

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

August 31, 2010

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members

Present:	Joel Brink**	Town of Ulster
	Barbara Budik**	Town of Saugerties
	Terry Dungan*	Village of New Paltz
	Bill Gorton**	New York State Department of Transportation
	Joe Katz*	Town of Gardiner
	Steve Osborn**	Town of Marlborough
	Terrie Rosenblum*	Town of Woodstock
	Phil Serafino**	New York State Thruway Authority
	Dave Sheeley**	UC Department of Public Works
	Ralph Swenson**	City of Kingston

Others

Present:	Bob DiBella	UC Area Transit
	Jack Hohman	New York State Thruway Authority
	Toni Hokanson	Town of New Paltz
	Steve Ladin	UC Trails Advisory Committee
	Kathy Nolan	UC Trails Advisory Committee
	Anne Noonan	New York Trailways
	Rich Peters	New York State Department of Transportation
	Edward Pine	UC Department of Public Works
	Charlie Schaller	UC Traffic Safety Board
	Gregg Swanzey	Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
	Kristen Wilson	Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County
	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 the roll call for the meeting. Mr. Tobin stated that quorum was achieved. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 29, 2010 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the meeting summary from the July 29, 2010 Policy Committee meeting. **Motion to approve by Mr. Brink, seconded by Mr. Katz. All in favor.**

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Resolution 2010-08: Draft Final FFY 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update:

Mr. Doyle stated that the resolution will adopt the final TIP update for 2011-2015. Mr. Doyle stated that he would like to go over the public comments that were received. Mr. Doyle added that several comments were received regarding the schedule for the South Putt Corners road paving project in New Paltz. The comments came from the New Paltz school district, police, supervisor, members of the trails committee and members of the public. Mr. Doyle added that there was also a petition with respect to the project. Mr. Doyle added that the County Executive is aware of the issue. Mr. Doyle stated that the county will propose a solution addressing the comments later in the meeting.

Mr. Doyle stated that comments were received for the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail as well. The comments were about the status of the trail with respect to its acquisition by the Open Space Institute (OSI) and the Wallkill Valley Land Trust (WVLT). There were comments about the continuation of the trail to the City of Kingston. Mr. Tobin stated that the continuation of trail to the City of Kingston was directed at the Golden Hill sidewalk project. The comment was about connecting the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail to the City of Kingston via the Golden Hill sidewalk project. Golden Hill sidewalk project is a City of Kingston project which has been pushed back.

Mr. Doyle stated that comments were received about the Albany Ave/Broadway project and the Wurts Street Bridge project and its dire need of improvement. There were comments about the Ulster and Delaware (U & D) trail access to the Kingston Hospital area and the Legacy Trail north of Kingston. Comments were received on the long term public transportation plan. Mr. Doyle added that he will be discussing the implementation of schedule changes for Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT), Kingston Citibus and Adirondack Trailways. Mr. Doyle stated that the comments received have been shared with the Council. Mr. Doyle stated that Council was also in receipt of the concerns from the Village of New Paltz about the schedule for the South Putt Corners Road project. There is a likelihood that village may vote 'No' on the adoption of the TIP. There have been discussions with Mayor Dungan regarding that.

Mr. Doyle asked for a motion to discuss Resolution 2010-08 to adopt the draft TIP as the final TIP. **Motion to approve by Ms. Budik, seconded by Ms. Rosenblum. Discussion.**

Mr. Brink asked about the Leggs Mill Road/Seremma Court intersection improvement project on the TIP (PIN# 875993). Mr. Brink stated that the project is scheduled for detailed design for FFY 2014. Mr. Tobin stated that project was pushed back because the Frank Sottile extension to route 199 was a higher priority for the town. Mr. Brink stated that the town has received comments in the last few weeks concerning traffic at the Leggs Mill Road/Seremma Court intersection and the town would like to move the project back up if possible. Mr. Tobin asked if the design could be moved to FFY 2011 if the town is willing to undertake the project. Mr. Tobin stated that the design for \$45,000 is scheduled for FFY 2014, which the town would like to move to FFY 2011.

Mr. Sheeley stated that he would like to present the amendment to the South Putt Corners road project on behalf of the County Executive. Mr. Sheeley read out the amendment which would move forward the project schedule from FFY 2014 to FFY 2011.

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of amendment to Resolution 2010-08. **Motion to approve by Ms. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Katz. All in favor.** Mr. Doyle asked for approval of resolution as amended. All in favor. Resolution 2010-08 approved as amended.

Draft Resolution 2010-09: Draft Final Year 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Update: Mr. Doyle stated that the UCTC staff put in an enormous amount of effort into the completion of the LRTP and congratulated Mr. Tobin and Ms. Basnet for their effort. Mr.

Doyle stated that the plan was done completely in-house. Mr. Doyle thanked the UCTC members, particularly New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), with respect to their comments on Goals and Objectives in terms of how the adoption of the TIP can impact congestion. This made the document significantly better. Mr. Doyle stated that comments received on the LRTP were related to the Non-Motorized System. Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Tobin to go over the comments received on the LRTP. Mr. Tobin stated that some of the comments received on the LRTP were also incorporated into the TIP. The Walkill Valley Rail Trail project to the City of Kingston via Golden Hill Drive is a LRTP recommendation. This project was also discussed on the TIP. Mr. Tobin stated that the comments received during the public survey have been included in Chapter 5 of the LRTP. Comments were received about transit. Comments were also received thanking the Council for addressing some of the issues. Dr. Nolan mentioned that the LRTP document is very readable, forward looking and useful. Mr. Tobin stated that it was the intent of the document to be an important resource built upon many studies conducted by the MPO.

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of Resolution 2010-09. **Motion to approve by Mr. Katz, seconded by Ms. Budik. All in favor.**

Draft Resolution 2010-11: Draft FFY 2010 FTA Section 5307 TMA Allocations: Mr. Tobin handed out copies of Resolution 2010-11. Mr. Doyle stated that the Transportation Management Area (TMA) receives transit funds based on the miles and population served by public transit as well as commuter carriers within the TMA. Mr. Doyle stated that all three MPOs will have to agree to the distribution of these funds. The MPO staffs meet with NYSDOT to discuss the distribution and a resolution is developed for adoption by the three MPOs. The methodology for utilizing these funds is that the designated recipients always get what they generate. The commuter lines get what they generate on the basis of their preventative maintenance needs. The remaining money is put aside, 10% of which goes to the designated recipient and the remaining 90% is competitive money within the region to fund various projects. For Ulster County, this money has funded purchase of Trailways buses for use in Ulster County.

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of Resolution 2010-11. **Motion to approve by Ms. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Katz. All in favor.**

Draft Resolution 2010-12: Transfer FTA Section 5307 TMA Commuter Bus Funds to CDTA: Mr. Doyle stated that the resolution transfers to the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA), the administrative authority of commuter bus service for Ulster County (Trailways). Mr. Doyle stated that the transit division of NYSDOT has requested Ulster County to transfer the administrative authority to CDTA because of the effort needed to monitor the funding. The transit division of NYSDOT has an ongoing relationship with CDTA that does all the required monitoring for Trailways. Ulster County, which is the designated recipient of these funds, has Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CDTA with respect to monitoring of these funds. Mr. Doyle stated that the MOU with CDTA has lapsed and a new MOU needs to be signed. Mr. Doyle added that this funding is used to provide additional service within Ulster County. Mr. Doyle mentioned that UCTC has had difficulties getting information from Trailways regarding ridership. Mr. Doyle stated that UCTC has been provided with the financials, but is still waiting on narrative progress report indicating how the funding is utilized to improve service. Mr. Doyle added that there has been a discussion between Trailways and NYSDOT with respect to providing this information to UCTC. Mr. Doyle suggested having a quarterly reporting requirement for Trailways to give an idea of how these funds are being used and the ridership numbers for the routes in Ulster County.

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of Resolution 2010-12. **Motion to approve by Ms. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Dungan. All in favor.**

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Tobin stated that UCTC is in the process of updating its Operating Procedures. This was one of the recommendations from the FHWA/FTA TMA Certification Review. UCTC staff will begin working to address these corrective actions. Mr. Tobin stated that the TIP amendment procedure is not SAFETEA-LU compliant and there are other issues that need to be addressed. Mr. Doyle stated that under the SAFETEA-LU, there is a need to deal with the transit agencies in terms of their presence on the Council. Mr. Doyle stated that the other issue that needs to be dealt with is the mail ballot process. Mr. Tobin stated that the mail ballot process is in violation of New York State (NYS) Open Meeting Law, so the Council will have to meet more often. Mr. Doyle stated that there will be a new Transportation Bill after December 2010 and there the Operating Procedure may be amended again with respect to the new bill. Mr. Tobin added that the TIP and the LRTP may have to be amended if Ulster County has to do the Air Quality conformity test. (00:31:30)

Kingston I-587 at Albany Avenue Intersection Study Update: Mr. Doyle stated that UCTC is in the process of finalizing the schedule for the 3 day charrette for the I-587 study. It has been tentatively scheduled for September 28-30, 2010 at the First Baptist Church, 77 Albany Avenue, Kingston, NY. September 28th has been scheduled as Discovery Day; September 29th as Design Day; and September 30th as Production Day. Mr. Doyle added that the consultant is going to fly in a design and concept specialist from Florida. Mr. Doyle stated that this is a neighborhood transportation plan and city's help is needed to bring the neighborhood out. (00:34:30)

City/County Transit Development Plan (TDP) Update: Mr. Tobin stated UCTC will soon undertake Kingston Citibus and UCAT transit study. This study will focus more on their operations unlike the study that was done 5 years ago which involved regional operators as well as park and ride lots. Mr. Tobin stated that the study includes ridership, past and future trends, public outreach, and recommendations. The Request for Proposal (RFP) has been sent to the short listed consultants. (00:36:00)

HUD Application Update: Mr. Doyle stated that Dutchess, Orange and Ulster County Planning Departments worked together to submit grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which was due on August 23, 2010. The joint funding agreement between Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), HUD and FHWA has made over \$100 million available for regional planning. A Regional Sustainability Plan has been submitted in response to Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). Staff from the three planning departments worked very hard to put in the application. The three counties have agreed to leverage 50% of their staff time with respect to the preparation of the application. Orange County has agreed to act as the Lead Fiscal Agent; Ulster County has agreed to act as the Project Manager for Overall Operations; and Dutchess County has agreed to act as Project Manager for Design and Greenway discussions. The budget for this is about \$2.9 million. The estimated consultant cost is about \$1.2-1.6 million. Other work will be done by non-profit groups. Mr. Doyle stated that it is a very unique application. Mr. Doyle added that the counties will receive preferential treatment with respect to funding from HUD and FHWA for future applications just for putting in this application. Mr. Doyle stated a meeting was held at BOCES in New Paltz, which brought together members from Open Space, Housing, Transportation, and NYS Smart Growth Cabinet Regional Plan Association (RPA).

Mr. Doyle stated that the plan is a holistic approach that involves a regional highway plan, regional transit plan, regional investment plan for economic development, regional economic development model and regional housing plan. Mr. Doyle added that he believes it is a strong application and he believe this is the way to move forward as a region, given the scarcity of resources that are available. (00:47:30)

Mr. Rosenblum stated that the effort is incredible. Ms. Rosenblum added that it is exciting and she has been waiting a long time for this kind of effort to come from the government.

Mr. Tobin asked NYSDOT when he could print the TIP listing for the hard copy. Mr. Tobin mentioned that he is assuming that no further changes will be made to the TIP other than what was discussed at the meeting. Mr. Peters stated that currently the STIP is locked and he hasn't got a response on when they were going to open it. Mr. Tobin stated that the Council may not receive the hard copy of the TIP until after October 1, 2010 but it will be available online. (00:50:00)

Ms. Hokanson stated that Southern Ulster Alliance has a grant to design the interconnection between Hudson Valley Rail Trail and Wallkill Valley Rail Trail. A consultant has been hired for the project. This will link the Walkway over the Hudson to New Paltz, Gardiner and Rosendale. (00:50:10)

Mr. Ladin stated that the Ulster County Trails Committee appreciates all the work that the Department has been doing in terms of promoting complete streets and trails. This effort makes quality of life better for everybody. (00:51:56)

Mr. Doyle stated that the County Executive had arranged for a meeting with the NYS Department of Correctional Services with respect to the trails. Prison lands act as barriers to the trail systems. The Department is in the process of putting together a report or presentation as to why the trails should move through these areas. WVLT and D & H Canal have extended their support. Mr. Doyle stated the idea is to keep the farmlands around prisons active by offering the farmland to the local farmers, to use in a more productive manner, to get a complete trails system through the prison lands without affecting the safety and security issues. (00:54:00)

Mr. Tobin stated that he would like to point out a problem about meeting more often on a regular basis. The Operating Procedure say the agenda should be received 10 days in advance of the meeting, which is a challenge if the meeting is every month. Mr. Doyle suggested establishing a working group within the Technical Committee which will meet on a bi-monthly basis to discuss the issues. The meeting could be held at the County Office Building. Ms. Hokanson suggested not scheduling the meeting on third Tuesday of the month because of supervisors' meeting.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10.57 AM.