

Dutchess County Transportation Council

Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 25, 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 a new program under the Infrastructure Act, [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#), is now open and applications are due September 15th. SS4A supports the USDOT's National Roadway Safety Strategy. It will total \$1B annually over five years, with 40% for Safety Action Plans. Once an approved plan is in place, communities can apply for grants to implement their plans. There is guidance available on USDOT's website. In addition, 'How to Apply' webinars are scheduled in June for interested communities. DCTC has planning funds available which might provide a more flexible option to complete a Safety Action Plan. The DCTC conducts Safety Assessments and planning studies regularly and can help communities determine if they meet the criteria of the program. Oluseye Folarin (MTA) asked if a community will be able to use an existing Safety Action Plan, if they already have one in place, or if they will have to create a new one. Mark responded that a full answer has not been received on that, so it is still being researched.

Another new program is the [Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program](#) which will support planning and capital projects that restore connectivity and remove barriers to access. The guidance is still being developed, but the notice of funding opportunity should be released this summer. Emily added that there is a webinar recording about the program on the website. Information will be shared with the group as it becomes available, especially since opportunities for this funding may exist in our area.

 - b. Desk Reference: As part of the Federal Certification Review last year, a desk reference was developed by FHWA and recently provided to us. It can be used as a resource for the public and others who are not familiar with the DCTC. It briefly explains what the DCTC does, and includes background information, highlights, and basic data statistics.

3. **Public Participation** – Emily provided an opportunity for members to share announcements or ask questions. Emily asked Sandra Jobson (NYSDOT) if NYSDOT will apply for any of the large federal grant programs. Sandra responded that she does not have any new information.

4. Old Business

- a. DCTC logo project: The DCTC is working with a local company, Drake Creative, and have had four creative sessions so far. Preliminary design concepts will be refined in the coming weeks. We will seek input from the committee on the new logo in the future.
- b. Vulnerability Assessment RFP: We received six proposals for our Vulnerability Assessment. The assessment will examine the vulnerability of transportation infrastructure and services, including buses, rails, and sidewalks. There is a meeting scheduled in June to discuss the proposals and narrow down the list.
- c. On-Call Transportation Planning Support RFP: The RFP for on-call consultant transportation planning support was issued today with responses due on June 24th. This contract would make a consultant available to the DCTC on an on-call basis, with the consultant providing planning and technical assistance on various studies.

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: Funding targets were received in March, and we have been working with project sponsors to refine project scopes and schedules to make sure that we have the most up to date information. We are reconciling funding targets with existing projects and cost changes. We are also working on a TIP narrative, which will summarize the capital program. A joint air quality conformity statement with NYMTC and OCTC is also in the early stages. Additionally, there has been a statewide delay in the TIP approval, so our current goal is to approve the TIP by August 18th.
 - ii. State Capital Program: Sandra Jobson discussed NYSDOT's Capital Program, which is a key piece of the TIP. Regional DOT offices also get planning targets for their programs. Sandra's office, Region 8, which covers the Hudson Valley, receives about \$250M annually. Sandra explained the four asset teams: Structures, Pavement, Safety and System Optimization, and Sustainability. She also shared what types of projects those teams cover and how the funds are distributed among the asset areas. The emphasis is on preservation, maintenance, and improvements – approximately 83% of their funding is used for those purposes. The remaining 17% is used for new or renewal projects.

Sandra shared project highlights for the TMA (Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties), which include slope repairs in the Catskills, drainage improvements along Route 9W/Storm King Mountain, a complete street in Woodstock along Route 212, and pavement reconstruction on Route 284. They are currently

looking for truck parking lot opportunities along I-84, in hopes of identifying locations in Dutchess and Orange counties. They are also looking to make improvements at the intersection of Routes 52 and 82 in Fishkill, build the final roundabout at the intersection of Route 376 and Raymond Ave in Poughkeepsie, and complete a major bridge replacement along Route 17M.

Emily asked Sandra for details on the Route 52/82 project. Sandra responded that she doesn't have many details yet, but it was identified as a congested intersection. It will go into a scoping phase, which will analyze the intersection and identify potential improvements. Emily asked Sandra to briefly describe the progression for a project, including how input from the municipality and the public is taken into consideration. Sandra explained that the first step is to identify the project, and then set the funds aside. NYSDOT initiates the project and gets the funding authorized. When the funding is approved, they set a target date for construction. It then gets handed over to the engineering division, where they will put together a project schedule, which includes a public involvement plan. Input from the municipal leaders as well as the public are taken into consideration in the public involvement plan. A project manager is also assigned, and they are the contact point for the project. Sandra said she would forward DCTC the contact information for the project managers assigned to the Route 82/52 project and the Raymond Avenue project.

- iii. Working Project List: Mark showed the four main components of the TIP and the projects within each. State Highway projects include existing projects such as the NYS Route 82 Bridge replacement, catch basin repairs on Route 9, and ADA improvements on select sidewalks and ramps. Existing Local Highway non-formula projects (which are funded through earmarks or statewide grants) include a highway garage repair project in the Town of Beekman and the Grand Avenue reconstruction in the City of Poughkeepsie. A new project, which was a BRIDGE NY award, is the Saw Kill Road Bridge in the Town of Red Hook. Local Highway non-formula projects count towards our TIP obligation rate, even though they are not funded by formula programs. Local highway projects funded by formula programs include three bridge replacement projects in the City of Poughkeepsie on Mansion, Washington, and Garden Streets, the Teller Ave reconstruction in the City of Beacon, and the Carol Drive Bridge replacement in East Fishkill. Transit projects include operating assistance for Dutchess County Public Transit, preventive maintenance, administrative costs, vehicle replacements, and commuter rail support.

Oluseye asked about the source of the funding target for commuter rail support (FTA Section 5337). Mark responded that the DCTC received the targets from NYSDOT. They are based on historical data and estimates of what NYSDOT thinks the program will look like over the next five years. Sandra Jobson suggested that Oluseye contact Tom Vaughn at NYSDOT for further information.

Michael Grattini (DC Public Transit) added that they are currently investigating going electric. At some point, likely towards the end of the new TIP, they will apply for a grant to have the facility and the property assessed to see if they can handle having an electrified system. Oluseye asked if the operating assistance and preventive maintenance funding will come from FTA section 5307 funding. Mark responded that it will.

Mark showed a snapshot of the Section 5307 urbanized area formula program and how the funds (\$36.9M) are distributed between Dutchess County and MTA over the next five years. It did not include ARPA or CRSSAA funding, which totals \$69M. The regional MPOs, NYSDOT, and MTA are reviewing the numbers and determining how that might be suballocated among the different transit operators. More information will be shared at when it becomes available, especially since the MPO voting members will have to adopt a resolution for the suballocation.

- iv. Funding Summary and Working Fiscal Constraint by Program (Highway): The two FHWA programs that are of importance to our MPO are the STBG Large Urban and STBG Off System Bridge programs. The funding targets are \$12.6M and \$4.3M, respectively, including roll-ins from the current TIP. Existing projects will likely use most of the funds. A block PIN will be used for the remaining funds at the end of the TIP, if any. Right now, there is a balance of \$3.25M from the Large Urban program for the latter part of the TIP.

Mark shared the balances between the programmed projects and the planning targets. Overall, the Large Urban portion is balanced over the four-year STIP period. The Off System Bridge portion is worrisome because if both planned bridge projects occur in the same year, it will cause a significant shortfall – partly due to cost increases. But if the Carol Drive Bridge in East Fishkill can obligate in FFY 2022, that would leave only one bridge for the new program, which would mean that it would be balanced over the four-year STIP period. If both projects stay in 2023, we may need to increase the local contributions. Increasing federal funding might be possible if OCTC or UCTC have off-system bridge funds that they are willing to share in exchange for a share of our Large Urban balance.

- v. Amendment DCTC #20-05: The DCTC must also look at the current TIP and make amendments and modifications to current projects. Amendments are substantial changes, such as cost increases, that require Council approval. For example, to accommodate a cost increase for the Fishkill Avenue project in the City of Beacon, an offset is necessary, which will be done by moving the Teller Avenue project to 2023. Sandra Jobson asked how the funds for the Teller Avenue project will be made up next year. Mark responded that there will be a balance in Large Urban funds in 2023, which the Teller Avenue project will use. The Saw

Kill Bridge project in the Town of Red Hook could also be added to the TIP through this amendment. If there are FTA section 5310 awards, they will also be added through the amendment.

6. Planning Updates

- a. Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan: Emily announced that the field work for the Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan, including GPS data collection on existing sidewalks, curb ramps, crossings, etc. is complete. Tara is working on base maps. There will be a meeting with the task force in mid-June to discuss the findings and ideas for improvements.
- b. Village of Rhinebeck Route 9 Complete Streets Assessment: The Complete Streets Assessment of the northern and southern gateways into the Village of Rhinebeck on Route 9 is underway. Some preliminary conceptual drawings have been done and will be discussed with the Village. After that, we will reach out to a NYSDOT Region 8 representative to see what is possible since Route 9 is a State road. The bridge at the southern end of the Village is also being replaced, requiring coordination with the NYSDOT project manager for that project.
- c. Traffic Count Program: Tara shared that we are currently waiting for the consultant to set the traffic counters. Municipalities will be notified before the counters are laid out. We are also working on getting NYSDOT's 2020-2021 traffic count data on our [Traffic Data](#) app. We're planning to do a speeding and volume analysis that will examine COVID trends. A new RFP for the traffic count program will also be issued later this year.

Lastly, Tara shared a Slido poll asking what topics participants would like to hear about at future meetings. Michael Grattini requested to talk about bus routes as projects come up which will require deviation from normal routes. Tara mentioned that others can let the DCTC staff know via email if they have something that they would like to discuss at future meetings.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

5/25/2022 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
Sandra Jobson	NYS DOT – Region 8	sandra.jobson@dot.ny.gov	845-431-5800
Oluseye Folarin	MTA	ofolarin@mtahq.org	212-878-7080
Michael Grattini	DC Public Transit	mgrattini@dutchessny.gov	845-473-8521
Amanda Sammon	DC Public Transit	asammon@dutchessny.gov	845-473-8643
Caitlin Holt	NYS DOT	caitlin.holt@dot.ny.gov	845-413-2314
Jon Jay Baisley	T/Poughkeepsie	jbaisley@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov	845-485-3600
Tom Lepre	Resident/Guest		
Michael Whitton	T/Clinton	townsupervisor@townofclinton.com	845-266-5721
Nicole Farmer	NYS DOT – Region 8	Nicole.farmer@dot.ny.gov	845-431-5739
Shelly Johnston	Creighton Manning	sjohnston@cmellp.com	518-689-1814
Lauri Taylor	V/Pawling	ltaylor@villageofpawling.org	845-337-1762
Chris White	C/Beacon	cwhite@beaconny.gov	845-838-5009
Jack Gorton	HVEA	jgorton@hveapc.com	845-838-3600
Herb Litts	GPI	hlitts@gpinet.com	845-741-1997