

# ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

## Technical Committee Meeting

### Meeting Summary

May 9, 2006  
Ulster County Community College  
Stone Ridge, NY

#### Members

<b>Present:</b>	Alan Adin	City of Kingston Engineering Department
	Joel B. Brink**	Town of Ulster
	Barbara Budik**	Saugerties Economic Development Council
	Mike Campbell	Village of Saugerties
	Mircea Catona	UC Public Works Department
	Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Board
	Steve Finkle**	City of Kingston Dept. of Economic Development
	Nancy Hammond	Town of Lloyd
	Jack Hohman**	NYS Thruway Authority – NYC Division
	Cindy Lanzetta*	Town of Marlborough
	Nadine Lemmon**	Town of Gardiner
	Bruce Loertscher	Town of Plattekill
	Rich Peters	NYSDOT
	Ted Petrides	City of Kingston Engineering Department
	Toni Roser**	City of Kingston CitiBus
	Jill Ross**	NYS Thruway Authority – Albany Division
	Cynthia Ruiz**	UC Area Transit
	Charles Schaller	UC Traffic Safety Board
	Phil Serafino	NYS Thruway Authority – Albany Division
	Robert Shepard	Town of Lloyd
	James Sottile <sup>+</sup>	City of Kingston

#### Staff

<b>Present:</b>	Marianne Davis	UC Planning Department
	Jean Gunsch	NYMTC – Region 8 MPO Staff
	Bill Tobin	UCTC

#### Others

<b>Present:</b>	Mark Boungard	Trailways
	Lou Frangella	CSX Transportation
	Gilbert Hales	Town of Saugerties
	Alanna Moran	Creighton Manning Engineering
	Kathy Nolan	Town of Shandaken
	Carol Ryan	Metro Pool
	Mark Sargent	Creighton Manning Engineering

<sup>+</sup>Permanent Voting Member

\*Current Voting Member (Until June 4, 2007)

\*\*Voting Proxy

<sup>^</sup>Advisory Member

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 10:05 am. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

## CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Ryan announced that all were welcome to come to a free event on May 31 for MetroPool's New Ride sponsored by the Chamber, EDC and UCAT.

Mr. Frangella discussed two near collisions between trains and trucks on Tissel Road in the Town of Saugerties and requested a sub-committee to work with all the key stakeholders. Mr. Schaller offered to have the UC Traffic Safety Board to lead a sub-committee to implement improvements at Tissel Road. Ms. Budik stated the Town of Saugerties was at a standstill with a property owner. Mr. Doyle said Tissel Road has the attention of all the key stakeholders such as NYSDOT, Traffic Safety Board, and CSX. Mr. Peters stated NYSDOT needs to meet with the Town of Saugerties to move the project forward. Mr. Doyle said that he would help set up a meeting to follow through with the implementation of Tissel Road grade crossing improvements project.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Doyle briefly discussed a number of announcements associated the ongoing activities of the UCTC.

Mr. Sottile thanked the Council for assisting the City of Kingston with the Quiet Zone study. He stated that wayside horns were seriously being considered for installation at crossings as an option. Mr. Tobin asked if the Council could help with the cost of implementation. Mr. Sottile said the City of Kingston was looking for other funding sources, too. Mr. Doyle expressed his appreciation to the City for moving ahead with implementation. Mr. Campbell said the Village and Town of Saugerties could benefit from the findings of the Quiet Zone study since this part of the County also shares the same quality of life issues near the CSX railroad corridor. Ms. Budik stated the study helped the Town of Saugerties understand their safety issues. Mr. Doyle asked Mayor Sottile to send contact information to the Council concerning the wayside horn installation.

Mr. Sottile shared his comments on the recently completed transit systems integration analysis. Mr. Sottile said that the alternatives were being analyzed by both Citibus and UCAT and hope to find a consensus on preferred integration solutions. Mr. Sottile mentioned that a complete systems merger was not being considered at the current moment.

Mr. Tobin asked for volunteers for both a TIP sub-committee and a Bike/Ped Advisory Committee, and passed around sign-up sheets. Mr. Tobin distributed information describing the various types of federal funding available to Ulster County and which organization (NYSDOT and/or UCTC) has specific programming authority. Mr. Tobin stated that NYSDOT had broad programming authority for most the federal funding available to Ulster County. Ms. Ruiz asked if the public can serve on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Council members were in favor of having the public serve on the advisory committee.

## APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

**Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the minutes from the February 7, 2006 meeting. Motion to approve by Mayor Sottile, seconded by Ms. Lemmon.**

## NEW BUSINESS

**FFY 06-10 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments.** Mr. Tobin and Ms. Ruiz discussed pending amendments for UCAT funding to include additional bus purchases. Ms. Ruiz did not yet have specific information but stated she needed a Resolution to amend her budget and had an application deadline of July 15. Ms. Ruiz said she would like to propose her amendments at the June 6 Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Doyle asked for consensus to present both UCAT and Citibus TIP amendments at the June 6, 2006 Policy Committee meeting. Consensus was reached.

Mr. Finkle discussed an Abeel Street funding shortfall and asked the Council for advice on the problem. In regards to a sidewalk and pavement project on the current TIP for Abeel Street, Mr. Finkle was told to come to the Council and have NYSDOT explain the technicalities of the funding constraints. Mr. Finkle stated the City would like the project completed prior to the Noah Hotel being finished and would need more money to complete this goal. Mr. Finkle said the City of Kingston needs \$2.3 million more to advance the next phase of the project. Mr. Peters stated NYSDOT has asked the City to look at alternatives such as staging the Abeel Street project, environmental processing techniques, etc. A discussion on the TIP and alternate funding sources followed. Mr. Tobin suggesting setting up a sub-committee to review all the priorities of the Council to determine if there are opportunities to move funds around to help out the City of Kingston. Mr. Peters suggested the City of Kingston first take a look at what funding is programmed for the City and see if they can move a priority back to accommodate their immediate needs. Mr. Sottile stated he would see what the City could live without before asking another community to delay its project. Mr. Doyle stated he would like to see a presentation on the subject and he added that Mr. Tobin's idea for a sub-committee may be one way to help find funds for the City of Kingston.

Mr. Tobin distributed a copy of the Rosendale Route park-and-ride amendment request form submitted on behalf of the Town of Rosendale for \$290,000.

**City of Kingston Rail Trail.** Mr. Doyle stated this project was on Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in the past but never advanced to design or construction in the year it was programmed. Now that the Town of Hurley built their portion of the O & W trail by Route 209, the City would like to make an urban trail connection to Hurley. The project has not been moving forward due to right of way issues. However, there is now a great deal of interest in moving the project forward.

A discussion ensued as to whether the trail or sidewalk project should be funded. Mayor Sottile stated he recommends the O&W Trail connection project move forward and would investigate other funding sources to support the Abeel Street project.

**Mr. Doyle asked for a motion to move the Kingston Trail project to the Policy Committee. Motion by Mayor Sottile, seconded by Ms. Budik. All in favor.**

**Mr. Doyle asked for a motion to move the Emerick Grade Crossing in Saugerties**

**project to the Policy Committee. Motion by Mayor Sottile, seconded by Mr. Brink.**

**Mr. Doyle asked for a motion to move the 209 study (Hurley to Wawarsing) to the Policy Committee. Motion by Mayor Sottile, seconded by Ms. Ruiz.**

Mr. Doyle asked for a discussion on the Resolutions presented. Mr. Schaller asked for an amendment in the amount of \$260,000 at Cottekill Road and Lucas Avenue. Mr. Doyle suggested Mr. Schaller take the lead and look for funding sources and report back to the Council.

Ms. Lemmon asked where the funds are coming from. Mr. Doyle said some are from State, STP flex (federal). Mr. Peters stated the source of funding is complex and explained that STP funds come from "Region 8 pot" as a whole from the FHWA through NYSDOT. NYSDOT calculates Ulster County's share using a highly complex funding distribution formula.

**Mr. Doyle introduced the fourth amendment to the TIP was the Rosendale Route 32 park-and-ride lot construction and lease agreement.** Mr. Ruiz stated the lot is for 60 parking spaces. This has been a collaborative effort between Town of Rosendale, Ulster County, and NYSDOT. Ulster County did the engineering, Ulster County Real Property Department did the survey, the owner had the new building constructed with lighting, the Town of Rosendale did the landscaping and UCAT did the specifications for the construction of the property. Mr. Doyle added this is a leasing arrangement the Council is responsible for and serves commuters from area towns. The project construction and initial five-year leasing responsibility by the Council to the land owner is \$232,000.

**A Motion was made to amend the TIP to include the Park-n-ride by Mayor Sottile, seconded by Ms. Ruiz.**

A question was asked about the term of the lease. Ms. Ruiz stated it was a five year lease in which NYSDOT has an agreement with the Town of Rosendale who in turn has an agreement with the property owner for \$12,000 per year to lease the spaces. Mr. Tobin stated he understood NYSDOT was paying for the entire project. However, NYSDOT is showing its contribution of 20% while the other 80% was federal funds. Mr. Tobin asked what would happen after the five term lease. Mr. Peters stated we generally have a five year lease and then do another five year option. Mr. Tobin asked why STPX (federal) funds are proposed and not CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement) or FTA 5307 transit funds? Mr. Peters replied that it would not be a NYSDOT project if other funding sources are used. Mr. Finkle asked if \$12,000 goes toward leasing the land but where does the \$232,000 go to? Mr. Peters stated the landowner develops the land and we pay the landowner over five years through the lease. Mr. Schaller asked about maintenance of the site to which Mr. Doyle responded the property owner is responsible. Ms. Ruiz added the owner is also responsible for insurance. Mr. Doyle stated we had a motion and a second and was looking for consensus. **Ms. Budik and Ms. Lemmon initially opposed the amendment.**

Ms. Ruiz discussed the benefits of the Rosendale park-and-ride lot. Mr. Doyle reminded the group that this project's design was completed, already under

construction, and recommended by NYSDOT's transit division. Mr. Peters stated the funds set aside for this project were taken from NYSDOT's STP federal flex spending account for Region 8 and does not have to be spent in Ulster County. Ms. Ruiz stated we should appreciate the State's generosity for assisting with this project. Mr. Doyle stated that other funding sources such as CMAQ are not available to Ulster County and FTA 5307 funds would require a local match. Mr. Peters stated we have done this kind of arrangement with Federal Highway Administration before and are not sure how the FTA handles such a project concept.

Mr. Sottile stated that if this project is something the County needs then he supports it as long as it does not affect other funding opportunities. Mr. Tobin stated these appear to be the same type of funds Ulster County municipalities will compete for later this year. Mr. Sottile asked Mr. Peters if the STPX funds proposed for the Rosendale park-and-ride lot would lessen the "Region 8 pot" of STP funds other municipalities will compete for later this year. Mr. Peters responded with an analogy for how a child might receive an allowance from a parent. Mr. Peters said Ulster Council municipalities can choose either the option of receiving a \$2.00/week allowance without flexibility for emergencies. Or, Ulster County municipalities can choose the option of \$.50/week with flexibility for emergencies. Mr. Tobin asked how much of state dedicated funds are allocated to Region 8 annually. Mr. Peters stated it less today than in the past and did not have the funding figures with him.

**Mr. Sottile asked Mr. Doyle to recall the vote on the Rosendale Route 32 park-and-ride lot amendment. All were in favor. Mr. Doyle stated we would pass this on to the Policy Committee.**

Mr. Sottile stated that Creighton Manning did a great job with the Route 32/Fair Street intersection study and he appreciated the Council for funding the study and Creighton Manning for performing the work. Mr. Sottile assured the Council the study's recommendations will be considered for implementation. He added that the City would be implementing shrubbery and crosswalks soon.

Mr. Sottile also addressed the Committee on what he called a dangerous situation on Albany Avenue at the Kingston Hospital Dialysis Center where they have a lot of traffic during the day and no left turn out of the facility. Mr. Tobin suggested adding the corridor to the Albany Avenue at I-587 Intersection study. Mr. Sottile said he was open to this idea.

Mr. Tobin asked Mr. Sottile what was the City of Kingston's number one transportation problem. Mr. Sottile responded that with major development and many new people in the area, CSX trains blocking intersections is a serious problem, especially for emergency vehicles. Mr. Sottile stated that grade separation projects are something the City needs to start looking at as a long term solution. Mr. Sottile also noted the Town of Ulster might be able to benefit with a grade separation project on Boices Lane near Tech City. Mr. Sottile thanked the Council for their support and apologized for having to leave the meeting early.

**UPWP Amendment Discussion.** Mr. Doyle stated that Orange County is planning to perform a US 9W corridor study and may include the Town of Marlborough. The UCTC

needs to amend the UPWP to reflect the staff time needed to help facilitate the study effort. Mr. Doyle indicated that he believes Ulster County will not have to pay for this planning effort. **Motion by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Mr. Schaller. All in favor.**

**FTA Section 5307 Formula Funds.** Mr. Doyle discussed the arrangement among Dutchess, Orange and Ulster Counties who share the FTA Section 5307 TMA funds. Ms. Ruiz stated the funds were split between public and private carriers. This year the region (TMA) has a larger sum of money (yet to be determined) to split between Orange, Dutchess and Ulster Counties and need an agreement on how to divide it.

Mr. Tobin asked if this action was time sensitive. Ms. Ruiz responded that the applications with signed Resolutions are due by July 15. Mr. Doyle added that there is a substantial amount of money available to eligible recipients and the methodology to be used this year is proposed to be the same as last year.

**Mr. Doyle asked for a motion to move forward by using last year's formula. Mr. Shepard made the motion which was seconded by Mr. Finkle.**

**Mr. Doyle asked for another motion to assign administrative responsibilities for Trailways to CDTA in Albany. Motion by Mr. Finkle, seconded by Ms. Ruiz.**

**Mr. Doyle asked for a motion on TMA FTA 5307 TMA Project Selection Criteria. Motion by Mr. Shepard, seconded by Ms. Ruiz.**

Mr. Doyle stated that staff will pass the FTA Section 5307 TMA amendments on to the Policy Committee given the consensus of the Technical Committee.

**Route 32 at Fair Street Intersection Alternatives Analysis Final Report.** Mr. Tobin introduced Ms. Moran from Creighton Manning Engineering. Ms. Moran gave a presentation on the consultant's findings from the Route 32/Fair Street Intersection Study in the City of Kingston.

Mr. Tobin asked what the City of Kingston's reaction was to the study. Mr. Finkle responded the Mayor was pleased with the results of the study, however, some business owners were not as pleased. Ms. Moran added that Stewart's was pleased with the results.

Mr. Hales stated that there was controversy with the large roundabout near the Thruway exit and that has since passed. Ms. Nolan noted that not everyone is agreeable to a roundabout concept.

Mr. Doyle thanked CME for the work they had done. He added that it's difficult to get the public to see 20 years into the future as capital investment planning and implementation are meant to solve problems in the future. Mr. Doyle also stated that unless we educate the public, they won't accept roundabouts.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Schaller asked why Emerick Road was having its railroad crossing improved when they have not had any problems in the past and wanted to know why Tissel Road was

not being finished first. Mr. Doyle stated that Tissel Road is a private road and amounts to ownership problems. Ms. Budik added that it is becoming a public crossing which is why the State is involved. Mr. Catona stated that state funds cannot be used for private crossings. Ms. Ruiz asked if Tissel Road was moving forward. Mr. Doyle answered they were getting a meeting together to help move this project to implementation.

Ms. Ruiz discussed a park-and-ride lot planning effort currently underway in Ulster County (SR 32/199). She also provided information about a Bus Rodeo September 15 at Bank of America hosted by UCAT.

Initial volunteers of the TIP Sub-Committee were announced and include: Nadine Lemmon, Cindy Lanzetta, Robert Shepard, Nancy Hammond, Mike Campbell, Richard Peters, Toni Roser, Steve Finkle, Barbara Budik, Joel Brink, Charlie Schaller and Al Lanzetta as an alternate.

Initial Volunteers of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee were announced and include: Nadine Lemmon, Cindy Lanzetta, Raymond Costantino, Jerry Luke, Charlie Schaller, Barbara Budik, and Gil Hales.

Mr. Campbell indicated that UCTC staff appears to be short on work space and asked how the Council can assist with this problem. Mr. Doyle responded that the Legislature is aware of the space constraints in the Planning Board office and the Space Committee is looking into the problem. Unfortunately the budget is an issue. He added that technology issues are a greater problem than staff spacing needs. Mr. Finkle added that the Ulster County Planning Board supports the technology and space needs of staff.

#### CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ms. Nolan asked if the Saugerties 10-point plan had been overlooked. Mr. Doyle stated that we have not yet received any information on this proposed amendment. Ms. Nolan also asked if the public had seen Creighton Manning Engineering's follow-up presentation on the 32/ Fair intersection. Ms. Moran said they had (2 times). Ms. Nolan stated that the community might have a different opinion if they saw a schematic of the differences roundabouts, as she did herself. Mr. Schaller stated single lane roundabouts work well.

Mr. Doyle stated the Council can pay for the attendance of two Policy Committee members to the New York MPO Association's Annual conference at Saratoga Springs on June 8 and 9. Please contact staff, if interested.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m. Motion by Ms. Budik, seconded by Ms. Ross.