

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**  
**Joint Policy and Technical Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Summary**

September 19, 2011

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

**Members Present:**

Terri Rosenblum*	Town of Woodstock
Richard Peters**	NYSDOT
Carolyn Ryan	NYSDOT
Sue Ronga**	U.C. DPW
Joe Katz*	Town of Gardiner
Alex Wade	Village of Saugerties
Jack Hohman	NYSTA
Joseph Rich	FHWA
Bob DiBella	UCAT
Dick Lenseth	NYSDOT
John Valk	Town of Shawangunk
Joel B. Brink	Town of Ulster
James E. Quigley III <sup>+</sup>	Town of Ulster
Patrick McCarroll**	NYSTA
Ralph Swenson**	City of Kingston
Gerald Gavin	City of Kingston
Alan Adin	City of Kingston
Jimmy Bruno	Town of Saugerties
Ray Costantino*	Town of Lloyd
Dave Bolles	U.C. DPW
Andrew Emrich	U.C. DPW
Bruce Loertscher*	Town of Plattekill
Clyde Russell*	Town of Hurley
Dennis Doyle	U.C. Planning Board/UCTC Staff
Sweta Basnet	UCTC Staff
Burt Samuelson	U.C. Planning Board/UCTC Staff

**Others Present:**

Anne Noonan	Trailways
Mark Boungard	Trailways
Barry Hecht	Trailways
Kathy Nolan	U.C. Trails Advisory Board
Kristen Wilson	Cornell Cooperative Extension

<sup>+</sup> Permanent Voting Member

\*Current Voting Member (until June 4, 2013)

\*\* Voting Proxy for Permanent Voting Member

<sup>^</sup>Non-Voting Advisory Member

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Technical Committee portion of meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 10:00am. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

## **CALL FOR CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Doyle asked if there were any citizen comments. There were no citizens' comments. (1 minute, 30 seconds)

## **HURRICANE IRENE AND TROPICAL STORM LEE IMPACTS**

Dennis then asked for comments with respect to how everyone was affected by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Ms. Ryan said LPU offers help with assessments, finding monies to fix roads, particularly federal aid eligible roads. She said Ulster County needs to get cost estimates ready and sent to NYSDOT by Wednesday, and mentions a preliminary cost estimate. NYSDOT will coordinate response with FHWA. Mr. Doyle said municipalities were contacted about which roads of theirs were federal aid eligible, and a map has been posted on the UCTC website.

Mr. Quigley said FEMA required local authorities contact the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers about where debris had built up by bridges. He said the Town of Ulster has no town owned bridge. He said the Town doesn't have the resources to deal with this. Ms. Ryan and Mr. Peters were unaware about who would have responsibility, and would have to look into it. (5 minutes, 51 seconds)

Mr. Doyle told meeting attendees of the Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) from USDA. It provides funds for infrastructure damaged or in danger of being damaged from erosion through streams, etc. He said the soil conservation district is out looking at sites for EWP projects. (7 minutes, 0 seconds)

## **APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MAY 23 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Doyle asked for a motion to adopt minutes from the previous Technical Committee meeting. **Motion to approve by Terri Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Katz. All in favor.** (7 minutes, thirty-seven seconds)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Update of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Mr. Peters gave the update. NYSDOT is looking at the next years. Original estimate was 20%, but NYSDOT recalculated the numbers and it will be a 35% cut over the next five years. NYSDOT must get rid of a third of the program it has. Federal aid over the next 5 years is 35% less. The state dedicated fund has a state dedicated reduction. NYSDOT has to develop a new five year program focused on preservation. This work has to be done in a month's time. NYSDOT will do its update in its internal accounting system, PSS. Then it will come back to the MPOs, and work with them to make new programs by reducing their current programs to where funding targets are. NYSDOT will take local projects in the last two fiscal years and move them out of PSS, but not in TIP or

STIP. He said this keeps projects in play. Then NYSDOT can work with local project sponsors and to see which will advance and which will be delayed. NYSDOT has to do accounting exercise to show it is not in the red with regards to federal funds. It must also show that in any state fiscal year it is not in the red. Mr. Doyle asked for a time frame, and Mr. Peters said in the spring 2012, April or May. (15 minutes, 49 seconds)

Mr. Peters says the Council has to discuss how much it wants to fund preservation projects and move away from the existing mix of projects. Mr. Doyle said from a local projects perspective, everything is preservation except trails. Mr. Peters said preservation will be defined by certain work types. He used the example of pavement. If not really bad, just do a resurfacing. With bridges, the approach will be to determine how long can last with ball bearing and joint replacement. Mr. Doyle said he understood there to be safety component. Mr. Peters responded that there are two kinds of safety, defined by either structures falling apart or the likelihood of traffic accidents. Preservation is aimed at structural integrity. Projects for safety from crashes are beyond preservation, but still should be done. Mr. Doyle asked if guidance indicated if certain bridges would be replaced if there were detours less than 10 miles long. Mr. Peters said that bridges on low volume roads will be where reasonable detours would be looked at. He said NYSDOT will evaluate if they can be operated with restricted loads, one-way traffic with signals, or closure with traffic diverted to a detour. NYSDOT still has to look at volumes to see if any bridge in Ulster County fits this description. Mr. Doyle asked if the Wurts Street Bridge is an example. Mr. Peters, said, in his personal opinion, that it is. (22 minutes, 0 seconds)

Mr. Doyle said the Council will have to make tough decisions and reorder priorities with the TIP. He believed that funding for transportation enhancement projects and safe route to school would remain under reauthorization. Other projects will be impacted, though. (23 minutes, 9 seconds)

Draft Resolution 2011-07: Amendment to the FFY 2011-2015 TIP to add 2011 Operating Assistance funds to Project PIN # 8TRU50 for Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT):

Mr. Doyle asked for a motion to forward resolution to the Policy Committee for a vote.

**Motion to approve made by Terri Rosenblum, seconded by Susan Ronga.** Before the vote was taken, Mr. Dibello said 5307 funds will provide for operating assistance at UCAT. Ms. Basnet said 2009 and 2010 funds were combined with 2011 funding. **All in favor.** (24 minutes, 36 seconds)

Draft Resolution 2011-08: Distribution of FFY 2011 FTA Section 5307/5340 Small Urban Funds Attributable to the Kingston Urbanized Area:

Mr. Doyle said the Council distributes funds through the TMA, and Ulster County (UCAT) and City of Kingston (Citibus) does so through the Kingston-Urbanized Area.

Mr. Doyle asked for a motion to forward resolution to the Policy Committee for a vote.

**Motion to approve made by Terri Rosenblum, seconded Susan Ronga. All in favor.** (25 minutes, 58 seconds)

Draft Resolution 2011-09: Transfer FTA Section 5307 TMA Commuter Bus Funds to CDTA:

Mr. Doyle said this funding is the TMA funding he just spoke about. UCTC has agreed with OCTC and PDCTC as to the amount of funding that is available within Ulster County that is in the TMA. That includes money for commuter bus service for the County. UCTC been asked to transfer the authority to CDTA for two reasons. The State if New York requested this for administrative efficiency purposes. He also said it is less work for UCTC. Trailways has been asked to explain how this works with CDTA and the services provided with these funds. Mr. Doyle asked Ms Basnet for the amount of these funds. She said \$1.4 million. (28 minutes, 1 second)

(Note: The results of the motion to approve Draft Resolution 2011-09 can be found at the end of the next section, as the vote was taken after the Adirondack Trailways Presentation.)

Presentation by Adirondack Trailways:

Mr. Hecht said this program began about 8 years ago when NYSDOT observed growing commuter services in the Hudson Valley, primarily to the New York City area. This represented an opportunity to secure federal funding. NYSDOT wanted commuter bus carriers to start reporting to the national transit database to become eligible for federal funding. These funds allow Adirondack Trailways to maintain and expand its service. Mr. Hecht has everyone look at a map he handed out. It showed eligible commuter services throughout New York State. Most Ulster County commuter routes go downstate, but one goes to Albany. Multiple organizations currently administer these funds. Consolidating responsibility with CDTA reduces administrative hassles. Two other documents were examined. One showed how this money has been drawn down in recent years. Mr. Hecht said no funds are left on the table subject to lapse. Grant funding for 2009 and 2010 were awarded just last week by FTA. The transfer of funds proposed from UCTC to CDTA involves another set of funds. The other document showed a history of how 5307 funds have been used. This document had a chart that showed increases in ridership for the UCTC area over 5 years. Mr. Hecht attributed this increase to the funds. This is service to Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, and New York City. Revenue miles increased from \$1.4 million to \$1.6 million. Mr. Hecht pointed out that expenses have gone up. Fare box revenues are fairly stable. Mr. Hecht said the fare-box-recovery ratio is pretty high, greater than 70%, because these are efficiently run services. He said service expansion parallels urban development, because people are commuting longer and longer distances. Mr. Hecht said this is a self-sustaining program in the sense that the funds being transferred are less than those received through the 5307 program. (37 minutes, 47 seconds)

Mr. Swenson asked Trailways what is the financial benefit of one administrative agency versus two. Mr. Hecht answered the question by saying that he couldn't identify a number, but that dealing with FTA is a burden. He said this would cut the work in half in terms of person hours. Funds are moved under a concept called capital cost of contract. Trailways uses funds like operating assistance under this concept. One grant can cover more expenses than normal, which is easier from an administrative standpoint. Mr.

Doyle said that funding commuter carriers is not unusual. Short Line is funded by OCTC at about \$7 million a year. Trailways allows fees to be generated to UCTC. There's an amount of fairness to allow Trailways to recoup fees they generate for the service it provides.

Mr. Doyle requested a vote on forwarding Draft Resolution 2011-09 to the Policy Committee for a vote. **Motion to approve made by Terri Rosenblum, seconded by Joe Katz. All in favor.** (42 minutes, 36 seconds)

Citibus Funding and Change on the TIP:

Ms. Basnet handed out a tip-strip for \$20,000 in Citibus equipment support. The match would be 10% local and 10% state. She said a resolution isn't needed, and comes from 5307 funds. She proposed a move to the policy committee for consensus. **Mr. Doyle requested a consensus of the Technical Committee to move this amendment the Policy Committee for a vote. All in favor.** (43 minutes, 32 seconds)

**ANNOUCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATES**

Traffic Monitoring Program:

Ms Basnet said the consultant will go back to redo counts where a counter was broken. There will be a corrected GIS format.

Commuter Parking Lots Capacity Analysis and Needs Assessment:

Ms. Basnet said the week of October 15 will be when counts are taken to be consistent with earlier years. Mr. Doyle said this is done to monitor congestion at park and ride facilities. The most congested is the one off the Kingston Traffic Circle.

Transit Development Plan (TDP):

Mr. Doyle said the Kick-off meeting was last week. Mr. DiBello said this effort will allow transit providers to have conversations they haven't had before, which should be positive. Mr. Doyle thanked Trailways for sitting on the committee for the plan. Mr. Doyle said this is an 18 month study. He said some survey work doesn't have to be done, because UCAT has counted ridership route by route. Ridership surveys to focus on Trailways.

Kingston I-587 at Albany Avenue Intersection Study:

Mr. Doyle said the Study is complete. A draft resolution is before Kingston Common Council with respect to support. He met with city several times about intersection.

Transportation Management Area (TMA) Update:

Mr. Doyle said September 8 meeting was cancelled. He said much of the TMAs focus of late has been on transit.

MHV TMA Travel Time Survey (TTS):

Ms. Basnet said draft report submitted back with comments to consultant. She said the three MPOs are looking to have a joint presentation for findings. Mr. Doyle said a

substantial amount of information for Broadway in Kingston, Route 299 in New Paltz, 9W South out of Highland, among others. The Survey has lots of detailed information.

UCTC Voting Membership 2011-2013:

Mr. Doyle said the voting membership changed effective June 2011.

Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Program (NFP) for FFY 2011 Update:

Mr. Doyle said requests to utilize funding went out, and no interest was shown. The funding has gone back to the state for distribution. Transit Plan will focus on working with human service agencies on using JARC and New Freedom funds. Ms. Basnet said allocation for 2009 will expire at the end of September 2011. Mr. Rich said the money is for the allocation year plus two years, so money must be used within three years. Mr. Doyle said the difficulty at the county level is trying to find the required match for these services. In the past Ulster-Greene ARC has used these funds and that a mobility manager be placed at UCAT in order to use these funds (50 minutes, 35 seconds)

First Quarter Financial Report:

Mr. Samuelson said 15% of the budget for staff expenses and salaries was used during the quarter. No contractual services were billed this quarter.

DPW Bridge Study:

Mr. Doyle said a consultant was chosen for the Study. He said a scope is being worked out, and they should be under contract by November.

**OTHER/OLD BUSINESS**

Air Quality Conformity:

Mr. Doyle said the Council had a study proposed for an air quality model. This is because of the possibility of Ulster County becoming an air quality maintenance area. Mr. Doyle said the President of the United States told the EPA to hold its air quality rules in place, meaning Ulster County is still in conformity.

Regional Planning Studies:

Mr. Doyle updated the Council on the status of HUD sustainability and challenge grants. The three MPOs in the region worked on getting some of this grant money, but weren't successful. A pre-application was accepted for a second round under the auspices of the Mid-Hudson Valley Planning Partnership. However all three county planning directors decided to sit this funding round out. Non-profit partners have been notified. The directors see that much of the purpose of the grant can be achieved through MPO money. Mr. Doyle said the three planning departments will approach their MPOs about a regional transit study. A lot of 5307 funds aren't earmarked for any particular study, approximately \$3 million. This study would be used to determine how to fund capital programs and what services to provide. These funds can be used for capital projects or planning; FTA has been consulted. A coordinated regional transit plan is needed to

examine how to coordinate service between public and private carriers across the three-county region. (53 minutes, 27 seconds)

PL (FHWA) monies can be used for land use planning scenarios. Studies can identify which land uses interact well with the transportation system. The Triennial Review identified a need for linkage studies. The three planning directors are discussing coordination with Kingston, Newburgh, and Poughkeepsie. They are considering a study 5207 funds are used to study transit and PL monies growth and infrastructure. (58 minutes, 53 seconds)

My Doyle said regional economic councils are beginning to control funding across a whole line of agencies. New York State now has a consolidated grant application process. Criteria are currently being written to rank projects. Projects will compete for funding at the council level and the statewide level. This is an incentive to look more regionally at how UCTC does business. The State Smart Growth Public Policy Infrastructure Act is another reason. It provides a means to look at priority investment areas for transportation infrastructure, as well as water and sewer. It mandates this. In November or December, the Council will be presented with a proposal of how this goes forward. In April, the UPWP will include these regional studies, unless the Council doesn't want this. Mr. Doyle expressed an interest with its comprehensive plan update and the policies associated with it. (1 hour, 1 minute, 55 seconds)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Technical Committee portion of meeting adjourned 11:02am.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Policy Committee portion of meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 11:02am. Mr. Doyle took attendance of Policy Committee representatives.

#### **CALL FOR CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Doyle asked if there were any citizen comments. Ms. Nolan asked if the bus funding Mr. Doyle talked about during the Technical Committee portion of the meeting could provide a match for reverse commute programs. He said no. Ms. Nolan then asked if reverse commute funding could be matched by private non-profit open space organizations. Mr. Doyle said the match could be private funds, just not federal.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Draft Resolution 2011-07: Amendment to the FFY 2011-2015 TIP to add 2011 Operating Assistance funds to Project PIN # 8TRU50 for Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT):

Mr. Doyle said these funds are in the amount of \$131,000. He asked for a motion for a vote. **Motion to approve made by Terri Rosenblum, seconded by Ray Costantino. All in favor.** (1 hour, 5 minutes, 18 seconds)

Draft Resolution 2011-08: Distribution of FFY 2011 FTA Section 5307/5340 Small Urban Funds Attributable to the Kingston Urbanized Area:

Mr. Doyle and Ms. Basnet said this will be a 50% split between Ulster County and the City of Kingston. Mr. Doyle asked for a motion a vote. **Motion to approve made by Terri Rosenblum, seconded Susan Ronga. All in favor.** (1 hour, 5 minutes, 52 seconds)

Draft Resolution 2011-09: Transfer FTA Section 5307 TMA Commuter Bus Funds to CDTA:

Mr. Doyle asked for a motion a vote. **Motion to approve made by Terri Rosenblum, seconded Bruce Loertscher. All in favor.** (1 hour, 6 minutes, 14 seconds)

Citibus Funding and Change on the TIP:

Mr. Doyle asked for a motion a vote. **Motion to approve made by Joe Katz, seconded by Terri Rosenblum. All in favor.** (1 hour, 6 minutes, 45 seconds)

#### **APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE JUNE 28 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Doyle asked for a motion to adopt minutes from the previous Technical Committee meeting. **Motion to approve by Terri Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Katz. All in favor.** (1 hour, 7 minutes, 10 seconds)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Policy Committee portion of meeting adjourned at 11:07am.