



# Ulster County Transportation Council

Michael P. Hein, County Executive  
Chairman

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## **ULSTER COUNTY LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS LAUNCHED**

*Public asked to weigh-in on document that will guide transportation investment decisions*

**Kingston, NY – May 4, 2015** Ulster County Transportation Council is pleased to announce the launch of its Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan public planning process. UCTC has scheduled three public meetings to solicit input on how to invest in our transportation future over the course of the next 25 years.

UCTC’s Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is updated at least every 5 years with a planning horizon that looks at least 20 years into the future. The most recent – the UCTC Year 2035 LRTP – was completed in 2010. The Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan has a 25-year outlook and will include population and economic trends as they relate to transportation needs. The 2040 LRTP will be fiscally-constrained and prioritize transportation needs based on the projections of available funding in the region over Plan’s horizon. The LRTP will also be in conformance with New York State Department of Transportation’s “Preservation First” model, which seeks to maximize the longevity of existing infrastructure utilizing asset management principals.

The LRTP will be multi-modal, embracing a variety of transportation modes in order to effectively serve the region in a manner that encourages environmental sustainability, accessibility, economic development, and enhances the quality of life for all users. The development of LRTP is being assisted by a broad-based, volunteer Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC’s monitors the Plan’s progress, offers input at key intervals, and reviews and comments on draft materials. In developing the LRTP UCTC is being assisted by transportation consultants RSG.

The public is encouraged to participate and provide input to the LRTP. Three meetings have been scheduled to provide information about the Plan and to provide the public with an opportunity to be heard. Individuals are encouraged to drop in if only for a few minutes during the open house. The schedule for meetings is as follows:

<b>Monday, May 11th, 2015</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 12, 2015</b>
6:00-8:00pm	Two sessions scheduled: 3:00-5:00pm <b>OR</b> 6:00-8:00pm
Ulster County BOCES Conference Center 175 Route 32 North New Paltz, NY 12561	Seven21 Media 721 Broadway Kingston, NY 12401

All sessions begin with a 30 minute open house, followed by a 30 minute presentation and concluded with an open floor for public comment and discussion. These meetings follow a series of focused stakeholder focus group meetings held in April.

### **rTown: An Innovative Approach to Public Involvement**

As part of the LRTP planning process, UCTC is excited to unveil rTown, an on-line mapping tool that allows the public to interactively share information and provide feedback on a variety of transportation and infrastructure issues across the county. Users simply need to create a login name and password, and they can begin to add comments and see what others are saying. Issues such as traffic safety, congestion, transit, walking and biking are among the topics that users are asked to provide feedback on. **Visit <https://ulster.maptool.rsginc.com/> to begin using rTown, which will be active through June 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**All of the information gathered at public meetings and through the rTown platform will be summarized and used to inform the final Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.**

It is anticipated that a draft plan will be completed and available for review in July 2015, at which time additional meetings will be scheduled to present the draft to the public.

For more information on the Long Range Transportation Plan and the public involvement opportunities, visit:

<http://ulstercountyny.gov/planning/active-studies/year-2040-long-range-transportation-plan-lrtp>

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*The Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC) is the state designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Ulster County and a portion of the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh Urbanized Area. The UCTC was designated by the Governor of New York as the MPO for the Kingston Urbanized Planning Area on April 30, 2003. The UCTC was formally organized with the adoption of Operating Procedures on June 4, 2003. The purpose of the UCTC is to build a consensus on local and regionally significant transportation, transit and non-motorized improvements through the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process.*

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