

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL  
Technical Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Summary**

May 23, 2011

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

**Members**

Present:	Alan Adin**	City of Kingston Engineering Department
	David Bolles	UC Department of Public Works
	Joel Brink**	Town of Ulster
	Jimmy Bruno	Town of Saugerties
	Ray Costantino	Town of Lloyd
	Bob DiBella	UC Area Transit
	Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Board/UCTC Staff
	Andrew Emrich	UC Department of Public Works
	Gerald Gavin	City of Kingston Engineering Department
	Greg Helmsmortel*	Town of Saugerties
	Jack Hohman	NYS Thruway Authority
	Joe Katz <sup>+</sup>	Town of Gardiner
	Bruce Loertscher	Town of Plattekill
	Patrick McCarroll**	New York State Thruway Authority
	Rich Peters**	NYS DOT Region 8
	Ed Pine	UC Department of Public Works
	Sue Ronga**	UC Department of Public Works
	Charlie Schaller	UC Traffic Safety Board
	Sweta Basnet	UCTC Staff
	Burt Samuelson	UC Planning Board/UCTC Staff

**Others**

Present:	Mark Boungard	New York Trailways
	Glen Gidaly	Barton and Loguidice
	Kathy Nolan	UC Trails Advisory Committee
	Anne Noonan	New York Trailways

\*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 10:00am. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

**CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mr. Doyle asked if there were any citizen's comments. Ms. Nolan cited three concerns of hers. First, she wanted to know the process for moving projects to 2015 or entirely off the TIP. The Ulster and Delaware Rail Trail Project was of particular concern. She said the Ulster County Trails Committee was actively involved in this project, which was moved to 2015. Second, she was having trouble searching for TIP data on documents posted to the UCTC website. Third, she asked about who the new representatives would be with the change in voting membership. Ms. Basnet said she would hand out

the list with the new voting membership later in the meeting. Mr. Doyle said changes to the TIP would be discussed a little later, and her concern about the trail project can be addressed then. Ms. Basnet said to download TIP documents directly to a computer as a pdf file in order to make them searchable.

Mr. Gidaly said the Town of Lloyd will have a public meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> for the Tillson Ave/Toc Dr Intersection Redesign Project. He said the Town thanks the Council and NYSDOT for financial support given to the project.

### **APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 24, 2011 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Doyle asked for a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 24, 2011 Technical Committee meeting. **Motion to approve by Mr. Katz, seconded by Mr. Brink. All in favor.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Re-adoption of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Mr. Doyle first asked the attendees if there were any questions. He then asked Mr. Peters if he wanted to say anything. Mr. Peters said NYMTC only adopted a one year program for FY2011, while everyone else adopted a TIP, because of a funding dispute between New York City and New York State. NYMTC has since adopted a five year TIP. However, the transfer to E-STIP created technical problems for all of New York State. Mr. Peters said NYSDOT is having all MPOs in Region 8 readopt their TIPs to clean the system up. This allows progression to the next fiscal year with a fairly clean program that is fiscally constrained. Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam (all part of NYMTC) adopted their versions two weeks earlier. Orange County is close, and Dutchess County will adopt on Wednesday. Mr. Peters thinks that everything has been straightened out, but that the Technical Committee can be point out any flaws or omissions. Mr. Doyle then asked if there were any questions. (9 minutes and 45 seconds)

Mr. Adin noted that third phase of the Abeel St Project is gone from the TIP. His question is whether or not the application process would have to begin all the way back to the IPP stage. Mr. Peters said for projects post 2015, design approval may have to be redone. (11 minutes, 5 seconds)

Mr. Doyle said design approvals being removed from the TIP is a big issue. Local projects have had design phases go away, no longer appearing at all. Mr. Peters said NYSDOT would have to look at projects individually. Mr. Doyle said members should work with Ms. Basnet to identify changes from the original TIP. Ms. Basnet said some of this was done already. Mr. Doyle wants to make Mr. Peters aware of possible changes, and referenced Ms. Nolan's Ulster and Delaware Rail Trail example. It originally had design work programmed for 2015, but now has disappeared completely from the TIP. Another example mentioned by Ms. Basnet is the Hickory Street Bridge in Ellenville. Mr. Doyle said it was originally scheduled for 2012 and now is no longer on the TIP. Ms. Basnet said there are five or six projects like this. Mr. Doyle cited on/off ramps for Frank Sottile Blvd as having disappeared from the TIP. Mr. Peters said projects do not have to be on the TIP. Mr. Doyle asked if a county bridge slated for construction was off the TIP. Ms. Basnet looked at the list and cited the Cape Ave/Beerkill Bridge as gone. Mr. Doyle said DPW should be made aware of that. (15 minutes, 0 seconds)

Ms. Basnet and Mr. Doyle believed the Hickory Street Bridge to be off of the TIP. Mr. Gidaly believed that preliminary design work is done for the Hickory Street Bridge and Mr. Doyle asked that Ellenville get back to UCTC with confirmation of this. Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Peters if there was any problem with local projects being held harmless in terms of where they were originally scheduled on the TIP. Mr. Peters said no, but wants everyone to realize that NYSDOT will have 20% less money for projects already programmed; fiscal constraint must be achieved. Mr. Doyle said \$16 million worth of projects are sitting post 2015 right now. Mr. Peters said upcoming update not so much project specific but focuses on priorities as a governing philosophy for determining which projects will receive funding. Mr. Doyle again mentioned the Frank Sottile Bridge Project, saying it is no longer carried on the TIP. Although, state dedicated funds are all that may be left. (20 minutes, 10 seconds)

Mr. Doyle said the TIP has to be moved on for public comment period and back to the Council in June. A discussion of which, will be at the Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Doyle wanted comments from project sponsors. This process may be done all over again during the summer or in September. **Mr. Doyle requested a consensus of the Technical Committee to move the TIP to the fifteen day comment period. All in favor.**

Ms. Basnet said the Policy Committee Meeting will be June 28<sup>th</sup>.  
(22 minutes, 50 seconds)

#### Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) TIP Amendment

Mr. DiBella said that as part of the five year capital program, three buses would be purchased. Mr. Doyle asked how far out do purchases go. Mr. DiBella responded over the course of several years to 2015, starting in 2012. Mr. DiBella said the Technical Committee can move this amendment to overall TIP adoption. **Mr. Doyle requested a consensus of the Technical Committee to move this amendment to the TIP which is out for public period and make the amendment also part of the public comment. All in favor**  
(24 minutes, 10 seconds)

#### Trailways, 5307 Funds, and listing on the TIP

Mr. Doyle explained that 5307 funds are allocated for Trailways as they are considered a commuter bus carrier. The money authorized by the three counties of the TMA, or ATD money, in 2009 was \$1.3 million and in 2010, \$1.2 million. The three counties operated simultaneously to pass resolutions for this. UCTC, at the request of the State, has transferred administrative authority to CDTA. They have also made this money available to Trailways. FTA has concerns about TIP readoption, because it wouldn't be shown on UCTC's TIP. Mr. Doyle said staff proposes an administrative modification to make this funding an item on the new TIP. The money exists; no new money being added or removed. This would allow Trailways to access the money prior to June. This allows CDTA to move forward and make these funds available.  
(27 minutes, 30 seconds)

#### Response from Question asked Earlier in the Meeting

Mr. Gidaly said 2012 is when Ellenville says construction will go ahead for the Hickory St Bridge. Mr. Doyle said the draft TIP will be checked, and the Village should send an e-mail to Ms. Basnet.  
(28 minutes, 50 seconds)

### Reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU

Mr. Doyle started discussing reauthorization of SAFTEA-LU and told the Committee that they need to be aware of two things. One, it would decrease the amount of funding to MPOs. Currently, 1.5% of the bills funding is available for planning purposes. Right now, 1.0% to 1.2% is now being proposed. Appropriations being discussed are at the same level, meaning decreased funding is likely. Two, MPO structures would change, meaning they'll be reclassified. MPOs greater than 1,000,000 in population would be classified as Tier 1. MPOs greater than 200,000 in population would be classified as Tier 2. UCTC represents an urbanized area of about 54,000 as of the 2000 Census; we do not yet know for 2010. Mr. Doyle said places in urbanized areas have remained fairly constant, some lost and some gained. Mr. Doyle anticipated populations should be similar for 2010. He noted that ways for calculating urbanized areas may change, affecting the population total. The hop, skip and jump calculation used a three and a half mile radius to count the urbanized core, bringing in Saugerties. The new calculation is 1 and a half miles in radius, and Saugerties may not be included. This MPO may be dissolved as a result, unless the urbanized population is greater than 50,000. Even if the population exceeds the threshold, UCTC would have to demonstrate that it meets the requirements of a Tier 2. The Governor could decide that the MPO should exist with approval from the Secretary of the NYSDOT. Mr. Doyle said the Governor and Secretary could recommend consolidation of the three Mid-Hudson MPOs. Together they exceed 200,000 in urbanized population. There would be a new regional entity, but UCTC would be disbanded. Mr. Doyle said UCTC staff would proceed as if 50,000 can be maintained, and request that the Governor let the MPO remain in existence with the support of NYSDOT and others.

(35 minute, 30 seconds)

Mr. Doyle continued by saying that if the MPO goes away, the coordination function written into a lot of rural use of federal funds requires many of the same roles, but without reimbursement. Other MPOs in New York State are facing the same situation. Mr. Doyle said the legislation changes the way metropolitan transportation plans get done. UCTC would have to go through its transportation plan every two years and determine if goals have been met. He said it would be difficult to set goals without transportation funding for improvements. This creates a catch 22 when it comes to setting goals. Initial discussions addressed hold harmless clauses for small MPOS, but this has gone away.

(40 minutes, 20 seconds)

### **PROJECT SPONSOR UPDATES**

Mr. Doyle asked project sponsors for updates. Mr. Katz discussed Gardiner's sidewalk projects. He said Phase II, according to NYSDOT, will go to bid and should happen this year. Phase I is finished with design, but construction will not happen this year. Mr. Doyle asked about funding for Phase I. Mr. Katz said funding has been received through the course of the project so far.

Mr. Costantino said he had news for three projects. He said the Rail Trail East was complete, and the final bill is with the contractor. Rail Trail West is in the design phase; a public comment period was held for it last month. A local land owner donated land for the Rail Trail West Project. Tillson Ave project is in the design phase, and aims to correct a misaligned intersection. Right of way acquisition is one year from now, and two years for construction.

Ed Bowles spoke about the Kerhonkson Bridge. He said the concrete deck and sidewalks were poured, and DPW personnel were starting to set forms for railings, as well preparation work for paving. He said plans are to open the bridge at the end of June. In Lloyd, one of the two arches over the rail trail opened recently. The second arch is still under construction, and should be completed in September.

Mr. Doyle said UCTC and NYSDOT have been successful at finding funding for rail trail projects. He said Boices Lane will be addressed as a local project without federal funds, and will not appear on the TIP. Mr. Doyle asked Mr. DiBella about buses, hybrids, and deliverables. Mr. DiBella said five hybrid buses are now in use. Two new buses that will be part of the fleet are clean diesels with 2010 engines, and cleaner than models currently owned. Mr. Doyle asked about 5307 monies requested for Trailways. Mr. DiBella said the bid for buses has been sent to purchasing. Mr. Doyle then discussed additional funding that may be available. He talked about Transportation, Community, and Systems Preservation (TCSP) Funds. TCSP is 80% capped. Mr. Peters said 15% matched for local projects by NYSDOT, and 20% for other projects.  
(46 minutes, 40 seconds)

Mr. Peters said applications for TCSP funds are due by May 27<sup>th</sup> to NYSDOT and ranked at the national level. NYSDOT collects them, cleans them up, answers questions about them, before applications are sent to the FHWA. Mr. Peters said that nationally \$60 million is available, so the likelihood of getting any of these funds is slim. Mr. Doyle said Saugerties was interested in this funding. The City of Kingston has also shown interest in this funding because of two issues. One is reversing the direction of traffic flow on Fair and Main Streets, since all the planning for this has been done. The second is for complete streets work. Mr. Costantino said additional construction work on the rail trail would be a candidate. Mr. Peters said recipients of TSCP funds have three years to use them. Expect initial reward money to be reduced once construction begins, because of the way federal monies work, just like earmarks.

Mr. Doyle then discussed JARC and New Freedom monies. As soon as UCTC gets allocations, UCTC staff will put notice to human service organizations of what is available. Ms. Basnet said the amounts should be known by June. Mr. Doyle added that the same should be the case with 5307 monies. Mr. DiBella said New Freedom is a three year program.

Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Peters about TEP money. Mr. Peters said another round of TEP money will awarded over the summer and the fall. Mr. Doyle said while Ulster County communities have been good about winning TEP monies, they have not been very successful in actually using it. Two communities, three if Ulster County is counted, have returned money to the TEP program, about \$3 million worth. Mr. Doyle said it does a lot for trails, historic preservation, and even environmental work. Mr. Doyle asked for volunteers for TEP Subcommittee. Mr. Helmsmoortel, Mr. Costantino, Mr. DiBella and Mr. Peters volunteered for the TEP Subcommittee.  
(57 minutes, 0 seconds)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATES**

### **Kingston I-587 at Albany Intersection Study**

Mr. Doyle said the 1-587 study is complete. A presentation to Kingston's Common Council about it will be given at City Hall in Kingston on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Announcements have been put in local newspapers. Mr. Doyle urged council members

from Kingston to attend. UCTC staff will present a draft resolution in support of the preferred alternative that came out of the study.

#### Traffic Monitoring Program

Ms. Basnet said 63 counters have been placed. They were installed mainly in the eastern part of the County.

#### Commuter Parking Lot Capacity Analysis and Needs Assessment

Ms. Basnet said the final report is done. Data was collected in October 2010. The report discusses some big issues. Exit 19 is considerably over capacity, and the Trailways lot is over capacity, too. Exit 20, while not an official lot, sees use, and is recommended for improvements.

#### Transportation Management Area (TMA) Update & Travel Time Survey

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, a TMA meeting was held at Stewart Airport. The meeting had a presentation from the New York Rideshare Program, a discussion of the travel time survey, and a discussion of TIP re-adoption. A draft report for the travel time survey was done on March 31<sup>st</sup>, save the Orange County portion. Data collection for Orange County was just finished.

(1 hour, 30 seconds)

#### Update on the UCTC Rotating Voting Membership

Ms. Basnet said that as of June 4, 2011, there will be a new set of rotating members. Only rotating members are scheduled for change. Ms. Basnet said she reached out to towns for the names of proxies. Mr. Doyle said that if a rotating community wants to continue sending representatives to Council meetings and its sister community is not interested in attending, the community that wants to continue attending meetings should reach out to its sister community for a proxy so it can continue to attend. Mr. Doyle cited the arrangement between Woodstock and the Town of Kingston.

#### Financial Report

Mr. Samuelson reported that there was a lower than normal reimbursement amount for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2010. He anticipated levels closer to normal with the hiring of a new fulltime staff member and additional contractual activity. For FY2010, UCTC was close to 30% under budget, whereas last year, UCTC was 6% under budget. He said UCTC will probably be less than 30% under budget for FY2011. (1 hour, 3 minutes, 10 seconds)

#### **OTHER/OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Gidaly said the Southern Ulster Alliance sponsored a project for design work and to create concepts for a proposed rail trail running from Lloyd and through New Paltz. A public meeting was held about it last week. Mr. Doyle asked if it will progress with local or state funds. Mr. Gidaly said the design report will act as a marketing tool that hopefully helps the sponsors shop around for funding. Mr. Doyle commented that the project would be a good candidate for transportation enhancement money. Mr. Peters said the North and South Putt Corners Roads, the crossing over the Thruway, and the Thruway's interchange makes it an expensive project. A round-about at Exit 18 would help the project. Mr. Doyle asked if the Thruway Authority would consider requests from local governments to aid getting the trail across the Thruway's frontage. Mr. Hohman said a round-about can eliminate the need for a deceleration or turning lanes and that

would provide the space to get the trail across. Mr. Peters said there is probably room on the bridge by restriping it.

Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Peters about Tiger 3 Funds. Mr. Peters said an announcement will be made in June.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:08am.