

Dutchess County Transportation Council

Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

10:00 a.m. via Teams

Meeting Summary

1. **Introductions** – Emily Dozier (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and made introductions. See attached list.

2. **Announcements**
 - a. Meeting ground rules & how-to guide: Emily Dozier (DCTC) informed the Committee about the meeting ground rules. Participants are asked to prepare ahead of time so they can participate and contribute to the meeting. Participants are also asked to turn their cameras on and avoid multitasking so they can get the most out of the meeting. Tara Grogan (DCTC) presented a virtual meeting how-to guide that was sent to the group ahead of time and was developed to help members use Teams. It also included information on other online tools used during meetings such as Slido and Padlet.

 - b. Voting Membership: The Town of Pleasant Valley and the Village of Pawling are now voting members. The Town of Clinton has been redesignated as a voting member. A second designation will be made by the Dutchess County Mayors and Supervisors Association soon; Supervisor Bell of LaGrange has been contacted about a voting member designation. The Town of Hyde Park has a new supervisor who is also a voting member. There is a standing invitation to participate in a virtual ‘MPO 101’ presentation, which would be presented to new members and anyone who interested in learning more about the MPO.

 - c. New email template: Tara shared that the DCTC is currently updating their email template using GovDelivery. This will allow the Committee to see the audience they are reaching as well as expand the audience. Tara encouraged members to sign up for DCTC updates, if they have not already done so, and share the link with others who may be interested. Members can also sign up for updates from the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC).

 - d. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA): The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Infrastructure Act) reauthorizes previous transportation programs and adds new programs. US DOT has information about the Infrastructure Act on their website for anyone who is interested. Although there is approximately \$567 billion in infrastructure funding, Congress has not yet approved the 2022 budget, which limits the amount of funding that is available. Some programs such as the Bridge Program can move forward, but Highway Trust Fund projects are stalled until the funds are appropriated by Congress.

While there is a lot of money and opportunities available, expectations need to be managed. It will take time because the FHWA and FTA still need to specify the rules, requirements, and timelines for the new programs. External challenges such as inflation, decreased availability of materials and labor, and property tax caps also need to be taken

into consideration. With that in mind, it seems likely that there will be more opportunities for projects to be funded in 2024 and beyond.

- e. BRIDGE NY Awards: NYSDOT held a statewide solicitation for BRIDGE NY and the announcements were made in December 2021. Two projects in Dutchess County were selected: Town of Red Hook Saw Kill Road Bridge and Town of East Fishkill Hillside Lake Road Culvert. The DCTC is working with NYSDOT to schedule the work on the capital program which could happen sometime soon or in line with the major TIP update this summer.
- f. FTA Section 5310 Call for Projects: NYSDOT will issue a call for projects for FTA's 5310 program that provides funding for transportation of older adults and people with disabilities. The tentative schedule is to open applications on the NYSDOT website on January 31st with a deadline of March 22, 2022 and to announce awards in summer 2022. A public notice will be sent out by NYSDOT, and the DCTC will also send a notice to its distribution list.

3. Public Participation – Emily provided an opportunity for members to share announcements or ask questions. Oluseye Folarin (MTA) asked if there were any updates on the expected planning funds from the state and when a transit funding resolution and suballocations will be ready. Mark said that more information about our planning funds will be shared as part of the UPWP discussion, but there has been a significant increase in planning funds allocated to MPOs. Mark also noted that the TMA has been working with NYSDOT on a suballocation process for the transit funds to our urbanized area, but no decision has been made yet and no draft allocations from NYSDOT have been received.

4. Old Business

- a. Transportation Management Area (TMA) Federal Certification Review: The DCTC is still awaiting a draft report from FHWA and FTA. However, we have started to work on tribal coordination and a desk reference. Native American nations that have an interest in Dutchess County will be included in discussions to find out what they're interested in so the MPO can take that into consideration when making decisions. The desk reference can be used as a public outreach tool and will give a snapshot of the MPO and summarize its planning process.

We are also working on a regional freight plan with Orange and Ulster counties. This includes work on a freight fact sheet to help engage freight stakeholders. We are also developing a plan for reaching out to stakeholders and compiling a list of contacts is also in progress. Committee members were asked to share any ideas about who to contact. To help with this engagement, Orange County has created an [online ESRI GIS hub](#) to serve as a public clearinghouse on TMA activities and planning products. It includes ways to learn about the TMA and provides basic maps and information about its projects.

5. New Business

- a. Draft SFY 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP): The UPWP describes the

planning tasks and budgets that will be done during the State's fiscal year, which starts on April 1st, using a mix of Federal, State, and County funds. We received updated federal guidance since the first draft was sent with the meeting materials. The new information will be added to the draft and the final draft should be ready soon. The 30-day public comment period will likely start on Friday, January 28th with approval targeted by March 1st. In summary, there are seven major task categories, and most tasks are recurring. To identify other tasks, the DCTC reviewed recommendations from [Moving Dutchess Forward](#). The call for planning proposals last year also yielded planning studies for the Towns of Dover and Poughkeepsie and the Village of Rhinebeck which will be included the planning program.

Highlights of the program include updating the TIP and the Public Participation Plan, as well as work on a draft of the vulnerability assessment for the transportation system. Also included is the creation of two new programs, Intersection Management and Corridor Management, which an on-call consultant will assist with, and support for County Public Works and Transit work. Snapshots of the draft planning tasks and the budget for the program were shared with the group.

At the request of Supervisor D'Alessandro (T/East Fishkill), Mark noted that if municipalities are interested in planning assistance, they can respond to our periodic calls for proposals or simply contact DCTC staff. Supervisor D'Alessandro added that DCTC has a wealth of information that some of the new supervisors and mayors can take advantage of.

- b. Upcoming FFY 2023-2027 TIP Update: Mark noted that the TIP is our five-year capital program of federally funded transportation projects in Dutchess County.
 - i. Overview and schedule: Because of the Infrastructure Act, funding targets to MPOs have been delayed. We are hopeful that they will be received soon, as they may influence the scope of our TIP update. While we are awaiting the funding targets, work continues on updating our existing projects. Some of the projects in the current TIP will be carried over into the new TIP, but cost increases will need to be factored in. Funding targets for the new bridge program may allow us to address these cost increases. The TIP narrative will be developed in the spring, with the goal of approving the TIP in June.
 - ii. New project selection framework: We are updating our project selection framework to align it with the goals of [Moving Dutchess Forward](#). Due to fiscal constraints, we have not had many opportunities to use the current selection criteria. We would also like to separate the new framework from our bylaws. It would be used for future TIP updates, perhaps even this fall if a local call for projects is issued. It will likely be included as a resolution to voting members in early March. Members were asked to provide any feedback on the selection framework by February 4th.
 - iii. Programming options: Mark reminded the Committee that at our previous meeting, four possible approaches to the TIP update were presented, and that we

had coalesced around the idea of using block PINs as placeholders. Since there are still so many unknowns, such as the actual target amounts and now inflation, the safest option still seems to be using the block PINs.

- c. DCTC logo and rebranding: We are currently approving a contract with a local vendor for a new DCTC logo and design template. The new design will help make reports, presentations, and communications with the public more consistent. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

6. Planning Updates

- a. Poughkeepsie 9.44.55: We are nearing the end of the arterial concepts portion of the study. Additional data collection and analysis has been completed. An advisory committee meeting is scheduled for February 9th. Arterial design concepts, the executive summary, as well as presentations to the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council and the Town of Poughkeepsie Town Board will be discussed.
- b. Traffic Count Program: Tara shared that we are currently renewing the 2022 contract which covers 150-200 vehicle counts and 20-30 automated ped/bike counts. Tara also shared a link to the [Traffic Data Viewer](#), which has been updated with 2021 data, and discussed how to find it on the website as well as some of the filters and other features that are available. Municipalities were encouraged to examine the data and if there are any roads that should be added, [let Tara know](#) so they can be included in the future. Feedback is also requested on how notifications are sent out and if there are any suggestions for improvement. Additionally, we are starting to look at the possibility of a ped/bike data viewer app. Currently, that data is presented in the form of an online pdf report. Lastly, we are working on a high-end speeding report. It will show where the highest speeds are in each municipality. This year, COVID-related trends will also be analyzed.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

1/26/2022 Meeting Participants:

Name	Organization	Address or Email	Phone
Mark Debald	DCTC	mdebald@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Emily Dozier	DCTC	edozier@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
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Caitlin Holt	NYS DOT	caitlin.holt@dot.ny.gov	845-413-2314
Robert Mortell	NYMTC-MHSTCC	robert.mortell@dot.ny.gov	845-431-5710
Lauren Bennett	Orange County		
Bob Mannix	NYS DOT		
Marc Nelson	C/Poughkeepsie		845-485-3600
Natalie Quinn	C/Poughkeepsie	NQuinn@cityofpoughkeepsie.com	845-451-4047
Steve Caswell	Dutchess County Legislature		
Nicholas D'Alessandro	T/East Fishkill	dalessandron@eastfishkillny.gov	

1/26/2022 Poll results:



How long have you been participating in DCTC's planning committee?

3



I'm new!



1-2 years



3-5 years



5+ years!



How would you describe your comfort level with Teams and other virtual meeting tools?

4



Not comfortable - I'm a beginner



Somewhat comfortable - I'm still wary



Comfortable - I'm not an expert, but pretty well versed



Very comfortable - I could teach a class!

