

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

July 23, 2013

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Barry Hecht	Adirondack Trailways
Mark Boungard	Adirondack Trailways
Carolyn Hargrove	Ulster County Area Transit
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
Edward Pine	Ulster County DPW
Thomas Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Bill Gorton	NYS Dept of Transportation
Kristen Resnikoff	NYS Thruway Authority
Patrick McCaroll	NYS Thruway Authority
Jack Hohman	NYS Thruway Authority
Curt Lavalla	Village of New Paltz
Kelly Myers	Town of Saugerties
Walter Falkenberg	Town of Marlborough
Michael Warren	Town of Marbletown
John Dittus	Town of Hurley
Wayne Freer	Town of Esopus

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. Slack.

CALL FOR CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Doyle asked if there were any citizen comments.

No citizen comments were submitted

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 22, 2013 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 5/23/13 Policy Committee meeting of the UCTC. Joel Brink made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Wayne Freer. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Slack reviewed important pieces of correspondence received by UCTC staff as follows:

- Letter from the Town of Olive regarding safety concerns brought up by Cathy Johann of Discovery Preschool at the intersection of Route 28 and County Route 44.
- Joan LaRocca of the Wingate at Ulster Nursing Home submitted a letter reiterating her comments from the 4/23/13 UCTC Technical Committee meeting. The nursing home is seeking increased frequency of UCAT service to the facility.
- Letters from NYSDOT, formally withdrawing the following projects from the 2014-2018 Transportation Improvement Program.
 - PIN 8755.16; CR31 over Plattekill Creek in the Town of Saugerties
 - PIN 8757.12; Glasco Turnpike / Plattekill Creek in the Town of Saugerties
 - PIN 8758.14; Mossy Brook Road / Coxing Kill in the Town of Rosendale
 - PIN 8757.70; Hoagerburgh Road / Shawangunkill in the Town of Shawangunk
 - PIN 8759.88; Glasco Turnpike (CR32) / Esopus Creek in the Town of Saugerties
 - PIN 8759.91; Sawkill Road (CR31): NYSTHWY – Route 209 in the Town of Ulster
 - PIN 8780.23; Walkill Valley Rail Trail Ext Bridge of Dreams in the Town of New Paltz
- Letter from NYSDOT to Ulster County DPW indicating approval from FHWA for an extension of the preliminary engineering stage for PIN 8756.66; Mud Tavern Road over Dwaar Kill in the Town of Shawangunk.
- Letter from NYSDOT to Ulster County DPW indicating that PIN 8757.13; Replacement of County Route 4 Bridge over Tongore Creek in the Town of Olive, Does not meet the requirements for a beyond preservation project. NYSDOT will not be supplying any additional Marchiselli funds to supplement federal funding in the future.
- Letter from NYSDOT indicating changes to the staffing of the Mid-Hudson South transportation Coordinating Committee. These changes will reduce the amount of support provided to PDCTC, OCTC, and UCTC. Also included in the letter is a new form to be used for TIP project change requests.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Doyle announced that letters of intent for Hazard Mitigation funds are due by August 1st. These funds are for projects on facilities that have experienced repeated repairs as a result of environmental hazards.

Edward Pine noted that Ulster County had submitted two letters of intent for projects in the County. The two projects are along County Route 47 in the Town of Shandaken and in the Town of Denning.

Kelly Myers asked if the Town of Saugerties should apply for funding or if NYSDOT should apply for funding along State Route 212 in Saugerties. Mr. Doyle indicated that the State would need to apply.

Bill Gorton indicated that NYSDOT would be submitting a limited amount of applications, none of which would be in Ulster County. Bill Gorton advised Supervisor Myers to get the community to put together an application to raise housing that is repeatedly flooded. The program is geared more towards residential and commercial facilities. Mr. Doyle indicated that buyout is also an option and that the County has done this in Ellenville and Shandaken.

Mr. Doyle also announced Community Recovery Zone funding. Planners assigned from the Department of State will develop community recovery zone plans in designated community recovery zone communities. Currently there are 3 million dollars available for the Town of Shandaken and another 3 million dollars for the remaining municipalities in Ulster County under the Build Back Better Program.

NEW BUSINESS

a) 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 authorizes 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). This Resolution was tabled at the 5/22/13 Policy Committee meeting due to lack of information. That information has since been provided to UCTC by ADK Trailways. In accordance with UCTC TIP amendment procedures, a 15-day public comment period was initiated on June 27, 2013 through Public Notice describing this proposed Amendment; no public comments were received.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Curt Lavalla; second by Joel Brink.

Mr. Slack then proceeded to review the resolution and indicated that money for Adirondack Trailways is being transferred to CDTA for the administration of the funds.

Barry Hecht was asked to provide an overview of the tables supplied to UCTC. Mr. Hecht indicated that the tables report what has been accomplished with previously allocated funds. These funds help provide commuter bus service to Ulster County residents. Ridership and service have both increased since financial support was instated.

Kelly Myers asked how much a ticket is from Ulster County to New York City to see if the fare was comparable with Metro North Rail. Mark Boungard indicated that he did not have the figures on hand, but he did indicate that the fare was comparable with Metro North as part of another program with Region 8 DOT to hold the fares constant. Adirondack Trailways indicated that travel time to NYC from New Paltz was also shorter than Metro North as the service operates without stops after New Paltz.

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

b) Resolution 2013-05: To Define the Urbanized Area Boundary and Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary for the Ulster County Transportation Council. The urbanized area designations completed by the US Census Bureau under the 2010 Census have resulted in the expansion of the Kingston urbanized area in parts of Ulster County and into Greene County. As such, revisions to Federal Highway Administration Federal-Aid urban area boundaries and the UCTC Metropolitan Planning Area boundary are necessary. All affected Ulster County municipalities as well as Greene County and NYSDOT Region 1 officials were notified directly of the changes recommended by the Technical Committee on June 26; no additional comments were provided by those entities regarding the proposed changes.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Curt Lavalla; second by Wayne Freer

Mr. Slack provided a brief overview of the boundaries and where they have changed.

Mr. Doyle indicated that this resolution does not show or address the urban cluster boundary in Ellenville. The Ellenville Urban Cluster is currently undergoing discussion between UCTC and NYSDOT staff to determine what form the boundary will take. The chief elected officials in the areas affected by the cluster will have to agree upon what boundary they choose to adopt.

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

c) Resolution 2013-06: Apportionment of Federal Fiscal Year 2013 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (MHVTMA): Resolution 2013-06 addresses distribution of FTA 5307 funds in the TMA to the Public Operators within the TMA and the Inter-County Commuter bus services. The preliminary Ulster County share for the public operators is \$515,031 and the Inter-County Commuter bus services is \$1,809,402. In addition, \$3,391,994 in un-programmed FTA Sec. 5307 funds is available for future programming within the TMA. The final figures will change pending alteration of the 2010 UZA 89 Poughkeepsie--Newburgh, NY—NJ boundary, which now includes portions of New Jersey. Final figures were not available as of 7/22/13.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Wayne Freer; second by Joel Brink.

Mr. Slack recommended that this resolution be tabled. Mr. Doyle explained that as part of the Census urbanized area update, part of New Jersey is now included in the Poughkeepsie--Newburgh, NY—NJ TMA. Final figures have not been arrived upon yet and the motion should be tabled until final numbers are obtained.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for to table the resolution. Motion made by Kelly Myers; second by Edward Pine.

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

d) Resolution 2013-07: To Rescind Certain Actions Associated with UCTC Resolution 2012-10 and Amend UCTC PIN 8TRU28 to Modify Schedule, Costs and Project

Description. UCAT has requested modifications to the project description, schedule and costs associated with a PIN that was previously deleted. In order to rectify and re-program the PIN, the action to delete must first be rescinded and then the new PIN information as described in Attachment 1 of Resolution 2013-07 must be enacted. In accordance with UCTC TIP amendment procedures, a 15-day public comment period was initiated on June 27, 2013 through Public Notice describing this proposed Amendment; no public comments were received.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Wayne Freer; second by Edward Pine.

Mr. Slack explained the background of the PIN and explained the need for the resolution to reinstate funds to be used for a submitted TEAM grant.

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

e) Draft Resolution 2013-08: Distribution of the FFY 2013 Federal Transit Administration Section 5307/5340 Urbanized Area Apportionments Attributable to the Kingston

Urbanized Area: A recommendation to prepare Resolution 2013-08 was made by the Director at the June 26 Technical Committee meeting; this is therefore a Draft Resolution. The Urbanized Area Formula Funding program (49 U.S.C. 5307) makes Federal resources available to urbanized areas and to Governors for transit capital and operating assistance in urbanized areas and for transportation related planning. An urbanized area is an incorporated area with a population of 50,000 or more that is designated as such by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. FFY13 allocation to the Kingston Urbanized Area is \$908,004. Resolution 2013-08 distributes these funds between UCAT and Citibus as an equal, 50/50 split

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Edward Pine; second by Wayne Freer.

Mr. Slack briefly explained the resolution and the need for the split between UCAT and Kingston Citibus.

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

f) Draft Resolution 2013-09: In Support of Ulster County Area Transit's Request to the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area for \$300,000 in Unallocated FTA §5307 Funds.

A recommendation to prepare Resolution 2013-09 was made by the Director at the June 26 Technical Committee meeting; this is therefore a Draft Resolution. The Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area has a total of \$3,391,994 in un-programmed FTA §5307 funds available for future programming. Ulster County Area Transit has requested that UCTC request one-time funding in the amount of \$300,000 to support service in Ulster County. The request is intended to address funding gaps resulting from changes in National Transit

Database (NTD) reporting standards to the FTA. Resolution 2013-09 offers the UCTC Policy Committee's support of this request.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Curt Lavalla; second by Wayne Freer.

Mr. Slack explained that the TMA has saved unallocated funds over the years, recognizing that transit funding requirements can be lumpy. The funding is utilized on a competitive and as needed basis.

Mr. Doyle indicated that changes in the NTD reporting requirements have caused a budget shortfall for UCAT. This request asks for funding until UCAT can adjust their operating budget to the new figures. Many of the services reported for the urbanized area are now being reported in a different fashion, which does not bring in as much money. In the future, UCAT will request additional 5311 money from the State to make up for the losses in 5307 funding.

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

Mr. Slack noted that this resolution will be submitted to the TMA as part of UCAT's request for additional funding.

g) 2013 UCTC Unified Planning Work Program Budget Revisions. UCTC Operating Procedures allow the Chairperson to approve, on behalf of the Council, changes to individual line items in the UPWP budget, which do not exceed 25% of that budgeted amount. Changes outlined on page 5 of the Agenda Supplement include a minor increase in FTA 5303 funds shown in Table 2 of the 2013 UPWP, along with a minor increase in actual expenditures in Q4 SFY 2012 against FTA grant X022, resulting in a total decrease of \$837 available to UCTC. In addition, corrections were made to prior grant numbers, which had been mislabeled.

Mr. Slack indicated that NYSDOT informed UCTC staff that the figures used for a FTA grant in the UPWP were based upon estimates and were not the final figures that needed to be used. In the process of adjusting the numbers, UCTC staff realized that the grant numbers were off by one and need to be adjusted. These changes will result in a total decrease of \$837 available to UCTC. Per the UCTC operating procedures, minor changes, may be approved by the Chairperson on behalf of the council. This item was submitted to the council for informational purposes.

Hearing no concerns or comments, Mr. Doyle noted that there was a consensus of the Council that these amendments to the UPWP could be made.

No further discussion

OLD BUSINESS

Competitive Transportation Funding Opportunities:

- Transportation Enhancements Program - 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. Deadline for applications is August 16th. In order to apply, municipalities must have attended a Federal Aid 101 workshop put on by NYSDOT. Thomas Weiner indicated his availability to answer questions to help with applications.
- Transportation Alternatives – If municipalities are unable to apply this year for TEP funding, Mr. Slack encouraged applications for Transportation Alternatives in the spring of 2014. The Transportation Alternatives program will have less available funds than the TEP program which will make the program more complete.

Kelly Myers asked if smaller projects which, by themselves did not meet the minimum threshold, could be combined with projects from other municipalities in order to meet the minimum amount. Thomas Weiner stated that projects from multiple municipalities could be combined as long as there was only one project sponsor. The minimum amount for an application is \$200,000. Mr. Doyle noted that the Town could apply for sidewalks along Washington Avenue, which would easily exceed the \$200,000 threshold.

Mid Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area Certification Review: This routine triennial review by FTA and FHWA staff was completed over two days in May. One group review session occurred with all TMA members in Poughkeepsie, NY. Individual MPO reviews on the second day at local offices. The results of the review are expected in the next month.

No further discussion.

PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Slack reviewed the following ongoing projects:

- 44.22.03: Traffic Monitoring Program - Analysis of 2012 count data is currently ongoing. There were significant differences in count data from 2009 to 2012 in some areas of the County. Staff has been in contact with NYSDOT staff in an effort to account for the variances in the data. 2013 count data collected for the Council has been reviewed and accepted by staff.
- 44.23.02-01: Initiate a Study of the Need and Location for an Intermodal Facility to Serve the Greater New Paltz Area – A contract has been signed by Behan Planning with their sub contractors Alfandre Architecture and Nelson\Nygaard. Work will be commencing within the next couple of months.
- 44.23.02-02: Initiate a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Demonstration Project – Interviews have been completed and Alta Planning and Design has been identified as a preferred bidder for the project. The project will take place in the Town and Village of New Paltz, Town of Shawangunk, and the Town of Lloyd. The project should commence in August/September.
- 44.23.02-04: Boices Lane Rail Safety Study – This 2012 project is nearing completion and is expected within the next few weeks. NYSDOT is currently working on creating an IPP for the project.

- 44.23.02-05 Kingston Broadway Corridor Study – Draft scope currently being created in consultation with local municipalities.
- 44.23.02-06 Rosendale Circulation Study - Draft scope currently being created in consultation with local municipalities.
- 44.23.02-07: Analysis of Priority Investigation Location (PIL) Data among Congested Roadway Segments in Ulster County – Project will look at two county or local roads that have both congestion and safety issues.

Mr. Slack also announced the completion of the fiscal report for SFY 2012.

Mr. Doyle asked Thomas Weiner for an updated on the FTA money transferred over to FHWA for park and ride facilities. Thomas Weiner responded indicating that the money should be with NYSDOT at this point and that the projects should be able to get started shortly.

Mr. Doyle also brought up train movements in Ulster County in light of the recent oil train accident only July 6, 2013 in Quebec. Mr. Doyle noted that oil trains do move through Ulster County on the CSX line and has raised concern with the council in regards to safety issues.

Kelly Myers reported complaints of erratic driving on the thruway, specifically tailgating. Supervisor Myers requested that the Thruway Authority look towards stronger enforcement or education programs for drivers. Curt Lavalla commented, indicating that tickets should be given for following too closely. John Dittus further commented indicating that he would like to see more police vehicles actively moving to look for violations rather than sitting to catch speeders. The Thruway Authority indicated that they would bring the issues up with the operations department.

A joint Technical/Policy Committee meeting is currently scheduled for the September 24, 2013

No further discussion.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion to adjourn; motion made by Joel Brink; second by Wayne Freer.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:10am.

~DS