

Dutchess County Transportation Council

Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 30, 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. She thanked those attendees who had cameras for turning them on for the meeting. Attendees were also asked to participate during the meeting by unmuting when trying to speak or using the chat/polling tools to make it as interactive as possible. All were asked to stay muted unless speaking to reduce background noise and avoid multitasking to get the most out of the meeting.

 - b. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA): Mark Debald (DCTC) announced that Congress had approved the FFY 2022 federal budget, which means that USDOT can begin implementing some of the programs in the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(Infrastructure Act\)](#). USDOT has combined three programs ([Mega](#), [INFRA](#), and [Rural](#)) into one national, competitive call for proposals under the [Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant \(MPDG\)](#) process. For our area, the new RURAL surface transportation grant program might be of interest, as it supports smaller projects outside of urbanized areas. Since the new Infrastructure Act is a five-year program, calls for projects should go out annually for the next five years. So, if a municipality is not ready to apply for this year, they could potentially apply in future years. The DCTC is available to provide background information or other necessary data to help municipalities complete applications as needed.

Emily shared that there is a fact sheet posted for a new, upcoming opportunity for funding for safety grants through the [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#) program, which supports the DOT's National [Roadway Safety Strategy](#). It would cover creating a safety action plan, planning work to support the plan, and/or projects identified in that plan. The notice of funding opportunity and additional information should be available in May.

- c. DCTC website update: Tara Grogan (DCTC) shared that the DCTC has established a review process for the website, www.dutchessny.gov/dctc, which is currently underway and will be done three times annually. In addition, we've also established a review process for the [Moving Dutchess Forward](#) website to review the content in the long-range plan annually, and check hyperlinks every six months.

- d. DCTC logo project: We are in the very early stages of the new logo project. A meeting was held on March 29th to help the DCTC brainstorm ideas. New drafts for logos should be ready later this spring. Tara asked the group to share what words or phrases they would use to describe the DCTC, using a Slido poll. Some of the key words from the poll

were: helpful, informative, funding, organized, technical support, and energetic. Updates and new designs will be shared as they become available. In the meantime, members were encouraged to send any thoughts or comments they may have via email.

- e. [Complete Streets Training](#): Emily shared that there are free, virtual, 90-minute complete streets trainings available through Urban Cycling Solutions. It introduces its audience to Complete Streets principles and concepts and includes a virtual walk audit of a location of interest to the group. Paul Hesse (City of Poughkeepsie) shared the pleasant experience he had working with Dan of Urban Cycling Solutions in the City of Poughkeepsie several years ago and encouraged communities to take advantage of the training. Contact dan@urbancyclingsolutions.com if you are interested in reserving a workshop.
- f. [NY Cycling Census](#): There is a statewide bicycling census to gauge cycling activity around NYS. So far there have been over 10,000 responses. It will be open until April 22nd and attendees are encouraged to participate.

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

4. Old Business

- a. [DCTC Actions](#):
 - i. Resolution #22-01 for the [2022-2023 UPWP](#) (Planning Program) was approved. For the benefit of new members/attendees, Mark explained that the planning program describes the planning priorities and budgets for the upcoming State Fiscal Year, which starts on April 1st. It uses a mix of mostly federal, state, and county funds. These funds not only support our day-to-day activities and core products, but also local planning studies such as the Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan, the Village of Rhinebeck Complete Streets Assessment, and the Sidewalk Feasibility Study on Spackenkill Road in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Mark noted that the latter topic received a lot of public support during the public comment period. Mark also thanked the voting members for their approval of the Planning Program.
 - ii. Resolution #22-02 for a new [Project Selection Framework](#) was also approved. The framework will screen potential projects and help prioritize projects based on the goals set in [Moving Dutchess Forward](#). It is detached from the bylaws and will be used primarily for future TIP updates, though it can also be used to help prioritize projects that use other funding sources outside the MPO planning process.

5. New Business

- a. [Upcoming FFY 2023-2027 TIP](#): Mark noted that the [Transportation Improvement Program](#) (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. [TIP update](#): The funding targets have been received, so we can now evaluate our

program and update the existing projects in the TIP. Targets must be reconciled with existing projects, taking inflation into consideration. We also have to administer a streamlined conformity process to make sure the TIP does not negatively impact air quality or emissions. Since the Infrastructure Act was approved in late 2021, it impacted the timelines of some TIP components, so NYSDOT is giving MPOs until mid-July to approve their TIPs. Oluseye Folarin (MTA) asked if the DCTC will still use block PINs. Mark responded that yes, the DCTC still intends to use block PINs for some funding programs.

- ii. Preliminary Funding Targets: Mark shared the highway funding targets for the new TIP which total about \$16.5 million and are slightly lower than the previous TIP. Given the lower funding, Mark suggested that local municipalities and agencies consider applying for discretionary programs such as Mega, INFRA, and Rural to fund projects rather than relying on the formula programs. Sandra Jobson (NYSDOT) noted that she thinks DCTC has enough money to cover the projects that she is aware of, and that remaining funds should be available for new programming. Mark explained that most available funding will be used for projects that are in progress. If there is any funding remaining, block PINs would be used as placeholders. Sandra advised the group that she is willing to work with municipalities on state highway ideas and issues of importance if there is funding leftover. Mark added that it is a good idea to partner with the state on discretionary grants since a lot of our transportation planning goals involve state highways.
- iii. Project Sponsor Update – City of Beacon: Chris White (City of Beacon) reviewed the status of the Fishkill/Teller Avenue reconstruction project in the City of Beacon, which is also commercial Route 52. The scope of work for the 1.75 miles includes replacing sidewalks on both sides of the street, curbs, ADA ramps, crosswalks, milling and paving the street, upgrades to some traffic lights, and pedestrian improvements to make safer crossings. One hurdle the City faced was that it needed small amounts of property from adjoining landowners to complete the project. Of the remaining five right of way (ROW) acquisitions or easements that are needed, four are in the process of closing and one is still in negotiation. In addition to other improvements, the sewer pipe along Fishkill Avenue will also be upgraded and moved, so an easement is sought with an adjacent property. They hope to get the project out to bid in late fall. It was estimated to cost \$7M, but it might cost closer to \$7.2M. It is expected to be about an 18-month reconstruction project. The City is also working on safety improvement along Main Street, including pedestrian bump outs and lighting upgrades. Main Street will also be milled and paved so all main corridors through Beacon will be in good working condition.

Mark urged the City of Beacon to do everything possible to obligate the funding in 2022 and prevent the project from rolling over into 2023. Mark asked Chris if he had any advice for other municipalities on applying for an using federal funds. Chris responded that it was important to have regular meetings about the project to keep pushing the agenda. Flexibility is also important because things don't always go as planned; focusing on the big picture helps.

- b. Vulnerability Assessment RFP: An RFP for a Vulnerability Assessment of our transportation system will hopefully be issued in April. It will seek consultant support to help with identifying and prioritizing adaptation and resiliency improvements and policies. The work will track with the Dutchess County Natural Resources Inventory update and Climate Action Plan. It will likely be an 18-month study. It is a recommended best practice for MPOs.
- c. Intersection & Corridor Management Programs: An RFP for these new UPWP tasks is due to be issued soon. The RFP will be for on-call consultant transportation planning support to assist with the Intersection and Corridor Management programs, and will also include support on pedestrian plans and safety assessments. This will allow for flexibility instead of having to do an RFP for each individual planning study.
- d. Regional Freight Planning: Work on the regional freight plan for the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA) continues. Working with Orange and Ulster County Transportations Councils (OCTC and UCTC), we are reviewing data from NYSDOT to help us understand how freight moves throughout the region. We are working on a document to summarize our understanding, after which a forum will be held for freight stakeholders so we can understand the issues they're facing and possibly form policies or recommendations on how to improve. Emily also shared information about imports and exports by tonnage and value, as well as the top import origins and export destinations for Dutchess. A more detailed analysis will be shared when it is available.

6. Planning Updates

- a. Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan: Emily gave a brief overview of the hamlet and explained that the plan will involve taking an inventory of the sidewalks, crosswalks, ramps, and signs after which they will make some recommendations. The first meeting with the task force is scheduled for March 31st.
- b. Poughkeepsie 9.44.55: Tara shared that we are in the final stages of this study. Chapter four (phase two) of the study, which focuses on the arterials in the City and Town of Poughkeepsie, was recently completed and is currently on the website. The arterial concepts were presented to the City Common Council and Town Board. Some of the feedback and recommendations will be included in discussions about the next steps for the study. A final advisory committee meeting is scheduled for March 31st.

As a reminder, the consultant developed a microsimulation analysis that tested a few options for the arterials. The primary recommendation is to reduce the each arterial from three lanes to two lanes, maintain one-way traffic and make improvements at key points. A pilot project is recommended to answer questions about how the road diet would operate in the real world. The pilot is essentially a research project and would be conducted over the course of a typical construction season (4-6 months). Sandra Jobson suggested that the amount of time needed for the pilot project could be reduced. Both the timing and the geographic scope will need to be considered to balance the needs of the community while gathering the necessary data on traffic diversions and travel pattern changes.

- c. Traffic Count Program: The schedule for the 2022 Traffic Count Program is being finalized and will be done in early April. The counts will take place between April and November. Notices will be sent to municipalities two weeks in advance so they can notify highway crews or the DCTC in case a count needs to be rescheduled. Since the contract for this season is ending, a new RFP will go out later in the year. In addition, the full Dutchess County 2020 and 2021 data from NYSDOT has been received. Once it has been processed, it will be added to the [Traffic Data Viewer](#).

- d. Arlington Main Street/Grand RFP: An RFP for the detailed design of the Main Street/Grand Avenue intersection has gone out and proposals are due in April. Tara shared a conceptual design of the intersection, which is recommended in the [Arlington Main Street Redesign Initiative](#). This intersection is considered phase one. She also shared a rough timeline from contract execution this summer, to a final design in Spring 2023, and construction in 2024. Mark noted that this project is not on the capital program, since the county is using its own funds.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

3/30/2022 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
Tara Grogan	DCTC	tgrogan@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Michael Grattini	DC Public Transit	mgrattini@dutchessny.gov	845-473-8521
Amanda Sammon	DC Public Transit	asammon@dutchessny.gov	845-473-8643
Vita Dobosh	DC Public Transit	vdobosh@dutchessny.gov	845-473-8638
Caitlin Holt	NYS DOT	caitlin.holt@dot.ny.gov	845-413-2314
Sandra Jobson	NYS DOT	sandra.jobson@dot.ny.gov	845-431-5800
Robert Mortell	NYMTC-MHSTCC	robert.mortell@dot.ny.gov	845-431-5710
Oluseye Folarin	MTA	ofolarin@mtahq.org	212-878-7080
Chris White	C/Beacon	cwhite@beaconny.gov	845-838-5009
Michael Whitton	T/Clinton	townsupervisor@townofclinton.com	845-266-5721
Nicholas D'Alessandro	T/East Fishkill	dalessandron@eastfishkillny.gov	845-221-4303
Jay Baisley	T/Poughkeepsie	jbaisley@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov	845-485-3600
Don Beer	T/Poughkeepsie	dbeer@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov	845-485-3600
Paul Hesse	C/Poughkeepsie	phesse@cityofpoughkeepsie.com	845-451-4106
Steve Caswell	Dutchess County Legislature	scaswell@dutchessny.gov	845-518-7236
Robert Legacy	Arlington Business Improvement District	legacypb@aol.com	845-221-4303
Mary Aldrich	DPW	maldrich@dutchessny.gov	845-486-2906
Melkorka Kjarval	V/Red Hook	mkjarval@redhooknyvillage.org	
Amy Smith	V/Red Hook	amy@redhooklibrary.org	
PJ	Guest		

3/30/2022 Poll Results:



What words describe the DCTC?

8 ...

