

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary
November 17, 2016
SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members Present:

Alan Adin	City of Kingston
Ralph Swenson	City of Kingston
Kristen Wilson	City of Kingston
Keith Lawrence	Town of Gardiner
Mike Warren	Town of Marbletown
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
Andrew Emrich	Ulster County DPW
Bob Sudlow	Ulster County Executive Office
Tom Weiner	NYS Dept of Transportation
Kristen Resnikoff	NYS Thruway Authority
Lizzy Philip	NYS Thruway Authority

Staff:

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

Citizens:

Alan Glass
Darin Morehouse
Christina Gardiner
Pete Baker

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

Alan Glass of the Ulster and Delaware Railway Revitalization Corp provided comments regarding the Route 28A Bridge on the original U&D Railroad corridor in Boiceville. The group wishes to ensure that any improvements to the corridor are done with consideration for possible future rail operations.

Mr. Doyle responded that TIP amendment before the council today is along Route 28 and is not the same as the bridge along the U&D corridor that the group is raising concerns over . The bridge at 28A in Boiceville is a NYCDEP project that would not be brought before the council. No plans or funding requests have been brought before the Council as federal funds have not been used on that project.

No further comments.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 30, 2016 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle requested a motion for discussion of the minutes from the 8/30/16 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. Slack indicated that no communications or announcements were received by the Council.

Joel Brink announced that the NYSTA opened the Sawkill Rd Bridge over the Thruway in the Town of Ulster. Area residents were appreciative of the quality of work and that work finished a day ahead of schedule. Furthermore, Ulster County DPW performed work to widen the shoulders along Sawkill Rd.

Neil Bettez thanked the County for the new 299 Bridge and viewing platform.

Kristen Wilson thanked council staff for hosting the ADA training.

Mike Warren announced that the Rondout Municipal Center is available for a meeting and training space. The Town of Rosendale and Town of Marbletown will be awarded the Extraordinary Partnership Award from the NYS Secretary of State for the joint repurposing of the Rosendale Elementary School.

No further communications or announcements at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2016-15: Amendment to the UCTC 2017 – 2021 UCTC Transportation Improvement Program. At the request of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Program and Project Management Bureau, an amendment to the UCTC 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program is proposed, described as “ROUTE 28/ESOPUS CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT - FLOOD MITIGATION BIN 1091290 - HAMLET OF MT. TREMPER, TOWN OF SHANDAKEN, ULSTER COUNTY. The project utilizes federal National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) funds in the amount of \$26.320million and a required 20% state match of \$6.580million in NYS Bridge Initiative PIT Bond funds, for a project total of \$32.9million. The project will include full structural replacement of the bridge and include significant lengthening and increase in elevation of the existing span in an effort to

mitigate future impacts from flooding and debris. In accordance with UCTC Operating Procedures, amendments to the TIP require 15 day public notice and comment period.

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

Tom Weiner explained that the bridge as it currently exists is closed during high flooding as it is susceptible to scour. The structure was identified a number of years ago as a resiliency project. The state has provided additional funding for flood mitigation projects and does not count against the regional planning targets.

Mr. Doyle acknowledged that this project was possible since NYSDOT was successful in efforts to change the Functional Classification of route 28 to be included on the National Highway System. This change allowed for the use of NHPP funds at this location.

Andrew Emrich indicated that efforts were being undertaken to remove a closed County owned bridge in Mt Tremper, in line with a long term plan for the area to include a flood plain and further mitigate flood risk to the surrounding area.

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

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. These funds will be made 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. Deadline for applications is December 2, 2016 (revised from Nov. 25).

Kristen Wilson indicated that the City of Kingston intended to apply for paving funds.

Joel Brink expressed concerns over the Seremma Ct and Neighborhood Rd intersection in the Town of Ulster. Due to construction and detours, the intersection has been turned from a 3way stop into a 4 way stop. This treatment has worked well with no known accidents since implementation. Previously the Town of Ulster had requested that a signal be placed at the intersection. Bob Sudlow has indicated that the County has no intentions of removing the stop sign from the intersection. Joel wanted to ensure that funds were still programmed for a study of the intersection.

Ralph Swenson suggested that the Seremma Ct location to be added to the Traffic Monitoring program.

David Gilmour indicated that there may be an application from the Village of New Paltz.

Mr. Doyle provided an overview of eligible facilities and noted that the limitations are a direct result of the type of funding available.

Alan Adin asked if there would be a truncated review. Tom Weiner stated that in other locations in the past where similar projects have been programmed, a truncated review has been sufficient where there were no right of way considerations. A safe TAP review will likely occur.

Keith Lawrence stated that the Town of Gardiner may apply under the bridge component of the call for projects.

Brian Slack asked that members should consider participation in the review committee if they are not submitting applications. Currently the review committee consists of NYSDOT and UCTC.

No further discussion.

2016 NYSDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Solicitation. NYSDOT issued a solicitation for candidate projects with \$98.7 million available for statewide in CMAQ and TAP funds; \$6,409,350 in TAP funds are available in Region 8. Projects are expected to improve mobility, accessibility, and the community's transportation character such that the street network is more vibrant, walkable, and safer for all transportation mode users; pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and drivers. UCTC staff are asked to participate in the application rating and ranking process and will provide an overview of the evaluation process to date.

In order to participate in the application rating, reviewers were required to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement which created some consternation and legal concerns among some participants. Reviewers were required to score applications from outside of their regions.

Tom Weiner stated that there were 190 applications, with a quarter of them coming from Region 8.

No further discussion.

MAP-21 Transportation Performance Management Overview: UCTC staff will provide an overview of the Transportation Performance management provisions of MAP-21 and the FAST Act. Staff will provide a summary of the responsibilities that agencies at several levels – Federal, State, MPO, and transit – have in delivering these new requirements.

Mr. Slack provided a brief presentation regarding performance management and the requirements under MAP-21 and the FAST Act

Some key reporting areas include: fatalities, pavement condition, congestion, reliability, freight, environmental sustainability and reduction in project delays

Mr. Doyle asked if there would be HSIP funds available to help the MPOs reach their goals.

Tom Weiner responded indicating that he anticipates that the HSIP will continue, offering funding for both location specific, and systemic treatments.

The State will set targets and the MPO can choose to adopt the state target or to set their own.

No further discussion.

Ulster County Transportation Council Coordinated Human Service/Public Transit

Transportation Plan update. UCTC has nearly completed the update of its Coordinated Plan. The primary purpose of a Coordinated Plan is to identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes, provide strategies for meeting these needs, and prioritize transportation services for funding and implementation. In addition, the current federal transportation authorization act - Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act - requires UCTC to prepare a Coordinated Plan as a condition of applying for and receiving Federal funds under the Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) program. The Coordinated Plan is therefore intended to act as a blueprint for implementing a range of strategies to improve transportation services in Ulster County. UCTC staff will provide members with an update of project progress.

Mr. Doyle provided a short overview of the project and explained the opportunities available through the project. Once the plan is complete, it will come to the council for adoption and will guide future funding decisions. A public meeting will be held on December 7th, 2016 in the Legislative Chambers of the Ulster County office building at 4:30pm

Stakeholder meetings helped steer the plan and help identify gaps, issues, and opportunities for human service providers for Ulster County.

The study is anticipated to be completed by the end of January of 2017

Jeanne Walsh expressed concerns over the rural transportation services, especially as they relate to the last mile of the trip.

No further discussion.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

- 2017 UPWP Call for Planning Projects
Now open; deadline December 9th. Members are encouraged to apply
- Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area Regional Transit Planning Draft RFP
A draft RFP is available for review. The study will likely be hosted by Orange County
- Ulster County Transit Systems Integration Plan
Project is anticipated to be completed in April
- PILs Study
A RFP is being issued for the project today

No further discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Weiner announced that municipalities should consider working on applications for HSIP and TAP as it is never too early to begin creating materials.

Andrew Emrich announced that Ulster County DPW is working with the Town of Olive on their hydraulic analysis. Despite the work to improve resilience as evidenced by the Route 28 Bridge before the council today, Route 28 still gets shut down due to flooding on the roadway in the Town of Olive. NYSDOT may want to consider getting involved in the project as current funding available would offer buyouts to the Town residents and would not fix the flooding issues experienced by the road. A berm could mitigate the flooding issues on the roadway and allow for the Town and residents to remain in place.

Jeanne Walsh expressed concerns over the NYSDOT updates to the Local Highway Inventory. Some town roads may not be appearing on the inventory.

Tom Weiner said that NYSDOT has been holding meetings and is reaching out to municipalities as part of the effort.

No further discussion.

MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 11:50 am
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