

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary
March 17, 2016
SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Ralph Swenson	City of Kingston
Alan Adin	City of Kingston
Neil Bettez	Town of New Paltz
Tom Wilkin	Town of Plattekill
Jeanne Walsh	Town of Rosendale
James Bruno	Town of Saugerties
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
Jeremy Wilber	Town of Woodstock
Alex Wade	Village of Saugerties
Edward Pine	Ulster County DPW
Andrew Emrich	Ulster County DPW
Bob DiBella	Ulster County Area Transit
Kathy Nolan	Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee
Todd Westhuis	NYS Dept of Transportation
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Jack Hohman	NYS Thruway Authority
Gary Raylinsky Jr.	NYS Thruway Authority
Mark Boungard	Adirondack Trailways

Staff:

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Policy Committee meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 10:00am. Roll call was conducted by Mr. Slack.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

Supervisor Jeanne Walsh expressed concerns over the Pilgrim Pipeline proposal and questioned if the Transportation Council would be able to take a position on the matter.

Kathy Nolan reiterated the concerns expressed by Supervisor Walsh. Praise was expressed for the efforts undertaken by UCTC staff to complete the Unified Planning Work Program.

Supervisor Neil Bettez further endorsed opposition to the pipeline, citing that there were no benefits to the community in supporting it and there are increased risks for the community and first responders if constructed.

Tom Wilkin expressed concerns that the Thruway was designed for transporting automotive traffic and not for other uses such as pipeline connections.

Joel Brink and James Bruno expressed similar concerns regarding the pipeline.

Jack Hohman responded that comments should be submitted when the project is proposed.

Mr. Doyle indicated that staff would examine if this would fall under the purpose of the MPO and determine if the MPO should comment. Furthermore, in developing the 2040 LRTP, the Thruway Authority indicated that they had no improvements planned in Ulster County.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 29, 2015 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 9/29/15 meeting of the UCTC Policy Committee. Jeanne Walsh made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Joel Brink. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed - Motion Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

No communications were received.

Mr. Slack announced that the Federal Rail Administration has launched a website allowing municipalities to request bridge inspection reports for active rail facilities. UCTC Staff has submitted a request for inspection reports for facilities in Ulster County.

No further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

UCTC Resolution 2016-01: Approval of the Draft SFY 2016/17 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The Draft UCTC State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016/17 UPWP has been completed. The draft 2016/17 UPWP continues work commenced during previous UPWP cycles and adds 4 new projects for future programming and development. The final draft UPWP was made available for 15 day public review and comment period from March 1 – March 15.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Joel Brink; second by Alex Wade.

Mr. Slack provided a brief presentation giving an overview of the UPWP.

During the 15 day public comment period, one comment was received encouraging the council to peruse recommendations from the 2012 coordinated transit plan. Mr. Slack responded indicating that UCAT had adopted nearly all of the recommendations and UCTC is planning to engage in a further study to examine the connections between UCAT and Kingston Citibus.

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

UCTC Resolution 2016-02: Apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Draft Resolution

2016-02 identifies FFY 2015 FTA Section 5307 funds apportioned to Mid-Hudson Transportation Management Area (UZA 89) and outlines the distribution of those funds to eligible recipients within the TMA. For areas with populations of 200,000 and more, the formula is based 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. Eligible activities include planning, engineering design and evaluation of transit projects and other technical transportation-related studies; capital investments in bus and bus-related activities such as replacement of buses, overhaul of buses, rebuilding of buses, crime prevention and security equipment and construction of maintenance and passenger facilities; and capital investments in new and existing fixed guideway systems including rolling stock, overhaul and rebuilding of vehicles, track, signals, communications, and computer hardware and software. All preventive maintenance and some Americans with Disabilities Act complementary paratransit service costs are considered capital costs. The full FFY2015 allocation is \$21,231,773; distribution of those funds is detailed in Attachment 1 of the meeting materials.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Joel Brink.

Barry Hecht noted that the 2016 apportionment was recently released and that NYSDOT has begun the process of developing the allocation amounts. This process has begun much earlier than normal and funding should be made available sooner than previous years.

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

Resolution 2016-03: Apportionment of FFY2015 FTA Section 5339 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA. The FTA Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facility Program provides capital funding to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities. Draft Resolution 2016-03 identifies FTA Section 5339 funds apportioned to the Mid-Hudson Transportation Management Area (UZA 89) for FFY2015 and outlines the distribution of those funds to eligible recipients within the TMA. This distribution is in-line with a proposed methodology agreed upon by Ulster County Transportation Council, Poughkeepsie-Dutchess Transportation Council and Orange County Transportation Council staff in full consultation with state and federal agencies.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Alex Wade.

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

Resolution 2016-04: Transfer of FTA Section 5307 funds to CDTA: Adirondack Trailways has requested the transfer of administrative and management responsibilities for their share of FTA Section 5307 TMA commuter bus funds from Ulster County to the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) in Albany, NY. This action helps streamline the administrative and management processes for NYSDOT, Trailways, CDTA and UCTC. Draft

Resolution 2016-04 approves UCTC's transfer of FTA Section 5307 TMA formula funds in the amount of \$1,852,927 to CDTA.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Jeanne Walsh.

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

Resolution 2016-05: Allocation of Previously Unallocated Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Formula Funds for Various Transit Projects. FTA Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Grant funds apportioned to Mid-Hudson Transportation Management Area (UZA 89) have been reserved and are available for future programming through either competitive solicitation or as determined beneficial for the TMA by the 3 MPOs. A total of \$8,562,966 in FFY2013, 2014, and 2015 funds are available. Mid Hudson TMA rules require all 3 MPOs to agree on the use of the funding for it to be allocated to transit projects. Resolution 2016-05 details the proposed use of these funds -- distributing \$2,380,347 to Dutchess County Public Transit to fund the purchase of 8 bus replacements and the continuation of RailLink service; \$700,000 to UCAT for equipment purchases, and \$500,000 to the 3 TMA MPOs for the purposes of a regional transit asset management planning process to take place over a 5 year period. Funds are available for a period of six years (year of apportionment plus five additional years).

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Neil Bettez; second by Jeanne Walsh.

Jeanne Walsh asked what level of oversight exists currently and if funds are returned if not spent. Mr. Doyle explained that funds are typically used for capital purchases and that the MPOs monitor the usage of the funds and all funds are typically spent. NYSDOT also monitors the grants. The discrepancy between funding amounts for each county is reflective of statistics reported to the National Transit Database. Current allocation methodology is fair and beneficial to Ulster County.

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

Development of the Draft UCTC 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. UCTC updates the TIP every 2-3 years in accordance with federal rules and regulations. The Preliminary Draft UCTC TIP has been revised and updated based on TIP/STIP Policy Guidance and Instructions issued by NYSDOT on September 10, 2015. In accordance with those instructions, UCTC staff, working closely with members of the UCTC TIP Subcommittee, developed a list of recommended projects for inclusion in the 2017-2021 program based directly on local sponsor input and available federal funds. A draft program will be presented at the next Technical Committee meeting for consideration.

No further discussion.

FFY 2015 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; 2015 report will be available for review.

Mr. Staas provided a brief overview of the obligation report.

Tom Weiner noted that FHWA has placed a greater emphasis upon obligating projects as scheduled.

Praise was given to the local projects unit at NYSDOT for improved responsiveness and turn around, helping to improve the obligation rates.

No further discussion.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

- Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act passed by Congress and Signed into Law by President Obama on December 4, 2015; FAST replaces MAP-21.
- FRA Launches Website for States and Municipalities to Request Bridge Inspection Reports
- Recapturing of earmark projects: There are a large amount of earmark projects which have not obligated funds. These earmark funds will be available for repurposing. One eligible earmark is available for repurposing in Ulster County for \$400,000.
- The 8th round of TIGER is now open for grant funding applications. Todd Westhuis offered support for local sponsors in their applications.

Tom Weiner did indicate that funds have been obligated for the CSX crossing at Boices Lane in the Town of Ulster.

No further discussion.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 10:50 am.

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