

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary
September 21, 2016
Rondout Municipal Center, Cottekill, NY

Members Present:

Ralph Swenson	City of Kingston
Mike Warren	Town of Marbletown/Supervisors Association
Neil Bettez	Town of New Paltz
Tom Wilkin	Town of Plattekill
Jeanne Walsh	Town of Rosendale
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
Alex Wade	Village of Saugerties
Robert Sudlow	Ulster County Executive Office
Bob DiBella	Ulster County Area Transit
Carol Hargrove	Ulster County Area Transit
Diane Beitel	Ulster County Traffic Safety Board
Todd Westhuis	NYS Dept of Transportation
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Nancy Zou	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

No citizen comments received

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 29, 2016 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 6/29/16 meeting of the UCTC Policy Committee. Tom Wilkin made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Jeanne Walsh. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed - Motion Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

No communications were received.

Mr. Slack announced that UCTC has organized a training seminar with FHWA instructors providing a review of the requirements to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The training is scheduled for September 29, 2016 starting at 9:00 am.

Mr. Doyle announced that the NY State Thruway Authority has indicated that the bridge over the thruway on route 32 in the Town of Plattekill needs to be replaced. UCTC has been facilitating meetings between agencies from both Orange and Ulster Counties to ensure the community needs and issues are addressed during the replacement. Mr. Doyle thanked Tom Wilkin for bringing this project to the attention of the MPO.

Mike Warren expressed gratitude to NYSDOT with regards to their public outreach efforts. Work being done on the route 213 bridge in High Falls has taken the concerns of the community into consideration as part of the design process.

Joel Brink also expressed thanks to the contractor and engineer for the quality of work on the project and level of accommodation given to residents during the construction effort for the Sawkill Rd Bridge over the Thruway.

Neil Bettez thanked the county for the work on the Carmine Liberta Bridge and overlook. The Supervisor then asked for an update regarding efforts along route 299. The Supervisor expressed concerns over the crash involving a cyclist along route 299 in the town of New Paltz.

Mr. Doyle responded indicating that the County has a bid out for a planned shoulder widening project. Funds have been programmed to carry out the shoulder work to route 44/55 with design work scheduled to begin in November of 2016 and construction in 2019. The segment of route 299 from the Wallkill River to Butterville Road will be completed using County funds.

No further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2016-14: Amendment to the UCTC 2017 – 2021 UCTC Transportation Improvement Program. At the request of the Village of Saugerties and the NYSDOT, an amendment to the UCTC 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program is proposed. This project utilizes a portion of unused earmarked HPP (Highway Performance Program) funds from project PIN 8760.08 – Saugerties Pedestrian Improvements. The project will repair and replace approximately 900 lineal feet of damaged bluestone sidewalks with newly quarried material or original quality to meet ADA specifications. Damaged areas of bluestone curbing will be replaced where necessary. Select areas of original bluestone slabs will remain in place. The total project cost is \$359,072, with 80% covered through HPP funds and the remaining 20% covered through local funds. In accordance with UCTC Operating Procedures, amendments to the TIP require 15 day public notice and comment period, which was initiated on Sept. 1.

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

Three comments were received, all of which indicated a strong desire to retain the original character and material of the existing bluestone sidewalks as described in the Initial Project proposal and in the TIP project description.

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

UCTC 2017 Transportation Improvement Program – Block Program Bridge and Paving

PINs. The 2017 – 2021 TIP included two new “block program” PINs utilizing surplus allocations of STP FLEX and STBG Off-System Bridge funds. These funds will be made available to eligible Ulster County municipalities through direct solicitation to the MPO this fall. UCTC will provide an overview of the funds available, eligible projects and anticipated dates of availability. UCTC Technical Committee members will be asked to volunteer to sit on a review committee to assist in the rating and ranking of any applications submitted for these funds.

Mr. Slack and Mr. Staas provided brief descriptions of the paving and bridge block program and the anticipated call for projects and funding amounts. Forming a block program allows for eligible projects to be rapidly programmed and added to the TIP.

All projects will have to go through the Federal Aid process which should be considered as municipalities develop applications. Projects should be simple in process and should not have any right of way phases and required environmental work should be limited. Similar to TAP funding, awarded applicants cannot come back to seek additional funds for their projects.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for to approve the application process as presented. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Mike Warren.

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

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) – MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform.
 - The chairmen of UCTC, PDCTC, and OCTC all have submitted comment letters on the rulemaking expressing concerns. Despite widespread opposition to the rulemaking, it appears that the US Transportation secretary will be moving ahead with the rulemaking. Staff will continue to update members as developments occur.
- Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area Regional Transit Planning Draft RFP
 - A draft RFP is in development to help establish regional transit priorities and coordination between area providers. This consultant based study will take a comprehensive look at capital asset management and demonstrates coordination between TMA members. Comments from the UCTC Technical Committee meeting have been brought to the TMA and will be integrated into the RFP.

- Ulster County Transportation Council Coordinated Human Service/Public Transit Transportation Plan update
 - This plan has developed a number of recommendations and will likely be integrated. Mobility management has been a main theme throughout the project.
- 9/29 ADA workshop
 - Members are encouraged to attend and.
- Federal Earmark Repurposing
 - NYSDOT has submitted their proposal for repurposing the eligible earmarks to FHWA and is currently awaiting a response.
- UCTC Fall Traffic Count Program
 - Members are encouraged to submit potential count locations for consideration
- New Funding Opportunities: 2016 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
 - Deadline for submission is October 21st. Preliminary applications are due September 30th.
- 2017 UPWP Call for Planning Projects
 - If members have a transportation planning project need or project in mind they are encouraged to reach out to staff to discuss the application process and eligibility.

Next meeting of the Technical Committee will be scheduled for the end of November

No further discussion.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Joel Brink; second by Alex Wade.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:15 am.

-DS