

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

**Wednesday, August 27, 2014**

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

- 1. Introductions** – See attached list.
- 2. Announcements** – Mark Debald (PDCTC) made the following announcements:
  - **Highway Trust Fund**: Earlier this month Congress passed a nine-month extension of all Federal-aid Highway programs through May 31, 2015. This included a transfer of \$9.8 billion from the general fund into the Highway Trust Fund (HTF). Gerry Hutchings (DC Legislature) stated that some governments are placing tolls on roads and in the future, public-private partnerships may be one option to help pay for road repair and maintenance.
  - **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)**: NYSDOT Region 8 received 12 applications for the latest round of federal TAP funding from the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA area (Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties). The TAP program provides funding for pedestrian and bicycle projects, safe routes to school projects, environmental mitigation, and other transportation infrastructure improvements. Approximately \$2.7 million is available to the three counties. Of the 12 applications, 7 were from Dutchess communities. A priority list was developed by a joint TAP review committee. Awards are expected to be announced in early October. Emily Dozier (PDCTC) stated that those applicants who took advantage of NYSDOT's pre-review process had stronger applications. She encouraged municipalities that are considering applying for this funding in the future to meet with PDCTC staff early, as we can provide feedback on the concept and scope.
  - **FTA Section 5310**: NYSDOT has not yet issued a call for projects for the FTA Section 5310 program (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities), which provides capital and operational assistance for projects that expand transportation options for non-profit and public agencies that serve seniors and persons with disabilities. Our combined TMA (tri-county area) apportionment for FFY 2013 and 2014 is \$666,071. We will issue a public notice when the application period is opened by NYSDOT and jointly prioritize projects with the Orange and Ulster County MPOs.
  - **FFY 2013 and 2014 FTA Section 5307 Funding**: No new information to report. New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut are still trying to resolve issues over the allocations.
  - The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has scheduled a public hearing on their Proposed Program of Projects for the remainder of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014 and FFY 2015. The hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, September 3, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. at the MTA Board Room, Fifth Floor, 347 Madison Ave., New York, NY.

### 3. Public Participation

Wanda Livigni (LaGrange) thanked NYSDOT for the Route 55 roundabout project. She said the contractor and NYSDOT worked well with everyone and that it is a huge improvement.

Bob LaColla (Fishkill) said that NYSDOT and the MTA have been very proactive with regards to the Hudson Fjord Trail.

Ray Oberly (Clinton) commented that the right-turn lane at the intersection of Route 9 and 9G works very well, noting that the Dutchess County Fair was held without significant traffic delays at the intersection – at least compared to past years.

### 4. Federal Certification Review

Mark reported that FHWA and FTA are required to certify the metropolitan transportation planning process in each Transportation Management Area (TMA), defined as an urbanized area with a population of 200,000 or more. Completed every four years, the certification review ensures that the planning process is addressing the major issues facing the area, and that the planning process is being conducted in accordance with federal regulations. The TMA started the certification process in 2013 and was presented with a final report in July 2014. The report contains three corrective actions that need to be completed within six months of the report (dated July 8, 2014):

- 1) Due to the recent change of the urbanized area, as defined by the 2010 Census, the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA must complete an agreement with NJTPA that identifies areas of coordination and the division of transportation planning responsibilities between the two TMAs.
- 2) The TMA must address the requirements for their Congestion Management Plan from the previous certification review.
- 3) OCTC must revise the layout of their UPWP to include all required elements.

The report included some PDCTC-specific recommendations:

- 1) UCTC and PDCTC should update their operating procedures to include MAP-21 definitions for TIP administration modification and amendment (this relates to the new bylaws, which Mark hopes to submit for approval NLT next March).
- 2) OCTC and PDCTC should try to fully utilize their annual allocation of UPWP funds to avoid accumulating backlog funds (we're slowly drawing down our backlog).

On a positive note, PDCTC received a variety of commendations including for the work done on our sidewalk and safety studies, *Walk Bike Dutchess*, and the TIP Viewer application. The TMA is scheduling a conference call to discuss next steps to address corrective actions.

In addition, based on the certification recommendations, we are looking to adopt new bylaws to respond to some of the report's recommendations. A summary of proposed changes to the draft bylaws was included in the meeting packet. Mark noted that the Draft Bylaws that were presented to

the Executive Committee in 2010 were not adopted due to the inability to reach consensus on decision-making by the Executive Committee.

The major updates in the revised draft bylaws include:

1. Changes in voting membership, mostly based on the 2010 Census, to include the following:
  - a. Making the Towns of Beekman and LaGrange permanent voting members since they are considered urbanized;
  - b. Adding the Towns of Union Vale and Pawling to the rotation with the Town of Pleasant Valley with 1-year terms;
  - c. Adding the Village of Pawling to the 1-year rotation with the Villages of Fishkill and Wappingers Falls, since it is now urbanized.
  - d. Allowing all rural municipalities, including rural villages, to participate as a rural member if nominated by the Supervisors and Mayors Association (they currently are not permitted).
2. Update the TIP amendment process to provide better transparency. One of the changes would require an amendment if a project's cost increases or decreases by 25% or more.
3. Additional changes are proposed to change the name of the Technical Committee to "Planning Committee" and to refer to the Executive Committee as simply the "Council," consistent with other MPOs. Ray Oberly (Clinton) said that he believes the terminology may originate from law and we should ensure the correct term is being used. (Note: Mark researched the PDCTC's original agreement and verified that the term "Council" is consistent with the language used in its formation).

Gerry Hutchings asked whether we can decide where planning funds are spent. Mark replied that we can, and that we often use them on consultant projects such as the Route 9G CMP.

Bob LaColla asked if we can use the funds for additional staff. Mark explained that we typically use the monies to conduct traffic counts and special studies, and that funding new positions is a larger County issue.

Wanda asked what the basis of the TMA was and whether it was a Census-defined urban area. Mark explained that the Census uses a mathematical population density calculation to define the area and that the connection between Orange, Ulster, and Dutchess counties goes back to the year 2000.

Gerry Hutchings asked whether the term "urbanized" is based on the size of a municipality's population and Mark clarified that it is based on the Census Bureau's definition of what constitutes urban and rural. Ray Oberly asked if we were "out of sync" with the designation of the urbanized area. Mark replied that we were not – that the Census Bureau does not revise urbanized areas until two years after the decennial Census.

The Federal Certification report's recommendations must be put into effect six months from when the report was issued. This means that the bylaws will need to be voted upon at the next Executive Committee meeting which is tentatively scheduled for early December. Mark asked for any comments by September 24. There will then be a 45-day public comment period.

## 5. TIP Amendment 14-02

Mark explained that the PDCTC is proposing an amendment to the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): the five-year capital program that assigns federal funds to transportation projects located in Dutchess County. The Council periodically updates the TIP to add new projects, remove existing projects, or change a project's cost, schedule, or scope. Significant changes are classified as amendments and require that the Council approve the changes. Amendment #14-02 increases federal funding for an existing City of Poughkeepsie bus project (8TRD89) and adds one project for the Dutchess County Division of Public Transit (PIN 8TRD98). A 15-day public comment period will be held from August 28-September 11, 2014. The resolution approving these additions will be before the Executive Committee at their September meeting.

In addition, we are working closely with Region 8 Local Projects Unit and Dutchess County DPW to progress the CR 21 linear and CR 21/49 intersection projects. Tom Weiner (NYSDOT Region 8) said that this intersection is on the Regional Director's "commitment list" and that an offset for next year would be needed if the project were to be advanced. Construction is expected to occur in 2015, but tree removal would occur separately, between November 2014 and March 2015. Tom said that offsets are getting harder to find.

There was discussion among the group regarding how to list a project on the TIP, the TIP process, and the Town of LaGrange Town Center roundabout process. Aileen Rohr (Hyde Park) asked if the MPO could lobby for funds, and Mark responded that we are prohibited from lobbying. Wanda asked what will happen in the long term with listing projects on the TIP and Mark responded that the TIP must be fiscally constrained – meaning that TIP listings have to reflect actual allocations and cannot be a "wish list." Marleen Stein (MTA) commented that fiscal restraint is demonstrated in *Moving Dutchess*.

## 6. Unallocated FFY 2012 FTA Section 5307 Funding

Mark provided background on a draft resolution that seeks approval for the temporary allocation of \$200,000 of unallocated FFY 2012 FTA Section 5307 funds to Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT). The funds are part of \$2.9 million available to the three-county Transportation Management Area (TMA), which includes Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties. UCAT requested that the Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC) seek the unallocated 5307 funds from the TMA, due to the continued impasse among New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut over the allocation of FFY 2013 and 2014 FTA Section 5307/5340 funds. Once the FFY 2013 and 2014 allocations are finalized, the UCAT portion will be reduced by \$200,000 to make the TMA whole. UCAT staff will be present at the Executive Committee meeting to answer questions from the Council. The resolution to allow allocate these funds will go before the Executive Committee at their September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mark noted that OCTC and UCTC had already passed the resolution.

## 7. Project Updates

- Pine Plains Pedestrian Plan: Mark noted that the *Walks Initiative Task Force* and *Trails & Bikeway Committee* held a public workshop on June 25 at Town Hall to solicit feedback on walking and bicycling issues in the Town. The workshop included a presentation by the PDCTC on data gathered

during the sidewalk inventory and preliminary results from the survey. The workshop also allowed attendees to document their thoughts about sidewalk and trail improvements by annotating large maps of the Town and Town Center. A survey was also issued to gather feedback on sidewalk and trail issues in Pine Plains. A draft Final Report will be ready in a few weeks.

- Beacon Main Street Parking Analysis: Mark noted that the Department had completed substantial work on the Beacon parking study, including an inventory of existing parking spaces on the Main Street corridor and field work to assess parking utilization. The study will include an assessment of future parking needs and identify ways to improve parking conditions. The proposed study area covers the 0.85-mile segment of Main Street from Route 9D (Wolcott Ave/North Ave) to the west and Churchill St to the east.
- Upper Route 9G Corridor Management Plan (CMP): Mark noted that the PDCTC received six consultant proposals in support of the 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. In addition to this priority corridor, 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. We will likely select a consultant by the end of September.
- *Walk Bike Dutchess*: Emily stated that information about Walk Bike Dutchess, the new Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan, was emailed to all Mayors, Supervisors, and Highway Superintendents at the end of July and to Planning Board Secretaries in mid-August. PDCTC staff has been working with County DPW on coordination, including an email to go out to all municipalities with information about the County DPW's capital projects, for feedback and to enhance coordination. In addition, County DPW will request municipalities to provide a list of their projects to DPW so they can coordinate. Planning staff will be working with DPW staff in mid-September to discuss coordination as well. In addition, Emily is organizing a bicycle traffic skills course for October, and starting a County inter-departmental Complete Streets committee. Finally, Emily is organizing pedestrian/bicycle counts in early September and looking for volunteers at several locations.
- Transit Amenities: Emily noted that several agencies still have bicycle parking racks to pick up from the County Transit Division. These include the Town of Hyde Park, Town of Red Hook, and County DPW.
- The PDCTC intends to conduct another safety assessment this year. Emily said that the safety assessments look to find simple solutions to improve safety that can be done relatively quickly and at low cost. Emily asked for suggested locations. Bob LaColla suggested Baxtertown Road or Merritt Boulevard in the Town of Fishkill. Aileen Rohr suggested the Pinewoods Road/Route 9 intersection in Hyde Park.

- A final draft of the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan will be ready for comment by human service agencies in October. After those comments are received the Plan will be posted for a 30 day public comment period.

**8. Public Participation** – Mark Debold asked if there were any announcements from the group. Aileen Rohr (Supervisor, Hyde Park) said that Hyde Park applied for a Greenway grant to assist with their zoning changes that came as a result of the sidewalk study. They will hold a public hearing on the proposed zoning changes in October. The zoning changes would affect a four-block section from East Market Street to Harvey Street in Hyde Park.

Bob announced that Meredith Robson has taken a job in another community, but did not know her final day in the City of Beacon.

Mark Debold asked that the committee review the draft by-laws and get comments to him by September 24<sup>th</sup> (note: this was subsequently extended to October 1<sup>st</sup>).

Bob mentioned the heavy salt use and drainage issues by the senior housing complex near I-84 & Route 9D and said salt is being contained by use of a clay lining. Tom said that he will check to see what the issues are in that area with regard to recharge/retention.

**9. Next Meetings:**

- Executive Committee: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.
- Technical Committee: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

Attendance List:

1	Don	Beer	Town of Poughkeepsie	845-790-4736
2	Jennifer	Cocozza	PDCTC	845-486-3617
3	Mark	Debold	PDCTC	845-486-3600
4	Emily	Dozier	PDCTC	845-486-3600
5	Brian	Kehoe	DC Planning	845-486-3600
6	John	Hickman	Town of East Fishkill	845-221-4303
7	Gerry	Hutchings	County Legislator	914-475-9379
8	Bob	LaColla	Town of Fishkill	845-831-7800
9	Wanda	Livigni	Town of LaGrange	845-452-8562
10	Ray	Oberly	Town of Clinton	845-266-5721
11	Aileen	Rohr	Town of Hyde Park	845-229-5111
12	Marleen	Stein	MTA HQ	212-878-7080
13	Tom	Weiner	NYS DOT	845-431-5723
14	Barbara	Zulauf	Town of Beekman	845-249-8448