

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

June 24, 2014

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Howard Baker	Town of Marlborough
Vernon Benjamin	Town of Saugerties
Jim Bruno	Town of Saugerties
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
Robin Coleman	Town of Wawarsing
Jeremy Wilber	Town of Woodstock/Town of Kingston
Mike Reynolds	Town of Woodstock
Bren White	Village of New Paltz
Edward Pine	Ulster County DPW
Diane Beitel	Ulster County Safety Officer and Traffic Coordinator
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Carolyn Ryan	NYS Dept of Transportation
Eric Foster	NYS Dept of Transportation
Kristen Resnikoff	NYS Thruway Authority
Barry Hecht	Adirondack Trailways
Anne Noonan	Adirondack Trailways
Kristen Wilson	Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County

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. Slack.

CALL FOR CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Doyle asked if there were any citizen comments.

Supervisor Jeremy Wilber spoke requesting rehabilitation of Route 212, to provide vital and safe access to the western portion of Ulster County. The condition of the roadway has caused a substantial number of resident complaints and has become a treacherous roadway to travel. Considering improvements being undertaken along Route 55 in the Town of Wawarsing, additional consideration should be given to rehabilitating Route 212. Along the Mill Hill Road section of Route 212, a drainage system was installed which is now causing substantial heaving issues along the roadway. These issues are now occurring more frequently and in greater scale as the system and roadway continue to age. While the Town is receiving some Federal funding

outside the purview of NYSDOT and the FHWA for repairs of the drainage system, the opportunity to combine projects and leverage multiple funding sources should be taken advantage of.

Vernon Benjamin supported the comments from Jeremy Wilber and noted the economic importance of the Route for both Woodstock and Saugerties.

No further comments.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2014 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 2/20/14 meeting of the UCTC Technical Committee. Joel Brink made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Howard Baker. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

No correspondence was received. Mr. Slack announced that copies of the NYSAMPO Complete Streets Fact Sheet were available to members and encouraged them to take a copy for review.

No further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Status of Ulster County Park and Ride Projects

Through UCTC Resolutions 2012-06 and 2012-07, FTA 5307 funds were “flexed” into FHWA funds to be used on various transit-related projects throughout the Mid-Hudson TMA, including improvements of park and ride facilities in Town of Ulster, Town of Saugerties and SUNY New Paltz. An administrative modification is required to modify the schedule of two of these projects in order for them to appear on the UCTC 2014 – 2018 TIP.

Draft Resolution 2014-08: Amendment to the Ulster County Transportation Council Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Delete Project No Longer Needed – PIN 882341: Route 32, SUNY New Paltz Bus Stop Relocation and Improvements

SUNY New Paltz has advanced construction on its park and ride expansion without the federal aid set aside for this project and therefore no longer requires the \$300,000 in federal funds to complete the project, thereby making those funds available for the Saugerties and Ulster park and ride facilities. Resolution 2014-08 removes the PIN from the UCTC TIP and makes the \$300,000 in federal funds available for future programming.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Jeremy Wilber; second by Howard Baker.

Mr. Doyle explained that the reason the preceding modification and resolution are occurring now is due to the completion of the Initial Project Proposals for the remaining park and ride facilities and the need to quickly advance into the design phase of the projects. The funding programed

for the SUNY New Paltz park and ride facility will be utilized to supplement the projects in the Town of Saugerties and Town of Ulster.

Supervisor Wilber asked why the SUNY New Paltz project was being deleted. Mr. Doyle responded that the college advanced the project in a way that is not eligible for federal funds. Tom Weiner further noted that the scheduling demands of the college conflicted with the requirements of a federal aid project, leading to the decision to forgo federal funds in favor of an expedited schedule.

Howard Baker asked how the locations of the park and ride improvements. Mr. Doyle responded that the Council performs an annual park and ride analysis and the Town of Ulster and Town of Saugerties facilities were identified as being over capacity.

Joel Brink asked if the park and ride lot at Route 32 and 199 was examined for potential expansion. Mr. Slack responded stating that the lot was not served by transit and is not eligible for the specific funding source being discussed. Tom Weiner added that there is no additional room for expansion at the site.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

Resolution 2014-05: Distribution of the FFY 2014 Federal Transit Administration Section 5307/5340 Urbanized Area Apportionments Attributable to the Kingston Urbanized Area:

The Urbanized Area Formula Funding program (49 U.S.C. 5307) makes Federal resources available to urbanized areas and to Governors for transit capital and operating assistance in urbanized areas and for transportation related planning. An urbanized area is an incorporated area with a population of 50,000 or more that is designated as such by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. FFY14 allocation to the Kingston Urbanized Area is \$923,843. Resolution 2014-05 proposes a distribution of these funds between UCAT and Citibus as reached between the two entities.

Mr. Doyle indicated that the two designated recipients of these funds are working towards an agreement regarding the distribution of funds between the two entities. Finalized figures will be inserted into the resolution prior to being submitted to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Jeremy Wilber; second by Joel Brink.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

Resolution 2014-06: Modify Table 1 of the UCTC 2014-18 TIP to Add Rollover Clause Provision to TIP Amendment Procedures.

A Rollover Clause in the MPO's TIP approval resolution enables the MPO to move projects from the 'Committed' (or 'obligated') column of their TIP to one of the first four years of the TIP via an administrative action rather than by a formal TIP amendment, provided that fiscal constraint is maintained. This clause is a means to address the situation where projects or project phases on an old TIP do not get obligated before

the new TIP and subsequent STIP are approved. UCTC currently has no rollover clause in its Operating Procedures. Resolution 2014-06 proposes and outlines rollover procedures for future use.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Ed Pine; second by Howard Baker.

Mr. Slack explained that this modification of the TIP clarifies the rollover procedure and allows for a more seamless transition between TIPs through a primarily administrative function. This modification will bring the UCTC TIP into compliance with the NYSDOT TIP rollover guidance.

Mr. Doyle further explained that this is a technical amendment that simplifies the process of changing the schedule for unobligated projects.

Jeremy Wilber asked if the rollover clause could lead to project sponsors acting slowly to implement projects, knowing that the funds will simply be rolled over to a future date. This could potentially delay funding from other project sponsors with the ability to advance project in a timely manner.

Mr. Doyle responded noting that there are many problems faced when advancing projects on the TIP which include constraints in review times, design issues, and right of way issues. There is a 10 year window after a project is authorized in which ROW acquisition or construction must be started which prevents the indefinite rollover of funds. Furthermore, if projects are not rolled over or not completed in the appropriate time, project sponsors are responsible for paying back the amount expended by the federal entity.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

Resolution 2014-07: To Amend the UCTC 2014-2018 TIP to Include NYSDOT PIN 839141 – Corrective Pavement Treatment RT 55. NYSDOT Region 8 submitted a TIP Amendment Request to UCTC in order to program a Harsh Winter Paving project onto the 2014-2018 program. This project will consist of resurfacing a segment of asphalt pavement on State Route 55 in Ulster County, in the Town of Wawarsing, from the Sullivan County line to 3/10 mile west of Cutler Road. The total project cost is \$5.6m in Federal STP Flex and State Dedicated Funds (SDF). Further details are provided in Resolution 2014-07

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Robin Coleman; second by Jeremy Wilber.

Tom Weiner explained that the harsh winter funds were made available and the region submitted both Route 55 and Route 212 for consideration and were then awarded funds for repaving Route 55. The funds will be used to perform a cold in place recycle.

Jeremy Wilber asked for clarification regarding the methodology used for the allocation of funding. Tom Weiner indicated that pavement scoring plays a significant role in the allocation

of funds. Route 55 was rated a 4 while Route 212 was rated 5 and 6 depending upon the location.

Robin Coleman thanked NYSDOT for the funding to repave Route 55, noting that the condition was reaching a point where emergency service vehicles were having difficulties traversing the roadway.

Howard baker asked if a similar pavement management system was used for County roads. Mr Doyle responded noting that the UPWP has set aside a small amount of money to develop a pavement management program. It was also noted that due to the relatively simplistic nature of repaving projects, consideration is being given to performing more repaving projects with federal aid dollars instead of capital funds and then using the capital funds to perform bridge work. This would bypass some of the more difficult and complex federal aid processes associated with bridge work and allow for a more efficient project advancement schedule.

No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.
Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

Proposal to Block Program FTA 5307 Funds Under PIN 8TRU75 to Support Ulster County Commuter Services. UCTC PIN 8TRU75 is reserved to program Section 5307 formula funds apportioned by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA) for Inter-County Commuter Bus Service. The FTA 5307 sub-allocations for 2013 and 2014 are presently being withheld due to an ongoing discussion with the New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority regarding distribution of funds across neighboring UZA boundaries. In an effort to expedite programming of those funds when they become available, Draft Resolution 2014-09 establishes a “placeholder” dollar figure that can be modified through Administrative Modification by UCTC staff when the funds become available.

Barry Hecht commented that this agenda item will allow for the expeditious distribution of 5307 funds once they become available.

Mr Doyle further explained that adding projects to the TIP requires public notice. Block programming the funding allows for a single public notice to be issued during the initial project creation and allows for subsequent year allocations to be distributed through an administrative modification without additional public notice.

Additionally Mr. Doyle urged members to discuss with state officials the issue of the 5307 agreement between NY, NJ, and Connecticut. If a resolution is not reached soon, services may need to be cut or alternative funding sources found.

Administrative Modifications to Ulster County Park and Ride Projects: Through UCTC Resolutions 2012-06 and 2012-07, FTA 5307 funds were “flexed” into FHWA funds to be used on various transit-related projects throughout the Mid-Hudson TMA, including improvements of park and ride facilities in Town of Ulster, Town of Saugerties and SUNY New Paltz. An administrative modification was required to modify the schedule of two of these projects in order for them to appear on the UCTC 2014 – 2018 TIP.

Mr. Slack explained that this modification takes the placeholders in the TIP and provides full phasing of the projects to reflect the project schedule. These modifications are related to Resolution 2014-08 as the funds from that project will be used in both the Town of Ulster and Town of Saugerties Park and Ride facilities.

NYSDOT Region 8 Bridge Management – Overview of the Ulster County Bridge

Population. Eric Foster, P.E., Regional Bridge Management Engineer for NYSDOT Region 8, will provide members with a presentation on the status of bridges in NYSDOT Region 8 and Ulster County. Information regarding the inspection process, condition rating, status of deficient bridges, and the ‘flagging’ process will be provided in detail.

A copy of the presentation is available online:

<http://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/planning/Bridge%20Presentation%20Ulster%20County%206-24-14%20FINAL.pdf>

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

Other Business

- UCTC Mailing List – UCTC is transitioning to a new email distribution system. Members will be polled to establish continued interest.
- Ulster County DPW Update – Ed Pine provided a brief update of the following bridge projects.
 - Glasco Turnpike Bridge in the Town of Saugerties – Deck has been completely removed. Project is on schedule.
 - Wyncop Bridge –Project is on schedule and expected to be open for Labor Day.
- Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area 2013 Certification Review. – Draft report is available. No major issues pertaining to UCTC were identified. A finalized version of the report will be made available to members once completed.

Old Business

- Transportation Alternatives Program – 14 Applications were received from Ulster, Dutchess, and Orange County. Awards will be announced in October.
- Adirondack Trailways Request for UCTC Funding for 3 Replacement Coaches for Commuter Services to New York: under evaluation by TMA – Request will remain on hold until the 5307 allocation issue between NY and NJ can be resolved.
- FTA §5310 - Upcoming solicitation – Announcement of program information is expected later in summer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Doyle provided brief updates regarding current MPO projects as outlined in the agenda.

Kristen Wilson announced a workshop regarding complete streets and pedestrian safety for June 26th in the Saugerties senior center at 7pm.

No further discussion.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion to adjourn; motion made by Joel Brink; second by Howard Baker.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:45 am.

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