

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting**

Meeting Summary

November 25, 2014

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Ralph Swenson	City of Kingston
Alan Adin	City of Kingston
John Dittus	Town of Hurley
Howard Baker	Town of Marlborough
Vernon Benjamin	Town of Saugerties
Alex Wade	Village of Saugerties
Amanda LaValle	Ulster County Department of Environment
Andrew Emrich	Ulster County DPW
Edward Pine	Ulster County DPW
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Carolyn Ryan	NYS Dept of Transportation
Martin Evans	NYS Dept of Transportation
Kristen Resnikoff	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 Technical Committee 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.

No comments were submitted.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2014 TECHNICAL PORTION OF THE JOINT TECHNICAL AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 9/23/14 meeting of the UCTC Technical Committee. Ed Pine made a motion to approve the minutes; second by John Dittus. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Slack circulated several pieces of correspondence including the following:

- Notice from NYSDOT that the new bicycle/pedestrian manager Tom Benware will be joining the safety program management as the manager of the bicycle and pedestrian program.
- Memorandum from USDOT FHWA that the functional classification changes for State Route 28 have been approved as endorsed by this council and submitted by NYSDOT.
- An article regarding Senator Shuster and his interest in getting a 5 or 6 year transportation bill through congress within the next 2 years.
- Notice from NYSDOT indicated that the small urbanized area boundary in the village of Ellenville, Town of Wawarsing, and Town of Rochester has been approved.

Mr. Doyle announced that Ulster County has included \$10 million for infrastructure improvements in the 2015 budget. The decision to program additional money was made in part due to information supplied by the council and NYSDOT. In addition to the typical efforts, an additional 30-40 miles of roadway and 4-6 bridges are expected to be improved with the funds.

Tom Weiner asked how the \$10 million in funding compares to previous years. Mr. Doyle responded that these funds were provided in addition to the typical funding amount.

No further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Resolution 2014-11: Amendment to the UCTC 2014 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program. Draft Resolution 2014-11 establishes PIN 878049, programming federal Transportation Enhancement Program funds for the City of Kingston to construct pedestrian and bicycle facilities on the Broadway Corridor from Broadway at St. James Street to Foxhall Avenue. Streetscape improvements and enhancements will include facilities such as sidewalks, curbing, bike lanes, pedestrian bumpouts, lighting, benches and trees. The total project cost is \$3.250m, utilizing a local share of \$1.249m.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Ralph Swenson; second by Ed Pine.

Carolyn Ryan commented that the funds programmed for detailed design would need to be moved into 2015 to be in line with the project schedule.

Mr. Doyle indicated that this is a Transportation Enhancement Program Project and that this action is to place the funds on the TIP so that funds can be obligated.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee with the discussed modifications for consideration.

Ulster County Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Action Plan: The effects of the EAB infestation in Ulster County are rapidly becoming visible and handling the clean-up will soon become a reality that the Department of Public Works (DPW) will have to address along rights-of-way and at

County facilities. Staff from the Ulster County Department of the Environment will present on findings of the draft Ulster County Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan and discuss implications that the infestation will have on the transportation network.

Amanda LaValle presented on the topic, providing background and an overview of efforts in Ulster County. A discussion of options for treatment and disposal occurred and provided members with additional information.

Concerns were expressed over the cost of removal and disposal.

Copies of the Action plan were distributed to members.

No further discussion.

Amendments to the UCTC SFY2014 Unified Planning Work Program: At the September 23, 2014 joint meeting of the UCTC Technical and Policy Committees, the Technical Committee authorized staff to amend various tasks in the 2014 UPWP by up to \$50,000 total utilizing unallocated FHWA PL funds. Two task budget amendments were made to the 2014 program totaling \$27,758.

Mr. Slack provided further explanation that the funds were coming from the UCTC unprogrammed planning fund balance.

No further discussion.

Update of UCTC Operating Procedures. A first-draft of proposed modifications to the UCTC Operating Procedures was circulated at the September 23rd Tech/Policy meeting. Staff will review and discuss these proposed revisions and open the floor to discussion regarding these and any other revisions proposed by Technical Committee members.

Mr. Slack outlined the following major changes to the Operating Procedures:

- Changes in language and syntax to improve readability.
- Reference MAP-21, the current transportation authorization act.
- Clarification of the role of the public transit providers on the council. UCAT and Kingston Citibus have been added as non-voting members.
- Clarification of the role of the director and chair of the council.

Tom Weiner asked how the Greene County representative would be selected.

Mr. Slack indicated that staff has reached out to the Green County planning department and County officials. Zero feedback has been received regarding participation.

Tom Weiner also asked for clarification regarding the TIP amendment process and the associated public policy and voting requirements.

Mr. Doyle is considering having the operating procedures to reference the TIP with regards to the amendment process. Minor tip actions are also considered as administrative modifications. Further revisions will be made to this section for further clarification.

No further discussion.

NYS Route 212 Town of Woodstock. The deteriorating state of Rt 212 from Bearsville to Mt. Tremper has been a point of discussion by the UCTC Technical Committee over the past several months. The 2014 NYSDOT Region 8 paving schedule included limited work to address some of the problems along segments of Rt 212. At the request of the Town of Woodstock, the subject of the current condition of Rt 212 and how it may be addressed will be discussed

Mr. Slack indicated that according to NYSDOT resident engineer Tom Story, some maintenance work has been completed to improve some of the worst areas of the roadway.

Tom Weiner noted that Rt 212 from Rt 28 to Wittenberg road is a candidate under the NYSDOT Preventive Maintenance Initiative for cold in place replacement estimated at approximately \$6 million.

Funds would come out of a block funding program rather than the annual budget.

No further discussion.

Mr. Doyle asked about the status of the Critical Bridge over Water program funded by FEMA and HUD.

Tom Weiner and Carolyn Ryan indicated that the projects will be primarily design build contracts. Public outreach will occur on projects in which detours will be required. One contract includes 7 bridges in Ulster County.

NYSDOT Region 8 Local Project Unit Staffing and MPO STIP Performance: NYSDOT Region 8 staff would like to introduce Martin Evans as the new regional Local Project Liaison (RLPL). Mr. Evans will be present to discuss local project schedules in regard to STIP Performance and the NYSDOT Regional Director's Commitment List.

Tom Weiner announced that the Local Project Unit will begin to host reoccurring meetings with project sponsors to help move projects forward. Meetings will likely be held on the same day as existing UCTC Technical or Policy Committee meetings.

Mr. Doyle expressed concerns over the balance between advancing projects and finding offsets. Discussion occurred with regards to a statewide offset program.

Tom Weiner indicated that projects should look for offsets locally first and then come to the MPO to search for offsets. Funding has become scarcer and NYSDOT has been pressed to find offsets for their own projects as well.

Carolyn Ryan encouraged project sponsors to review the obligation dates to ensure that project schedules reflect those programmed on the TIP.

No further discussion.

Andrew Emrich mentioned that panels from the Tappan Zee Bridge will be available on a first come first serve basis. Specs for the panels have been made available and should be considered by municipalities with bridge replacement needs.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

Other/Old Business

- 2015/16 UPWP Development/Call for Projects: Staff has begun development the 2015/16 Unified Planning Work Program. The annual Call for Projects was issued in September with a deadline of December 15th. Technical Committee members are encouraged to discuss possible proposals that might address local or regional transportation needs or concerns.
 - On project consideration includes the mapping and site location of EV charging stations. This project was suggested by the Ulster County Department of Environment and would be beneficial in future grant applications.
 - Another request is an outreach and education program which may include traffic simulator devices.
- Project Updates – Supplement in the agenda provides an overview of projects undertaken by UCTC staff
- UCTC 2013 Financial Report – Available in the agenda
- Tabled –Apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year 2013 and 2014 FTA 5307 TMA funds
 - TMA conference call has indicated that funds should become available shortly.
- Dutchess County, Ulster County, and Trailways have requested unallocated 5307 funds that exceed the availability of the funding pool. Discussions are ongoing between the TMA MPOs
- FTA §5310 - Upcoming solicitation – schedule, guidance

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Slack indicated that no meeting is anticipated for December and that the next meeting will likely take place in late January or early February followed by a Policy meeting in early March

No further discussion.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion to adjourn; motion made by Ralph Swenson; second by Ed Pine.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:55 am

-DS