

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting**

Meeting Summary

February 11, 2016

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Alan Adin	City of Kingston
Ralph Swenson	City of Kingston
Howard Baker	Town of Marlborough
Neil Bettez	Town of New Paltz
Tom Wilkin	Town of Plattekill
Jeanne Walsh	Town of Rosendale
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
David Gilmour	Village of New Paltz
Alex Wade	Village of Saugerties
Bob DiBella	Ulster County Area Transit
Diane Beitel	Ulster County Traffic Safety Board
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Kristen Resnikoff	NYS Thruway Authority

Staff:

Dennis Doyle	U.C. Planning Board/UCTC Staff
Brian Slack	UCTC Staff
David Staas	UCTC Staff

CALL TO ORDER

The Technical Committee meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 10:00am. Roll call was conducted by Mr. Doyle.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

David Gilmour thanked the Transportation Council, Planning Department, and County Executive Michael P. Hein for their consideration of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) project applications submitted by the Village of New Paltz.

No further comments

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2015 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 11/12/15 meeting of the UCTC Technical Committee. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Joel Brink. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Doyle announced that a new 5 year transportation bill, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act or the FAST Act was passed.

Mr. Slack noted that staff will provide an overview of the FAST act at latter meetings.

David Gilmour asked if there were any surprises in the State Budget relating to transportation funding.

Tom Weiner indicated that several new programs were announced as part of the budget and staff is waiting to see how the budget will be implemented.

No further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Update Regarding Development of the Draft UCTC 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. UCTC updates the TIP every 2-3 years in accordance with federal rules and regulations. The Preliminary Draft UCTC TIP has been revised and updated based on TIP/STIP Policy Guidance and Instructions issued by NYSDOT on September 10, 2015. In accordance with those instructions, UCTC staff, working closely with members of the UCTC TIP Subcommittee, developed a list of recommended projects for inclusion in the 2017-2021 program based directly on local sponsor input and available federal funds. Those recommendations were then presented to the Technical Committee at its 11/12/15 meeting for review and approval. That draft program was similarly reviewed by NYSDOT and entered in draft format into NYSDOT's accounting software in order to confirm that the UCTC local program conforms to local planning targets. The preliminary draft is now ready for initial review by local project sponsors; it is not intended for public review at this time.

Tom Weiner explained the planning target development process as part of the TIP development Process. In the case of Ulster County, some project sponsors volunteered to move projects beyond the program horizon to facilitate the development of a fiscally constrained document. As part of the program, some funds have been block programmed for repaving and element specific bridge work.

Mr. Doyle recognized that the City of Kingston was instrumental in developing the fiscally constrained program as they elected to move the Abel Street project off of the TIP into the outlying years. The block programming projects are designed to help local municipalities utilize federal funds for eligible components. Pavement management work from the UPWP will be utilized as a key component in the selection criteria for the block repaving project funding. David Gilmour inquired if there were any opportunities to coordinate with NYSDOT and other agencies regarding work relating to hydrologic features. Coordination between agencies was encouraged.

Mr. Doyle explained that a separate project is being developed in the UPWP to examine culvert resiliency. The estuary program examines the ecological components of culverts while the

Transportation Council work will perform hydrologic work. A work plan for the project is currently under development by UCTC staff.

Ralph Swenson asked about the mechanics of the repaving program and if municipalities had pavement management programs in place.

Mr. Doyle responded that while most municipalities do not have pavement management programs in place, UCTC is starting a pavement management program through UPWP efforts and that pavement scoring will become a component for the block funding.

Tom Weiner commented that PIN 8T0456 will be deleted from the program as it was a temporary PIN that was split out for the park and ride work recently completed near the Saugerties and Kingston thruway exits. NYSDOT also has block funding available for various repaving and bridge projects available as multi county PINs which do not show up on the Ulster County local project TIP listing. Two rail trail projects were also added with design phases in the 2017-2021 program.

Tom Weiner indicated that NYSDOT was looking at SR 212, SR 209 for as part of the 2017 portion of the multi county block repaving program.

Jeanne Walsh further inquired about SR 213 and the criteria for project selection at the state level. The sinking issue has been addressed as a maintenance issue but the underlying issue has not been addressed.

Tom Weiner responded that projects are prioritized at a regional level and it will be addressed as funds and priorities allow.

Kristen Resnikoff provided some details regarding the SR 32 Bridge over the thruway and explained that the bridge will be closed to expedite the reconstruction.

Draft UCTC Resolution 2016-01: Approval of the SFY 2016/17 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The Draft UCTC State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016/17 UPWP has been completed. Staff will present the draft program to the Technical Committee. The draft 2016/17 UPWP continues work commenced during previous UPWP cycles and adds 4 new projects for future programming and development. The UCTC 2016/17 UPWP will be adopted under Resolution 2016-01. Technical Committee members are asked to provide final comment on projects included in the Draft 2016/17 UPWP no later than February 19th.

Mr. Slack provided an overview of the role and the various components of the UPWP.

Rolled projects from the previous UPWP include:

- Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan
- Bridge Preservation Repair and Replacement Analysis Priorities for Capital Expenditures
- Traffic Control Signal Warrant Evaluation
- Marlboro Rt 9w Corridor Study
- Analysis of Priority Investigation Locations

- Transportation Infrastructure Resiliency
- CODE YES

New planning projects programmed as part of the 2016/2017 UPWP include:

- ADA Coordination and Compliance Planning Assistance – Aid to establish ADA transition plans for local municipalities
- Town of Ulster Intersection Safety Study – Neighborhood Road and Seremma Court
- Ulster County/City of Kingston Transit Integration Study – Requested by the Mayor
- Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Streetscape and Gateway Enhancements

The EV charging Station Study was removed from the UPWP as the NYSDOT will be perusing a similar study at a statewide level.

A review of the budget was provided. Detailed figures are available in the draft UPWP.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Alex Wade. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.** Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft UCTC Resolution 2016-02: Apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Draft Resolution 2016-02 identifies FFY 2015 FTA Section 5307 funds apportioned to Mid-Hudson Transportation Management Area (UZA 89) and outlines the distribution of those funds to eligible recipients within the TMA. For areas with populations of 200,000 and more, the formula is based on a combination of bus revenue vehicle miles, bus passenger miles, fixed guideway revenue vehicle miles, and fixed guideway route miles as well as population and population density. Eligible activities include planning, engineering design and evaluation of transit projects and other technical transportation-related studies; capital investments in bus and bus-related activities such as replacement of buses, overhaul of buses, rebuilding of buses, crime prevention and security equipment and construction of maintenance and passenger facilities; and capital investments in new and existing fixed guideway systems including rolling stock, overhaul and rebuilding of vehicles, track, signals, communications, and computer hardware and software. All preventive maintenance and some Americans with Disabilities Act complementary paratransit service costs are considered capital costs. The full FFY2015 allocation is \$21,231,773.

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 to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft Resolution 2016-03: Apportionment of FFY2015 FTA Section 5339 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA. The FTA Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facility Program provides capital funding to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities. Draft Resolution 2016-03 identifies FTA Section 5339 funds apportioned to the Mid-Hudson Transportation Management Area (UZA 89) for FFY2015 and outlines the

distribution of those funds to eligible recipients within the TMA. This distribution is in-line with a proposed methodology agreed upon by Ulster County Transportation Council, Poughkeepsie-Dutchess Transportation Council and Orange County Transportation Council staff in full consultation with state and federal agencies.

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

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft Resolution 2016-04: 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. This action helps streamline the administrative and management processes for NYSDOT, Trailways, CDTA and UCTC. Draft Resolution 2016-04 approves UCTC's transfer of FTA Section 5307 TMA formula funds in the amount of \$1,852,927 to CDTA.

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

Mr. Doyle provided a brief overview of the funding transfer and indicated that part of the renegotiation of the administrative fee resulted in additional dollars coming back to Adirondack Trailways who are then required to use the money for improvements to the facility in Kingston. Continued savings resulting from the renegotiation will be required to be spent within the region for improvements.

Jeanne Walsh asked what improvements have been made to commuter services in the County as a result of transferring these funds to Adirondack Trailways

Mr. Doyle explained that service frequency along the SR 32 corridor has increased as a direct result of this funding transfer.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Draft Resolution 2016-05: Allocation of Previously Unallocated Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Formula Funds for Various Transit Projects. FTA Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Grant funds apportioned to Mid-Hudson Transportation Management Area (UZA 89) have been reserved and are available for future programming through either competitive solicitation or as determined beneficial for the TMA by the 3 MPOs. A total of \$8,562,966 in FFY2013, 2014, and 2015 funds are available. Mid Hudson TMA rules require all 3 MPOs to agree on the use of the funding for it to be allocated to transit projects. Resolution 2016-05 details the proposed use of these funds -- distributing \$2,380,347 to Dutchess County Public Transit to fund the purchase of 8 bus replacements and the continuation of RailLink service; \$700,000 to UCAT for equipment purchases, and \$500,000 to the 3 TMA MPOs for the purposes of a regional transit asset management planning process to take place

over a 5 year period. Funds are available for a period of six years (year of apportionment plus five additional years).

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Tom Wilkin; second by Howard Baker.

Mr. Doyle explained that the unallocated funds have been a necessary tool in addressing the lumpy needs associated with transit programming. Talks have been ongoing at the TMA level to establish a regional asset management plan and regional priorities through the planning process. Such a plan would increase transparency and allow for better management of regional resources. A draft Scope is expected to be developed for March.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

FFY 2015 Annual Obligation Report: Federal regulations require an annual listing of transportation projects, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities, which Federal transportation funds have been obligated in the preceding year; 2015 report will be available for review

Mr. Staas provided a brief description of the obligation report. Approximately \$23 million in Federal funds were obligated in FFY 2015 across state, local, and transit projects within Ulster County. Approximately \$37.5 was programmed in the County for FFY 2015. The gap between what is programmed versus what is obligated is reflective of the age of the TIP and some of the lag associated with the TIP amendment process.

Mr. Doyle noted that NYSDOT typically obligates the entirety of its obligation each year.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

- Draft FFY 2017 – 2021 TIP Development
- Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act passed by Congress and Signed into Law by President Obama on December 4, 2015; FAST replaces MAP-21.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Howard Baker thanked UCTC for the work on the Safe Routes to school project in Marlborough.

The UCTC Policy Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday March 17, 2016

No further discussion.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion to adjourn; motion made by Alex Wade; second by Tom Wilkin.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:30 am

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