

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL  
Policy Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Summary**

March 24, 2011

SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY

**Members**

**Present:**

Alan Adin**	City of Kingston
Joel Brink**	Town of Ulster
Bill Gorton**	New York State Department of Transportation
Greg Helsmoortel*	Town of Saugerties
Joseph Katz <sup>+</sup>	Town of Gardiner
Patrick McCarroll**	New York State Thruway Authority
Stephen Osborn**	Town of Marlborough
Terrie Rosenblum*	Town of Woodstock
John Valk*	Town of Shawangunk

**Others**

**Present:**

David Bolles	UC Department of Public Works
James Bruno	Town of Saugerties
Bob DiBella	Ulster County Area Transit
Eric Foster	New York State Department of Transportation
Jack Hohman	New York State Thruway Authority
Toni Hokanson	Town of New Paltz
Anne Noonan	New York Trailways
Edward Pine	UC Department of Public Works
Joseph Rich	Federal Highway Administration
Susan Ronga	UC Department of Public Works
Charlie Schaller	UC Traffic Safety Board
Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Department/UCTC Staff
Sweta Basnet	UCTC Staff
Burt Samuelson	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, and stated that a quorum was achieved. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

**CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 21, 2010 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
SUMMARY**

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the meeting summary from the December 21, 2010 Policy Committee meeting. **Motion to approve by Mr. Katz, seconded by Mr. Brink. All in favor.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Draft Resolution for 2011-01: UCTC Joint Cooperative Planning Agreement: Mr. Doyle stated that the resolution approves the UCTC Joint Cooperative Planning Agreement. Mr. Doyle added that the federal regulations require that UCTC enter into a Joint Cooperative Planning Agreement with operators of public transit systems serving Ulster County. In the proposed agreement, Ulster County, the City of Kingston and the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) share "system and financial information on transportation facilities and transit equipment under their responsibility or jurisdiction." Mr. Doyle asked for motion on the Resolution 2011-01 to adopt the agreement. **Motion to approve by Ms. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Valk. All in favor.**

Draft Resolution for 2011-02: Annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update: Mr. Doyle stated that the Resolution 2011-02 is for adoption of the SFY 20011-2012 UPWP. Mr. Doyle asked for motion on Resolution 2011-02 to adopt the annual UPWP. **Motion to approve by Ms. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Valk. All in favor.**

Draft Resolution for 2011-03: Amendment to the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Mr. Doyle stated that the resolution amends the FFY 2011-2015 TIP to add the Shawangunk Mountains Scenic Byways project to it. The funding was previously withdrawn by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) due to inactivity. Mr. Valk stated that the scenic byway runs through nine municipalities in Ulster County and two in Orange County. It is an eighty-eight mile route that would preserve scenic views. The executive group of the supervisors doesn't have the regulatory authority; however, they did receive a grant to do a guideline for preserving the scenic byways. The Town of Shawangunk is the lead on it. The guideline will be a unique document for the planning boards to use. Mr. Valk added that it is a 3-year contract which expires in August 2011. It was pulled back because they didn't submit vouchers for reimbursement. Mr. Doyle stated that \$60,000 in federal funding was withdrawn for the lack of progress on the project because they didn't bill against it. The project was, however, moving along. Mr. Doyle added that the NYSDOT, UCTC and the Shawangunk Mountain Scenic Byways have asked to put the project back on the TIP. Mr. Doyle also requested Mr. Valk to involve UCTC staff on any future discussions associated with the project and any materials produced. Mr. Doyle asked for the approval of the Resolution 2011-03. **Motion to approve by Ms. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Valk. All in favor.**

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update: Mr. Doyle stated that this is a follow-up to the previous discussion with respect to the adopted TIP and consider its readoption. Mr. Gorton stated that the NYSDOT is asking the MPOs to readopt their FFY 2011-2015 TIP in June 2011. Mr. Gorton added that this is due to the issues with the last TIP update. Mr. Gorton stated that during the last TIP update, all the MPOs adopted their TIP except for NYMTC which caused problems related to transfer of data to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Mr. Gorton added that NYSDOT is asking the MPOs to readopt their TIP in June 2011 in order to fix the issue. Mr. Doyle asked whether the NYSDOT is proposing changes to the TIP or whether it is asking the MPOs to readopt their existing TIP with the amendments that have been made to date. Mr. Gorton stated that Mr. Rich Peters would be able to provide better details on this. Mr. Doyle stated that his understanding is that there could be several reasons for the readoption. One of the

reasons could be that the NYSDOT has been moving its projects around. Mr. Gorton stated that in order to have a fiscally balanced TIP, NYSDOT has had to move projects around due to cost overruns and increased costs. Mr. Gorton stated that MPOs will be provided with the TIP changes in the next couple of months. Mr. Doyle stated that the council would like to have the revised TIP by early April for review by the TIP Subcommittee and to go through the Public Comment Period.

Ms. Basnet pointed out that the adopted FFY 2011-2015 TIP is available online. Mr. Doyle's stated that his understanding is that there will be no changes to the UCTC local program with the exception of its requests for funding. Mr. Gorton stated that the funding requests require offsets. Mr. Doyle stated that one of the reasons for the council to consider the readoption of the TIP is that it will take away the need to find offsets for funding requests. Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Gorton about the status of UCTC's funding requests. Mr. Gorton stated that he will check on the status. Mr. Doyle stated that there is a need to have discussion with the Ulster County Department of Public Works (UCDPW) to determine whether projects such as bridge rehabilitation would be affected due to reduction in the local program. Mr. Doyle added that the discussion is ongoing internally among the county staffs in terms of how they are going to pay for some of the county bridge and whether or not they are going to use federal funds, which could make funding available for additional local projects.

Mr. Rich asked if there was a reason as to why it was being called TIP readoption versus TIP amendment. Mr. Doyle stated that his understanding is that it is to do with getting around the issue of offsets. It will be administratively efficient to readopt the program rather than amend projects individually. Mr. Doyle stated that the TIP readoption will include changes to projects and even pushing projects out beyond FFY 2015 to make the TIP fiscally constrained. Mr. Doyle stated that if NYSDOT would like to have the TIP adopted by June 2011, they should provide the MPOs with the revised TIP soon. This will give MPOs time to go through the readoption process. Mr. Doyle suggested scheduling a Technical Committee meeting in May 2011 and a Policy Committee meeting in June 2011. Mr. Doyle added that between Technical and Policy Committee meeting, UCTC will open a window for public comment period required under the statute and the UCTC Operating Procedure. The project sponsors looking for additional money has to go through the process. Sponsors will have to run their projects through the NYSDOT Local Projects Unit in time for funds to be obligated. Otherwise when the funds get programmed, the project sponsor may not be able to use it. Mr. Doyle stated that council will be informed when there is more information on the TIP readoption.

### **OTHER/OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Doyle stated that the Rotating Voting Members for UCTC will change as of June 4, 2011. The Rotating Voting Members for UCTC change on a two-year basis. The Rotating Voting Members for the 2011 to 2013 term include: Village of Saugerties, Town of Rosendale, Town of Lloyd, Town of Plattekill, Town of Ellenville, Town of New Paltz, Town of Woodstock and the Town of Gardiner.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATE**

Ulster County Commuter Parking Facilities Capacity Analysis and Needs Assessment Report: Ms. Basnet stated that data collection for the analysis was done in the week of October 18, 2010. Ms. Basnet added that the Commuter Parking Facility by the NYS Thruway Exit 19 is considerably over capacity. NYSDOT through the Metropool has leased parking spaces at the parking lot of the Diner; however, it is underutilized. The

parking facility has been included in the analysis. The new commuter parking facility on Route 32 (south bound) in the Village of New Paltz has also been included in the analysis. The parking facility on Route 32/199 in the Town of Ulster has been expanded by eight parking spaces but is still unpaved. Ms. Basnet asked for comments on the draft report.

Mid-Hudson Valley Travel Time Survey: Ms. Basnet stated that a draft report for Ulster County is available. Draft reports for Dutchess and Orange Counties are still completed. The TMA staffs are working to schedule a joint presentation for the three MPOs on the findings of the Travel Time Survey, possible in Orange County. Mr. Doyle pointed out that the idea is to have the MPO build their studies based on the congested areas identified in the Travel Time Survey. Mr. Doyle added that UCTC has already studied or is studying the congested areas identified by the study, including the Broadway/I-587 corridor in the City of Kingston, the Route 9W corridor in Marlboro and Saugerties. Mr. Doyle added that Route 299 corridor is yet to be looked at.

Third Quarter Financial Report: Mr. Samuelson reported that UCTC will be under budget for the year. Currently, only one staffer bills all of her time to the planning and FTA grants. Doing the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in-house saved UCTC money. The yearly operational expense is projected to be under budget.

Upcoming UCTC Meetings: Mr. Doyle stated that the staff will schedule the next Technical Committee meeting for May 2011.

Trails and Sidewalks Work: Mr. Doyle stated that the LRTP has gaps analysis associated with the trails. The policy in the transportation plan is to take a look at how to fill the gaps in regional trail systems. Communities have taken up a lot of trails work despite absence of federal funds. Non-profits and communities have together filled in gaps on regional and local trail networks. The Town of Rosendale and the Open Space Institute (OSI) is one example. Ms. Hokanson stated that the Southern Ulster Alliance has received a grant through the Greenway to do a trail plan. Barton and Loguidice have been hired as the consultant. The consultant has been asked to explore various options to take greenway over NYS Thruway. Mr. Doyle asked Ms. Hokanson to provide the council with a copy of the study when it is complete. Ms. Hokanson stated that the Lloyd portion of the trail is currently under construction to go all the way to Lowes. Ms. Hokanson went on to say that the greenway will probably connect with the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail (WVRT) via Mulberry Street. Bicycles will be able to go down Dubois Drive. Mr. Doyle stated that he has been working with the New York State Department of Correctional Services concerning access through prison lands.

Gardiner Sidewalk Project: Mr. Katz stated that the right-of-way (ROW) for Phase 1 has been taken care of and the design is done. Mr. Katz added that the town will be going out to bid on Phase 2.

South Putt Corner Road Project: Mr. Pine stated that the UCDPW is still waiting on the master agreement. Mr. Pine added that it might be held up until the state budget is in place so it could be around June 2011. Mr. Doyle asked whether the UCDPW has done any work to solicit for consultant. Mr. Pine stated that they don't want to obligate funds until they are available.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA): Mr. Gorton stated that the FHWA National Review Teams will visit Ulster County for review of two of the ARRA Projects.

The projects that have been selected for review are: the Main Street/Kerhonkson Bridge project and the Old New Paltz Road in Highland. Mr. Gorton stated that Ulster County representatives have been asked to be present at review. Ms. Ronga stated that she will be present at the review with Mr. Pine and Mr. Bolles. Mr. Doyle requested that the council staff be notified in future if any projects get selected for review.

NYSDOT Presentation on Bridge Conditions for Region 8 with Specific Data for Ulster County: Mr. Gorton introduced Mr. Foster who is the Regional Bridge Management Engineer at the NYSDOT. Mr. Gorton added that NYSDOT has been going to all the MPOs to give presentation about bridge condition in the region as well as the county that the MPO is responsible for. Mr. Gorton added that the bridge conditions have been declining in the country as well as in NYS. The NYSDOT is looking to stretch the life of bridges by going more into preservation mode rather than going into replacement mode. Mr. Gorton added that NYSDOT would like to share the information on the condition of bridges in Ulster County. Mr. Gorton added that Mr. Foster will make presentation on the bridge conditions.

Attached: 'NYSDOT - REGION 8 BRIDGE MANAGEMENT' presentation (in PDF)

#### **CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 AM.