

Dutchess County Transportation Council
Planning Committee Meeting Summary

Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 10 am – 12 pm

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

1. Introductions – See attached list.

2. Announcements

- Mark Debald (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mark began by announcing that everyone should have received an agenda, a summary of the previous meeting, Draft Amendment 17-05, and draft material on the TMA’s recently announced call for transit projects. Mark also distributed a revised Draft 2018-2019 UPWP Task Code/Budget Summary to replace the version in the meeting notice.
- Mark reported that the recent November 9, 2017 ballot seeking approval of three resolutions (TIP Amendment #17-04, Transit Performance Measures, and NYS Statewide Safety Performance Measures) was approved unanimously (16-0) by the voting members of the Transportation Council. Mark thanked those in attendance for their participation.
- DCTC Voting Membership: Based on the results of the recent local election and/or voluntary departure of other elected officials, the Transportation Council will experience some turnover next year (Jan. 1, 2018). We will have at least six, perhaps seven, new members.
 - Mark gave an introduction to the MPO, outlining our role in regional and local transportation planning efforts.
 - Three new permanent voting members from the urbanized towns of Beekman (Mary Covucci), East Fishkill (Nicholas D’Alessandro), and Wappinger (Richard Thurston).
 - The Town of Pawling (James Schmitt) will replace Union Vale to represent the partially urbanized towns.
 - The Village of Fishkill (James Miccio) replaces Wappingers Falls (Matt Alexander) for the urbanized villages.
 - A replacement for the Town of Pine Plains (Brian Coons) to represent the non-urban towns and villages. A written request has been made to the Dutchess County Supervisors and Mayors Association to designate a new representative (and re-designate the Town of Clinton, so both representatives are on the same term cycle).
 - We are also awaiting the official results of the Poughkeepsie Town Supervisor race.

Mark noted that this is the highest turnover the Council has experienced in recent memory. We will schedule an “MPO 101” course early next year to educate our new members. Several members, including NYSDOT and MTA, indicated interest in attending this course.

- FTA Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities Program): DCTC and OCTC staff completed their review of applications for this program. \$1,054,000 is available in the tri-county TMA (Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties). Applications for Operating Assistance, Mobility Management, and Capital Equipment were received from eight applicants (Dutchess and Orange counties only). NYSDOT is currently reviewing the MPOs' priorities. We expect award announcements at year's end at the earliest.
- Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) Call for Projects: Mark reminded the Committee that there is a statewide solicitation for systemic pedestrian safety projects in support of the State's PSAP. The funds are for systemic, low-cost countermeasures to improve pedestrian safety. \$40 million in Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program funding has been made available to local municipalities. Projects must be located in municipalities within the Adjusted Urbanized Area (16 municipalities, plus the county) and Urban Clusters (Red Hook/Tivoli area). Special attention is being paid to 20 focus communities across New York. In Dutchess, this includes the City and Town of Poughkeepsie.

Other project features:

- The minimum project award is \$250,000.
- County DPW is open to partnering with municipalities.
- Only local and county roads are eligible.
- Sidewalk construction is not eligible. Most projects will focus on striping and signage.

Projects funded through this call are eligible to receive up to 100 percent funding with no local match required, though they must still go through the local federal-aid process. Additional information about the program is available on the NYSDOT website and DCTC website. Project sponsors should review the guidance and the PSAP report (especially pages 48-58) to enhance their understanding of the program. Please note also that this program is meant for low-cost, systemic safety treatments, not large-scale construction projects. Applications must be submitted to DCTC staff by March 9, 2018. Please forward applications to Emily Dozier and Mark.

- FFY 2017 FTA Section 5307 & 5339 Programs: These funds are distributed to the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh New York-New Jersey Urbanized Area. Dutchess will likely receive \$1,782,525 in 5307 funds and \$444,560 in 5339 funds for a total of \$2,227,085 for FFY 2017. We are still awaiting an agreement between NY and NJ before we can develop our sub-allocation and applicable MPO resolutions.
- Traffic Safety: Data released by the National Transportation Safety Board on Nov. 21st indicated that U.S. roadway deaths increased from 35,485 in 2015 to 37,461 in 2016, with fatalities in passenger vehicles up from 12,761 in 2015 to 13,412 in 2016. In general, all categories of fatalities increased (for comparison, there were 17,250 homicides in the U.S. in 2016):

- The number of passenger vehicle occupant fatalities increased by 1,075, a 4.7-percent increase, which accounted for 54 percent of the overall increase in fatalities. The 2016 passenger vehicle fatality count (23,714) is the highest number since 2008.
- Motorcyclist fatalities increased by 257, a 5.1-percent increase. The 2016 motorcyclist fatality count (5,286) is the highest number since 2008.
- Pedestrian fatalities increased by 492, a 9.0-percent increase. The 2016 pedestrian fatality count (5,987) is the highest number since 1990.
- Bicycle fatalities increased by 11, a 1.3-percent increase. The 2016 bicycle fatality count (840) is the highest number since 1991.

More locally, in NYS there were 1,025 highway related fatalities in 2016, a 9.8 percent decrease from 2015. In Dutchess County, there were 20 traffic fatalities in 2016, a 23 percent decrease from 2015.

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

4. Draft SFY 2018-2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mark noted that the UPWP is the DCTC’s annual statement of work for the upcoming State Fiscal Year (SFY), and one of our core products. It outlines the planning tasks/budgets to be completed by the MPO and member agencies. We will need to approve the UPWP earlier than usual (by March 1, 2018), so we will likely do that at our Council meeting in late February. Mark reviewed the Draft 2018-2019 UPWP Task Codes and the preliminary planning budget for the Draft UPWP, focusing on changes from the current year and highlights for the upcoming program year.

- a. TC10-Program Support and Administration: This project category covers activities necessary to carry out the day-to-day activities of the Transportation Council and support the local metropolitan transportation planning process. These include typical administrative tasks related to preparing for meetings, developing future planning programs, engaging the public, and participating in professional development courses.
- b. TC20-Data Development and Analysis: The Data Development category supports the gathering and analysis of relevant data to identify issues for further study, define requirements for plans, and identify programming priorities. It includes analyzing population, employment, and housing data, primarily from agencies such as the Census Bureau and BLS. In addition, this category covers work on gathering and analyzing transportation specific data on the condition and use of the local transportation system (e.g. traffic count data, pavement monitoring). These tasks support various short- and long-range transportation planning activities.

Mark talked about the TIP Viewer and noted its importance as an easily accessible and legible product. Paul Korczak (Rhinebeck) and Ray Oberly (Clinton) asked about the possibility of a similar viewer for electric vehicle charging stations, and if we could find out how many EVs there are in the county. Mark will investigate.

Mark highlighted TC 28, the county-wide speed study, which is currently underway, and noted that TC 24, “Household Travel Survey Data”, is being folded into TC21, “Demographic Data Analysis and Forecasting”.

- c. TC30-Long-Range Transportation Planning (System Level): The system-level long-range planning category forms the basis of our community planning activities and the programming of federal transportation funding. It includes tasks that relate to the transportation system at the state, regional, and county level. System-level planning also focus on mode-specific issues such as regional transit or freight. Mark noted that of particular importance to our work in 2018 are TC34 (“Congestion Management Plan”) and TC38 (“Regional Freight Planning”). TC33 (“Air Quality and Energy Planning”) may become more important if the federal government changes the threshold for non-attainment for ozone as proposed.
- d. TC40-Long-Range Transportation Planning (Project Level): The project level category encompasses tasks pertaining to specific communities, sub-areas, or corridors. These tasks require detailed analyses that are more precise than system-level analyses. Project level planning may focus on multi-modal issues or only one or two transportation modes. Project level tasks support the recommendations and priorities identified in the MTP. Projects in this section include those initiated by the Transportation Council and member agencies. Mark highlighted several task codes related to current projects: TC42 “Local Sidewalk Planning Initiatives” like the Millerton Pedestrian Plan, TC43 “City of Poughkeepsie Transportation Planning Activities” like the Poughkeepsie Downtown Parking Study, and TC45 “Complete Streets Implementation” like the Beekman Street Study in Beacon.
- e. TC50-Short-Range Transportation Planning: The short-range planning category focuses on planning projects with near term horizons that support the recommendations in previous Transportation Council plans and studies. The Council will review proposed land use and transportation projects for their potential impacts on the regional transportation network and for consistency with our strategic goals and objectives, especially as they relate to livability and sustainable development.
- f. TC60-Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): This category focuses on maintaining and updating the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) through amendments and administrative modifications. It also includes work related to reviewing project applications for special federal funding programs. Our current TIP runs to 2021, and work on the next one will ramp up in 2019.
- g. TC70-Planning Emphasis Areas: The Transportation Council works closely with member agencies, including public transit operators, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local and regional transit operations. This includes local bus operations provided by the Dutchess County Division of Public Transit and regional commuter rail services provided by MTA/Metro-North Railroad. This also includes a new Regional Transit Plan that the three-county TMA will begin in 2018.

- h. TC80-Other Activities: This category covers work with the NYSAMPO, which provides a forum for the 14 MPOs in NYS to collaborate on mutually beneficial activities. NYSAMPO activities are supported directly with FHWA and FTA planning funds, which are matched by NYSDOT. In addition to regular staff director meetings, the Association has formed several working groups to promote information sharing among staff. Working groups cover specific focus areas including traffic safety, bicycle and pedestrian planning, traffic management and operations, climate change, transit planning, travel demand modeling, and GIS mapping.

Discussion:

Ray Oberly (Town of Clinton) asked whether there were any plans to address the Route 9/44/55 interchange by the Mid-Hudson Bridge in Poughkeepsie. Mark stated that the intersection is on a short-list of desired long-term major projects, but there are no current plans.

Paul Korczak asked whether DCTC analyzes the impact of “emerging mobility” activities like ride-sharing, car-sharing, and park-and-ride. Mark stated that those activities often happen at the TMA level, and fall under TC35 (“Travel Demand Management (TDM) Activities”). Emily added that ride sharing (Uber, Lyft) will likely feature more prominently in future plans now that it is operating in Dutchess County.

Paul also asked about DCTC’s relationship to Amtrak. Mark stated that they are a partner for long-range planning efforts like the MTP and the planned Regional Transit Plan. Mark noted that Orange County is taking the lead on that study, and will soon be ready to publish an RFP.

Mark also reviewed the proposed UPWP budget. He noted that he typically uses previous year expenditures to form the basis of the draft budget, and then modifies it based on upcoming planning projects.

Mark said that a full draft of the UPWP would be ready before our next Planning Committee meeting in January. Due to the requirement to approve the UPWP earlier than usual, we will need to hold our 30-day public comment period soon after the January meeting, so it can be voted on in February.

The group discussed DCTC’s reserve funding (un-programmed balance). Paul asked whether it could be rescinded, and Mark stated that yes, though it has never been. Paul asked whether municipalities could apply for funding for local projects. Mark said yes, and reviewed the process for municipalities wanting to work with the MPO.

5. Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- a. Draft TIP Amendment 17-05: Mark referred to Draft Amendment 17-05 to the FFY 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): the five-year capital program of federally funded transportation projects in Dutchess County. The DCTC periodically updates the TIP to add new projects, remove existing projects, or change a project’s cost, schedule, or scope.

Amendment #17-05 addresses two new projects stemming from the recent Off-System Bridge call for projects. Based on our Project Selection Criteria, the Carol Drive Bridge in East Fishkill and Garden Street Bridge in Poughkeepsie ranked as the top two projects. The Planning Committee agreed with this determination at its October meeting. Mark developed a draft TIP strip for the two new projects. The TIP strips show NYSDOT's estimate of the time needed to complete the project. Since these are new projects, the Transportation Council will need to formally add them to the TIP. This will likely occur in February, following a 15-day public comment period in January. This would occur at the same meeting where we seek approval of the 2018-2019 UPWP.

John Hickman expressed how challenging the East Fishkill bridge has been, and how important this funding is for that location. Mark noted that we still have \$1.4 million left in Off-System Bridge funding, and are continuing discussions with the Town of Hyde Park and City of Beacon about their potential projects.

- b. Draft TIP Questionnaire: Based on the discussion at our previous meeting, Mark contacted OCTC for a copy of the TIP Questionnaire that they provided to local project sponsors. A DCTC version was drafted and included in the meeting packet. The intent is to have local sponsors formally report back to the Transportation Council about the disposition of their current TIP projects. A fillable form has been created to help with submissions. There are eight local sponsors in the current TIP. These include DCDPW, City of Poughkeepsie, City of Beacon, Town of Hyde Park, and Town of Red Hook for STP/CMAQ/TAP funded projects, the Towns of Beekman and Pawling with HPP projects, and the Village of Wappingers Falls with a TAP project.

Sandra Jobson emphasized the deliverability aspect of federally-funded projects, and identifying funding sources in case of cost overruns. The Mid-Hudson Valley has been identified as struggling with project deliverability, hovering around 30%. She recommended that the committee spend more time discussing current projects, and that DCTC staff meet with local sponsors and the Region 8 Local Projects Unit (LPU) annually or biannually to discuss individual projects—likely around June, and again in the winter. We could then update the TIP based on project status. Other committee members expressed agreement.

6. Unallocated FTA Section 5307 Call for Projects

Mark reviewed the cover letter, guidelines, and application process for the recent call for projects for \$5 million in unallocated FTA Section 5307 funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA. He noted that applications must be submitted to all three MPOs by the December 22nd submission date. Dutchess County only has two eligible applicants (DCPT and the MTA), and any funding requests must be funneled through them.

Ray asked about the possibility of using this funding for rural connections. Mark said it could be eligible, but would need to come from DCPT. He recommended speaking with Dutchess County

Transit Administrator John Andoh. Marc Albrecht (MTA) stated that the MTA does not intend to apply for this funding.

7. Project Updates

- a. City of Poughkeepsie Downtown Parking Improvement Plan
 - i. An Open House is planned for December 6, 2017.
- b. Village of Millerton Pedestrian Plan
 - i. A public presentation occurred in mid-November, and the plan should be finished early next year. Emily will circulate a draft to NYSDOT, DCDPW, and the project Task Force for input.
- c. Beekman Street in the City of Beacon
 - i. A draft of the plan is complete. The City Council presentation has been postponed to January.
- d. 2017 Traffic Count Program:
 - i. The 2017 counts are all complete. Ray Oberly (Town of Clinton) asked whether any roads have jumped out as experiencing substantial volume change. Staff stated that while no such anomalies have been noted, they can investigate further.

8. Public Participation – there were no public comments.

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 10 a.m. at Dutchess County Planning. We typically do not hold a meeting in December given the holiday season and busy year-end schedules.

Attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Address or Email</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Ray Oberly	Town of Clinton	townsupervisor@townofclinton.com	845-266-5721
Sandra Jobson	NYSDOT	sandra.jobson@dot.ny.gov	845-431-7923
John Hickman	Town of East Fishkill	hickmanj@eastfishkillny.org	845-221-4303
Nick D'Alessandro	Town of East Fishkill		845-221-4303
Barbara Zulauf	Town of Beekman	supervisor@townofbeekmanny.us	845-724-5300 ext.225
Danielle Mass	NYSBA	dmass@nysba.ny.gov	845-691-7245
Mark Figliozzi	Town of Pleasant Valley	pvs@pleasantvalley-ny.gov	845-635-3598
Emily Dozier	DCTC	edozier@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
James Morena (by phone)	Metro-North	morena@mnr.org	212-340-4011
Ali Mohseni	MHSTCC		
Paul Korczak	Village/Town of Rhinebeck	korczakpaul@gmail.com	212-260-9922
Mark Debald	DCTC	mdebald@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600

Dylan Tuttle	DCTC	dtuttle@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Marc Albrecht (by phone)	MTA		212-878-0146