

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL  
Joint Technical and Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting Transcript  
July 21, 2020

Meeting held via freeconferencecall.com at 10:00 am

0:00:10.946,0:00:12.946  
MB: Mark Boungard

0:00:13.920,0:00:15.920  
DS: Hi Mark

0:00:19.752,0:00:23.763  
VB: Hi it's Vernon. Vernon Benjamin

0:00:28.880,0:00:30.811  
LP: Lizy Philip

0:00:30.811,0:00:34.005  
DS: Hi Lizy.

0:00:53.440,0:00:57.380  
MH: Martin Hull with WSP

0:00:57.564,0:01:00.000  
BS: Good morning Marty

0:01:00.400,0:01:02.030  
MH: Good morning

0:01:23.600,0:01:25.840  
HL: Good morning Herb Litts

0:01:27.486,0:01:29.132  
DD: Good morning Herb

0:01:32.560,0:01:36.305  
VB: How do I get this.. let's see oh yeah

0:02:03.229,0:02:05.597  
NB: Neil Bettez, Town of New Paltz

0:02:06.960,0:02:09.194  
BS: Good morning supervisor

0:02:09.194,0:02:11.110  
VB: Good morning

0:03:01.440,0:03:09.041  
BS: Can I ask who the wireless caller  
with the numbers \*\*\*-\*\*\*-1486 is?

0:03:09.225,0:03:10.981

NB: That's me Neil

0:03:11.817,0:03:14.738

BS: Oh hey Neil. Great, thank you

0:03:27.004,0:03:30.000

BS: Just waiting for a few more folks to join

0:03:54.364,0:03:56.364

AA: Alan Aiden City of Kingston

0:03:57.142,0:03:59.120

BS: Welcome Alan

0:03:59.120,0:04:05.199

AA: Hello? Hello can you hear me?

0:04:05.199,0:04:08.644

BS: Yeah I can hear you. We got you Alan

0:04:08.798,0:04:10.379

AA: Okay

0:04:14.400,0:04:18.080

BS: Do we have anyone from the Town of Ulster?

0:04:21.280,0:04:25.327

BS: How about the Town of Rosendale?

0:04:28.459,0:04:30.459

BS: Village of Saugerties?

0:04:35.280,0:04:40.378

BS: Ulster County?

0:04:41.359,0:04:45.047

BS: Town of Rochester

0:04:45.047,0:04:47.159

MB: Mike Baden here.

0:04:47.159,0:04:49.760

BS: Oh great. Thank you Michael.

0:04:50.960,0:04:56.560

Dennis we're good to go.

0:04:56.560,0:05:01.584

DD: Okay thank you very much uh our apologies thank you very.

0:05:01.584,0:05:06.982

MB: You have a really bad echo on your end Brian.

0:05:06.982,0:05:12.657

BS: Yeah I don't know how. We're all in separate rooms this morning. I think we might just have to deal with it.

0:05:15.600,0:05:16.560

JM: Morning, John Morrow, Town of Ulster

0:05:19.600,0:05:23.840

BS: Morning councilman

DD: Morning John

0:05:26.240,0:05:31.120

DD: So thank you all for joining us this morning we apologize for a

0:05:31.120,0:05:36.480

rather abrupt call for this meeting. It has to do with some FTA requirements. I'm going to

0:05:36.480,0:05:42.560

forgo announcements and introductions for the Technical Committee and hold them until we

0:05:42.560,0:05:48.160

take attendance for the upcoming Policy Committee which is meeting immediately following

0:05:48.960,0:05:52.320

so with that I'm going to make a call for

0:05:52.320,0:05:55.360

citizens comments. Are there any citizens comments?

0:05:59.360,0:06:05.920

Hearing none, we'll move on to the approval of the June 16 2020 Technical Committee meeting summary.

0:06:05.920,0:06:11.040

Our apologies but because of the the nature of the time that we called this meeting, we do not

0:06:11.040,0:06:16.240

have the meeting summary completed yet we do have a youtube version which is out there. I don't want

0:06:16.240,0:06:20.880

to approve the youtube version but if anybody's interested in that meeting, it is out online

0:06:21.440,0:06:26.640

uh in terms of the last Technical committee so  
I'll skip the approval of the of the Technical

0:06:26.640,0:06:28.617  
Committee meeting summary.

0:06:28.617,0:06:34.398  
Communications and announcements. Brian, do you have any communications or  
announcements?

0:06:34.398,0:06:40.374  
BS: The big issue that I would like to make everyone aware of is that we have in in haste

0:06:40.374,0:06:47.122  
commenced the Long-Range Transportation  
Plan public outreach process. We're really pleased to have this underway.

0:06:47.122,0:06:53.769  
Some of you should have... you should have all received an email notification regarding the  
availability of our public survey,

0:06:53.769,0:06:57.598  
so that is now available. We would really appreciate it if our

0:06:57.598,0:07:00.880  
Technical Committee and Policy Committee members could forward that to

0:07:00.880,0:07:09.166  
their respective constituents. It is intended for  
all members of the traveling public. We're

0:07:09.312,0:07:16.640  
aiming for distribution of the draft Long-Range plan in early August to the Technical Committee  
and we're

0:07:16.640,0:07:23.920  
going to push very strongly for September  
approval. So that Long-Range Plan process

0:07:23.920,0:07:29.840  
is very much underway and we look forward to  
presenting the draft plan at our next meeting.

0:07:32.000,0:07:36.560  
DD: Does anyone need us to send or resend  
the links to that survey?

0:07:40.960,0:07:45.052  
Okay. Any other communications and  
announcements Brian?

0:07:45.052,0:07:46.320

BS: No not at this time.

0:07:48.080,0:07:56.000

DD: Alright. New business, item A on the agenda is the draft UCTC resolution 2020-10.

0:07:56.000,0:08:00.560

It's to authorize the transfer of administrative and management responsibilities for Ulster County

0:08:00.560,0:08:07.200

community bus carriers supplemental federal fiscal year 2020 federal transit funding from the

0:08:07.200,0:08:12.800

Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security otherwise known as the CARES act to the Capital

0:08:12.800,0:08:18.640

District Transportation Authority, CDTA in Albany New York. Can I have a motion for discussion purposes?

0:08:19.222,0:08:21.222

TW: Tom Wilkin

FC: So moved

HL: So moved

0:08:22.480,0:08:25.356

JM: Second, Morrow

0:08:25.356,0:08:28.800

DD: So we had.. Who was the.. Who moved? Was that Mr. Wilkin?

0:08:28.801,0:08:30.240

TW: Yes

HL: Herb Litts

0:08:30.240,0:08:37.760

DD: Herb Litts. Okay Mr. Litts moved. Seconded by Mr. Morrow. Brian, discussion.

0:08:39.120,0:08:46.560

BS: Yeah, sure. Capital cost of contracting is typically, it can seem like a complicated

0:08:46.560,0:08:53.600

subject but I'm going to try to simplify it in the best terms that I can. Whenever the public

0:08:53.600,0:09:00.800

wishes to turn to a private entity in order to

provide uh transit service utilizing public funds

0:09:01.760,0:09:04.558  
uh the capital...

0:09:04.558,0:09:08.267  
FC: Fred Costello, Town of Saugerties.

0:09:08.267,0:09:11.280  
BS: Thank you Fred. The capital received in the course of that

0:09:11.840,0:09:18.640  
contract can be used toward the  
depreciation of vehicles and also for the

0:09:20.640,0:09:27.040  
maintenance and operating costs. That process  
is referred to as capital cost of contracting

0:09:28.000,0:09:34.240  
David has a link to the FTA website that provides  
several paragraphs of explanation as to why

0:09:34.240,0:09:42.320  
the FTA utilizes a capital cost of contracting  
process but it's essentially in order to refund

0:09:42.320,0:09:50.000  
the capital cost of utilizing those  
vehicles, those private vehicles. In this instance

0:09:50.000,0:09:55.520  
uh the CARES act has made available \$12  
million in funds available to

0:09:55.520,0:10:02.880  
private carriers operating within the Ulster  
County area. Those funds were approved under,

0:10:04.960,0:10:13.120  
excuse me, UCTC Resolution 2020-07  
during our June meeting. At this time we

0:10:13.120,0:10:19.280  
need to approve a capital cost of  
contracting agreement. The New York State DOT

0:10:19.920,0:10:26.960  
prefers that the capital cost of contracting is  
operated out of one MPO and they prefer that to be

0:10:26.960,0:10:34.880

Capital District Transit Authority operating out of Albany. Therefore resolution 2020-10

0:10:34.880,0:10:42.480  
transfers our UCTC authority to do capital cost of contracting to CDTA.

0:10:43.600,0:10:49.600  
At this point in time to my knowledge, and Dennis you can update as needed, I don't believe

0:10:49.600,0:10:56.240  
a contractor has been selected by New York State DOT to run these routes but, in the event

0:10:57.120,0:11:02.480  
that the DOT does select a private operator, these funds will be made available to them.

0:11:04.880,0:11:10.880  
DD: So um, just a just a quick correction on that, um these funds are are CARES act money

0:11:11.840,0:11:14.960  
and they have been directed to Adirondack Trailways.

0:11:16.080,0:11:21.040  
There are other 5307 monies that are available that are going to require an RFP process.

0:11:21.680,0:11:26.800  
The Council should be aware that this is something that we have commonly done

0:11:26.800,0:11:34.080  
for the last, I would say, seven to ten years where we have... whether it be 5307 money

0:11:34.080,0:11:38.960  
or other money is associated with the commuter carrier service in Ulster County that's privatized

0:11:39.520,0:11:46.640  
we have um at the request of NYSDOT and with the assistance of CDTA transferred that authority to

0:11:46.640,0:11:52.960  
for the management responsibilities to CDTA. It does take quite a bit of effort off of

0:11:53.520,0:11:58.880  
our own management requirements which would have to run through the designated recipient

0:11:58.880,0:12:04.160  
which in Ulster County which would be UCAT so  
it takes that responsibility off of them as well.

0:12:04.160,0:12:09.360  
So it's worked well for us in the  
past we believe we've had several

0:12:09.360,0:12:15.200  
discussions with NYSDOT and with CDTA about  
transferring these funds. They are an agreement

0:12:15.200,0:12:23.600  
to transfer the funds. They will be directed to  
Adirondack Trailways and this money is

0:12:23.600,0:12:29.680  
100% federal money there's no required match  
and it would be used... more than likely used for

0:12:30.240,0:12:35.840  
operating assistance to help Trailways  
get through the downturn with respect to what

0:12:35.840,0:12:40.480  
they what they went through in terms of the  
disruption of service during the pandemic.

0:12:42.800,0:12:45.173  
Any questions?

0:12:45.173,0:12:52.153  
VB: Vernon. Why is it transferred  
to the Capital District TA?

0:12:52.153,0:13:02.435  
DD: It's literally an efficiency move Vernon. What ends up happening is is that the the money is..  
the the service is still provided within Ulster County

0:13:02.435,0:13:12.480  
but the efficiency is is that the management of the grants process in the capital district, it takes  
some management

0:13:12.480,0:13:20.160  
responsibilities away from our UCAT folks, A. and  
B. is NYSDOT prefers it that way where they

0:13:20.160,0:13:25.680  
only have to deal with one granting agency in  
terms of reporting and auditing quite frankly.

0:13:28.240,0:13:29.520

VB: Thank you.

0:13:31.840,0:13:33.840

DD: Any other questions?

0:13:36.960,0:13:43.120

Hearing none, all in favor? Let me rephrase that. Are there any opposed?

0:13:47.200,0:13:48.080

Any abstentions?

0:13:50.320,0:13:50.880

So carried.

0:13:57.520,0:14:03.040

DD: The next order of business is other old business and it's the UCTC 2045

0:14:03.040,0:14:06.787

metropolitan transportation plan update.  
Brian?

0:14:06.787,0:14:15.840

BS: Right I mentioned that the survey had, the public process has commenced for the Long Range Plan. We are contracted with

0:14:15.840,0:14:23.173

Susan Blickstein out of New Paltz to assist us with the public outreach process.

0:14:23.173,0:14:30.889

Beginning last week and into this week we conducted focused stakeholder group focus meetings

0:14:30.889,0:14:37.889

to get a sense of and try to validate our goals objectives and vision statements for the long-range plan

0:14:37.889,0:14:44.640

Those.. some of you were able to participate in those with us and they were very productive. We appreciated your time

0:14:45.520,0:14:52.400

uh and then many of the questions that we asked our stakeholders to respond to are also included

0:14:52.400,0:14:59.280

in the public survey. So if you could please, again, if you haven't filled out the survey yourself

0:14:59.280,0:15:05.920

please do so and forward it to your constituents.  
We would appreciate that. The process going forward,

0:15:05.920,0:15:12.480

this is a very condensed schedule for the Long-Range plan. We were originally anticipating some level of

0:15:12.480,0:15:20.560

flexibility from our partners at FTA and FHWA in terms of our deadline considering the Corona

0:15:21.200,0:15:26.640

virus situation that we've been dealing with. Unfortunately they're not able to provide us

0:15:26.640,0:15:32.080

with that flexibility with in the absence of any strict regulation passed by congress

0:15:32.080,0:15:36.880

so we're going to have to move forward with the original September 30th deadline

0:15:37.760,0:15:43.920

and we're readily prepared to do that David and I have been working very diligently on getting a

0:15:43.920,0:15:51.200

draft ready for review by the Technical Committee. We expect that to be ready for you

0:15:52.640,0:15:57.440

within the 10-day period prior to the August meeting which is the fourth Thursday in August.

0:15:58.240,0:16:02.560

So, and we hope to get it to you sooner and if we can we will certainly do that.

0:16:02.560,0:16:09.600

So, the process then moving forward is to um have Technical Committee provide review and approval,

0:16:10.400,0:16:16.800

we will then have one or two public meetings. They will very likely be virtual public meetings but

0:16:16.800,0:16:22.000

we may have an opportunity to have in-person attendance if we feel it's safe and prudent to

0:16:22.000,0:16:28.640

do so. That will be in late August and early September and then we will move for final approval by the

0:16:28.640,0:16:36.000

UCTC Policy Committee at the September meeting. So that will be the process going forward. It is again

0:16:36.000,0:16:42.240

a very condensed approval schedule but it's unfortunately the situation that

0:16:42.240,0:16:48.320

we're dealing with. Fortunately it's it's still a minor update. The plan itself does not go through

0:16:48.320,0:16:57.200

fundamental changes. And I guess I'll say finally we do have the assistance of a graphic designer

0:16:57.200,0:17:05.280

to help us reformat the report and because of our condensed approval, we've opted to

0:17:06.240,0:17:14.160

put before our Technical and Policy Committees a content only document. So there will be graphics

0:17:14.160,0:17:21.200

in the document but the final document will then be reformatted by our graphic designers

0:17:21.840,0:17:27.200

um and we don't feel that there's a need to go through a formal approval process just to change

0:17:27.200,0:17:34.480

the format of the document because the overall content will remain the same. So we expect that

0:17:37.040,0:17:42.400

graphic design revision to be done by Thanksgiving. So we'll have a... and that

0:17:42.400,0:17:49.280

will be a fully ADA compatible document that will be in rich text format so that

0:17:49.280,0:17:54.320

people with visual or hearing disabilities will be able to access the document as well.

0:17:56.960,0:18:02.240

That's it for the Long-Range Plan. I did have one

other update I wanted to provide members

0:18:02.240,0:18:11.840

with. I have sent direct emails to municipalities that have federal aid projects with construction

0:18:12.400,0:18:18.880

dated for federal fiscal year 2020. I've asked for an update regarding the schedule and status

0:18:18.880,0:18:25.440

of those projects and I've heard back from nearly everyone who's in attendance at these

0:18:25.440,0:18:30.080

meetings, at this meeting right now, so I just would like to draw your attention that we are still

0:18:30.640,0:18:36.640

monitoring very closely TIP performance. If you feel that your project cannot go through construction

0:18:36.640,0:18:44.080

in federal fiscal year 20 we need to make those changes and we need to make them now. So I

0:18:44.080,0:18:50.160

appreciate a quick response from everyone who has responded and will continue to do that with you.

0:18:51.920,0:18:55.840

That's it for the Technical Committee.

0:18:57.440,0:19:00.000

DD: Does any of the Council Members have anything that they want to bring up?

0:19:04.960,0:19:07.806

Hearing none, a motion to adjourn?

0:19:07.806,0:19:10.660

HL: So moved Herb Litts

0:19:10.660,0:19:13.571

DD: Thank you. Do I have a second?

0:19:13.754,0:19:15.907

JM: Morrow, Second.

0:19:16.320,0:19:21.040

DD: Thank you Mr. Morrow. We stand adjourned. Everybody stay on we're going to call the

0:19:21.040,0:19:23.840

Policy Committee meeting to order.

0:19:30.240,0:19:34.160

DD: So again everyone welcome to the Ulster County Transportation Policy Committee meeting for

0:19:34.160,0:19:40.400

July 24th, 2020. So a call to order.

Call to order. We'll do a roll call, Brian?

0:19:41.840,0:19:48.551

BS: I will name the municipality and voting member present, would please state your name.

0:19:48.551,0:19:49.697

BS: Ulster County?

0:19:51.416,0:19:53.416

BS: City of Kingston?

0:19:53.547,0:19:55.240

AA: Alan Adin.

0:19:55.240,0:19:57.240

BS: Town of Saugerties?

0:19:58.996,0:20:00.996

FC: Fred Costello

0:20:01.384,0:20:03.384

BS: Town of Ulster?

0:20:03.515,0:20:05.440

JM: John Morrow

0:20:05.440,0:20:08.949

New York State Department of Transportation?

0:20:08.949,0:20:11.140

AM: Amy Mackenzie

0:20:11.140,0:20:12.640

BS: New York State Thruway Authority?

0:20:13.440,0:20:15.565

LP: Lizy Philip

0:20:15.565,0:20:17.638

BS: Village of Saugerties?

0:20:17.638,0:20:19.840

AW: Alex Wade

0:20:19.840,0:20:21.401  
BS: Town of Rosendale?

0:20:23.920,0:20:25.838  
BS: Town of Lloyd?

0:20:25.838,0:20:27.755  
HL: Herb Litts

0:20:27.755,0:20:29.636  
BS: Town of Plattekill?

0:20:29.636,0:20:31.740  
TW: Tom Wilkin

0:20:31.740,0:20:33.840  
BS: Village of Ellenville?

0:20:35.404,0:20:37.404  
BS: Town of New Paltz?

0:20:38.542,0:20:40.542  
NB: Neil Bettez

0:20:40.543,0:20:42.543  
BS: Town of Woodstock?

0:20:44.320,0:20:45.360  
BS: Town of Rochester?

0:20:47.068,0:20:49.068  
MB: Mike Baden

0:20:49.600,0:20:52.080  
BS: We have 10 voting members present, that's a quorum.

0:20:58.400,0:21:03.280  
DD: Thank you Brian. Call for citizens  
comments. Do we have any citizens comments?

0:21:07.760,0:21:12.240  
Hearing none, Brian we we do not have the Policy  
Committee meeting summary is that correct?

0:21:12.960,0:21:16.062  
BS: That's correct.

0:21:16.062,0:21:20.098  
DD: So I'll skip this step again.  
We have a youtube video out for the Policy Committee.

0:21:20.098,0:21:26.566

The Policy Committee meeting summary will take up at the next Policy Committee meeting.

0:21:26.566,0:21:28.320

Communications and announcements. Brian?

0:21:29.440,0:21:32.720

BS: No, no new communications  
or announcements at this time.

0:21:34.400,0:21:41.600

DD: Okay. New business. Item A: Draft UCTC resolution 2020-10 authorizing the transfer of  
administrative

0:21:41.600,0:21:46.000

and management responsibilities to the Ulster  
County commuter bus carrier supplemental for the

0:21:46.000,0:21:52.720

fiscal year 2020 federal transit funding for the  
Coronavirus Aid Relief

0:21:52.720,0:21:57.680

and Economic Security act CARES for  
the Capital District Transportation

0:21:57.680,0:22:02.080

Authority, CDTA, in Albany New York. Can I  
have a motion for discussion purposes?

0:22:04.480,0:22:06.745

TW: Tom Wilkin  
HL: Herb Litts

0:22:08.640,0:22:11.199

DD: Thank you. Do I have a second:  
JM: Second, Morrow.

0:22:11.199,0:22:12.731

DD: Thank you Mr. Morrow.

0:22:14.560,0:22:17.648

Brian you want to explain this  
very briefly for the record?

0:22:19.280,0:22:25.840

BS: Yes, as I mentioned capital cost of contracting  
is the process used to provide federal transit

0:22:26.560,0:22:31.520

resources to private carriers when we would

like to contract with a private carrier to

0:22:31.520,0:22:38.640  
provide that public service. The process in this instance the New York State DOT prefers that

0:22:38.640,0:22:45.440  
one regional entity administer the process of capital cost of contracting.

0:22:45.440,0:22:51.120  
In this instance it's Capital District Transit Authority and by doing so they're relieving Ulster

0:22:51.120,0:22:56.320  
County of the administrative burden and centralizing a lot of that bureaucratic

0:22:57.520,0:23:06.960  
work in one regional entity. The amount of dollars available was made through UCTC

0:23:06.960,0:23:16.880  
resolution 2020-07 in the original appropriation. The amount of dollars made available to

0:23:18.320,0:23:23.280  
private carriers is \$12,247,041

0:23:27.440,0:23:29.680  
DD: Any council comments? Any questions?

0:23:33.200,0:23:35.840  
Hearing none, any opposed?

0:23:40.080,0:23:43.067  
Any abstentions?

0:23:43.067,0:23:45.760  
So carried.

0:23:45.760,0:23:48.387  
DD: Other/old business. Anything Brian?

0:23:49.102,0:23:52.512  
BS: Nothing else at this time.

0:23:54.001,0:23:56.859  
DD: Anything from the Council members?

0:23:57.042,0:23:58.061  
DD: Brian?

0:23:59.200,0:24:05.080

DD: Anything from the Council members?

0:24:05.080,0:24:07.040

DD: Okay, my thanks to all of you for the meeting..

0:24:09.040,0:24:14.320

DD: My thanks to all of you for today. Don't forget to fill out the survey and don't forget to if

0:24:14.320,0:24:20.960

you have a capital project don't forget to list its status. Get the MPO it's status

0:24:20.960,0:24:24.560

so that we know of whether or not we need a TIP amendment relative to that. Everybody

0:24:24.560,0:24:29.641

enjoy the rest of your summer, stay safe, stay healthy. Thank you.

0:24:29.641,0:24:31.840

Various: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you

**Meeting concluded at ~10:25am**