

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Policy Committee Meeting**

Meeting Summary

July 31, 2007

Ulster County Community College
Cottekill Road, Stone Ridge, NY

Members

Present:	Elliot Auerbach*	Village of Ellenville
	Michael Berardi	UC Legislature
	David Donaldson ⁺	Legislature Chair
	Joan Dupont ⁺	NYSDOT Region 8
	Nancy Hammond**	Town of Lloyd
	Jack Hohman**	New York State Thruway Authority
	Bruce Loertscher*	Town of Plattekill
	Rich Peters**	NYSDOT Region 8
	Hector Rodriguez**	UC Legislature
	Robert Shepard*	Town of Lloyd

Staff

Present:	Sweta Basnet	UCTC
	Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Board
	Bill Tobin	UCTC

Others

Present:	Joel Brink	Town of Ulster
	Barbara Budik	Town of Saugerties
	Mike Campbell	Village of Saugerties
	Chris Cate	GMB Engineers & Planners
	Mircea Catona	UC Public Works Department
	James Dolaway	Town of Wawarsing
	Pam Duke	Town of Rochester
	Terry Dungan	Village of New Paltz
	Shelly Johnston	Creighton Manning Engineering
	Cindy Lanzetta	Town of Marlborough
	Mike Madsen	Kingston Councilman
	Kathy Nolan	Town of Shandaken Citizen
	Myles Putman	Putman Consulting
	Joe Rich	Federal Highway Administration
	Toni Roser	Kingston Citibus
	Cynthia Ruiz	UC Area Transit
	Keith Savory	NYSDOT Region 8
	Charles Schaller	UC Traffic Safety Board
	Phil Serafino	New York State Thruway Authority
	Geddy Sveikauskas	Ulster Publishing
	John Valk, Jr.	Town of Shawangunk

*Permanent Voting Member

*Current Voting Member (Until June 4, 2009)

**Voting Proxy

^Non-Voting Advisory Member

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 10.00 am.

Mr. Donaldson welcomed Ms. Dupont, Regional Director, NYSDOT Region 8. Ms. Dupont added that she looked forward to working with Ulster County.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Nolan thanked the council for sending her the TIP information. Ms. Nolan requested for information on mechanisms to inform the public about the TIP projects.

APPROVAL OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE JUNE 5, 2007 MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the meeting summary from June 5, 2007.

Motion to approve by Mr. Donaldson, seconded by Mr. Auerbach.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATES

City of Kingston Intermodal Facility Site Location Analysis and Conceptual Design Analysis. Mr. Doyle stated that the study is about three quarters of the way through. Mr. Doyle mentioned that the group has identified 12 sites which will be narrowed down to 3. Mr. Doyle added that the focus is on the existing sites at the request of City of Kingston. Mr. Doyle added that there should be a meeting with the property owners shortly.

Ulster County Integrated Advance Train Detection and Arrival Prediction Implementation Plan. Mr. Tobin stated that the consultant, SYSTRA Engineering has completed a draft technical memorandum for the study. Mr. Tobin added that he will be circulating it via electronically to the TOPS Committee members and all the municipalities in the CSX Corridor.

Ulster County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. Mr. Doyle stated the study is half way through. Mr. Doyle mentioned that the group has identified about 100 projects which will be narrowed down to 15. Mr. Doyle added that this is gaps analysis as well as Safe Route to School Study. Mr. Tobin added that public meetings have been scheduled for October 9 at the City of Kingston, October 16 at the Village of Ellenville and October 18 at the Village of New Paltz.

Marlboro Hamlet Area Transportation Plan. Mr. Doyle stated that the council has given a draft contract to the consultant Creighton Manning Engineering. Mr. Doyle added that he anticipates starting in early September. Mr. Doyle mentioned that the Town of Newburgh, south of Marlborough, has proposed a local law that will weight restrict every local street that runs out of Ulster County into the Town of Newburgh. Mr. Doyle added that this is going to impact some of the truck movements associated with businesses in Ulster County. Mr. Doyle mentioned that the council has had discussions with NYSDOT, the County Attorney and the Department of State about the laws that applies to weight restriction. Mr. Donaldson asked the council to communicate with the Town of Newburgh. Mr. Doyle added that he is going to bring up the issue with the County Planning Board on August 1. Ms. Lanzetta mentioned that there will be another public hearing about the issue on August 1 in the Town of Newburgh. Ms. Lanzetta added that the Town of Marlborough has requested that the Town of Marlborough and the Town of Newburgh come together with OCTC and UCTC representatives to discuss the issue.

City of Kingston Uptown Stockade Area Transportation Plan. Mr. Tobin stated that the contract has been awarded to the RBA Group. Mr. Tobin added that he anticipates the

process to begin in one month. Mr. Tobin added that the project will focus on traffic circulation, parking, and transit operations in the Uptown Area.

Route 209 Corridor Sustainable Transportation Land Use Plan. Mr. Doyle stated that the council is currently in the process of detailed contract negotiations with the consultant. Mr. Doyle added that he anticipates the contract to be in place by the end of the month.

Fourth Quarter Financial Report. Mr. Tobin mentioned that the UCTC is up to date.

Wall Street Journal Article. Mr. Tobin stated that the article talks about the future of financing of Transportation Improvements. Mr. Tobin added that the article also talks about the flood of freight and traffic in future.

Future UCTC Meeting Schedule. Mr. Doyle stated that the next Policy Committee is scheduled for September 12 to adopt the TIP.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Resolution 2007-11 Authorizing the Transfer of Administrative and Management Responsibilities for Adirondack Trailways' Share of FFY 2007 FTA Section 5307 TMA Funds to CDTA in Albany. Mr. Doyle mentioned that this is a continuing resolution that was done last year at the request of the State for administrative efficiencies. Mr. Doyle stated that this resolution moved the administrative responsibility for 5307 funds from Ulster County as a designated recipient to CDTA in Albany. Mr. Doyle added that this has worked well.

Mr. Doyle asked for approval for the Draft Resolution 2007-11.

Motion to approve by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Brink.

Draft Resolution 2007-12 Authorizing the Allocation of FFY 2007 FTA Section 5307 TMA Funds to the MTA, Dutchess, Orange and Ulster Counties. Mr. Tobin handed out amendment to the Draft Resolution 2007-12. Mr. Doyle stated that UCTC footnotes don't agree with the footnotes of the other councils. Mr. Doyle added that the Resolution on Draft Resolution 2007-12 amends the footnotes for the allocation and doesn't amend the allocation numbers.

Mr. Doyle asked for approval for the Draft Resolution 2007-12.

Motion to approve by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Auerbach.

Mr. Doyle asked for approval for the Resolution on Draft Resolution 2007-12.

Motion to approve by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Auerbach.

Resolution 2007-14 Adopting the 5-Year Transportation Improvement Program Including a FFY 2008-2010 Triennial Element. Mr. Doyle stated that the Resolution 2007-14 is amendment to the existing TIP to add the transit vehicles and AVL software using the 5307 funds which will be proposed by the Ulster County Area Transit.

Mr. Doyle asked for approval for the Draft Resolution 2007-14.

Motion to approve by Mr. Auerbach, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez.

Resolution 2007-15 Amending the FFY 2006-2010 Transportation Improvement Program to add SAFETY-LU High Priority Project. Mr. Doyle stated that the Resolution 2007-15 is amendment to the existing TIP to include High Priority Projects from the Transportation Bill. Mr. Doyle added that the sponsor of these projects wanted them to be included in the existing TIP. Mr. Tobin mentioned that the projects to be included in the existing TIP are construction of visitor's center, parking facility and access road for Sam's Point Preserve

in the Village of Ellenville for \$400,000 and pedestrian improvements in the Village of Saugerties for \$960,000.

Mr. Doyle asked for approval for the Draft Resolution 2007-15.

Motion to approve by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Brink.

Draft FFY 2008-2012 TIP Presentation. Mr. Tobin provided an overview of the Draft TIP 2008-2012. Mr. Tobin stated that this TIP is same as the one presented to the TIP subcommittee in May with some additional projects. Mr. Tobin added that the draft TIP provides the project list, fiscal constraint analysis and description of how changes are made to the TIP. Mr. Tobin added that some of the TIP projects will be moved around because of the local projects cap that comes under schedule change. Mr. Tobin stated that if the changes are within 3 years it can be approved by staff but if the changes are in the 4th and 5th year then it has to be approved by the Technical Committee. Mr. Berardi mentioned that he wanted to bring to the Chair's attention four projects listed in the Draft TIP to reconsider their priority in light of the recent developments. Mr. Berardi stated that these four projects are the Boices Lane project and the Enterprise Drive projects in the Town of Ulster (Pg. 14 of 29), the Cottekill Intersection project (Pg. 18 of 29) and the Seremma Court Signal Project (Pg.17 of 29). Mr. Berardi stated that the Ulster County Public Works Department will move these projects to completion promptly. Mr. Peters mentioned that NYSDOT is limited in terms of federal dollars spent on the local projects in any one year by the State Finance Plan. Mr. Peters added that \$40-47M can be spent on Local projects over a year in 7 counties in Region 8. Mr. Peters mentioned that NYSDOT can obligate the preliminary design and engineering funds to start work on the project even if the project is due to start much later. Mr. Rodriguez mentioned that tri-county area of Dutchess, Orange and Ulster has high growth rate and there is no resolution to their increasing needs. Mr. Peters stated that other counties in the region have similar concern and that NYSDOT is being fair in the process. Mr. Donaldson added that the county needs to get the engineering done to move forward on the project. Mr. Doyle mentioned that it is hard to ask the county to advance a project when the money is not available till 2011-2012. Mr. Doyle asked if there is a need as a region to think about the State Financing Plan. Mr. Peters stated that the State Financing Plan is structured to deal with the MTA and NYSDOT as a whole and that the local projects are a small part of it. Mr. Peters added there has been a concern about this and NYSDOT has been educating the administration and legislature about the issue. Mr. Peters added that NYSDOT has been successful in getting the funds increased last year. Ms. Dupont mentioned that there is a need to educate the legislatures because they are the ones who are part of the negotiation process. Ms. Dupont mentioned that the allocation of the local funds is based on progress of the projects in the last five years and the cap on the projects is because the local governments have not had an exemplary record in delivering these projects. Ms. Dupont added that the progress of the local projects is getting better and the local fund is increasing. Mr. Doyle mentioned that he received a letter from the City of Kingston about the issue. Mr. Doyle asked how the MPOs could best address the cap issue on the local projects. Mr. Peters mentioned that it is a function of the State Finance Plan that is established as a part of legislative process between the Governor and the Legislature. Mr. Doyle asked if NYSDOT has the capacity to process local projects with respect to local cap increase. Ms. Dupont mentioned that NYSDOT has been given the permission to hire more people. Mr. Rich stated that other MPOs in NYS are facing similar issue of local projects being pushed back. Mr. Rich added that it is a legislative issue and NYSDOT is trying to educate the legislature. Ms. Budik asked about the Collector Road project along Kings Highway. Mr. Tobin mentioned that the Collector Road project is missing on version of the TIP that was mailed out but is listed on the later version. Mr.

Peters stated that the Collector Road project showed up twice and NYSDOT will fix it to the higher dollar amount in the final TIP. Mr. Auerbach mentioned that he would like to bring to attention the Clinton Avenue/North Gully Bridge Rehab Project (Pg. 13 of 29) that has been pushed back to 2012. Mr. Auerbach added that this bridge is one of the most critical access bridges off State Route 52 that services an industrial area. Mr. Campbell asked if endorsing the TIP at the end of the meeting means approving the TIP process. Mr. Doyle mentioned that it will be endorsing the projects in the TIP and not the process. Mr. Peters mentioned that the reason for endorsing the TIP is to enable the TIPs from the 13 MPOs to be rolled into STIP. Mr. Peters added that the general idea is to get all the TIPs approved by the end of August so that the Federal Agencies can review and approve them by October 1st. Mr. Peters added that since the process is running late this year NYSDOT is asking the counties to endorse the TIP to be able to start the STIP process.

Mr. Doyle asked for approval for endorsing the Draft FFY 2008-2012 TIP.

Motion to approve by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Lanzetta.

Mr. Campbell raised concern about the Village of Saugerties receiving funds 7.7% less than what they had anticipated receiving. Mr. Peters mentioned that the difference of 7.7% comes from the comparison between the forecast in the Long Range Transportation Plan and the actual money available. Ms. Hammond asked about the process of funding for different regions in NYS. Mr. Peters stated that the FHWA funds come to the state as whole. Mr. Peters stated that NYSDOT then allocates these funds amongst 11 regions in the state depending on statistics such as populations, vehicle registration, lane miles of highway, number of bridges. Ms. Dupont stated that the process is number driven. Ms. Dupont added that they are based more on hard numbers rather than forecasting which is considered as soft numbers. Ms. Dupont stated that delivering on the local projects can put the pressure to move the money into the project. Mr. Dolaway mentioned that the preliminary engineering fund for the Kerhonkson Sidewalk project not available until 2009. Mr. Dolaway added that there is a regular change of staff in the local government and his is concerned that the new person coming in his position might not be aware of the funds available. Ms. Duke mentioned that educating the supervisors about TIP projects might help the process. Mr. Doyle mentioned that the council had examined the TIP and mailed out letters to different municipalities about their projects to give a sense on where they stand in regards to the TIP. Mr. Doyle added that the council staffs have been assigned to go through all the planning reports and pull out the projects to prioritize them for the next TIP process. Mr. Doyle added that the council is trying to tie the planning work to the implementation work. Mr. Valk mentioned that the municipalities might be reluctant to put in another application for projects realizing that it might take very long. Mr. Campbell proposed having a sub committee to look at the TIP process.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

There was no other/old business.

CALL FOR CITIZENS COMMENT

Ms. Nolan mentioned that she would like to have more public involvement in the TIP process. Ms. Nolan added that she would like have resources in the planning office made available to the public. Mr. Doyle mentioned that there will be public hearing which will be put on the website and mailings will be sent out. Mr. Doyle added that there is a process set up for the MPO to interact with the public.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 am.

Resolution 2007-13 Endorsing the Ulster County Transportation Council Federal Fiscal Year 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Doyle stated that Resolution 2007-13 allows the council to endorse the TIP so that it can be moved to public comment. Mr. Doyle added that this will help the State to move the STIP to public comment as well.