

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**  
**Policy Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Summary**

March 26, 2014

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Alan Adin	City of Kingston
Wayne Freer	Town of Esopus
John Dittus	Town of Hurley
Mike Warren	Town of Marbletown/Supervisors Association
Howard Baker	Town of Marlborough
Vernon Benjamin	Town of Saugerties
James Bruno	Town of Saugerties
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
Jeremy Wilber	Town of Woodstock/Town of Kingston
Alex Wade	Village of Saugerties
David Bolles	Ulster County DPW
Edward Pine	Ulster County DPW
Andrew Emrich	Ulster County DPW
Diane Beitel	Ulster County Safety Officer and Traffic Coordinator
Kathy Nolan	Ulster County Trails Advisory
Bill Gorton	NYS Dept of Transportation
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Jack Hohman	NYS Thruway Authority
Kristen Resnikoff	NYS Thruway Authority
Anne Noonan	Adirondack Trailways
David Gilmour	Gilmour Planning/Cornell Cooperative Extension

Staff:

Dennis Doyle	U.C. Planning Board/UCTC Staff
Brian Slack	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 CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Doyle asked if there were any citizen comments.

Kathy Nolan, speaking on her own behalf, thanked the County for the work being done on non-motorized planning in the area and urged the council to examine a connection to the Bluestone State Forest Preserve along Route 28.

David Gilmour, on behalf of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Complete Streets Initiative, announced the Ellenville Walkabout to take place on Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> for the community.

Speaking on his own behalf, David Gilmour inquired if the Council would be able to provide feedback regarding the Long Range Transportation plan to NYSDOT before finalization and if there. Furthermore Dave Gilmour asked if the council has expressed the needs of its members regarding the fix-it-first approach towards capital programming.

No further citizen comments were submitted.

### **APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2013 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 12/3/13 meeting of the UCTC Policy 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. This letter was also submitted to the Ulster County Traffic and Safety Board. Staff will review relevant accident data at the location in question.

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

Correspondence was also received from US DOT, accepting the Federal Aid Adjusted Urban Area Boundary for the Ulster County Transportation Council.

No further discussion.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 2014-01: Adopt the Ulster County Transportation Council's SFY 2014/15 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP):** Staff presented the draft UCTC State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2014/15 UPWP to the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee recommended that the draft be forwarded to the Policy Committee for approval; no comments or revisions were added.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Joel Brink; second by David Bolles.

Mr. Slack explained that no comments were received from the technical committee. However, NYSDOT commented on the distribution of funds on table 2A and 2B. This did not change the overall values on the tables.

James Bruno commended the planned Analysis of County Bridge Repair and Replacement Program.

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

**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.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Mike Warren; second by David Bolles.

Tom Weiner provided further details indicating that this change of functional class is a result of an internal identification of key routes in the region from NYSDOT. Route 28 acts as a key link and meets the requirements to be classified as a Principal Arterial. The change in classification should have no impact on the Bluestone State Forest Preserve. The change will make additional funding sources available for the roadway, giving it a slight advantage in terms of funding.

Jeremy Wilbur proposed an amendment (highlighted in bold) to the resolution changing the fifth whereas to read “Whereas, New York State Route 28 offers **a** primary access between the City of Kingston/**Exit 19** of the NYS Thruway...” and the sixth whereas to read “Whereas, Route 28 serves as **a** primary access...”.

James Bruno concurred with the proposed amendment.

**All in favor of amending resolution 2014-02, none opposed -- Amendment Carried.**

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

**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 Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area FTA Section 5307 Formula Funds to UCAT for the purchase of new buses, raising the total project cost from \$650k to \$1.026m. The purpose of these additional funds is to restore funds lost after changes to National Transit Database reporting requirements under MAP-21 resulted in an unexpected decrease in funding to UCAT. TMA rules require the three Mid-Hudson Valley MPOs to coordinate and collaborate regarding the use and allocation of these funds. Resolutions in support of this allocation were or will be brought before the respective MPO Executive Committees on the following dates:

- UCTC Resolution 2013-12 approved December 3, 2014
- PDCTC Resolution 2014-04 before the Executive Committee on March 27, 2014
- OCTC Resolution 2014-01 before the Executive Committee on April 8, 2014

UCTC TIP Amendment rules requires UCTC to provide a 15 day public comment period regarding any proposed changes to the scope or cost of a project in excess of 25% (or \$500,000) of the original project phases. Public notice allowing public comment on the amendment was issued on February 26 ending on March 12th; no public comments were received.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Wayne Freer; second by Howard Baker.

Mr. Slack explained the process of obtaining the funds and indicated that once resolutions are passed from PDCTC and OCTC, funds will be added to PIN 8TRU63.

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

**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. Full split figures are shown in the resolution attachment – the TIP amendment adds two new project PINs to the UCTC TIP which detail the split between the operators. UCTC TIP Amendment Procedures require UCTC to provide a 15 day public comment period regarding the addition or removal of any project to the TIP. Public notice allowing public comment on the amendment was issued on February 26 ending on March 12th; no public comments were received.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Alan Adin; second by Wayne Freer.

Mr. Slack described the details of the split and programming as it exists on the current TIP.

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

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

UCTC received a 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 buses. 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. The March 13th meeting of the TMA was postponed until April due to inclement weather; the request will be discussed at that point in time.

Mr. Slack explained that the request was brought before the TMA and that there are significant capital needs of public carriers in the near future.

Mr. Doyle further explained that the TMA had expressed concerns that UZA 89 FFY13 funds are currently unavailable due to the lack of an agreement between NY and NJ on how the funds should be split. This may cause a need to utilize the previously unallocated funds as a temporary funding source until an agreement between the two states is reached. The TMA is looking to establish a capital needs program of the eligible parties to help prioritize projects and distribute funds as opposed to operating on a case by case basis to distribute funds. Once such a capital program is established, the TMA will have a better sense of the availability of funding and may consider Trailways request at that time.

#### **No further discussion**

**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 will be available for review.

Mr. Slack provided copies of the obligation report and provided a brief review of the report.

#### **No further discussion**

#### **OTHER/OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Tabled 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 tables.

Discussions between NY and NJ continue. No further information available from NYSDOT at this time.

#### **Transportation Funding Opportunities**

Mr. Slack provided information regarding the following funding opportunities

- USDOT TIGER Discretionary Grant Program – Competitive funding opportunity for large capital program projects. Participation in competitive funding opportunities is encouraged by UCTC staff to bridge the gap between the fix it first approach and the larger capital needs of the community.
- NYSDOT Transportation Alternatives Program – Project sponsors must attend a mandatory training workshop in order to be eligible for funding. Eligible projects must meet a \$250,000 minimum with a \$2 million cap. If awarded, funds must be obligated within three years.
- FTA §5310 - Upcoming solicitation – schedule, guidance
- Visit <http://ulstercountyny.gov/planning/fundopp.html> for complete details on the above funding opportunities

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATES**

Bill Gorton reviewed the delivery information for the following projects:

- Mudd Tavern Rd Bridge – Let date: June, 2014
- Village of Saugerties Pedestrian Improvements – Let date: April 2014.
- City of Kingston Washington Ave Signals – Let date: July of 2014
- Ulster County Denning Road Bridge – Let date: October of 2014

Mr. Doyle mentioned that crude oil shipments are increasing through Ulster County. Recently there was a derailment in the Town of Ulster which contained oil cars which were thankfully empty. Ulster County is in the process of updating the all hazard mitigation plan. The number one risk identified in the plan is the transshipment of trains and the product they carry through the urbanized areas of the County. The County will encourage NYS to move to an agreement with CSX to provide tracking information to emergency service personal of what is being shipped. The County will push for a continued reduction in train speeds, increased inspections, and ask the DEC as part of its permitting process to require rail companies to comply.

Vernon Benjamin expressed concern over the number of at grade rail crossings in the Town of Saugerties and indicating that concern continues over the safety of these crossings.

Wayne Freer indicated that the Town of Esopus has concerns regarding both the rail and river transport of oil products. Due to the double tracking the Town is frequently host to stopped

David Bolles asked the council what the next season of CHIPS funding would entail.

Bill Gorton indicated that there has been a push from the County Highway Superintendents and Association of Towns to increase the amount of funding coming out of the annual budget. NYSDOT is not heavily involved in the budget process and will have to wait for the budget to be passed.

Mr. Slacked noted that traffic counts for the 2014 season will be going underway in the coming weeks. Notice will be provided to the highest elected official of each municipality counts are scheduled to take place in.

**No further discussion.**

Mr. Doyle requested a motion to adjourn; motion made by Wayne Freer; second by Joel Brink.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** at approximately 11:15 am.

-DS