

**Dutchess County Transportation Council**  
**Special Planning Committee Meeting Summary**

**Wednesday, June 10, 2020**

**11:00 a.m.-noon**

Virtual Meeting

**1. Introductions** – See attached list.

**2. Announcements**

Mark Debald (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting, which may become standard practice moving forward. Mark asked attendees to let him know if the call quality and format was acceptable. We're using Microsoft Teams for the foreseeable future.

Mark began by mentioning that everyone should have received the meeting materials with the meeting notice, noting that the focus of today's meeting was to briefly catch up on DCTC activities and more importantly answer any questions related to three pending actions for transit funding.

COVID-19 Impacts (personnel, budget, projects):

- a. Since mid-March, DCTC staff have been assigned Dutchess Responds duties, including staffing the county's food information call center, managing food pantry deliveries, and conducting contact tracing investigations. Mark estimated that about a third of our time is being spent on Dutchess Responds activities, though it was more at the beginning of the crisis.
  - i. Sandra Jobson (NYSDOT) thanked Dutchess County for their COVID efforts, noting that as a resident, she has been impressed with the County's response.
- b. The COVID pandemic will undoubtedly impact local budgets, and the County will be no exception. There may be budget impacts to the County Planning Department. We are currently reviewing essential and non-essential tasks and suspect we will have a lean Planning Department budget in 2021.
- c. Despite the pandemic, many of our studies are proceeding on schedule.

**3. Public Participation** – Mark opened the meeting for any comment or announcements. There were none.

**4. Old Business** – Mark provided the group with a brief review of the status of our three core MPO products:

- a. SFY 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- i. Mark noted that the 2020-2021 UPWP that the DCTC adopted on March 5, 2020 was subsequently approved by NYSDOT and FHWA/FTA and went into effect on April 1, 2020.
    - ii. Future planning studies: Mark indicated that the budgetary impacts of COVID-19 may interrupt our ability to pursue local transportation studies next year. We won't know the full impacts until we start working on our piece of the County budget, but there's a possibility that we will be asked to forgo planning studies not deemed essential to the MPO program.
  - b. FFY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
    - i. Mark briefly updated the Committee on the status of the DCTC's three FFY 2020 local federal-aid construction projects: the City of Beacon's Fishkill-Teller Ave reconstructions (8757.30 and 8757.80), and the City of Poughkeepsie's Pedestrian Safety Action Plan-PSAP project (8762.03). All our obligated.
    - ii. We will now turn our focus on obligating programmed FFY 2021 projects, which involve three local bridges—two in the City of Poughkeepsie and one in East Fishkill.
  - c. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
    - i. Mark noted that staff have continued to work on the MTP, focusing on web content for the introductory and county overview sections. These will be the first sections published online. We are also developing content for the Goal sections, specifically sub-sections for Goal 1: *Prepare a transportation system that can anticipate and adapt to changes in the population, economy, technology, climate, and travel behavior*. We have also been working on a new countywide crash analysis. Mark stated that we will talk more about the plan at future meetings.
    - ii. Public engagement services contract: Mark stated that we are in the midst of the contract negotiations for the public engagement support for the MTP. Our goal is to have the contract executed by the end of the month. We will obviously be looking at more virtual engagement activities rather in-person events.

## 5. New Business

Mark discussed each of the three resolutions that are up for adoption:

- a. Resolution 20-03: Distribution of Supplemental Federal Fiscal Year 2020 FTA Funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA)

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law, providing emergency assistance to individuals, families, and businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act included \$25 billion in federal funding to help the nation's public transportation systems respond to the pandemic. On April 2, 2020, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) released its formula derived apportionments for FTA Section 5307, 5337, and 5340 CARES Act funding to urbanized areas: ours was apportioned a total of

\$83,440,191. This amount was further apportioned based on an agreement between the States of New York and New Jersey, where New York would receive \$82,340,185 and New Jersey \$1,100,006.

Using a methodology developed by NYSDOT, the Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster MPOs have reached consensus on the sub-allocation of the FFY 2020 CARES Act Section 5307/5340 (Urbanized Area Formula) and 5337 (State of Good Repair-Fixed Guiderail) funding apportioned to UZA89. The sub-allocation is shown in Attachment 1 of Resolution 20-03. The amount allocated to Dutchess County Public Transit totals \$6,077,851. These funds require no local match and can be used for 100 percent operating assistance.

b. Resolution 20-04: Apportionment of FFY 2020 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA)

This resolution seeks approval for the allocation of FFY 2019 FTA Section 5307 formula funds in the three-county TMA. This is a routine occurrence that takes place after the FTA apportions 5307 funds to the TMA. FTA Section 5307 funds flow to the TMA, responsibility for which is shared by the Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster MPOs. The three MPOs must first agree to the TMA allocation, prior to distributing the transit funds to their respective transit operators. Using funding allocations based on 2018 operating statistics and 2010 Census data, Dutchess County Public Transit will receive a total of \$2,124,029 for FFY 2020, while the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) will receive a total of \$3,139,637.

c. Resolution 20-05: Apportionment of FFY 2020 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5339 Formula Funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA)

This resolution seeks approval for the allocation of FFY 2020 FTA Section 5339 formula funds in the TMA. These funds stem from federal authorizations to our urbanized area (also known as UZA 89), under the Bus and Bus Facilities Program. As with Section 5307 funding, the three MPOs must agree to the TMA allocation in order to distribute the funds to their respective public bus operators. Using a funding formula based on vehicle fleet sizes, Dutchess County Public Transit will receive a total of \$864,775 for FFY 2020.

Mark noted that an email ballot was issued on June 2, 2020 to expedite the review process. Voting Members were requested to return ballots by email no later than **Fri., June 12, 2020 at noon**. We have received 7 ballots to date.

## 6. Project Updates

- a. [Poughkeepsie 9.44.55](#): The consultant team has been continuing its work on the 9.44.55 project, and are in the interchange concept design phase. They've made a first pass on a set of preliminary concepts and an evaluation matrix that we have presented to NYSDOT, NYSBA, the City, and Town for comment. Our near-term goal is to identify two or more alternatives that should be carried forward for micro-simulation. Mark noted that we were able to have an in-person open house at the beginning of March, and that recent meetings with key stakeholders have been held online.
- b. [Arlington Main Street Redesign Initiative](#): The consultant team has developed a design alternative for the Main Street corridor in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Mark noted that staff will be reviewing their concept later this afternoon.
- c. Traffic count program: Because of the decline in traffic, we have temporarily suspended our traffic count program. Our hope is to collect data in the fall, but it will depend on circumstances. Dylan Tuttle (DCTC) noted that NYSDOT is collecting data on pandemic traffic levels, including in Dutchess, and that we have collected some data on use of our rail trails during the Pause.

## 7. Final Thoughts

- a. Big picture unknowns: Mark discussed the potential impact of the virus on planning, including long-term implications for transit and commuting.
- b. Cassandra Yzaguirre (e2chem Consultants) thanked DCTC for their transparency and asked about more ways for the public to get involved. Mark, Emily Dozier (DCTC) and Cassandra discussed virtual engagement, its limits, and the importance of getting members of the public to sign up for our email updates for big projects.
- c. Mark updated the group on the MTP schedule, estimating that the pandemic has put us about 3 months behind, which would mean a completion date around June 2021.

## 8. Upcoming Virtual Meetings

- a. Planning Committee (TENTATIVE): Wed., June 24, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. More information will be sent to members closer to the date.

**Attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Address or Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Mark Debald	DCTC	<a href="mailto:mdebald@dutchessny.gov">mdebald@dutchessny.gov</a>	845-486-3600
Emily Dozier	DCTC	<a href="mailto:edozier@dutchessny.gov">edozier@dutchessny.gov</a>	845-486-3600
Dylan Tuttle	DCTC	<a href="mailto:dtuttle@dutchessny.gov">dtuttle@dutchessny.gov</a>	845-486-3600
Robert Mortell	NYMTC	<a href="mailto:robert.mortell@dot.ny.gov">robert.mortell@dot.ny.gov</a>	845-431-5710
Sandra Jobson	NYSDOT	<a href="mailto:sandra.jobson@dot.ny.gov">sandra.jobson@dot.ny.gov</a>	845-431-5723
Caitlin Holt	NYSDOT	<a href="mailto:caitlin.holt@dot.ny.gov">caitlin.holt@dot.ny.gov</a>	845-413-2314
Martin Hull	WSP	<a href="mailto:martin.hull@wsp.com">martin.hull@wsp.com</a>	267-438-6113
Don Beer	T/ Poughkeepsie	<a href="mailto:dbeer@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov">dbeer@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov</a>	845-790-4736
Anthony Ruggiero	C/Beacon	<a href="mailto:aruggiero@cityofbeacon.org">aruggiero@cityofbeacon.org</a>	845-838-5009
Cassandra Yzaguirre	e2chem Consultants	<a href="mailto:cyzaguirre@e2chem.com">cyzaguirre@e2chem.com</a>	845-215-4370 x. 106
Herb Litts	GPI	<a href="mailto:hlitts@gpinet.com">hlitts@gpinet.com</a>	
Harriet Lewis	NYSDOT	<a href="mailto:harriet.lewis@dot.ny.gov">harriet.lewis@dot.ny.gov</a>	