

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

October 3, 2006
Ulster County Community College
Stone Ridge, NY

Members

Present:	Joel B. Brink**	Town of Ulster
	Linda Cook*	Town of Hurley
	Greg Helsmoortel ⁺	Town of Saugerties
	Jack Hohman**	NYS Thruway Authority
	Nadine Lemmon**	Town of Gardiner
	Richard Peters**	NYS DOT Region 8
	Hector Rodriguez**	UC Legislature
	Toni Roser**	CitiBus
	Phil Serafino**	NYS Thruway Authority
	John Valk, Jr. ^	Town of Shawangunk

Staff

Present:	Sweta Basnet	UCTC
	Marianne Davis	UC Planning Department
	Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Department
	Jean Gunsch	NYMTC – Region 8 MPO Staff
	Bill Tobin	UCTC

Others

Present:	Barbara Budik	Town of Saugerties
	Pam Duke	Town of Rochester
	Gil Hales	
	Toni Hokanson	Town of New Paltz
	Tom Jackson	UCAT
	Albert Meyer	Town of Shawangunk
	Cynthia Ruiz	UC Area Transit
	Mark Sargent	Creighton Manning Engineering
	Charles Schaller	UC Traffic Safety Board
	John Tozzi	Creighton Manning Engineering
	Meghan Vitale	Creighton Manning Engineering

⁺Permanent Voting Member

*Current Voting Member (Until June 4, 2007)

**Voting Proxy

^Advisory Member

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rodriguez at 10:03 a.m.

Mr. Doyle called role and announced that a quorum had been achieved. Everyone introduced themselves.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments received.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATION

Mr. Doyle and Mr. Tobin went through the announcements listed on the Agenda. Ms. Basnet stated that she has been working on the traffic counts and added that the report should be finished by the end of the year. Mr. Tobin passed out a list of TIP applications submitted; he stated the TIP sub-committee was reviewing applications and would be meeting on October 19th. Mr. Doyle congratulated all the communities involved in the TIP update. Mr. Tobin said there would be a November 7th meeting of the Technical Committee. Ms. Budik informed Mr. Tobin that the UCDPW project (Glasco Bridge) is actually in the Town of Saugerties not Ulster. Mr. Doyle informed the Committee that he went to the opening of the Rosendale park-n-ride and was proud of seeing a product of the Council's work.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the June 6, 2006 meeting summary.

A motion was made by Ms. Lemmon to approve the Minutes, seconded by Mr. Brink. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2006- 15: SFY 2006-2007 UPWP Amendment

Mr. Tobin explained that City of Kingston has expanded the scope of work necessary for an Uptown Stockade Area linkage study and would require an additional \$30,000 in addition to the \$30,000 already planned.

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to amend the amount of the study to \$60,000. Motion seconded by Ms. Lemmon.

Discussion: Mr. Rodriguez asked how funding would expand the study. Mr. Tobin replied that it would be used for a micro-simulation of traffic similar to the Saugerties study but on a smaller scale.

A motion to approve the Resolution was made to Mr. Rodriguez, which was seconded by Ms. Lemmon. All were in favor.

RESOLUTION 2006-16: FFY 2006-2010 TIP Amendment

Mr. Valk made a motion to approve the Resolution and was seconded by Mr. Rodriguez. All were in favor of the amendment.

Discussion: Mr. Helsmoortel had concerns about the amount of time required to receive funding as his understanding of a timetable was 3 to 5 years. Mr. Peters described the official process and stated that money could be used within time used to do an agreement (approx. 3 months). Mr. Doyle stated that staff would be happy to advise communities through the process. Mr. Helsmoortel stated he would both like and need advice.

Mr. Doyle gave some background on the Saugerties Area Mobility Analysis project and introduced Meghan Vitale from Creighton Manning Engineering. Ms. Vitale gave a presentation on the SAMA Phase 2 Draft Final Report.

Discussion: Ms. Vitale stated that the recommendation was not to do Phase 3. Mr. Doyle asked if the Council understood the Phase 3 slide. He stated that looking at the long-term, there was not a major problem with capacity, only the 9W corridor will be a problem. Mr. Tobin asked about the intersection at Main and Partition. Mr. Sargent stated that large scale construction would not be necessary. He added that although the traffic lane is narrow, and widening it would

move traffic more efficiently; keeping the lane narrow keeps the traffic moving at a slower, safer speed.

Mr. Doyle thanked the consultants from Creighton Manning for their time.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Doyle stated he would like to give the Council an opportunity to discuss the direction of transportation issues. Mr. Valk stated traffic studies were being done in Shawangunk and added that he was disappointed in the lack of bus service in the Town. Ms. Ruiz agreed with the need for service. Mr. Doyle said it may be cheaper to do a demo bus rather than perform a study. Ms. Ruiz suggested a pilot project for the Gardiner/Shawangunk area and possibly a survey. Mr. Doyle said we could look at it on a TMA level, we could look at a coordinated study (inter-county) or possibly use CMAC money for a study.

Mr. Doyle asked if there were other topics of interest.

Ms. Ruiz said Operation Lifesaver (railroad crossing safety) is a teaching program that is open to the public. In areas such as Saugerties and Malden rail safety should be incorporated to any trail or land use programs.

Mr. Doyle stated that the capacity for decision making at the local level regarding the transportation system in Ulster County should develop in the right way. He asked if there was any concern regarding larger studies that are missing smaller issues and wanted to know if there was a need for education. Ms. Hokanson suggested modeling Local Law for Access Management – do different levels for different roads. Mr. Tobin suggested setting a policy. Ms. Hokanson suggested giving points (on the TIP) to communities who participate in Access Management. Mr. Valk suggested education of planning boards and local government.

Ms. Duke said issues may come up at the 209 Corridor Study. Mr. Doyle stated that the Council needs to provide support for communities with hostile neighbors. As part of the transportation plan we could provide cover for communities. Ms. Duke stated that communities need to work together as certain issues don't stop at borders. Ms. Ruiz suggested the Council serve as facilitator, offering successful projects as models. Mr. Rodriguez stated we could either force as a policy or give points for the TIP. He asked if local planning boards know where UCAT serves? Ms. Ruiz answered that some do and added that service is coming to Plattekill. Mr. Doyle stated we need to make sure we are meeting the needs, as well as the Federal requirement. Mr. Tobin reminded the Council that they are responsible for where the funds go. Ms. Hokanson stated if she were given a model legislation for New Paltz, she would put it into effect immediately. Ms. Lemmon brought up the possibility of doing micro studies. Mr. Doyle stated the Transportation Plans say that a transportation system should support Economic Development. Mr. Tobin stated we need to focus on multi-modalism. Mr. Doyle stated we know areas of community zoned for industry but we don't know how traffic should run through it. He stated he likes the idea of a micro study. Mr. Doyle said he would like site plans to follow along an integrated transit system similar to the Route 209 corridor study. Mr. Rodriguez asked if a traffic analysis could be done for economic development. Mr. Doyle stated there was no restriction. Mr. Valk stated that communities need to come forth with requests. Mr. Doyle said we want to be relevant for tip applications. Mr. Tobin asked if for next years UPWP if we should go crazy with micro studies. Mr. Doyle stated we should see what's out there and asked if everyone understood what was going on. Mrs. Cook stated long term planning board chairpersons are more knowledgeable than you know. Ms. Duke stated turnover was a problem. Mr. Tobin suggested that local municipalities could partially sponsor planners. Mr. Doyle stated the Town of Ulster came up with its Business District through innovative funding. Ms. Duke stated the Town of Rochester is behind. Ms. Lemmon said Gardiner is swamped with projects. Mr. Doyle stated that there are Toolboxes available and asked if there was a desire for implementation of transportation toolbox. Mr. Valk suggested that could be a topic for agenda.

Mr. Schaller stated this would not need to be a total education program, but education and training together, and used Saugerties as an example. Saugerties thought they had a truck problem but after a survey was completed it was decided that it was not an actual problem. Mr. Doyle asked how many of the Council were familiar with the data sources available: traffic counts, accident counts, etc. He asked if there was a need to put the data in one place. Ms. Duke answered yes and it should be available for town access. Mr. Doyle stated we have the ability to make decisions and want our information to be simple, easy to access & to understand.

Mr. Rodriguez recapped the Action Items – Local ordinance, bus service interconnections (points) establish database. Toni Hokanson added education needs to address access management, bus availability and level of service at intersection. Ms. Lemmon added bike pedestrian issues should be addressed. Mr. Tobin stated the upcoming non-motorized study will begin to address those needs. Ms. Budik brought up the railroad and the need to look at topics regionally; to tie quiet zone studies together. She stated the second rail has been okayed we should look at: what is the impact benefit, safety issues, economic development zones (Kings Hwy), implementation of the Kingston Quiet Zone, Saugerties possible Quiet Zone and weave those things together. Mr. Tobin added that 10,000 feet track is being installed in Esopus which will impact that community by 2 miles of parked trains.

Mr. Doyle asked to recap: Ms. Ruiz spoke about education on safety of railroad, need for model laws, educational issues on a local level (availability, level of service). Ms. Lemmon spoke about micro studies. He himself spoke about economic issues. Ms. Budik spoke about a regional focus – where we fit in regionally. Mr. Doyle said we need to think about this for next year. Also, the need for a database or interrelated decision-making model.

Mr. Helsmoortel asked if we forget single driveways when addressing safety. Mr. Schaller said the idea of a database is not as easy as stated. Mr. Doyle stated we need to know what is there.

Mr. Doyle asked if there was comfort level in the communities to allow the Council to manage studies. He added that we could integrate studies to use various sources of funding. Mr. Valk stated that Mr. Doyle could prepare a summary.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Mr. Hales disagreed with the diagnosis of no truck problem in Saugerties. He suggested that smaller trucks should do deliveries because the larger trucks crossed over the dotted lines on Route 9W in order to make turns. He also suggested changing the dotted yellow lines into solid lines. Mr. Peters stated that the lines had nothing to do with trucks making a turn. Mr. Rodriguez asked if the problem was with semis having trouble making the turn. Mr. Schaller explained that the trend with the trucking industry is to use larger vehicles in order to optimize fuel usage.

Ms. Hokanson reminded Mr. Doyle in his summary to add highway improvement districts as an alternative. Mr. Doyle said yes, alternate funding, thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 am, which was seconded by Ms. Duke. All were in favor.