

Dutchess County Transportation Council

Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 23, 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: Emily Dozier (DCTC) informed the Committee about the meeting ground rules. Participants were asked to participate during the meeting by unmuting when they would like to speak or by using the chat or other tools. Participants were also asked to turn their cameras on and avoid multitasking, so they can get the most out of the meeting.
 - b. New email template feedback: Tara Grogan (DCTC) shared that the DCTC is currently using a new email template. This will allow staff to monitor the number of subscribers, as well as measure how many subscribers open each email, which helps to measure interest. Tara asked for general comments or suggestions on the new email template.
 - c. MPO 101 presentation: Staff held an MPO 101 presentation on Tuesday, February 22nd. It provided an overview of the DCTC and the MPO planning process. Four new voting members attended the presentation, which is [posted online](#) for those interested in learning more about us. Mark Debald (DCTC) added that the presentation can be offered to local Boards or community groups as well. If there are any comments, suggestions, or requests, they can be sent to Tara.
 - d. USDOT National Roadway Safety Strategy: The Federal government has issued a new [National Roadway Safety Strategy](#). Launched in January, it outlines a Safe System Approach to reduce fatalities and serious injuries. Emily explained the five components of the Safe System Approach: safer roads, safer vehicles, safe speeds, safer people (behavior), and improved post-crash care. The DCTC will integrate the components of the Safe System Approach into its work where applicable.
 - e. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA): The additional funding made available by the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(Infrastructure Act\)](#) is dependent upon Congress passing the 2022 budget, which they have not done yet. Some programs that were created in the Infrastructure Act can move forward, such as the EV Charging Formula Program. Other grant programs will be announced throughout the year. As information becomes available, DCTC staff will share it with the Committee.
 - f. FTA Section 5310 Call for Projects: NYSDOT has [issued a call for projects for FTA's 5310 program, which](#) provides funding for transportation of older adults and people with

disabilities. The application period began on February 4th. Information about the application and application guidance can be found on the NYSDOT website. Applications are due on March 21st. NYSDOT is hoping to announce awards in summer 2022. DCTC staff is familiar with the program and willing to advise or answer questions for those who plan to apply. Staff also recommend viewing one of the scheduled webinars on NYSDOT's website for more information.

3. Public Participation – Emily provided an opportunity for members to share announcements or ask questions; there were none.

4. Old Business

- a. Transportation Management Area (TMA) Federal Certification Review: Every four years, the TMA undergoes a certification review by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The most recent review occurred late last year. The DCTC did not receive any corrective actions. There were some recommendations that are currently being explored. The DCTC was also commended for the online format of [Moving Dutchess Forward](#) and the virtual engagement component of the [Poughkeepsie 9.44.55](#) study.

5. New Business

- a. Upcoming FFY 2023-2027 TIP: Mark noted that the TIP is our five-year capital program of federally funded transportation projects in Dutchess County. Right now, the DCTC is operating under the 2020-2024 TIP and working to update projects for the new 2023-2027 TIP.
 - i. Overview and schedule: Formal funding targets for the MPOs have yet to be released, partly due to the need to incorporate funds from the new Infrastructure Act. However, the DCTC is still able to work on updating the existing projects that are carrying over to the new TIP. The TIP narrative is also being developed, with the goal of approving the TIP in late June. In the meantime, we are using block PINs as placeholders in the draft TIP. Oluseye Folarin (MTA) asked if the DCTC is using the same structure and timeframes as NYMTC, and if they have a deadline for members to provide information for block funding. Mark responded that it depends on the funding targets, which have not yet been received, so it is difficult to say. Specific to some FTA funding programs, such as Section 5337, we will likely use a block PIN to show the funds in the new TIP.
 - ii. Project Sponsor Update – City of Poughkeepsie: Rich DuPilka (City of Poughkeepsie) reviewed the status of several projects in the City of Poughkeepsie that are currently programmed on the TIP and will carry over to the next TIP.
 - The City of Poughkeepsie will replace the Mansion Street bridge with a new structure. It is currently in the preliminary design phase and is estimated to cost \$4 million.
 - The Washington Street bridge will also be replaced. The scope of this project has changed over time, and it is estimated to cost \$10 million. It was discovered that the adjacent apartment building has its foundation

embedded in the creek bed wall, so the building will need to be removed and the tenants relocated. The intersection will be redesigned to a more standard T-shaped intersection and with a pocket park. The project will include a temporary bridge since one lane of traffic needs to be kept open during construction.

- The Garden Street bridge construction has received design approval. Once design approval is received for Washington Street, the City of Poughkeepsie would like to put both projects out to bid as a package. The Garden Street bridge would include an improved turning radius on the southwest corner of the intersection as well as new crosswalks and guardrails. It is estimated to cost \$4.9 million.
- The Grand Avenue reconstruction project will improve the street for pedestrians and include traffic-calming measures. The City of Poughkeepsie will solicit engineers to help with the design. It is estimated to cost \$2.2 million.

After the presentation, Emily asked about sidewalk improvements on the Grand Avenue project. Rich said that the sidewalk on the east side would be replaced. She also asked about the possibility of adding a third crosswalk for the Garden Street Bridge project to make it a more complete intersection. Rich responded that he would look into it.

For the benefit of the group and new members, Rich and Mark also discussed the challenges with using federal funds for local projects. It is a lengthy process, there are numerous conditions that must be met, and a local match of 20% is required. When considering applying for federal funds, municipalities are encouraged to use caution and make sure the project makes sense given the funding requirements.

- iii. [New project selection framework](#): The project selection framework has been updated. It considers how projects can help DCTC realize the goals of [Moving Dutchess Forward](#). Staff tested the framework on some existing projects to see how it worked in practice. Based on that test, we made some minor changes, which are reflected the version included in the meeting materials. The new framework will be included in the upcoming ballot for voting members.
- b. [Draft SFY 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program \(UPWP\)](#): The UPWP describes the planning tasks and budgets for the upcoming State fiscal year, which starts on April 1st. It includes a mix of federal, state, and county funds. The public comment period ends on February 28th and ballot approval is due by March 1st. Mark asked all voting members to vote if they haven't already done so.
 - i. [Tasks and budgets](#): One of the highlights of the new UPWP is the TIP update. Another is an updated public participation plan which integrates virtual engagement and tribal coordination. Also included is work on a vulnerability assessment for the transportation system as well as the creation of two new programs, Intersection Management and Corridor Management, for on-call consultant work. Support for County Public Works and Transit work will

continue. Finally, new local planning studies will be conducted in the Towns of Dover and Poughkeepsie and the Village of Rhinebeck. There will be a 22% increase in federal planning funds due to the Infrastructure Act. Almost \$1.5 million in federal planning funds is available to the MPO, but there are some barriers to spending all the funding, since the staff is small, and we must work within the County's budget process.

- ii. Public comments to date: We are currently in the 30-day public comment period for the UPWP, which is online. So far, 23 comments have been received. This is the first time we have had that many comments; it shows that the information is spreading, and we appreciate the input. Comments in support of the Route 113-Spackenkill Road sidewalk feasibility study and recommending improvements in the I-84/Route 9D area have been received, and one general comment was received about NYS Route 52.
- c. DCTC logo and rebranding: Emily announced that the contract for a new DCTC logo and design template is almost complete, so work will begin on that in March. Information will be shared with the Committee as we work on the design concepts.
- d. Pavement Condition Maps: Emily sent a series of maps showing NYSDOT's 2020 pavement condition data to all mayors, supervisors, and highway superintendents. Pavement was scored on all federal-aid-eligible roads. The report is also available [online](#). Emily asked for feedback on the report and noted that staff hope to develop a pavement condition assessment program for local roads in the future.

6. Planning Updates

- a. Poughkeepsie 9.44.55: Tara shared that the Advisory Committee reviewed recommendations for the arterials and responded to comments from NYSDOT and MASS Design. Next steps include incorporating feedback into the final draft of the Arterials chapter and working on an executive summary. In March, the study will be presented to the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council and the Town of Poughkeepsie Town Board. Although the contract with the consultant will finish at the end of March, work on the study will continue. An update will likely be shared in the next month or so.
- b. Traffic Count Program: 2021 traffic count data is available on the [Traffic Data Viewer](#), which can be customized using the filters. The schedule for 2022 is almost finalized. A draft schedule will be sent out to mayors, supervisors, highway superintendents, and County DPW for review. This way, major construction or events that would affect the data can be avoided. In addition, automated pedestrian and bicycle counts will be conducted. The locations have not been finalized, but some will focus around the areas where local planning studies will take place. Staff will also be working on a new RFP for the traffic count program. Tara asked the group to review the schedule when they receive it and think about events or project areas that should be avoided or locations they would like added.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

2/23/2022 Meeting Participants:

Name	Organization	Address or Email	Phone
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2/23/2022 Poll Results:



What is the top safety issue in your community?

6 ...

traffic congestion in the hamlet

pedestrian safety

Speeding
Speed