

Dutchess County Transportation Council
Planning Committee Meeting Summary

Wednesday, October 25, 2017, 10:00 – Noon

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. He introduced DCTC’s newest staff member, Dylan Tuttle. Dylan recently earned a Masters in Regional Planning from Cornell. He will be working on a variety of transportation planning projects. Mark also noted that there is a new County Transit Administrator, John Andoh. John replaces Cynthia Ruiz.
- DCTC and OCTC staff have initiated their review of applications received for the FTA Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities Program). Approximately \$1-million is available in the tri-county TMA (Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties), which represents two years of funding (FFY 2016 & 2017). Applications for operating assistance, mobility management (i.e. dispatch service, etc.), and capital equipment were received from eight applicants (from Dutchess and Orange counties only). We expect the review process to be completed by early November. Most applications from Dutchess were for capital equipment, and one was for mobility management. In response to a question from Ray Oberly (Town of Clinton), Mark stated that we will not be able to fund all the requests.
- On October 20th, we issued a call letter for the State’s Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) local solicitation, which recommends systemic, low-cost countermeasures (signage, lane markings, countdown timers, etc.) to improve pedestrian safety. \$40 million in federal Highway Safety Improvement Program funding has been made available to municipalities to improve pedestrian safety. Projects must be located in municipalities within the adjusted urbanized area boundary (16 municipalities, plus the county) or in an urban cluster (Red Hook/Tivoli area). Special attention is also being paid to 20 focus communities across New York. In Dutchess, this includes the City and Town of Poughkeepsie. The goal is to distribute 60% of funds to focus communities. Mark noted that the cities of Beacon and Poughkeepsie have already expressed interest.

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. The program is meant for low-cost, systemic safety treatments (across many locations), not large-scale construction projects. Sandra Jobson

(NYSDOT) noted that the minimum project amount is \$250,000. She suggested partnering with neighboring municipalities to meet that threshold.

Other project notes:

- a. All project locations must be physically located in an urban area. If a municipality is partially in and partially out of an urban area, only the locations within the urban boundary are eligible. Urban Clusters (Red Hook area) are also eligible.
- b. All project locations must be on a public, local or county owned or maintained road. State touring routes are not eligible because they are included in the current NYSDOT statewide PSAP project.
- c. All locations must be at a signalized intersection or an uncontrolled crosswalk.
- d. Project review happens at the MPO level, not the state.
- e. Webinar: NYSDOT has said that there will be a webinar to assist in the PSAP process. Mark will notify everyone when there is more information.

Applications must be submitted to DCTC staff by **March 9, 2018**. Please forward applications to Emily Dozier and Mark.

- Wanda Livigni (Town of LaGrange) raised a pedestrian safety concern about Route 55 near the Taconic State Parkway: Arlington High School students walk along the shoulder from the school to Planet Fitness, crossing the Taconic ramps. Sandra will look into the issue with NYSDOT.
- Mark alerted the Committee to expected statewide project solicitations for BRIDGE NY and the TAP program in 2018, plus another round of PAVE NY funding for local municipalities. In response to a question from Ray Oberly, Mark stated that Bridge NY funds can be used for culvert repairs, and that the funding level for culvert projects has increased. Mark will check to see what size culverts qualify. Mark noted that the TAP process should be similar to previous years, so municipalities could consider re-applying for projects submitted in the past.
- Mark also noted that we're still awaiting an agreement on the draft allocations of FFY 2017 FTA Section 5307 and 5339 funding to our 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. Given the move to a single bus operator in the county, we will not do a sub-allocation to the City of Poughkeepsie. We are still awaiting an agreement between NY and NJ before we can develop our sub-allocation and applicable MPO resolutions. In response to questions, Mark explained that 5307 is the main funding source for public transit. Typically, Dutchess gets about \$2-million annually, based on usage data from past years. The shift to a single bus operator will not greatly affect the amount of funding we receive, just how we distribute it. Mark also noted that Section 5339 is for capital expenses only; typically Dutchess gets about \$444,000. Mark added that there will likely be a call for projects to use unallocated 5307 funds in the future, which could be used to support any potential shortfalls in annual funding.

3. DCTC Off-System Bridge Call for Projects

Mark provided an update on the DCTC's recent off-system bridge call for projects. As mentioned last month, we received six applications, from four municipalities and the County. County DPW has offered to support the local applications over theirs. Based on our initial review, all six bridges were deemed eligible for federal funding. We then scored each proposal using the State's Local Bridge Priority Index and the DCTC's Project Selection Criteria. Staff also met with NYSDOT-Region 8 LPU to identify potential issues with each project and to review cost estimates. This resulted in a number of follow-up questions for applicants; most of which have been answered. The remaining issues relate to ownership (Dock Street in Hyde Park) and design preference (South Ave in Beacon). We hope to have the selection process completed by this fall.

Mark reiterated the importance of project deliverability when it comes the use of federal funding. During our recent Federal Certification Review, the Federal Highway Administration stressed the need for the state, regions, counties, and locals to improve project deliverability by constructing projects on time and as scheduled in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mark recommended that the City of Poughkeepsie and Town of East Fishkill bridge projects be prioritized, but stated that the Beacon and Hyde Park projects are by no means off the table. We are aware that the City of Beacon has received \$500,000 in State multi-modal funding for the Tioranda Bridge, which helps our funding outlook. If the City decides on a one-lane bridge, we might be able lower the cost.

Overall, we are likely able to fund three projects. We have asked Region 8 if they have any off-system money available to help fund a fourth project.

Mark noted that we are thoroughly vetting these projects now, so that there are fewer issues with deliverability down the road. Sandra Jobson (NYSDOT) suggested that the local sponsors sign a document outlining the construction date, their responsibility for any cost overruns, and other responsibilities. This could be co-signed by the NYSDOT Region 8 Local Projects Unit and DCTC.

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 year, outlining the planning tasks/budgets to be completed by the MPO and member agencies. We need to approve the UPWP earlier than usual (by March 1, 2018), so we will likely have our Council meeting in mid to late February. We have not received our annual planning allocations, though we expect the amount to remain flat (approx. \$660,000 total).

Mark reviewed highlights from the current 2017-2018 program year, noting that it was only seven months old:

- a. We completed the in-person 2017 Federal Certification review of the TMA; we are awaiting the final report.
- b. We will likely have completed the City of Poughkeepsie Downtown Parking Improvement Plan. Mark discussed the scope of the project, and the stage it is at now.

- c. We will soon complete the Village of Millerton Pedestrian Plan, which identifies ways to improve pedestrian safety and access in the Village center.
- d. We completed a Safety Assessment of the Main St/Innis Ave/Worrall Ave intersection in the City of Poughkeepsie. Mark noted that this is something we would like to continue doing in the future, and asked participants to be on the lookout for potential safety assessments.
- e. We recently completed the first full round of the countywide pavement scoring program for all local roads (county, city, town, and village roads). The first phase, completed in 2016, assessed pavement quality in 17 municipalities, while the second phase, completed in 2017, assessed the remaining 13 municipalities. It was noted that dirt/gravel roads are not included in this inventory.
- f. We completed the 2017 traffic count program, collecting volume, classification, and speed data at approximately 250 locations across the county. The count program included the use of video technology to count walkers and bikers at over 15 locations throughout the county, including the Dutchess and Harlem Valley Rail Trails.
- g. We continued to lead the County's inter-departmental Complete Streets Committee, to include the continuation of the county's pedestrian safety awareness campaign.
- h. We should complete the second annual analysis of speeding patterns on county and local roads, based on data collected from the 2017 annual traffic count program. This analysis identifies road segments with high percentages of 'high-end' speeders, defined by staff as those travelling more than 10 mph over the posted speed limit.
- i. We continue to maintain the FFY 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) through the Amendments and Administrative Modifications.
- j. We held our first call for projects in 10 years via the Off-System Bridge program.
- k. We also updated our online TIP Viewer application and Bicycle Parking map portal, with much help from OCIS.
- l. Lastly, we hope to have a consultant selected for the Regional Transit Study by April 1, 2018.

Mark then highlighted the Transportation Council's planning objectives for the upcoming 2018-2019 program year:

- a. We will need to address any corrective actions or recommendations from the TMA certification review, which may or may not be extensive.
- b. In late 2018, we will begin planning for the next update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (to be done in 2021).
- c. In conjunction with OCTC and UCTC, we hope to officially start the Regional Transit Study for the TMA.
- d. We will undertake a Sidewalk Inventory and Improvement Plan for the Village of Pawling, modelled after similar studies in Hyde Park, Pine Plains, Arlington, and Millerton.
- e. We hope to expand the Complete Streets Committee's public safety campaign to increase awareness of walking and bicycling safety issues in Dutchess County.
- f. We will continue the third round of the local pavement monitoring program to assess the condition of county and local roads.
- g. We will conduct a Safety Assessment of one or more high-crash roads/intersections as identified in Moving Dutchess 2 or proposed by Transportation Council members.

- h. Possibly conduct a transportation planning study/project in the Town of Pleasant Valley and/or update the 2010 CR 71 (West Rd) Sidewalk Feasibility Study.
- i. We will update the TIP as needed, update the online TIP Viewer application, and begin preparations for the Draft FFY 2020-2024 TIP (seek approval in summer 2019).
- j. Support local transit providers in improving transit operations throughout the county and assist Dutchess County Public Transit with implementing its Transit Development Plan for Dutchess County.
- k. Complete the annual traffic count program, collecting volume, vehicle classification, and speed data at approximately 250 locations in the county.

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

Mark referred to Amendment 17-04 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 #17-04 addresses eleven federally funded transportation projects: seven transit, two highway, and two park-and-ride projects. The transit projects include the addition of a new project to support the expansion of bus services by Dutchess County Public Transit in the Poughkeepsie area, and the removal of six projects by the City of Poughkeepsie. The two highway projects, both NYSDOT sponsored, increase funding for a countywide traffic signal project and remove an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) project on I-84. Lastly, NYSDOT is adding two new park-and-ride projects: one at the Taconic State Parkway/NYS Route 52 interchange in East Fishkill and a second along the I-84 corridor in southern Dutchess.

A 15-day public comment period was held from Oct. 3-17, 2017 and no comments were received. Mark stated that the amendment will be distributed for approval via a mail ballot.

6. Performance Measures

Mark referred to two resolutions that will be included in the mail ballot for voting members:

- a. Resolution 17-07: Endorsement of Performance Management Targets Established by Dutchess County Public Transit and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority: This resolution seeks the endorsement of State of Good Repair (SGR) performance measures that have been established by Dutchess County Public Transit and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority as part of their required Transit Asset Management Plans (TAMPs). The measures, required by federal law, primarily establish targets for the useful life of revenue vehicles.
- b. Resolution 17-08: Support of NYSDOT targets for Safety Performance Measures: This resolution seeks the support of statewide highway and non-motorized performance measures established by NYSDOT for their Highway Safety Improvement Program and by the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee for their Highway Safety Strategic Plan. The

measures, required by federal law, establish statewide targets for five items:

- 1) Number of Fatalities
- 2) Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
- 3) Number of Serious Injuries
- 4) Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT
- 5) Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Non-motorized Serious Injuries

The resolution states that the DCTC will plan and program projects that contribute to realizing the State's targets.

Mark noted that in the future, DCTC could develop county-level targets, along the same lines as these state-wide targets. We already have a number of performance measures in *Moving Dutchess 2*.

7. Project Updates

- a. City of Poughkeepsie Downtown Parking Improvement Plan: Mark noted that the Parking Study is fully underway, with the goal of inventorying existing public and private parking (including on-street), determining their utilization on a typical weekday and Saturday, and identifying ways to improve the parking system (both through policy and project recommendations). We are using a variety of tools (public events; stakeholder interviews) to gather feedback from residents, visitors, and business owners. This outreach has begun with an online survey, where we are seeking input about parking habits in the downtown. The survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PoughkeepsieParkingStudy> and has been extended through the end of October. A public workshop is also being planned.
- b. Village of Millerton Pedestrian Plan: Emily described the goals and process of the plan. She worked with a local task force, including Village and Town board members, local business owners, and others, first to develop an inventory and then to develop recommendations for infrastructure repairs and extensions. There is a Task Force meeting on October 30th to finalize draft recommendations, and a public presentation on November 14th to present draft recommendations and get feedback.
- c. Beekman Street in the City of Beacon: Emily is currently refining draft recommendations for this report. There is a City Council presentation on November 27th.
- d. October 26th at 3:00 at Dutchess Community College is DCTC's Bike/Ped Advisory Committee (BPAC). All are invited; talk to Emily for more info and a parking permit.
- e. Hyde Park Sidewalk Ribbon Cutting: Sandra and Emily Svenson (Town of Hyde Park) discussed the sidewalk project. Sandra stated that it looks great, and that it is a success story both for the process and result. Emily noted that the federal funding process was not as onerous as anticipated.

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at 10 a.m. at Dutchess County Planning. This is a week later than usual to accommodate the Thanksgiving holiday

**Dutchess County
Transportation Council- Planning Committee Meeting Sign In Sheet**

Date: October 25, 2017

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Dutchess County Planning Department (2nd Floor Conference Room) 27 High Street,
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

<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	NYS DOT	sandra.jobson@dot.ny.gov	845-431-7923
Randy Casale (by phone)	City of Beacon	mayor@cityofbeacon.org	845-838-5026
Barbara Zulauf	Town of Beekman	supervisor@townofbeekmanny.us	845-724-5300 ext.225
Don Beer	Town of Poughkeepsie	dbeer@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov	845-790-4736
Mark Figliozzi	Town of Pleasant Valley	pvs@pleasantvalley-ny.gov	845-635-3598
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James Morena (by phone)	Metro-North	morena@mnr.org	212-340-4011
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