

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**  
**Technical Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Summary**

June 26, 2013

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Kathy Nolan	Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee
Diane Beitel	Ulster County Safety Officer and Traffic Coordinator
Robert DiBella	UCAT
Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
Eric Kitchen	Town of Ulster
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Kristen Resnikoff	NYS Thruway Authority
Patrick McCarroll	NYS Thruway Authority
Edward Pine	Ulster County DPW
Herb Litts	Town of Lloyd
Kelly Myers	Town of Saugerties
James Bruno	Town of Saugerties
Alex Wade	Village of Saugerties
Mark Boungard	Adirondack Trailways
Barry Hecht	Adirondack Trailways
Curt Lavalla	Village of New Paltz
Wayne Freer	Town of Esopus
Clyde Russell	Town of Hurley

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 CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Doyle asked if there were any citizen comments.  
No citizen comments were submitted.

**APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 23, 2013 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
SUMMARY**

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 4/23/13 meeting of the UCTC Technical Committee. Mr. Joel Brink made a motion to approve the minutes; second by Mr. Alex Wade. **No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- Notice of the distribution of STOA payments from NYSDOT
- Letter of concern from Cathy Johann in regards to road safety issues by Discovery Preschool in The Town of Olive along Route 28.
- Notice of TMA certification Review which is ongoing. The certification review occurs every three years.
- 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.

Mr. Slack then circulated the correspondence for review and further explained the FHWA TMA certification review process. UCTC staff met with FHWA and FTA officials and reviewed all of the required planning products put out by the MPO for compliance with Federal regulations and rules.

Mr. Doyle noted that there was a significant focus on congestion management during the review. Following the forward four approach established by NYSDOT has left little room for congestion management projects which could present a potential issue during the review.

Mr. Doyle further noted that some of the targets and measurements of success set out in the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan were created during a different financial climate. As funding changed and a preservation first approach to projects was established, it has become more difficult to meet the goals. Mr. Doyle expressed concern over the reaction that may come from the FHWA and FTA as a result of the shift in priorities and funding.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kathy Nolan from the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee announced the opening of the Rosendale Trestle on Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. The opening represents a big achievement of a relatively small group of people and is indicative of a number of ongoing trail projects coming to fruition in Ulster County.

Mr. Doyle brought up the Transportation Enhancements Program (TEP) and asked if any council members were planning on submitting applications. Mr. Weiner indicated that NYSDOT was precluded from submitting applications under TEP and would be unable to provide match funding.

Mr. Slack announced that Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) awards were announced and that no municipalities in Ulster County were recipients of the awards. The potential application from the Town of Lloyd was not eligible and was therefore not on the

project listings. Mr. Weiner followed up indicating that one project that was awarded for centerline audible rumble strips along State highways which may be utilized in Ulster County.

Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Weiner if the pavement management team had met and selected any roadways to repave in Ulster County. Mr. Weiner indicated that based upon priority and the limited funding available, no roadways in Ulster County were selected to be repaved under this project.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a) Draft 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).

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of Draft Resolution 2013-04. Ed Pine made a motion for discussion; second by Alex Wade.

Mr. Slack indicated that the resolution was tabled at the 5/22/13 Policy Committee meeting due to lack of information. Barry Hecht and Mark Boungard have since provided the required information to UCTC.

Mr. Doyle asked what monies were being drawn down by Adirondack Trailways. Barry Hecht indicated that all previous grants had been completely drawn down. Mr. Doyle further inquired if CDTA took 10% of the 5307 funding for administration of the grant. Barry Hecht again responded, indicating that the CDTA takes the 10% match provided by the State for administration of the grant.

**No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed -- Motion Carried.**  
Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

### **b) Draft 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 and Greene Counties. As such, revisions to Federal Highway Administration Federal-Aid urban area boundaries and the UCTC Metropolitan Planning Area boundary are necessary.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of Draft Resolution 2013-05. Ed Pine made a motion for discussion; second by Joel Brink.

Mr. Slack reviewed the main areas of change from the existing FHWA Urban Area Boundary and Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary, resulting from changes in the Census defined Urbanized Area.

Alex Wade questioned the expansion of the boundary into areas of Woodstock, ensuring that the concerns expressed by Woodstock that by accepting the new FHWA Urban Area Boundary, the Town would not be required to implement a MS4. Mr. Doyle indicated that the FHWA Urban Area Boundary is used by the FHWA for transportation planning purposes and has no impact on MS4 requirements.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

**c) Draft 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):** Draft 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. These funds may change pending alteration of the 2010 UZA 89 Poughkeepsie--Newburgh, NY—NJ boundary, which now includes portions of New Jersey. Final figures will be available in advance of the next Policy Committee meeting. In addition, \$3,391,994 in un-programmed FTA Sec. 5307 funds is available for future programming within the TMA.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of Draft Resolution 2013-06. Joel Brink made a motion for discussion; second by Alex Wade.

Mr. Slack and Mr. Doyle noted that the distribution of 5307 formula funds has not occurred yet as the funds have not been fully apportioned. The numbers presented in the current resolution will change as NY and NJ determine the apportionment. A resolution will not be forwarded to the Policy Committee until the numbers are finalized.

Mr. Doyle indicated that this resolution was brought before the Technical Committee in its current state to expedite the distribution of funds to UCAT.

Barry Hecht asked if another meeting would be held to which Mr. Doyle stated that if the amounts are finalized they will be brought straight to the Policy Committee.

Ed Pine asked if the percentage amounts would change. Mr. Doyle answered stating that the distribution is still unknown. Previously, each carrier is entitled to at least what is earned in NTD funds. Additionally, preventative maintenance and administration fees are then added in to determine the amount allotted to each agency in the TMA. The remaining funds are then distributed on a competitive basis with the realization that Transit funding needs are often “lumpy”.

Barry Hecht then asked if any of the competitive funds had been awarded to Ulster County. Mr. Doyle indicated that some park and ride facilities utilized this competitive 5307 funding within the County.

Barry Hecht thanked the Council for the continued aid and pointed out that that Adirondack Trailways has continued to expand its service, providing a direct benefit to the residents of Ulster County. Over the period of time in which UCTC has provided 5307 funds to Adirondack Trailways, ridership and mileage have increased 18% and 14% respectively.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

**d) Draft 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.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of Draft Resolution 2013-07. Alex Wade made a motion for discussion; second by Curt Lavalla.

Mr. Slack explained that PIN 8TRU28 had been deleted in a previous resolution at the request of UCAT. It was later realized that the PIN was being utilized in a TEAM grant and needed to be un-deleted. This resolution ensures that the PIN will remain on the TIP. This resolution decreases the amount of funding to the proper amount for the bus purchase.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration

**e) Ulster County Area Transit Request for Unallocated 5307 Funds.** The Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area has a total of \$3,391,994 in un-programmed FTA Sec. 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.

Mr. Slack reviewed the need for the funding to bridge a gap resulting from changes in NTD funding which reduced the funding available to UCAT. In response to the decrease, UCAT is requesting additional funds from the council which will come from the unallocated TMA 5307 funds.

Bob DiBella made a request for support from the Technical Committee. Curt Lavalla made a motion for support; second by Ed Pine.

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

Support of the Ulster County Area Transit request for unallocated 5307 funds granted by the Technical Committee.

**f) Distribution of the FFY 2013 Federal Transit Administration Section 5307/5340 Urbanized Area Apportionments Attributable to the Kingston Urbanized Area**

The future resolution will address the distribution of FTA 5307 funds in the Kingston Urbanized Area to Public Operators within the UZA. Ulster County and the City of Kingston have agreed to the distribution of FFY 2013 FTA Section 5307/5340 Small Urban funds with 50% allocation to the City of Kingston and 50% allocation to the County of Ulster.

This item was not part of the agenda packet and was introduced by Mr. Doyle. The distribution of funds in the Kingston Urbanized Area will require a resolution similar to resolution 2013-06 but for UZA 457 (Kingston, NY) instead of UZA 89 (Poughkeepsie--Newburgh, NY—NJ). The money will be split evenly between UCAT and Kingston Citibus.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of future Resolution 2013-08. Ed Pine made a motion for discussion; second by Joel Brink.

Barry Hecht asked if there was a resolution for the item. Mr. Doyle noted that there was not one yet but there would be one for the Policy Committee meeting. The estimated amount to be split is \$840,000.

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

Complete resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

**OLD BUSINESS**

UCTC 2013 – 2015 Two-Year Voting Membership Rotation

Mr. Slack welcomed the new members resulting from the two year rotating membership turnover which occurred on June 4<sup>th</sup>. UCTC Staff will continue to contact new member municipalities to establish proxy voting members.

Competitive Transportation Funding Opportunities

- Transportation Enhancement Program – NYSDOT has finished hosting mandatory Federal Aid trainings required to be taken by applicants. The deadline for submission is August 16<sup>th</sup> 2013
- Transportation Alternatives – Tom Weiner indicated that if municipalities did not attend the TEP trainings for this call that there would be another round of trainings and funding underneath the Transportation Alternatives program in the spring of 2014. Mr. Doyle noted that NYSDOT is using a portion of MAP-21 for enhancement projects. Tom Weiner further noted that cost estimates should be as close as possible to the funds needed as additional Federal or State aid would not be supplied.
- New York State Energy Research and Development Authority – Cleaner Greener competitive grant funding is available. Transportation projects which bolster the regional sustainability plan will be given additional points during selection.

- The Governor's office is releasing 500 million dollars for hazard mitigation funding. This funding can be used for transportation projects which make the facilities more resilient to future disasters in the wake of Hurricanes Irene and Sandy.
- Additional funds from the Governors office may become available after community recovery zone plans are completed. These plans will be utilized for funding opportunities. While designated community recovery zone municipalities will be given preference, other communities will also be eligible for the funds.
- Furthermore, funding is available for grants under the all hazard mitigation grants. Funding will be 100% (75% Federal with a 25% match from the State). In order to be eligible, municipalities must participate in the all hazard mitigation plan and must submit letters of intent no later than July 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Mid Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area Certification Review

Mr. Slack indicated that the certification review is ongoing and that staff is awaiting a report from the FHWA and FTA which will then be made available on the UCTC website.

#### **PROJECT UPDATES**

Mr. Staas Announced that the 2012 traffic count report has been compiled as count have been received from NYSDOT. Traffic volume within the County generally decreased since stations were counted back in 2009. Regionally, traffic growth rates have declined. Tom Weiner indicated that growth flattened out in 2008 and that NYSDOT uses a 1/2% background growth rate.

Kathy Nolan asked if there was any indication that the decline in automotive traffic could be attributed to other modes of travel such as trail use.

Mr. Doyle indicated that transit use is known but currently the council does not count travel along trail use. If the County were in nonattainment, the Council would undertake trail counts as they would be eligible for funding. Heightened discussions are occurring in regards to the trail infrastructure which may justify the need for additional trail data collection. The non-motorized transportation plan and gaps analysis provides excellent a good overview of the existing facilities and where opportunities exist for further development.

Alex Wade asked if any of the trails had counters on them and indicated that the Saugerties Lighthouse Trail had a counter on it.

Mr. Doyle indicated that some trail organizations have performed their own counts.

Mr. Slack then reviewed the status of several projects:

- New Paltz Intermodal Facility – Behan Planning and Design working with Alf André Architecture and Nelson Niggard was selected as the consultants for this project. The contract is being finalized and the project should be starting in Fall of 2013.
- Safe Routes to School Demonstration Project – The RFP has been issued and interviews were performed earlier in June. From the interviews, a preferred consultant has been identified. Project should be commencing by the end of the summer.
- Boices Lane Rail Safety Study – The study will be completed shortly. A presentation to the Ulster Town board will occur before the project is closed out.

- Rosendale Circulation Study – Work on the scope of services continues.
- Broadway Corridor Project – Work on the scope of services continues.
- Analysis of Priority Investigation Location (PIL) Data among Congested Roadway Segments in Ulster County PILs – Draft work plan has been created. Study should be commenced within the year.
- Greenway Compact – Mr. Doyle reviewed the greenway compact project being funded, in part, by the Council. The goal of the project is to have municipalities adopt the document as guiding principles for their land uses. This project will create a principal based document, providing guidance and protecting in each adopting municipalities zoning. The document should be completed by the end of July.
- Financial Report – Mr. Slack presented the latest UCTC financial report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2012. All submittals to NYSDOT have been paid in full.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Alex Wade announced that the sidewalk project for the Village of Saugerties has finally gotten approval after 11 years.

A Policy Committee meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** at approximately 11:20am.