

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

March 1, 2005

Ulster County Community College
Stone Ridge, NY

Members

Present: Bob Dennison⁺ NYSDOT Region 8
Jack Hohman^{**} NYS Thruway Authority – NYC Division
Jeremy Wilber^{*} Town of Woodstock

Others

Present: Tracey Brooks Senator Clinton's Office
Katie Cahill Saugerties Times
Mircea Catona UC Public Works Department
Peter Faith Edwards & Kelcey
Tom Jackson Ulster County Area Transit
Rich Peters NYSDOT Region 8
Cynthia Ruiz Ulster County Area Transit
Hemmy So Poughkeepsie Journal
Jeff Stiles Edwards & Kelcey
Geddy Sveikauskas Ulster Publishing

Staff

Present: Dennis Doyle UC Planning Board
Jean Gunsch UCTC - Poughkeepsie
Jean Shanahan UCTC - Poughkeepsie
Bill Tobin UCTC - Kingston

⁺Permanent Voting Member

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

^{**}Voting Proxy

[^]Advisory Member

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 10:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Doyle stated that the Policy group is five (5) voting members short of achieving a voting majority. Mr. Doyle stated that due to the important nature of agenda items, a subsequent Policy Committee meeting may be scheduled later this month.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Sveikauskas commented that he is not aware of how the public can offer input on

how transportation projects in Ulster County are identified and selected and suspects many persons of the general public share the same curiosity. Mr. Sveikauskas also asked the Council how the average Citizen can find out what transportation projects are ongoing in Ulster County and planned for the future.

Mr. Dennison responded to say that current Ulster County roadway projects now under construction can be found on www.hudsonvalleytraveler.com. The Ulster County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), now in development, is a five-year implementation plan listing transportation projects to be implemented during the 2006 to 2010 time period. Current Ulster County TIP projects planned for near-term implementation can be found on the FFY 2003-2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) located on NYSDOT's Region 8 web site and at the UCTC office in Kingston.

Mr. Tobin noted projects planned for implementation beyond 2010 can be found in the Ulster County Long-Range Transportation Plan (currently being updated). Projects identified in the Long-Range Plan are subject to revisions based upon future plan updates.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

As a result of not meeting quorum requirements, Mr. Doyle stated that the previous meeting minutes of September 7, 2004, need no formal approval.

Mr. Dennison noted corrections to include Ms. Shanahan and Ms. Gunsch are UCTC staff and the minutes and other handouts should clarify this distinction and that the consultant selection processes stated within the minutes and used by the UCTC should be changed from "competitive bidding" to read "qualifications-based."

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Tobin announced that Tom Mank has joined the UCTC as Senior Transportation Planner. Mr. Mank comes to the UCTC from the Tompkins County Planning Department in Ithaca, NY where he assisted the MPO there. Mr. Mank will provide staff assistance in the areas of geographic information systems (GIS) mapping, travel demand forecasting, traffic count program development, and project support assistance.

Mr. Mank is currently attending a traffic count workshop in Schenectady, NY and will be present at future meetings.

Mr. Tobin announced that both the Long-Range Transportation Plan and Countywide Transit Plan stakeholder group meetings were held on February 15 and 16. Eleven stakeholder group meetings were assembled for the two day period and valuable information was collected from key stakeholders and the public. Both LRP and the Countywide transit studies are progressing well and are expected to be completed by August of 2005.

Mr. Tobin announced that a Town of Ulster Washington Avenue Corridor Area Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 10 at 1:00 p.m. at the Ulster County Office Building 3rd Floor to discuss a funding arrangement for Phase II (design).

Mr. Tobin announced that a UCTC Transit Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15 at 10:00 am at the Ulster County Office Building, 6th Floor to discuss the UCAT/Citibus Transit Systems Integration Analysis study scope of work.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #2005-1 was presented for information only describing the method for distributing FTA Section 5307 funds between the City of Kingston and County of Ulster.

Ms. Ruiz provided background information on FTA 5307 funds and meetings between the County and the City of Kingston.

Resolution #2005-2 was presented for information only amending the current SFY 2004-2005 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to reflect changes to the budget. Discussion followed concerning the five modifications made to the existing work program budget.

Mr. Tobin presented the draft SFY 2005-2006 UPWP and major projects proposed to be completed by staff over the next year(s). Major projects proposed and discussed included the (1) City of Kingston's \$30,000 Washington Avenue at Rt. 32 intersection alternatives analysis study; (2) an \$80,000 Ulster County CSX Railroad Corridor train detection, pedestrian crosswalk, and grade separation scoping study; (3) a City of Kingston CSX Railroad Corridor Quiet Zone study performed by staff; (4) a \$150,000 Town/Village of Saugerties alternative alignment analysis; (5) a City of Kingston I-587 at Albany Avenue intersection alternatives analysis study to be designed in-house by NYSDOT; (6) a Village of Saugerties Ulster Avenue at Market Street alternatives analysis study to be designed in-house by NYSDOT; (7) a Town of Woodstock Rt. 375 at Rt. 212 intersection alternatives analysis study to be designed in-house by NYSDOT; (8) a \$200,000 Rt. 209 Corridor transportation and land use study from the Town of Ulster to the Village of Ellenville; and (9) a \$35,000 Ulster County Rt. 28 Rail-With-Trail study from the City of Kingston to the Belleayre Mountain Ski Resort.

Comments and suggestions were received related to the projects noted above and are summarized as follows:

- The Ulster County CSX Railroad Corridor project scope may need to be narrowed to exclude the grade separation scoping element due to the limited amount of funds proposed.
- The City of Kingston's Quiet Zone study proposal needs to be clearly defined in terms of what staff is to do. Concerns were raised about public involvement process and to what extent staff would be involved.
- The Town/Village of Saugerties 9W Alternative Alignment Analysis study project title may need to be revised to read "9W Corridor Study."
- Route 209 Corridor Study may be under funded given the nature and scope of the issues associated with this corridor.

Mr. Faith of Edwards & Kelcey presented the scope of work and a progress update to the UCTC's Long-Range Transportation Plan development effort. The project is currently on track for completion in July 2005.

ADJOURNMENT

A consensus was reached by those in attendance to re-schedule a UCTC Policy committee before April 1, 2005. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.