

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Policy Committee Meeting**

Meeting Summary

March 18, 2010

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

**Voting
Members**

Present:	Barbara Budik**	Town of Saugerties
	Terry Dungan*	Village of New Paltz
	Bill Gorton**	NYS DOT Region 8
	Joe Katz*	Town of Gardiner
	Steve Osborn*	Town of Marlborough
	Adam Pizer**	UC Executive's Office
	Jim Quigley ⁺	Town of Ulster
	Terrie Rosenblum*	Town of Woodstock
	Phil Serafino**	NYS Thruway Authority
	Ralph Swenson**	City of Kingston
	John Valk*	Town of Shawangunk
	Fred Zimmer*	Town of Esopus

Others

Present:	Alan Adin	City of Kingston
	Mark Boungard	NY Adirondack Trailways
	Joel B. Brink	Town of Ulster
	Bob DiBella	UC Area Transit
	Gilbert Hales	Saugerties Citizen
	Jack Hohman	NYS Thruway Authority
	Cindy Lanzetta	Town of Marlborough
	Dr. Kathy Nolan	UC Trails Advisory Committee
	Charlie Schaller	UC Traffic Safety Board
	Dan Shuster	Shuster Associates
	Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Department/UCTC Staff
	Bill Tobin	UCTC Staff
	Sweta Basnet	UCTC Staff

*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. Mr. Doyle conducted roll. Mr. Doyle stated that quorum is achieved.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

Mr. Doyle introduced Bill Gorton, Acting Regional Director for New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) Region 8. Mr. Gorton stated that he has been in this position since the retirement of Joan Dupont, former Regional Director. Mr. Gorton added that he has been with the Region for 26 years.

Mr. Doyle introduced Mr. Jim Quigley, Supervisor from the Town of Ulster; Mr. Steve Osborne, the Deputy Supervisor of the Town of Marlborough; and Mr. Fred Zimmer from the Town of Esopus. Mr. Doyle stated that the County Executive has extended his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Doyle added that the County Executive is concerned about Council activities and is briefed by Council staff on a regular basis.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 27, 2009 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the meeting summary from the May 27, 2009 Policy Committee meeting. **Motion to approve by Mr. Katz, seconded by Ms. Rosenblum. All in favor.**

Mr. Doyle stated that the UCTC ceased sending out agenda packets in the U.S. mail and has begun to post agenda packets online to save on paper and mailing costs. Mr. Doyle asked whether there were any issues or problems with the new format. None were mentioned.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft SFY 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update: Mr. Tobin stated that the UPWP was sent to the Technical Committee for their review. The second page of the agenda has a draft summary of the UPWP tasks. Mr. Tobin stated that the Route 209 Transportation and Land Use Corridor study has been included on the list of activities. UCTC staff will monitor this project. The project is co-managed by NYSDOT and UCTC. Mr. Doyle stated that staff has proposed to make some changes on page 5 of the UPWP. It currently identifies Rich Peters, NYSDOT Region 8, as staff with zero hours of service. Mr. Doyle suggested listing NYSDOT in general, instead of an individual from NYSDOT. Also, need to indicate that NYSDOT makes up 15% of the local match. Mr. Doyle stated that the project is 80%/15%/5% match. The federal government pays 80% of the total costs; NYSDOT pays for up to 75% of the 20% local match (or 15% of total costs), and Ulster County pays the remaining 25% of the 20% local match or 5% of total planning costs. Mr. Doyle added that when the UPWP was originally drafted, it was proposed that UCTC would add an additional staff member. UCTC staff is now proposing that it will no longer add a new staff member. This change will be reflected in the budget and amended accordingly. The funds that were allocated for additional staff will be added to the unprogrammed balance. It will be carried over for additional studies by municipalities and the Council. UCTC staff may need to add staff next year's budget to meet air quality conformity requirements.

Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Tobin to provide a summary of projects and studies proposed in the SFY 2010 UPWP.

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update: Mr. Tobin stated that UCTC staff is currently working on LRTP update. The LRTP update is scheduled for completion in September of 2010.

City of Kingston I-587 at Albany Avenue Intersection Study: Mr. Tobin stated that UCTC staff recently initiated the City of Kingston I-587 at Albany Avenue Intersection Study. A study group has been assembled to look at intersection design alternatives. A consultant group led by Fitzgerald & Halliday of Hartford, Connecticut, is retained to assist staff and the Advisory Committee with the generation of preliminary design alternatives and public involvement tasks.

City/County Transit Development Plan: Mr. Tobin stated that UCTC staff plans to initiate the City of Kingston/Ulster County transit development plan after the completion of the LRTP

Update. It will be an in depth planning exercise that will help the coordination effort between the two operators, help identify needs, improve service, and help develop capital financing plans.

Route 209 Corridor Transportation and Land Use Study: Mr. Tobin stated that UCTC staff will monitor the Route 209 corridor study.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update: Mr. Tobin stated that UCTC staff is also working on the FFY 2011 – 2015 TIP Update. The TIP update is scheduled for adoption in September of 2010.

Ms. Budik stated that she would like to discuss the Kings Highway corridor project. The Saugerties Area Mobility Analysis (SAMA) study identified the Kings Highway corridor and associated public and private railroad crossings as a safety problem for the town. Ms. Budik stated that the Town of Saugerties came to the MPO for funding. It was agreed among the MPO and NYSDOT that railroad crossings should be closed at all private driveways, build a new collector road, and direct local traffic to one public road that crosses the CSX railroad corridor safely. NYSDOT agreed to fund the planning, engineering and construction phases of the project using federal and state funding. The project was placed on the TIP and was adopted by the Council as a Federal and state funded project with NYSDOT as the lead agency. However, another project with a similar description somehow found its way onto the TIP and places nearly all the financial burden onto the Town and identifies the Town as the lead agency. This change was made without the Town's knowledge or approval. Ms. Budik requested the Council to look into this matter before considering any new projects.

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the draft SFY 2010-2011 UPWP. **Motion to approve by Ms. Rosenblum, seconded by Ms. Budik. All in favor.**

Mr. Gorton stated that he has a few comments on the draft UPWP. Mr. Gorton suggested removing the sentence "NYSDOT may elect to appoint unpaid NYMTC staff support to assist with this task" from page 8 under TMA/CMP Chapter for the Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Gorton also asked to remove "Task cost: \$0 (funded by NYSDOT)" on the same paragraph. Mr. Gorton added that he had a comment about the sentence "NYSDOT Region 8 Office staff will provide unpaid assistance developing the UCTC's TMA chapter for the Year 2035 Plan Update." Mr. Gorton stated that there was no communication on this with NYSDOT and he would like to see more communication in future. Mr. Doyle asked if it could be amended to say "NYSDOT will provide assistance in developing the amount of funding available." Mr. Doyle added NYSDOT has always provided assistance in looking at funding available. Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the amendments to the draft SFY 2010-2011 UPWP. **Motion to approve by Ms. Rosenblum, seconded by Ms. Budik. All in favor.**

Draft Jobs Bill (Economic Stimulus Part 2) List of Projects: Mr. Doyle stated that projects have been proposed for Economic Stimulus Part 2. Mr. Doyle added that this may not be necessary because the new Jobs Bill doesn't include transportation stimulus funding. Mr. Doyle suggested adopting the list as 'needs' rather than 'amendments' to the TIP with the idea that if Jobs Bill came along with transportation projects, or if there is a Transportation bill, then these projects get added to the TIP. Mr. Tobin stated that there is talk of subsequent Jobs Bill amendments which could provide for additional stimulus funding.

Mr. Tobin stated that the project list went through a three week comment period. Mr. Tobin stated that he would like to discuss the comments received. Mr. Tobin stated that one of the

comments was from New Paltz as to why the South Putt Corners Road project was not on the list. Mr. Tobin explained by saying the road is not federal aid eligible at this time.

Mr. Tobin stated that the other comment was Sandra Dorn, Endangered Species Biologist from the US Department of Interior. Ms. Dorn's comment was a reminder about environmental conformity requirements and clearances needed to implement projects. Mr. Tobin stated that these factors are taken into consideration during the planning and design phases. Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the draft Jobs Bill list of projects. **Motion to approve by Ms. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Valk. All in favor.**

Mr. Gorton stated that the Wurts Street over Rondout Creek Suspension Bridge Repairs project (PIN# 880862) in the City of Kingston/Hamlet of Port Ewen would not be able eligible for stimulus funding if there was a Jobs Bill. The project is not shovel ready. Mr. Tobin stated that the project is in the second tier of "ready" projects. Mr. Gorton stated that the Route 9W: Marie Road to Route 44 project (PIN#823925) should not be on the list. This project is scheduled for bid letting April of 2010. This is also a NYS bond-funded project. Mr. Swenson stated that the City worked on the cost estimate for paving eligible roads with Creighton Manning Engineering (CME). Citywide paving needs totaled approximately \$3 million. Mr. Tobin stated that he will change the funding needs for this project at \$4 million.

Transportation Management Area (TMA) Federal Certification Review Report Discussion:

Mr. Doyle stated that Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council (PDCTC), Orange County Transportation Council (OCTC) and UCTC were certified as meeting MPO federal requirements. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) did make recommendations for UCTC staff to act upon. UCTC staff is working on the recommendations with Dutchess and Orange Counties. Mr. Tobin stated that staff proposes to make corrections before September 30, 2011.

Mr. Tobin stated that the agenda packet has a summary of recommendations specific to UCTC and how staff intends to address them. A summary of corrective actions is identified below:

1. The final report recommends that all three MPOs need to review their Operating Procedures and either make the necessary revisions thereto or adopt new written agreements covering the roles and responsibilities for cooperative planning, planning roles and responsibilities, the development/sharing of financial information for TIPs and Metropolitan Transportation Plans, and the development of the annual listing of obligated projects. This should be accomplished by May 1, 2010. Mr. Tobin stated that the MPO organization staffing arrangement for the UCTC, NYSDOT, and New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) needs to be defined.
2. UCTC needs to include the resulting products and schedule for completing work for all UPWP projects. This must be accomplished in the 2010-2011 UPWP Update. Mr. Tobin stated that this comment has been addressed.
3. The MPOs should reevaluate their TIP revision guidelines in light of the new definitions of Amendment and Administrative Modification. Mr. Tobin stated that UCTC staff is working on this. This will explain how TIP actions are made and by whom. This issue will be addressed during the FFY 2011-2015 TIP Update process.

4. The MPOs should work to clarify the relationship between the TIP and the STIP on their websites. Mr. Tobin stated that UCTC will work with NYSDOT on this.
5. The MPOs should revise their public involvement procedures to reflect how they are incorporating the use of visualization and consulting with resource agencies.
6. The MPOs should work to incorporate Performance Measures into the transportation plan. Mr. Tobin stated that this is the next agenda item. This is going to be incorporated in the LRTP Update.
7. The UCTC should try to harmonize its next Plan horizon date with the other two MPOs. Mr. Tobin stated this comment is related to the air quality conformity issue and will be addressed during the LRTP Update.
8. The next versions of the MPOs Plans should include a broader discussion of the types of potential environmental mitigation activities and potential areas to carry out these activities. Mr. Tobin stated that UCTC will work with FHWA and FTA on this. It will be incorporated into the LRTP Update.
9. The MPOs should consider having a jointly written section covering TMA-wide issues included in each individual Plan. Mr. Doyle stated that UCTC has made request to NYSDOT and NYMTC to provide assistance with the development of a TMA chapter for Ulster's LRTP update. Mr. Doyle added that this is the reason for the language in UPWP that says, "NYSDOT Region 8 Office staff will provide unpaid assistance developing the UCTC's TMA chapter for the Year 2035 Plan Update."
10. Performance measures and strategies: The Congestion Management Plan (CMP) needs to also identify appropriate strategies to assess the extent of congestion. Mr. Doyle stated that the three MPOs are involved in the Travel Time Survey process to measure congestion.
11. Process to evaluate the causes of congestion is needed. Mr. Tobin stated that UCTC will work with PDCTC, OCTC, and NYSDOT and may be even Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to develop a process to evaluate the causes of congestion before September 30, 2011.
12. Implementation schedule & funding source for identified improvements. Mr. Tobin stated that UCTC will work with PDCTC, OCTC and NYSDOT to develop a CMP implementation and financial plans before September 30, 2011. The CMP should identify an implementation schedule, implementation responsibilities, and possible funding sources for each strategy (or combination of strategies) proposed for implementation. Mr. Tobin added that Ulster County receives additional planning funds and federal surface transportation highway funds called Large Urban, and Large Urban FTA funds. But there is no defined way of programming these funds. There is no document which identifies how this funding should be programmed.
13. Implementation of a process for periodic assessment of the effectiveness of implemented strategies, in terms of the area's established performance measures. UCTC staff will work with its TMA partners to develop a Congestion Management Process (CMP) evaluation plan before September 30, 2011.

14. The MPOs should consider evaluating the potential benefits that the CDTC's Linkage Program approach could have in their individual areas. Mr. Tobin stated that this would involve setting aside funds for municipalities for conducting studies. UCTC staff currently doesn't have the manpower to do this. UCTC staff will consider this activity during the SFY 2011 UPWP update effort.
15. A recommendation for each MPO is to analyze the extent of outreach to Environmental Justice (EJ) communities by overlaying addresses from mailing lists and comments received onto maps of EJ communities and TIP projects. Mr. Tobin stated that this involves incorporating low income, minority population and disadvantages areas in the planning process. This will be performed during the LRTP and TIP update process later this year.
16. The MPOs should open a discussion with their members on their appropriate role in furthering coordination and cooperation among member agencies on security issues. Mr. Doyle stated that this is related to the Traffic Operations and Public Safety (TOPS) Committee established several years ago. Mr. Tobin stated the LRTP Update will further discuss and explore transportation security issues in Ulster County and the role of the UCTC.
17. All three MPOs publish a listing of obligated projects that is available on their respective websites. UCTC's current listing is in the TIP documents as "2008 Federal Aid Obligation Report." UCTC staff have completed this corrective action.

Draft Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Goals and Performance Measures

Discussion: Mr. Tobin stated that the UCTC's LRTP is now undergoing its required five year update. The Plan's horizon year will be 2035. Mr. Tobin stated that the LRTP 2030 identified eight themes/goals which include; 1) facilities, 2) mobility, 3) safety, 4) security, 5) environment, 6) economy, 7) quality communities and 8) equity. Mr. Tobin stated that the themes and goals for 2030 and 2035 are nearly identical. SAFETEA-LU legislation requires the separation of safety and security themes/goals. Mr. Tobin stated that he has added one new goal for LRTP 2035 update. The goal new goal is "maximize the utilization of federal aid programmed." Mr. Gorton suggested using bullets instead of numbers if they are not to be in priority order. Mr. Doyle stated that the Council will meet on a monthly basis to discuss the Plan's update. A smaller group may be formed to steer the LRTP's update. UCTC staff has done a substantial amount of map work for the Plan. Mr. Doyle asked the Council members to send their comments on goals to staff.

Mr. Tobin discussed the draft performance measures for the LRTP Update, which include include; 1) average travel time to work, 2) volume-to-capacity ratio, 3) accident rate, 4) % of federal air eligible roadways with pavement condition rated 'fair' or 'better', 5) number of federal aid projects demonstrating implementation activity, 6) average capacity of park and ride lots, 7) % of bridges with bridge condition rating of 5 or higher, 8) number of transit passengers per mile traveled, 9) number of miles of trail pathways developed, and 10) vehicle miles traveled. Mr. Doyle stated that there is real world application for these performance measures. Mr. Doyle stated that staff has been looking at the accident rates in the County. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the number of fatalities in Ulster County is quite high. The UCTC needs to focus on reducing the accident rates in Ulster County. Mr. Gorton suggested being consistent about whether to measure usage or capacity or efficiency or total numbers. Currently, it is a mix.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

There were none.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

Dr. Nolan stated that the Ulster County Tourism Advisory Board has asked her to bring up the topic of signage for Walkway over the Hudson. There have been efforts to get the signage for safety, traffic and other reasons. The Board is working with NYSDOT and is looking for assistance from the Council. Mr. Doyle stated that staff has submitted a set of maps for the locations of the signs. Two of the locations are on the Thruway and others are on the State roads. Mr. Doyle stated that the Dyson Foundation will pay for the signage. The issue is getting the locations approved. Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Gorton to keep staff updated about the status of the signage. Mr. Tobin asked about the status of the Bronx River bridge project in Westchester County. Mr. Gorton stated that the project is on schedule for construction in FFY 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM.