

**Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council**  
**Planning Committee Meeting Summary**

**Wednesday, April 22, 2015**

**Dutchess County Planning Department (Main Conference Room)**  
**27 High Street (2nd Floor), Poughkeepsie, NY**

**1. Introductions** — See attached list.

**2. Announcements**

Mark Debald (PDCTC) commenced the meeting by introducing the MPO's newest staff member: Shelby Tompkins. Shelby joins the MPO as a Junior Planner.

In March, the Dutchess County Supervisors and Mayors Association reappointed Supervisors Coons and Oberly to represent the County's non-urban areas (Pine Plains and Clinton, respectively). Their terms will expire December 31, 2016. Mark added that it was great to have the two Supervisors on board again representing the County's rural areas.

In late-March, the President unveiled the Grow America Act, a six-year, \$478 billion intermodal transportation reauthorization proposal. Mark noted that MAP-21 expires on May 31, 2015. As there is not enough time to draft, debate, pass, and most importantly fund, a multi-year surface transportation bill, other accommodations have to be made. The general assumption is that Congress will have to pass another short-term extension, which would either extend it to September 30<sup>th</sup> (the end of the federal fiscal year), or further. The appetite for an increase in the federal fuel tax seems to be waning. The federal government typically spends about \$50 billion per year on transportation projects, but the gas tax will only bring in \$34 billion annually without an increase. Highway funding will run out in July. A number of states are moving forward with increases in state fuel taxes (e.g. Washington, Illinois, Louisiana).

Earlier this month USDOT announced the availability of \$500 million in funding for TIGER VII (down from \$600 million in FFY 2014). Mark explained that TIGER VII is a program designed to support innovative transportation projects across the nation. Notably, this round does not include planning grants, and there is a mandatory pre-application due May 4th. Final applications are due June 5th.

NYS DOT was scheduled to issue the call for projects on April 13<sup>th</sup>, but this has been delayed. The FTA Section 5310 program (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) provides capital and operational assistance for projects that expand transportation options for non-profit and public agencies that serve seniors and persons with disabilities. The combined TMA apportionment for FFY 2013, 2014, and part of 2015 is over \$900,000. Mark informed the committee that a public notice will be sent out when the

application period is opened by NYSDOT. The PDCTC will jointly prioritize projects with the Orange and Ulster County MPOs. Bob Balkind (DCDPW) inquired whether the two new buses for the Office of the Aging could be eligible for this type of funding. Mark responded that they could be a potential project of this program. Mark said that once NYSDOT issues the call for projects, a more accurate answer will be available to that question.

The PDCTC Traffic Count Program will begin the second week of May and will continue over the course of the summer. There are over 300 counts scheduled this year, with 30 to 40 counts scheduled for each week. The contractor will notify agencies 14 days prior to each work week to ensure that there are no conflicts. Additionally, counts will take place while schools are in session and no counts will occur during holidays or special events.

Mark distributed the NYSAMPO Pedestrian and Bicycle Laws Fact Sheet. He explained that NYSAMPO is the New York State Association of MPOs which is a "federation" of the 14 MPOs that are in New York State. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Laws Fact Sheet is their latest educational and safety guide distributed to the Association's respective members and the public. Ray Oberly (Town of Clinton) spoke up and said that he would like more copies of this fact sheet as he likes to distribute them to local churches and youth groups. The committee agreed and Mark said he would send a digital copy of the document to all committee members via email. Tom Weiner (NYSDOT-Region 8) proposed that NYSAMPO create a new fact sheet centered on the laws regarding train crossings; Mark stated he would submit a request to NYSAMPO.

**3. Public Participation** – Mark opened the meeting for public comment or general announcements; none were received.

**4. PDCTC Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) – *Moving Dutchess 2***

Mark summarized the general plan and project schedule for *Moving Dutchess 2*. He noted that in March, FHWA and FTA concurred that we should be on a 5-year update cycle for the MTP, since we are now in attainment for air quality. This means we have until November 2016 to approve the new plan. He suggested, however, to not wait that long, since we've already started the update process. He proposed that we target March 2016 for approval (coinciding with UPWP approval). This will enable us to hold the 30-day public comment period after the new year. Consequently, this means that we would have a final draft finished by the end of this year. Mark also noted that this will also allow us to do public outreach during the late-summer and early fall.

Mark noted the first drafts of Chapters 1-4 were completed and posted on our website. Ray Oberly (Town of Clinton) asked if the other counties in the TMA (Orange County, Ulster County, and Passaic County) are on the same MTP update schedule. Mark noted that Orange and Ulster are indeed updating their plans at the same time as Dutchess. Mark also noted we do not necessarily need to be on the same schedule, but the timing worked out this year. Passaic County will follow its own MTP update schedule. Mark continued the

meeting with a PowerPoint presentation introducing the newly completed, first draft chapters of the MTP.

- a. Ch. 1: Introduction (first draft) – Mark noted that *Moving Dutchess 2* will follow the basic format of the previous MTP. Mark explained that *Moving Dutchess 2* is the 6<sup>th</sup> long range transportation plan encompassing short and long-range goals. It is, like plans past, fiscally restrained. This means that projects recommended in the MTP are prioritized based on reasonable expectation of future funding, and achievable within the MTP's time frame. Mark defined the *Transportation Management Area* (TMA) for the committee as a census defined urbanized area. Our TMA includes Ulster County, Orange County, Dutchess County, and Passaic County. Tracy Hermann (City of Poughkeepsie) asked how an urbanized area is defined. Mark explained that the Census Bureau defines the core area by identifying contiguous Census Blocks and Block Groups that have a population density of 1,000 people per square mile. The Census Bureau then connects nearby blocks and block groups with the same density to the urban core, using road connections (e.g. Newburgh-Beacon Bridge).

Mark noted that the sub-areas were created based on the similarities among communities, to include similar land-use patterns, socio-economic status, and/or transportation patterns. The sub-area designations are as follows: Lower Hudson, Upper Hudson, Lower Taconic, Upper Taconic, and Harlem Valley. Mark added that there will likely be two public workshops for the Lower Hudson region, due to its highly urbanized nature.

- b. Ch. 2: Federal, State, Regional, & County Guidance (first draft) – The MTP's scope encompasses federal, State, regional, and County guidance. The MTP aims to be relevant to local communities, targeted to their needs, sustainable (environmentally and economically), and inclusive in nature. More specific goals would include keeping roadways, sidewalks, and bridges in a state of good repair, improving safety along transportation corridors, and increasing public participation within the planning process. Mark said the Chapter has been updated with recent State and regional plans.
- c. Ch. 3: Regional Perspective (first draft) – Mark emphasized that this chapter recommends the development of a regional transit plan and a regional freight plan. The PDCTC's UPWP has allocated money for developing a scope of work for these regional plans.
- d. Ch. 4: Demographic Overview (first draft) – Mark continued with the presentation, reviewing a series of maps and charts from Chapter 4, with much of the data coming from the U.S. Census Bureau. Mark reviewed recent population and housing growth from 2000-2010. One of the charts showed

the growth in population versus the number of registered vehicles from 1960-2010. Both trends showed increased, though the number of vehicle grew at a faster rate, partly due to more women entering the workforce. Mark noted that the southwest portion of the County is still more populous and urbanized than other parts of the County. Mark presented a series of maps related to environmental justice, showing areas above-average for total minority, Hispanic, low income, and limited English populations.

Additionally, Mark reviewed charts showing employment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The employment data showed that Dutchess County was not immune from the effects of the recession, as total County employment decreased in 2009. It has since resurged a little. Mark also noted that vehicle registrations had stabilized over the past decade, which was related to recent economic conditions and the growing trend of Millennials driving less than previous generations.

Mark then discussed the 2009 National Household Travel Survey, summarizing key findings for the County. Not surprisingly, single and multi occupant vehicles were the most common modes of transportation for all trips, while walking, biking, and transit were the least common. Marleen Stein (MTA) was surprised by the data and asked if commuting was taken into account with this survey. She said that by MTA standards, ridership appears to be growing. Mark replied that commuting is a component of the survey, but that everyday travel is comprised of a variety of trip purposes, such as shopping, social/recreational activities, and medical appointments. Though important, commuting is one of a number of reasons to travel.

Ray Oberly (Town of Clinton) added that incorporating age forecasts might be a helpful, since more people are aging in place and will need more public transportation options. Marleen Stein (MTA) also thought we should look at distracted driving on a County scale. Mark mentioned that NHTSA has created a fact sheet on this topic and he would email it to the Committee following the meeting.

- e. Next Steps – Mark noted that work on Chapter 5 (Transportation & Resource Overview) is taking place and will hopefully be completed by our next Planning Committee meeting (May 27<sup>th</sup>). Additionally, the public survey will be issued on or about June 1<sup>st</sup> and paper copies distributed on public buses. Mark informed the committee that 5-6 public workshops will be held over the summer/fall. Barbara Zulauf (Town of Beekman) offered to host again.

## **5. FFY 2014-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mark noted that the four local FHWA Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects

were added to the STIP (\$3 million federal). These included: City of Beacon Main Street Accessibility Improvements (PIN 876125), Town of Hyde Park Route 9 Redesign (PIN 876123), Town of Red Hook Route 9 Sidewalk (PIN 876124), and Wappingers Falls Village Center Pedestrian Safety Project. Also, DCDPW was granted time extensions by FHWA on a variety of federal-aid highway projects that had passed the 10-year PE window.

Mark informed the Committee that NYSDOT is still schedule to issue planning targets for the new 2017-2021 TIP in June 2015, with the new TIP to be adopted in June 2016. Bob Balkind (DC DPW) announced that he is unsure that DC DPW will be able to respond to a call for projects due to the financial constraints of the projects already taking place within the County. Tom Weiner (NYSDOT) suggested that the call for projects might be better focused on the later years of the TIP (e.g. FFY 2019 and beyond). Bob Balkind (DC DPW) continued to explain the project schedule of DC DPW through the year of 2018, highlights included the following:

- CR 21 (Noxon Rd) goes out to bid on April 30<sup>th</sup> and construction should start May-June of this year.
- Construction of the CR 78 (Broadway) bridge in Tivoli should take place in 2016.
- Construction of the CR 14 (Hollow Rd) bridge in Clinton should take place in 2017.
- Construction of CR 28 (Old Hopewell Rd) and CR 93 (Myers Corners Rd) in Wappinger should take place in 2017.

Bob note that every County highway project on the TIP will be finished by 2018. Bob also mentioned that the Harlem Valley Rail Trail should begin construction in 2018. After 2018, DC DPW will selectively be adding projects to the TIP. Bob also wanted to thank the new staff at the Local Projects Unit for their commitment to progressing projects; they have helped a great deal to facilitate and forward these projects.

Reference the Creek Rd/Smith/Little George St project, Joe Chenier (City of Poughkeepsie) noted that the City is finalizing the project schedule, making sure it is one that the City can meet. Joe mentioned that the redesign will include a roundabout instead of traffic signals.

Don Beer (Town of Poughkeepsie) stated that the Spring Road construction is underway and will continue all summer long.

## **6. Project Updates**

Mark informed the Committee that he and John Clarke went to a Pine Plains public workshop on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Stissing House. He said it was a great opportunity to forward pedestrian planning improvements. Mark noted that it has also come to his attention that there has been a request for potential pedestrian studies in the Towns of Poughkeepsie and Millerton. He will keep the Committee posted as to the status of these projects.

Mark also explained the Upper Route 9G Corridor Management Plan (CMP): the CMP will

focus on the four-mile segment of Route 9G from CR 78 (Broadway/West Kerley Corners Rd) in the Village of Tivoli/Town of Red Hook to Route 199 (West Market Street) in the Town of Red Hook. The project is a response to local concerns about transportation safety along the 9G corridor in the Town of Red Hook and Village of Tivoli. The CMP will also evaluate overall safety and operations on two secondary corridors in the area: the section of CR 78 (Broadway) from the Hudson River to Route 9G in Tivoli and CR 103 (Annandale Rd) from Route 9G to Route 199 (West Market St) in Red Hook. A public workshop is scheduled to take place on May 6<sup>th</sup> at Bard College. There will be two sessions from 2-4 p.m. and from 6-8 p.m. at Bertelsmann Campus Center.

- 7. Public Participation**—Mark opened the meeting for public comments and announcements. Ray Oberly (Town of Clinton) inquired on the status of future parking improvements at the City of Poughkeepsie train station. He commented that the garage seems to be at capacity, and as the population increases, ridership will inevitably increase. He mentioned that the use of off-street parking might be a partial solution to the issue. Marleen Steen (MTA HQ) questioned if it is the train station that requires more parking or whether there needs to be more extensive accessibility to the waterfront. There is also a potential plan underway to increase the permit parking along Rinaldi Boulevard.

Mark asked the City of Poughkeepsie about the status of City transit buses. Mark noted that he has been received emails regarding delays and bus failures. Joe Chenier (City of Poughkeepsie) said that he could contact Chris Ghent for a bus status report.

**8. Upcoming Meetings**

- Planning Committee: Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at Dutchess County Planning (Main Conference Room), 27 High St., Poughkeepsie, NY.

**Meeting Attendance List**

	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
1	Mark	Debald	PDCTC	845-486-3600
2	Ray	Oberly	Town of Clinton	845-266-5096
3	Shelby	Tompkins	PDCTC	845-486-3600
4	Don	Beer	Town of Poughkeepsie	845-790-4736
5	Barbara	Zulauf	Town of Beekman	845-724-5300
6	Tom	Weiner	NYS DOT	845-431-5723
7	Leah	Mosall	MTA HQ	212-878-4605
8	Tracy	Hermann	City of Poughkeepsie	845-416-8285
9	Marleen	Stein	MTA	212-878-7080
10	Joe	Chenier	City of Poughkeepsie	845-451-4215
11	Bob	Balkind	DC DPW	845-486-2925

**Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council (PDCTC)**

**2015 Meeting Schedule**

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at 10:00 a.m. at the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development, 27 High Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Planning Committee meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, except for November. The Planning Committee typically does not meet in March, July, or December.

January 28, 2015	Planning Committee
February 25, 2015	Planning Committee
March 12, 2015	Council (Location TBD)
April 22, 2015	Planning Committee
May 27, 2015	Planning Committee
June 24, 2015	Planning Committee
August 26, 2015	Planning Committee
September 23, 2015	Planning Committee
October 28, 2015	Planning Committee
November 24, 2015	Planning Committee
Early-December 2015	Council (Location TBD)