

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Policy Committee Meeting

DRAFT Meeting Summary
September 19, 2012
SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Voting Members Present:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| **Alan Adin | City of Kingston DPW |
| +Bill Gorton | NYS DOT |
| *Paul Hansut | Town of Lloyd |
| **Patrick McCarroll | NYS Thruway Authority |
| +Kelly Myers | Town of Saugerties |
| + James E. Quigley, 3rd | Town of Ulster |
| *Hector Rodriguez | Town of New Paltz |
| + Sue Ronga | Ulster County DPW |

Others Present:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sweta Basnet | Citizen |
| Janet Y. Caffo | UC Office of the Aging |
| **Jack Hohman | NYS Thruway Authority |
| Anne Noonan | Adirondack Trailways |
| **Richard Peters | NYS Dept. of Transportation |
| Alex Wade | Village of Saugerties |
| Kristen Wilson | UC Cornell Cooperative Extension |

Staff:

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|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Dennis Doyle | U.C. Planning Board/UCTC Staff |
| Brian Slack | UCTC Staff |

+ Permanent Voting Member

*Current Voting Member (until June 4, 2013)

** Voting Proxy for Voting Member

^Non-Voting Advisory Member

Bold text indicates member at the table with voting privileges

CALL TO ORDER

The Policy Committee meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 10:12am. Roll call for voting members was conducted by Mr. Slack.

CALL FOR CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Doyle asked if there were any citizen comments. There were no citizen comments.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 20th POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle asked for a motion to adopt the meeting summary from the previous Policy Committee meeting held on June 20th. **Motion** made by Hector Rodriguez; **second** by Kelly Myers. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Brian Slack circulated and briefly reviewed the following pieces of correspondence received by UCTC staff as follows:

- NYSDOT – SRT 212 Woodstock Response
- Use It or Lose It: Redistribution of Fiscal Year 2003-2006 Earmarks
- 5307 flex to Marilyn G. Shazor, Regional Administrator
- NYSDOT Kingston Park and Ride Press Release
- Beyond Preservation NYSDOT Survey Forms

Regarding the “Use It or Lose It” letter from the Office of the White House, Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Richards if those unused earmark funds might be reallocated for local projects. Mr. Peters noted that the Department has recently reviewed local projects with earmarks and has discussed project progress with them directly. Earmark funds that are not obligated by the end of December will likely be redistributed to the states to use in a manner that has not yet been determined. Mr. Doyle noted that Ulster County intends to submit a letter noting that the County believes the money can and should be used on a local bridge project immediately.

Regarding Mr. Gorton’s response letter referring to RT 212 in the Town of Woodstock, Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Gorton if the Department had made any further determination as to how it might address this ongoing problem. Mr. Gorton responded that Rt. 212 is certainly not the only road in the Region in this condition. The Department’s new asset preservation model is to preserve those roads that remain in good condition; poorer pavements will not be addressed until those other roads are adequately preserved. Lower volume, poorer pavements will very likely remain that way for several more years. Those roads in very poor condition will receive low-cost treatments until they can be entirely rebuilt. Mr. Doyle noted that in this case, if the road were indeed to become so unsafe as to require a closure, the detour would be significant. Mr. Gorton noted that the risk of a complete “road failure” is low and would not likely happen.

Supervisor Myers asked Mr. Gorton about the lack of advance notice and communication to local officials and residents in advance of the recent Rt 9W repaving project; some residents would have appreciated the opportunity to provide input to the Department regarding road maintenance needs. Mr. Gorton noted that this was strictly a maintenance paving project and did not include funds for enhancements. Ms. Myers also inquired about a landscaping component to the project, noting that she believed 60 trees were supposed to be planted in association with the project. Mr. Gorton noted that he was not aware of any separate landscaping component associated with this particular paving project but he will look into the issue.

Before transitioning into New Business, Mr. Doyle spent a few moments to thank Sweta Basnet for her service to the UCTC. After 6 years, Ms. Basnet recently submitted her resignation in order to reside with her husband in New Jersey. The Council acknowledged her efforts with a warm round of applause.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Resolution 2012-12: Apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year 2012 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley

Transportation Management Area (MHVTMA). Mr. Doyle explained that the Draft Resolution 2012-11 is for distribution of the FTA 5307 funds in the TMA to the Public Operators within the TMA and the Inter-County Commuter bus services. The preliminary Ulster County share for the public operators is \$827,668 and the Inter-County Commuter bus services is \$1,543,108. These funds may change pending alteration of the 2010 UZA 89 Poughkeepsie--Newburgh, NY—NJ boundary, which now includes portions of New Jersey.

Mr. Doyle asked for a motion for discussion. **Motion** made by Hector Rodriguez; **second** by Susan Ronga. Mr. Doyle opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Slack noted that he included a fact sheet published by the FTA regarding Section 5307/5340 funds. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**

Draft Resolution 2012-13: Distribution of the FFY 2012 Federal Transit Administration Section 5307/5340 Urbanized Area Apportionments Attributable to the Kingston

Urbanized Area. Mr. Doyle explained that the draft resolution proposes a percentage each designated recipient will receive concerning the allocation of FFY 2010 FTA Section 5307/5340 funds. As of 9/7/12, the proposed distribution of FFY 2012 FTA Section 5307/5340 Small Urban funds between UCAT and Citibus has not been determined. The most recent proportion was 50/50, however earlier proportions were 60/40 (UCAT/Citibus). A proposed proportion and justification will be presented to the Policy Committee and agreed upon.

Mr. Doyle asked for a motion for discussion. **Motion** made by Hector Rodriguez; **second** by Alan Adin. Mr. Doyle opened the floor for discussion.

Supervisor Myers voiced her concern that the City of Kingston appears to receive a significantly larger proportion of transportation funds than the surrounding suburban and rural townships. She noted that many of the surrounding towns have a comparable land area and equal land miles, yet Kingston seems to nonetheless receive more favorable funding in this and other areas of public funding. She further noted that Saugerties in fact has more lane miles than most municipalities in Ulster County. She asked the Director for an explanation of this apparent funding imbalance. Mr. Doyle explained that in this instance the Council is dealing with FTA transit funds which are appropriated to public transit operators in the County – UCAT and Kingston Citibus. These are designated recipients identified by the Governor of NYS and they are for transit carriers only and are not available for highway purposes. Ms. Myers noted this distinction. This year's allocation split reflects the fact that UCAT and Citibus do in fact cover unequal geographic areas.

Mr. Quigley noted that the agenda states that justification for the split in funding will be presented to the Policy Committee; he requested written clarification regarding this split. Mr. Doyle agreed to provide that written explanation within 10-14 days.

No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.

UCTC Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

update: Mr. Slack explained that the UCTC 2011-2015 TIP document will be updated shortly, pending the approval of two amendments and modifications made in June. All TIP amendments as approved by the UCTC Policy Committee during 2012. Any administrative modifications will also be provided in an appendix in order to show UCTC actions against state and federal approvals. The revised document will be posted on the project website at <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/planning/tip.html>.

In addition, volunteers are being sought to join a TIP Subcommittee which will be convened in mid-October in order to develop the 2014-2018 TIP. The TIP Subcommittee will review the current UCTC FFY 2011-2015 TIP projects against new NYSDOT and FHWA fiscal constraints and present findings to the UCTC Technical and Policy Committees for approval. Rich Peters at NYSDOT will be a partner of this process. Mr. Peters noted that we are still awaiting the allocation figures resulting from MAP-21. When those are received, we will be able to have our first meeting. The entire 2014-2018 TIP update will need to be completed by September 2013; this means that MPOs should have their TIPs approved by June 2013 in order for those updates to be incorporated into the STIP by September. Mr. Doyle asked if this is a one year or a two year review; Mr. Peters noted that we will be adding two years to the TIP/STIP. Final instructions on the process will be issued by NYSDOT. Mr. Slack noted that the statewide association of MPOs have discussed the process. TIP funding sources will change FFY14 under MAP-21. The MPO will need to develop a process for transitioning these funding sources in a clear manner in the document. New allocation formulas for the funding sources are also being developed by NYSDOT staff and should be available in mid-September. Those formulas are for the Federal Highway Program; Mr. Slack asked Mr. Gorton and Mr. Peters to comment on the potential impacts that these new allocation formulas will have for UCTC projects.

Mr. Peters believed that the overall amount of money should be relatively similar to what the state has received in the past. The allocation formulas may invoke marginal changes in the amount of money that gets distributed to the regions and MPOs. One of the bigger changes that has been discussed is a mandatory “set-aside” by the state office which will take money off the top in order to fund special state-wide projects. He assumed that local projects will generally work the same way and the Preservation First strategy will be in full effect. Marcheselli funds will not be guaranteed for local projects identified as Beyond Preservation. This would require the project sponsor to pay the entire 20% of the total project cost (as opposed to 15%).

To summarize, Mr. Slack stated that the MPOs will receive an update regarding allocation formulas and that information will be forwarded to members. Mr. Doyle requested volunteers wishing to participate on the subcommittee should contact Brian. The number of meetings required will be based on how difficult the process is to establish fiscal constraint. Mr. Slack noted that he will issue a statement to the distribution list asking for volunteers to step forward. Mr. Doyle strongly urged members who have projects on the TIP to participate.

Susan Ronga asked, ‘when the state makes decisions on the Beyond Preservation projects, will they be telling [local sponsors] what the criteria that they will be basing their decisions on will be and will they have an appeal process.’ Mr. Peters noted that there is always an appeal process. There are certainly many justifiable reasons for performing a Beyond Preservation project. Mr.

Adin inquired as to the status of the justifications that were submitted by local sponsors last month. Mr. Peters noted that Carolyn Ryan will be replying in the future.

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century: An Overview of MAP-21: MAP-21 extends current law (SAFETEA-LU) for the remainder of FY 2012, with new provisions for FY 2013 and beyond taking effect on October 1, 2012. Funding levels are maintained at FY 2012 levels, plus minor adjustments for inflation. The funding level maintains the existing 80/20 split between highway and transit programs – \$40.4 billion from the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) for FY 2013, and \$41.0 billion for FY 2014; \$10.578 billion for transit in FY 2013 and \$10.695 billion in FY 2014. A comprehensive overview of the legislation was provided by UCTC staff to the Technical Committee on 8/15. Mr. Slack noted that there is a presentation on the Act available on the UCTC website. He further noted that under MAP-21 there will certainly be some changes regarding the way that MPOs operate; some programs will be consolidated for example and performance management reporting will be required. The rules have not been completely written on the legislation at this point in time, therefore MPOs will continue to await guidance from NYSDOT on how to proceed.

Upcoming Meetings: The next meeting of the UCTC Technical Committee is tentatively scheduled for [postponed to November 29th and a joint meeting of the Tech and Policy committees will be held at this time]. Please make staff aware of any potential conflicts.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

An earlier inquiry put forth by Mr. Herb Litts regarding re-purposing of Tappan Zee bridge panels was brought to NYSThruway's attention. Mr. Jack Hohman reported that NYSDOT has requested that 150 surplus bridge panels associated with the Tappan Zee redecking project be retained for future use on state or local roads if and when they become available. This indicates that there is a precedent for such a request. Mr. Doyle requested contact information so that Ulster County could make a similar request so that – at the very least – we can be put on a list of interested parties. Contact info. at Main Office Thruway Authority will be provided. It was not made clear if Thruway would be receptive to such a request.

Mr. Slack also noted an issue that was raised by Supervisor Quigley regarding the Sawkill Rd. bridge over Int. 87; Thruway Authority agreed to provide the Supervisor with contact information in order to clarify maintenance procedures therein.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Slack reviewed project updates as outlined in the Agenda Supplement.

Regarding the Park and Ride update, Supervisor Quigley noted that the Town of Ulster has been receiving some conflicting information regarding the status of the Ulster Roundabout Park and Ride lot expansion that may occur adjacent to the existing lot. The developer has expressed his concerns to the Town that if progress is not made he may terminate his contract with the existing property owner, thereby putting the property back on the market. The Town of Ulster is interested in intervening in an effort to move the project forward. Mr. Gorton noted that the site

plan and process is indeed a complicated one. NYSDOT is interested in attempting to establish a simpler lease arrangement in order to rectify the situation but NYSDOT does not want to hold the development up and will allow the developer to move forward as he pleases. Regarding UCTC 5307 unallocated funds that have been allocated for lot expansion, those funds can be still be used to expand the lot at a future point in time if existing efforts fail. At this point, the Department feels that the lot has received a temporary expansion that is adequate for the time being (which essentially doubled the lot's capacity). Mr. Quigley noted that if there is an ability to come to a lease agreement on a space by space basis, he could guarantee the lot's expansion by the summer of 2013. Mr. Gorton noted that no clear plan has been established at this point, only a general concept. Mr. Doyle and Mr. Gorton both encouraged further discussions with all parties at one time and place to try to establish a way forward on this subject. Mr. Doyle noted that he will try to set something up to that effect.

Mr. Doyle requested further comments before adjourning; Mr. Peters offered some insight on the expanded NHS system process that is currently underway at NYSDOT Region 8. Eventually NYSDOT will request MPOs to adopt a resolution marking the expansion of the NHS, at which point those changes will be brought in front of the Tech and Policy Committees.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments submitted.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for adjournment. Motion made by Susan Ronga; **second** by Hector Rodriguez. All in favor; MOTION CARRIED.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:35am.

~bcs