

Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council
Planning Committee Meeting Summary

Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.
Dutchess County Planning Department (2nd Floor), 27 High Street, Poughkeepsie, NY

1. Introductions – See attached list.

2. Announcements

Mark Debald (PDCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that applications for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program are still under review by NYSDOT Main Office, with awards expected soon.

Mark also alerted the Committee to a recent news release from the National Safety Council: “For the first time in nearly a decade, preliminary data from the National Safety Council estimates that as many as 40,000 people died in motor vehicle crashes in 2016. That marks a 6% increase over 2015 and a 14% increase over 2014 – the most dramatic two-year escalation in 53 years. An estimated 4.6 million roadway users were injured seriously enough to require medical attention, a 7% increase over 2015. This means 2016 may have been the deadliest year on the roads since 2007. Estimated cost to society was \$432 billion.”

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

4. [Final Draft SFY 2017-2018 Unified Planning Work Program \(UPWP\)](#)

UPWP Overview

Mark Debald (PDCTC) noted that the UPWP is the PDCTC’s annual statement of work for the upcoming year, outlining the planning tasks/budgets to be completed by the MPO and member agencies for the period between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018. The UPWP includes descriptions of planning tasks and resulting products, and identifies which organization will perform each task, a schedule for completing tasks, the cost of the work, and sources of funds. The Council updates the UPWP annually.

Major tasks for the new UPWP include the launch of a Regional Transit Study in conjunction with Orange and Ulster counties, initiation of a Downtown Parking Improvement Plan for the City of Poughkeepsie, and completion of a Pedestrian Plan for the Village of Millerton. The Council will also continue last year’s local pavement condition monitoring program and high-end speeding analysis, and its long-standing annual traffic count program. The Council will work with other county departments to implement a pedestrian/bicycle safety awareness campaign. Lastly, staff will conduct one or more Safety Assessments at high crash locations (e.g. Main St/Innis/Worrall Ave. intersection in the City of Poughkeepsie).

UPWP Budget

The majority of funds used to support UPWP tasks come from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The 2017-2018 UPWP programs \$907,578 in

federal planning funds to support Transportation Council activities: \$784,378 from the FHWA and \$123,200 from the FTA. The total PDCTC 2017-2018 Program Budget is \$1,134,473. Mark added that a portion of the savings backlog will be programmed in the new 2017-2018 UPWP.

Regional Transit Plan

The proposed UPWP includes substantial funds for the regional transit study. In reference to a suggestion about determining an equitable distribution of planning costs for the transit study, PDCTC staff is looking at using each county’s share of the Transportation Management Area’s (TMA) population to determine fair share:

	2010 Pop.	TMA Share	FTA Funds
Dutchess	297,488	35%	\$70,000
Orange	372,813	44%	\$88,000
Ulster	182,493	21%	\$42,000
Total	852,794		

The distribution above assumes a \$200,000 total project cost, so the actual figures might fluctuate depending on the chosen proposal. However, the PDCTC is looking at the \$60-70K range. There is approximately \$80,000 total for the project in the upcoming UPWP, but that includes staff hours in support of the plan. The PDCTC will also be able to provide funding in the 2018-2019 UPWP, since it is unlikely that we will complete the project in one-year.

Public Comment

As required by PDCTC bylaws, the PDCTC initiated a 30-day public comment period for the Final Draft UPWP starting on Feb. 1, 2017 through March 3, 2017. No comments have been received to date. Approval of the new UPWP will be agenda item for the March 15th Council meeting (see [Resolution 17-01](#)).

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

[TIP Amendment #17-02](#)

The PDCTC periodically updates the TIP to add new projects, remove existing projects, or change a project’s cost, schedule, or scope. Major changes (e.g. adding a new project or adding funds in excess of 25% of the total project cost) are classified as amendments and require that the PDCTC approve the changes by ballot or in-person voting; minor changes (e.g. minor cost increases or schedule change) are classified as administrative modifications. Amendment #17-02 addresses four highway projects (two new and two existing):

- a. Adding the CR 19 (Bulls Head Rd.) bridge project that was selected through the recent BRIDGE NY program (PIN 876156).
- b. Adding repurposed earmark funding for the Wassaic Trail to Train project in Amenia (PIN 878040).
- c. Adding the City of Beacon HSIP project (PIN 876145).
- d. Adding \$3.5 million in repurposed earmark funding for the Harlem Valley Rail Trail (PIN 875874). Tom Weiner (NYSDOT) inquired why the construction and construction inspection

phases for this project are in two different years; Mark/Tom will verify that this is correct and get back to the group.

As required by PDCTC Bylaws, the PDCTC will hold a 15-day public comment period, likely starting on February 27th (in the event that the TAP awards will be announced and we will need to add the project(s) to the TIP). The Amendment will be placed on the meeting agenda for our March 15th Council meeting at Locust Grove ([see Resolution 17-02](#)).

TIP Project Updates

Although Dutchess County is the project sponsor for the majority of highway projects on the TIP, the City of Poughkeepsie also has a fair number of federal-aid projects (currently two linear and two bridge projects, in addition to the already obligated Creek/Smith/Little George roundabout). Staff recently reviewed the status of these City projects, most notably the Academy St. and Grand Ave. reconstruction projects. These two projects were originally programmed in 2004 and the projects total \$5 million, although in “real money” (i.e. funding in the first four years of the TIP), there is only \$500,000. Based on PDCTC review, the status of City projects is as follows:

1. PIN 875983 – Washington St. bridge over the Fallkill Creek. The City appears ready to begin this project and they would like to sit down with LPU to map out next steps. Given the potential consolidation of the City bus system, the City could have local match funds in their capital program for this project.
2. PIN 875663 – Mansion St. bridge over the Fallkill stays as is.
3. PIN 875982 – Grand Ave. reconstruction also stays as is.
4. PIN 875909 – Academy St. reconstruction. This project is the most uncertain from the City’s perspective. Given priorities, this type of project (sidewalks, drainage, curbing, etc.) might be a better fit for Main St. (possibly from Academy/Catherine St. to Hamilton St.). This type of change would require a TIP Amendment.

Mark noted that these projects are being mentioned in the event they develop into future Amendments or Administrative Modifications requiring MPO action.

STBG Off-System Bridge Funding

Mark added that PDCTC staff will begin work on issuing a call for projects for the STBG Off-System Bridge Funding: the FHWA program that provides federal funds for 80 percent of the costs associated with the rehabilitation and/or replacement of county and locally owned bridges that are not located on a federal-aid eligible road (see bridge rating sheet distributed with the meeting notice). A total of \$3.6 million in federal funding (i.e. combined total project cost of \$4.5 million) is available to Dutchess County. Mark suggested that this funding would be best suited for construction/construction inspection phases. The application form is under review by the Local Project’s Unit (LPU) and Dutchess County. Ray Oberly (Town of Clinton) reminded the group that a bridge constitutes a structure 20 feet or longer. Randy Casale (City of Beacon) inquired about the Tioronda bridge and potential designs already in process; Mark suggested that Randy reach out to Martin Evans at LPU for more information on this matter.

6. **County-City Bus Operations:** the PDCTC is working with the county and city to assist in the transfer of FTA assets from the county to the city. [Resolution 17-04](#) seeks approval for the ability to

reallocate unobligated Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014-2016 FTA Section 5307 and 5339 formula funds from the City of Poughkeepsie to Dutchess County. In order to facilitate this transition, the City desires to reallocate its unobligated federal transit funds to the County in the amounts shown on Resolution 17-04. This resolution stems from discussions between the City of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County that outlines the process for transferring federally funded transit assets from the City to the County. The transfer will better enable the County to expand its bus operations in the City. Currently, the City only has six months of funding for bus operations, until June 30, 2017. Bob LaColla (Town of Fishkill) suggested adding language to the resolution that states that the transfer of funds be contingent upon authorization from the City; Mark will add this language to the resolution.

7. Project Updates

- a. Mark DeBald (PDCTC) announced that the PDCTC is moving forward with changing the MPO name to the Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) ([Resolution 17-05](#)). This change better reflects our planning area and aligns us with other MPOs in the region (UCTC and OCTC). We are also designing a new logo as part of this new transition. This will be on the agenda for our March 15th Council meeting. Ray Oberly (Town of Clinton) inquired if this name change affects any legally binding PDCTC agreements; Mark replied that the name change will not affect any previously signed agreements.
- b. Mark also explained the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016-2017 UPWP Amendment for the current UPWP. This amendment would shift funding between planning tasks and smooth out the PDCTC budget for the end of the State Fiscal Year (SFY). This includes moving funds from Long-Range Planning (System) to Long-Range Planning (Project) and Data Development (PL) for both the planning (PL) and metropolitan planning program (MPP) planning budgets, and shifting funds from Transit Planning to Long-Range Planning (Project). As required by PDCTC Bylaws, the PDCTC began a 15-day public comment period from February 16-March 3, 2017. The Amendment (see [Resolution 17-03](#)) will be placed on the meeting agenda for our March 15th Council meeting at Locust Grove.
- c. Mark reiterated that the TMA desires to use UPWP funds to support the Regional Transit Study. The Orange Council Transportation Council (OCTC) has volunteered to manage the contract for this project. The Request for Proposal (RFP) is under review by the Orange County Attorney's office; we are optimistic that we will be able to issue the RFP this spring and start work in the summer.
- d. Mark added that the City of Poughkeepsie downtown parking analysis RFP is still open. Submissions are due by March 3rd. We expect to have the consultant selected in April, so work can begin by May.
- e. Mark noted that the [Village of Millerton Pedestrian Plan](#) project kick-off meeting will be on March 23rd. The Millerton Pedestrian Plan is the fifth MPO-supported sidewalk study, building on previous studies in the Village of Rhinebeck (2011), Town of Hyde Park (2013), Town of Pine Plains (2014), and Arlington Town Center (2017). The Village of Pawling has expressed interest in being the next MPO-supported sidewalk study.

- f. Emily Dozier (PDCTC) gave a [presentation](#) on the recently completed [Arlington Pedestrian Plan](#). Emily explained that for this project, representatives from a Town-designated volunteer Task Force helped to guide the study. The group identified three goals for the study: 1) To improve pedestrian access to the Town Center; 2) To enhance the pedestrian experience in Arlington; and 3) To establish a vision for what the Arlington Town Center could look like in the future. In general, the study aimed to create a walkable, pedestrian-friendly Main Street.

The study included a GPS inventory of existing conditions, cataloguing the sidewalk condition (i.e. excellent, good, fair, poor, or no sidewalk), specific sidewalk issues (i.e. lifted, obstruction, clearance, removed, or crumbled), and sidewalk amenities (street trees, lamps, benches, trash cans, and bike racks). Overall, 88% of sidewalks were rated as excellent or good, 10% were rated as fair, and 2% were rated as poor. There are clusters of sidewalk issues on Jones St., Springside Ave., Fairmont Ave. near Main St./Haight Ave., Main St. near Fairmont/Taft Ave., and Fulton Ave. The inventory was completed during the spring/summer of 2016.

A final report was issued in February 2017 with prioritized recommendations for improvements, focusing on the three key intersections: Main St./Grand Ave. (potential roundabout), Main St./Raymond Ave. (improve operations and create public space), and Main St./Fairmont Ave. (improve operations and create public space). For more information on the plan or to review the recommendations, please see:

<http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/TransportationCouncil/22686.htm>

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

9. **Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. Transportation Council: **Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.** at the Locust Grove, Samuel F.B. Morse Historic Site (Route 9, Poughkeepsie).

Attendance List

	First Name	Last Name	Organization	Phone
1	Mark	Debald	PDCTC	845-486-3600
2	Emily	Dozier	PDCTC	845-486-3600
3	Shelby	Frangk	PDCTC	845-486-3600
4	Emily	McDaniels	PDCTC	845-486-3600
5	Tom	Weiner	NYS DOT	845-431-5723
6	Ray	Oberly	Town of Clinton	845-266-5721
7	Bob	LaColla	Town of Fishkill	845-831-7800
8	Joseph	Kane	City of Poughkeepsie	845-451-4192
9	Barbara	Zulauf	Town of Beekman	845-724-5300
10	Don	Beer	Town of Poughkeepsie	845-790-4736
11	Jim	Morena	MNR (by phone)	212-878-7080
12	Randy	Casale	City of Beacon (by phone)	845-838-5010
13	Marleen	Stein	MTA (by phone)	212-340-4011