

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

January 31, 2018

Rondout Municipal Center, Cottekill, NY

Members Present:

Alan Adin	City of Kingston
Ralph Swenson	City of Kingston
Kristen Wilson	City of Kingston
Marybeth Majestic	Town of Gardiner
Rich Parete	Town of Marbletown
Al Lanzetta	Town of Marlborough
Neil Bettez	Town of New Paltz
John Valk	Town of Shawangunk
Vernon Benjamin	Town of Saugerties
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
David Gilmour	Village of New Paltz
Andrew Emrich	Ulster County DPW
Ed Pine	Ulster County DPW
Herb Litts	Ulster County Legislature
Laura Petit	Ulster County Legislature
Carol Hargrove	UCAT
Don Quesnell	UCAT
Nicole Farmer	NYS Dept. of Transportation
Sandra Jobson	NYS Dept. of Transportation
Lizy Philip	NYS Thruway Authority
Mark Boungard	Adirondack Trailways
Kelley Kircher	Creighton Manning
Nick Mercurio	Public

Staff:

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

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizen comments were received.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2018 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 11/14/17 meeting of the UCTC Technical Committee. Motion made by Joel Brink; second by Kristen Wilson.

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Slack circulated testimony of Paul Karas before the State Legislature. The comments stressed the unknown nature of federal transportation funding under the new presidential administration

No further communications or announcements.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft UCTC Resolution 2018-01: Approval of the SFY 2018/19 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The Draft UCTC State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018/19 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is near completion and will be provided to members for review prior to the January 31 Technical Committee meeting. Staff will present the draft program and request input and comment. The draft 2018/19 UPWP continues work commenced during previous UPWP cycles, revises two previously programmed projects, and adds 4 new projects for future programming and development. Barring the need for any significant revision, staff recommends that the Draft UCTC 2018/19 UPWP be approved by the Technical Committee and made available for 15 day public review and comment period prior to UCTC Policy Committee review.

Mr. Slack provided a brief presentation of the UPWP outlining the purpose of the document and the projects outlined within.

The combined budget in the UPWP is \$1,137,000.

Interest was expressed by members regarding the culvert project and the bicycle/pedestrian projects

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by John Valk second by Joel Brink.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft UCTC Resolution 2018-02: Amendment to the UCTC Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Amend NYSDOT PIN 880862: Wurts Street/Dock Street Rehabilitation Project Costs and Schedule as Shown in Attachment 1.

At the request of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), an amendment to the UCTC 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program is proposed, as a result of a need for schedule and cost changes to NYSDOT PIN 880862. The Amendment adds over \$23 million in state and federal funds to the project and advances the project's construction schedule by 2 years. Cost changes to projects on an approved TIP that exceed either 25% of the phase or \$500,000 require a TIP Amendment. Similarly, project phases that are moved onto the first 4 years of an approved TIP also require a TIP Amendment. The requested changes meet both of these conditions. No offset has been identified due

to status as an Assembly List Project. In accordance with UCTC Operating Procedures, amendments to the TIP require 15 day public notice and comment period prior to Policy Committee approval.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Joel Brink second by Rich Parete.

Mr. Slack provided an overview of the funding and need for the project.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft UCTC Resolution 2018-03: Amendment to the UCTC Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add New NYSDOT PIN 812219: Route 212 Paving Town of Woodstock as Shown in Attachment 1.

At the request of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), an amendment to the UCTC 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program is proposed in order to program a new paving project in the Towns of Woodstock and Saugerties. The project as currently described will place between 1 inch and 1.5 inches of new hot-mix asphalt on NYS Rte 212 from Route 375 in Woodstock to Route 32 in the Town of Saugerties. Federal funds in the amount of \$800,000 have been offset from a NYSDOT Multi-County PIN 881404 for this purpose; the required 20% match will utilize State Dedicated Funds. No further details regarding project phases or schedules are available at this time. PIN 812219 is a new addition to the 2017 – 2021 TIP and therefore requires a TIP Amendment. In accordance with UCTC Operating Procedures, Amendments to the TIP require 15 day public notice and comment period prior to Policy Committee approval.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Kristen Wilson second by John Valk.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft UCTC Resolution 2018-04: Allocation of Previously Unallocated Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Formula Funds for Regional Transit Projects.

Draft Resolution 2018-04 seeks to allow a temporary loan Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307/5340 funds allocated to the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh Large Urban Area, also known as UZA 89 to Ulster County Area Transit. FFY 2017 5307/5340 funds apportioned to the TMA under the current federal transportation legislation are not yet available for programming due to the lack of agreement between New York and New Jersey on the amounts to be allocated to each state, given that the UZA 89 boundary crosses state lines. As such, Ulster County Area Transit has requested a loan from this presently unallocated reserve of 5307/5340 funds due to the impasse between the states in the amount of \$457,578, which is necessary to support its FFY 2018 FTA grant applications. The three TMA Transportation Councils have reserved a portion of FFY 2014-2016 Section 5307 funds, previously allocated to the TMA as a whole, for future sub-allocations; there is presently \$7,823,593 in unallocated funds available for transit purposes. Under Draft Resolution 2018-04, Ulster County's allocation of UZA 89 FFY 2017 5307/5340 funds will be reduced by \$457,578 upon their availability to be allocated, and that this amount will be returned to the unallocated funding pool as established within the TMA for future allocation according to its approved methodology.

Mr. Slack provided background to the need for and the process of allocating Section 5307 funds. Due to the delay in the current allocation of funds, UCAT is requesting an advance of unallocated funds to be paid back from their allocation amount once it becomes available. This action will ensure the continuous operation of UCAT services until the regular funding stream is available.

Don Quesnell Commented that UCAT is current in their grants and that they rely upon each year's allocation as all prior allocations are fully programmed.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Rich Parete second by Marybeth Majestic

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

FFY 2017 Annual Obligation Report: Federal regulations require an annual listing of transportation projects, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities, which Federal transportation funds have been obligated in the preceding year; 2017 report will be available for review.

Mr. Slack provided members with a copy of the obligation report.

The calculated obligation rate for State projects programmed on the UCTC TIP for 2017 was 91%. The obligation rate for local projects was calculated to be 56%. While both rates represent an improvement over prior year obligation rates, federal officials are aiming for a 70% obligation rate as a target.

The obligation rate is based upon the unamended TIP which does not account for all of the changes programmed by the UCTC.

Only projects with programmed phases in the report year are considered in the obligation report.

Mr. Doyle and Sandra Jobson stressed the importance of local sponsors, the Local Projects Unit, and UCTC staff to meet and work together to advance projects and avoid pitfalls and improve the obligation rate.

Kristen Wilson expressed that projects are often delayed due to multiple iterations of comments and associated review times.

Mr. Doyle encouraged members to invite MPO staff to meetings with LPU to help advance projects.

Andrew Emrich noted that there are difficulties at the local level to identify and program offsets when there are funding shortfalls for local projects. NYSDOT is more efficient at this when these problems arise on their own projects. Project cost review would be beneficial as part of the TIP update process.

No further discussion.

NYSDOT Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Call for Local Projects. The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is pleased to progress the local call for pedestrian safety projects included in the Statewide Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) that was announced in June of

2016. The local call for pedestrian safety projects includes \$40,000,000 in federal Highway Safety Improvement Program funds for systemic pedestrian safety projects on local and county urban roads and streets. NYSDOT will host a webinar on November 14, 2017 from 2:00-3:30 to answer questions about the program and the application process. Additional information about the webinar, program guidance, how to apply, application forms and related materials is available at <https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/operating/oss/highway/psap>. Applications must be submitted by March 09, 2018. Eligible projects must be on a public road, off the state touring route system and be on a local or county owned or maintained road. All project locations must be on roads that are located within a designated 2010 federal adjusted urban area.

Mr. Slack distributed the NYSDOT FAQ document for the program. Applications from Ulster County will be reviewed by Region 8 MPO staff to prioritize projects. NYSDOT will also be developing projects through the PSAP program. Example treatments include high visibility crosswalks and signage.

Kristen Wilson expressed concerns over the eligibility of signals having experienced issues under the Safe Routes to School program. Replacement of a signal is not considered an eligible project. However, programmable controllers and/or cabinet/controller upgrades are eligible for funding if the upgrade is required in order to implement one or more of the pedestrian countermeasures identified in the PSAP guidance.

No further discussion.

UCTC 2017 Transportation Improvement Program – Block Program Bridge and Paving PINs

The 2017 – 2021 TIP included two new “block program” PINs utilizing surplus allocations of STP FLEX and STBG Off-System Bridge funds. Funds in FFYs 17 & 18 were distributed last year. UCTC plans to make funds in FFYs 19 & 20 available to eligible Ulster County municipalities through direct solicitation to the MPO. UCTC will provide an overview of the funds available and answer any questions members may have. No deadline for applications has been established at this time.

Mr. Doyle briefly explained the eligibility criteria and encouraged members to apply.

Glenn Gidaly asked what projects would be prioritized in the application.

Mr. Staas explained that scoring is based upon the Bridge NY program and considers volume, truck percentage, detour length, and structure condition among other factors to rate applications.

No further discussion.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

- NYSDOT Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Call for Local Projects
 - \$40m is available statewide for implementation.
 - Applications are due March 9, 2018
 - Smaller municipalities are encouraged to combine their application with other municipalities to meet the application minimum
- UCTC 2017 Transportation Improvement Program – Block Program Bridge and Paving PINs
 - Call for projects was recently completed.

- Received applications were circulated to members.
- Tabled – Resolution 2017-13
 - No public comments were received during the 15 day public comment period.
 - Will be brought before the UCTC Policy Committee at the next meeting.
- Newly-Elected Voting Members
 - New members were thanked for their participation
 - Members are encouraged to appoint proxies to ensure full representation
- Upcoming NYSDOT Solicitations
 - BridgeNY -2018/19 & 2012/20 - Formula Appropriation to localities
 - Announcement was recently issued
 - Costs will be reviewed prior to award during this year's solicitation
 - PaveNY - Formula Appropriation to localities
 - Will be announced in the future and will be added to the CHIPS allocation
 - TAP Solicitation
 - Will be announced in 2018

Mr. Doyle discussed the County's efforts to establish school feedback signs as part of a signage improvement program. The program will focus on safety.

No further discussion.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:45 am

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