Executive Summary

Since its inception in 1982, the Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council (PDCTC) has sought to address the transportation needs of the county's residents, workers, and visitors by identifying policies and projects that will prepare the transportation system to meet our future mobility challenges. Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) such as the PDCTC are uniquely positioned to perform this role, since they are one of the few public entities required by federal law to produce long-range plans every four to five years.

Overview

Moving Dutchess 2 represents the sixth long-range, county-wide transportation plan for the PDCTC. As the new 25-year, multi-modal transportation plan for Dutchess County, *Moving Dutchess 2* identifies strategies to preserve the existing transportation system and meet future travel demands through 2040. Building on the work done in 2011 for *Moving Dutchess*, the PDCTC used four guiding principles to develop the Plan:

1. Relevant: serve as a valuable planning tool, relevant to the public, local communities, and decision-makers.
2. Sustainable: establish a fiscally and environmentally sustainable way forward to meet our future transportation challenges, with the intent of creating livable communities that improve our quality of life.
3. Targeted: identify specific measures, both planning and project-based, to improve the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of our transportation system to meet our future mobility needs.
4. Inclusive: seek input from a full range of stakeholders and interests, addressing the diverse transportation needs of all our residents and visitors.

Federal, State, Regional, & Local Guidance & Plans

Moving Dutchess 2 begins with a review of relevant federal, state, regional and county laws, policies, and planning guidance. This literature review seeks to capture those planning policies and recommendations that best support the PDCTC's mission and the goals set forth in *Moving Dutchess 2*. More often than not, similar themes arise from these documents, whether they were legal statutes, State, regional and local plans, or best practices. The PDCTC referred to these themes as it established the ten planning goals for *Moving Dutchess 2*:

> *PDCTC Mission: provide the resources (funding) and tools (planning) necessary to build and maintain a transportation system that promotes the safe and efficient movement of people and goods in a sustainable manner.*

1. Preserve our highways and bridges.
2. Maintain our transit system.
3. Improve transportation safety.
4. Reduce traffic congestion.
5. Increase bicycling and walking.

6. Increase the use of carpools/vanpools.
7. Improve transportation security.
8. Reduce transportation impacts to the environment.
9. Increase public participation in the transportation planning process.
10. Improve the delivery of federally-funded transportation projects.

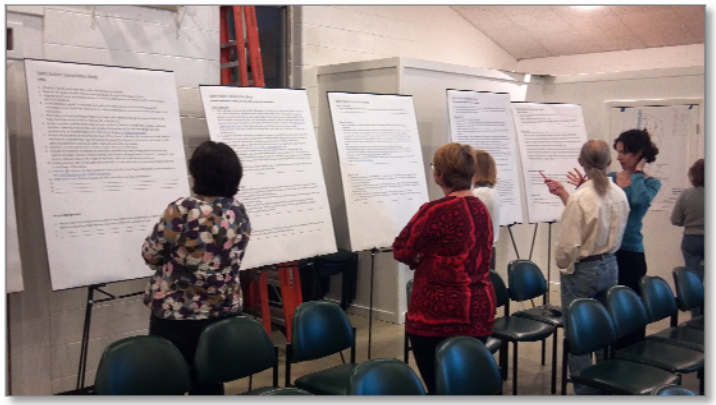
We're Not Alone

The PDCTC recognizes that our transportation system is part of an interconnected regional, statewide, and national system. *Moving Dutchess 2* provides an overview of the Mid-Hudson region, focusing on the common regional transportation and land use issues facing Dutchess and its neighbors – especially Orange and Ulster counties. The Plan also notes how the three counties have worked together to address regional issues and makes recommendations for future planning efforts, with a focus on addressing regional freight and transit needs.

People First

Though discussed in the language of funding and projects, a transportation system has more to do with people than infrastructure. Our transportation system has one simple, fundamental purpose: to serve people, whether for their own personal mobility or the mobility of the goods and services they require. Given the link between people and transportation, effective planning requires that we understand the nature of the population we serve. The new Plan provides an overview of Dutchess County using data relevant to transportation planning. This countywide snapshot includes data on population and socio-economic characteristics, employment, housing, and travel behavior. Recognizing the link between land use decisions and the transportation system, the Plan includes an assessment of two land use scenarios:

1. Build-out Analysis: the level of development that could occur under current local zoning laws and bulk regulations.
2. Center-Focused Build-out Analysis: the amount of development that would occur if the county's *Centers & Greenspaces* guide was fully implemented by communities.



The PDCTC relied on the active participation of residents to prioritize local transportation needs, holding six public workshops in September 2015 to gather feedback from communities.

On the Move

Moving Dutchess 2 seeks to identify projects and plans necessary to maintain the transportation system in a state of

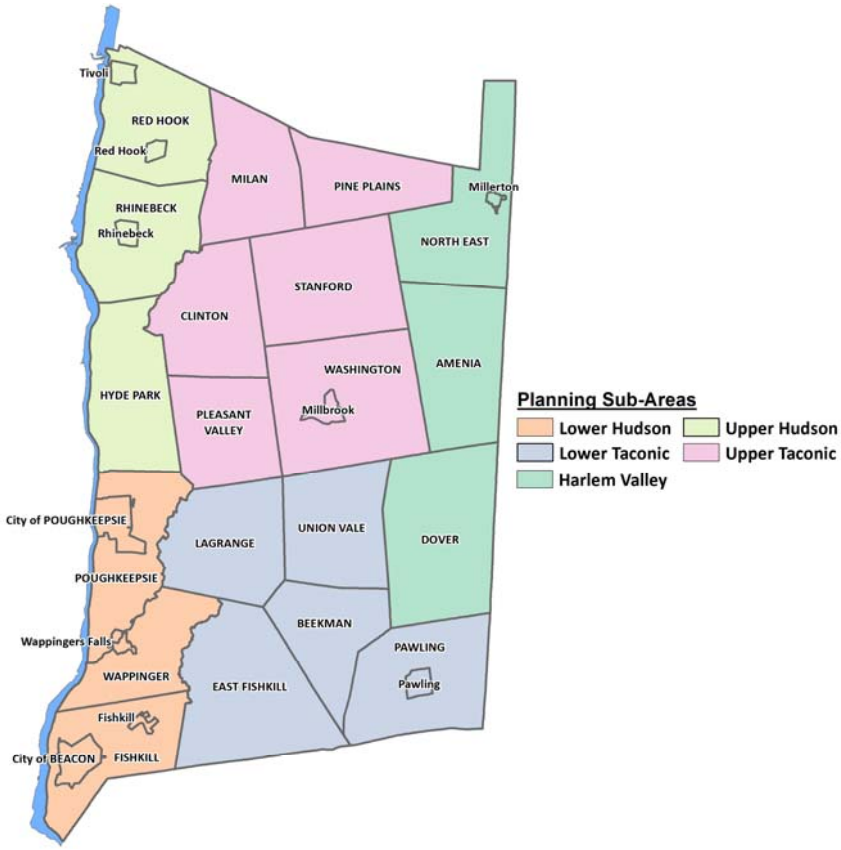
good repair and meet future travel needs, while preserving our natural and historical resources in the most sustainable manner possible. Inventorying and assessing existing conditions is a necessary step in this process. The Plan provides an overview of transportation facilities and resources in the county, discussing the key components of the transportation system: roads, bridges, transit, sidewalks, trails, and bicycle facilities, as well as park-and-ride facilities, freight activity, and safety and security. The Plan also outlines important natural and historical resources in the county, including wetlands, floodplains, air quality, agricultural land, and historic districts, and their interplay with the transportation system.

Transportation is Local

Moving Dutchess 2 takes a close look at the characteristics and special needs of five distinctive areas within the county. The five areas were established through an assessment of development patterns, travel characteristics, and demographic profiles. By analyzing smaller areas, the PDCTC wanted to identify the varied transportation needs in the county, which are sometimes lost when viewed as 'one size fits all.' This approach also increases the Plan's value to local communities by better targeting funding resources. Each sub-area chapter summarizes local demographic and transportation data, and transportation issues identified in local comprehensive plans and previous studies. A list of transportation needs and priorities are also provided for each sub-area.

> *As part of its outreach for Moving Dutchess 2, the PDCTC issued a transportation survey that received over 900 responses in English and Spanish (double the number of responses from 2011).*

Moving Dutchess 2 Planning Sub-Areas



Measuring Success

Public agencies are increasingly using performance measures to gauge progress towards meeting specific goals. The PDCTC is no different. *Moving Dutchess 2* uses over 70 performance

measures to quantify progress on meeting our short-range and long-range goals. The performance measures rely on available data to measure existing conditions for key aspects of the transportation system, including safety, highway/bridge maintenance, transit operations, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, the environment, public participation, and project deliverability. Each performance measure uses current data to establish a base starting point. Goals are then established for 2020 (the next update) and 2040 (the planning horizon year).

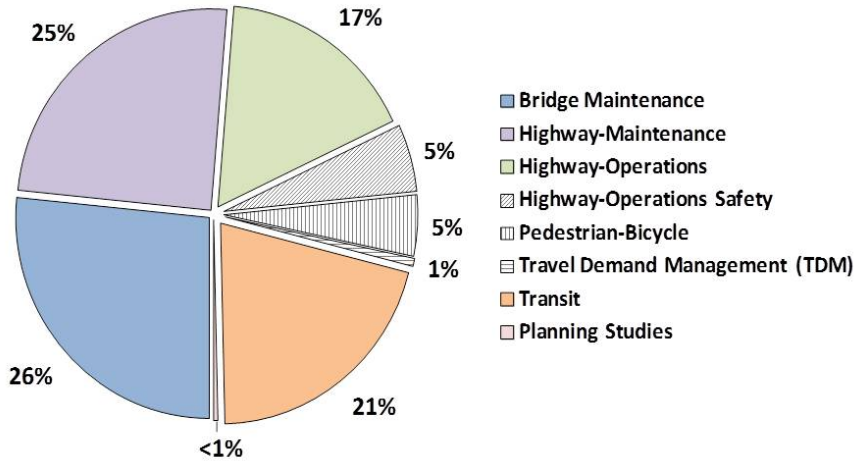
Recommendations & Funding

Moving Dutchess 2 includes over 170 specific recommendations to preserve and improve the transportation system. The PDCTC developed these recommendations through a review of existing guidance, input from State and local agencies, an analysis of transportation system data, and feedback from the public. The PDCTC chose to identify specific projects to increase the value of the Transportation Plan to public agencies and communities – providing them greater detail on where to target future investments.

The recommendations are divided into short-range (2016-2020), mid-range (2021-2030), and long-range (2031-2040) time periods, which are related to each project's relative priority and complexity, and the availability of funding. The Plan categorizes recommendations into eight major project types:

1. Bridge Maintenance: replacement or rehabilitation of bridges that are in or are expected to be in poor condition.
2. Highway Maintenance: reconstruction or rehabilitation of roadway segments that are in or are expected to be in poor condition.
3. Highway Operations: intersection, turning lane, and traffic signal projects to improve operations and reduce congestion.
4. Safety: projects and studies to improve safety.
5. Pedestrian/Bicycle: construction or rehabilitation of sidewalks, crosswalks, and trails to improve safety and accessibility.
6. Travel Demand Management: rideshare/vanpool services to reduce congestion.
7. Transit: bus replacements, operating assistance, and preventive maintenance for transit providers, as well as facility upgrades for bus and commuter rail.
8. Planning: topics or locations that require additional study.

Percent of Total Recommended Funding by Project Type (2016-2040)



Moving Dutchess 2 includes a financial plan that uses planning-level cost estimates and forecasts of reasonably expected funding to financially constrain its recommendations and avoid a wish list of projects. Project cost estimates are adjusted for inflation based on the project's Year of Expenditure, providing a more realistic estimate of funding needs.

> *Moving Dutchess 2 recommends the investment of over $1.1 billion in highway, transit, and planning projects to preserve and improve the county's transportation system over a 25-year planning period.*

Given that there is insufficient funding available to reach a true state of good repair, *Moving Dutchess 2* outlines a preservation-based approach to maintain transportation safety and mobility – over half of recommended funding is dedicated to highway and bridge maintenance. However, the PDCTC does recommend a number of projects that go beyond just preservation to meet future needs, including two regionally significant, long-range projects to improve transportation safety and operations:

1. Redesigning the Route 9/44/55 interchange in the City of Poughkeepsie
2. Redesigning the I-84/Route 9D interchange in the Town of Fishkill

Final Thoughts

Moving Dutchess 2 outlines a strategy to meet the transportation needs of Dutchess County. Though we face numerous challenges in the coming years, including demographic changes, an ever aging infrastructure, and constrained funding resources at the federal, State and local levels, none of these prospects absolve us from the responsibility to plan for the future. We believe *Moving Dutchess 2* satisfies that goal.

Public Review & Comment

Moving Dutchess 2 is available for public review and comment for 30-days starting on February 17, 2016, with comments due March 17, 2016. Please visit the PDCTC website for more information: http://www.dutchessny.gov/md2.

The PDCTC has also scheduled a public meeting to review *Moving Dutchess 2* on Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Adriance Memorial Library (Charwat Meeting Room-Ground Floor) at 93 Market St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

The PDCTC will act on *Moving Dutchess 2* at its 1:30 p.m. meeting on Thursday, March 24, 2016 at The Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home 4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538. The public is invited (RSVP's are not required, but appreciated).

How to Contact Us

For more information on the PDCTC and *Moving Dutchess 2*, please contact us by phone (845-486-3600) or email (pdctc@dutchessny.gov).