

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

February 20, 2014

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Ralph Swenson	City of Kingston
Alan Adin	City of Kingston
Brad Will	City of Kingston
Mike Warren	Town of Marbletown/Supervisors Association
Howard Baker	Town of Marlborough
Greg Helsmoortel	Town of Saugerties
James Bruno	Town of Saugerties
Vernon Benjamin	Town of Saugerties
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
Jeremy Wilber	Town of Woodstock/Town of Kingston
Alex Wade	Village of Saugerties
Edward Pine	Ulster County DPW
Andrew Emrich	Ulster County DPW
Robert DiBella	Ulster County Area Transit
Diane Beitel	Ulster County Safety Officer and Traffic Coordinator
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Carolyn Ryan	NYS Dept of Transportation
Mark Boungard	Adirondack Trailways
Barry Hecht	Adirondack Trailways
Anne Noonan	Adirondack Trailways
Al Lanzetta	Citizen
Cindy Lanzetta	Citizen

Staff:

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

CALL FOR CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Doyle asked if there were any citizen comments. Cindy Lanzetta submitted comments to the Council requesting that PIN 8T0439 to be funded and placed back on the 2014 -2018 TIP.

No further citizen comments were submitted.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2013 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 11/7/13 meeting of the UCTC Tech Committee. Joel Brink made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Mike Warren. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from Gateway Community Industries regarding the safety of pedestrians walking along Route 32 from Washington Ave towards Golden Hill. The letter requests better pedestrian accommodations and enforcement of speed.

The council also received correspondence from Adirondack Trailways requesting unallocated 5307 funding. This item will be discussed later in the agenda.

NYSDOT recently announce funding available under the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Deadline for applications is scheduled for June 11th 2014.

Carolyn Ryan indicated that workshops would be scheduled and attendance by the project sponsor is required to be eligible for funds. Funds received through TAP must be obligated within 3 years of the project approval. The timeline requirements for this funding opportunity will make it difficult to advance projects with significant right of way acquisition needs.

No further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

FFY 2013 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; 2013 report was distributed and summarized.

No further discussion.

Draft Resolution 2014-01: Adopt the Ulster County Transportation Council's SFY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

A preliminary draft of UCTC's State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2014-15 UPWP has been completed. Mr. Slack presented the program, highlighting the tasks UCTC plans to undertake in the coming year. The numbers in the program are still undergoing minor revisions but will be finalized before the upcoming Policy Committee meeting.

The estimated allocation in Planning (PL) funds from the FHWA for UCTC is \$389,000 plus an additional \$55,535 from the FTA. The total UCTC program for SFY2014 including all matching requirements is approximately \$919,730. PL funds can only be used for planning purposes.

Mr. Slack made a brief presentation providing an overview of the program and its development.

New projects added to the UPWP for SFY2014 include:

- Development of the UCTC Year 2040 LRTP
- Initiate a Pavement Management Program in Ulster County
- Transportation Infrastructure Resiliency and Vulnerability Assessment Planning

- Coordination of Non-Emergency Human Services Transportation.

Further details are available in the draft UPWP.

Comments regarding the UPWP will be accepted until February 24th 2014. Final figures will be provided to Policy Committee members prior to the next meeting.

A consensus to place the draft SFY2014 UPWP on the Policy Committee agenda was established.

No further discussion.

Draft Resolution 2014-02: Modification to the Highway Functional Classification within the UCTC Metropolitan Planning Area:

NYSDOT Region 8 staff has requested changes to the functional classification and National Highway System (NHS) status of State Route 28 from Route 209 to the Ulster/Delaware County line. Resolution 2014-02 would change the road classification from Minor Arterial to Principal Arterial.

Tom Weiner explained that the decision to change the functional classification of Route 28 resulted from the shift in funding opportunities towards the NHS. This change will add Route 28 into the NHS, opening additional funding opportunities. This change in functional classification will also be enacted along Route 28 in the contiguous NYSDOT region. Part of the process to change the functional classification requires support of the MPO.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Mike Warren; second by Joel Brink.

Supervisor Jeremy Wilber noted that Route 212 also operates as a gateway to the West and wanted to ensure that the reclassification of Route 28 would not detract funding away from Route 212. Supervisor Greg Helmsmoortel of Saugerties expressed similar concerns.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

Draft Resolution 2014-03: Amendment to the UCTC Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to modify costs for PIN 8TRU63 – Normal fleet bus replacement schedule, Ulster County Area Transit:

Resolution 2014-03 programs \$300,000 in Unallocated FTA Section 5307 Formula Funds to UCAT for the purchase of additional busses.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Greg Helmsmoortel; second by Mike Warren.

Mr. Slack explained the TMA member agencies have agreed to allocate previously unallocated funds to UCAT and will be passing supporting resolutions over the next 2 months. This resolution will program those funds on the TIP for use by UCAT.

Mr. Doyle explained that the unallocated 5307 funds are available to TMA members as transit needs are often “lumpy” resulting in a greater need than is allocated for in a particular year. UCAT experienced a shortfall due to changes in NTD funding.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

Draft Resolution 2014-04 Distribution of the FFYs 2013 Federal Transit Administration Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Apportionments Attributable to the Kingston Urbanized Area:

FTA Section 5339 funds are new under MAP-21; these funds can be used by public transit operators to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities. NYSDOT has indicated that 5339 allocations to the Kingston UZA in FY13 will be \$89,553.07; FFY14 dollars have not yet been allocated. Eligible recipients include Ulster County Area Transit and Kingston Citibus; these entities have agreed to a formula effectively splitting this allocation 21% to Citibus and 79% to UCAT.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Jeremy Wilber; second by Greg Helsmoortel.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

Trailways Request for UCTC Funding for 3 Replacement Coaches for Commuter Services to New York:

UCTC received written request from ADK Trailways for Unallocated FTA Section 5307 Formula Funds made available to the MPOs within the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area. The request seeks \$1,650,000 in funding for the purchase of 3 busses. The 5307 funding formula is based in on a combination of bus revenue vehicle miles, bus passenger miles, fixed guideway revenue vehicle miles, and fixed guideway route miles as well as population and population density; the current un-programmed balance is \$2,911,480. Funds are made available at the discretion of the 3 MPOs within the TMA for priority projects; ; an approval would therefore need to be authorized by each MPO within the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA, after which an amendment to the UCTC 2014-2018 TIP would be required including 15 day public notice period.

Barry Hecht explained that Adirondack Trailways has experienced a substantial growth in commuter servicer ridership. Adirondack Trailways will need to undertake some fleet replacement and is asking for previously unallocated 5307 funds to be allocated to help pay for the purchase of the new busses.

Supervisor Helsmoortel expressed concern over providing public funds to a private entity. Mr. Doyle responded stating that as a private carrier, Adirondack Trailways generates a portion of the 5307 funds. Funds are then apportioned back to the private carriers based upon their preventative maintenance needs. As such, Adirondack Trailways generated a portion of the unallocated 5307 funds available in UZA89.

The opportunity to discuss this request with the other TMA MPOs has not occurred yet but will be brought up at the next meeting of the TMA.

Mr. Doyle noted that due to the lack of agreement between NY and NJ regarding UZA 89 5307 funding allocation methodology, there may be a gap in future funding which could require the use of previously unallocated 5307 funds until the gap is filled. Public carriers in both Ulster County and Dutchess County are experiencing “lumpy” needs which may need to be addressed before the funds can be opened up to a competitive process. UCTC staff have pushed for creating a TMA transit plan to establish funding priorities across the region.

Supervisor Wilber asked if this request would provide an opportunity for MPO members to address specific needs in their community.

Mr. Doyle stated that it is always a good time to bring up community needs and that as an entity that receives funding through the MPO and as an active participant in the MPO process, Trailways would participate in those discussions.

Alderman Brad Will observed that these are replacement busses and will not result in an expansion of service.

No further discussion.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

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 tabled.

FTA §5310 - Upcoming Solicitation

Announcement for funds is expected in 2014 to provide for new transit services for elderly and disabled populations within Ulster County.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATES

Alex Wade noted that the Glasco Turnpike Bridge is closed, diverting a substantial amount of traffic through the Village of Saugerties.

Ed Pine responded stating that the proposal and plans have gone to purchasing to go out for bid. Contract is estimated to take place in the end of April.

No further discussion.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:55am.