

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting**

Meeting Summary

November 14, 2017

Rondout Municipal Center, Cottekill, NY

Members Present:

Kristen Wilson	City of Kingston
Manuel de Jesus	City of Kingston
Marybeth Majestic	Town of Gardiner
Neil Bettez	Town of New Paltz
John Morrow	Town of Ulster
David Gilmour	Village of New Paltz
Robert Sudlow	Ulster County Executive Office
Andrew Emrich	Ulster County DPW
Ed Pine	Ulster County DPW
Herb Litts	Ulster County Legislature
Dan Coots	NYS Dept. of Transportation
Mark Boungard	Adirondack Trailways
Glenn Gidaly	Barton and Loguidice
Mark Sargent	Creighton Manning
Anthony Mignone	RCAL

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

No citizen comments were received.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 29, 2017 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 8/29/17 meeting of the UCTC Technical Committee. Motion made by Ed Pine; second by David Gilmour.

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Slack commented that there was a letter of support from the UCTC Chair, Michael P. Hein in support of the City of Kingston's TIGER application. Kristen Wilson explained that the TIGER application was a difficult application and Manuel helped with the cost benefit analysis work done. The City applied for the implementation of the Uptown Stockade Circulation plan which include signalization upgrades, roadway direction changes, and street scape work. The total amount applied for was approximately \$30 million.

Mr. Doyle announced that with regards to air quality, Ulster County is being considered for non-attainment by the DEC to make the connection from the NY Metro Region to the Capital District in Albany. Staff and NYSDOT continue to monitor changes in air quality regulations as they relate to UCTC.

Mr. Doyle also discussed the section 5307 funding allocation and the need to coordinate between NY and NJ to allocate the funds before it can be made available to local transit providers. In previous discussions, allocations were delayed and required temporary loans for some transit providers while allocations were delayed. If negotiations are delayed again, this issue may be brought to the council for action.

No further communications or announcements.

NEW BUSINESS

Addition to the UCTC Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Illustrative Purposes to Add New NYSDOT PIN 817750. New York State Department of Transportation has requested that UCTC add a new project to the 2017 Transportation Improvement Program for illustrative purposes. The project will repave a segment of United States Route 209 from New York State Route 52 to the bridge over the Rondout Creek, a length of 1.8 miles, to good condition by removing the existing surface for a depth of between 1" and 1 1/2" and replacing it with new hot mix asphalt. The project is located in the Village of Ellenville and the Town of Wawarsing in Ulster County. The total project cost is \$1.760; 100% state funding through NYS PIT Bond (NYS Revenue Bond). The project does not utilize federal funding and therefore does not require an amendment; action is for illustrative purposes only to facilitate project tracking. TIP addition shown in agenda supplement.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Kristen Wilson second by John Morrow.

David Gilmour asked if this impacts the future policy setting from this committee.

Mr. Slack noted that this project utilizes no federal funds and does not need to be placed on the TIP but is being done so for transparency and illustrative purposes. Modification to the TIP amendment procedure will be addressed under UCTC Resolution 2017-13.

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

Draft Resolution 2017-13: Amendment to the UCTC Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Document Narrative to Revise Table 1: TIP Amendment and Modification Procedures to Clarify Amendment Process with Regard to New Projects as Shown in Attachment 1. UCTC TIP Amendment and Modification procedures are outlined in the TIP narrative section of the document under Table 1. As presently written, new projects

to be added to the TIP require UCTC Technical Committee review and approval, 15 day public notice and comment period, and final review and approval by the UCTC Policy Committee before they can be approved by staff. This process is intended to provide a level of detailed oversight and transparency regarding the use of federal, state and local funds on transportation projects. Under specific circumstances, certain TIP actions that are presently required to have a full Amendment may not warrant such a detailed level of scrutiny. Those instances include: a) Assignment of new projects that are already included on an approved TIP/STIP, such as block program funds that are later assigned to specific projects and schedules; b) Multi-county funds that are later assigned to a specific project, location, budget and schedule; and c) Projects requested to be added to the TIP for illustrative purposes only. In light of these instances, it is proposed that the UCTC TIP Amendment and Modification Procedures be amended to allow UCTC staff to program such changes administratively. Under UCTC Operating Procedures, amendments to the TIP, including those to the narrative section of the document, must be recommended by the UCTC Technical Committee and are subject to 15 day public review and comment period prior to final consideration by the UCTC Policy Committee.

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Kristen Wilson second by Ed Pine.

Mr. Slack explained that this resolution is the result of an increasing number of amendment requests which are not directly addressed by the UCTC operating procedures. Additionally, many requests are administrative in nature but have required full amendments due to the vague requirements laid out in the operating procedures.

Mr. Doyle provided examples of block programming sub pins which had previously required full TIP amendments and explained that these actions would be allowed to be performed administratively under proposed changes.

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

Resolution to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration.

NYS DOT Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Call for Local Projects. The New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) is pleased to progress the local call for pedestrian safety projects included in the Statewide Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) that was announced in June of 2016. The local call for pedestrian safety projects includes \$40,000,000 in federal Highway Safety Improvement Program funds for systemic pedestrian safety projects on local and county urban roads and streets. NYSDOT will host a webinar on November 14, 2017 from 2:00-3:30 to answer questions about the program and the application process. Additional information about the webinar, program guidance, how to apply, application forms and related materials is available at <https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/operating/oss/highway/psap>. Applications must be submitted by March 09, 2018. Eligible projects must be on a public road, off the state touring route system and be on a local or county owned or maintained road. All project locations must be on roads that are located within a designated 2010 federal adjusted urban area.

Mr. Slack distributed the NYSDOT FAQ document for the program. Applications from Ulster County will be reviewed by Region 8 MPO staff to prioritize projects. NYSDOT will also be developing projects through the PSAP program. Example treatments include high visibility crosswalks and signage.

Kristen Wilson expressed concerns over the eligibility of signals having experienced issues under the Safe Routes to School program. Replacement of a signal is not considered an eligible project. However,

programmable controllers and/or cabinet/controller upgrades are eligible for funding if the upgrade is required in order to implement one or more of the pedestrian countermeasures identified in the PSAP guidance.

No further discussion.

2018/19 UPWP Development/Call for Projects: Staff will begin developing the 2018/19 Unified Planning Work Program in December. A summary of the status of consultant-based studies is included in the agenda supplement for member reference.

Mr. Slack encouraged members to discuss possible projects for inclusion in the 2018/19 UPWP. Deadline for applications is Friday December 8th, 2017. Only planning work is eligible under this call.

No further discussion.

Mid-Hudson Transportation Management Area 2017 Federal Certification Review. Staff will provide members with a summary of the Federal Certification Review that took place in September of this year. The primary purpose of a certification review is to formalize the continuing oversight and day-to-day evaluation of the planning process. The certification review process ensures that the planning requirements of 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303 are being satisfactorily implemented. In a broader sense, the certification review process is a valuable opportunity to provide advice and guidance to a Transportation Management Area (TMA), defined as an urbanized area with a population over 200,000, for enhancing the planning process and improving the quality of transportation investment decisions. Results of this review are not expected to be provided until later in 2018.

Mr. Slack provided an overview of the process and thanked Kristen Wilson and Joel Brink for their attendance and participation in the review.

The current review was focused on project readiness and the ability for projects to advance on schedule. Performance at the state and local level in the region is below what FHWA and FTA is looking for.

Mr. Doyle expressed concerns that there is a constant request for additional funds while the programmed funds are not being progressed on schedule. There may be a further shift of funds towards agencies who are able to deliver projects on schedule.

Kristen Wilson commented that there are often issues with multiple reviews from NYSDOT rather than getting all the comments at once. Additional staff should be added to the local projects unit to help advance projects.

Andrew Emrich noted that in the past projects were administered at NYSDOT rather than the local level and asked if the project could be moved back towards this process.

Ed Pine suggested that more funds be provided outside of federal fund sources.

Mr. Slack also noted that the Congestion Management Process was another focus area of the review. This issue will need to be addressed at the TMA level. UCTC has added an item to the UPWP to address this issue.

No further discussion.

UCTC 2017 Transportation Improvement Program – Block Program Bridge and Paving PINs. The 2017 – 2021 TIP included two new “block program” PINs utilizing surplus allocations of STP FLEX and STBG Off-System Bridge funds. Funds in FFYs 17 & 18 were distributed last year. UCTC plans to make funds in FFYs 19 & 20 available to eligible Ulster County municipalities through direct solicitation to the MPO. UCTC will provide an overview of the funds available and answer any questions members may have. No deadline for applications has been established at this time.

Mr. Doyle briefly explained the eligibility criteria and encouraged members to apply.

Glenn Gidal asked what projects would be prioritized in the application.

Mr. Staas explained that scoring is based upon the Bridge NY program and considers volume, truck percentage, detour length, and structure condition among other factors to rate applications.

No further discussion.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

- Newly-Elected Voting Members – Staff will work to inform newly elected officials of their role in the MPO and work to establish voting proxies to ensure that a quorum is reached.
- Upcoming NYSDOT Solicitations – BridgeNY, PaveNY 2017 TAP Solicitation – final dates have not been announced. Staff will inform members of deadlines when information becomes available.

No further discussion.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:35 am

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