

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL  
**Policy Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Summary**  
September 19, 2017  
Rondout Municipal Center, Cottekill, NY

Members Present:

Kristen Wilson	City of Kingston
Marybeth Majestic	Town of Gardiner
John Dittus	Town of Hurley
Mike Warren	Town of Marbletown/Supervisors Association
Neil Bettez	Town of New Paltz
John Valk	Town of Shawngunk
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
David Gilmour	Village of New Paltz
Dianne Beitel	Ulster County Traffic Safety Board
Kathy Nolan	Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee
Todd Westhuis	NYS Dept of Transportation
Sandra Jobson	NYS Dept of Transportation
Lizy Philip	NYS Thruway Authority
Nick Mercurio	Public

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. Doyle.

**CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Kathy Nolan commented that the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee was discussing the proposed changes to the TIP and questioned if bicycle and pedestrian facilities would be included in the design. Mr. Doyle indicated that he had talked with the project manager and that there were plans to add shoulder. Todd Westhuis further responded that NYSDOT would follow up. The projects under discussion are maintenance by contract and are element specific in nature so the ability to make major changes may be limited.

Supervisor Majestic commented on a bridge access issue on the 44/55 bridge over the Wallkill in the Town of Gardiner where the guiderail blocks access to the shoulder on bridge, forcing cyclists and pedestrians to hop the guardrail to safely cross the bridge.

John Dittus asked if the Route 209 Bridge in the town of Hurley would be removed as part of the work. Todd Westhuis indicated that the work was maintenance based and not a full reconstruction so a demolition will not take place.

Dianne Beitzl commented that the pedestrian signal at Pearly and Wall St in the City of Kingston was malfunctioning and instructing people to cross at the wrong time. Kristen Wilson responded that she would get Kingston DPW to look into the issue.

John Valk thanked NYSDOT for their assistance with a traffic signal at Route 300 and Plains Road.

No further citizen comments received.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MAY 25, 2017 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 5/25/17 meeting of the UCTC Policy Committee. Mike Warren made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Todd Westhuis.

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

#### **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Slack circulated a bulletin from NYSDOT announcing Sandra Jobson as the new Region 8 Regional Planning and Program Manager.

Mr. Slack also circulated a follow up to the DEC regarding the VW Diesel settlement for the council to review before submission.

Mr. Slack announced that the Mid Hudson Valley TMA member agencies would be undergoing a certification review from FHWA and FTA starting on September 20<sup>th</sup> and encouraged members fill out the survey distributed previously and to attend if they are available. A summary of responses to the previous certification review was distributed for review.

**No further discussion.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Resolution 2017-11: Amendment to the UCTC Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add New NYSDOT PIN 881282 as Shown in Attachment 1.**

New York State Department of Transportation has requested that UCTC add a new project to the 2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The project programs bridge maintenance work on three bridges carrying UC 209 in the Town of Ulster – US 209 over Esopus Creek (BIN 1040790); US 209 over INT87 (BIN 1040802) and US 209 over Esopus Creek (BIN 1040811). Refer to attached map in the Agenda Supplement for specific locations. This PIN was transferred from the STIP Multi-County Project Listing and therefore constitutes a new project on the UCTC TIP. Several additional changes to fund source and cost were also made. Under UCTC Operating Procedures new projects must be recommended by the UCTC

Technical Committee and are subject to 15 day public review and comment period prior. No public comments were received.

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

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

**Addition to the UCTC Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add New UCAT and Citibus State of Good Repair and Accelerated**

**Transit Capital PINs for Illustrative Purposes.** On July 19th, 2017, the New York State Department of Transportation notified Ulster County and the City of Kingston of awards of \$1,551,311 and \$411,918, respectively, under Governor Cuomo's Public Transportation Modernization and Enhancement Program. The awards were issued as part of a statewide \$124 million program. The Program authorized pursuant to the five-year State Transportation Plan, provides 100% State capital funding to upgrade and enhance public transportation services in Ulster County and the City of Kingston. The funding can be used to support the purchase of new clean-fueled buses; deployment of new technologies and passenger amenities, including WiFi; automated fare collection; traveler information systems; and investments in facilities and equipment to maintain and enhance system safety.

In addition, UCAT has received \$64,495 in NYSDOT Accelerated Transit Capital (ATC) funding. New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), the Accelerated Transit Capital (ATC) program provides \$20 million in State capital funding for upstate public transportation sponsors to rehabilitate, restore and modernize public transit assets.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Joel Brink; second by Todd Westhuis.

Mr. Slack explained that these TIP actions are for illustrative purposes only. The creation of individual PINs is necessary to allow NYSDOT transit staff to administer the funds and improve transparency. The awards are 100% State funds and do not include Federal allocations and are therefore not subject to UCTC TIP Amendment Procedures.

Prior to the meeting, it was discovered that the City of Kingston was also awarded NYSDOT Accelerated Transit Capital funds not reflected in the agenda.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion to amend the agenda item to include the Accelerated Transit Capital funds awarded to Kingston Citibus in the order of \$130,000. Motion made by Kristen Wilson; second by Joel Brink.

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

**Resolution 2017-12: Support New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Targets for Safety Performance Measures.**

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 in an effort to establish uniformity during the initial reporting period.

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

Mr. Slack provided a review of the performance measurements and explained that the state targets would be appropriate to adopt.

Mr. Doyle pointed out that the measures do not establish a rate for bicycle and pedestrian crashes and instead only looks at total numbers.

Lizy Philips asked why some of the targets were lower than the projected trend.

Mr. Staas explained that a cap was applied to create a more obtainable and realistic goal for some of the measures.

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

**Apportionment of FFY 2017 FTA Sub-regional Allocation to UZA 89/Poughkeepsie-Newburgh NY-NJ Urbanized Area.** At this time, New York and New Jersey have not reached an agreement on the fair and rational sub-regional allocation of the FFY 2017 Sections 5307, 5339 and 5310 funds apportioned to the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh NY-NJ urbanized area (UZA89). The distribution was discussed by the members of the Mid-Hudson TMA and shared with the UCTC Technical Committee at the August 29 meeting.

Allocation amounts were lower than expected due to a NTD reporting issue from CoachUSA. NJ Transit is responsible for filing the reporting and did not pursue the issue when the report was rejected.

Mr. Doyle explained the use of these funds and the need for an agreement to be reached with New Jersey in order for funds to become available.

**No further discussion.**

**UCTC 2017 Transportation Improvement Program – Block Program Bridge and Paving PINs.** NYS Department of Transportation Local Project Unit has submitted Initial Project Proposal (IPP) forms to local sponsors; UCTC awaits receipt of signed IPPs from NYSDOT before programming on the Transportation Improvement Program. These TIP actions will be administrative modifications and can be performed by staff.

David Gilmour asked when additional funds would be made available through the program.

Mr. Doyle responded that the second round of funding will be made available in September. 1.125m for bridges and 0.828m for pavement projects.

**No further discussion.**

#### **OTHER/OLD BUSINESS**

- Mid Hudson TMA Certification Review Sept 20-21
  - Members are encouraged to attend.
- BridgeNY, PaveNY & 2017 TAP Solicitations – fall 2017
  - Todd Westhuis explained that programs will likely come out in early 2018
  - Members Expressed interest in the Bridge NY program.
- Pedestrian Safety Action Plan
  - \$40m available statewide of 100% federal aid for pedestrian crossings at controlled and uncontrolled intersections.
  - \$70m will be used by NYSDOT to perform improvements on the state system
- Release of remaining UCTC pavement and bridge funds – fall 2017
  - Funds for 2019 and 2020 are available for bridge and paving projects. The solicitation will be released after the upcoming federal certification review in case there are any issues with the TIP that need to be addressed. The application process will be similar to previous solicitations.
- 2018 UPWP
  - A call for planning projects will be issued and members are encouraged to reach out to UCTC with potential project ideas. Staff is currently awaiting a call letter from NYSDOT containing allocation amounts.

Mr. Doyle announced that the Ulster County Executive Michael Hein has developed a number of programs to improve safety in Ulster County. Efforts include:

- Systemic signage improvements

- School zone signage improvements
- Speed feedback signage
- Increased enforcement related to pedestrian safety
- Location specific safety improvements

Supervisor John Valk expressed interest in speed feedback signage for school areas

David Gilmour thanked the County Executive for his efforts and emphasized the continued need for safety work around the New Paltz Middle School.

Todd Westhuis was excited to hear about the interest in safety and encouraged members to reach out to the department to assist in implementation of safety improvements to ensure compliance with regulations and appropriate treatment selection.

Mr. Doyle encouraged the use of shared services to undertake more bridge work at the local level.

**No further discussion.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED** at approximately 11:15 am.

-DS