

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

May 22, 2013

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Anne Noonan	Adirondack Trailways
Kathy Nolan	Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
Sue Ronga	Ulster County DPW
Ed Pine	Ulster County DPW
Dave Bolles	Ulster County DPW
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Kristen Resnikoff	NYS Thruway Authority
Patrick McCaroll	NYS Thruway Authority
Jack Hohman	NYS Thruway Authority
David Seche	City of Kingston
Alan Adin	City of Kingston
Jeanne Walsh	Town of Rosendale
Alex Wade	Village of Saugerties
Herb Litts	Town of Lloyd
Hector Rodriguez	Town of New Paltz
Paul Hansut	Town of Lloyd
Diane Beitzl	Ulster County Safety Officer and Traffic Coordinator
Kelly Myers	Town of Saugerties
Robert DiBella	UCAT
Cindy Lanzetta	Citizen of the Town of Marlborough

Staff:

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Policy Committee portion of the meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 10:00am. Roll call was conducted by Mr. Doyle.

CALL FOR CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Doyle asked if there were any citizen comments. Kathy Nolan, speaking on her own behalf, thanked UCTC staff for their public presentation of the Draft 2013-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Dr. Nolan recognized the hard work and extra hours put in by staff

to aid the Parks and Trails Advisory Council. Dr. Nolan also expressed appreciation for the responses provided by NYSDOT and the UCTC to citizen comments.

Cindy Lanzetta, a previous member of the UCTC Policy and Technical Committee while she was Deputy Supervisor of the Town of Marlborough, also spoke and expressed concern over PIN 875992 and 8T0439.

Project 875992 extended the shoulders along Western Ave from 9W up to the High School in the Town of Marlborough. The County engineer at the time indicated that the road needed to be repaved and that instead of applying for Safe Routes to School monies, the County would undertake the project as it was within the existing right of way. Mrs. Lanzetta indicated that the project is being delayed on the TIP and reminded the Council that this is not a typical repaving project, but rather a safety project being done as a County repaving project.

The second project, PIN 8T0439, at the intersection of 9W and Western Ave in the Town of Marlborough. This project is the result of recommendations from the Marlboro Hamlet Area Transportation Plan, completed in 2008 by UCTC. At the time of the project creation, NYSDOT set aside 6 million dollars to complete the project. This project has been removed in the current TIP cycle. Mrs. Lanzetta fears that due to the sensitivity of transportation projects to time, work may have to be redone due to continued delays.

Mr. Doyle thanked Mrs. Lanzetta for her comments and indicated that responses to her comments will be provided during the discussion of Resolution

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 22, 2013 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 3/22/13 Joint Technical/Policy Committee meeting of the UCTC. Hector Rodriguez made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Joel Brink. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Slack circulated summarized and circulated one piece of correspondence from NYSDOT. NYSDOT issued a call letter regarding Transportation Enhancements program funding, making 30 million dollars available for non traditional transportation projects.

Supervisor Kelly Myers indicated that it would be difficult to read the correspondence and the comments on the TIP while conducting the meeting. Mr. Doyle noted that the call letter had already gone out to all of the supervisors and that no action is required by the council. Mr. Slack indicated that comments were not able to be submitted to members prior to the meeting due to the timing but all of the comments and responses would be reviewed in depth later in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2013 -03: Draft UCTC 2014 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program

The Final Draft UCTC 2014 – 2018 TIP is submitted to the Policy Committee for review and approval. In accordance with UCTC Operating Procedures, a 15-day public comment period was initiated on May 3rd and a public meeting was held on May 8, 2013.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Hector Rodriguez; second by Sue Ronga.

Mr. Slack then proceeded to review the changes and comments found in the Errata sheet.

In discussing the response to a public comment regarding State Route 212 from Jeremy Wilber, the Town of Woodstock Supervisor, Kelly Myers asked if changing the Urban Area Boundaries could provide more funding. Mr. Slack indicated that the road was already Federal Aid eligible. Tom Weiner noted that changing the Urban Area Boundary would only affect which pot of money would be available and not the amount available for the project. Mr. Doyle reiterated concerns of the council to keep the road safe and passable. Supervisor Jeanne Walsh asked what would happen in the case of a catastrophic failure of the roadway. Mr. Weiner noted that the roadway should not get to that point and that NYSDOT is well aware of the conditions along Rte 212. It was further noted that doing work along Rte. 212 would have to take funding away from another project.

In reviewing the response of NYSDOT to comments regarding the deteriorating state of the Wurts Street Bridge, Mr. Doyle requested clarification between “may” and “will” in the written response. Mr. Weiner indicated that the contract for the work to be done has not been finalized and that the department continues to establish a work plan that will ensure the bridge is kept open until the major rehabilitation project can be funded. It was also mentioned that NYSDOT is currently trying to get funding to do design work for the rehabilitation project so as to be ready if and when funding becomes available. Mr. Doyle asked which component of the Maintenance by Contract repairs would be most likely cut if funding were to be reduced further. Mr. Weiner stated that the painting of the towers is mostly aesthetic and therefore would be removed first although it is a relatively inexpensive repair. Supervisor Jeanne Walsh noted that the lighting issue brought up by County Legislator Carl Belfiglio was not addressed in the maintenance work. Mr. Weiner indicated that he would look into the issue.

In response to comments regarding PIN 8T0439, Mr. Weiner noted that the project was postponed as it is essentially a capacity improvement rather than a preservation project. As budget constraints continue to be a limiting factor, a number of projects were postponed including PIN 8T0439. The project does remain as one of the long term priorities of NYSDOT and the Regional office will continue to look for special funding programs to fund the project. Mr. Doyle further noted that Ulster County has been overlooked for funding opportunities considering the critical link it has in the transportation infrastructure. Mr. Doyle urges NYSDOT to continue to consider PIN 8T0439 as an essential project.

After reviewing all of the comments, Mr. Slack noted that three people came to the public meeting on May 8, 2013. Comments were all received during the 15 day period.

Supervisor Kelly Myers commented, observing the 50% reduction in project funding and indicated that the funding priorities of NYS do not provide enough money for infrastructure.

Mr. Doyle noted that projects on the TIP utilize Federal dollars rather than State funding. Mr. Weiner further noted that the State Gas Tax has been reduced and that the vast majority of State money is going into matching Federally Funded projects. Mr. Doyle brought up Toll Credits, where as the State could utilize excess toll revenue for the non-Federal share of a project. Although this does not provide additional funding, it allows for more flexibility in using State funds. Mr. Weiner was unsure if the Department was currently utilizing toll credits and noted that Region 8 is over programmed for State Dedicated funds. Mr. Rodriguez noted that Ulster County shares the same region as Rockland and Westchester Counties. Although the Region may be over programmed, the needs of Ulster County are not being met proportionally compared to other areas in the Region.

Supervisor Jeanne Walsh followed up on the issues along Route 213, seeking the status of the issue. Mr. Weiner indicated that the local NYSDOT maintenance personnel will identify issues in the roadway and then bring the issues to their regional maintenance office which then prioritizes and works to establish funding sources for the projects.

Supervisor Kelly Myer reiterated concerns over the 50% cut in the program, citing project cuts to the Wurts Street Bridge, and issues along Rte 212 and 213. Mr. Doyle pointed out that those projects were State projects and are not part of the local project listing which experienced the near 50% reduction. Supervisor Myers then questioned why there was 1.8 million dollars for a rail trail when large safety and roadway projects are being forgone. Mr. Doyle indicated that the 1.8 million dollars came from a special funding source and does not detract from funding other roadway projects.

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

Resolution 2013-04: Authorize the Transfer of Administrative and Management Responsibilities for Ulster County Commuter Bus Carrier's Share of FFY 2012 FTA Section 5307 TMA Formula Funds to the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA), Albany, New York.

The Resolution authorized UCTC to transfer FTA Section 5307 TMA formula funds in the amount of \$1,485,722 with administrative and management responsibilities to CDTA for use by Ulster County commuter bus carrier Adirondack Trailways for services provided in the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA/UZA 89 in accordance with the funding allocated for FFY 2012 and in keeping with the purposes specified in UCTC's adopted Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Hector Rodriguez; second by Sue Ronga.

Sue Ronga asked if the requested information from Trailways was received yet. Mr. Doyle then explained that requested information from CDTA and Adirondack Trailways has not been received yet and that staff was uncomfortable transferring the funds until the information is received.

Anne Noonan asked if Mr. Doyle had brought this issue up with Mark Boungard to which Mr. Doyle stated that the issue had been brought to staff at both CDTA and Adirondack Trailways.

Supervisor Jeanne Walsh expressed concern that withholding the funding would affect the Rosendale Park and Ride Facility project. Mr. Doyle commented, explaining that the transfer of section 5307 funds to CDTA was a completely separate line item from the Park and Ride facilities and would have no impact.

Sue Ronga made a motion to table pending further information, second by Hector Rodriguez.
No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Tabled

UCTC 2013 – 2015 Two-Year Voting Membership Rotation: The current 2011 – 2013 Voting Membership will expire on June 4, 2013. Notice will be provided to members regarding the turnover.

Mr. Slack thanked the current two year members and encouraged them to continue to attend both Policy and Technical Committee meetings. Mr. Doyle further encouraged rotating members to consider utilizing proxy membership to act as a voting member on behalf of the sister community.

Mr. Doyle thanked the TIP subcommittee, Ulster County DPW, and all members for their aid during the difficult process of developing the TIP with such limited funding.

No further discussion.

Competitive Transportation Funding Opportunities: NYSDOT recently announced availability of up to \$30M in competitive Transportation Enhancement Funding for non-traditional transportation projects, such as bicycle, trail, pedestrian and streetscape projects. Municipalities and non-profit incorporated groups are eligible to apply.

Mr. Slack noted that in order to be eligible, all applicants must attend a Federal Aid 101 workshop. Additionally a Transportation Enhancement Program workshop must also be completed. These workshops will take place in Poughkeepsie, Goshen, and Red Hook throughout June. Details can be found on the UCTC and NYSDOT websites.

Supervisor Jeanne Walsh asked when work needed to be done in order to be eligible for the funding. Mr. Weiner indicated that projects needed to be done in three years to be eligible.

Mr. Slack clarified, indicating that this would be the final call for the Transportation Enhancements Program under SAFETEA-LU as MAP-21 eliminated the Transportation Enhancements Program and replaced it with the Transportation Alternatives Program. Money

under the Transportation Alternatives Program can be applied to a larger range of categories and less funding will be available. This will make less money available for non-traditional bicycle, pedestrian, and safety projects.

Mr. Doyle further explained that if enhancement money is awarded, the project sponsor owns the project. No additional funds will be available from NYSDOT or the Council as the scope and funding amounts are set at the time of the application.

Supervisor Kelly Myers asked when the funds would be dispersed. Mr. Weiner indicated that the deadline for applications was August 16th and that the awards are expected to be announced in October.

Mr. Weiner also noted that funds can not be used to supplement an existing Federal Aid projects.

Supervisor Kelly Myers further asked if the complete streets work being done by the Village and Town of Saugerties with Dave Gilmore could be eligible for Transportation Enhancements funding. Mr. Slack indicated that complete streets projects would be eligible and encouraged Supervisor Myers to review the published guidance for more details.

Mid Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area Certification Review: This routine triennial review by FTA and FHWA staff has been scheduled for May 29 and 30 in Poughkeepsie, NY. Staff will meet with FHWA and FTA officials to certify the MPO and TMA. The process will review components of the MPO and TMA to ensure compliance with Federal Regulations.

No further discussion.

Announcements

Joel Brink expressed gratitude towards the County Highway Department and thanked them for their work along Sawkill Rd between Route 209 and Washington Ave. After bringing up the issues at the last meeting, the repairs were completed, rectifying the issues brought up.

Mr. Slack reviewed the following ongoing projects as outlined in the agenda packet:

- 44.22.03: Traffic Monitoring Program
- 44.23.02-01: Initiate a Study of the Need and Location for an Intermodal Facility to Serve the Greater New Paltz Area
- 44.23.02-02: Initiate a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Demonstration Project
- 44.23.02-04: Boices Lane Rail Safety Study
- 44.23.02-05: Analysis of Priority Investigation Location (PIL) Data among Congested Roadway Segments in Ulster County PILs

Mr. Doyle announced that approval was given to transfer FTA 5307 fund to FHWA for park and ride facilities. This may help expand park and ride facilities in New Paltz Saugerties, Town of Ulster, City of Kingston, and Rosendale.

Hector Rodriguez took the opportunity to thank the staff for their ongoing efforts.

No meeting is currently scheduled

No further discussion.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion to adjourn; motion made by hector Rodriguez; second by Paul Hansut.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:10am.

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