

# Dutchess County Transportation Council

## Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

10:00 a.m. via Teams

### Meeting Summary

1. **Introductions** – Mark Debald (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself and attendees. See attached list.
2. **Announcements**
  - a. [RAISE – Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)

Mark reminded attendees about an ongoing funding opportunity. Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or RAISE, is the latest iteration of the discretionary grant program formally known as BUILD and TIGER. Eligible projects include transportation infrastructure that would have a significant regional or local impact. Anyone interested should reach out to DCTC for guidance. Minimum award amounts are \$5 million for urban areas and \$1 million for rural areas, with a required 20% local match. The deadline for applications is July 12th.
  - b. [FHWA MATCH Program](#)

Mark shared information about a free opportunity from the FHWA for guidance on local road safety challenges. The Mentoring, Assistance, Training, and Communication Help (MATCH) Program connects agencies with volunteers that have specific expertise in addressing safety issues. Guidance is free, and could include phone calls, emails, web-conferences, and even site visits, depending on needs and availability. See attached flyer for more details.
3. **Public Participation** – Mark provided an opportunity for members to share announcements or questions; there were none.
4. **New Business**
  - a. [Draft TIP Amendment #20-04 \(PIN 812749\)](#)

Mark introduced a draft TIP amendment that includes repaving the Taconic State Parkway from Route 44 to Willow Lane in the towns of Pleasant Valley and Clinton. The project is NHPP funded. Mark noted that two more projects will likely be added to the Amendment, both from Dutchess County Public Transit: two support vehicles, and bus maintenance equipment and software. There will be a 15-day public comment period to coincide with other MPO actions next month.
5. [Moving Dutchess Forward \(2021 Transportation Plan\)](#)
  - a. [Plan update & schedule](#)

Mark noted that DCTC remains on schedule for the long-range plan. We are working on the Invest piece now. This is the last major section of the Plan, and it will be live on the website soon.
  - b. [Public engagement](#)

Mark reviewed DCTC's most recent public engagement efforts:

- i. Outreach to local governments – We are working with Town boards to spread the word about the plan. We recently held a 15-minute presentation at Fishkill's Town board meeting and are scheduled to present at East Fishkill's June Town board meeting. Those interested in hosting our presentation should [contact us](#) for more information.
- ii. Virtual Public Meeting – A virtual public meeting to review the draft long-range transportation plan is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> from 4-5:00pm. This date coincides with the start of a 30-day public comment period for the draft plan and air quality conformity statement.
- iii. Funding priorities tool – Mark reviewed preliminary results from our participatory budgeting tool, which went live on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and will remain open until June 7<sup>th</sup>. So far, responses from the public show a high portion of funding prioritized for road and bridge maintenance, followed by Complete Streets corridor studies. Walking, bicycling, and bus service improvements also ranked high. He encouraged attendees to submit their input before the close date.

David Ray (T/Hyde Park) commented that he foresees higher prioritization of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations as people become more interested in EVs. There is a charging station at the Hyde Park Town Hall. Mary Aldrich (DCDPW) added that there are grants available for EV charging stations.

c. Vision statement

Emily Dozier (DCTC) presented the draft vision statement for the plan: "By 2045, Dutchess County's transportation system will be safer, more reliable, resilient, and equitable." The group had no initial feedback on the statement, but Emily encouraged attendees to follow up if they have comments.

d. Invest

Emily discussed this final section of the Plan, which is currently underway.

- i. How does funding work? – The goal in this section was to describe the transportation funding process in a way that the public can understand. It breaks down three levels of transportation funding: federal, state, and county/local, across three buckets or categories: highway, transit, and planning
- ii. Available funding – In this section, available funding was estimated. To be conservative, flat funding was assumed across the entire planning period (2022-2045). Emily noted that most of available funding goes to highway/road projects, and although the planning funds portion is small, it does not impede our work. Emily also pointed out MTA funding was calculated regionwide. Oluseye Folarin (MTA) asked what methodology was used for the MTA projection. Mark replied that it was difficult to quantify, but it was a conservative estimate based on past FTA 5307 and 5339 suballocations from the Urbanized Area to MTA.
- iii. Transformative investments (Projects and Packages) – Tara Grogan (DCTC) reviewed this section of Invest, which is broken down into transformative projects and packages.

### Transformative Projects

Tara explained that projects were selected based on how well they address barriers to safe and reliable access, basic needs, and equity. The draft list includes Market Street Two-way Redesign; Arlington Main Street Redesign; Transit Services for the Harlem Valley & Northern Dutchess; Route 44/55 Arterials Redesign; Hopewell Junction Route 82 Redesign; Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail; Route 9/44/55 Interchange Redesign; I-84/Route 9D Interchange Improvements. The draft list is broken down into short, medium, and long term, based on project readiness and complexity, and all but two have been planned or are actively being planned. The website content will include project details, costs, sponsors, funding sources, and an accompanying map viewer display of the project areas and pictures.

Richard Thurston (T/Wappinger) commented that there are two projects he expected to be on this list: Dutchess Stadium work and a roundabout at Chelsea Road and Route 9D. He said that because Southern Dutchess is home to the county's population sales tax base, the projects should be considered. Nicholas D'Alessandro (T/East Fishkill) agreed and added that there is a lack of support for Route 52 improvements associated with the future Amazon facility. Sandra Jobson (NYSDOT) added that there is merit in considering projects along these corridors, especially in the long term.

Mark agreed that there is merit to many projects and explained that the list of transformative projects was selected based on the projects' ability to transform transportation on a large scale. Unfortunately, the plan cannot include, and is not meant to be a list of every project we would like to see. Mark explained that the second part of our investment recommendations is a list of holistic program packages, which will include things like congestion management and traffic operations, and Complete Street corridor studies. The projects proposed by committee members could be funded under one or more transformative packages. Mark emphasized that there is nothing in the plan that prohibits support for other projects.

### Transformative Packages

Tara described the transformative packages, which are envisioned as ongoing projects on our capital or planning program intended to address the trends, barriers, and needs identified in Moving Dutchess Forward. The draft list includes Road & Bridge Maintenance & Operations; Safety Improvements at High Crash Locations; Walking & Bicycling Improvements; Shared-use Paths & Rail Trails; Bus Service Improvements; Train Access Improvements; Congestion Management & Traffic Operations; Electric Vehicle Charging Stations; Complete Streets Corridor Studies; and a Land Use & Zoning Reform Incentive Program.

Sandra Jobson (NYSDOT) commented that this is a good overview of our investment approach, but that DCTC should consider congestion and safety in the project selection. Emily agreed, and noted that the arterials in Poughkeepsie are high crash corridors, and that the I-84/9D interchange is a high-congestion area. Mark asked the

group for further comments. No additional comments were made. Mark invited members to reach out with additional thoughts.

- iv. Funding needs – Mark concluded the plan update with a discussion of fiscal constraint, noting that transformative projects will require outside funding, and that more than half of the available funds identified will go to transformative packages.

## 6. Project Updates

- a. [Poughkeepsie 9.44.55](#)

We are working with our consultant to update traffic models for the arterials. These models will be provided to NYSDOT.

- b. [Traffic Count Program](#)

The program is underway. [Contact Tara](#) if you have questions.

- c. [Mid-Hudson Valley TMA](#)

- i. Freight planning – We have developed a working group that is looking at regional freight planning and trends. Updates to follow.
- ii. FTA Section 5307 call for projects – We have received 5 project applications across the three counties (Dutchess, Ulster, Orange). The review process is currently underway.
- iii. Upcoming federal certification review – This upcoming review of TMA activities by FTA and FHWA is planned for the end of September.

Mark opened the floor to the committee for final comments and questions; there were none. He closed by encouraging members to review our draft plan content at [movingdutchessforward.com](http://movingdutchessforward.com), and to reach out with questions and comments.

## 7. Next Meeting: Wed, June 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

**5/26/2021 Meeting Participants:**

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