

Dutchess County Transportation Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

1:30 p.m.

Locust Grove Estate (West Gallery)
2683 South Road (Route 9)
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Meeting Summary

1. **Call to Order**: Mr. Eoin Wrafter, Commissioner of Planning and Development, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting, noting that he was representing County Executive Mr. Marcus Molinaro. Attendees introduced themselves (see attached list).
2. **Public Participation**: Mr. Wrafter opened the meeting for public comments; none were received.
3. **Adoption of Minutes**: Mr. Wrafter presented the minutes from the March 4, 2020 meeting for approval and asked for any discussion or corrections. There were none.

MOTION: To approve minutes was moved by Mr. Ray Oberly (T. of Clinton) and seconded by Mr. David Ray (T. of Hyde Park). All others were in favor.

4. **New Business**: Six (6) resolutions were on the agenda for Council approval.

Resolution #21-04: Adoption of the DCTC's new Long-Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Moving Dutchess Forward

Mr. Mark Debald, Transportation Program Administrator, reviewed the Resolution as follows:

This resolution seeks approval for the adoption of [*Moving Dutchess Forward*](#), the new long-range, strategic transportation plan for Dutchess County. *Moving Dutchess Forward* is the 7th long-range plan in the DCTC's 40-year history. It serves as one of the major products of our federally funded metropolitan planning process and establishes short and long-term strategies to maintain safe and reliable access for all people, regardless of their form of travel, as well as reducing barriers to access to basic needs such as housing and jobs. The plan is fiscally constrained with a required focus on maintaining a state of good repair across the transportation system. Completing such a plan is required every five years, and it must use a planning horizon of no less than 20 years. For this plan, the DCTC chose 2045 as the horizon year, using a roughly 25-year planning period.

Mr. Debald shared the plan's vision statement: *By 2045, Dutchess County's transportation system will be safer, more reliable, resilient, and equitable*. He then described how the plan is organized around four goals that speak to that vision:

1. [Learn](#) describes future trends related to demographics, travel behavior, housing, our economy, freight, climate change, and transportation technology.
2. [Assess](#) identifies transportation barriers related to safety, reliability, access to basic needs, and equity. It includes an extensive analysis of crash data to identify high crash locations, an analysis of walking, bicycling, and transit access, and a hard look at Transportation Equity.
3. [Advocate](#) identifies actions, in the form of policies and practices, that the DCTC, Dutchess County, and local municipalities can pursue to reduce barriers and expand access.
4. [Invest](#) describes how transportation funding works, how much we expect to be available through 2045, and what transformative investments can improve safety, reliability, access to basic needs.

Mr. Debald noted that the plan is digital – designed to be interactive and explored online and complemented by a [map viewer](#) developed by the County’s Information Services Division. The plan was intentionally written using plain language so that readers can better understand the issues and ideas. We consider the plan a living document that can be updated as needs and conditions change. Mr. Debald emphasized that the plan will not prevent good projects from happening.

Mr. Debald also noted that this plan involved extensive public outreach, greater than that of any previous plan. Outreach included a survey, two virtual public meetings, an online funding priorities tool, email blasts, posters and other printed materials, social media posts, a phone comment line, presentations at municipal board meetings, and regular Planning Committee updates.

As per the DCTC’s Bylaws, a formal 30-day public comment period for the Draft Plan was held from June 16-July 16, 2021. This coincided with a 30-day comment period for the Air Quality Conformity Statement, done in conjunction with Orange County and NYMTC – no comments were received on the conformity statement, but six comments were received on the plan. These comments were summarized and provided to voting members via email last week. Mr. Debald noted that we will revise some of the plan’s content to respond to these comments – notably about intercity passenger rail. Since these changes do not require redemonstrating fiscal constraint, they can be made without an official amendment.

Mr. Lance MacMillan (NYSDOT) commented that the map viewer was especially engaging. Mr. Debald replied that it was a departure from our traditional PDF plans with static mapping and added that the digital format will allow us to easily incorporate new data.

Mr. Richard Thurston (T. of Wappinger) commented that it will be important to approach the 2020 Census data with caution. For the Town of Wappinger, population was in decline leading up to the census, but since then has seen growth. As a result, infrastructure and housing are struggling to keep up with demands of a larger population. He noted that the Plan addresses many of these challenges. Mr. Thurston also noted that town and village boards would benefit from learning more about the Plan. The Town of Wappinger welcomes a presentation to their board. Mr. Debald replied that he has presented to various town boards, including Amenia, East

Fishkill, and Fishkill. He will follow up with Mr. Thurston to schedule a presentation for the Town of Wappinger.

Mr. Greg Totino (T. of Fishkill) added that the presentation to the Town of Fishkill board was valuable and appreciated and noted that members were glad to see the inclusion of I-84/Route 9D intersection improvements on the list of transformative projects. Mr. Totino also agreed that the plan as a living document resonates with residents but emphasized that it is important to ensure that real actions and solutions are in place to achieve plan goals by 2045. Mr. Thurston noted his agreement. Mr. Debaldo also agreed, adding that the Plan was purposely targeted and focused for this very reason.

Mr. Alan Bell asked if members anticipate that the 2020 Census numbers would inaccurately reflect their respective populations, given the influx from COVID induced moves. Several members agreed that this as a strong possibility.

Mr. Wrafter commended the DCTC staff on the new plan, noting that it was truly transformative. He asked if there were any more comments. None were noted.

Mr. Wrafter asked for a motion to approve. MOTION: To adopt Resolution 21-04 was moved by Mr. Oberly and seconded by Mr. Ray. All were in favor. Resolution approved.

Resolution #21-05: Adoption of the Summer 2021 Air Quality Conformity Determination Statement for the 1997 Poughkeepsie Ozone Non-Attainment Area

Mr. Debaldo reviewed the Resolution as follows:

The DCTC, Orange County Transportation Council (OCTC), and New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) completed a joint transportation conformity process for their MTPs. The Clean Air Act requires that federally funded or approved highway and transit activities will not cause or contribute to new air quality violations or worsen regional air quality. The DCTC followed a template developed by FHWA and endorsed by NYSDOT. This conformity process did not require a regional emissions analysis. Mr. Debaldo stated that the DCTC held a 30-day public comment period on the Draft Conformity Statement from June 16-July 16, 2021. No comments were received. The Draft Conformity Statement was also made available on our website and enclosed with the briefing packet.

Mr. Wrafter asked if there were any comments. None were noted.

Mr. Wrafter asked for a motion to approve. MOTION: To adopt Resolution 21-05 was moved by Mr. Greg Totino (T. of Fishkill) and seconded by Mr. Richard Thurston (T. of Wappinger). All were in favor. Resolution approved.

Resolution #21-06: Allocation of previously unallocated Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 formula funds for regional transit projects

Mr. Debald reviewed the Resolution as follows:

This resolution seeks approval for the programming of \$12,608,281 in previously unallocated Section 5307 formula funds for regional transit projects. These funds have been set aside to support regional transit needs. In March 2021, the three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) of the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA) (the Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster County Transportation Councils) issued a joint call for capital projects. The TMA received five applications. A TMA project review committee evaluated the eligibility and deliverability of the three applications, and subsequently determined that three of the projects warranted funding support:

1. Dutchess County Public Transit – Facility Rehabilitation
Dutchess County Public Transit (DCPT) submitted a total grant request of \$4.428 million, which included various preventative maintenance, repairs, and improvements for rehabilitation of the DCPT bus facility. The project proposes the following steps to maintain the facility in a state of good repair: replace HVAC system; renovate interior rooms; install epoxy garage floors; replace sewer piping; pave additional parking; replace garage door frames; remove old AC ducts; build storage garage; and replace entry glass and doors. The TMA approved the total grant request.
2. Metropolitan Transportation Authority – Harmon to Poughkeepsie Signal Improvement
The Metropolitan Transportation Authority submitted a total grant request of \$15 million for the Railroad Force Account phase of a \$198 million signal and communications improvement project on Metro-North’s Hudson line. The existing wayside signal/communications and related infrastructure located in the project area has reached the end of its useful life. The project proposes a multiphase replacement of the signal, signal power, and communications infrastructure for the Metro-North’s Hudson line between Croton Harmon and Poughkeepsie. It includes construction of new signal and communications express and local cable system, and new communications signal equipment locations. The TMA approved partial funding for the grant request in the amount of \$4,180,281.
3. Ulster County Area Transit Electric Bus and Storage Facility
Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) submitted a total grant request of \$5 million, which included the purchase of electric buses and design work for a new bus storage facility. The project proposed the purchase of three battery electric buses, depot chargers, and remote charging units. It also proposed initial design work for a new bus storage facility to house additional electric buses and a growing fleet. The project aligns with Ulster County’s overall fleet electrification initiatives and goals for greenhouse gas emission reductions, codified in the Ulster County Green Fleet Policy and Ulster County Government Operations Climate Action Plan. The TMA approved the total grant request.

Mr. Debald noted that the TMA would hold \$3,213,930 in reserve.

Mr. Wrafter asked if there were any comments. None were noted.

Mr. Wrafter asked for a motion to approve. MOTION: To adopt Resolution 21-06 was moved by Mr. Thurston and seconded by Mr. Totino. All were in favor. Resolution approved.

Resolution #21-07: Amendment 20-04 to the DCTC Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program-TIP

Mr. Debald reviewed the Resolution as follows:

The DCTC proposes an amendment to the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): the five-year capital program that assigns federal funds to transportation projects located 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. Significant TIP changes are classified as amendments that require Council approval. Amendment #20-04 adds five new projects totaling \$24.5 million in federal funds: repaving the Taconic State Parkway in the towns of Pleasant Valley and Clinton, repaving Route 9 from Route 9D to Route 113 (Spackenkill Road) in the Town of Poughkeepsie, purchasing two support vehicles and maintenance equipment for Dutchess County Public Transit (DCPT), purchasing bus maintenance diagnostic equipment and software for DCPT, and bus facility improvements for DCPT. A 15-day public comment period was held from June 2-July 16, 2021; no comments were received.

Mr. Nicholas D'Alessandro (T. of East Fishkill) asked what type of support vehicles would be purchased with the funding. Mr. Michael Grattini (DCPT) explained that the vehicles would be used to transport drivers between the garage and buses that are on route. Vehicle types could include small/medium-sized SUVs or vans.

Mr. Wrafter asked if there were any more comments. None were noted.

Mr. Wrafter asked for a motion to approve. MOTION: To adopt Resolution 21-07 was moved by Mr. Alan Bell (T. of LaGrange) and seconded by Mr. Ray. All were in favor. Resolution approved.

Resolution #21-08: Endorsement of new Performance Management Targets established by Dutchess County Public Transit-DCPT

Mr. Debald reviewed the Resolution as follows:

This resolution seeks the endorsement of new Performance Management Targets established by Dutchess County Public Transit in their Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan. The measures, required by federal law, establish targets for seven items:

1. Number of Fatalities
2. Fatalities per 100,000 Vehicle Revenue Miles (VRM)
3. Number of Injuries
4. Injuries per 100,000 VRM
5. Number of Safety Events

6. Safety Events per 100,000 VRM
7. System Reliability (Failures/VRM)

Mr. Wrafter asked if there were any comments. None were noted.

Mr. Wrafter asked for a motion to approve. MOTION: To adopt Resolution 21-08 was moved by Mr. D'Alessandro and seconded by Ms. Darrah Cloud (T. of Pine Plains). All were in favor. Resolution approved.

Resolution #21-09: Endorsement of NYSDOT 2022 Targets for Safety Performance Measures

Mr. Debald reviewed the Resolution as follows:

This resolution seeks DCTC support of statewide highway and non-motorized performance measures established by NYSDOT for their Highway Safety Improvement Program and the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee for the 2022 Highway Safety Strategic Plan. The measures, required by federal law, establish statewide targets for five measures:

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.

Mr. Totino asked if previous targets had been met. Mr. Debald replied that no, they have not been met statewide. There has been a slight uptick in fatalities and serious injuries. Mr. Totino then asked if targets have been met on a local level. Mr. Debald explained that we have not established local targets yet but will do so as part of carrying out the long-range plan, noting that improving safety is a priority.

Mr. Wrafter asked if there were any more comments. None were noted.

Mr. Wrafter asked for a motion to approve. MOTION: To adopt Resolution 21-09 was moved by Mr. Oberly and seconded by Mr. D'Alessandro. All were in favor. Resolution approved.

5. **Communications and Reports:** A summary of recent and ongoing DCTC activities was provided in the meeting packet (see attached). Mr. Debald briefly reviewed these projects. He also noted that there will be upcoming funding opportunities, including a call for planning proposals in the fall or winter, and a call for capital projects in 2022. Mr. Oberly inquired about the timing for a previously discussed Safety Assessment along CR 14-Hollow Rd in the Town of Clinton. Mr. Debald stated that we will have to coordinate with County Public Works, but we typically carry out safety assessments in early fall.

6. **Call for Announcements**: Mr. Wrafter asked for any announcements from members. There were none.
7. **Adjourn**:

MOTION: To adjourn was moved by Mr. Ray and seconded by Mr. Rob Rolison (C. of Poughkeepsie). All others were in favor.

Attendees: July 27, 2021 DCTC Meeting

Name	Organization	Address or Email	Phone
Mark Debald	DCTC	mdebald@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Emily Dozier	DCTC	edozier@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Tara Grogan	DCTC	tgrogan@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Steve Caswell	DC Legislature	smcaswell345@gmail.com	845-518-7236
Eoin Wrafter	DC Planning Department	ewrafter@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Michael Grattini	DC Public Transit	mgrattini@dutchessny.gov	845-473-8521
David Whalen	DC Public Works	dwhalen@dutchessny.gov	845-486-2059
Chris White	City of Beacon	cwhite@beaconny.gov	845-838-5009
Rob Rolison	City of Poughkeepsie	rrolison@cityofpoughkeepsie.com	845-451-4073
Ray Oberly	Town of Clinton	townsupervisor@townofclinton.com	845-266-5721
Nicholas D'Alessandro	Town of East Fishkill	dalessandro@eastfishkillny.gov	845-221-4503
Greg Totino	Town of Fishkill	gtotino@fishkill-ny.gov	845-764-1328
David Ray	Town of Hyde Park	dpr5285@icloud.com	845-518-4299
Alan Bell	Town of LaGrange	abell@lagrangenyny.gov	845-452-9064
Darrah Cloud	Town of Pine Plains	supervisor@pineplains-ny.gov	518-398-8600
Don Beer	Town of Poughkeepsie	dbeer@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov	845-790-4736
Richard Thurston	Town of Wappinger	supervisor@townofwappingernyny.gov	845-297-4558
Kathy Martin	Village of Fishkill	kmartinvo@gmail.com	845-242-3184
Lance MacMillan	NYS DOT	lance.macmillan@dot.ny.gov	845-431-5750
Sandra Jobson	NYS DOT	sandra.jobson@dot.ny.gov	845-431-5730
Oluseye Folarin	MTA	ofolarin@mtahq.org	212-878-7080
Herb Litts	GPI	hlitts@gpinet.com	845-741-1997
Robert Mortell	NYMTC	robert.mortell@dot.ny.gov	845-431-5710

The following is a summary of recently completed or ongoing DCTC work activities, as of July 9, 2021:

Local Planning

▪ **Poughkeepsie 9.44.55**

The DCTC, working with its consultant team, continues to progress its analysis of the Route 9 interchange and Route 44/55 arterials in the City and Town of Poughkeepsie. The Interchange concepts and analysis (Chapter 3) has been posted on the website, and the Arterials concepts and analysis is well underway. Next steps include a self-paced virtual meeting and in-person outreach to gather feedback on draft concepts for the Arterials. The latest project updates and content are available on the project website at <https://www.poughkeepsie94455.com/>.

▪ **Arlington Main Street Redesign**

The [Arlington Main Street Redesign Initiative](#) was completed in March 2021. It builds upon the recommendations in our [2017 Arlington Town Center Pedestrian Plan](#) for the Town of Poughkeepsie. The pedestrian plan identified potential improvements to Main Street (County Route 114) that would enhance its walkability, help calm traffic, and improve its appearance. In this follow-up effort, we created a detailed, conceptual design for Main Street from Grand to Taft Ave. The final report also identifies the issues, costs, and actions necessary to make the corridor a Complete Street – a facility that promotes safe, comfortable, and convenient travel for people of all ages and abilities, regardless of how they travel. Next steps include meeting with the Town and County to discuss funding and implementation.

Countywide Planning

▪ **Traffic Counts**

The 2021 Traffic Count program is slated to begin during the second week of September and will cover more than 160 locations. Pedestrian and bicycle counts on rail trails will be completed during the summer and include new portions of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail and the Maybrook Trail/Empire State Trail.

▪ **Project Funding**

The DCTC amended the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a new \$9.5 million bridge replacement project on Route 82 over the Metro-North rail line in the Town of East Fishkill. The DCTC also published its [Annual Listing of Obligated Projects](#) for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 (Oct. 1, 2019 – Sep. 30, 2020). The report noted that about \$38.1 million in federal transportation funds were obligated during FFY 2020. Over \$9 million of these obligations came from the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security-CARES Act](#).

- **Complete Streets**

DCTC staff assisted Dutchess County Public Works to construct an intersection and sidewalk improvement on Dutcher Ave (CR 69) at Henry St in the Village of Pawling, a recommendation of our 2019 Pawling Pedestrian Plan. We are currently working with County Public Works to begin design work for a sidewalk improvement along Innis Ave (CR 75) in the Town of Poughkeepsie.

Regional Planning

- **Mid-Hudson Valley TMA Regional Transit Plan**

In coordination with Orange and Ulster counties, we completed a regional transit plan, [Connect Mid-Hudson](#). The report was finalized in January 2021 and focuses on identifying opportunities to improve transit connections between the three counties as well as between the three-county region and major employment hubs outside the region. Key areas of analysis include the effectiveness of intercity coach services; opportunities for new technologies and service models such as app-based microtransit service; capital improvements to alleviate congestion or capacity constraints at park-and-rides and along transit corridors; and a review of service performance and customer satisfaction monitoring.

- **Mid-Hudson Valley TMA Regional Freight Planning**

We have begun preliminary work on a regional freight plan in coordination with Orange and Ulster counties. We are researching what types of data are available as we consider freight movements, commodity types, reliability, restrictions, safety, and other issues.