

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Policy Committee Meeting**

Meeting Summary

July 29, 2010

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

Members

Present:

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| Joel Brink** | Town of Ulster |
| Barbara Budik** | Town of Saugerties |
| Leonard Distel* | Town of Wawarsing |
| Terry Dungan* | Village of New Paltz |
| Joe Katz ⁺ | Town of Gardiner |
| Jack Hohman** | New York State Thruway Authority |
| Steve Osborn* | Town of Marlborough |
| Rich Peters** | New York State Department of Transportation |
| Adam Pizer** | UC Executive's Office |
| Joe Rich [^] | Federal Highway Administration |
| Terrie Rosenblum* | Town of Woodstock |
| Ralph Swenson** | City of Kingston |
| John Valk* | Town of Shawangunk |

Others

Present:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alan Adin | City of Kingston |
| Vincent Bruno | Village of Saugerties |
| Bob DiBella | UC Area Transit |
| Glen Gidaly | Barton and Loguidice |
| Toni Hokanson | Town of New Paltz |
| Dr. Kathy Nolan | UC Trails Advisory Committee |
| Shari Osborn | Village of New Paltz |
| Edward Pine | UC Department of Public Works |
| Dave Sheeley | UC Department of Public Works |
| Dennis Doyle | UC Planning Department/UCTC Staff |
| Bill Tobin | UCTC Staff |
| Sweta Basnet | UCTC Staff |

*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 10:00 AM. Mr. Doyle conducted the roll call for the meeting. Mr. Doyle stated a quorum was achieved.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 18, 2010 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the meeting summary from the March 18, 2010 Policy Committee meeting. **Motion to approve by Mr. Valk, seconded by Mr. Katz. All in favor.**

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Resolution 2010-06: FFY 2010 TIP Amendments: Mr. Doyle stated that there are several amendments to be discussed. Mr. Doyle asked for a motion to discuss draft resolution 2010-06. **Motion to approve by Mr. Dungan, seconded by Mr. Brink. All in favor.**

Village of Ellenville, Hickory Street/Beerkill Bridge Rehabilitation (PIN 875801): Mr. Tobin stated that the amendment pushes back the Hickory Street/Beerkill Bridge Rehabilitation project schedule which frees up over \$1.1 million to fund the other projects on the TIP amendment. Mr. Tobin added that this has been done in agreement of the Village of Ellenville.

Mud Tavern Road Bridge project (PIN 875666): Additional design and right-of-way (ROW) acquisition is being programmed to reimburse the Ulster County Department of Public Works (UCDPW). The reimbursement is for expenses incurred as part of their design process. They have already gone through the design process and now they are trying to get reimbursed for it. Mr. Doyle stated that this is a waiver request. The county has incurred the design cost, however, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has withdrawn the funds due to lack of activity. The waiver request has been submitted on behalf of the county by New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and if the waiver is granted the funds will reimburse the county for the design costs that have already been incurred. Mr. Doyle stated that the funds may be available if the FHWA decides to grant the waiver.

Town of Lloyd, PIN 875914, Hudson Valley Rail Trail: Mr. Tobin stated that the Town of Lloyd has requested funding to cover the design cost overages of \$41,000. The town is responsible for 20% match, which is about \$37,000. This is coming out of the Hickory Street/Beerkill Bridge project.

D&H Canal/O&W RR Trail (PIN 875925): Mr. Tobin stated that the Town of Wawarsing has requested some additional design funds. When the town initially scoped out the work for the trail they underestimated the cost of surveying the corridor from the Rochester town line to the Eastern State Correctional Facility. The town has requested \$25,000 to cover the design cost overages.

Washington Avenue Signal at Schwenk Drive and North Front St, City of Kingston: The City of Kingston is looking to move to design on Washington Ave at Schwenk Drive and North Front Street project. The city has requested to initiate design using some of the funds from the Hickory Street/Beerkill Bridge project. Design is expected to cost \$86,000.

Grant Avenue Grade Crossing upgrade (PIN 893244) and Leggs Mill Road Railroad Crossing upgrade (PIN 893244 and PIN 893245): Mr. Tobin stated that NYSDOT has submitted two amendment requests. They include adding two projects to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to improve the railroad crossing at Grant Avenue and Leggs Mill Road in the Town of Ulster for \$150,000. This will use Surface Transportation Program (STP) Rail funds which requires only 10% local match and NYSDOT is paying the match.

City of Kingston Roadway Pavement Rehab and Preventative Maintenance Initiative (PMI): Mr. Tobin stated that this is a paving initiative to start paving the federal aid eligible roads in the City of Kingston. This is a new project to the TIP which will use funds from the Hickory Street/Beerkill Bridge project.

Mr. Tobin stated that the amendments being proposed today for adoption expire at the end of the fiscal year (October 1, 2010). Mr. Tobin stated that the Hickory Street/Beerkill Bridge is scheduled in the TIP update for construction in FFY 2012. Mr. Tobin stated that the FFY 2011-2015 TIP will come into effect on October 1, 2010 and will supersede any amendments being discussed and adopted today.

Draft Resolution 2010-07: Agreement to allocate FFY 2010 FTA Section 5307/5340 Funds: Mr. Tobin stated this resolution concerns UCAT (Ulster County Area Transit) and Kingston Citibus' agreement to split FFY 2010 FTA Section 5307 funds. Mr. Doyle asked for a motion to discuss draft resolution 2010-07. **Motion to approve by Ms. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Distel. All in favor.** Mr. Doyle stated that the City of Kingston and Ulster County have agreed to continue the 50%-50% split for the allocation of FFY 2010 FTA Section 5307/5340 funds. Mr. Valk asked whether the rest of the county gets the 50% and the city gets the other 50%. Mr. Doyle stated that the buses operating in southern Ulster and other areas of the counties also have access to other 5307 funds. This is the reason the county agreed to the 50-50 split.

Draft Resolution 2010-08: Draft Final FFY 2011-2015 TIP Update: Mr. Doyle asked for a motion to discuss Resolution 2010-08. **Motion to approve by Mr. Dungan, seconded by Ms. Budik.**

Mr. Dungan stated that the Village of New Paltz has concerns about the Draft TIP Update. Mr. Dungan stated that they did the Village of New Paltz Transportation Land Use Study for \$500,000 several years ago and involved work from a lot of volunteers. Mr. Dungan stated that there is a concern that four years later, there is no physical improvements taking place to address the transportation problems and recommendations that were included in the study. There is particular concern related to the South Putt Corners Road project. Mr. Dungan added that the South Putt Corners Road is being used as a bypass by people going North-South to avoid the downtown village. In the last year, there has been a significant increase in the traffic volume on South Putt Corners Road. NYSDOT added traffic lights at the intersection of South Putt Corners Road and Route 32 and at the intersection of Shivertown Road and Route 32 north. New Paltz High school is located on South Putt Corners Road and the increasing traffic volume on the road is a safety hazard for people who work and bike to school. Mr. Dungan stated that the New Paltz police have recently opened their new police station on that road. Mr. Dungan stated that this is a serious safety problem for the village. Mr. Dungan stated that the New Paltz Transportation Council by unanimous vote has instructed him to vote against the Draft FFY 2011-2015 TIP Update. Mr. Dungan stated that earlier the issue was that the South Putt Corners Road was not eligible for federal aid and it was pushed back to keep it on the TIP. Mr. Dungan added that because now the South Putt Corners Road has been reclassified as federal aid eligible road, the community would like have the project moved up to FFY 2011. Mr. Dungan stated that project includes widening of the road including 6 feet shoulders. Mr. Doyle stated that the South Putt Corners Road is a county road. The project was scheduled on the TIP for FFY 2010 to begin the design work. On the draft TIP update, the project is still carried on the TIP but has been pushed back. UCTC staff worked with the County DPW to prioritize the projects on the TIP based on county priorities. Mr. Doyle added that bridge projects received higher priority because they need to get done. Mr. Doyle stated that it doesn't reflect a lack of concern for problems at South Putt Corners Road. It reflects the amount of funding that is available. The projects were funded on the priority basis and available funding. The bridges have to be fixed and they are higher priority than the South Putt Corners Road project. Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Dungan if he has any concern releasing the FFY 2011-2015 TIP as a

“draft.” Mr. Dungan stated that he is fine with the idea of releasing the TIP as a draft. **All in favor.** Mr. Tobin stated that staff intends to circulate the draft TIP for a public comment period. The public comment period will be from July 29, 2010 to August 20, 2010. Mr. Tobin stated that the public comment period is an opportunity for the public to submit written comments about the draft TIP. The comments will be compiled and circulated before the August 31, 2010 meeting.

Draft Resolution 2010-09: Draft Final Year 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update: Mr. Doyle asked for motion for discussion of the draft Resolution 2010-09. **Motion to approve by Ms. Rosenblum, seconded by Ms. Budik.** Mr. Tobin stated that he would like to briefly discuss what changes have been made to the plan since the last meeting. Mr. Tobin stated that a Recommended Plan is found in Chapter 7, an Implementation Plan in Chapter 8, and a Public Involvement Initiatives discussion in Chapter 5. Mr. Tobin stated that the Objectives in Chapter 2 were significantly refined and clarified based on comments received from the Federal Highway Administration. They contain measurable objectives which are linked to the performance monitoring plan in Chapter 9. Mr. Doyle stated that need to initiate a public comment public comment period.

Mr. Dungan stated that in the FFY 2008-2012 TIP there was a rehabilitation project on Route 32 north in the town and Village of New Paltz. Mr. Dungan added that the project is not reflected in the LRTP document. Mr. Dungan stated that the replacement of culvert by the park and ride was included, which doesn't allow room for bicyclist to pass by. Mr. Dungan stated this is a concern for the bike and ped committee. Mr. Peters stated that NYSDOT had unprogrammed the Route 32 north project because they are looking at what should be done and whether they should just do maintenance paving. There is also possibility of an intersection improvement, which will be done as separate project. Mr. Tobin stated that the Route 32 north project is not on the LRTP because the list of projects in the LRTP is directly linked to the projects in the draft TIP Update. If the projects are not on the TIP then they will not be in the LRTP. Mr. Dungan stated that the village still wants to do the project. Mr. Peters stated that the project is not on the NYSDOT program. Mr. Peters stated that he is going to look at what the intersection improvement entails. Mr. Tobin stated that the LRTP and the TIP are living documents and can be amended later date to add projects.

Draft Resolution 2010-10: Commitment of Effort to support Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant by the Counties of Orange, Dutchess and Ulster: Mr. Doyle handed out copies of Draft Resolution 2010-10. Mr. Doyle requested consideration for the resolution from the council. Mr. Doyle stated that the counties of Dutchess, Orange and Ulster will be applying for Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant under the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) issued by the FHWA, Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and others. The planning departments of Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties have been having discussions regarding what constitutes the region, how the three departments could work together and whether it made sense to apply for the grant. The planning departments have convened about five times and the more they meet it becomes more imperative that they should work together as a region and apply for the grant. Applying for the grant would require the support and participation of the three MPOs. The effort would require production of regional transportation, housing and a sustainability plan. It also requires representation from the MPOs, counties, and the non-governmental entities that have the power to engage diverse populations. The three planning departments are asking for letters of support from the three principal cities of Kingston, Newburgh and Poughkeepsie. City of Kingston and Newburgh have given assurance of their participation. The State Smart Growth Cabinet

mentioned that they will support the application. Greenway has provided a resolution of support for the application. The three County Executives are supporting the application. Mr. Doyle stated that the three MPOs are requested to provide a commitment on the use of PL (planning) funds. Mr. Doyle stated that the grant is due on August 26, 2010. Mr. Doyle stated that the three planning departments are also looking to engage the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation and the Hudson River Estuary program. Principal partners have been invited for a meeting in the first week of August to discuss what they can bring to the table.

Mr. Doyle further explained that this is a huge undertaking that needs coordination and cooperation from everyone. Orange County has taken the fiscal responsibility to lead. Dutchess and Ulster Counties are having discussions about appointing staff as project manager and project director. Mr. Doyle stated that the effort will see coming together of planning staff from the three counties. The narratives are currently being written. Mr. Doyle added that the project will not move without the MPO support. Mr. Doyle asked for support from the Council members for commitment of the MPO to work collaboratively to develop a Regional Sustainability Plan. Mr. Doyle stated that the budget hasn't been developed yet. This is a Tier 1 application. Mr. Doyle stated that Tier 1 applicants can apply for up to \$5 million. Mr. Doyle stated that outside contractors will be needed for the effort along with devotion of staff time. This kind of effort hasn't been done as a region ever and needs to be done to be competitive and sustainable. Mr. Doyle stated that the planning staff of the three counties amounts to over 50 and there is a commitment from the three counties to get this done. But the effort cannot proceed without the support of the MPOs. Mr. Doyle asked for the approval of the Resolution 2010-10. **Motion to approve by Ms. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Katz. All in favor.**

Mr. Doyle stated that this is a unique initiative at the federal level and no other counties in the state have done anything similar to this. Mr. Doyle stated that some of the other entities in the state will be applying for the grant. The Regional Partnership and the CDTC may be applying at the Albany level. Regional Plan Association (RPA) will be applying on behalf of New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) and parts of Connecticut. Syracuse may also apply. Mr. Doyle stated that the State Smart Growth Cabinet wants to convene its first Smart Growth Cabinet meeting and its first interagency meeting in Ulster County in September 2010. The State Smart Growth Cabinet wants to use the region as a model. Mr. Doyle stated that this is a significant change at state level in terms of initiatives on Smart Growth. This is one of the few regions in the state that is growing. Orange and Dutchess counties are the fastest growing counties in the state. Mr. Tobin stated that this effort will also help satisfy the Transportation Management Area (TMA) congestion management requirements. Mr. Doyle stated that there are lots of good things that come out of this effort. Mr. Doyle stated that the project period would be for a 3-year period and requires a 20% local match, which could be in-kind or staff time. Mr. Doyle stated that more important than match is the leverage. The match doesn't require outside funds. Federal dollars can be matched with federal dollars. Mr. Doyle stated that the main point is the leverage. Mr. Doyle stated that this is a huge effort and the planning staffs are beginning to gel together.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gidaly stated that the Village of Ellenville would like to thank the Council for its support on the Beckley Street Bridge project.

Mr. Doyle stated that a public informational meeting on Draft Year 2035 LRTP and Draft FFY 2011-2015 TIP will be held on August 3, 2010 at 6:00 pm at the Ulster County Office

Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY. Mr. Doyle stated that the next Policy Committee meeting to consider the draft Final LRTP and draft Final TIP is scheduled for August 31, 2010 at 10:00 am, at SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10.50 AM.