

Ulster County Transportation Council

FTA Semi-Annual Progress Report



For the Period April 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021

The Ulster County Transportation Council continues to plan and implement programs and projects in cooperation with Federal, State and local planning partners. The following is a summary of tasks performed by staff between April 1, 2021 and September 30, 2021 in support of the SFY 2021/22 UCTC Unified Planning Work Program. Task codes and project descriptions correspond directly with the SFY 2021/22 UPWP, available online at <https://ulstercountyny.gov/transportation-council/unified-planning-work-program>.

44.21.00: PROGRAM SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATION

44.21.01: Program Support and General Administration

The UCTC website (<http://ulstercountyny.gov/planning/transportation>) was continually edited to include the latest updates regarding transportation and MPO-related meetings, events, important announcements, opportunities, and progress on projects and programs. Staff participated in all MPO statewide director conference calls and meetings when available. UCTC meetings are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of every month unless otherwise indicated.

Meetings returned to 'in-person' during the months of July and August 2021; in Accordance with NYS Legislation (S.50001/A.40001), UCTC Meetings returned to virtual-only in September to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread.

The UCTC Technical and Policy Committees met on the following occasions:

- 4/27/21 UCTC Policy Committee Meeting
- 05/25/21 UCTC Technical Committee Meeting
- 06/29/21 UCTC Policy Committee Meeting
- 07/27/21 UCTC Technical Committee Meeting
- 08/24/21 UCTC Policy Committee Meeting
- 09/28/21 UCTC Technical Committee Meeting

The UCTC email distribution list was also managed and routinely updated as needed.

44.21.02: Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development

During the reporting period, staff completed the following major tasks associated with the development of the draft SFY 2021/22 UPWP:

- Finalized the 2021/22 UPWP after submission and approval of the Q4-20 reimbursement request
- Processed an Amendment to the UPWP on August 24, 2021 via UCTC Resolution 2021-08, to add new project 44.21.07: Website Development (Part Consultant Study) (\$35,000 PL funds + required match).

44.21.03: Periodic Reporting

UCTC quarterly reports and timesheets were maintained for the 6-month period. UCTC staff monitors expenditures resulting from conferences, meetings, equipment purchases, and supplies. Invoices submitted

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by consultant firms under contract with UCTC are carefully reviewed for accuracy and confirmation of deliverables received. Semi-annual DBE reports were completed and submitted to the necessary NYSDOT staff after the reporting period; quarterly reimbursement reports for the first two quarters were prepared in November and December 2021 and submitted.

Significant effort was devoted to completion of the annual (SFY 2020) detailed financial report during the months of June and July 2021; the draft report was made available to the members of the UCTC Technical Committee for review at the August 2021 meeting of the UCTC Policy Committee as well as during the September 2021 Mid Hudson Valley TMA Certification Review.

A detailed financial report will continue to be developed to accompany the year end FHWA Annual Performance and Expenditure Report and FTA Semiannual Progress Report No. 2, which are delivered after Q4 reimbursement request and close-out.

44.21.04: Public Participation Activities

Public involvement activities are evaluated on a continual basis and typically implemented to publicize specific projects, such as the Long Range Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program updates, corridor studies, or other public involvement opportunities associated with transportation. During this period UCTC engaged the public through a number of initiatives and methods, including the following print media and public engagements:

- Publication of all UCTC meetings in accordance with UCTC Operating Procedures, including notification through the UCTC mailing list to interested parties, plus all media outlets
- Special public notices and publication of UCTC TIP Amendments in 4 regional publications addressing the following topics:
 - 4/7/21 UCTC Resolution 2021-04: Amendment to the UCTC Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - 6/16/21 UCTC Resolution 2021-05: Amendment to the UCTC Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- General public announcements are sent through email addressing topics such as traffic safety, project updates, and other transportation-related events, news and activities.
- UCTC has participated in numerous professional development opportunities to evaluate methods to improve the public participation process, including the NYSAMPO Public Engagement 'Community of Practice' meetings; these efforts are detailed under Task 44.21.06 below

44.21.05: Transportation Management Area Coordination

UCTC staff continued participation in the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA providing TMA organizational and administrative duties through the reporting period. Along with regular, routine business of the TMA, members have been very active during the reporting period addressing multiple initiatives including congestion management, freight, transit, funds distribution and other administrative functions as detailed below.

Monitoring of the Congestion Management Process

UCTC, in coordination with OCTC and DCTC, completed the updated *Congestion Management Process for the Mid Hudson Valley TMA* in January 2019; staff continue to reference National Performance

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Management Research Dataset (NPMRDS) data as provided by the SUNY Albany AVAIL labs to monitor trends and conditions related to congestion on the Ulster County transportation network, particularly at locations identified in the 2019 and follow-up reports.

Regional Transit Plan Monitoring and Implementation Activities

The Regional Transit Plan – “Connect Mid Hudson” – was completed during a previous annual reporting period. Staff reference the report to consider necessary follow-on activities. Implementation of micro-transit continues to be a high-priority activity within the UCTC Metropolitan Planning Area and, as such, the MPO has engaged with other Ulster County agencies and staff to review opportunities for implementation. Specifically, UCTC assisted in the coordination of meetings with Via, an internationally recognized public transit technology corporation, to discuss the implementation of potential pilot programs through New York State Energy Research and Development Authority funding opportunities. The pilot, if awarded, would seek to first examine the feasibility of micro-transit deployment in the Kingston, New Paltz and Ellenville markets and, if successful, seek funding for implementation of a 2 year pilot program under a ‘Phase 2’ effort. Staff assisted Via with the preparation of the NYSERDA applications during June/July/August 2021.

Development of a Regional Freight Plan

Leveraging momentum from the progress made under the Connect Mid-Hudson initiative, TMA staff have transitioned to addressing the recommendation from the 2017 MHVTMA Certification Review to develop a regional freight plan. Staff formed a working group that began meeting bi-weekly in April 2021 to evaluate needs, develop an outline for consideration by members, and begin preparation of a draft inventory of existing conditions. UCTC staff provided significant insight and analysis regarding freight movement and safety utilizing regional information provided by ALIS and NYS highway data services. It is anticipated that a draft inventory will be completed in early 2022, at which point the TMA will seek to involve members of the freight community for stakeholder input.

Activities and reports associated with the MHVTMA will be documented and made available through its new ArcHub page, available online at <https://mid-hudson-valley-transportation-management-area-ocnygis.hub.arcgis.com/>

Staff time and activities associated with Regional Freight Planning are split under this task code and 44.23.01-03 below.

44.21.06: Professional Development

UCTC staff attended a number of conferences and professional development and training opportunities during the reporting period, including:

- 4/8/21 New York State Climate Action Council Land Use and Local Government Advisory Panel Public Information and Comment Meeting on Adaptation and Resilience Recommendations
- 4/9/21 Roadway / Highway Estimating – Concept to Construction Overview and the Preliminary Cost Estimating
- 5/4/21 FHWA Engaging Traditionally Underserved Communities using Virtual Public Involvement webinar
- 6/7, 6/15, 6/29/21 FHWA Travel Forecasting and Analysis Seminar
- 6/16/21 GIS Training - ESRI Crash Analysis Solution Webinar

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- 7/26-28 FHWA Reliability Planning Webinar
- 8/26/21 NYSDOT CLEAR Train the Trainer

44.21.07: Website Development (Part Consultant Study)

This task code was added to the UPWP in August by amendment. In an effort to provide a more organized, dynamic and interactive online experience, the UCTC will update its website using professional assistance. Goals of the website update include but are not necessarily limited to: improved organization of and access to existing UCTC plans, reports and documents; addition of online mapping compatibility; improved mobile format; improved compatibility and functionality with complimentary webtools (incl. social media, email, notifications, calendars and surveys); ability to adapt web content and themes to fit with UCTC's newly-adopted style guide; and improved ADA access and functionality.

No other action has been taken on this task during the reporting period.

44.22.00: GENERAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

44.22.01: Ensuring Compliance and Conformity with Federal and State Transportation Rules and Regulations

The purpose of this task is to provide staff resources to address the activities necessary with reviewing state and federal transportation rules and regulations, in particular any new regulations that the MPO will be responsible for complying with. Tasks to address federal performance measures, completion of the Long Range Plan, TIP amendments, etc. are typically billed under those respective task codes. Activities may also include review of new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) regulations and sources of funding or reviewing other US DOT announcements regarding forthcoming transportation policy changes.

44.22.02: Demographic and Economic Data Analysis and Forecasting

Staff conducted demographic and GIS analysis at the request of individual communities in support of municipal grant development or other local planning initiatives and related data requests.

44.22.03: Transportation Equity Analysis

No activity recorded under this task code during the reporting period.

44.22.04: Transportation Asset Planning and Coordination – Part Consultant Study

Minimal activity was recorded under this task code during the reporting period; activities included staff meetings and scope development.

44.22.05: Americans with Disabilities Act Coordination and Compliance

The purpose of this effort is to assist UCTC members in their efforts to better understand their roles and responsibilities to provide accessible transportation facilities under the ADA of 1990. During the reporting period, staff conducted the following activities:

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- Continued to administer the online ‘dashboard’ to disseminate and download sidewalk data as reported during previous periods

44.22.06: Ulster County Traffic Safety Board

Minimal activity was recorded under this task code during the reporting period; the Ulster County Traffic Safety Board (TSB) has been on pause during the reporting period due to Covid. The UCTC has taken initiative to re-convene the committee during the next reporting period.

44.23.00: LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

44.23.01: LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING – SYSTEM LEVEL

44.23.01-01: UCTC Year 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Update – Part Consultant Study

This task was largely completed during the previous reporting period. During this reporting period staff focused on completing the document re-formatting as well as document printing and dissemination. The final UCTC Year 2045 LRTP can be viewed online at <https://ulstercountyny.gov/transportation-council/long-range-transportation-plan>.

44.23.01-02: Congestion Management Planning Process (CMP) Participation and Support

UCTC, in coordination with OCTC and DCTC, completed the updated *Congestion Management Process for the Mid Hudson Valley TMA* in January 2019; follow-on activities included completion of Technical Memo 1: TMA-wide Macro-Level Screening in January 2020.

Congestion Management Subcommittee members continued to meet as needed during the reporting period through conference calls to discuss work plan progress and to develop technical memoranda that report on the status of congestion throughout the TMA utilizing the NPMRDS data.

The primary follow-up activity conducted by staff will be to address locations identified in the 2020 -Level Analysis, which will be conducted through corridor-level management plans. The first location to be addressed will be the intersection of Rte 9W and 199; refer to the 44.23.02-03: Town of Ulster Route 9W Corridor Management Plan, anticipated to be underway during the next reporting session.

Updates and documentation regarding the CMP are available at <https://ulstercountyny.gov/planning/congestion-management-process>.

44.23.01-03: Regional Freight Planning

Staff participated in the “Talking Freight” seminars, including:

- Session 1: May 18th 10:00 am- 12:30 pm Kick-off and Overview of Freight and Land Use Fundamentals
- Session 2: May 20th 10:00 am-12:00 pm Managing and Balancing Freight Needs
- Session 3: May 25th 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Response Strategies to Freight and Land Use Needs

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- Session 4: May 27th 10:00 am- 12:00 pm Develop a Roadmap for Action for New York MPOs

In addition, the MHVTMA formed a subcommittee to address regional freight issues. This process and activities are documented in detail under Task Code 44.21.05, which runs concurrent with this task code.

44.23.01-04: Traffic Monitoring Program – Part Consultant Study

The previous traffic count contract has expired. UCTC is working to piggyback and extend off the Dutchess County Transportation Council traffic count contract to retain a consultant to perform counts in the Spring of 2022.

44.23.01-05: Ulster County Road Safety Action Plan and Local Road Safety Analyses – Part Consultant Study

This project was completed during the reporting period including a final presentation to stakeholders. The study assessed the crash history, severity, and rate of crashes on all roads in Ulster County. This data was then used to develop a priority ranking of locations and suggested countermeasures for ten high ranked, illustrative locations. The study will be utilized in funding decisions, prioritizing projects, and to promote safety improvements throughout Ulster County.

Final project close out is expected to occur during the next reporting period. Project deliverables can be found at the following address <https://ulstercountyny.gov/transportation-council/road-safety-plan>

44.23.02: LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING – PROJECT LEVEL

44.23.02-01: Community Transportation Planning Assistance

Community transportation planning assistance allows UCTC staff to participate in a wide variety of activities and meetings throughout Ulster County in an effort to promote the MPO, provide important insight and information regarding the fundamentals of transportation planning, and gain key insight from citizens and organizations regarding critical needs and gaps. Specific activities, meetings, group outreach includes (but is not limited to) the following:

- Saugerties Complete Streets Advisory Committee
- Ellenville/Wawarsing Complete Streets Advisory Committee
- City of Kingston Complete Streets Advisory Committee bi-monthly meetings
 - Kingston Sidewalk Task Force (subcommittee of the CSAC)
- Bike Friendly Kingston
- Kingston Land Trust
- Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee
- Ulster County Traffic Safety Board monthly meetings
- Assisting Trail Planning Efforts within the Planning Area, including Empire State Trail planning, communication, and development
- Assisting in traffic safety analysis for the county and communities

In addition, the following special meetings were held or attended during the reporting period:

- Various site visits throughout the region

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- City of Kingston Office of the Mayor – NYS Governor’s Office Downtown Revitalization Initiative award and related transportation projects
 - provided feedback on draft designs pertaining to redesign of Schwenk and Clinton Avenue
- NYSERDA transit fleet electrification study participation
- UC Planning Board Gateway meetings – transportation-related impacts
- Meetings with City of Kingston Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan committee
- Responded to several data requests for VMT data, traffic counts, maps, crash data and large format print requests.
- Examined crash patterns at several intersections and segments to provide insights on contributing factors, relative severity, and frequency.
- Supporting materials for Ulster County’s Climate Smart Community re-certification

Staff also continues to aid members through the completion of roadway safety analyses utilizing data from the Traffic Monitoring Program and NYS Accident Location Information System (ALIS) in accordance with the Highway Safety Manual predictive method. Suggested treatments are also evaluated utilizing Crash Modification factors from the CMF clearinghouse. Locations are analyzed as requested.

44.23.02-02: Transportation Infrastructure Resiliency and Vulnerability Assessment Planning – Part Consultant Study

During the reporting period the project scope of work was completed and RFP issued; a selection committee was formed to evaluate and rank responses. The final team of GZA and Cambridge Systematics was selected and the contract was executed during August 2021. The project team has submitted and revised the Draft Data Collection Plan and will begin the Draft Hazard Screening Assessment during the next reporting period. The entire project is anticipated to be completed by the end of calendar year 2022.

A webpage has been reserved to report future project progress and deliverables

<https://ulstercountyny.gov/transportation-council/active-studies/transportation-resiliency>.

44.23.02-03: Town of Ulster Route 9W Corridor Management Plan – Part Consultant Study

The scope of work was finalized during the reporting period; a final RFP for consultant services will be issued in December 2021; it is anticipated that consultant selection will be completed during this SFY with contract execution occurring in early SFY 2022.

44.23.02-04: Rte 44/55 Corridor Management Plan

No activity recorded under this task code during the reporting period.

44.23.02-05: Trail Intersection Safety Study

No activity recorded under this task code during the reporting period.

It should be noted that most of the intersections intended to be addressed through this effort (Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, Hudson Valley Rail Trail, City of Kingston trail network) have been brought up to new MUTCD compliant standards over the course of the past several years due primarily to significant investments made through the following initiatives: Empire State Trail, various locally-administered federal aid projects, and other maintenance activities sponsored by trail stewards, Ulster County DPW, and the Open Space Institute.

The need and scope for this task will therefore be re-evaluated during the next reporting period.

44.24.00: SHORT RANGE PLANNING

44.24.01: Conduct Transportation Impact Reviews and Encourage Sustainable Development Policies

Ulster County Planning Department staff, in executing their role assisting the Ulster County Planning Board conduct NYS Sec. 235 land use referrals, provides evaluations on the impact of proposed development projects on the transportation system. In addition, planning staff coordinate meetings on proposed projects in a manner that allows all agencies to participate as early as possible on project design as it relates to the transportation system and sustainability factors. This “gateway agency” concept will provide early feedback to project sponsors and local governments. The work will also be utilized in presentations before local boards and in project reviews and referral responses by the County Planning Board.

Staff conducted 136 referral reviews during the reporting period. This is an ongoing task.

44.24.02: Ulster and Delaware Corridor Revitalization Study – Part Consultant Study

The Ulster & Delaware Corridor Revitalization Study (the “Study”) assesses the feasibility of converting an unmaintained segment of the County-owned Ulster & Delaware Railroad Corridor (“U&D Corridor”) in the Town of Shandaken into a public trail for transportation and recreation purposes. The Study’s focus is on an approximately five (5) mile segment of the County’s abandoned railroad right-of-way from the hamlet of Highmount to the hamlet of Big Indian.

The project was completed during the reporting period, including public meetings and opportunity for public comment. Staff utilized information provided in the final report to develop 2 applications for state and federal aid during the reporting period (2021 TAP (pending) and NYSOPRHP Environmental Protection Funds (unsuccessful)).

All project materials can be found online at <https://ulstercountyny.gov/transportation-council/active-studies/shandaken-ud-study>.

44.24.03: City of Kingston Rail Safety Program – Part Consultant Study

Staff continued to develop the scope for this effort; otherwise, no further progress was made during the reporting period; project initiation is expected during the next reporting period.

44.24.04: Regional Trail Wayfinding Plans – Part Consultant Study

Staff continued to develop the scope for this effort; otherwise, no further progress was made during the reporting period.

44.26.15.02: UCAT Storage Facility Site Selection – Part Consultant Study

This project was completed during the previous reporting period; the task was included in the 2021/22 UPWP in the event that carry-on activities or outstanding invoicing needed to be addressed. No activities to

report during the reporting period. All project materials can be found online here <https://ulstercountyny.gov/transportation-council/maintenance-storage-selection>.

44.25.00: TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

44.25.01: Monitor and Amend the 2017 – 2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The 2021 – 2024 TIP is monitored for progress of listed projects. UCTC staff processed the following TIP actions during the reporting period:

UCTC TIP Actions During the April 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021 Reporting Period		
Ballot No.	Fund Source	Project Description
UCTC21-4A-AA	FHWA	Route 209 Sidewalks, Tilson Ave Safety, Kingston Rail Trail, Clinton Ave North Gull Bridge, Wolven Bridge Replacement, Midtown Linear Park
UCTC21-5A-01	FHWA	ROUTE 28 SHARED USE PATH FROM ONTEORA MIDDLE SCHOOL TO ROUTE 28A, TOWN OF OLIVE IN ULSTER COUNTY
UCTC21-6A-AA	FHWA	Peck Hollow Rd Bridge, FANTNEKILL BRIDGE, WOLVEN BRIDGE
UCTC21-7A-AA	FHWA	CR 7 & 8, Route 213, Kingston Rail Trail, Fantinekill Bridge, Henry St, Wilbur Ave
UCTC21-8A-01	FHWA	REPAVING ROUTES 209, 199 AND 32 IN THE TOWN OF ULSTER IN ULSTER COUNTY
UCTC21-9A-AA	FTA	NORMAL FLEET BUS REPLACEMENT AND BUS WASH FACILITY FOR THE ULSTER COUNTY AREA TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
UCTC21-10A-AA	FHWA	Route 209 Sidewalks Kerhonkson, Henry St Pedestrian, Flatbus & Foxhall Accessibility improvements, Highland streetscape improvements, Tilson Ave safety alignment, Boices In signal coordination
UCTC21-11A-01	FHWA	CULVERT REPLACEMENTS ON STATE HIGHWAYS IN THE TOWNS OF LLOYD AND GARDINER, ULSTER COUNTY; AND THE VILLAGE OF MONTGOMERY, HAMPTONBURGH, AND BLOOMING GROVE, ORANGE COUNTY. CULVERTS C870094, C84025A, C840069, C850011, C850077, AND C870069. (FORMERLY PIN: 8T0232)
UCTC21-12A-AA	FTA	NORMAL FLEET BUS REPLACEMENT AND BUS WASH FACILITY FOR THE ULSTER COUNTY AREA TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
UCTC21-13A-AA	FHWA	Clinto Ave/north gully bridge village of ellenville and multicounty ADA sidewalks.
UCTC21-14A-01	FHWA	US ROUTE 44/STATE ROUTE 55 AT BRUYN SWICK ROAD (CR 7) INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS, TOWN OF GARDINER, ULSTER COUNTY.

44.25.02: Support the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Other Discretionary Transportation Grant Programs

During the reporting period staff participated in the NYS Governor’s Office Consolidated Funding Application developing a NYSOPRHP grant for the U&D Corridor in Highmount. Staff spent significant time during the months of July and August assisting the Ulster County Planning Department with a 2021

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TAP project proposal on the same corridor. In addition, the City of Kingston requested crash data and other supporting documentation for a federal RAISE grant application, which was also provided during the reporting period. Staff also participated in the reviewing, rating and ranking of TAP applications in partnership with NYSDOT and DCTC and OCTC staff; 21 TAP and CMAQ applications were reviewed from Rockland, Putnam and Westchester Counties.

44.27.00: OTHER ACTIVITIES

44.27.01: Support for Shared Cost Initiatives and Statewide Planning and Research Funds

UCTC continues to support the NYS Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations through participation in the seven Working Groups (Transit, Safety, Bike and Pedestrian, Freight, Climate Change, Modeling, and GIS).

44.27.02: Ulster County Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Education and Outreach Program

The purpose of this task is to set aside funds to support potential public education/awareness outreach events and/or advertising campaigns that promote comprehensive highway safety and risk reduction through structured learning experiences or a coordinated media and marketing campaign. It is anticipated that the UCTC, in conjunction with the City of Kingston and Ulster County Traffic Safety Board, will be able to provide support to existing public safety campaigns as they are developed. Examples include the “Heads Up, Kingston” campaign presently under development.

While progress has been made to develop such campaign materials, the funds have remained unspent at this time. Staff will continue to support traffic safety activities by various groups in an effort to identify an appropriate use for the funds.

OTHER FTA ACTIVITIES

44.26.12: Coordination of Non-Emergency Human Service Transportation

Staff provided Section 5310 coordination and outreach with local human service transportation providers during the reporting period.

44.26.13: Local Transit Planning Activities

No activity to report during the reporting period; local transit planning activities were reported under other task codes.

44.26.14: Regional Transit Planning

General support for local transit planning activities associated with the operation of Ulster County Area Transit. Activities included

- providing GIS and other data support for annual NTD reporting;
- support and input regarding UCAT’s ongoing transition to an electric fleet
- Support and input regarding UCAT’s 5-year capital program

44.26.15: Public Transit Technology and Innovation Program – Part Consultant Study –

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- Staff assistance provided to the Ulster County Department of the Environment in support of their NYSERDA-sponsored transit electrification study. Staff also provided input for the location of critical electrical infrastructure as part of on-going electrification projects.

44.26.17: Ulster County Micromobility Assessment – Part Consultant Study

No activity to report during the reporting period

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