

Dutchess County Transportation Council

Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

10:00 a.m. via Teams

Meeting Summary

1. **Introductions** – Emily Dozier (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and led introductions. See attached list. She also briefly went over the meeting ground rules.
2. **Announcements**
 - a. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA): Mark Debald (DCTC) announced that under the Infrastructure Act, there are new grant funding opportunities from FHWA. They've 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 projects outside of urbanized areas, but the minimum funding amount is so large that it is unlikely that it will be used for near-term projects in our area. That said, DCTC staff is available to help any municipality that is interested in applying. In addition, a notice of funding opportunity for the [Safe Streets and Roads for All](#) (SS4A) program is expected to be released this May.
 - b. TMA Federal Certification Report: Mark explained that all large urbanized areas must undergo a certification review by the FHWA/FTA every four years. The [Certification report](#) from our area's review, which was done in late 2021, has been received and posted on our website. There were some minor corrective actions for Ulster and Orange counties, but none for the DCTC. There were some recommendations for the DCTC, which we are working on (e.g., revising our public participation plan). We are still waiting for a desk reference, which will be used as a citizens guide to the MPO.
3. **Public Participation** – Emily provided an opportunity for members to share announcements or ask questions. Emily asked Sandra Jobson (NYSDOT) if they will apply for MEGA or INFRA grants. Sandra responded that she could look into it and let Emily know.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. DCTC logo project: The DCTC is working with a local company, Drake Creative, and have had three creative sessions with them so far. The next meeting will cover some draft design concepts. Potential designs for the new logo will be shared with the committee in the future.
 - b. Vulnerability Assessment RFP: An RFP for a Vulnerability Assessment of our transportation system has been issued, with responses due May 18th [correction: due date was changed to May 11th]. The RFP seeks consultant support to look at how climate change could impact our transportation system, including infrastructure and services, and possibly affect vulnerable communities. We would also like to develop strategies to better adapt to climate change. Our work will track with Dutchess County's Natural Resources Inventory update and Climate Action Plan. We will work with Dutchess County OCIS to develop an online product that will show the analyses and recommendations.

Oluseye Folarin (MTA) asked if the DCTC has been in contact with anyone at MTA/MNR and if he could get more information about the assessment. Mark responded that since it is still in the RFP stage, we have not contracted with a firm, but we will seek input from stakeholders when the time comes. In the meantime, Mark will share the scope of services for the RFP with Oluseye.

- c. On-Call Transportation Planning Support RFP: We are in the final stages of issuing an RFP for on-call consultant transportation planning support to assist with various studies. Hopefully it will be issued within the next few of weeks. The consultant will help with some of the technical aspects of our planning projects. There may be a primary and secondary consultant for situations when the primary consultant is not available or unable to accomplish a task in a timely manner.

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. Overview and schedule: We are currently reconciling funding targets with updates from project sponsors and assessing the types of changes that can be accommodated. We are also working on the TIP narrative and will prepare a joint air quality conformity statement with NYMTC and OCTC for the Poughkeepsie Ozone Non-Attainment Area. The goal is to approve the TIP in mid-July [update: this has been revised to late-July].
 - ii. TIP/STIP Performance: Sandra Jobson discussed TIP/STIP performance, how well the DCTC and NYSDOT deliver highway projects, and what goals are reasonable. At the beginning of each FFY on October 1st, FHWA looks at all MPOs and their TIPs to see what the MPOs plan to do during the FFY. Since the current FFY is half-over, now is a good time to look at how well the MPOs are doing so far. For FFY 2022, local sponsors planned to complete four projects. One is complete, one has been delayed, so the most that can be completed is three projects, or 75%. Since NYSDOT has delivered both of their projects in Dutchess, or 100%, when both the local and state programs are taken into consideration, the most that can be completed is five of six projects, or 83.3%.

Sandra also shared the overall performance over the past five years and suggested having a goal of getting incrementally better every year. Performance of 50% or better is a good goal; anything less than that shows up as red on the statewide report. She has seen some improvement in the Hudson Valley. She asked Mark if he had a sense of whether the remaining two projects will be completed. Mark responded that he is in communication with the City of Beacon, and they are very confident that their projects will be done in 2022. Sandra also shared that, around August, NYSDOT will work with DCTC and local sponsors to try to right-size remaining projects. She also emphasized the importance of getting accurate estimates for both schedules and cost to minimize shortfalls.

- iii. Project Review: Mark explained the TIP by breaking it down into four components and shared a preliminary list of projects within each component. The State Highway projects include the NYS Route 82 Bridge replacement, catch basin repairs on Route 9, and ADA improvements on select sidewalks and ramps. Other projects may be added based on the State's capital program. Local Highway non-formula projects (which are funded through earmarks or statewide solicitations) include a highway garage repair project in the Town of Beekman, Grand Avenue reconstruction in the City of Poughkeepsie, and Saw Kill Rd Bridge replacement in the Town of Red Hook. These projects, while not funded by formula programs, still count towards our TIP obligation rate. Local highway projects funded by formula programs include three bridge replacement projects in the City of Poughkeepsie on Mansion St, Washington St, and Garden St, and the Carol Drive Bridge replacement in East Fishkill. Mark noted that project sponsors have requested more funds for each of these projects, and it will be challenging to support all the requests. Lastly, Transit projects include operating assistance, preventive maintenance, and administrative costs as well as vehicle replacements and commuter rail support.

- iv. Funding Picture: The FTA funding targets have been received from NYSDOT and are being reviewed. Two FHWA programs, STBG Large Urban and STBG Off System Bridge, will fund our local highway projects. Because of cost increases, most of the formula funds are fully programmed. We will use block PINs for funds that are leftover near the end of the TIP. Mark shared the planning targets for the TIP by MPO and by year to show the group how much funding is available and how it is distributed throughout the region. He also shared a table that showed fiscal constraint for the Large Urban and Off-System Bridge programs, based on our list of projects and the funding increases requested by project sponsors. For Large Urban, there may be funds available in 2026-27. However, the Off-System Bridge program will be challenging because there isn't as much available to support the requested funding increases. To meet this challenge, one thing that could be done is to obligate the Carol Drive Bridge replacement in 2022. If that's not possible, other options could include increasing local matches, redesigning projects to lower costs, applying for discretionary funding, or delaying projects. We will know more in late May.

- v. Project Sponsor Update – Carol Drive Bridge Replacement: Supervisor D'Alessandro (Town of East Fishkill) thanked the DCTC for their assistance with securing funding for this project and explained that it is an old timber bridge, which is the only way in and out for 66 households which makes it of critical importance. During the last hurricane, those families were trapped because the creek overran the bridge.

Brendan Fitzgerald and Jack Gorton of HVEA explained the project further. The bridge has significant deterioration. They've acquired all the properties that are needed for the project. The current proposal is to build a temporary bridge while the old timber bridge is replaced. They are currently getting the documentation to submit to Region 8's Local Project Unit (LPU). They plan to submit the full bid package to LPU by mid-May. The last challenge is to finalize the stream permit

with DEC. Since there is a Blanding turtle habitat north of the project, they will put up a barrier to make sure that no turtles wander into the area. They feel comfortable that they'll be able to obligate construction funds in FFY 2022. Sandra Jobson asked a question about the new alignment. HVEA staff responded that they can't build the new bridge on the existing property because they are not certain of the quality of the timbers, so it would be too risky. Since they've closed with all the property owners, the only thing that remains is for the property consultant to compile the documentation so they can get right of way clearance. They will continue to work with the property consultant and have monthly updates to ensure that it is done in a timely manner. Sandra emphasized that real estate issues tend to be a big hurdle and urged them to submit their documentation as soon as possible.

6. Planning Updates

- a. [Poughkeepsie 9.44.55](#): Emily announced that this study was completed in March and the final report is [on our website](#). It was presented to the City Common Council and Town Board and a final advisory committee meeting was held last month. However, the conversation needs to continue to implement the recommendations. There is a working group that will continue to discuss how to make it happen.
- b. Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan: The Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan began with a kick-off meeting last month. Emily gave a brief overview of the project and explained that the next step will be for staff to gather data by walking the hamlet, taking pictures, measurements, and documenting the existing infrastructure to form a plan to improve pedestrian access and safety.
- c. Village of Rhinebeck Route 9 Complete Streets Assessment: This Complete Streets Assessment has also begun. Staff held a walking tour of the area with the Village Mayor and the Village's engineer. The plan is to make two sections of Route 9 more into gateways to encourage slower speeds when someone enters the Village. We are currently working on what that could look like. It may include traffic calming and improved sidewalks and lighting. We've also reached out to NYSDOT since it is a State road.
- d. Traffic Count Program: The schedule for the 2022 Traffic Count Program has been finalized. Notices will be sent to municipalities in advance of the counts, which will take place this spring through the fall. In addition, NYSDOT has sent us data on previous years' counts which will be included in our online [Traffic Data Viewer](#). The data will be used to analyze speeding and volumes, comparing pre-COVID data to our current data to see how national trends are reflected in Dutchess County. A new RFP for the traffic count program will be issued later this year.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. (virtual) (Tentative)

4/27/2022 Meeting Participants:

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