

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Joint Technical and Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

September 23, 2014

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Ralph Swenson	City of Kingston
Alan Adin	City of Kingston
Brad Will	City of Kingston
Wayne Freer	Town of Esopus
John Dittus	Town of Hurley
Mike Warren	Town of Marbletown/Supervisors Association
Greg Helsmoortel	Town of Saugerties
Jim Bruno	Town of Saugerties
John Valk	Town of Shawangunk
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
Bren White	Village of New Paltz
Robert Sudlow	Ulster County Executive Office
David Bolles	Ulster County DPW
Edward Pine	Ulster County DPW
Andrew Emrich	Ulster County DPW
Robert DiBella	Ulster County Area Transit
Bill Gorton	NYS Dept. of Transportation
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept. of Transportation
Kristen Resnikoff	NYS Thruway Authority
Jack Hohman	NYS Thruway Authority
Anne Noonan	Adirondack Trailways
Glenn Gidaly	Barton and Loguidice
Kristen Wilson	Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lynn Archer	Ulster County Legislator
Mary Collins	Bridge the Gap
Ruth Molloy	Bridge the Gap

Staff:

Dennis Doyle	U.C. Planning Board/UCTC Staff
Brian Slack	UCTC Staff
David Staas	UCTC Staff

CALL TO ORDER

The Technical Committee portion of the 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. Legislator Lynn Archer, on behalf of the Bridge the Gap group, provided a package for NYSDOT with recommendations regarding the design and timing of the route 213 bridge replacement in High Falls. The group expressed support of the project and requested to be included throughout the process.

No further citizen comments were submitted.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 26, 2014 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 3/26/14 meeting of the UCTC Technical Committee. David Bolles made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Joel Brink. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Slack reviewed important pieces of correspondence received by UCTC staff as follows:

- Letter from Marilyn Shazor, the Regional Administrator for FTA's Region 2, regarding allocation of 2014 FTA 5307 funds. This letter indicates that negotiations were completed regarding UZA 1 and that funds will soon be made available.
- Letter from Ulster County Department of Public Works requesting additional funds for PIN 875990: South Putt Corners. The request will be further amended to match the actual needs of the project.

Mr. Slack then circulated the 2 pieces of correspondence. No further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2014-05: Distribution of the FFY 2014 Federal Transit Administration Section 5307/5340 Urbanized Area Apportionments Attributable to the Kingston Urbanized Area:

The Urbanized Area Formula Funding program (49 U.S.C. 5307) makes Federal resources available to urbanized areas and to Governors for transit capital and operating assistance in urbanized areas and for transportation related planning. An urbanized area is an incorporated area with a population of 50,000 or more that is designated as such by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. FFY14 allocation to the Kingston Urbanized Area is \$923,843. Resolution 2014-05 proposes an equal, 50/50 distribution of these funds between UCAT and Citibus.

Mr. Doyle noted that no action is required from the Technical committee.

No further discussion

Draft Resolution 2014-10: Amendment to the UCTC Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014-18 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add NYSDOT PIN 893271: Boices Lane Rail Road Crossing Improvements – Town of Ulster.

New York State Department of Transportation has requested adding a new project to the TIP programming Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Section 130 Rail Road Safety funds for intersection improvements at the Boices Lane and CSX Rail crossing. The Section 130 program provides

funds for the elimination of hazards at railway-highway crossings. Improvements will include shoulder expansion, gate and signal improvements, and lane re-configuration. Matching funds will be provided through State Dedicated Funds; no local match is required. Section 130 funds are set-aside from the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) apportionment to New York State and will not affect fiscal constraint of the TIP or the schedule/funding of projects currently listed on the TIP. 15 day public review and comment period for Draft Resolution 2014-10 commenced on September 4 2014. All public comments received will be distributed prior to Technical and Policy Committee consideration of the resolution.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Joel Brink; second by John Valk.

Mr. Brink inquired if the project would include the opportunity for sidewalks to be installed as the resolution is worded to include other improvements as funds become available.

Tom Weiner responded that the current project is only for improvements to the rail road crossing itself and sidewalks cannot be included given the type of funds being used. The design to be implemented will include room for future sidewalk improvements if funding becomes available.

Mr. Doyle further commented that a limited number of funds were included for signal wiring upgrades in consideration of future pedestrian improvements at the location.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

Amendments to the 2014/15 UPWP The Chairperson requests that the Council authorize UCTC staff to perform routine, minor budgetary adjustments for various UCTC 2014 UPWP projects. The total value of any amendments made shall not to exceed \$50,000 and would be taken from the un-programmed FHWA PL fund balance of \$478,639. UCTC Operating Procedures state that the UPWP budget revision process be handled in a timely, well-documented manner without undue duplication or review and delays of reimbursement. At present, project consultants Behan Planning and Design performing work on the New Paltz Intermodal Site Identification and Facility Design Plan have requested additional funds totaling \$18,600 for project completion. In addition, it is anticipated that several ongoing projects may also require additional funds before the end of the State Fiscal Year. In an effort to expedite any necessary future transfers and facilitate the contract amendment process, the Chairperson respectfully requests the flexibility to allow for any such future adjustments to be made as needed. Notification of any such changes would be made to the UCTC Technical and Policy Committees as soon as possible.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Wayne Freer; second by Greg Helmoortel.

Mr. Slack further explained that staff are requesting flexibility to program additional funds as needed to existing projects.

Mr. Doyle noted that the request for additional funds for the New Paltz Intermodal project is for additional work including examination of additional alternatives and further public outreach. Additional funds are requested based upon the needs and requests of the communities in which

the projects are taking place in. It is anticipated that additional funds will be needed for the Rosendale Circulation and way finding study.

Alan Adin noted that the amount requested in the agenda was for \$10,935 instead of the \$18,600 discussed.

Clarification was provided to indicate that the total amount of modifications will not exceed \$50,000 and comes from the un-programmed FHWA PL fund balance.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

2015/16 UPWP Development/Call for Projects:

Staff will begin developing the 2015/16 Unified Planning Work Program this September. A summary of the status of consultant-based studies is included in the agenda supplement for member reference. Members are encouraged to discuss possible projects for inclusion in the 2015/16 UPWP.

Mr. Slack provided an overview of current UPWP and provided some insight as to which types of projects are eligible to be considered for a UPWP project.

Mr. Doyle further noted that in line with recommendations from the triennial review, a freight study will likely be advanced in conjunction with PDCTC and OCTC.

Applicants should keep in mind that many finished UPWP projects serve as the basis in applications for competitive funding programs from various sources.

Glenn Gidaly asked if UPWP funds could be applied to existing projects on the TIP and if parking studies would be eligible.

Mr. Doyle responded that UPWP funds are limited to planning activities and cannot be used for design or implementation work as dictated in FHWA rules. Parking studies are eligible and have been performed in the past as part of larger Circulation, Access, and Parking studies.

Kristen Wilson inquired to see when an update to the existing non-motorized plan is scheduled to take place.

Mr. Doyle noted that the LRTP update is scheduled to take place during the next year and will examine what components of the non-motorized plan should be updated. Furthermore, MAP-21 has created the requirement for performance measures as part of the LRTP. This will become a substantial component of the work performed by UCTC.

No further discussion

Update of UCTC Operating Procedures

In accordance with the 2013 FHWA/FTA Certification Review of the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA, UCTC will begin updating its Operating Procedures, last updated in 2010. A first-draft of

proposed modifications will be circulated at the meeting and presented to Technical Committee members. UCTC staff will propose a review process and schedule with UCTC Technical and Policy Committee members.

Mr. Slack circulated a draft copy of the operating procedures with modifications to bring them more in line with current requirements. A comprehensive review of the operating procedures will be taken and modifications will be made to increase transparency and clarity.

No further discussion.

UCTC Year 2040 LRTP TAC

The application period for the revised Request for Proposals for Technical Assistance for the UCTC Year 2040 LRTP closed on August 28. Interviews will be scheduled with candidates that submitted competitive proposals. UCTC Operating Procedures state that the UCTC Technical Committee will function as the Technical Advisory Committee during LRTP updates. UCTC staff therefore requests volunteers from the TAC who may be interested in directly participating in the update process.

Mr. Slack informed the council that a consultant has been selected but not awarded yet. Individuals interested in participating as a member of the TAC should reach out to staff.

Bren White and Kristen Wilson expressed interest in participating as members of the TAC.

No further discussion.

NYSDOT Region 8 and MPO STIP Performance:

UCTC and NYSDOT staff will discuss how well project phases programmed for Federal Fiscal Year 2014 are being obligated. NYSDOT and MPO staff will provide further information.

Mr. Slack noted that 10 projects have phases scheduled to be obligated in 2014.

Tom Weiner indicated that two projects with construction phases would need to be rolled into 2015. However, many project schedules were previously amended and are not in line with their original scheduling. In the future, performance will be compared against an early snapshot of the TIP to ensure that proper obligation rates are being met.

Andrew Emrich asked if consideration would be given to increasing LPU staff to reduce the review backlog currently being experienced.

Bill Gorton indicated that this is a component of the regional program process and that applying more resources to the review process would diminish capacity in other areas.

No further discussion.

UCTC 2014 Traffic Monitoring Program

UCTC will be conducting a limited number of traffic counts during the fall season. Members should discuss any possible additional count locations that they may have in mind.

Mr. Staas indicated that 55 counts had been performed this year and additional counts will be performed on bridges without current information. A limited number of non-reoccurring congestion counts will take place during some of the peek fall weekends.

Count information will be made available on the UCTC website once the report is completed.
No further discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Doyle announced that the Pilgrim Pipeline project is being proposed along the general vicinity of the thruway. The project aims to establish a crude oil pipeline from Albany, through Ulster County, to Linden, NJ. Recently the project has begun seeking right of way from individual land owners in Ulster County.

Furthermore, additional oil infrastructure is expected to be constructed in the port of Albany to increase capacity to handle tar sands oil from Alberta Canada. Increased rail transport of oil is expected with these developments.

Park and ride facility work is expected to continue and the project will undergo an administrative modification as funding amounts are arrived at. Greg Helmsmoortel commented that the plans presented by NYSDOT were well thought out and will provide a benefit to the Town and property owner into the future.

The request for \$200k in unallocated TMA 5307 funds for UCAT is nearing completion as OCTC and PDCTC have passed resolutions allocating the funds to UCAT.

The Community Risk and Resiliency act was signed into law by Governor Cuomo. The act provides for all major infrastructure improvements and permits issued by state agencies to take into consideration climate change and sea level rise by January 2015.

No further discussion.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion to adjourn; motion made by Greg Helmsmoortel; second by Ralph Swenson.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:10am.

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ADJOURNED; BREAK FOR POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING**

POLICY COMMITTEE CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Doyle called the UCTC Policy Committee to order at approximately 11:12am. Roll call was conducted by Mr. Slack

CALL FOR CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Doyle asked if there were any citizen comments.

Kristen Wilson that Cornell Cooperative Extension's Creating Healthy Places program will be sponsoring a Complete Streets Workshop on Wednesday, October 8th at 5pm at the Town of Wawarsing Town Hall in Ellenville.

No further citizen comments were submitted.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 24, 2014 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 7/24/14 meeting of the UCTC Policy Committee. Wayne Freer made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Greg Helmsmoortel. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2014-05: Distribution of the FFY 2014 Federal Transit Administration Section 5307/5340 Urbanized Area Apportionments Attributable to the Kingston Urbanized Area **Resolution 2014-05: Distribution of the FFY 2014 Federal Transit Administration Section 5307/5340 Urbanized Area Apportionments Attributable to the Kingston Urbanized Area:**

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Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by John Valk; second by Wayne Freer.

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

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funds for the elimination of hazards at railway-highway crossings. Improvements will include shoulder expansion, gate and signal improvements, and lane re-configuration. Matching funds will be provided through State Dedicated Funds; no local match is required. Section 130 funds are set-aside from the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) apportionment to New York State and will not affect fiscal constraint of the TIP or the schedule/funding of projects currently listed on the TIP. 15 day public review and comment period for Draft Resolution 2014-10 commenced on September 4 2014.

One public comment was received emphasizing that congestion is the major issue at the Boices Lane crossing. UCTC responded indicating that the funds being utilized are specific to safety issues but consideration for future improvements to alleviate congestion was provided for in the design.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by David Bolles; second by John Valk.

Mike Warren asked if the signal west of the intersection owned by Tech City is able to communicate with the signals at the rail crossing.

Mr. Doyle responded that the signals were not able to communicate with each other.

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

Amendments to the 2014/15 UPWP The Chairperson requests that the Council authorize UCTC staff to perform routine, minor budgetary adjustments for various UCTC 2014 UPWP projects. The total value of any amendments made shall not to exceed \$50,000 and would be taken from the un-programmed FHWA PL fund balance of \$478,639. UCTC Operating Procedures state that the UPWP budget revision process be handled in a timely, well-documented manner without undue duplication or review and delays of reimbursement. At present, project consultants Behan Planning and Design performing work on the New Paltz Intermodal Site Identification and Facility Design Plan have requested additional funds totaling \$18,600 for project completion. In addition, it is anticipated that several ongoing projects may also require additional funds before the end of the State Fiscal Year. In an effort to expedite any necessary future transfers and facilitate the contract amendment process, the Chairperson respectfully requests the flexibility to allow for any such future adjustments to be made as needed. Notification of any such changes would be made to the UCTC Technical and Policy Committees as soon as possible.

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.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

Old Business

- Tabled –Apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year 2013 and 2014 FTA 5307 TMA funds.
 - Trailways Request to TMA – 3 Replacement Coaches for Commuter Services to NY
 - Block Program FTA 5307 Funds to Support Ulster County Commuter Services

Other Business

- FTA §5310 - Upcoming solicitation – Announcement is expected within the month

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATES

Greg Helmoortel expressed thanks to Ulster County for the emergency bridge replacement of the PVI Bridge in the Town of Saugerties.

John Dittus expressed thanks for the Bridge work done in the Town of Hurly on the Wyncoop Bridge.

Bill Gorton commented that the Route 55 repaving in the Town of Wawarsing is currently underway as a cold in place recycle.

Brad Will asked if UCTC had a role in examining the impact of the Niagara bottling plant proposal. Concern was also expressed over the increase of rail traffic along infrastructure elements which may be in a declining condition.

Mr. Doyle indicated that community has a responsibility under local land use controls with respect to the Niagara Bottling plant. The community has not requested UCTC to perform a study with regards to the proposal.

At the state level, inspections have increased for rail facilities and concerns over infrastructure integrity should be directed to the commissioner of NYSDOT in the form of a letter.

Bill Gorton commented that the owners of the facilities are responsible for inspections and that NYSDOT does inspect elements crossing over NYSDOT facilities.

Mike Warren expressed concerns regarding the legs Mill road CSX crossing in the Town of Ulster. Tom Weiner will follow up with NYSDOT rail safety staff.

No further discussion.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion to adjourn; motion made by Ralph Swenson; second by Wayne Freer.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:30am.

-DS