

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting**

Meeting Summary

April 16, 2009

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members

Present:

Linda Bertling	UC Department of Public Works
Joel B. Brink**	Town of Ulster
Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Board/UCTC Staff
Terry Dungan	Village of New Paltz
Toni Hokanson*	Town of New Paltz
Brian Kehoe	Town of Lloyd
Cindy Lanzetta	Town of Marlborough
Nadine Lemmon**	Town of Gardiner
Patrick McDonough*	Town of Rosendale
Rich Peters**	NYS DOT Region 8
Ed Pine	UC Department of Public Works
Wendy Rosinski	Town of Lloyd
Cynthia Ruiz	UC Area Transit
Charlie Schaller	UC Traffic Safety Board
Phil Serafino	NYS Thruway Authority
Bill Tobin	UCTC Staff
John Valk	Town of Shawangunk

Others

Present:

Glenn Hoagland	Mohonk Preserve Inc.
Kathy Nolan	Town of Shandaken
Anne Noonan	New York Trailways
John Roosa	Town of Marbletown

+Permanent Voting Member

*Current Voting Member (Until June 4, 2009)

**Voting Proxy for Permanent Voting Member

^Non-Voting Advisory Member

CALL TO ORDER

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

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

No Comments received.

**APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2009 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
SUMMARY**

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the meeting summary from the February 5, 2009 Technical Committee meeting. **Motion to approve by Mr. Brink, seconded by Ms. Ruiz. All in favor.**

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Doyle stated that much of the new business is related to the economic stimulus program. Mr. Doyle stated that there may be more resolutions in the future with respect to stimulus funds. Mr. Doyle asked those in attendance to inform their representatives at the Policy Committee about upcoming resolutions to be issued via mail ballot.

Draft Resolution 2009-04: Distribution of Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Funding Apportioned for the Kingston Urbanized Area by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Mr. Tobin stated that the resolution certifies the agreement between Kingston Citibus and Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) for a total of \$1.143 million in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) stimulus funds. The two public transit operators agree to distribute 75% to Kingston Citibus and 25% to UCAT. The resolution has a clause within that states if one of the operators doesn't obligate the funds by September 1, 2009, then the other operator can request a claim to the unobligated funds from the other transit operator, provided the claimant is in good standing. This was agreed upon by both transit operators. Ms. Ruiz stated that if any one of the operators has money left over they would give it to the other operator.

Mr. Tobin asked the Committee for permission to circulate a mail ballot provided the resolution is approved. This will give the members until Friday, April 24, 2009 to submit the mail ballots to Ms. Gunsch at New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). Mr. Tobin asked for approval of the Resolution 2009-04. **Motion to approve by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Lemmon. All in favor.**

Draft Transportation Management Area (TMA) Resolutions.

Mr. Tobin stated that there are two TMA resolutions up for discussion.

Draft Resolution 2009-05: Distribution of Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Funding Apportioned for the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh Large Urban Area (UZA89, Mid Hudson Valley TMA) by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Mr. Doyle asked for the approval of the Resolution 2009-05. **Motion to approve by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Mr. Brink. All in favor.**

Mr. Tobin stated that the resolution is for the TMA allocation of \$23.4 million in FTA economic stimulus funds. The attachment shows the agreed upon breakdown of the stimulus funds to Dutchess, Orange, Ulster and Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). The allocation formula agreed upon in 2005 was applied to arrive at these numbers. Orange County has previously adopted the same resolution. Mr. Doyle stated that all 3 MPOs have to pass the exact same resolution for it to be valid. Mr. Doyle added that available funding is about \$290,000 short for all UCAT projects on the list. The designated recipients will have to decide which projects they don't want to do.

Ms. Ruiz stated that UCAT projects include proposed include \$450,000 for completing the second floor of the UCAT center and creating office space on the first floor; purchase a 15,000 gallon fuel tank that will permit buying fuel in bulk; purchase two large hybrid buses and 5 cutaway buses; purchase Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) software and hardware system to automate data collection for National Transit Database (NTD) reporting. The total for UCAT projects is \$2.54 million. Ms. Ruiz stated that the Kingston Citibus wants to buy a drive through bus wash, electric fencing and buses. Mr. Peters asked to make sure that the funding amount in the resolution matches the amount on the TIP. Mr. Peters added that the AVL system is not included on the previous list of

economic stimulus projects. Mr. Tobin stated that the revised ARRA projects resolution will include the AVL system project for UCAT and circulated via mail ballot. Mr. Doyle asked for the approval of the resolution to add the AVL system on the TIP. **Motion to approve by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Mr. Peters. All in favor.**

Resolution 2009-06: Allocation of Federal Transit Administration Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Funding for the Orange County JARC Program. The resolution is a TMA agreement to allocate the TMA's share of JARC fund for FFY 2008 to Orange County in the amount of \$157,867. There was a call for projects last year and Orange County was the only applicant. These funds will help supplement Orange County's pre-existing JARC program.

Mr. Doyle asked for the approval of the Resolution 2009-06. **Motion to approve by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Hokanson. All in favor.** Mr. Tobin stated that this resolution will be included with the mail ballot.

Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Peters to provide an update on the stimulus funding and the potential for additional funds coming to Ulster County.

Mr. Peters stated that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) selected New York State (NYS) as one of the states they are watching to make sure that the state does everything in accordance with ARRA legislation. Mr. Peters stated that all the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) in NYS are adopting resolutions that add stimulus projects to their TIP. New York State MPOs are now being asked to reconfirm the process they utilized to select and place ARRA projects on the TIP by adopting a Resolution certifying the project selection process utilized. Mr. Peters added that the requirements changed slightly from the last time when the original resolutions were passed and the act was passed by the Congress and signed by the President. Mr. Peters stated that 3 things they are looking for are: 1) the projects were selected on the basis of being deliverable within the act; 2) selection was made to maximize employment; and 3) economically disadvantaged areas were given priority in the project selection process.

Mr. Peters stated that the other news is that New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) in Albany is looking to get a cushion in terms of the stimulus projects. This is in anticipation that other states may not obligate all their stimulus money quick enough. NYS might get additional ARRA funds because different areas of the USA and NYS are delivering projects at different rates. The initial number provided by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) was \$1.4 billion. When the act passed the amount was about \$1.12 billion. Mr. Peters stated that the FHWA has asked MPOs to program up to the \$1.4 billion level. This will move Ulster County from \$15.9 million to \$22.6 million. The extra \$6.7 million is not confirmed as the initial \$15.9. Mr. Peters added that if the extra money comes through then the illustrative list of projects can be used. These projects, however, are more tentative. Mr. Doyle stated that a resolution should be adopted to move the Round 2 projects into Round 1 and add them to the TIP. Mr. Tobin stated the a new resolution may not be needed since the Round 1 and Round 2 projects were adopted with a condition that if additional funds came then Round 2 would be moved to Round 1. Mr. Peters stated that FHWA wants to see a specific action to address this issue. Mr. Doyle asked to move the Round 2 of the highway projects to Round 1 in the priority order that the Council originally adopted. **Motion to approve by Ms. Hokanson, seconded by Ms. Ruiz. All in favor.**

Mr. Tobin stated that this will be Resolution 2009-08. The resolution will be included with the mail ballot.

Mr. Doyle stated that another resolution may be needed to reaffirm the adoption of the TIP list to include the Round 2 projects and that the adoption considers the guiding principles of ARRA which states the project can be delivered on time, maximize employment and deal with the economically disadvantaged area. Mr. Doyle stated that the UCTC will try to combine these resolutions in the mail ballot. Mr. Doyle asked for the approval for resolution to reaffirm the adoption of the TIP including the Round 2 projects and consideration of the guiding principles of ARRA. **Motion to approve by Mr. Peters, seconded by Ms. Hokanson. All in favor.**

Mr. Doyle discussed other stimulus funding issues. The County is looking at applying for energy efficiency grants. Ms. Ruiz stated that within ARRA legislation there appears to be money for energy efficiency projects specific to public transit. UCAT is in the process of applying for these grants. UCAT has already put in the first part of the application but it cannot be submitted until these resolutions are adopted. Ms. Ruiz added that the FTA will not accept applications until the resolutions are passed. Mr. Tobin asked if the application can wait until the May 21, 2009 Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Doyle stated that the applications are due after that. Mr. Doyle stated the Council needs to be aware that the County continues to work on energy efficiency issues with respect to the different funding sources. The County is reaching out to the City of Kingston and others.

Update on Economic Stimulus Projects Implementation.

Beckley Drive over Fantine Kill Bridge Rehabilitation, Village of Ellenville. Mr. Tobin stated that the Village has submitted a letter concerning the status of the project. According to the letter, as of April 14, 2009 all required material has been sent to the NYSDOT. The right of way (ROW) documents are being reviewed. The project will be sent for final approval by April 17, 2009. The village is waiting for the authorization to advertise and the project is ready to go.

Main Street over Rondout Creek Bridge Rehabilitation, Kerhonkson. Mr. Pine stated that according to Sue Stepp, they are getting the ROW clearance. The project should be able to go for bid shortly.

New Paltz Road Conrail Bridge Rehabilitation, Town of Lloyd. Mr. Pine stated that the ROW issues are being finalized. Mr. Pine stated that he anticipates advertising for construction bids before June 29, 2009.

City of Kingston Pedestrian Waterfront Walkway. Mr. Doyle stated that the City has submitted all the material to NYSDOT.

Route 209 Stone Ridge Paving and Sidewalks, Town of Marbletown. Mr. Peters handed out list of Region 8 ARRA projects that have been certified by the Governor. The Route 209 Stone Ridge project was certified by the Governor on March 19, 2009.

Orange and Ulster Preventive Maintenance Inspection (PMI). Mr. Peters stated that the project was certified by the Governor on March 19, 2009.

Route 28 PMI Paving. Mr. Peters stated that the project is scheduled to be let on June 18, 2009. Mr. Peters stated that all Round 1 projects for Ulster County are a go.

Semi-annual Federal Aid Obligation Report. Mr. Tobin stated that the report is for October 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. Many of these projects were scheduled to go in 2009 and are funded with ARRA funds. The TIP subcommittee met on March 27, 2009 and presented a draft list of projects. Some of the ready to go projects for FFY 2009 are moving ahead. Mr. Tobin stated that that the FFY 2010 looks like a \$5.2 million program. There are no funds for FFY 2011 because of the bridge project in Westchester County. For FFY 2012 there is twice the amount because there are no funds in 2011. Mr. Tobin stated that the list includes just non-State highway and bridge projects. Mr. Tobin stated that the TIP may have to be amended. Mr. Peters suggested amending the TIP for FFY 2009 and 2010 as FFY 2012 is far out. Mr. Tobin stated that the FFY 2009 and 2010 should be updated as shown on the draft.

Mr. Peters stated that the TIP amendment for the new Transportation Enhancement Project (TEP) needs to be done. Mr. Doyle stated that the Gardiner sidewalk project is the only one for Ulster County. Mr. Doyle stated that he will entertain a motion to amend the AVL to include the Gardiner sidewalk TEP project awarded by the Governor \$883,000 of stimulus money. **Motion to approve by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Lemmon. All in favor.**

Mr. Hoagland asked about the Mohonk Preserve TEP project. Mr. Hoagland made a request to put the project on the regular TIP list. Mr. Peters stated the project is eligible for federal TEP funds under the TEP rules. The project would not be eligible under the normal surface transportation (STP) rules. Mr. Doyle suggested writing an appeal to the FHWA. Mr. Peters stated that someone needs to resolve the ownership of the bridge issue, whether it is publicly or privately owned. Mr. Hoagland asked whether the work can be segmented if the project is shovel ready by June 29, 2009 but doesn't have adequate funds to go to contract to do the original scope of work. Mr. Peters stated that they would have to identify how they would complete the rest of the project. Mr. Peters stated that the key is to identify who owns the bridge. Ms. Hokanson stated that there seems to be two options. One is to confirm that it is not privately owned. The other is to appeal the process to FHWA with additional information. Mr. Doyle suggested getting together with Mr. Hoagland for discussion. Mr. Doyle stated that a meeting with FHWA officials could be set up.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATE

TMA Certification Review Update - Mr. Tobin stated that the TMA certification review was conducted on the week of March 11. FHWA and FTA officials met with TMA staff and individual MPOs to discuss the federal planning and programming processes. They will have a report prepared in 3 to 6 months. There may be findings that staff will have to address.

City of Kingston Intermodal Center Site Location and Conceptual Design Analysis - Mr. Tobin stated that the contract is being amended to include one additional site for the Uptown Parking garage site, which became available towards the conclusion of the study.

Request for Qualification (RFQ) Developed and Advertised – Mr. Tobin stated that the Ulster County Purchasing Department received a total of 24 proposals from interested consulting firms.

Upcoming UCTC Meeting – The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2009. There may be more resolutions circulated visa mil ballot.

Ms. Ruiz asked if the Technical Committee will be fine with bringing a resolution to the Policy Committee to add the projects on the TIP provided there are projects for stimulus energy funds. Mr. Doyle stated that it will be fine.

Mr. Doyle asked those in attendance to inform their Policy Committee members about the mail ballot forthcoming which should be sent out by April 17, 2009.

ADJOIRNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11.25 AM.