

Planning Committee Meeting (Virtual)

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

10:00 a.m.

— Meeting Summary —

1. **Introductions** – Emily Dozier (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting, led introductions (see attached list), and briefly reviewed the meeting ground rules. The meeting was also recorded.
2. **Announcements**
 - a. Draft Federal Certification Review Report
 - i. Every four years, the FHWA and FTA conduct a Federal Certification Review to assess how we carry out the planning process, both individually as the DCTC and collectively as part of the Transportation Management Area (TMA) with the Orange and Ulster County MPOs.
 - ii. The Draft Certification Report offers several recommendations, but no corrective actions. Our work on Resilient Ways Forward was commended, along with our efforts to fund projects recommended in our planning studies. The Final Report will be posted to our website once received.
 - b. [NYS Thruway Safety Action Plan](#)
 - i. The New York State Thruway Authority is developing a Safety Action Plan. Although the Thruway does not pass through Dutchess County, many of our residents use it, so we encourage everyone to complete the survey and offer feedback on their safety issues or concerns. The survey includes an interactive mapping feature.
 - c. [Funding Opportunities](#)
 - i. [Transportation Alternatives Program \(TAP\)](#): There is a statewide call for projects under the TAP program, which supports bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The maximum award is \$7 million. Final applications are due March 12, 2026; pre-review applications were due January 15, 2026.
 - The Town of East Fishkill is applying for sidewalk improvements and roundabouts on Main Street in Hopewell Junction. The Town of Poughkeepsie is applying for sidewalks on Spackenkill Road, a project based on our 2022 sidewalk feasibility study.
 - ii. [BUILD](#): This was a national call for projects that advance economic development and improve transportation options, efficiency, and/or safety. Applications were due February 24, 2026.
 - County Public works applied to build Phase II of the Northside Line in Poughkeepsie.

- d. Email Ballot: We sent DCTC voting members an email ballot due February 27, 2026. The ballot includes resolutions for the adoption of our 2026-2027 Planning Program, support for NYSDOT's 2026 Safety Targets, and the suballocation of federal transit funding to transit operators.

3. Partner Updates – none

4. Old Business – none

5. New Business

- a. [Draft 2026-2027 Planning Program \(UPWP\)](#): The Planning Program identifies our planning tasks and budgets for April 2026 - March 2027 (the State Fiscal Year).
 - i. The 15-day public comment period began on February 11th, and ends today, February 25th. Mark (DCTC) noted that no comments had been received yet.
- b. [2026 Transportation Plan update](#): The Plan serves as the strategic vision for the DCTC. Looking forward through 2050, it will set the long-term goals for our transportation system and priorities for federal transportation funding.
 - i. Content: The second section, Assess, which looks at safety, reliability, and access to basic needs, is nearly complete. We expect to publish that section and the accompanying map viewer updates in late winter. After that, we will dive into the final sections of the Plan – Advocate and Invest.
 - ii. Public Engagement: Our online survey received nearly 500 responses and we had a successful first round of public engagement. Our consultant will summarize the public feedback in an upcoming report. There will be a second round of engagement in the spring to review the Plan's draft priorities.
- c. Functional Class Update: Changes to the functional classification of certain roads across the county were originally approved in 2024. Since then, there have been some minor updates. We informed the affected municipalities, and the Council will vote to approve these changes on March 25th.
- d. TIP Actions: We have proposed a draft Amendment to our Capital Program, [the FFY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program](#), which the Council will vote on at its March 25th meeting, after a 15-day public comment period. The Amendment adds a NYSDOT bridge project (Route 113-Spackenkill Rd over Route 9) in the Town of Poughkeepsie, and increase funding for the existing NYSDOT Route 52/82 intersection project in the Town of Fishkill. There are also some administrative modifications to the TIP, moving the construction phase of several projects out to 2027/2028.
 - i. Michael Welti (T/Poughkeepsie) said he was unaware of the Poughkeepsie bridge project and asked about the possibility of reimagining the Spackenkill/Route 9 interchange. He added that IBM is looking to expand quantum processing, but the future employment (and traffic) impacts are not yet known.

- ii. Nick D’Alessandro (T/East Fishkill) noted that the Town is exploring a downtown traffic improvement plan, which would include re-routing Route 376.

6. Planning Updates

- a. [Safety Action Plan](#)
 - i. The Priority Locations Report, Systemic Countermeasure Report (and searchable spreadsheet), and Behavioral Countermeasure Report were recently posted to the website, and the final draft Transportation Safety Action Plan will be added shortly.
 - ii. The safety data and analysis from the plan will be incorporated into the update of [Moving Dutchess Forward](#), as part of the forthcoming Assess section.
 - iii. The Council will vote on adopting the Safety Action Plan and its goals at its March 25th meeting. Once adopted, we intend to present an overview of the SAP to Mayors/Supervisors, Highway Supervisors, and Police Chiefs.
- b. [Coordinated Plan](#): The Coordinated Plan focuses on the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities.
 - i. After reviewing the existing conditions, gathering public feedback last year, and assessing service gaps, we are currently developing strategies to address unmet needs. In the spring, we will conduct a second round of engagement to share the draft plan and how public input shaped the recommendations.
- c. City of Beacon Sidewalk Inventory: Our on-call consultant, Creighton Manning Engineering, is developing an inventory of sidewalk conditions and gaps for the City of Beacon that can be used to prioritize future capital improvement projects.
 - i. Mark (DCTC) noted that in addition to our in-house studies and plans, we can use our on-call consultant to help municipalities with studies as needed.
- d. [Traffic Count Program](#): Our 2025 counts will be added to the [Traffic Data Viewer](#) shortly. The contract for the 2026 Traffic Count Program is in process and preparation for this year’s counts will start shortly. Any requests for future traffic counts or questions about the program can be directed to Nina Leonard (DCTC).

7. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Transportation Council (In-person) – Wednesday March 25, 2026 at 11 am at the Henry Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home (4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY)
- b. MPO 101 – Introduction to the DCTC (Webinar) – Wednesday March 18, 2026 at 12 pm (noon)
- c. Planning Committee – Wednesday April 29, 2026 at 10 am

2/25/2026 Meeting Participants:

Name	Organization	Email	Phone
Mark Debald	DCTC	mdebald@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Emily Dozier	DCTC	edozier@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Nina Leonard	DCTC	nleonard@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Naomi Klein	Creighton Manning	nklein@cmellp.com	
Stephen Caswell	DC Legislature	scaswell@dutchessny.gov	845-518-7236
Jesse Vogl	LaBella	jvogl@LaBellaPC.com	
Allyce Braddy	NYMTC	allyce.braddy@dot.ny.gov	845-431-5936
Alexandra Fairley	NYS DOT	Alexandra.fairley@dot.ny.gov	
Nicholas D'Alessandro	T/East Fishkill	dalessandron@eastfishkillny.gov	845-221-4303
Kristen Taylor	T/Poughkeepsie	ktaylor@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov	845-485-3657
Michael Welti	T/Poughkeepsie	mwelti@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov	845-485-3657
Karen Smythe	V/Red Hook	mayor@redhooknyvillage.org	845-758-4715