

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

August 30, 2016

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Kristen Wilson	City of Kingston
Mike Warren	Town of Marbletown
Neil Bettez	Town of New Paltz
Tom Wilkin	Town of Plattekill
Jeanne Walsh	Town of Rosendale
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
David Gilmour	Village of New Paltz
Alex Wade	Village of Saugerties
Kathy Nolan	Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Kristen Resnikoff	NYS Thruway Authority
Alex Berardi	Adirondack Trailways
Mark Boungard	Adirondack Trailways
Barry Hecht	Adirondack Trailways

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 CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kathy Nolan expressed her support for the sidewalk project in Saugerties being brought before the Council through resolution 2016-14. Concerns were expressed regarding the clarity of the Rt 212 detour as confused motorists have been stopping at the Catskill Interpretative Center seeking directions.

Tom Weiner indicated that he would pass the information on to hopefully improve signage.

Alex Wade thanked NYSDOT for the repair work along Rt 212 considering the limited funding available.

Joel Brink commented on the repair of the Thruway bridge on Sawkill Road noting that he believes the repair schedule may be delayed. Gratitude was expressed for the repairs and shoulder expansion on Sawkill Road.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 20, 2016 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 5/20/16 meeting of the UCTC Technical Committee. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Mike Warren. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Slack announced that registration is open for the September 29th ADA Training Seminar. The seminar is intended to train local municipalities in ADA requirements and compliance.

Kristen Wilson asked if resources from UCTC would be made available to help local municipalities develop ADA transition plans. Mr. Slack indicated that a UPWP Task and associated funds have been programmed to aid with ADA compliance and that this training seminar is one of the first steps in providing assistance. The level of support could change depending on the interest from member agencies. The City of Kingston and Village of New Paltz expressed interest in further support.

David Gilmour stressed the importance of considering non transportation facilities when developing these documents.

Tom Wilkin encouraged universal design practices in site design.

Neil Bettez observed that Ulster County has an aging population and accessibility issues will become even more important as the population continues to age.

Jeanne Walsh noted that the Town of Rosendale had to incorporate ADA compliant sidewalk and ramps as part of a recent repaving project.

Adirondack Trailways indicated that their facilities and busses are in compliance with ADA.

No further communications or announcements at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft 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 will be initiated following Technical Committee approval.

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

Alex Wade thanked UCTC Staff for encouraging the village to pursue programming the leftover funds from a completed sidewalk project in the Village.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) – MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Coordination and Planning Area Reform NPRM was published in the Federal Register On June 27. The proposed changes to the transportation planning regulations (23 CFR Part 450) include:

- Changes to the definition of Metropolitan Planning Area would clarify that it must include the entire urbanized area, plus the contiguous area forecast to become urbanized within the 20-year planning horizon.
- Governors and MPOs would determine whether multiple MPOs are warranted within a single metropolitan planning area, based on the size and complexity of the area.
- Multiple MPOs within a metropolitan planning area would jointly develop planning products including a single metropolitan transportation plan, transportation improvement plan, and performance targets. To improve state coordination with MPOs, states and MPOs would be required to maintain a current planning agreement, which would include a dispute resolution process, and coordinate analyses within the metropolitan planning area.

The changes, as proposed, would have profound effects on UCTC and neighboring MPOs, including PDCTC, OCTC and NYMTC. The comment period closes on August 26

UCTC staff provided an overview of the responses that were developed individually by NYSDOT, Mid-Hudson TMA MPOs and other statewide MPOs

Mr. Doyle noted that there are two Census designated urbanized areas within Ulster County that merit the creation of an MPO: the Kingston urbanized area and the Poughkeepsie--Newburgh, NY—NJ urbanized area.

Jeanne Walsh expressed concerns over Home Rule implications in NYS. Eliminating the MPO would reduce the local input to the Federal Aid process

Mike Warren noted that the geographic makeup of the region is different from other areas of the nation should be considered a unique and complex area.

No further discussion.

Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area Regional Transit Planning Draft RFP.

The MHVTMA will seek proposals from qualified firms to complete a strategic, regional transit plan for the tri-county area of Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties. The regional transit plan will focus on ways to better coordinate and connect existing transit systems internally, between the three counties, and externally, between the three counties and Albany and New York City metropolitan areas. To meet these goals, the regional transit plan will identify strategies to improve transit operations within the TMA, by addressing unmet regional needs and service gaps, reducing redundant services, and improving transit efficiencies. Funding for this effort was approved by all three MPOs, including UCTC under Resolution 2016-05, approved March 17, 2016. A draft Request for Proposals has been included in the agenda packet for review and discussion; deadline for final comments is September 16th

David Gilmour suggested that a bicycle advocate stakeholder should be added to the study

Neil Bettez stressed the importance of transit connections to airports throughout the region.

Tom Weiner suggested that Park and Ride facilities should be addressed as part of the plan.

Kristen Wilson further noted that the importance of rural connections to the urban centers should be brought up in the plan.

Alex Berardi asked how needs were going to be identified and prioritized.

Mr. Doyle responded that priorities will likely be established in a similar fashion to the NYSDOT preservation first approach.

No further discussion.

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 provided a brief overview of the available funds and the draft criteria for project selection.

Mike Warren observed that the amount of funding available for pavement project is limited and will not go very far.

Mr. Doyle asked if members would like to review the selection criteria methodology.

No further discussion.

Ulster County Transportation Council Coordinated Human Service/Public Transit Transportation Plan update.

UCTC is in the process of updating its Coordinated Plan in 2016. The primary purpose of a Coordinated Plan is to identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes, provide strategies for meeting these needs, and prioritize transportation services for funding and implementation. In addition, the current federal transportation authorization act - Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act - requires UCTC to prepare a Coordinated Plan as a condition of applying for and receiving Federal funds under the Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) program. The Coordinated Plan is therefore intended to act as a blueprint for implementing a range of strategies to improve transportation services in Ulster County. A public meeting associated with the project has tentatively been scheduled for October 12

Mr. Slack provided a brief presentation and update of the project progress. Technical memoranda are available on the UCTC website for review.

No further discussion.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

- Federal Earmark Repurposing

Earmarks repurposing awards have not been issued. A strong response has been received.

- UCTC Fall Traffic County Program

If members have additional locations in need of counts for projects or studies they should reach out to UCTC staff to schedule counts.

Supervisor Walsh and Supervisor Warren expressed concerns over road closures and notification to local municipalities.

Concerns were also expressed with regards to bicycle touring route signage and bicycle safety.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Transportation Alternatives Program was announced with a deadline for applications on October 21, 2016.

The Unified Planning Work Program will be coming this fall for planning activities.

The UCTC Policy Committee is scheduled to meet on September 21, 2016 at the Rondout Municipal Center.

No further discussion.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 12:15 pm

-DS