

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

August 27, 2019

Rondout Municipal Center, Cottekill, NY

Members Present:

Alan Adin	City of Kingston
Fred Pizzuto	Town of Lloyd
Neil Bettez	Town of New Paltz
Tom Wilkin	Town of Plattekill
Vernon Benjamin	Town of Saugerties
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
Sandra Jobson	NYS Dept of Transportation
Amy Mackenzie	NYS Dept of Transportation
Lizy Philip	NYS Thruway Authority

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 10:05am. Roll call was conducted by Mr. Doyle.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments received.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 28, 2019 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 5/28/19 meeting of the UCTC Technical Committee. Motion made by Neil Bettez; second by Joel Brink.

No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Slack informed the Council that Anthony Mignone from RCAL wrote a letter to the council offering assistance regarding ADA compliance for future planning projects.

Mr. Slack announced that the public comment period for the draft 2020-2023 STIP is now open and that UCTC staff will circulate the announcement via the distribution list and a hard copy of the document will be made available in UCTC offices.

Mr. Doyle notified members that NYSDOT region 8 policy regarding speed limit changes has changed and has asked that requesting municipalities perform speed studies following NYSDOT guidelines when submitting a request for a change in speed limits. UCTC will be hosting a seminar regarding road safety and the establishment of speed limits in October.

Neil Bettez requested a copy of the policy.

Mr. Doyle explained that there were over 80 speed limit requests in Ulster County over the past 10 years with the number of requests increasing substantially within the past few years. Each speed limit change request has to be examined by NYSDOT staff and given the recent increase in the number of requests has resulted in an increase in time to process all of the requests. The new policy is aimed to help municipalities expedite their requests.

No further communications or announcements.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft UCTC Resolution 2019-15: Apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Federal Transit Administration Section 5307/5340 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area. Draft UCTC Resolution 2019-15 seeks approval for the allocation of FFY 2019 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 formula funds in the three-county Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA). This action is a routine occurrence that takes place after the FTA apportions 5307 funds to the TMA (UZA 89) and NY and NJ come to an agreement on a fair and rational sub-regional allocation. FTA Section 5307 funds flow to the TMA, responsibility for which is shared by three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs): the UCTC, Orange County Transportation Council (OCTC), and Dutchess Transportation Council (DCTC). The three Councils must first agree to the TMA allocation prior to distributing the transit funds to their respective designated recipients; the OCTC and DCTC have approved similar resolutions. For FFY 2019, Ulster County (Ulster County Area Transit) will receive an allocation of \$550,210; \$2,455,047 is made available to Inter-County Commuter Bus Service Providers in Ulster County.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Alan Adin.

Mr. Slack explained that the full allocation for 2019 in the UZA is Approximately \$22.5m. from the allocation amount, \$3.7m of the funds remain unallocated and is kept as savings to serve the lumpy needs of transit programs and is also distributed through a call for projects on a competitive basis in the UZA.

OCTC and DCTC have already approved this apportionment of funds.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft UCTC Resolution 2019-16: Apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Federal Transit Administration Section 5339 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area.

Draft UCTC Resolution 2019-16 seeks approval for the allocation of FFY 2019 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5339 formula funds in the three-county Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA). These funds stem from federal authorizations to the TMA (UZA 89) under the Bus and Bus Facilities Program. FTA Section 5339 funds flow to the TMA, responsibility for which is shared by three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs): the UCTC, Orange County Transportation Council (OCTC), and Dutchess Transportation Council (DCTC). The three Councils must first agree to the TMA allocation, prior to distributing the transit funds to their respective designated recipients. The OCTC and DCTC must approve similar resolutions. For FFY 2019, Ulster County (Ulster County Area Transit) will receive a total of \$411,753 in FTA 5339 funds; a 20% local match is required.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Joel Brink; second by Tom Wilkin.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft UCTC Resolution 2019-17: Amendment to the UCTC Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add PIN 893307: Boices Lane/CSX RR Traffic Signal Engineering.

At the request of New York State Department of Transportation Region 8 and the Town of Ulster, Draft Resolution 2019-17 seeks to amend the 2020-2024 TIP in order to add new project PIN 893307: Boices Lane/CSX RR Traffic Signal Engineering. Boices Lane intersects with John Clark Dr. to the east and Morton Blvd to the west at the CSX railroad crossing in the Town of Ulster. The multiple lane geometry in proximity to the railroad crossing contributes to gate violations and traffic queues on the railroad crossing. Traffic signals at both intersections require coordination with railroad warning devices to prevent queues onto tracks. This project is to be closely coordinated with existing project PIN 893271. PIN 893307 will utilize a railroad force account to accomplish the necessary improvements, which are off-system and require railroad personnel and non-DOT forces to accomplish. The Town of Ulster will not contribute a local share for this project; the town will 'first instance' the funding and be reimbursed accordingly throughout project progression. This project is being 100% funded with federal funds, of which 10% will be toll credits. This translates to 90% HSIP Rail funds and 10% toll credits (in lieu of 10% SDF funds) to accomplish the work.

NOTE: This TIP/STIP change has not yet received final approval from NYSDOT Central Office and may be tabled prior to the September 24th Policy Committee meeting, pending that approval.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Joel Brink; second by Tom Wilkin.

Mr. Doyle commented that this project came out of a planning study performed by UCTC completed in 2013. Costing issues may cause this project to be phased with scoping work to be performed to give more accurate estimates to ensure that costs are accurately reflected.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft UCTC Resolution 2019-18: Amendment to the UCTC Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Amend PIN 801846 Route 28/Esopus Creek Bridge Replacement.

Draft Resolution 2019-18 has been submitted at the request of New York State Department of Transportation in order to process a cost change to a project phase greater than \$500,000. NYSDOT originally obligated \$500,000 under the ROW phase for this project; additional funding is required to cover further property acquisitions. An internal offset from the Detailed Design phase will be used to address the \$629,000 needed for acquisitions.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Joel Brink; second by Tom Wilkin.

Mr. Slack explained that funds are being internally offset within the project.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

UCTC Resolution 2019-19: Support New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Targets for Safety Performance Measures.

Resolution 2019-19 updates Safety Performance Measures based on new targets adopted by NYSDOT for 2020; original 2018 targets were approved by UCTC under Resolution 2017-12 and updated for 2019 under Resolution 2019-09.

Safety Performance Management (Safety PM) is part of the overall Transportation Performance Management (TPM) program, which FHWA defines as a strategic approach that uses system information to make investment and policy decision to achieve national performance goals. The Safety PM Final Rule supports the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), as it establishes safety performance measure requirements for the purpose of carrying out the HSIP and to assess fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.

The Safety PM Final Rule establishes five performance measures as the five-year rolling averages to include:

1. Number of Fatalities
2. Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
3. Number of Serious Injuries
4. Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT
5. Number of Non-motorized Fatalities and Non-motorized Serious Injuries

The Safety PM Final Rule also establishes the process for State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to establish and report their safety

targets, and the process that FHWA will use to assess whether State DOTs have met or made significant progress toward meeting their safety targets. NYSDOT has closely coordinated the establishment of safety targets with the 14 MPOs in NYS through the NYS Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Through that process, NYSDOT has requested all MPOs to adopt the NYSDOT targets to establish uniformity during the initial reporting period.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Joel Brink; second by Tom Wilkin.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Other/Old Business

- October speed reduction and traffic safety seminar being planned – Will be held at SUNY Ulster in October pending finalization of schedule.
- UCTC SFY 2018/19 Financial Summary -

No further discussion.

Joel Brink thanked the city of Kingston for the recent work completed along Washington Ave.

Sandra Jobson announced that NYSDOT is planning to several projects in 2020 in Ulster County including a paving project on 9W from the Ulster/Orange County line to Chapel Hill Rd, Wurts Street Bridge rehabilitation, and Rt 213 sidewalk stabilization.

Mr. Doyle expressed concerns that in the past projects from the Multi-County block project listing get added without notification to the MPO. On occasion NYSDOT will not include the MPO in their outreach to local communities regarding the initiation of a new project. Furthermore, there is a statutory requirement for NYSDOT to notify the County Planning Board of projects being undertaken.

Sandra Jobson responded that she would send an email to the regional design engineer to ensure that the Ulster County Planning Board and UCTC is made aware of projects.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:20 am.

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