

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL  
Policy Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Summary**

September 27, 2007

Ulster County Community College  
Cottekill Road, Stone Ridge, NY

**Members**

<b>Present:</b>	Elliot Auerbach*	Village of Ellenville
	Joan Dupont <sup>+</sup>	NYS DOT Region 8
	Nancy Hammond**	Town of Lloyd
	Jack Hohman**	New York State Thruway Authority
	Toni Hokanson*	Town of New Paltz
	Bruce Loertscher*	Town of Plattekill
	Rich Peters**	NYS DOT Region 8
	Hector Rodriguez**	UC Legislature

**Staff**

<b>Present:</b>	Sweta Basnet	UCTC
	Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Board
	Jean Gunsch	UCTC
	Bill Tobin	UCTC

**Others**

<b>Present:</b>	Mark Boungard	NY Trailways
	Barbara Budik	Town of Saugerties
	Mike Campbell	Village of Saugerties
	Linda Cook	Town of Hurley
	James Dolaway	Town of Wawarsing
	Pam Duke	Town of Rochester
	Cindy Lanzetta	Town of Marlborough
	Nadine Lemmon	Town of Gardiner
	Peter Liepmann	UC Legislature
	David Markowitz	NYS DOT Region 8
	Vin Martello	Town of Marbletown
	Kathy Nolan	Town of Shandaken Citizen
	Harry Jameson	Catskill Mountain RR
	Earl Pardini	Catskill Mountain RR
	Mimi Pardini	Catskill Mountain RR
	Joe Rich	Federal Highway Administration
	Toni Roser	Kingston Citibus
	Cynthia Ruiz	UC Area Transit
	Phil Serafino	New York State Thruway Authority
	John Valk, Jr.	Town of Shawangunk

<sup>+</sup>Permanent Voting Member

<sup>\*</sup>Current Voting Member (Until June 4, 2009)

<sup>\*\*</sup>Voting Proxy

<sup>^</sup>Non-Voting Advisory Member

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 10.00 am.  
Mr. Doyle announced that the quorum has been achieved.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Valk mentioned that as a chairman of the supervisors in Ulster County there have been concerns about the process how TIP is derived. Mr. Valk added raised concern about the time that the supervisors spent on evaluation the TIP applications. Mr. Valk presented a letter to Mr. Peters on behalf of the supervisors.

Copy of the Letter

*Mr. Richard Peters, RPPM  
NYSDOT  
Planning and Program Management  
4 Burnett Boulevard  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603  
September 25, 2007*

*Re: Draft TIP 2007*

*Dear Mr. Peters,*

*Before we vote for an approved Final FFY 2008-2012 TIP, our group of representatives of Ulster County Towns would like for NYSDOT to respond to some of our concerns:*

- Who developed the TIP project listings and updated the projects schedules?*
- To whom or what agency is that person(s) accountable to?*
- How were the projects schedules/priorities determined?*
- Under what funding/scheduling parameters were the project listings developed?*
- Will you please explain to our group where the TMA monies for 2006-2007 have been allocated to Ulster County projects?*
- Has NYSDOT compared Ulster County's programming listed in the TIP to other New York State MPO's of comparable size and location?*
- Are construction costs comparable through out the State of New York?*
- Is Ulster County funding deficit of 7% related to the lack of TMA funding?*
- Why are there references (page 10 of narrative) to scaled back highway investments by NYSDOT and local government?*
- Has the work done by the UCTC met minimum MPO Federal requirements?*

*Besides these concerns, we would ask that you explain for us, in writing, the concept of the "Local Projects Funding Cap" and how it is established? We know you have taken the time to explain it to us verbally, in the past, but we would like the clarity of having it on paper.*

*Lastly, we voice our concern of NYSDOT's sole responsibility in overseeing the UCTC TIP. As you know, many local officials, staff, and community members of Ulster County have contributed long hours to help develop and assess the TIP for UCTC. We would like an active role in working with NYSDOT to ensure the success of all projects.*

Mr. Peters mentioned that he would address the concerns in the in the order they are.

*Who developed the TIP project listings and updated the projects schedules?*

Mr. Peters stated that the TIP 2008-2012 is the TIP 2006-2010 with some updates to it. Mr. Peters added that the new projects came from project solicitations by the council which set up a TIP Sub-Committee to select projects and that some of the projects came out of the various agencies as they developed their own program. Mr. Peters mentioned that the NYSDOT updated the project schedules for their own projects. Mr. Peters added that for the scheduling of the federally aided local projects, the Local Projects Units contacts the sponsors and ask them where they are on the projects and what their priorities are. Mr. Peters added that NYSDOT can program only certain number of federally aided local projects in any one year and with 400 projects in 7 counties these projects are spread over time. Mr. Peters added that these projects get spread out over time based on where they are in the development process and their relative priorities. Mr. Peters mentioned that this time NYSDOT gave priority to the Enhancement Projects and High Priority Projects because they are capped.

Ms. Hokanson stated that the prioritization of the projects that the TIP Sub-Committee agreed on has not been included in the TIP. Mr. Peters mentioned that the prioritization by the TIP subcommittee identified which projects will be funded in the last two year of the current TIP. Mr. Peters added that Region 8 work has to with 7 counties and limited funds and all the projects cannot be accommodated at the same time. Ms. Hokanson mentioned that the TIP Sub-Committee chose the South Putt Corners Road project as a higher priority project over the Route 299 project; however, the South Putt Corners Road project has been put out for 2012. Ms. Hokanson added that this is in contract to the recommendations made by the committee and that the South Putt Corners Road project cost less than the Route 299 project. Mr. Peters mentioned that the town could switch the two projects if the county could deliver to it. Ms. Dupont mentioned that factors like amount of design work, right-of-way, environmental impact, wetland impact will have to be taken into consideration for this. Ms. Hokanson mentioned that the county has been putting the South Putt Corners Road project for the last five rounds and it is an easier project than the Route 299 project. Ms. Hokanson added that the county has mentioned that they want to do the South Putt Corners project first. Mr. Peters stated that the two projects could be switched as a part of today's resolution.

Mr. Valk raised his concern that the sidewalk project in the Town of Shawangunk which was rated number one by the TIP Sub-Committee was pushed back to 2012. Mr. Liepmann asked who sets the priorities for the projects. Mr. Peters stated that there are 400 projects in the system already and that all other projects in the system can not be jumped because there is a new number one priority. Mr. Peters added that these projects are in different phases. Mr. Valk suggested that no new applications be accepted until the current projects are complete. Ms. Dupont mentioned that three years of projects in the current TIP that have been carried over from the previous TIP are already under design. Ms. Dupont added that to be able to start one of the new projects immediately some other project which is already under design has to be stopped. Ms. Dupont mentioned that the NYSDOT, NYSTA projects cost more and balance has to be maintained with local projects to address to everyone's traveling needs. Mr. Peters mentioned that one of the factors affecting the TIP is that the some of the projects haven't been delivered and they have been on the TIP for 10 years. Mr. Rodriguez asked if there were other projects apart from the South Putt Corners Road project recommended by TIP Sub-Committee. Mr. Peters mentioned that NYSDOT has set aside \$8M for the projects that come out of the New Paltz Study. Mr. Peters added that the NYSDOT is trying to reinforce the activity of UCTC by funding the projects that come out of the study done by the council.

Ms. Hokanson mentioned that she would like to see the projects in the priority order that was selected by the TIP Sub-Committee. Mr. Peters mentioned that implementing the priority order selected for the projects depends on if the project can be delivered. Ms. Dupont mentioned that there is room for amendment to the TIP 2008-2012 even after it has been adopted. Ms. Dupont added that changes can be made to the TIP even after it has been adopted as long as it is swapping projects and does not move everything ahead. Mr. Peters added that changes can be made amongst 400 projects later depending on how diligently and quickly the project is carried out. Mr. Valk mentioned that the design money for the Walkill Sidewalk project is not available until 2012. Mr. Liepmann asked why the Walkill sidewalk project that was ranked number 1 in terms of priority could not be started on October 1, 2007. Mr. Peters mentioned that there are 400 other projects in front that have already started. Mr. Peters added that some of these projects are from 1995. Mr. Doyle mentioned that adopting TIP 2008-2012 means adding projects to the back end of the 2006-2010 TIP.

Ms. Dupont stated that if the municipality can make a good case for their project then they might be able to get earlier design money. Mr. Liepmann asked if the municipality will get reimbursed if they use their own design funds. Mr. Peters stated that municipality will not be reimbursed for the design funds. Mr. Liepmann requested NYSDOT for a summary of the process in terms of what the municipalities need to do. Mr. Peters mentioned that there is a Local Projects Unit at NYSDOT that contacts the municipalities and explain how to go through the process. Ms. Lanzetta asked if there is any dedicated fund meant only for the local projects. Mr. Peters mentioned that what is being programmed for Ulster County is the STP fund. Mr. Peters added that the STP fund is based on historic Ulster County percentage of the program. Mr. Peters added that the allocation is also based on the miles of highway, number of states and local bridges in the county. Mr. Peters added that the funds have to be fairly spread out over 7 counties. Ms. Lemmon raised the concern that Ulster County might not be getting their fair share. Ms. Lemmon mentioned that there might be a communication problem and added that there is a need for training/workshop to help better understand the process.

Ms. Hammond asked if adopting the TIP meant UCTC will excuse itself from receiving a share of STP Large Urban Fund in TMA and exclude itself from participating in how these funds are programmed. Mr. Peters stated that the STP Large Urban fund that has already been programmed does not go anywhere. Mr. Valk asked if there are any projects in Ulster County that goes back to 1995 that the municipalities are not aware of. Mr. Peters mentioned that such projects are rolled forward and are in the TIP. Mr. Doyle asked if there is a need for a TIP Coordination Sub-Committee that can work with the council staff and NYSDOT to gain an understanding of how this process works. Mr. Valk mentioned that the municipalities thought they had a control over the funds when the council was formed. Ms. Lanzetta stated the need to have 3-hour training about the process every 2 year. Ms. Dupont added that the training should be conducted early in the process before the prioritization of the projects is done. Ms. Duke mentioned that middle or end of January next year will be a good time. Ms. Lanzetta stated that there is still a suspicion that Ulster County residents are not getting their fair share of funds and that system should be explained to their satisfaction. Mr. Peters mentioned that Region 8 as a whole feels that they are not getting their fair share. Mr. Rodriguez mentioned that a part of the issue is also how the legislature does the budgeting for the transportation projects. Ms. Dupont stated that there is not enough transportation funds to meet everyone's needs and it finally comes down to collective judgment about what is more important. Ms. Dupont stated that Federal Highway and Federal Transit puts the DOT in a position of being responsible to see that everyone's needs are fairly met. Ms. Dupont added that DOT is accountable to the Federal Government.

APPROVAL OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE JULY 31, 2007 MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Rodriguez asked for approval of the meeting summary from July 31, 2007.

**Motion to approve by Mr. Auerbach, seconded by Ms. Budik (Ms. Hokanson abstained)**

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2007-16: Adopt the FFY 2008-2012 TIP.

Mr. Rodriguez asked for approval the Resolution 2007-16 adopting the FFY 2008-2012 TIP.

**Motion to approve by Ms. Hokanson with the exchange the time line for Project Pin#805111 with 875990, seconded by Ms. Hammond.**

Mr. Tobin mentioned that there was a public meeting for TIP on September 11 which was attended by 7-8 citizens excluding staff and there was a very good discussion on the TIP. Mr. Tobin added that the public comment period ended on September 17 and the agenda packet has the comments submitted. Mr. Tobin briefly summarized the citizen comments received. Mr. Tobin mentioned that there were some comments in support of the rail/trail and bike/ped project. Mr. Tobin stated that a petition signed by 50 people from Dutch village apartments wanting bike/ped path instead of rail train. Mr. Tobin mentioned that there were comments about improving the commuter parking lots countywide; comments supporting rail/trail in Kingston up to Belleayre Mountain; comments concerning the Bridge of Dreams; people of Shandaken want the bike/ped and rail/trail system connecting to Kingston, CMRR submitted their operation of their financing plan. Mr. Tobin mentioned that there are draft responses attached in the agenda packet.

Mr. Jameson, Chairman of the CMRR mentioned that they are looking to have an operation in Kingston. Mr. Jameson added that they have identified funding. Mr. Jameson added that Ulster County had applied for grant TEA-21 five years ago. Mr. Jameson stated that the ultimate plan is to restore the line from Kingston to Phoenicia. Mr. Jameson added that CMRR is lobbying for funding.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if there were any amendments to the resolution.

Mr. Rodriguez asked for approval to accept.

**Motion to approve by Ms. Lemmon, seconded by Ms. Hokanson.**

Resolution 2007-17: Adopt FFY 2006-2010 TIP Amendment to Fund Adirondack Trailways Operations, Fare Reduction, Marketing, and Parking Expenses Using Federal STP Flexible funds.

Mr. Peters handed out change in the wording of the requested amendment. Mr. Peters mentioned that it is the same concept of improving commuter service between Kingston and Manhattan by adding extra peak hour service in both directions and reduce the fare. Mr. Peters added that the idea is to create a Metro North-like service in Ulster County and also provide better connection to Metro North from Ulster County. Mr. Valk asked if the fund for this project come from the same source as the local projects. Mr. Peters mentioned that this comes from Regional STP Flex fund. Mr. Markowitz mentioned that this is being done in other counties downstate and this is the first time this kind of fund is being used in Ulster County. Mr. Markowitz added that this should be looked as increment to what Ulster County is getting. Ms. Dupont mentioned that the local municipalities and counties only take care of the transportation within their geographic boundaries and for the regional transportation the DOT steps in. Mr. Martello added that

this fund could go somewhere else if it is not used in Ulster County and that this good investment in mass transit for economic reasons and to reduce traffic.

Mr. Rodriguez asked for approval for the Resolution 2007-17 with change in the description.

**Motion to approve by Ms. Hokanson, seconded by Ms. Dupont.**

Ms. Budik asked if this issue should have come up before technical committee rather than policy committee. Mr. Tobin mentioned that it came up before the policy committee because it is an amendment to the existing TIP which expires in 3 days. Mr. Tobin added that in future any project like this will have to go through the technical committee.

#### OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Budik mentioned about the letter from the Town of Saugerties handed out in the agenda packet. Ms. Budik added that Town of Saugerties would like to be included in the Quite Zone Study that currently extends in Kingston and Town of Ulster. Ms. Budik added that the town would like it to be carried into the Green County border. Ms. Budik stated that the town is getting a lot of feedback from the citizens especially from the people close to the Green County line. Mr. Doyle stated that the staff is the process of drafting response to the town. Mr. Doyle added that the typical costs are available in the study; local government can form team to examine the crossings. Mr. Doyle added that the study itself is about what you want to do, how much you want to spend and where you are going to get the money from. Mr. Tobin stated that the Town of Esopus has similar concern.

#### CALL FOR CITIZENS COMMENT

Mr. Valk asked how much input does the council have in the TIP. Mr. Tobin mentioned that the council receives information from NYSDOT which is passed on to the municipalities.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rodriguez mentioned that he would like to adjournment the meeting in memory of Bob Shepard. Mr. Tobin added that Mr. Shepard was the most experienced board member. The meeting adjourned at 11:18 am.