

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

May 25, 2017

Rondout Municipal Center, Cottekill, NY

Members Present:

Alan Adin	City of Kingston
Mike Warren	Town of Marbletown/Supervisors Association
Neil Bettez	Town of New Paltz
Tom Wilkin	Town of Plattekill
Jeanne Walsh	Town of Rosendale
James Bruno	Town of Saugerties
David Gilmour	Village of New Paltz
Ed Pine	Ulster County DPW
Andrew Emrich	Ulster County DPW
Kathy Nolan	Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee

Todd Westhuis	NYS Dept of Transportation
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Lizy Philip	NYS Thruway Authority
Mark Boungard	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. Doyle.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizen comments received.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 16, 2017 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 3/16/17 meeting of the UCTC Policy Committee. Tom Wilkin made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Neil Bettez.

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Slack circulated a publication from the NYS Department of Environment soliciting comments on how funds from the VW diesel emissions cheating scandal should be spent.

Ron Epstein provided comments on the 2018 budget from the Trump administration. It appears that the administration will hold many of the provisions under MAP-21 but some recessions will likely take place.

Tom Wilkin thanked staff and members for the work during the 2 year membership of the policy committee. Additionally, concerns were raised over the concrete railings along the Walkill Bridge.

Andrew Emrich indicated that the bridge will have the load posting removed and lanes widened.

Tom Weiner indicated that bids were received for the Route 32 bridge over the thruway in Plattekill. The request for the change in speed limit along the related detour is going through the approval process.

Jeanne Walsh announced that the Town of Rosendale has completed the installation of an EV charging station. The Town is further perusing a speed reduction on route 32 at the park and ride and recreation center.

Jeanne Walsh commented that a portion of the VW settlement should be provided as a rebate to consumers purchasing electric vehicles. Consideration should also be given to funding public transportation.

David Gilmour suggested that comments should be submitted from the Council instead of the individual to provide more weight to the comments.

Mr. Doyle asked council members to submit comments within two weeks to be compiled and submitted.

No further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2017-07: Establishment of Ulster County Transit Providers' Transit Asset Management Plan Performance Management Targets. The FTA Transit Asset Management Rule, which became effective on October 1, 2016, requires transit operators to develop and adopt a Transit Asset Management Plan that addresses State of Good Repair for rolling stock, infrastructure, equipment, and facilities. As part of that rule, MPOs are required to agree to and support transit operators' targets or set their own quantifiable targets. Note that there has been no specific guidance from FTA on the issue of multiple Designated Recipients in an MPO's metropolitan planning area, which could result in multiple targets. Resolution 2017-07 seeks to put UCTC in compliance with the Rule, although at this time targets have not been completed by Kingston Citibus. UCTC will prepare a separate resolution for Citibus when the appropriate TAM plan is received.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Jeanne Walsh.

Mr. Slack provided a brief overview of the process and the Transit Asset Management plan from UCAT.

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

Resolution 2017-08: Distribution of the FFY 2014 Federal Transit Administration Section 5339 Small Urbanized Area Apportionments Attributable to the Kingston Urbanized Area.

On April 13th MPOs received correspondence from NYSDOT Assistant Commissioner for Policy and Planning Ronald Epstein notifying direct recipients of an additional sub-allocation of SUZA 5339 funds for FFY14; this letter supersedes previous notifications from 8/28/14, 1/25/16 and 2/23/16. Resolution 2017-08 seeks approval for the apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 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). A combined total of \$165,348.22 is available to DRs in the Kingston Urbanized Area. A portion of those funds was previously released in 2014 and split under UCTC Resolution 2016-13.

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

Mr. Slack explained that these additional funds were not being pursued by the City of Kingston and that UCAT would be the sole entity claiming the additional funds for the Kingston Urbanized Area.

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

Draft Resolution 2017-09: Amendment to the UCTC Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Awards.

Draft Resolution 2017-09 was added at the request of NYSDOT and on behalf of two recent awardees of Transportation Alternative Program funds. The award announcement came one day after the April 18th meeting of the UCTC Technical Committee, hence no prior review. UCTC Technical Committee members were notified via email and encouraged to provide comment through the public comment period. All new projects must be added to the Transportation Improvement Program through an amendment by the UCTC Policy Committee.

Ulster County received \$1.509 million in federal funds for the construction of a 0.8 mile paved pedestrian/bicycle facility from the east side of Cornell Street to Westbrook Lane along the County-owned U&D rail corridor in the City of Kingston. The City of Kingston received \$1.326 million in federal funds to upgrade the existing sidewalks on Henry Street from Broadway to Wall Street in the vicinity of GW Elementary to address ADA compliance; the project will enhance pedestrian accessibility, add bicycle infrastructure where feasible, high visibility crosswalks and bicycle parking.

In October 2016 the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) made available \$98.7 million in funding to support bicycle, pedestrian, multi-use path and transportation-related projects and programs as well as projects that reduce congestion and will help meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act. Applications for the 2016 funding opportunity must have been received by October 21, 2016. NYSDOT is anticipating another project solicitation round in 2018. All awardees must provide a 20% local match.

In accordance with UCTC Operating Procedures, this TIP amendment received 15 day public notice and opportunity for comment beginning May 8 and ceasing May 22nd. No public comments were received.

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

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

Draft Resolution 2017-10: Amendment to the UCTC State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017 Unified Plannig Work Program (UPWP) to Re-Distribute FTA 5303 funds. Draft Resolution 2017-10 was added at the request of Ulster County, the City of Kingston and NYSDOT to program additional funds and expand the scope of services for the UCTC Transit Integration Study. Additional services include route optimization for the potential integration of the UCAT and Kingston Citibus systems.

The change in funding exceeds 25% of the project budget and requires approval of the Policy Committee as well as a 15 day public comment period. Additional funds come from the un-programmed balance of FTA 5303 funds from 2017 and funds programmed for the regional transit plan for the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA. UCTC Technical Committee members were notified via email and encouraged to provide comment through the public comment period.

In accordance with UCTC Operating Procedures, this UPWP amendment received 15 day public notice and opportunity for comment beginning May 15 and ceasing May 29; all comments received will be presented to the Policy Committee prior to consideration. Final approval of the amendment will be made pending no additional comments following the UCTC Policy Committee meeting while still in the 15 day public comment period.

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

Mr. Doyle explained that it became apparent that a ridership satisfaction survey and route optimization work has been deemed appropriate by the participating agencies to ensure a successful project.

No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried pending no public comments.

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

- Tom Weiner indicated that BridgeNY and PaveNY will continue to provide funding. No changes have been made to the formula.
- 2 Year Voting Member Turnover June 4, 2017
 - New members have been notified of the upcoming changeover. Current members were thanked for their service.
 - Mr. Doyle encouraged current members to pursue continued membership through proxy membership.
 - Tom Wilkin acknowledged the role and help of the MPO during the Thruway bridge project development.
- Count Locations
 - 85 Counts are scheduled for 2017
 - Members are encouraged to submit count locations.
 - Classification and Speed counts will be the primary focus of the count program to provide more relevant count information for reporting and analysis.

Jeanne Walsh announced that the washing park area behind main street and route 32 in the Town of Rosendale will be redone with storm water work. Trail infrastructure behind Stewarts in the Town will also be developed along part of the old canal. Work will help mitigate flooding in the neighborhood utilizing community rising funds. Some of this work has come out of the Finding Rosendale project performed by UCTC.

Neil Bettez asked about the South Putts Corners project.

Andrew Emrich responded that one final piece of property is being acquired from the DEC. ROW documents will be supplied to NYSDOT within the next 2 weeks. Plans are currently under review at NYSDOT. Utility relocation continues. Construction is expected in this year.

Mr. Doyle thanked Tom Weiner for his help and professionalism during his tenure as RPPM with NYSDOT.

No further discussion.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 10:50 am.

-DS