

Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council
Meeting Summary

Thursday, March 12, 2015

Dutchess County Department of Planning & Development (Main Conference Room)
27 High Street (2nd Floor), Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

1. **Introductions**: Acting Commissioner of Planning and Development, Mr. Eoin Wrafter, opened the meeting and indicated that he would be representing County Executive Marc Molinaro as Council Chairperson. Attendees introduced themselves (see attached attendance list).
2. **Public Participation**: Mr. Eoin Wrafter opened the meeting for public comments. None were received.
3. **Approval of Minutes**: The December 17, 2014 minutes were presented for approval. MOTION: To approve minutes was moved by Mr. Rad Wilson, designee for Mr. James Miccio (V. Fishkill) and seconded by Mr. Alan Bell (T. LaGrange). All were in favor.
4. **New Business**: Eleven resolutions were on the agenda for Council approval. Mr. Mark Debald, Transportation Program Administrator, explained each resolution as follows:
 - a. **Resolution 15-01 (SFY 2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program)** – Mr. Debald explained that the UPWP defines the MPO’s tasks and budget for the upcoming State Fiscal Year, which begins April 1, 2015. The majority of funding (80%) comes from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration and the remaining (20%) local match comes from State and county funds. NYSDOT provided 75% of the local match and the County provided 25%. Mr. Debald reviewed the funding allocations and noted that the Council typically does not spend all programmed funds; the budget includes flexibility if needed, and if it is not all spent, we do not lose the funding. The new UPWP Task Codes list was included and Mr. Debald explained the categories and tasks on the list. Mr. Robert LaColla (T. Fishkill) asked if the Transit Freight Planning was focused on economic development. Mr. Debald confirmed that it was and that freight planning was both a national and state priority, which was reflected in the Council’s 2014 Federal Certification Report.

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 15-01 was moved by Mr. LaColla (T. Fishkill) and seconded by Ms. Barbara Gutzler (T. Wappinger). All were in favor.
 - b. **Resolution 15-02 (FFY 2012 FTA Section 5307 Unallocated)** – Mr. Debald explained this was the first in a series of resolutions related to regional transit funding, which will allow us to catch-up on federal transit allocations. Mr. Debald explained how transit funds are allocated to the region. Transit funding flows from the FTA to our urbanized area,

not directly to the counties or MPO's. FTA allocates transit funding to our urbanized area - the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh, NY-NJ Urbanized Area (also known as UZA 89). This UZA was designated by the Census Bureau in 2012 as a result of the 2010 Census. Since the UZA now included two States, New York and New Jersey needed to first agree on how FTA funds would be distributed between the States before each could then sub-allocate to the counties and MPOs. This agreement took more time than expected and delayed our ability to sub-allocate the funds to our designated recipients (i.e. public transit operators). An agreement was reached earlier this year, which allowed NYSDOT and the MPOs to move forward with the FTA allocations. The funding included in this resolution relates to \$2.911 million in unallocated funds from FFY 2012. The funds are part of the FFY 2012 allocation available to the three-county Transportation Management Area (TMA), which includes Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties. These funds must be obligated by the end of FFY 2015 or they will expire. To avoid this, the TMA identified three projects that could quickly obligate the funds:

1. \$1,691,480 to Dutchess County Public Transit to purchase 15 heavy-duty buses.
2. \$720,000 to Ulster County Area Transit to purchase four medium-duty buses.
3. \$500,000 to MTA Metro-North Railroad for the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry.

The Dutchess County bus purchase is part of a \$6-million dollar project that will also use FFY 2013 and 2014 FTA Section 5307 and 5339 funds. These funds are part of the allocations shown in the subsequent resolutions. Mr. Randy Casale (C. Beacon) asked about the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry. Ms. Marleen Stein (MTA) offered assurance that it would continue to be funded to operate five-days per week, with bus service provided during inclement weather suspensions; Ms. Stein noted ferry ridership was up in numbers. Mr. Bell (T. LaGrange) requested clarification on the price per bus for the Dutchess County bus project, since it didn't compare equally with the UCAT bus project. Mr. LaColla (T. Fishkill) requested data on the cost per passenger for the ferry; staff did not have this information at the meeting (though it was subsequently provided after the meeting).

MOTION: To adopt the Resolution 15-02 was moved by Mr. Bell (T. LaGrange) and seconded by Ms. Gutzler (T. Wappinger). All were in favor.

- c. **Resolution 15-03 (FFY 2013 FTA Section 5307 TMA Distribution)**: Mr. Debald noted that this resolution was the beginning of a series of resolutions related to FTA Section 5307 funding. These funds, part of the urbanized area formula program, support bus purchases, preventive maintenance, and operations for local transit operators. Mr. Debald outlined the NYSDOT formula, which is based on passenger statistics reported through the National Transit Database. Using this formula, the TMA agreed upon the 5307 distribution between the three counties in New York, the MTA, and private bus operators that provide public commuter services. For FFY 2013, Dutchess County (Dutchess County Public Transit and City of Poughkeepsie) will receive a total of \$1,893,385; funds are based on 2011 operating statistics and 2010 Census data. The

TMA allocation includes an unallocated balance of \$3.6 million available for future programming.

MOTION: To adopt the Resolution 15-03 was moved by Mr. Mike Appolonia, designee for Mr. Ray Oberly (T. Clinton) and seconded by Mr. Wilson, designee for Mr. Miccio (V. Fishkill). All were in favor.

- d. **Resolution 15-04 (FFY 2014 FTA Section 5307 TMA Distribution)**: Mr. Debald noted that this resolution was similar to the previous resolution, but involved Section 5307 funds for FFY 2014. For FFY 2014, Dutchess County (Dutchess County Public Transit and City of Poughkeepsie) will receive a total of \$1,854,692; funds are based on 2012 operating statistics and 2010 Census data.

MOTION: To adopt the Resolution 15-04 was moved by Ms. Gutzler (T. Wappinger) and seconded by Ms. Aileen Rohr (T. Hyde Park). All were in favor.

- e. **Resolution 15-05 (FFY 2013 FTA Section 5307 PDCTC Sub-allocation)**: Mr. Debald noted this is the PDCTC's sub-allocation of the FFY 2013 funds approved by the TMA (and the PDCTC in Resolution 15-03). This represents the PDCTC's internal distribution between Dutchess County and the City of Poughkeepsie, and is based on passenger miles provided by the operators. Ms. Rohr (T. Hyde Park) asked that when a municipality applies and receives an allocation from TAP, which requires a 20% match, can this funding be reserved for use towards that purpose. Mr. Debald advised that these federal funds require a state, county or municipality match, and cannot be used as a match for other funding. Mr. Bell (T. LaGrange) asked for clarification on the MTA funding. The MTA allocation is the same as the previous TMA-wide allocation shown in Resolution 15-03.

MOTION: To adopt the Resolution 15-05 was moved by Mr. Casale (C. Beacon) and seconded by Ms. Gutzler (T. Wappinger). All were in favor.

- f. **Resolution 15-06 (FFY 2014 FTA Section 5307 PDCTC Sub-allocation)**: As with the previous resolution, this resolution distributes Section 5307 funds to the PDCTC's three designated recipients: Dutchess County, the City of Poughkeepsie, and MTA, but for FFY 2014.

MOTION: To adopt the Resolution 15-06 was moved by Mr. Bell (T. LaGrange) and seconded by Mr. Wilson, designee for Mr. Miccio (V. Fishkill). All were in favor.

- g. **Resolution 15-07 (FFY 2013 FTA Section 5339 TMA Distribution)**: This resolution seeks approval for the allocation of FFY 2013 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5339 formula funds in the three-county Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA). These funds stem from new federal authorizations to the TMA (UZA 89) under the Bus and Bus Facilities Program. Extended negotiations between the States of

New York and New Jersey delayed the TMA's ability to allocate these funds earlier. FTA Section 5339 funds flow to the TMA, responsibility for which is shared by three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs): the PDCTC, OCTC, and UCTC. The three Councils must first agree to the TMA allocation, prior to distributing the transit funds to their respective public bus operators. The OCTC and UCTC must approve similar resolutions. For FFY 2013, Dutchess County (Dutchess County Public Transit and City of Poughkeepsie) will receive a total of \$807,649; the funding amounts are based on vehicle fleet sizes. Ms. Cynthia Ruiz, (DCDPW-Transit Administrator) explained how this program changed from a competitive to a formula program and its effect on the vehicle/fleet replacement.

MOTION: To adopt the Resolution 15-07 was moved by Mr. LaColla (T. Fishkill) and seconded by Ms. Rohr (T. Hyde Park). All were in favor.

- h. **Resolution 15-08 (FFY 2014 FTA Section 5339 TMA Distribution)**: As with the previous resolution, this resolution allocates Section 5339 funds throughout the TMA, but for FFY 2014. For FFY 2014, Dutchess County (Dutchess County Public Transit and City of Poughkeepsie) will receive a total of \$815,993; the funding amounts are based on vehicle fleet sizes.

MOTION: To adopt the Resolution 15-08 was moved by Ms. Gutzler (T. Wappinger) and seconded by Mr. Bell (T. LaGrange). All were in favor.

- i. **Resolution 15-09 (FFY 2013 FTA Section 5339 PDCTC Sub-allocation)**: The PDCTC (like the 5307 distribution) sub-allocates Section 5339 funds to the two public bus operators in Dutchess County: Dutchess County Public Transit and the City of Poughkeepsie bus system. For FFY 2013, Dutchess County Public Transit will receive \$690,173 and the City of Poughkeepsie \$117,476. The County and City sub-allocations are based on vehicle fleet size.

MOTION: To adopt the Resolution 15-09 was moved by Mr. Casale (C. Beacon) and seconded by Ms. Rohr (T. Hyde Park). All were in favor.

- j. **Resolution 15-10 (FFY 2014 FTA Section 5339 PDCTC Sub-allocation)**: as with the previous resolution, this resolution is the PDCTC's sub-allocation of Section 5339 funds to Dutchess County and City of Poughkeepsie, but for FFY 2014. For FFY 2014, Dutchess County Public Transit will receive \$697,303 and the City of Poughkeepsie \$118,690. The County and City sub-allocations are based on vehicle fleet size.

MOTION: To adopt the Resolution 15-10 was moved by Mr. Wilson, designee for Mr. Miccio (V. Fishkill) and seconded by Ms. Gutzler (T. Wappinger). All were in favor.

- k. **Resolution 15-11 (FFY 2013 FTA Section 5307 Unallocated)**: Mr. Debald explained how a portion (\$1.75 million) of the approximately \$3.6 million in FFY 2013 unallocated funds

would be used to complete the 15-bus purchase for Dutchess County Public Transit. This resolution has been agreed to by the TMA, including Orange and Ulster counties. The remaining available balance would be approximately \$1.8 million. Mr. Debald explained how the annual allocations of Section 5307 and 5339 funding does not cover large bus purchase projects. The Dutchess County bus purchase happened to coincide with the timing of the federal transit funding distribution. Other counties in the region might benefit in the future from these unallocated funds. Ms. Ruiz advised that Ulster County has both bus and intermodal transportation center projects planned for the future, and this funding may help them – especially since competitive funds are no longer available.

MOTION: To adopt the Resolution 15-11 was moved by Mr. Appolonia, designee for Mr. Oberly (T. Clinton), and seconded by Mr. Wilson, designee for Mr. Miccio (V. Fishkill). All were in favor.

5. Reports:

Mr. Debald announced the completion of the Town of Pine Plains Connectivity Plan thanking Supervisor Coons, the Town Board and the volunteer task force for their assistance. The sidewalk study was presented to the Town Board with recommendations to improve pedestrian connectivity around the town center. Planning also intends to focus on the Long Range Plan and the Upper Route 9G Corridor Plan.

6. Other Business:

Ms. Rohr (T. Hyde Park) thanked Mr. Debald, the PDCTC and County Planning for their pedestrian study, which information was used to leverage a TAP grant.

Mr. Coons (T. Pine Plains) also thanked the PDCTC and County Planning for their efforts on the Pine Plains Pedestrian Plan.

7. Adjourn:

MOTION: To adjourn moved by Ms. Gutzler (T. Wappinger), and seconded by Mr. Bell, (T. LaGrange). All were in favor.

Meeting Attendance List

	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Phone Number
1	Don	Beer	Town of Poughkeepsie designee	845-790-4736
2	Mark	Debald	PDCTC	845-486-3600
3	Barbara	Zulauf	Town of Beekman	845-724-5300xt 225
4	Herbert	Bullock	City of Poughkeepsie designee	845-451-4046
5	Marleen	Stein	MTA designee	212-878-7080
6	Cynthia	Ruiz	DC Public Transit/DPW	845-473-8424
7	Mike	Appolonia	Town of Clinton designee	845-594-7804
8	Barbara	Gutzler	Town of Wappinger	845-297-2744
9	Alan	Bell	Town of LaGrange	845-451-4215
10	Bob	LaColla	Town of Fishkill	845-831-7800
11	Tom	Weiner	NYS DOT	845-431-5723
12	Noel	Knille	DC DPW	845-486-2925
13	Aileen	Rohr	Town of Hyde Park	845-486-3600
14	Brian	Coons	Town of Pine Plains	518-398-3600
15	Gerry	Hutchings	DC Legislature	914-475-9379
16	Randy	Casale	City of Beacon	845-590-1351
17	Rad	Wilson	Village of Fishkill designee	845-897-4430
18	William	Gorton	NYS DOT – Region 8	845-431-5150
19	Eoin	Wrafter	DC Planning, Chairperson designee	845-486-3600
20	Patsy	Longbard	DC Planning	845-486-3600