

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

December 3, 2013

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Ralph Swenson	City of Kingston
Wayne Freer	Town of Esopus
John Dittus	Town of Hurley
Mike Warren	Town of Marbletown/Supervisors Association
Walter Falkenberg	Town of Marlboro
Jeanne Walsh	Town of Rosendale
John Valk	Town of Shawangunk
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
David Bolles	Ulster County DPW
Susan Ronga	Ulster County DPW
Edward Pine	Ulster County DPW
Andrew Emrich	Ulster County DPW
Robert DiBella	Ulster County Area Transit
Diane Beitzl	Ulster County Safety Officer and Traffic Coordinator
Kathy Nolan	Ulster County Trails Advisory
Bill Gorton	NYS Dept of Transportation
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Jack Hohman	NYS Thruway Authority
Anne Noonan	Adirondack Trailways

Staff:

Dennis Doyle	U.C. Planning Board/UCTC Staff
Brian Slack	UCTC Staff
David Staas	UCTC Staff

CALL TO ORDER

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

CALL FOR CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Slack asked if there were any citizen comments.

No citizen comments were submitted.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2013 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 9/24/13 meeting of the UCTC Policy Committee. John Valk made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Joel Brink. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Slack circulated correspondence from NYSDOT to local project sponsors with TIP projects having construction phases scheduled for 2014. These notices were used to ensure that project sponsors are ready to embark on construction in the scheduled time period. Notices were provided for one project with the City of Kingston and two with the Ulster County DPW.

No further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Revisions to Resolution 2013-05: To Define the Urbanized Area Boundary and Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary for the Ulster County Transportation Council.

Staff have identified an error in the language used in Resolution 2013-05 which was approved at the July 23, 2013 UCTC Policy Committee meeting

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Joel Brink; second by Wayne Freer.

Mr. Doyle explained that the language in the resolution incorrectly referenced Census Tracts instead of Census Blocks. The boundary as mapped in the resolution was correct but the verbal description was inconsistent with the units used in establishing the boundary.

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

Draft Revised Resolution 2013-12: Allocation of Previously Unallocated Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Formula Funds for Various Transit Projects:

The Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area has a total of \$3,211,480 in un-programmed FTA Sec. 5307 funds available for future programming. UCTC has requested one-time funding in the amount of \$300,000 to support UCAT transit service in the TMA portion of Ulster County. This request was supported by the UCTC Technical and Policy Committees through Resolution 2013-09. Revision: The joint request from Orange and Dutchess Counties for \$500,000 in funds to continue the Newburgh-Beacon ferry has been withdrawn; it was determined that the ferry is adequately funded for the next year. Total unallocated request equals \$300,000 to TMA MPOs.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Susan Ronga; second by Wayne Freer.

Bob Dibella provided further details indicating that this funding is required to make up the reduction in funds due to changes in NTD reporting.

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

SFY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Line Item Revisions

In an effort to better-position itself for available competitive FTA funds for specialized transit service funding (FTA §5310), UCTC sees the need to identify and re-program funds in the 2013 UPWP in order to conduct an update of its existing Human Services Coordination and Development Plan, which was last updated in 2010. New MAP-21 requirements render the existing plan insufficient to provide adequate guidance for the selection of competitive specialized transportation projects

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Susan Ronga; second by Bill Gorton.

Mr. Slack explained that an update to the plan would be useful for future funding opportunities which may be looking for more detailed human services plans with more of a project rather than policy focus.

Staff intends to perform stakeholder outreach to establish potential projects from area human service providers and integrate those responses into the Human Services Coordination and Development Plan update.

Performing a line item revision to the 2013 UPWP for the Human Services plan update could provide for a three month head start to the full update.

Mr. Doyle asked the Policy Committee if they wished to amend the UPWP to request additional funds for work on the Human Services plan update.

A motion to request additional unprogrammed funds made by John Valk; second by Joel Brink.

Ralph Swenson asked how much funding would be made available by performing this work. Mr. Doyle believed that approximately \$163,000 in funds would become available on a three year basis. More details regarding the funding are expected to become apparent pending the upcoming MPO Directors meeting.

Bob Dibella indicated that this update would allow UCAT to access §5310 funds for transportation supplied for the Ulster County Office for the ageing.

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

SFY 2014-15 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The UCTC will begin preparing its 2014-15 UPWP in November. UCTC invites members to recommend transportation planning projects or identify issues of concern that they would like to see addressed in the UPWP. In SFY2013 UCTC was allocated a total of \$445,005 in Federal FTA and FHWA funds; \$212,155 was programmed for projects that required consultant assistance. Among UCTC priorities in 2014 include the commencement of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update, which needs to be completed by August 2015. This will be accomplished through a mix of staff and consultant support.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Susan Ronga; second by Bill Gorton.

Mr. Slack indicated that the deadline for proposals for UPWP projects was extended to December 6th due to the holiday.

Based upon the limited responses, the priority for staff will be to focus on the Long Range Transportation Plan.

John Valk asked what types of projects and scopes would be considered for UPWP projects. Mr. Doyle responded citing past studies such as the ongoing Broadway corridor study, the PILs study and Marlborough study. The scope of projects has shifted towards more discrete projects in recent years but does not preclude larger studies from being performed.

Currently there has been a push for resiliency planning as evidenced by the New York Rising Program and the priorities of NYSDOT. Supervisor Warren brought up the issue of route 209 in the Town of Rochester has been flooding more frequently.

Bill Gorton indicated that future funding will be available for mitigation and infrastructure hardening. Having a prioritization of projects in this area would be beneficial in seeking funds for these types of projects.

Joel Brink asked about previous discussions for locating a traffic circle at Leggs Mill Road near the railroad tracks in Lake Katrine and another further North on Leggs Mill Road before the Bridge over the thruway. Mr. Doyle stated that recommendations for those areas have been made in previous reports but funding is currently limited for implementation.

Jeanne Walsh asked about the potential for combining an upcoming storm water mitigation study and roadway resilience work along Route 32. Mr. Slack indicated that this may be too much of an element specific issue which may require detailed design and is beyond the scope of what can be done with UPWP funds.

Wayne Freer brought up issues of flooding in the Town of Esopus on Route 213. Jeanne Walsh suggested that a County wide approach to flood locations should be considered given the broad geographic scope of issues.

Andrew Emrich asked if large culvert inspections would be eligible for UPWPW funds. Mr. Slack indicated that it could be possible under a regional culvert replacement plan. Any program to do such work would need to have a planning aspect to it and could not use planning funds for strictly inspection work. A project could be undertaken to inventory culverts and prioritize the repair and replacement of them.

Mr. Slack informed members that the application form is available on the UCTC website and that the deadline for submissions is December 6th.

No further discussion.

NYSDOT Construction Readiness Review Forms: NYSDOT Region 8 staff have conducted a review of the FFY14 program and notified project sponsors of projects scheduled for obligation of federal funds for the construction phase. Those notified include City of Kingston (Washington Ave. Signals PIN 876029) and County of Ulster DPW (Mud Tavern Rd Bridge PIN 875666 and Denning Road Bridge PIN 875879). Local project sponsors are asked to complete and submit “Construction Readiness Review” forms to NYSDOT by November 30th.

This is a new process initiated by NYSDOT and will help ensure that project sponsors are ready to move on projects slated for construction in the coming year. If projects have engineering estimates exceeding the amount programmed on the TIP, NYSDOT is asking that the council find the funds prior to letting rather than after as has occurred in the past.

Bill Gorton explained that as project management systems at NYSDOT progressed, the focus has been upon State projects. Now the focus is to bring local Federal Aid projects to the same level of project management, oversight, and scheduling. This focus is the reason behind the construction readiness review forms and the change in how to handle cost estimates exceeding the amount programmed on the TIP.

This will allow more time to find offsets and make programming of yearly funds more efficient

No further discussion.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

Tabled Draft Resolution 2013-06: Apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year 2013 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (MHVTMA)

Resolution 2013-06 continues to remain draft as negotiations between NY and NJ continue in an effort to determine the final funding split between the two states. Until a funding split can be determined, this resolution will remain tables. Mr. Slack, in consultation with Robert DiBella, indicated that a final resolution would need to be passed by June of 2014 when the next grant applications are being written.

Discussions between NY and NJ continue. No further information available from NYSDOT at this time.

Bob Dibella expressed that UCAT will need the Apportionment by June of 2014.

2014 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program

On September, 30th 2013 the New York State Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) was approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), therefore approving the UCTC TIP as it is contained by the STIP. Copies of the UCTC TIP were distributed to UCTC member agencies.

Printed copies are available to members of the council. The TIP is also available on the UCTC website.

2013 UCTC Federal Aid Obligation Report

UCTC is currently awaiting information from NYSDOT region 8 staff before starting the 2013 obligation report.

New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program

Mr. Doyle explained that the program has examined regional needs. Current discussions have focused on what to do with the water and there have been a number of equipment requests. Bill Gorton commented indicating that the focus should instead be upon how to change the community so it is not as greatly impacted by flooding events.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

The Transportation Alternatives Program is a new program set forth under MAP-21, replacing the existing Transportation Enhancements program from SAFETEA-LU. The Transportation Alternatives program will have less available funds than the TEP program which will make the program more complete. Staff from regional MPOs and NYSDOT region 8 have reviewed and rated applications and forwarded their recommendations to NYSDOT main office. Award announcements are expected to occur in the coming months.

FTA \$5310 - Upcoming Solicitation

Announcement for funds is expected in December or January to provide for new transit services for elderly and disabled populations within Ulster County.

2013 TEP Solicitation

The regional applications have been reviewed and forwarded to NYSDOT Main Office for review and selection. Awards are expected to be issued within the next several months.

Complete Streets Fact Sheet 2.0

New York State Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (NYSAMPO) has published a two page fact sheet aimed towards municipal officials, planners, and citizens that provides a summary of the benefits of complete streets. Printed copies will be provided upon their arrival.

Mid Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area Certification Review

Results from the Triennial review are expected for January 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Slack reviewed the following ongoing projects:

- 44.23.02-01: Initiate a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Demonstration Project – The Contract with Alta Planning has been finalized; project anticipated to commence with a Technical Advisory Committee Kick-Off meeting in early November 2013.
- 44.23.02-05 Kingston Broadway Corridor Study – RFP was issued in early October with a deadline of 10/30/13. Selection Committee will be convened shortly thereafter in order to review all proposals received. In total, eleven proposals were from

consulting firms for consideration. The selection committee will interview four of the firms next week before making a final selection.

- 44.23.02-06 Rosendale Circulation Study - Final RFP issued by Ulster County Purchasing Department on October 22, 2013; deadline for submissions was November 21, 2013. Eight proposals were received and will be distributed to members of the TAC for review.
- 44.26.15: Initiate a Study of the Need and Location for an Intermodal Facility to Serve the Greater New Paltz Area: Behan Planning in association with Nelson Nygaard and Alfandre Architecture have been hired as the consultant team for this project. A Technical Advisory Committee has been formed and conducted 1 in-person meeting and 2 conference calls. Consultants will produce a series of Technical Memoranda that will define the transit service area and land use characteristics; develop a comprehensive list of facility requirements; analyze the study area for potential location and site selection; and develop concept plans for one or more preferred locations. A final report compiling this information and summarizing recommendations will be produced and presented to the community in a public forum. The first of two public workshops took place on November 21 at 7:00 PM at the SUNY New Paltz Student Union and was well attended. Mr. Doyle commended the existing site owner for participating in the public meeting. http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/planning/npaltz_ifp.html
- 44.22.03: 2012 Traffic Monitoring Program: The 2012 traffic monitoring report has been completed. There were a number of unexplained variations in the count data for this year. Data agreement levels have been assigned to each count location to provide a clear indication of count reliability.

No further discussion.

The next meeting of the Technical Committee will be scheduled in February and will distribute a draft copy of the 2014 Unified Planning Work Program.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion to adjourn; motion made by Wayne Freer; second by Joel Brink.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:00 am.

-DS