

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Transcript
March 23, 2021
Meeting held via zoom at 10:00 am

0:00:11.200,0:00:16.640

DD: Okay, why don't we get going. Welcome everybody
this is the March meeting of the Ulster County

0:00:16.640,0:00:21.600

Transportation Council's Technical Committee.
We'll start off with a call to order.

0:00:23.520,0:00:29.840

I'm gonna go around and ask
everybody.. why don't we... Can we call names off Brian?

0:00:31.360,0:00:32.861

DD: Just by participant?

0:00:32.861,0:00:34.206

DS: You want me to do that Brian?

0:00:34.206,0:00:34.792

BS: Yes sure

0:00:34.792,0:00:35.668

DD: Thanks Dave.

0:00:35.668,0:00:44.240

DS: Okay we have Ed Pine, Sandra Jobson, Kristen Wilson, Amy
Mackenzie, Andrew Emrich, Herb Litz, Lizy Philip,

0:00:46.320,0:00:50.480

Mike Baden, and Vernon Benjamin. Did I miss anyone?

0:00:56.480,0:01:01.760

DD: Okay is there any citizens
on? Call for citizens comments?

0:01:04.640,0:01:08.142

MH: Let's see this is uh Martin Hull from WSP just
sitting in on the meeting.

0:01:08.142,0:01:09.040

DD: Thank you Martin.

0:01:10.320,0:01:12.000

MH: You're welcome.

0:01:13.674,0:01:22.478

DD: So the approval of the October 27th 2020 Technical Committee meeting summary. Do I have a motion to approve for discussion purposes?

0:01:22.478,0:01:23.881

MB: Mike Baden

0:01:23.881,0:01:25.840

DD: Thank you Mike. Do I have a second?

0:01:27.440,0:01:28.720

EP: Ed Pine

0:01:28.720,0:01:31.280

DD: Thank you Mr. Pine. I have a motion and a second. Any discussion?

0:01:34.160,0:01:40.717

In the interest of time, any opposed?

0:01:40.717,0:01:43.482

Any abstentions?

0:01:43.482,0:01:46.700

Hearing none the motion is passed. Thank you.

0:01:46.700,0:01:48.821

Communications and announcements, Brian?

0:01:48.821,0:01:54.699

BS: Yeah I have just a few communications that have gone out from the Transportation Council recently.

0:01:54.699,0:02:03.847

Uh you may have seen uh the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area opened up a call for transit project proposals

0:02:03.847,0:02:10.800

using our unallocated funding savings which is accumulated to approximately \$15 million dollars

0:02:12.640,0:02:19.360

it's open to designated recipients within the TMA

planning area which includes all of our public

0:02:19.360,0:02:26.960

transit providers. Anyone who is not a designated recipient needs to get essentially a permission

0:02:27.520,0:02:33.440

from a designated recipient to act as a sponsor for their application. In the past Adirondack

0:02:33.440,0:02:39.920

Trailways has applied for these funds and, not within our.. not within our county but in other

0:02:39.920,0:02:47.200

counties, uh human service transportation providers have applied for these funds as well. Um we're not

0:02:47.200,0:02:52.160

anticipating receiving any of those types of applications this year given the circumstances

0:02:52.720,0:02:59.680

of transit during the pandemic, but that call is out there and we do anticipate to receive

0:03:00.640,0:03:03.840

some applications from our public transit provider here

0:03:04.400,0:03:06.624

in Ulster County for those funds.

0:03:06.624,0:03:07.939

DD: UCAT right?

0:03:07.939,0:03:17.223

BS: Yeah, from UCAT. So, uh that is the um TMA call for transit projects um.

0:03:17.223,0:03:20.400

DD: Any questions on that?

0:03:23.120,0:03:25.044

Okay. Brian?

0:03:25.044,0:03:29.122

BS: Another correspondence, I did receive the approval letter

0:03:29.122,0:03:34.287

from the New York State DOT Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration

0:03:34.287,0:03:46.240

of our 2021 Unified Planning Work Program. So that UPWP, as it was approved by the Policy Committee last month, it has been accepted

0:03:46.800,0:03:55.760

by state and federal offices. And, just as a point of information, uh the current Unified Planning

0:03:55.760,0:04:03.600

Work Program, which has roughly eight days left on it in the state fiscal year, did require a minor

0:04:03.600,0:04:10.217

routine end-of-year adjustment in the amount of \$3,317.50

0:04:10.217,0:04:16.080

to add um one final invoice to a project that was not included. It was a, the

0:04:17.680,0:04:22.800

Kingston Traffic Signal Warrant Analysis project, which was largely completed during the previous

0:04:22.800,0:04:28.720

year. So, we just needed to add add that in order to close out the project and make sure that it was

0:04:28.720,0:04:34.480

included on the state fiscal year program. That's a minor adjustment and does not need Council action.

0:04:36.640,0:04:38.511

That's all the correspondence I have.

0:04:39.496,0:04:42.160

DD: Thank you Brian. Anything from the Council members they want to share?

0:04:47.280,0:04:57.120

Okay. New business, item A draft UCTC resolution 2021-04: amendment to the UCTC STIP federal

0:04:57.120,0:05:02.880
fiscal year 2020-2024 Transportation
Improvement Program to add a new New York

0:05:02.880,0:05:09.200
State DOT project, PIN number 801847 as shown in attachment one.

0:05:09.200,0:05:13.113
Can I have a motion for discussion purposes?

0:05:13.113,0:05:14.588
KW: So moved.

0:05:14.588,0:05:16.160
DD: Thank you Kristen. Do I have a second?

0:05:19.440,0:05:20.585
EP: I'll second.

0:05:20.585,0:05:24.302
DD: Thank you Mr. Pine. I have a motion
and a second. Discussion, Brian?

0:05:24.302,0:05:31.280
BS: Um yes. This is a new project, therefore any addition to the
Transportation Improvement Program requires

0:05:32.000,0:05:38.480
um approval by Tech and Policy and 15-day
public comment period. We are very pleased to see

0:05:38.480,0:05:43.600
the addition of this project to our Transportation
Improvement Program. Going back about three or four

0:05:43.600,0:05:49.760
years, Ulster County Public Works and the Planning
Department met with the superintendent of schools

0:05:49.760,0:05:56.720
in Onteora to discuss some real concerns they
had regarding student safety uh on the Route 28

0:05:56.720,0:06:02.880
corridor in Onteora and a number of different
issues were discussed and David Corrigan, our

0:06:02.880,0:06:09.680

resident NYSDOT engineer was in attendance as well. And, so, today we see the addition of

0:06:10.480,0:06:18.400

something that will be I think a major improvement and benefit to the Onteora area. At this point I'd

0:06:18.400,0:06:24.320

like to maybe defer to New York State DOT if they have any further information to add on the project.

0:06:26.080,0:06:33.680

SJ: Hi Brian, it's Sandra. Um yeah this project really came out of partnership with um I think it was New

0:06:33.680,0:06:41.680

York City DEP is doing some roadway improvements along route 28 and some bridge replacements

0:06:42.880,0:06:49.120

and also doing some trail work and I think between the meeting that you were just talking about

0:06:51.360,0:07:00.080

and this project being done by DEP, I think the thought was, I think it was initially DEP

0:07:00.080,0:07:05.520

was the one that wanted to bring this shared use path to connect the hamlet

0:07:07.360,0:07:13.440

better to the trail system and it was determined that it was just much easier for State DOT

0:07:14.480,0:07:17.200

to build this section that was along the State highway.

0:07:18.160,0:07:22.480

And, we're actually, at this point in time, we're actually wrapping up our environmental review.

0:07:23.600,0:07:29.760

Apparently we have significant right-of-way out there which is going to make constructing

0:07:29.760,0:07:33.066

this project a lot faster and easier.

0:07:33.066,0:07:39.916

DD: That's great Sandra, and I know that there's one member of the Ulster County DPW that's been talking about this for a while. Andrew do you want to say something

0:07:43.996,0:07:48.960

AE: No, I mean I just know that the DEP project keeps on getting delayed so I'm not

0:07:48.960,0:07:55.680

sure when that's actually going in but, I know their intention is to have a a five to ten foot uh

0:07:55.680,0:08:02.000

separate shared use path on that bridge which I'm guessing DOT is going to connect to. So, I do

0:08:02.000,0:08:05.223

think it's a a great thing for that community.

0:08:05.223,0:08:12.623

DD: And, it connects the school to the trail system so their cross-country staff can get there and everything else. So, that's pretty good. Thank you.

0:08:13.360,0:08:16.048

Thank you Sandra.

0:08:16.048,0:08:16.999

KW: Dennis,
SJ: You're welcome.

0:08:16.999,0:08:21.659

KW: Where are the project limits? Where does it go to and from? Just sort of curious.

0:08:23.384,0:08:26.029

BS: Sandra do you have that those details?

0:08:26.029,0:08:32.094

SJ: from what I recall, yeah, from what I recall because like, just literally probably like an hour ago, looked at the location map.

0:08:32.094,0:08:40.560

Um you know where the high school is, or school in Boiceville? Yeah, the path, um conceptually as it's shown right now,

0:08:41.120,0:08:50.400

um would run along the west side of Route 28

um basically from the vicinity of where where

0:08:50.400,0:08:55.840

the school is, I think it could potentially go past go maybe a little bit uh further

0:08:56.880,0:09:05.331

west, but then it would um go to route 28A, intersection with route 20...28.

0:09:05.468,0:09:08.560

Um, so, I think that's still something that has to be

0:09:09.200,0:09:15.040

better defined during detailed design is the most logical you know termini. But, I guess you could say

0:09:15.040,0:09:20.224

the project starts at the intersection of route 28 and 28A and then heads west.

0:09:20.224,0:09:29.840

BS: And Sandra, right now, presently, there is a mid-block crosswalk there which is less than ideal certainly which

0:09:29.840,0:09:34.960

is one of the reasons why the improvement I'm sure is taking place. Essentially leads into

0:09:36.560,0:09:42.080

some parking lots and a drainage ditch. Do you know if the department will be exploring any sort

0:09:42.080,0:09:49.505

of hybrid beacon in the area as well as part of that crosswalk?

0:09:49.505,0:09:58.880

SJ: I'm not uh entirely sure, but that is definitely something that I can pass along to the project manager. Absolutely. I would hope

0:09:58.880,0:10:03.840

that that's part of, you know, what they're going to be looking at in more detail during final design.

0:10:04.640,0:10:06.664

And, I'll pass that along.

0:10:06.664,0:10:07.540

BS: Thank you.

0:10:07.540,0:10:09.600

DD: Thanks Sandra, thanks Kristen. Any other questions?

0:10:10.800,0:10:13.906

HL: Uh yeah, Dennis..

0:10:13.906,0:10:16.154

DD: Who's.. just to identify yourself.

0:10:16.154,0:10:16.906

HL: Herb Litts.

0:10:16.906,0:10:19.128

DD: Hi Herb. I'm sorry I didn't recognize the voice.

0:10:19.128,0:10:24.800

HL: No, no problem. I'm.. just a point of interest. That that the bridge job for DEP is let

0:10:25.680,0:10:31.840

um and is due to start construction probably within a couple of weeks.

0:10:32.480,0:10:37.360

DD: That's great news. That's really great news. Yeah, I heard it was, I heard it was let

0:10:37.360,0:10:42.640

because we're talking about changes to the uh parking uh for the trail system itself there.

0:10:43.680,0:10:48.000

So, I did hear it was it was uh, it was going forward. Thank you.

0:10:48.000,0:10:57.280

HL: Yeah and they, you.. I mean someone may want to reach out to the contractor in DEP when they have their startup meeting,

0:10:58.000,0:11:02.560

um you know, just to let them know what's going on. And, then if there's any adjustments to

0:11:02.560,0:11:08.960

their project to meet the state project, they can be done, you know, in a matter of course

0:11:08.960,0:11:13.009

rather than having to go back and redo work.

0:11:13.009,0:11:14.626

DD: Thank you.

0:11:14.626,0:11:22.640

SJ: Um, yeah, this is Sandra again. Yeah, I think those conversations already be had by Mike Schaefer, our regional design engineer.

0:11:23.520,0:11:31.360

But, we will um definitely confirm that along with the idea of the RFB along route 28.

0:11:33.840,0:11:42.000

DD: Thanks Sandra. Anything else? Anything else relative to the resolution?

0:11:42.000,0:11:45.600

Hearing none, all in favor?.. I'm sorry.

0:11:46.480,0:11:49.280

Any opposed? I apologize. Any opposed?

0:11:52.160,0:11:54.614

Any abstentions?

0:11:55.901,0:11:57.820

So carried. Thank you.

0:11:57.820,0:12:02.498

BS: We'll release that for our public comment. At this point it should be in next week's paper.

0:12:03.401,0:12:04.619

DD: Thank you Brian.

0:12:05.385,0:12:09.559

Item number six, other old business, project updates. Brian?

0:12:09.559,0:12:17.521

BS: Uh, I can run through some project updates very quickly. Our Long-Range Transportation Plan uh reformatting is nearly complete.

0:12:17.521,0:12:24.304

We received the final draft from our consultants last week and have our final comments to them.

0:12:24.304,0:12:33.298

We'll be meeting tomorrow so, hopefully within the next uh couple weeks we'll be able to uh present that to our members.

0:12:33.298,0:12:42.632

Um, we may also be considering passing a new resolution to make that the official Long-Range Plan but we'll

0:12:42.632,0:12:49.520

figure out what the best course of action is based on our operating procedures on how to proceed in that regard.

0:12:51.120,0:12:56.800

Um, speaking of our operating procedures: It's been several years, I think at least five years, since

0:12:56.800,0:13:03.280

we've revisited, uh for potential revision, the operating procedures. Um there are some

0:13:03.280,0:13:08.960

areas that I would like to improve uh add some clarification regarding our procedures,

0:13:08.960,0:13:15.600

particularly with regard to public participation and also participation of our voting members

0:13:16.400,0:13:22.800

through remote meetings. We obviously have been working under the Governor's orders to allow

0:13:22.800,0:13:28.160

remote meetings for public uh, for public meetings but, there's nothing that really

0:13:28.160,0:13:34.800

states in our operating procedures how to handle that um and I suspect that order may be

0:13:34.800,0:13:42.240

rescinded at some point during this calendar year if um things go favorably uh in regard to

0:13:42.240,0:13:49.120

the pandemic. So, other MPOs are also revisiting their operating procedures given those issues

0:13:49.760,0:13:56.720

so, we may do the same. I'm going to begin to prepare a laundry list of potential changes

0:13:56.720,0:14:01.840

to those operating procedures and I'll share them with our Technical Committee for input and review.

0:14:03.040,0:14:08.560

We presently have an RFP for transportation resiliency I'm looking at.

0:14:10.080,0:14:16.160

It's a resiliency and risk assessment analysis. That RFP is open but the deadline is this Friday

0:14:16.160,0:14:22.800

and we've received quite a bit of interest from potential proposers, um engineering firms.

0:14:23.520,0:14:30.720

So, we are hoping to have a pretty robust response and to receive quite a few um

0:14:32.400,0:14:34.720

proposals of interest for that project.

0:14:36.800,0:14:45.600

Um, I've already mentioned our Unified Planning Work Programs uh those are oh also the Ulster and

0:14:45.600,0:14:54.480

Delaware trail corridor in Shandaken. We've been doing a trail feasibility study for that trail

0:14:54.480,0:15:03.200

corridor looking um at the section essentially from Big Indian headed toward Belleayre. We've

0:15:03.200,0:15:10.720

had Barton and Loguidice assisting us with that effort and we have um the final draft report

0:15:10.720,0:15:14.960

is essentially going through final revisions with a technical advisory committee.

0:15:14.960,0:15:20.720

That should be available for public review, I'm hoping next week at which point we're going to

0:15:20.720,0:15:26.800

schedule a public meeting to present the findings and solicit public input. So, please be on the

0:15:26.800,0:15:32.720

lookout for that invitation. I'm looking forward to getting that underway at this point we are hoping

0:15:34.000,0:15:39.280

to try to have some sort of hybrid in-person meeting given that the weather is changing that we

0:15:39.280,0:15:47.680

were hoping that maybe up at Belleayre we could have something open to the public in person under cover

0:15:47.680,0:15:53.840

of one of the ski lodges or something to that effect but we think it's a little ambitious given

0:15:53.840,0:16:01.760

where we're at as a community, as a county, and as a state and that, at this point in time, it's probably

0:16:04.480,0:16:10.000

makes a lot more prudent sense if we just continue to focus on having remote meetings.

0:16:10.560,0:16:17.040

Um so, we will very likely be scheduling a remote public meeting uh public information meeting

0:16:17.040,0:16:21.044

for the U&D study sometime in April or May.

0:16:21.044,0:16:29.440

DD: Yeah, I would add that that doesn't preclude sometime in the future, particularly towards the end of summer,

um bringing the stakeholders together up there to

0:16:30.000,0:16:35.920

to see the trail and to and to understand what was proposed and maybe take a tour of the trail etc

0:16:35.920,0:16:42.560

etc. So, uh but we wanted to make sure that we could finish the study up and then as we start talking

0:16:42.560,0:16:48.480

to funders about about various funding and start thinking about what preliminary design looks like,

0:16:49.200,0:16:55.120

perhaps another meeting at the site would be would be appropriate and we'll have those discussions

0:16:55.120,0:16:57.132

as we move along.

0:16:57.132,0:17:03.840

BS: We have successfully completed the UCAT um feasibility study for potential uh

0:17:04.400,0:17:08.640

expanded maintenance facility. That project was completed by

0:17:08.640,0:17:12.400

Passero Associates about two weeks ago and is available on the project website

0:17:13.360,0:17:20.800

um and we will be exploring opportunities for implementing the findings of that project as well.

0:17:22.480,0:17:29.520

And, one last item for me and then I'll pass over to Dave to talk about our crash analysis:

0:17:30.720,0:17:37.520

Bridge New York. That call for projects is currently open. I hope that um municipalities

0:17:37.520,0:17:40.698

will be applying if they have bridges or bridge needs.

0:17:40.698,0:17:49.360

DD: So, can I stop you? Does anyone, is anyone on on the call, uh any municipalities uh thinking about applying? DPW, if you folks are going to apply?

0:17:52.000,0:17:54.828

AE: Yeah Dennis we're applying for a bridge and a culvert.

0:17:55.211,0:17:57.023

DD: You know where Andrew?

0:17:58.800,0:18:05.530

AE: One one culvert in Shawangunk and uh the bridge in Hardenburgh.

0:18:05.530,0:18:08.177

DD: Okay

0:18:08.177,0:18:14.213

BS: And, we're also working with our two applicants for the Ulster County off system bridge funds

0:18:14.213,0:18:22.837

which include Rochester and Ulster County DPW to find the best way forward for the use of those funds at this time.

0:18:22.837,0:18:30.320

MB: Yep um Brian and Dennis, it's Mike Baden I can uh the board, Town board is going to be uh talking about that.

0:18:31.494,0:18:36.560

We've spoken with the consultant that we were working with

0:18:36.560,0:18:40.000

and we're likely going to move forward with the Bridge New York application.

0:18:41.840,0:18:46.160

MB: Pending board approval to to initiate a contract with them but I,

0:18:46.160,0:18:48.000

I suspect it will happen.

0:18:48.000,0:18:49.311

BS: Great

0:18:49.311,0:18:49.894

DD: Thanks Mike.

0:18:49.893,0:18:55.650

BS: Yep, and we've been in touch obviously those issues too

MB: Yep

0:18:55.650,0:19:00.514

DD: Anyone else? Any culverts out there? Any more bridges out there?

0:19:00.514,0:19:09.840

MB: Dennis I did see also Town of Marbletown and I saw in in the local newspaper, the bluestone, uh they were discussing a culvert.

0:19:13.040,0:19:13.540

DD: Okay.

0:19:16.480,0:19:20.489

FP: This is Fred. I believe we're moving forward with that also.

0:19:20.489,0:19:24.000

DD: Thank you Fred.

0:19:24.000,0:19:29.321

BS: David, any updates for the uh Ulster County Safety Analysis?

0:19:29.321,0:19:34.160

DS: Yeah, the Safety Analysis is continuing on. We've seen a template

0:19:34.720,0:19:39.600

for the deep dive analysis that we're going to be doing at 10 locations throughout Ulster County.

0:19:39.600,0:19:44.720

We're still finalizing those top 10 locations but we've pretty much pinned down the top one or two

0:19:45.520,0:19:50.160

and now it's just getting those the rest of those ones in line. We're really trying to make sure that

0:19:50.880,0:20:00.560

where we're doing this deep dive as a diverse geographic and uh type of crash, crashes that's

0:20:00.560,0:20:03.553

seen at each location.

0:20:03.553,0:20:12.800

DD: So, one of the first, Sandra you should be aware of this, one of the first areas that we looked at and one of the highest crash locations in the county is the u-turn

0:20:13.520,0:20:20.480
on uh 44/55 going up uh to Minnewaska. So,
the consultants are going to be looking at

0:20:20.480,0:20:24.800
looking at that as one of their first
deep dives. It was the number one location

0:20:24.800,0:20:31.600
county-wide um just be aware of that so we'll
be reaching out to DPW to participate in that.

0:20:31.600,0:20:34.720
So you can
understand what we're doing.

0:20:38.080,0:20:39.895
SJ: Okay, thank you.

0:20:39.895,0:20:42.640
MB: Dennis, Mike Baden.
Just a quick question on that since

0:20:43.200,0:20:50.560
since the planning project was approved for that
44/55 corridor, how how will those two overlap? Will

0:20:50.560,0:20:57.301
they will they uh share information back and forth
or how will that work?

0:20:57.301,0:20:58.656
DD: Yes. How's that?

0:20:58.656,0:21:01.840
MB: Okay, perfect.

0:21:06.240,0:21:15.840
BS: Those are all the project updates I have. We're
also working on at least three new scopes of work

0:21:15.840,0:21:24.320
that we hope to have out for RFP this spring which
include rail safety issues in the City of Kingston,

0:21:25.280,0:21:32.000
um a corridor management plan for route 9W in the
Town of Ulster in the commercial area up there,

0:21:32.560,0:21:38.880

also trail wayfinding are at the top of our list and we're we're actively working on all of those

0:21:38.880,0:21:45.037

scopes of work uh right now. That's all I have.

0:21:45.037,0:21:46.880

DD: Any other old business from the Council members?

0:21:53.920,0:21:59.440

DS: I was going to say, there is one thing I wanted to make people, uh the Council aware of: FHWA is

0:21:59.440,0:22:05.360

currently soliciting feedback on the changes to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices,

0:22:05.360,0:22:12.720

MUTCD. Um, they're they have a pretty substantial amount of changes that are being proposed

0:22:13.760,0:22:17.280

we're currently working at the MPO association working on a

0:22:18.000,0:22:26.320

draft primer kind of on highlighting some of the major changes. But, if you do have an interest in

0:22:26.320,0:22:29.920

those traffic control devices and the implement implications and

0:22:31.040,0:22:36.320

things that um, you know, limitations from that, they suggest that you go through it and take a look.

0:22:36.320,0:22:43.034

Um but hopefully at a future meeting we will be presenting on those key changes to let our members know.

0:22:43.513,0:22:47.806

DD: Thank you Dave. Anything else?

0:22:47.806,0:22:51.928

Sandra, I have one question: Any update on the Wurts Street Bridge?

0:22:53.762,0:22:57.737

SJ: No, I have nothing. But, I can check in for you guys.

0:22:57.737,0:22:59.561

DD: Appreciate it Sandra. Thank you.

0:22:59.561,0:23:01.947

SJ: Okay, yep.

0:23:01.947,0:23:07.598

BS: Next meeting, at the UCTC Policy Committee is scheduled for April 27th.

0:23:07.598,0:23:10.560

DD: Mark your calendars. Any other business?

0:23:14.000,0:23:16.080

Hearing none, can I have a motion to adjourn?

0:23:18.800,0:23:20.976

MB: Mike Baden.

0:23:20.976,0:23:22.997

DD: Thank you. Can I have a second?

FP: Fred Pizzuto.

0:23:22.997,0:23:25.680

DD: Thank you Fred. I have a motion and a second. Any opposed?

0:23:26.960,0:23:31.680

Any abstentions? Everybody have a great, enjoy the day. It's supposed to be 66 out there today.

0:23:32.480,0:23:35.840

FP: Wonderful

HL: Everybody be safe stay healthy

SJ: Enjoy

0:23:38.240,0:23:39.783

AE: Thanks all be well.

Meeting concluded at ~10:25 am