

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary
June 29, 2016
SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Kristen Wilson	City of Kingston
Toni Roser	City of Kingston
Mike Warren	Town of Marbletown/Supervisors Association
Neil Bettez	Town of New Paltz
Tom Wilkin	Town of Plattekill
Robert Gallagher	Town of Rosendale
Vernon Benjamin	Town of Saugerties
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
Jeremy Wilber	Town of Woodstock
Alex Wade	Village of Saugerties
Robert Sudlow	Ulster County Executive Office
Bob DiBella	Ulster County Area Transit
Carol Hargrove	Ulster County Area Transit
Diane Beitel	Ulster County Traffic Safety Board
Todd Westhuis	NYS Dept of Transportation
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Kristen Resnikoff	NYS Thruway Authority
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 Policy Committee meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 10:00am. Roll call was conducted by Mr. Slack.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizen comments received

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 17, 2016 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 3/17/16 meeting of the UCTC Policy Committee. Mike Warren made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Tom Wilkin. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed - Motion Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

No communications were received.

Mr. Slack announced that NYSDOT has initiated the PAVE NY program. Tom Weiner explained that the program will make \$500m available to NYS municipalities over 5 years for paving projects on local highways and roads. Mike Warren asked about the mechanism for payment. Tom Weiner indicated that the allocation and process follow similar procedures to CHIPS funding. UCTC staff circulated the PAVE NY fact sheet and a breakdown of funding for Ulster County municipalities. Tom Wilkin asked if sidewalks were eligible. Kristen Wilson asked if curb cuts were eligible. Alex Wade further noted that during some repaving work in the Village of Saugerties, crosswalk ramps needed to be brought up to ADA standards. Mr. Staas noted that sidewalks (including ADA-compliant work), shared use paths, and bike paths within the highway ROW are eligible as part of highway reconstruction projects under the PAVE NY program.

Mr. Slack announced that UCTC will be hosting an ADA Compliance and Transition Plan Training. Details will follow as plans are solidified.

Mr. Doyle announced that on June 27th, 2016 the US DOT published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) which will change the planning areas associated with MPOs. Under the proposed rulemaking, each census designated Urbanized Area (UZA) would require a unified set of planning products, even if there are multiple MPOs designated within that UZA. This would affect UCTC, OCTC, and PDCTC as the Poughkeepsie--Newburgh, NY—NJ UZA spans the current planning areas of all three MPOs. If passed, a set of unified planning products would be required and there is the possibility that only one MPO would be assigned to the UZA. Multiple MPOs in a single UZA can exist as an exception in areas of complexity at the discretion of the governor. Comments are due August 26, 2016.

Mr. Doyle commented that one of the reasons MPOs exist is to involve local government officials in the decision making process. The more regional an MPO becomes, the less local government officials are involved. If a single MPO is formed for the Poughkeepsie--Newburgh, NY—NJ UZA, other MPOs may be created for the separate Kingston and Middletown UZAs. Currently the three MPOs coordinate the timing of their planning products which should allow for an easy transition into creating a single set for the UZA. Staff will further research the NPRM and the implications to determine if comments are needed and to keep members informed.

Todd Westhuis expressed similar concerns and indicated that NYSDOT would be reviewing the NPRM internally before submitting any comments or taking a stance.

No further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2016-06: Amendment to the UCTC 2014 – 2018 UCTC Transportation Improvement Program. NYSDOT Local Projects Unit periodically reviews local projects on the STIP to monitor “STIP performance” in order to confirm that the STIP is fiscally constrained

during the 4-year STIP period. A number of local UCTC projects were identified with phases that would not meet obligation during the 4 year STIP cycle and therefore marked for amendment or modification. UCTC PIN 876122 as shown in Draft Resolution 2016-06 required the amendment of C and CI phases outside of the first four years of the 2014 TIP to 2018 (Year 5). Under UCTC TIP Amendment and Modification Procedures, schedule changes outside of the first four years of the TIP constitute an Amendment which requires UCTC Policy Committee approval. In accordance with UCTC Operating Procedures, this resolution was advertised and made available for 15 public comment period; no comments were received.

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

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

Resolution 2016-07: Approval of the Draft UCTC 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. This resolution seeks approval of the FFY 2017-2021 TIP: the prioritized listing of federally funded transportation projects in Ulster County. The TIP was developed by the UCTC TIP Subcommittee in cooperation with state and federal agencies as part of the metropolitan transportation planning process and approved by the UCTC Technical Committee on May 20, 2016. The TIP must adhere to the provisions set forth in the current federal transportation law – the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which authorizes a variety of funding programs that support highway, transit, and bicycle-pedestrian transportation. Projects must also be consistent with the goals and recommendations identified in UCTC’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Rethinking Transportation). In accordance with UCTC Operating Procedures, the TIP was advertised and made available for 15 public comment period; in addition, a public meeting was held on June 9th to present the TIP to the public in its entirety. All public comments received during the public comment period have been included in Appendix B of the Final Draft.

Mr. Slack reviewed a number of minor changes to the TIP made since the document was presented at the UCTC Technical Committee meeting. Updates to the self-certification section were made. Public comments received were added to the document along with UCTC responses. Changes were made to the following projects:

- PIN 805111 – Additional funding added from 8T0715 to meet project needs
- PIN 817747 - Change in fund source
- PIN 8T0444 – Added after project was erroneously left off of the program
- PIN 876122 – Change in fund source
- PIN 8T0714 – Additional funding added from other regional projects erroneously using STP-off system funds.

Alex Wade asked if the addition of the Village of Saugerties sidewalk repair/replacement project was included in the changes made to the TIP. Mr. Slack responded that the request was received on short notice and would not have made the public comment period. The project will be added

under a separate resolution at a later point in time. Since the project uses earmark funds, it will not count against the allocation and will not impact fiscal constraint considerations.

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

Mr. Slack thanked the TIP subcommittee members and UCTC members for their participation in the TIP update process.

The TIP will go into effect October 1st, 2016.

A call for projects relating to the block programmed PINs for repaving and element specific bridge work will be issued once selection criteria has been established.

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

Resolution 2016-08: Apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year 2016 Federal Transit Administration Section 5307/5340 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area.

This resolution seeks approval for the allocation of FFY 2016 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). 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 Poughkeepsie-Dutchess Transportation Council (PDCTC). The three Councils must first agree to the TMA allocation, prior to distributing the transit funds to their respective designated recipients. The OCTC and PDCTC must approve similar resolutions. For FFY 2016, Ulster County (Ulster County Area Transit) will receive a total of \$501,242; private carries (Trailways) will receive \$1,923,802.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Neil Bettez.

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

Resolution 2016-09: Apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year 2016 Federal Transit Administration Section 5339 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area.

Resolution 2016-09 seeks approval for the allocation of FFY 2016 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 Poughkeepsie-Dutchess Transportation Council (PDCTC). The three Councils must first agree to the TMA allocation, prior to distributing the transit funds to their respective designated recipients. The OCTC and PDCTC must approve similar resolutions. For FFY 2016, Ulster County (Ulster County Area Transit) will receive a total of \$319,860.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Mike Warren.

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

Resolution 2016-10: Apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year 2013 Federal Transit Administration Section 5337 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area. Resolution 2016-10 seeks approval for the allocation of FFY 2013 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5337 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 State of Good Repair Formula Program (High Intensity Motorbus). responsibility for which is shared by three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs): the UCTC, Orange County Transportation Council (OCTC), and Poughkeepsie-Dutchess Transportation Council (PDCTC). The three Councils must first agree to the TMA allocation, prior to distributing the transit funds to their respective public bus operators. The OCTC and PDCTC must approve similar resolutions. Since the funds were generated by the MTA (Fixed Guideway) and Orange and Ulster county bus operators (High Intensity Motor Bus), Dutchess County did not receive a sub-allocation. Orange County generated a relatively small share of those funds and has therefore agreed to transfer that share of funds to Ulster County.

Barry Hecht explained that this money is generated by Adirondack Trailways and Shortline by using the express bus lane for the Lincoln tunnel.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Kristen Wilson.

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

Resolution 2016-11: Transfer of FTA Section 5307 funds to CDTA: Adirondack Trailways has requested the transfer of administrative and management responsibilities for their share of FTA Section 5307 TMA commuter bus funds from Ulster County to the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) in Albany, NY as approved under Resolution 2016-08. This action helps streamline the administrative and management processes for NYSDOT, Trailways, CDTA and UCTC. Resolution 2016-11 approves UCTC's transfer of FTA Section 5307 TMA formula funds in the amount of \$1,923,802 to CDTA.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Neil Bettez.

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

Resolution 2016-12: Distribution of the FFY 2015 Federal Transit Administration Section 5307/5340 Urbanized Area Apportionments Attributable to the Kingston Urbanized Area. This resolution seeks approval for the apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 formula funds to the two designated recipients in

Ulster County: City of Kingston (Kingston Citibus) and Ulster County (Ulster County Area Transit). For FFY 2015, \$922,293 is available to DRs in the Kingston Urbanized Area. An agreement to split the funds 50/50 was reached.

Mr. Slack explained that an agreement between the two DRs was reached after meeting packets were distributed and the resolution was updated with the appropriate funding amounts and is no longer considered draft.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Kristen Wilson.

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

Resolution 2016-13: Distribution of the FFY 2015 Federal Transit Administration Section 5339 Small Urbanized Area Apportionments Attributable to the Kingston Urbanized Area.

This resolution seeks approval for the apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5339 formula funds to the two designated recipients in Ulster County: City of Kingston (Kingston Citibus) and Ulster County (Ulster County Area Transit). For FFY 2015, \$89,726.44 is available to DRs in the Kingston Urbanized Area. An agreement to split the funds 50/50 was reached.

Mr. Slack explained that an agreement between the two DRs was reached after meeting packets were distributed and the resolution was updated with the appropriate funding amounts and is no longer considered draft.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Neil Bettez.

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

2016 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment. In May 2016, Ulster County Purchasing Department released RFP UC 2016-063: Ulster County Transit System Integration Plan. This request solicited proposals for work as described under UPWP Task 44.26.14. The 2016 UPWP budgeted \$45,000 in Federal Transit Administration 5303 planning funds for the completion of this task. A total of 5 responses were received by Ulster County Purchasing; the proposed fees range between \$44,400 and \$80,000. While the review and selection process is ongoing, UCTC is required to conduct a qualifications-based selection process; cost/price shall not be used as a criterion in the evaluation process. Staff therefore requests the Council to authorize an amendment to Task 44.26.14 to allow for sufficient funds to be made available in the event that a firm is selected that exceeds the amount budgeted in the 2016 UPWP. UCTC presently holds an un-programmed balance of \$76,814 in FTA 5303 funds; a maximum of up to \$35,000 of these funds may be required in addition to the \$45,000 currently programmed.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion to increase the UPWP budget if necessary. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Kristen Wilson.

Jeremy Wilber strongly endorsed the project as the economic vitality of Ulster County is tied to that of the City of Kingston and such a project would provide a great benefit.

No further discussion.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Bridge Inspection Reports for Ulster County
 - Report was returned indicating that all rail bridges in Ulster County were in acceptable condition.
- Federal Earmark Repurposing
 - Parks and Trails New York has published a website showing the location of all of the earmarks eligible for repurposing and suggested that funds could be used for trails projects. NYSDOT is currently analyzing and developing a plan to repurpose earmarks. Consideration should be given to funding existing underfunded projects to facilitate project completion.
- ADA Compliance and Transition Plans
 - A training seminar will be hosted in Ulster County in late September. Members will be informed once a final date is selected.
- Project Updates
 - Coordinated human services plan has a technical advisory group meeting at the end of July. Draft plan is expected to be completed in the fall of 2016.

No further discussion.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Jeremy Wilber; second by Mike Warren.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:05 am.

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