

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

September 27, 2005
Ulster County Community College
Stone Ridge, NY

Members

Present:	Robert Dennison ⁺	NYS DOT Region 8
	Randy Dickinson [^]	Federal Railroad Administration
	Greg Helsmoortel ⁺	Town of Saugerties
	Ken Herman ^{**}	Town of Marlborough
	Jack Hohman ^{**}	NYS Thruway Authority
	Ray Lux ^{**}	Town of Wawarsing
	Toni Roser ^{**}	City of Kingston Citibus
	Jill Ross-Schmelz ^{**}	NYS Thruway Authority
	John Valk, Jr.*	Town of Shawangunk
	Fred Wadnola ⁺	Town of Ulster

Staff

Present:	Marianne Davis	UC Planning Board
	Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Board
	Jean Gunsch	NYMTC – Region 8 MPO Staff
	Tom Mank	UCTC
	Bill Tobin	UCTC

Others

Present:	Charlie Alonge	NYS Operation Lifesaver
	Mark Boungard	Adirondack Trailways
	Joel B. Brink	Town of Ulster
	Mike Campbell	Village of Saugerties
	Mircea Catona	UC Department of Public Works
	Brian Donahue	Saugerties Business Association
	George Eck	Town of Wawarsing
	Lou Frangella	CSX Transportation
	Tom Jackson	UC Area Transit
	Richard Peters	NYS DOT Region 8
	David Radovanovic	Saugerties Business Association
	Russ Robbins	NYS DOT Region 8
	Cynthia Ruiz	UC Area Transit
	Charles Schaller	UC Traffic Safety Board
	Mark Sherman	Village of New Paltz Citizen

⁺Permanent Voting Member

^{*}Current Voting Member (Until June 4, 2007)

^{**}Voting Proxy

[^]Non-Voting Advisory Member

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 10:07 a.m. Mr. Doyle announced that Toni Roser, Citibus Transportation Supervisor, has been appointed a voting proxy member at the request of City of Kingston's Mayor James Sottile. A quorum was achieved. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Sherman stated his concerns that New Paltz is not well represented at Transportation Council meetings and is concerned this might have a negative impact on the roads in the New Paltz area. Mr. Sherman also stated the UCTC should be advertising meetings in the local newspapers. He stated he wrote a letter in 1998 to the County Highway Department regarding the hazardous conditions (especially for bikes and pedestrians) on South Putt Corners road and little has been done to improve safety.

Mr. Donahue thanked the Transportation Council and staff for their efforts to address transportation issues throughout Ulster County. Mr. Donahue asked why the Transportation Council would encourage a CSX double track railroad corridor in Ulster County. Mr. Donahue said he sees no net benefit to communities with a double track arrangement and suggested the Transportation Council instead encourage passenger rail. Mr. Donahue suggested amending the Long Range Transportation Plan to include passenger rail in Ulster County's future.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Doyle asked for comments, corrections or approval of the May 3, 2005 meeting summary. **A motion to approve the meeting summary was made by Ms. Ross-Schmeltz and seconded by Mr. Herman. The May 3, 2005 meeting summary was approved.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECTS UPDATE

Mr. Tobin announced the next UCTC Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Ulster County Community College.

Port Ewen 9W Corridor Study design process will be presented by NYSDOT at the November 1, 2005 UCTC Technical Committee meeting.

The Route 32 and Fair Street Intersection Alternatives analysis project is underway and a public informational meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2005 at 7:00 pm at the George Washington School Cafeteria in the City of Kingston.

The Saugerties Area Mobility Analysis (SAMA) Committee is scheduled to have a meeting on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at 4:00 pm at the Kiwanis Ice Arena in Saugerties.

An Ulster and Delaware Railroad Corridor Trail Feasibility Study Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2005 at the Olive Free Library in West Shokan.

The City of Kingston/Town of Ulster Quiet Zone and Pedestrian Safety/Mobility Study is

underway. A Quiet Zone Diagnostic Team meeting is scheduled October 18, 2005 conduct site visits for 12 at-grade railroad crossings (6 in Kingston and 6 in the Town of Ulster). There will be a public informational meeting also on October 18, 2005 at the City of Kingston City Hall.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Resolution 2005-11 Year 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Mr. Tobin presented the Year 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan then recommended the adoption of the plan.

Mr. Doyle noted the Technical Committee recommended the Policy Committee adopt the Year 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan as presented.

Mr. Valk asked what would happen if the Plan was not adopted at today's meeting.

Mr. Doyle responded that we would have problems receiving federal funds for current and future federal aid projects. Mr. Doyle stated the UCTC would be required to work with the Federal Highway Administration on the details concerning the consequences of not getting a Plan adopted on-time and would have to request an extension.

Mr. Dennison clarified the UCTC's Operating Procedures state the Council approves documents and policies by consensus.

Mr. Valk stated the document was unsatisfactory. Mr. Valk further stated that in the interest of the Council, he would recommend the adoption of the Year 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan acknowledging the Plan is not final but a working document subject to further amendments.

Mr. Helsmoortel asked about the amendment process for the Long Range Transportation Plan. Could the Plan be amended today?

Mr. Peters stated the amendment process involves drafting a resolution with amended text and presenting to the Technical and Policy Committees for consideration and adoption. Mr. Peters recommended that comments or recommendations concerning the amendment process be directed to Mr. Doyle or Mr. Tobin for discussion beginning at the next Technical Committee meeting.

Mr. Helsmoortel recommended, on behalf of the Town of Saugerties, to amend the Year 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan to include passenger rail.

Mr. Dennison added that he expects, and encourages, the Plan to change in the coming years and for it to be flexible enough to allow for adjustments to address emerging social and economic changes.

A motion was made by Mr. Herman to adopt the Plan. Seconded by Mr. Wadnola. Consensus was achieved to adopt the Year 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan as presented.

b. Resolution 2005-07: Congestion Management System (CMS).

Mr. Doyle informed the group that Orange and Dutchess Counties have already adopted the draft CMS program and the Technical Committee has recommended the Policy Committee adopt Resolution 2005-07.

Mr. Tobin stated the Census 2000 data identified a unique boundary located in a portion of southern Ulster County that shares a combined population total in excess of 200,000 with Dutchess and Orange Counties. The US Department of Transportation has identified this unique Census boundary to serve as the federally-designated Poughkeepsie-Newburgh Transportation Management Area (a.k.a. the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA). A federally-designated TMA requires MPOs affected to establish and maintain a Congestion Management System (CMS) program. Federal regulations state that the UCTC must (1) adopt a CMS program along with Dutchess and Orange counties and (2) integrate a CMS program into the UCTC's Long Range Transportation Planning process. The UCTC will continue to work closely with Dutchess and Orange Counties to identify, monitor and evaluate congestion mitigation strategies throughout the region.

Mr. Doyle stated the CMS program is a four step process of (1) defining congestion, (2) focusing on areas of severe congestion, (3) identify solutions and (4) integrating and evaluating solutions.

Mr. Tobin said the UCTC is already implementing CMS strategies in Ulster County such as establishing a traffic monitoring program to help monitor congested corridors.

Mr. Valk asked about the time frame for completing the CMS program.

Mr. Doyle responded the CMS program is a continuous and ongoing program with no specific program end date.

Mr. Wadnola made a motion to approve the CMS program. Seconded by Mr. Herman. Consensus was achieved to adopt Resolution 2005-07 with the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area's Congestion Management System (CMS) program.

c. Resolution 2005-09: FTA Section 5307 TMA Funds to be Administered by the CDTA in Albany, NY.

Mr. Doyle stated that the Federal Transit Administration and NYSDOT recommend the UCTC entertain a resolution to move administrative responsibilities for FTA Section 5307 TMA funds to the Capital District Transportation Authority in Albany (CDTA). Mr. Doyle added that Mr. Epstein was present at the August 30, 2005 Technical Committee meeting and explained how this agreement would only be for the current fiscal year and would need to be revisited next year. The Technical Committee has recommended adopting Resolution 2005-09.

Motion to approve was made by Ms. Ross-Schmeltz. Second by Mr. Valk.

Ms. Ruiz made a comment in support of the Resolution stating that Ulster County would not be held responsible for the funds once they were transferred and would not have to reimburse any agency if there were problems in the coming year.

A consensus was achieved to adopt Resolution 2005-09.

d. Year 2006 UCTC Meeting Schedule.

Mr. Tobin reminded the Council the next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2005 and the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2006.

Mr. Doyle asked if everyone was comfortable with the meeting schedule as presented.

Mr. Tobin stated the schedule was to help identify the need for future meeting dates and was subject to modification, if necessary.

No action required on the meeting schedule presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Ruiz announced that if anyone had not returned their bus shelter contracts to please do so otherwise the funds would be re-designated.

Mr. Tobin stated that the Federal Transit Administration/Federal Highway Administration's Certification Review was recently completed and an executive summary was included in the agenda packet. The full report will be made available on the UCTC web site.

Mr. Tobin thanked the representatives from CSX and the Federal Railroad Administration for attending the meeting.

Mr. Doyle reiterated the need to amend the Long Range Transportation Plan and asked the group to submit comments to staff by mid-October 2005. Mr. Doyle stated to submit the comments in writing or by e-mail to Mr. Tobin and they will be presented to the Technical Committee on November 1, 2005.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Valk. Seconded by Mr. Wadnola. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.