Albany Post Road and Route 44/55.

Mr. Peters suggested looking at the regional connection for the trails into other counties in the region.

Mr. Zimmer asked about the commuter parking lot for the Walkway over the Hudson. Mr. Tobin stated that the commuter parking lots discussed on the LRTP includes the lots that are used either to take other mode of transportation or to share a ride.

Mr. Tobin stated that the FHWA requires the council to have discussions on transportation security and determine the role of the MPO on the issue. Mr. Tobin stated that the chapter on transportation security on the LRTP says that the role of MPO in transportation security is very limited and passive yet supportive. Mr. Tobin asked whether the council members would be willing to help the security agency if asked. Mr. Zimmer responded in affirmative.

Mr. Doyle stated that mentioning on the LRTP that the county and city need additional staff to implement projects may be too specific. Mr. Doyle stated that the LRTP should focus on discussing the MPO's role in project implementation.

Mr. Doyle asked what the difference was between maintenance needs and corrected maintenance needs. Mr. Peters stated that corrected maintenance needs include reconstruction. Maintenance needs includes periodic resurfacing. Mr. Doyle asked about the \$1 billion shortfall in the 25 year financial need shown in the forecast in the finance plan. This is calculated by using the anticipated revenue and expense. Mr. Tobin stated that there is far more need than funding available. And getting the funding for the project is going to be very competitive in the future. Mr. Doyle stated that the shortfall is continuing to grow. Mr. Doyle added that the due to the shortfall either the transportation system may not be as well maintained or the cost of the projects is going to shift out of the federal funding source. These are real needs and there is going to be some tough choices to be made.

Mr. Peters stated that the crash data will have to go further back to make future projections. Mr. Peters suggested going back as far as it is going forward to see the long term trend. Mr. Peters stated that predicting fatal data is going to be hard because it will vary widely from year to year. Mr. Doyle asked whether it will be better to monitor crash data on an annual basis rather than on a trend basis. Ms. Basnet stated that UCTC has data available from 1990. UCTC has created a map for crashes from 2000. The table on the draft LRTP is from 2006, 2007, 2008.

Mr. Tobin mentioned that it looks as though more attention is being paid to bridges than paving. Mr. Peters stated that with limited funding, the choice has to be made between falling bridges or paving conditions. Mr. Pine asked whether the paving condition analysis takes into account the pavings that are done with local dollars and doesn't go through the TIP. Mr. Tobin stated that the analysis only looks at the federal aid system.

Mr. Tobin stated that the survey for the LRTP is online. The survey will be available till June 30, 2010. Mr. Doyle stated that there will be one more public meeting in August 2010. The council will come together in September to adopt the plan. Mr. Doyle asked the council members to take the online survey and meet again in July to move the plan forward.

b. Draft Resolution 2010-04: Transportation Management Area (TMA) Funding Request:

Mr. Doyle stated that the TMA has requested to move the Section 5317 New Freedom Fund to Dutchess County. The total amount requested by Dutchess County is \$98,481. Ulster County's share of this request totals \$4,283. Ulster County cannot find use for this small amount of money. It is better to combine this money into one county. Ulster County has transferred money to other counties in the past. Mr. Doyle asked for approval of Resolution 2010-04: Transportation Management Area (TMA) Funding Request. **Motion to approve by Mr. Swenson, seconded by Mr. Katz. All in favor.**

c. Draft Resolution 2010-05: FFY 2010 TIP Amendment: Mr. Doyle stated that the resolution is to amend the FFY 2010 TIP which will allow Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) to add buses and other miscellaneous equipment purchases to the FFY 2010 program. Mr. Doyle stated that the draft resolution will be passed to the Policy Committee for its approval. Mr. Doyle asked for approval of Resolution 2010-05 for discussion purposes. **Motion to approve by Mr. Peters, seconded by Mr. Swenson.**

Discussion: Mr. DiBella stated that the fund will be used for two Orion buses, two support vehicles, signage, security cameras, bus shelters, bike racks, preventative maintenance and project administration. The security cameras will improve the security and productivity. The money is available to UCAT from its 5307 program. Mr. Tobin asked whether the resolution will be out for mail ballot or to bring back for the July Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Doyle stated that this will be decided later. Mr. Doyle asked if UCAT could wait until the Policy Committee meeting in July. Mr. DiBella stated that will be fine. **All in favor.**

d. Draft FFY 2011-2015 TIP Update: Mr. Peters handed out a copy of the draft TIP 2011-2015. Mr. Peters asked the project sponsors to go through the draft TIP to check if it is consistent with what was agreed to in the local program in March 2010. Mr. Peters stated that the local program was discussed in March 2010; he would like to discuss the state program scheduled for the next 5 fiscal years. Mr. Peters discussed some of the state programs listed on the TIP:

- Replace the Route 209/Rochester Creek Bridge.
- NYSDOT is starting improvement work on the Route 9W at Malden Turnpike Intersection.
- Route 9W at Young Avenue Intersection improvement. NYSDOT is installing traffic signal and turn lanes.
- Reimbursing the Town of Rosendale for the construction, lease and maintenance of Park and Ride on Route 32.
- Route 213/Rondout Creek Bridge Deck Replacement, Town of Ulster (BIN#1041200).

- Route 213 Retaining wall, Town of Rosendale: Mr. Peters stated that Route 213 is closed. Mr. Peters stated that the project was scheduled, but Route 213 got closed before the project was let. NYSDOT is doing emergency work and trying to restore Route 213.
- Frank Sottile Boulevard/Route 199, Town of Ulster: Is a state funded project scheduled for FY 2015.
- Wurts Street/Dock Street Bridge Rehab, City of Kingston (BIN#1007350): This is a suspension bridge between the City of Kingston and the Town of Esopus. The consultant is currently looking at it. The cost is going to be around \$17 million.
- Washington Ave and Sawkill Road Intersection improvement: Mr. Peters stated that this involves implementing a roundabout.
- Washington Ave: Sawkill Road–Schwenk Drive: This is preliminary work.
- I-587 at Albany Ave and Broadway: Intersection project.
- Reimbursing the Village of New Paltz for construction, lease and maintenance of the Park and Ride Lot on Route 32.
- Route 209 Study.
- Route 299 at New Paltz project: To address capacity and safety needs identified in the New Paltz Transportation and Land use study.
- Route 213 Reconstruction.
- Ulster County Park and Ride project.

Mr. Peters stated that the multi-county and New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA) projects are not on the list.

Ms. Budik asked why the Kings Highway/Tissal Road project wasn't listed. Mr. Tobin stated that the project is there but may not have been on the list. Mr. Doyle stated that UCTC will check on the project and get back.

Mr. Dungan asked about the South Putt Corners Road project moving back. Mr. Doyle stated that the project is eligible for federal aid now. Mr. Tobin stated that the project is pushed back because of priorities set by UCDPW. Mr. Dungan stated that there is safety issue. Mr. Doyle stated that this is depending on the funding available. If this project has to be moved forward then another project needs to be moved back.

Mr. Brink raised his concern about the Frank Sottile Boulevard project being pushed back to 2016. Mr. Peters mentioned that this happened because the county was originally supposed to provide funding for the project. Mr. Peters stated that there has to be discussion amongst partners about how the project is going to be paid for. Mr. Peters stated that once the rest of the funding package is figured out it can be moved. It is close to 2 million in local share.

Mr. Doyle stated that there is no voting today on the TIP. The council would like to put it out to the Policy Committee meeting in July for their consideration. The county will have to swap projects if the South Putt Corners project needs to be moved. Mr. Doyle added that all of the other projects are bridge projects.

Mr. Adin asked about the Abeel Street project Stages 1 and 3. Mr. Adin stated he wanted to ask about the timing for construction. Previously both stages were supposed to done in the same year. Now the timing is staggered. Mr. Tobin stated that the reason is fiscal constraint. Mr. Adin stated that the spreadsheet he received from NYSDOT has some errors. Mr. Peters stated that they have been corrected. (01:47:00)

Mr. Doyle asked for approval to pass the TIP to the Policy Committee meeting in July with the idea that the document will go for public comment and understanding that the county will look at the South Putt Corners Road project. **Motion to approve by Ms. Hokanson seconded by Mr. Katz.** (01:51:00)

Mr. Wade stated the Village of Saugerties would like the right-of-way (ROW) money moved into construction account for the village pedestrian improvement project. Mr. Tobin stated that this can be done once the approval is received from NYSDOT. This can be amended on the TIP even after its adoption.
All in favor.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Doyle passed TIP strip for the Mud Tavern Road Bridge project. Mr. Tobin asked the council to move it to the Policy Committee to amend the existing TIP to allow funding to flow to the Mud Tavern Road Bridge project should any of the Ulster County projects not meet the obligation deadline. There are currently two projects that may not meet the deadline. One of them is the Hickory Street project in Ellenville. Mr. Pine stated that this is because it got off the STIP and the county is trying to get it back. This will allow the county to move the project. Mr. Doyle asked for approval to move the Mud Tavern Road Bridge project to the Policy Committee. **Motion to approve by Mr. Adin seconded by Ms. Hokanson.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Doyle stated that he would like to discuss the initiative coming out of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The county planning departments for Orange, Dutchess and Ulster Counties are considering putting joint grant request to do smart growth as a region. The amount is approximately \$5 million. This is a federal grant to look at what the next generation of smart growth looks like. The counties have met with Greenway, HUD, and State Smart Growth cabinet. Mr. Doyle stated that this brings the questions about what the next generation of MPO looks like. The next generation of MPO will need to stress the need to change funding needs by changing the land use pattern.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.