

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

February 11, 2015

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Ralph Swenson	City of Kingston
Alan Adin	City of Kingston
Mike Warren	Town of Marbletown/Supervisors Association
Howard Baker	Town of Marlborough
Greg Helsmoortel	Town of Saugerties
James Bruno	Town of Saugerties
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
Bren White	Village of New Paltz
David Bolles	Ulster County DPW
Andrew Emrich	Ulster County DPW
Edward Pine	Ulster County DPW
Diane Beitzl	Ulster County Traffic Safety Board
Pamela Wanning	Ulster County Traffic Safety Board
Kathy Nolan	Ulster County Trails Advisory
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Kristen Resnikoff	NYS Thruway Authority
Mark Boungard	Adirondack Trailways
Barry Hecht	Adirondack Trailways
Kristen Wilson	Cornell Cooperative Extension

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.

Kathy Nolan was pleased to see draft resolution 2015-10 due to its importance for non-motorized transportation.

No further comments.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 25, 2014 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 11/25/14 meeting of the UCTC Technical Committee. Motion made by Greg Helmsmoortel; second by Joel Brink. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Slack circulated communications from the Thruway Authority regarding salvaged deck panels from the existing Tappan Zee Bridge. Members should consider requesting panels to use in local bridge replacements.

No further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Update of UCTC Operating Procedures: Revisions to the UCTC operating procedures have been made following several iterations considering input from member agencies. Pending approval from the Technical Committee, a 45 day review and public comment period will begin prior to presentation to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Joel Brink; second by Greg Helmsmoortel.

Mr. Slack provided a brief overview of changes to the operating procedures.

Kathy Nolan noted a discrepancy in number of days allotted for public comments in the UPWP section of the operating procedures.

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

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

Draft UCTC 2015/16 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP): The Draft UCTC State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015/16 UPWP has been completed. Staff will present the draft program to the Technical Committee. The draft 2015/16 UPWP continues work commenced during previous UPWP cycles and adds 4 new projects for future programming and development.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Greg Helmsmoortel; second by Mike Warren.

Mr. Slack outlined the UPWP and annual allocation amounts for SFY 2015/2016. The allocation amounts are federal planning funds which are then matched by the State and County to fund the activities of UCTC during each year. These funds can only be used for planning projects as outlined in the document.

Members were informed of projects nearing completion and given an overview of projects expected to take place during the coming SFY.

Clarification was offered regarding the differences between UPWP and TIP fund sources and purposes: the TIP is a capital program while the UPWP is a planning program. Federal planning funds in the UPWP cannot be used for capital needs such as those programmed in the TIP.

Tom Weiner provided some additional information related to fiscal constraint and the process of developing the TIP.

Supervisor Mike Warren asked if there were any special procedures for unanticipated repairs on town facilities such as an unexpected bridge closure following an inspection. Mr. Doyle stressed the importance of capital budgeting and suggested the use of alternative funding sources such as disaster relief funding.

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

Unified Planning work program to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

TMA Resolutions Overview

A number of resolutions deal with FTA monies recently made available following an agreement between NY and NJ releasing FFY 14 and 15 funds.

Mr. Doyle provided an overview of 5307 funding as it relates to the TMA. 5307 monies are generated by both public and private carriers operating within the urbanized areas. Money generated by the carriers in the urbanized areas then becomes available to the designated recipients. Private carriers also generate significant funds within the TMA. Public agencies receive the money generated by the carrier. Private carriers receive money based upon the reported preventative maintenance needs. Transit needs are often “lumpy” and require large amounts in certain years while other years have minimal to no financial requirements.

5339 Funds are generated in a similar fashion. Funds are then distributed to the public recipients based upon the number of buses in operation.

A portion of these funds are set aside each year and added to the unallocated fund balance, typically amounting to \$3 million per year. These funds are then used on a competitive basis to help deal with the “lumpy” demands. However, funds cannot remain unprogrammed indefinitely and need to be spent within the timeframes associated with each fund. Some of the resolutions presented deal with programming funds from the unallocated fund balance before they are set to expire.

Draft Resolution 2015-03: Allocation of Previously Unallocated Federal Transit

Administration Section 5307 Formula Funds for Various Transit Projects. Section 5307 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 \$2,911,480 in FFY2012 funds are available. These funds will expire at the end of this FFY and transit agencies will need to include the funding in their FTA applications by the end of March. All 3 MPOs will need to agree on the use of this funding. Resolution 2015-03 details the proposed use of these funds ,

distributing \$720,000 to UCAT for equipment purchases, \$500,000 to Metro-North RR for operation of the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry in 2015 and 2016, and \$1,691,480 for Dutchess County Transit to partially cover bus replacement for 15 medium-duty buses to be replaced with 15 heavy-duty buses in 2016.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Mike Warren; second by Greg Helsmoortel.

Mr. Slack circulated a memo detailing the requests for unallocated funds.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft Resolution 2015-04: Apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year 2013 Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

Draft Resolution 2015-04 identifies FFY 2013 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 FFY2013 allocation is \$20,132,733.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Mike Warren; second by Joel Brink.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft Resolution 2015-05: Apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year 2014 Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

Draft Resolution 2015-04 identifies FFY 2014 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.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Bren White; second by David Bolles.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft Resolution 2015-06: Apportionment of FFY2013 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 2015-06 identifies FTA Section 5339 funds apportioned to the Mid-Hudson Transportation Management Area (UZA 89) for FFY2013 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 Mike Warren; second by Howard Baker.

Mr. Slack further clarified for members that the resolution makes the funds available but does not program them. Funds will be used for capital projects.

Barry Hecht commented indicating that the private carriers generate a fair amount of ridership contributing to this allocation.

No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.
Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

Draft Resolution 2015-07: Apportionment of FFY2014 FTA Section 5339 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA. Draft Resolution 2015-07 identifies FTA Section 5339 funds apportioned to the Mid-Hudson Transportation Management Area (UZA 89) for FFY2014 and outlines the distribution of those funds to eligible recipients within the TMA. This distribution is in-line with a 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 Joel brink; second by Greg Helsmoortel.

No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.
Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft Resolution 2015-08: Allocation of Previously Unallocated Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Formula Funds for Various Transit Projects: Section 5307 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 \$3,405,712 in FFY2013 funds are available. Resolution 2015-08 details the proposed use of a portion of these funds, distributing \$1,757,044 to Dutchess County Transit to partially cover bus replacement for 15 medium-duty buses to be replaced with 15 heavy-duty buses in 2016.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Joel brink; second by Howard Baker.

Clarification was provided indicating the unallocated funds listed in the resolution would go into the unprogrammed balance and would need to be programmed within 5 years. Under the previous federal transportation funding authorization, SAFETEA-LU, funds needed to be programmed within 3 years. Funds from the current transportation funding authorization, MAP-21, need to be programmed within 5 years.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft Resolution 2015-09: Amendment to the UCTC 2014 – 2018 Transportation

Improvement Program to Add New Projects. Draft Resolution 2015-09 creates PIN 8463.17, Route 213 Over Rondout Creek (Eddyville) Bridge MBC. This NYSDOT project will utilize \$5.227 in Federal STP Flex and State Dedicated Funds to perform work on the Route 2013 Bridge over the Rondout Creek.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Joel Brink; second by Howard Baker.

Tom Weiner indicated that this project is being added in an effort to preserve the structure as truss bridge replacements tend to be expensive.

This structure is not to be confused with the structure being replaced in High Falls using FEMA funds.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

Draft Resolution 2015-10: Amendment to the UCTC 2014 – 2018 Transportation

Improvement Program to Add New Projects. Draft Resolution 2015-10 creates PIN 8761.21, Hudson Valley Rail Trail West (Phase 4). This Ulster County project will utilize FHWA Transportation Alternative Program funds to construct a trail that will begin at New Paltz Road and proceeds 0.5 miles on abandoned RR corridor, then along NYS Route 299 for approximately 0.74 miles and ends at South Street with a new trailhead, parking and signage in the Town of Lloyd. TAP funds require a 20% local match.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Mike Warren; second by Joel Brink.

Howard Baker asked if this was previously postponed project due to financial constraints.

Mr. Doyle responded indicating that this is a new project based upon recommendations from previous studies funded through a greenway grant. This project was also identified in the UCTC non-motorized plan as a priority gap.

The TAP program is not expected to be offered for 2015 due to the uncertainty of transportation funding as the MAP-21 authorization draws to a close.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

Draft Resolution 2015-11: Amendment to the UCTC 2014 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program to Modify Cost, Schedule and Project Description. Draft Resolution 2015-11 amends the UCTC TIP to include new project phases under UCAT PIN 8TRU64. The Amendment adds \$0.720m in federal 5307 funds for the purchase of 4 buses.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Greg Helsmoortel; second by Joel Brink.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft Resolution 2015-12: Amendment to the UCTC 2014 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program to Add New UCAT Transit Project. Draft Resolution 2015-12 amends the UCTC TIP to include new project UCAT PIN 8TRU84. The Amendment adds UCAT's 5339 allocation from the Mid-Hudson TMA for FFY13 and FFY14.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Bren White; second by Joel Brink.

This funding is programmed in a block fashion to allow the transportation providers to program with greater flexibility.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft Resolution 2015-13: Amendment to the UCTC 2014 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program to Modify Cost, Schedule and Project Description. Draft Resolution 2015-13 amends the UCTC TIP to include new project phases under PIN 8TRU75. The Amendment adds \$5.417 in FTA 5307 funds attributable to Inter-County Commuter Bus Services in Ulster County (Adirondack Trailways) for FFYs 2013, 2014 and 2015. All funds have been programmed in FFY2015. FFY2016, 2017 & 2018 allocations are “block programmed” as estimates on the TIP to act as placeholders in anticipation of future allocations. Sub-allocations are limited to no more than the operator's vehicle maintenance expenses, as reported to the National Transit Database (NTD).

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Howard Baker; second by Greg Helsmoortel.

Barry Hecht provided a description of the funds and noted that the \$5.4 million programmed for 215 includes funding from '13, '14 and '15. Funds beyond '15 represent anticipated funding needs.

Supervisor Greg Helsmoortel noted that the council is using public funds to subsidize a private carrier.

Barry Hecht responded noting that riders are being subsidized and that it is still considered transit by the federal government even if it is being undertaken by a private entity.

Mr. Doyle noted that Adirondack Trailways receives less funding than the amount that they generate through the allocation process. Additionally, Trailways has improved service utilizing the federal funds.

Ed Pine asked where the local share comes for this funding.

Mr. Doyle explained that the local share is paid by Adirondack Trailways.

Supervisor Mike Warren asked what response is possible if there is a substantial increase in ridership.

Tom Weiner stated that NYSDOT will be expanding park and ride facilities in Saugerties and Kingston.

Mr. Doyle further highlighted UCTC efforts in studying intermodal facility development in both Kingston and New Paltz.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

FFY 2014 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.

Mr. Slack reviewed the obligation amounts for FFY 2014 and explained that full obligation occurred as a result of TIP management and project sponsor performance.

Tom Weiner further explained that a number of projects had been rolled over into future years. While this allows for full obligation, it is creating a bubble of projects in the future that will test the capacity of project sponsors to deliver. The next major TIP update may require a redistribution of projects and may cause schedules to further slip and costs to increase.

No further discussion.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

- Draft Resolution 2014–11: Amendment to the UCTC 2014 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program was Approved at the Nov 24, 2014 Technical Committee meeting; Resolution to be included at the 3/11/15 Policy Committee meeting as “Resolution 2015-01
- Adirondack Trailways submitted a request in 2014 for unallocated TMA funds for the purchase of 3 buses. Staff have requested additional information from Trailways and is being reviewed by the TMA.

- Supervisor Mike Warren requested an update on the six bridges being worked on utilizing FEMA funds through NYSDOT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Slack indicated that the UCTC Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2015 and will include a presentation regarding the LRTP.

Mr. Doyle thanked UCTC and TMA staff for their continued efforts.

No further discussion.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion to adjourn; motion made by Mike Warren; second by Joel Brink.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:35 am

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