

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

April 23, 2013

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Paul Hansut	Town of Lloyd
Kathy Nolan	Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee
James Quigley III	Town of Ulster
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Rich Peters	NYS Dept of Transportation
Dave Bolles	Ulster County DPW
Kristen Resnikoff	NYS Thruway Authority
Patrick McCaroll	NYS Thruway Authority
Mary Sheeley	Village of Ellenville
Ralph Swenson	City of Kingston
Edward Pine	Ulster County DPW
Andrew Emrich	Ulster County DPW
Cindy Chambers	Ulster County Area Transit
Alan Adin	City of Kingston
Greg Swanzey	City of Kingston
Jeanne Walsh	Town of Rosendale
Kelly Myers	Town of Saugerties
Joan Moraca	Wingate at Ulster Nursing Home

Staff:

Dennis Doyle	U.C. Planning Board/UCTC Staff
Burt Samuelson	UC Planning Dept. Staff
David Staas	UCTC Staff

CALL TO ORDER

The Technical Committee meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 10:00am. Roll call was conducted by Mr. Doyle.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Doyle noted that Brian Slack was not in attendance due to the birth of his first child.

Mr. Doyle also announced that Rich Peters from NYSDOT would be retiring and that Tom Weiner would be taking his place. Gratitude and thanks were expressed by the council for the service and support Mr. Peters has provided over the years.

CALL FOR CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Doyle asked if there were any citizen comments. Joan Moraca, Director of Activities at Wingate at Ulster Senior Care Facility expressed concern over the low level of service from UCAT received by the facility. Currently, UCAT comes out to the facility once a month. Joan requested that more frequent service occur to provide access and mobility for their residents. Mr. Doyle noted that being a senior care facility, residents of Wingate should have access to paratransit services. Kathy Nolan indicated that paratransit service may be more restrictive than anticipated. Supervisor Quigley, questioned why this issue of UCAT scheduling was being brought before the Council. Joan noted that Bob DiBella of UCAT suggested that she should bring her issues to the council. Mr. Doyle suggested that Joan write a letter to the council and that staff would follow up with the letter.

An additional comment was provided by Jeanne Walsh, raising concerns over the condition of Route 213. Supervisor Walsh has previously brought her concerns over the road way to the council and reiterated that the issue is a serious and ongoing problem. Mr. Peters indicated that the local NYSDOT maintenance staff had not contacted the region for a capital project yet and that he would look into the issue.

Kathy Nolan also commented, wishing to thank Rich Peters for his service to the Council.

No further citizen comments were submitted.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2013 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 2/22/13 meeting of the UCTC Technical Committee. Mr. Joel Brink made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Supervisor Jeanne Walsh. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Doyle reviewed important pieces of correspondence received by UCTC staff as follows:

- Village of Ellenville – Requesting removal of pin 876007 - Sam’s Point Preserve Access Road
- NYSDOT – Clarification letter differentiating the Strategic Transportation Enhancement process and the Strategic Transportation Enhancement Program. There is no new program or funding source and the process was instead created as a means of identifying and evaluating candidate projects.

Mr. Peters provided further details to the changes in the NYSDOT program structure. NYSDOT is changing the project prioritization process towards a more centralized approach.

NEW BUSINESS

a) 2013 -03: Draft UCTC 2014 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program: The Draft UCTC 2014 – 2018 TIP is submitted to the Technical Committee for review. MPO staff will present the draft program to members and address any questions or comments regarding program contents and schedule for adoption.

Mr. Doyle began by comparing the 2011-2015 program needs identified of ~\$33.8 million to the Federal Allocation amounts for 2014- 2018 of \$17 million. In order to bridge the gap between program needs and the Federal Allocation, a number of projects were removed, pushed out beyond the 2014-2018 program window, or done with 100% local funding.

Mr. Doyle further explained that the State program was also undergoing cuts and noted the projects being removed from the 2014-2018 State program.

Supervisor Quigley noted that in the listing of project to be removed, PIN 881097 should read Town of Ulster rather than Town of Kingston.

Mr. Peters spoke to the removal of the Wurts Street Bridge project and indicated that there would be maintenance by contract performed in September of 2013. The maintenance will include steel repair, anchorage venting, anchor bolt repair, cable painting, spot painting, and surface repairs. A full rehabilitation project would cost \$22 million which is not feasible in the current economic climate.

Mr. Joel Brink indicated that along Sawkill Rd going south off of Route 209, the shoulders are in poor conditions along the turns. Repairs have been done but the longevity of the repairs remains to be seen. Mr. Brink requested that the repairs be closely monitored and that a more permanent solution should be considered.

Supervisor Walsh brought up a question regarding the Rosendale Park and ride project (PIN 846059). Mr. Peters indicated that it was an ongoing rental of the property with no changes. Funding for the expansion of the lot is in a separate project (PIN 8T0456) which utilizes FTA 5307 funding “flexed” over into the highway project.

Kelly Myers brought up questions about the bridge replacements being removed from the TIP. Mr. Doyle indicated that a number of the bridge projects were going to be completed with local funds. Ulster County DPW indicated that repairs were being done in house to keep the bridges in good shape and that none of the bridges removed from the TIP have been flagged or weight restricted.

Mr. Doyle then reviewed the process for making changes to the TIP and pointed out the table summarizing what changes can be done through administrative modifications and what changes require and amendment.

Mr. Doyle continued on to review the map and listing of the projects for the 2014-2018 TIP. A number of projects required changes as listed below to ensure that the projects on the TIP get built while still maintaining fiscal constraint:

- PIN 875990 South Putt Corners Repaving – Additional \$240,000 for Right of way Acquisition and an additional \$250,000 for Construction Inspection
- PIN 875620 Sawkill Road/Sawkill Bridge replacement – Additional \$200,000 for Construction Inspection

- PIN 875879 Denning Road/East Branch of Neversink River Bridge - Additional \$200,000 for Construction and an additional \$220,000 for Construction Inspection

The additional funding required for these phases totals 1.1 million dollars and will be reflected in the draft TIP as it moves out to public meeting.

Supervisor Walsh questioned fiscal efficiency of hiring consultants for Construction Inspection and encouraged consideration to be given towards doing the work with NYSDOT staff. Mr. Peters agreed but stressed that the department has been unable to hire for a significant amount of time.

Mr. Doyle noted that the Transit project listing was not included as the projects are in good shape. Mr. Doyle did note that the way National Transit Database (NTD) reporting is done has changed from reporting into the TMA to reporting into the smaller Kingston UZA 457. The change in reporting has reduced the amount of funding that UCAT receives by about \$200,000 – \$300,000. It was also noted that Kingston Citibus does not report NTD statistics therefore reducing the amount of transit funding received in the County. The council has requested that Kingston Citibus report NTD statistics with the possibility of reduced funding if they do not comply. Kingston Citibus is a small enough provider that NTD reporting is not required but by not doing so the amount of funding available in the UZA is reduced.

Mr. Doyle then reviewed some additional changes to Pin 875927 and 875710. Mary Sheeley provided some background as to the importance of the Clinton Ave/North Gully Bridge as there is no alternate route when the bridge is shut down due to flooding. Phases were moved to 2018 in order to keep the project from falling off of the TIP altogether.

Mr. Peters began to review the State program listing and noted that the majority of projects were preservation projects. NYSDOT is moving away from beyond preservation projects towards a preservation only program as funding is reduced. Multi-County preventative maintenance paving funding will be increased during the 5 year program to ensure that a state of good repair is kept on the existing regional infrastructure.

Mr. Doyle brought up the Boices Lane/CSX intersection study performed by the Council and asked about implementing recommendations from the project. Mr. Peters indicated that the project may be programmed by the Main Office of NYSDOT using rail safety money. Money for this project would be separate from the allocation received for the TIP if it gets programmed

Andrew Emrich asked if any of the six projects being removed from the State program could be postponed instead of being completely removed. Specific concerns were brought up over PIN 881097 - Washington Ave Sawkill Road project. Mr. Peters responded indicated that there is not enough money to do the required preservation work, making it very difficult to do any work beyond preservation. Despite the numerous cuts to the state program, \$20 million still needs to be cut from the State portion of the program for the Region.

Kelly Meyers brought up questions about the phasing of PIN 8T0456 – Ulster County Park & Ride. Mr. Peters indicated that the Pre FFY 2014 phase timing may be overly optimistic. The

money for the project is being “flexed” over from FTA 5307 into the highway program. In order to fund the construction of Park and Ride facilities, NYSDOT often has the local municipality construct the facility and front loads a lease agreement with the municipality to reimburse for construction costs. Mr. Doyle pointed out that no lease is signed before the lot is constructed creating a risky situation for the municipality. Mr. Doyle suggested that the phases for the project which were pre FFY 2014 be moved into FFY 2014 in response to Mr. Peters concerns that the dates were overly optimistic. Kelly Meyers indicated that she objected to having construction of the park and ride facility in 2017.

Mr. Doyle then requested a motion to move the UPWP into a public comment period and then onto the Policy committee. Motion made by Mary Sheeley; second by Jeanne Walsh. **All in favor, none opposed – MOTION CARRIED.** Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

b) UCTC 2013 – 2015 Two-Year Voting Membership Rotation: The current 2011 – 2013 Voting Membership will expire on June 4, 2013. Notice will be provided to members regarding the turnover.

Mr. Doyle indicated that the two-year voting membership turnover will occur on June 4, 2013 and encouraged sister communities to utilize the same proxy to help ensure continuity on the Council.

c) 2013 Traffic Monitoring Program: Mr. Staas provided a status update for the 2013 Traffic Monitoring Program and indicated that the Tri-State Data Inc. has been collecting counts throughout the County from April 8 through to May 3. Approximately 70 Counts will be collected on behalf of UCTC in the 2013 season. Completion of the 2012 Traffic Monitoring Report is still awaiting completion pending the receipt of NYSDOT counts from 2012. Due to issues with contracting in 2012 and staff turnovers, there has been a delay in processing the 2012 data.

d) Mid Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area Certification Review: This routine review by FTA and FHWA staff has been scheduled for May 29 and 30.

Mr. Doyle briefly described the Tri-annual review process and indicated that in the past the Council has done well and expects the same result from this review.

OLD BUSINESS

PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Doyle ran through the status of several projects:

- SFY2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Has been adopted via resolution by the council. The program is awaiting approval at the Federal level.
- New Paltz Intermodal Facility – Behan Planning and Design working with Alandre Architecture and Nelson Nygaard was selected as the consultants for this project.

- Safe Routes to School Demonstration Project – Has a draft scope of services completed which is currently going through the vetting process at the County level
- Broadway Corridor Project – Beginning to work on the scope of services
- Rosendale Circulation Study – Beginning work on the scope of services
- Boices Lane Rail Safety Study – The study will be completed shortly. The consultant is seeking supplemental funds which have not been released by the Council.
- Analysis of Priority Investigation Location (PIL) Data among Congested Roadway Segments in Ulster County PILs – Draft work plan has been created. Staff will be attending a presentation on a Safety Assessment performed by PDCTC.
- Revisions to Federal-Aid Urban Area Boundaries and Metropolitan Planning Area Boundaries. Proposed boundary changes submitted to NYSDOT; awaiting response.
- Competitive Transportation Funding Opportunities. STEP and HSIP programs; UCTC awaits statewide award announcements. Round 5 of TIGER funding was announced on April 23, 2013, making \$474 million in competitive funding available across the nation. The Federal Transportation Enhancement Program is anticipated to come out in the last week of April or the first week of May. Applications will be due in August.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Policy Committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday May 22nd 2013 to formally adopt the TIP.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion to adjourn; motion made by Paul Hansut.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:25am.