

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

July 16, 2009

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members

Present:

Linda Bertling	UC Department of Public Works
Joel B. Brink**	Town of Ulster
Ray Costantino	Town of Lloyd
Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Board/UCTC Staff
Jean Gunsch	NYS DOT Region 8 MPO Unit
Jack Hohman**	NYS Thruway Authority
Tom Jackson	UC Area Transit
Jeremy Kane**	Town of Saugerties
Joe Katz*	Town of Gardiner
Cindy Lanzetta*	Town of Marlborough
Bruce Loertscher	Town of Plattekill
Patrick McDonough	Town of Rosendale
Rich Peters**	NYS DOT Region 8
Ed Pine	UC Department of Public Works
Ralph Swenson**	City of Kingston
John Valk*	Town of Shawangunk
Jane Ann Williams	Town of New Paltz
Bill Tobin	UCTC Staff

Others

Present:

Chris Cate	GMB Engineers and Planners
Kathy Nolan	Town of Shandaken
Anne Noonan	New York Trailways

+Permanent Voting Member

*Current Voting Member (Until June 4, 2011)

**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. Mr. Doyle stated that following the departure of Cynthia Ruiz to work for Dutchess County Mr. Tobin has been spending half his time at Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT). Bob DiBella has been appointed interim director of UCAT. Mr. Tobin is helping UCAT with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) reporting processes and some other projects. Mr. Doyle has been appointed as the Deputy Director for UCAT.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Nolan stated that the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee has passed a resolution which unanimously approved establishing a bicycling and pedestrian policy for Ulster County. The policy was written to address the design of pedestrian and non-motorized accommodations. Ms. Nolan added that the committee is also looking at ways to utilize a member reserve item. One of the projects that has a match is the connector

trail at the northern end of the O & W Trail. This project is on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) but is several years away from implementation. Ms. Nolan asked the project to be moved forward on the TIP and make use of the matching funds.

Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Peters to give an idea on how the member item works. Mr. Peters stated that when the last finance plan for the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) was done, there was funding set aside for projects that the Legislature wanted. One of the projects was secured by Senator Cahill. The project is the bicycle and pedestrian improvement on the Route 28 corridor in Kingston to Shandaken. The money has to be used for those purposes. Since it is a State Dedicated Fund (SDF) it can be used to match federal dollars. Mr. Doyle stated that fund is about a million dollars. Mr. Doyle stated that the O & W trail project is listed on the TIP as PIN 875804. It is the connection from Washington Avenue to the paved portion on Route 209 in the Town of Hurley. It is scheduled for construction post 2012 on the TIP. Mr. Doyle stated that the idea is to move this project up and use the SDF to make the match since additional money will most likely be required for the project. This will allow using the federal dollars as well as providing a match. Mr. Doyle asked Ms. Nolan to go over the three priority projects. Ms. Nolan stated that priority project number one is in Shandaken from Phoenicia to Highmount. The other is the trail to trolley project at the Rondout in Kingston. Ms. Nolan stated that recommendations of the sub-committee, in terms of which project will move forward and how to go about it with just a million dollars in funding, would be to have a discussion with someone using a portion of the funds for design. And move forward with one or more projects depending on how the design work proceeded.

Mr. Doyle asked Mr. McDonough to provide an update on the Walkkill Valley rail trail system. Mr. McDonough stated that it is still up in the air. The towns of Ulster and Rosendale and the City of Kingston's section of the former Walkkill Valley railroad went out for sale due to unpaid property taxes. The Open Space Institute and the Walkkill Valley Land Trust were approved by the County Legislature to buy those sections. Mr. McDonough stated that there are many people working to make this work. So far it looks good and the next step is going to be funding. The Walkkill Valley Land Trust is in the process of securing grants. Mr. McDonough stated that they could apply for a federal earmark. Mr. McDonough added that Congressman Hinchey's office has reached out to him to say that they are very interested in the project and are looking to help.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 16, 2009 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the meeting summary from the April 16, 2009 Technical Committee meeting. **Motion to approve by Mr. Brink, seconded by Ms. Lanzetta. All in favor.**

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Resolution 2009-13: FFY 2009 FTA Section 5307 Transportation Management Area (TMA) Allocations. Mr. Tobin stated that the resolution breaks down the FTA Section 5307 TMA allocations for 2009 for the three counties and the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA). The resolution is circulated annually and is drafted by TMA staff. The numbers have been arrived at using a formula that was agreed upon by the Council in 2005. Mr. Tobin stated that the total allocation for 2009 is \$17.62 million. Ulster County's share is \$657,967 for UCAT and \$1.35 million for inter-county bus services. There is \$1.21 million set aside for unallocated funds. Adopting the resolution will allow the three counties and the MTA to use the funding. Mr. Tobin stated that he would like to do a mail

ballot after today's meeting to help expedite the approval process. Mr. Doyle asked for the approval of the draft Resolution 2009-13. **Motion to approve by Mr. Valk, seconded by Mr. Loertscher. All in favor.**

Draft Resolutions 2009-14 & 15: Public Transit TIP Amendments. Mr. Tobin stated that two resolutions have been listed because at the time the agenda was being prepared UCAT was thought to have needed a resolution. The UCAT resolution did not materialize. Mr. Tobin stated that the Resolution 2009-15 is for Kingston Citibus. It requests a 100% increase in the project administration funding. The increase is for FFY 2009 and 2010 because the TIP is not updated until next year. Mr. Tobin added that according to the Operating Procedures, Policy Committee action is required to increase federal funds by 100%. Mr. Doyle asked for the approval of the draft Resolutions 2009-15. **Motion to approve by Ms. Lanzetta, seconded by Mr. Katz. All in favor.**

Ms. Lanzetta asked what the need was for the City to increase the administrative cost by 100%. Mr. Tobin stated that it could be because the costs of doing business have risen and these numbers were generated in early 2007. Also, Citibus hired an additional person as required by a recent Federal Transit Administration review of Citibus operations. Mr. Tobin stated that the resolution will be circulated with other resolutions as part of the e-mail ballot.

Draft Resolution 2009-15: Transfer FTA Section 5307 TMA Commuter Bus Funds to CDTA. Mr. Tobin stated that the resolution transfers the administrative and management responsibilities for Trailways share of FFY 2009 FTA Section 5307 TMA commuter bus funds to Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) in Albany, NY. The amount for 2009 is \$1.34 million. Mr. Doyle added that this is the fourth year this is being done and helps Trailways efficiently manage FTA funds from one Designated Recipient (CDTA). Mr. Doyle asked for the approval to discuss the draft Resolutions 2009-16. **Motion to approve by Mr. Brink, seconded by Mr. Katz. All in favor.**

Mr. Doyle asked Ms. Noonan for an update on the previously distributed FTA Section 5307 funding transferred in prior years. Ms. Noonan stated that she will check and get back to Mr. Doyle. Mr. Doyle stated that the Council would like to have an account from Trailways and CDTA in terms of where the funding stands. Ms. Noonan stated that Trailways will provide the information.

Resolution 2009-16: Amend the SFY 2009-2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to increase funding for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update Process. The resolution increases the funding for the LRTP update. Initial funding set aside for the LRTP update on the UPWP was \$22,500. When the UPWP was being developed the idea was to spend more time on the Transit Development Plan (TDP) and more money was assigned to the TDP. However, due to changes in the UCAT situation and because of the urgency to get the LRTP updated, the TDP is going to be delayed until later this year or until early the next. The \$100,000 set aside for the TDP will remain unchanged. Mr. Tobin stated that the resolution moves \$48,486 of the unprogrammed funds to the LRTP update process for a total of \$70,000. The resolution requires a Policy Committee approval. The LRTP update needs to be completed and adopted by September 2010. Mr. Doyle asked for the approval of the Resolutions 2009-16. **Motion to approve by Mr. Valk, seconded by Mr. McDonough. All in favor.**

Mr. Tobin stated that adjustments will be made to the resolution numbers since UCAT did not have a resolution. Currently there are two resolutions numbered as 2009-16. The Kingston Citibus Resolution will be Resolution 2009-14, Trailways will be changed to Resolution 2009-15 and UPWP will be changed to Resolution 2009-16. The change in the resolution numbers will be reflected in the mail ballot.

Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Tobin to go over the scope of work for the LRTP. Mr. Tobin stated that the LRTP update will be a general planning exercise which will involve data collection and analysis. An assessment of all previously completed plans will be conducted. Staff will reach out to all municipalities to understand their needs. The plan is going to be written in-house. A consultant may be hired for public out reach and travel demand forecasting.

Mr. Peters stated that he would like to discuss a TIP amendment related to the Park and Ride lot on Route 32 in New Paltz. Mr. Peters stated that some additional money is needed to finish the project. The cost has been higher than what was initially thought. There is need for an additional \$240,000 because of the extra work to the Park and Ride lot to accommodate bicycle, better bus shelter, a link to Trailways, some added landscaping, sidewalks, and signage. This funding will also pay for the lease for the Park Ride lot through September 2013. The original cost was \$450,000. The funding source for the additional fund will be STP Flex and NYSDOT will find the offset. Mr. Doyle asked for the approval to add \$240,000 of additional money to the New Paltz Park and Ride lot project. **Motion to approve by Mr. Costantino, seconded by Mr. Brink. All in favor.**

Mr. Doyle stated that he would like to discuss the unprogrammed FTA 5307 funds. Mr. Doyle added that substantial amount of unprogrammed 5307 money has been collected over a period of time. TMA staff has been discussing what should be done with the unprogrammed funds. Dutchess County is looking at using that money to cover the shortfall in funding for the Poughkeepsie train station. The amount is about \$500,000. Trailways has made a request to Ulster County to use some of the unused 5307 funds to supplement its bus service from Kingston to New York. The money will be used to purchase two buses that will be used for Kingston to New York service. The project has been supported by the County Executive as well as NYSDOT. Mr. Doyle stated that he would like to get a consensus from the Committee on allocating some of the unused 5307 funds to Trailways. Mr. Doyle stated that the resolution has not been prepared because numbers from the three counties are required. The three Councils (TMA) will have to pass the same resolution. Mr. Doyle stated that the total project cost for the two buses is \$1.1 million. The federal share would be \$884,000. Ulster County is requesting about \$15,000 for administrative costs. These buses would become part of Ulster County fleet and would be leased to Trailways. Ulster County would have administrative responsibility for these buses. The 10% local share for the buses would be borne by Trailways. The local share for administrative cost would be borne by Ulster County. There has been discussion with the TMA and NYSDOT about this use of unprogrammed funds. Agreement from the Council will allow crafting a draft resolution for the use of these unprogrammed funds in the three counties. To date, Orange County hasn't indicated whether they have use for the money. There has been a request from Dutchess County to use this funding for the Poughkeepsie train station. There may be a request from NYSDOT to use some of this funding for the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry. Mr. Doyle stated that the unprogrammed funds are lost if they are not used within three years of their allocation. Mr. Doyle stated that he would like to get a consensus from the Council on the use of the unprogrammed funds for the purchase of Trailways buses and for the

Poughkeepsie trail station. A resolution, agreed upon by the three councils, will then be drafted, which will be sent by mail ballot for consideration. Mr. Doyle stated that the primary use of these buses would be for the Kingston to New York corridor. UCAT will have to monitor these buses in terms of procurement and maintenance. Mr. Doyle stated that UCTC staff thinks it is a good use of unprogrammed funds. NYSDOT has sent a support letter supporting this concept.

Ms. Lanzetta asked if there could be service that went through Route 9W into Newburgh which will make the service more available to the people on Route 9W and in Highland and Marlborough. Ms. Noonan stated that Trailways tried service in that corridor to Highland but didn't have enough takers. Ms. Lanzetta stated that things have changed with the price of gas. Ms. Noonan stated that Shortline operates the Newburgh-New York service. Going through Newburgh to New York may cause an overlap of service. Trailways could consider going into the Highland park ride lot and a little south but not through to Newburgh.

Mr. Doyle stated that UCTC staff attempted to bring service from Ulster County to Orange County. The proposal did not succeed. Mr. Doyle stated that UCAT has requested the operating authority to move outside of Ulster County in Orange County. UCTC will continue to support this.

Mr. Doyle asked if there is a consensus for the use of unprogrammed FTA 5307 funds to purchase two buses for Trailways and for the Poughkeepsie train station. Ms. Lanzetta asked why NYSDOT's request for funding the ferry wasn't included. Mr. Doyle stated that the UCTC hasn't received the dollar amount for the project from NYSDOT. Mr. Doyle stated that he hasn't received the request in writing from NYSDOT with respect to funding the ferry. Mr. Peters stated that NYSDOT will send the request. Mr. Doyle stated that if the Council is willing the ferry can be included. Mr. Doyle added that the Council staff has issues with respect to continuing the funding of the ferry. But there is no issue with using the unprogrammed funds to get them through some timeframe. Ms. Lanzetta stated that the ferry service has been a good service. Mr. Doyle asked for the consensus for the three projects including the ferry. Mr. Doyle stated that the three MPOs will have to agree on it. Mr. Doyle stated that he would like to get this done by September 2009. Mr. Doyle asked for the approval to use the unprogrammed FTA 5307 funds for the purchase of Trailways buses, Poughkeepsie train station project and the ferry project requested by NYSDOT. **Motion to approve by Ms. Lanzetta, seconded by Mr. Katz. All in favor.**

Mr. Doyle stated that he would like to discuss issues related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funding. Mr. Peters stated that NYSDOT had programmed more projects with the anticipation of using money from other states that do not meet the project deadline. Mr. Peters added that all the states met the deadline so there will be no extra money. Mr. Peters stated that Region 8 has spent almost 70% of the ARRA funds. Ulster County has approximately \$4.2 million of projects that are waiting to be certified. Mr. Peters asked what the Council would like to do since there isn't enough money for these projects. Mr. Peters stated that NYSDOT will withdraw the Route 28 project. That will leave the New Paltz road project and the Hudson Valley rail trail project. There is not enough ARRA money to fund the complete Hudson Valley rail trail project. It will have to be done with some other funds. The total ARRA funding for Ulster County is \$18 million in that almost \$13.8 million has already been certified. The \$22 million funding estimated earlier was in anticipating of using money from the other states. Mr. Doyle asked what other funding sources could be used for the local match.

Mr. Peters stated that the 20% match for the trail projects would have to be provided by the local government. For highway and bridge projects, it is 80-15-5 in that 5% is the local match. Mr. Doyle asked what the possible offsets are to fund the Hudson Valley rail trail project. Mr. Gunsch stated that offset from Abeel Street project could be used. Mr. Doyle asked about the status of the Abeel Street project. Mr. Swenson stated that the City is waiting for the notice to procure right-of-way (ROW). Mr. Doyle suggested that the County and the Town of Lloyd work with NYSDOT to find offsets for the Hudson Valley rail trail project.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Tobin stated that the Federal Aid Obligation Third Quarter report was included in the agenda. Mr. Tobin circulated a copy of the last page of the report with updated numbers.

Mr. Tobin stated that the voting membership has changed as of June 4, 2009. Mr. Tobin added that the Town of Kingston appoints the Town of Woodstock as their voting proxy. This allows them to have voting privileges continuously. Mr. Tobin stated that it is a good model that other municipalities could follow. Mr. McDonough stated the Town of Rosendale may consider using this model with the Town of Esopus.

Mr. Tobin stated that the New York State Rail Plan has been released and identifies the Flatbush at-grade railroad crossing in Kingston as one of the top five state priorities for grade separation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11.15 AM.