

Route 9.44.55 Arterials and Interchange Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #1

Date: Friday, September 6, 2019 at 1:30 PM

Location: Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, 1 Civic Center Plaza #400, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Attendees: See attached scanned sign-in sheet

OVERVIEW

Mr. Debald welcomed attendees to the first Advisory Committee Meeting for this planning effort, noting that this study involves one of the county's most significant transportation facilities. Following introductions, Mr. Sargent led a presentation that covered the following material:

- Advisory Committee Role
- Project Overview
- Project Approach
- Next Steps

Reference the presentation for further details [copies available upon request]. Discussion amongst Committee members occurred throughout the meeting to provide input on various items. The following is a summary of that discussion, including key action items in bold.

DISCUSSION

Advisory Committee Members

- Ongoing discussions are occurring regarding the possibility of an additional member on the Committee. Possible considerations include the following:
 - Potential benefits of including a representative that is not part of a public agency
 - Representative from Poughkeepsie's Common Council
- Committee members noted the differences between key stakeholders and Committee members
- Resolution:
 - **Committee will proceed with current list of members at this time.**
 - Mayor's Office will provide further input as appropriate.
 - There is no need to include a Town of Poughkeepsie Board Representative, other than the Supervisor.

Study Area Boundaries

- The Committee engaged in a discussion as to whether the study area map as shown in the proposal adequately covers the necessary area.
- Arterials: **Extend the boundary east to Burnett Boulevard in the Town of Poughkeepsie.**
- Interchange: No extension to the north is necessary. **Extend study area to the south to Columbia Street.**

Goals and Objectives

- Mr. Sargent reviewed the stated goals of the study that include traffic operations, traffic safety, connectivity, future needs, roadway design, and cost estimates.

- Committee members were asked to provide input on what they considered to be the most crucial objective of the study:
 - Create a more walkable downtown area and encourage property owners to reduce parking.
 - Improve crossings between neighborhoods and downtown area.
 - Improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity.
 - Connectivity – including bicycle/pedestrian connectivity.
 - Connect waterfront and downtown area.
 - Arterials currently act as barriers to downtown area.
 - Improve safe connections to schools in project area.
 - Improve economic opportunities for residents by addressing issues that create barriers to jobs.
 - Improve connectivity issues caused by arterials that are often considered barriers.
 - Improve connectivity in and around the Arlington area in the Town of Poughkeepsie.
 - Ensure traffic continues to flow through the interchange to avoid further congestion and capacity spillback onto the bridge.
 - Timely incident management is an important tool to mitigate congestion.
 - Capacity along the bridge is considered a constraint for this study.
 - The project team explained that the bridge is not considered part of the study in terms of recommendations, but its impact on the study area will be taken into consideration.
 - A recent NYSBA study determined that the bridge is close to capacity in both lanes at all times with notable impacts on westbound traffic during the PM rush hour. Another issue on the bridge is incident management and resulting gridlock. To mitigate this issue, bridge personnel are stationed at both south sides of the bridge during peak periods to direct traffic in the event of an incident.
 - NYSBA is currently evaluating transition to electronic tolling, though this would not address capacity issues.
 - Address the congestion caused by minor incidents along on and off ramps for the interchange.
 - Address frustrated driver behavior due to congestion and capacity issues that lead to safety issues.
 - Address safety issues
 - There are many low-severity crashes at the interchange.
 - Enforcement via traffic calming and signage.
 - Identify opportunities for traffic calming on the arterials.
 - Existing conditions encourage speeding and create challenges for police officers to enforce the speed limit for all offenders.
 - Enforcement of laws aimed at ensuring pedestrian safety. This could include additional signage and/or enforcement to deter jaywalking, etc.
 - Improve economic development.
 - Focus on livability for residents.
 - Consider tourism perspective as it can create a strong local economy (Beacon example).
 - Improve economic development by transforming the area around arterials into a destination.
 - Create a viable, actionable plan.
 - Evidence-backed data and path for implementation of recommendations.

- Find a definitive answer as to whether certain alternatives, such as two-way traffic along the arterials, is even a possibility or worth considering.
- Develop a plan with key recommendations that can be utilized to garner funding (potentially a BUILD grant or other federal/state funding).
- Bring people to consensus, acknowledging that this might be a challenge.
- Quality of Life
 - Implementation of the recommendations in the final plan should improve quality of life.

Project Purpose

- Committee agreed that the current purpose statement covers all the necessary topics and no changes are needed.
- Committee members agreed to continue to emphasize safety, livability, and connectivity improvements while ensuring that traffic operations are acceptable.

Public Engagement

Stakeholder List

- Potential stakeholders during initial project efforts:
 - School districts (City and Arlington)
 - Public Transit
 - Fire and Emergency Personnel
 - Business community – Arlington BID Chamber of Commerce
 - MASS Design
 - Common Council (potentially wait until after Nov. election)
- **DCTC will develop the stakeholder list based on experience from past efforts. Full list of potential stakeholders for interviews will be distributed to Committee members for review. Consultant will initiate stakeholder interviews after standard questionnaire is developed in consultation with DCTC.**

Branding

Project name

No resolution was identified but key notes include the following:

- Safety and livability are too esoteric to include in the project name.

Potential project name ideas included the following:

- Poughkeepsie 9.44.55
- Route 9-44-55, Poughkeepsie, NY
- Route 9-44-55 Interchange and Arterials Plan
- Poughkeepsie Interchange and Arterials
- Poughkeepsie Interchange and Arterial Study
- Poughkeepsie Arterials and Interchange Study
- Poughkeepsie Arterials Study

County, City and Town representatives will work on a project name.

Color scheme

Proposed color scheme will move forward as presented.

Logo

Proposed option B that highlights recognizable buildings will move forward with potential following adjustments:

- Add an additional tree.
- Possibly put the logo in a circle.
- Update project name (following decision).

Pop-Up Events

- Potential ideas for locations included:
 - First Friday October 4th – already planned
 - Arlington Farmer's Market
 - Train Station
 - Transit Hub
 - Parking Garage
 - Event across the river, such as the Ulster County Hannaford or Dunkin Donuts (near the bridge)
 - School event?
- **Confirm location(s). Update Priorities board and Vision boards. Send revised drafts to DCTC.**
 - Priorities board:
 - Remove parking option.
 - Clarify improved connectivity for the public via photos.
 - Vision board:
 - Rephrase question to get to ideas or objectives, not specific alternatives at this stage.
 - Manage expectations amongst the public by starting with a general conversations rather than presenting alternatives
 - Utilize imagery for the potential ideas that clarify that they are simply ideas (cartoon like graphic style, sketch drawings, etc.).
 - Add in a caveat beneath the question to further emphasize that these are not alternatives.
 - Add a board that asks people to identify on a map where they live.

Marketing

- Consideration will be given to developing a project info sheet as an iterative and evolving document.
- Bridge authority can distribute flyers to commuters at toll booths and display project info on a VMS sign near the bridge.
- Project team could distribute flyers at intersection of Market and Main.
- Press release and possible newspaper article.

Data Collection

- **Update data collection plan:**
 - Include Columbia Street, Rinaldi Ramp and overall hospital area on and off ramps when collecting data.
 - Redetermine necessary StreetLight data based on expanded project area.
- Data that will be provided to consultant team:
 - Town of Poughkeepsie undergoing Comprehensive Plan Update; potential to share inventory.
 - Arlington Main Street Redesign Initiative will include traffic data for Arlington.

- City of Poughkeepsie undergoing LWRP Update from previous 1998 version. Will have an expanded boundary (including portions of the interchange).
- City of Poughkeepsie planning to initiate Comprehensive Plan Update in 2020.
- Bridge Authority traffic study (2017).
- Some traffic count data has been collected recently. Coordinate with Dylan/DCTC, City of Poughkeepsie, and NYSDOT.

NEXT STEPS

- Make progress on existing conditions and actions from the meeting.
- Advisory Committee to meet approximately every two months.
- Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Friday, November 15th at 1:30 PM at same location.

Dutchess County Transportation Council



Route 9/44/55 Interchange & Arterial Analysis: Kick-off Meeting

Date: September 6, 2019

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, 1 Civic Center Plaza #400, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Name	Organization	Address or Email	Phone
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PLEASE SIGN-IN

Sign-in Sheet 1 of 2

Dutchess County Transportation Council



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Name	Organization	Address or Email	Phone
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