

Planning Committee Meeting (Virtual)

Wednesday, May 27, 2026
11:00 a.m.

— Meeting Summary —

1. **Introductions** – Emily Dozier (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting, led introductions (see attached list), and briefly reviewed the meeting ground rules. The meeting was also recorded.
2. **Announcements**
 - a. [Funding Opportunities](#)
 - i. Call for Safety Projects – HSIP Funding: Following the adoption of the [Transportation Safety Action Plan](#), \$2.5 million in High Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding is available for safety improvement projects. Local municipalities can apply online, starting on June 1; all applications will be due by July 2nd.
 - There is no minimum project size. Since it is federal funding, a 20% local match is required.
 - Any public road is eligible, not just federal-aid roads. Local municipalities should reach out to either the County DPW or NYSDOT before applying for a project that involves a County or State road.
 - ii. Coming Soon - Call for Planning Proposals: This summer, DCTC will seek proposals for planning studies. Examples of recent planning studies include the City of Poughkeepsie Speed Limit Study and the City of Beacon Sidewalk Inventory (see our [Publications page](#)). We will share more information when the application is ready, and we're happy to field any questions in the meantime.
 - Karen Bage (Cedarwood Engineering) asked if the planning studies require a local contribution; Emily clarified that we offer studies at no cost to municipalities since they are funded by DCTC's federal planning funds. However, we typically ask for local participation and assistance with the study.
3. **Partner Updates – none**
4. **Old Business – none**
5. **New Business**
 - a. [2026 Transportation Plan update](#): The Plan serves as the strategic vision for the DCTC. Looking forward to 2050, it will set the long-term goals for our transportation system and priorities for federal transportation funding. We are on track for the Council to adopt the updated Plan in August.

- i. Public Engagement: We held a virtual public meeting on May 12th to discuss the latest plan updates. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed on the [Moving Dutchess Forward website](#). We also had a successful pop-up at the County Health Fair on May 2nd. Our second survey, the \$100 Challenge, is live through the end of the month; respondents can enter to win a \$25 gift card. Once the final section of the plan is posted, there will be a third virtual public meeting along with a 30-day comment period.
- ii. Content: The policy-focused section, [Advocate](#), has been posted to the website. We are currently drafting the fourth and final section, Invest.
 - Advocate: This part of the Plan looks at best practice policies and actions that DCTC, the County, and local municipalities can take to advance the goals of the Plan. DCTC staff shared some examples:
 - a. DCTC: Continue to align our processes with the vision and goals of Moving Dutchess Forward; improve safety through data collection and analysis, our Complete Streets approach, and the implementation of recommendations from the Safety Action Plan; improve reliable access by prioritizing projects for our capital program that maintain or improve our existing infrastructure; and improve access to basic goods by working to address transportation gaps in conjunction with stakeholders and partner organizations.
 - b. County: The Department of Public Works can reduce speed limits and change road designs to improve safety; the Public Transit Division can prioritize access to basic needs when evaluating bus service changes.
 - c. Local: This section contains a series of questions to inspire action at the local level (e.g. is it safe and easy to walk around our downtown or town/village center?). For each, we provide best practices and resources.
 - Stephen Gill (DC DPW) asked if there was any consideration for improving truck access, given the increase in small truck deliveries. Emily noted that managing truck traffic has been discussed, but usually from the perspective of municipalities wanting to restrict larger trucks. The New York Association of MPOs is developing a truck routing guide that we can share with municipalities once published.
 - Laureen Abbatantuono (T/Beekman) expressed concern about the high speed of trucks and tractor trailers on NY 216. Karen Smythe (V/Red Hook) said that the Village struggles with excessive noise at night from truck brakes and detours onto local roads to avoid the main traffic signal. She expressed interest in guidance on managing trucks.
 - Laureen asked about the possibility of bus stops being added to Route 55 since there was a recent fatality. Amanda Sammon (DC Public Transit) replied that there have been discussions, but they landed on a flag stop system there because bus stops are more effective in areas with denser population. In this case, adding a bus stop would require people to walk further distances for service with greater safety risk.
 - Trevor Redl (T/Poughkeepsie) asked a follow up question about the

possibility of a bus shelter across from Adams Fairacre Farms; Amanda replied that they're considering adding a shelter there, but the cost implications are unclear since they don't know if the adjacent sidewalk is ADA-compliant or if it would need to be rebuilt.

- Invest
 - a. This section looks at what available funding we can anticipate over the planning period. We also estimate the cost to maintain our current infrastructure/system. We expect to invest mostly in maintaining a state of good repair. In our current calculations, assuming a 3% annual inflation rate, there is very little funding available for additional projects. The Invest section will still include a list of illustrative projects that could improve the transportation system in Dutchess County if funding could be secured.
 - Karen Bage asked about the process of adding projects if funding does become available. Mark Debal (DCTC) replied that we can amend the plan if needed, but we try to propose investments that are broad and flexible enough to account for a variety of projects.
 - b. FFY 2026-2030 TIP Amendments: There are two new projects proposed for our capital program totaling nearly \$26 million. There will be a 15-day public comment period for the amendments followed by a ballot for approval by the Policy Board.
 - i. #26-2: This amendment adds NYSDOT paving and culvert projects, including a project to repave the Taconic State Highway from Cold Spring Rd to the Dutchess/Columbia County line.
 - ii. #26-3: This amendment adds a new County Public Transit fare collection system purchase.
 - c. [High-End Speeding Report](#): The 2024 High-End Speeding Report has been posted to our website. It identifies County and local road segments with 85th percentile speeds more than 10mph over the posted limit as well as segments with large numbers or rates of speed-related crashes.
 - Karen Smythe noted that there are several roads with speeding in the Village of Red Hook not listed in the report. Nina Leonard (DCTC) replied that the report might not reflect current experiences since it uses 2024 data. Emily added that the report looks at the speed at which 85% of drivers are at or below, so there are cases where a small subset of drivers are speeding, which is not captured. There might be other ways to capture cases of rare but extreme speeding.

6. Planning Updates

- a. [Coordinated Plan](#): The Coordinated Plan focuses on the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities.
 - i. The final draft plan is in the final stages of development after a review by the Advisory Committee. Next steps include a final public meeting in July, along with a public

comment period, and then adoption at the August Policy Board meeting.

- b. [Traffic Count Program](#): The 2026 Traffic Count program is in process. We estimate about 200 counts for the program, with 35 school zone counts scheduled for next week. We are utilizing cameras for most counts this year, with tube counts as needed. Any requests for traffic counts or questions about the program can be directed to Nina Leonard (DCTC).
 - Mark clarified that the cameras do not record any personal information; we are strictly gathering vehicle counts, speeds, and classifications (vehicle types). Karen Symthe asked what the cameras look like. Nina stated that she is sending out a notice about the camera counts with a photo of the contractor's cameras. Emily added that the camera counts are safer since the installation crew can stay out of the roadway.

7. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Planning Committee – Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 10 am

5/27/2026 Meeting Participants:

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