

# Dutchess County Transportation Council

## Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

1:30 p.m. via Teams

### Meeting Summary

1. **Introductions** - Mark Debald (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself and attendees. See attached list. He thanked attendees for accommodating the time change, as DCTC staff were involved with the kickoff of a sidewalk improvement project on Innis Ave in Poughkeepsie.
2. **Announcements**
  - a. [Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act \(CRRSAA\)](#)

Mark noted that we are still waiting to see how much funding we will get. There is no near deadline for these funds to expire. We will continue to share any updates as available.
  - b. [NYSDOT Preliminary Cost Estimation Tool \(PCET\) Training](#)

This 2-hour training will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The training is geared toward local governments, MPOs, planners, and county public works staff. The DCTC will send out an email with more information, including a registration link and an overview of the training. Mark encouraged everyone to save the date and share the training invitation with their constituents. For those who cannot attend the live training, there are [PCET training materials](#) available online.
  - c. **Complete Streets**

Emily Dozier (DCTC) shared information about two upcoming Complete Streets opportunities. Interested parties should contact [Dan Suraci](#) with Urban Cycling Solutions.
  - i. [Complete Streets training](#)

This is a free 90-minute online training geared towards municipal boards and staff. The training is customized to address the unique issues and needs of the municipality. The training is intended to help local boards learn about complete streets and how to implement complete streets policies and concepts.
  - ii. [Intersection training](#)

Municipalities can register for a free 3-part training tailored to a specific intersection issue in their municipality. The intersection can be county, state, or locally owned. The training aims to help identify the issues with the intersection and how to implement lower cost design solutions. The training is comprised of a series of three 60-minute sessions:
    - Walk audit and other tools to evaluate the intersection
    - Identify design solutions and develop short report outlining challenges and solutions.
    - Share design solutions with other participants and receive feedback.

Interested parties should fill out this [online form](#) and see the attached flyer for more details.

d. [Bridge NY Program](#)

Mark reminded attendees that the Bridge NY solicitation is still open. He noted that in the past, it has taken about six months to make awards after the application period closes, so sponsors should plan accordingly. Draft applications are due to NYSDOT by April 14<sup>th</sup> for bridges and May 4<sup>th</sup> for culverts. Final applications are due by May 19<sup>th</sup> for bridges and June 9<sup>th</sup> for culverts. Mark also encouraged sponsors to take advantage of NYSDOT's offer to review pre-submission applications.

e. [AARP's Livable Communities Program – Community Challenge Grant](#)

Mark discussed this grant opportunity, noting that funding is available for a wide variety of projects including connectivity, walkability, bikeability, wayfinding, access to transportation options and roadway improvements. Applications are due by April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**3. Public Participation** – Mark opened the floor to the committee for comments or questions.

- a. Steve Strauss (ESPA) provided an update on a project that is coming forward for the Rhinecliff Amtrak Station. The project entails improvements to the station including a raised platform, new elevator, shorter stairs, and expansion and improvements to the parking lot. As more information comes in, he hopes to work with DCTC and stay in contact. The anticipated timeline is October 2021 start for track work and 2023 for station work. Mark asked Steve for the best contact at Amtrak for this project and noted that it is great to see improvements coming to the Rhinecliff station.

**4. Old Business** – Mark noted that the following actions were recently approved:

- a. DCTC Resolution #21-01 - [Unified Planning Work Program](#)  
Resolution to approve DCTC's annual statement of tasks for SFY 2021-2022.
- b. DCTC Resolution #21-02 - [Safety Performance Measures](#)  
Resolution to approve NYSDOT safety performance measure targets for 2021.
- c. DCTC Resolution #21-03 - [TIP Amendment #20-03](#)  
Resolution to approve amendment to the TIP for the Route 82 bridge repair/replacement in East Fishkill.

**5. [Moving Dutchess Forward](#) (2021 Transportation Plan)**

- a. Plan update & schedule: Mark noted that DCTC remains on schedule for the long-range plan. The Basic Needs section is live on the website. We plan to have the Advocate content live by the next committee meeting, then will begin work on the Invest section.
- b. [Public engagement](#): Mark reviewed DCTC's most recent public engagement efforts.
- i. Virtual public meeting – We held a Zoom meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> to introduce the draft Plan and gather public feedback. About 40 people attended the meeting, which was a good turnout compared to in-person meeting attendance for past plans. Meeting materials, including a copy of the presentation, a video recording, and meeting summary, are available on the *Moving Dutchess Forward* [Resource Library](#).
- ii. Survey – We posted a [summary](#) of results from our online survey, which ran from November 2020 to February 2021 and received over 360 responses. We used the survey responses to inform Plan content and included quotes from survey participants on the Plan website.

c. [Assess: Barriers to Basic Needs](#)

Mark reviewed the latest details on our newest Plan material, which was announced via email on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mark encouraged participants to check out the website, and discussed the content which includes barriers to housing, jobs, good and services, education, and recreation, and our role in addressing these barriers. Mark pointed out that readers will also benefit from seeing this information on the interactive map viewer, which includes data layers for housing cost burden, job densities, and more.

d. [Assess: Equity](#)

Mark explained that we are working one more piece for our Assess section – an analysis of transportation equity. This uses Census data and GIS to identify focus areas and populations such as minority and low-income groups. We are looking at how barriers to safety, reliability, and access intersect with vulnerable focus populations and areas. We intend to have this content posted in April, along with the interactive map.

e. [Advocate](#)

Mark explained that we are currently working on the Advocate section, which is divided into three parts and supports Goal 3 of the Plan:

- i. [MPO Actions](#) – What we can do directly at the MPO to promote safety, reliability, and access to basic needs.
- ii. [County Actions](#) – What County agencies can do to improve transportation access in terms of best practices and interagency collaboration.
- iii. [Local Actions](#) – Questions that local governments should ask themselves regarding transportation access and barriers, and resources to help them achieve best policies and practices.

Mark encouraged the group to reach out with any questions that they have regarding transportation access and best practices – we want to address local needs in the Plan content. Emily pointed out that the Plan is still in draft form, and that even after it is approved, the benefit of our virtual plan is that it can act as a living document – we can continue to update and refine it as new information and data become available. Mark added that we will be reaching out to municipalities to schedule short presentations about the Plan to local boards.

## 6. Project Updates

a. [Traffic Count program](#) –

Tara Grogan (DCTC) provided an update on DCTC's Traffic Count program. A draft list of count locations was sent out to mayors, supervisors, highway superintendents, and County Public Works for review. The review period closed on March 19<sup>th</sup> with great feedback. The schedule is currently being finalized by our consultant, and the program will begin in April and run through the Fall.

b. Mid-Hudson Valley TMA

i. [FTA Section 5307](#) call for projects –

Mark reminded the group that project applications for this round of federal transit funding are due by April 16<sup>th</sup>. Funding must flow through a Designated Recipient, which in our case would be Dutchess County Public Transit. Steve Strauss (ESPA) commented that it would be great to have some sort of microtransit system to connect the Rhinecliff train station and the village center.

He has reached out to Michael Grattini (DCPT) by email but will follow up with a phone call. Mark added that DCPT is working on a transit plan and this location came up. It's possible that Michael is waiting to see the final plan recommendations before acting. Microtransit is one potential solution being considered in the transit plan along with changes to fixed route service. Oluseye Folarin (MTA) added that MTA is also filing an application for funding.

ii. Regional freight planning –

Mark noted that the TMA is considering a consultant-led regional freight plan. Before making that determination, we will form a subcommittee to assess data availability and explore the role each MPO (Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster) could play.

iii. Federal certification review –

Mark pointed out that the TMA is due for a certification review by FHWA and FTA to ensure that the MPOs are adequately carrying out the federal transportation planning process. Certification reviews occur every four years, and the [last report from 2017](#) is available on our website. The review will likely be virtual this year, extending for a few days in September.

c. [Arlington Main Street Redesign](#)

Mark noted that this study is almost complete. Once the report is finalized, it will be posted on our website and we will notify the Town of Poughkeepsie and County Public Works.

d. [Poughkeepsie 9.44.55](#)

Mark explained that the Arterials phase of the project is underway, and that the consultant team is working on microsimulations of various concepts and upcoming public outreach plans.

Mark opened the floor to the group for final comments and questions. Steve Strauss (ESPA) asked what consultant DCPT is using for their transit study. Mark answered that they are working with Nelson\Nygaard, specifically Larry Gould and his team. The DCTC is serving as advisory. Mark noted that Foursquare was the consultant on our Regional Transit Plan, [Connect Mid-Hudson](#).

There were no further comments. Mark closed by reminding attendees to consider signing up for the PCET training, to submit any local transportation questions to us, and to look for our email about local board presentations on *Moving Dutchess Forward*.

**7. Next Meeting: Wed, Apr. 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**

**3/24/2021 Meeting Participants:**

Name	Organization	Address or Email	Phone
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
Tara Grogan	DCTC	<a href="mailto:tgrogan@dutchessny.gov">tgrogan@dutchessny.gov</a>	845-486-3600
Mary Aldrich	DCDPW	<a href="mailto:maldrich@dutchessny.gov">maldrich@dutchessny.gov</a>	845-486-2906
Robert Mortell	NYMTC	<a href="mailto:robert.mortell@dot.ny.gov">robert.mortell@dot.ny.gov</a>	845-431-5710
Dan Coots	NYS DOT	<a href="mailto:dan.coots@dot.ny.gov">dan.coots@dot.ny.gov</a>	845-431-7930
Caitlin Holt	NYS DOT	<a href="mailto:caitlin.holt@dot.ny.gov">caitlin.holt@dot.ny.gov</a>	845-413-2314
Harriet Lewis	NYS DOT	<a href="mailto:harriet.lewis@dot.ny.gov">harriet.lewis@dot.ny.gov</a>	
Oluseye Folarin	MTA	<a href="mailto:ofolarin@mtahq.org">ofolarin@mtahq.org</a>	212-878-7080
Jay Baisley	T/Poughkeepsie	<a href="mailto:jbaisley@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov">jbaisley@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov</a>	845-485-3600
Don Beer	T/Poughkeepsie	<a href="mailto:dbeer@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov">dbeer@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov</a>	845-790-4736
Ray Oberly	T/Clinton	<a href="mailto:townsupervisor@townofclinton.com">townsupervisor@townofclinton.com</a>	845-266-5721
Scott LeVine	SUNY Ulster	<a href="mailto:levines@newpaltz.edu">levines@newpaltz.edu</a>	845-257-3599
Herb Litts	GPI	<a href="mailto:hlitts@gpinet.com">hlitts@gpinet.com</a>	
Steve Strauss	Empire State Passengers Association (ESPA)	<a href="mailto:straussnyc@verizon.net">straussnyc@verizon.net</a>	



# NYS INTERSECTION ACTION PLAN PROGRAM

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The purpose of this program is to transform streets across New York State, by empowering individuals with the tools to:

1. Identify specific safety/walkability/bikeability challenges with intersections in their communities;
2. Develop and document pragmatic design solutions to put forward for implementation.

This three-part online course will help advocates and professionals produce concise, actionable “planning-level” design documentation for specific intersections in their communities.



## HOW IT WORKS

The program will consist of three 45-minute webinars, and optional one-on-one consulting sessions with transportation planning professionals. Participants are expected to produce a final 2-page “Intersection Improvement Report” detailing safety challenges, relevant data and design solutions (templates will be provided).



Webinars	
<b>Elements of an Action Plan</b>	This webinar will focus specifically on the identification and documentation of design challenges, including a methodology for conducting a street audit and identifying relevant datasets.
<b>Developing Design Solutions</b>	This webinar will focus on how communities can develop specific solutions to the challenges identified from the street audits. This webinar will cover more detailed design strategies with an eye toward solutions.
<b>Final Presentations</b>	Participants will have an opportunity to present their street action plans with other program participants.

## PARTICIPATION & SIGN UP

This training is available for **FREE** to any individuals in New York State interested in street safety and design. Program admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Those interested in applying can fill out [this online form](#) by April 2, 2021. Questions on the program can be directed to [info@urbancyclingsolutions.com](mailto:info@urbancyclingsolutions.com). The program is expected to begin in mid to late April.