

# Dutchess County Transportation Council

## **Planning Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 22, 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. **Bridge Investment Program:** Mark DeBald (DCTC) announced that, as part of the Infrastructure Act, the [Bridge Investment Program](#) notice of funding opportunity was announced on June 10<sup>th</sup>. It will provide \$2.5 billion annually over five years. The program is dedicated to bridge improvements, but grants can be used for bridge planning and culverts as well. There is a Large Bridge Project grant, but what might be of interest to municipalities in Dutchess County is the Bridge Project grant. The minimum project cost is lower, and projects can be bundled in one application to meet the minimum cost requirements. Applications are due September 8<sup>th</sup>. DCTC staff is available to assist municipalities or agencies that are interested in applying.
  
  - b. **Watch Out For Me videos:** Emily announced that the County's Complete Streets Committee partnered with Forge Media Project, a youth-based video production non-profit. Forge Media Project produced four pedestrian, bicycle, and traffic safety videos, which they also wrote and acted in. All of the videos are posted on the [Watch Out For Me campaign website](#), as well as on Dutchess County Government social media accounts. Emily encouraged everyone to watch and share the videos to spread the word. Two of the videos were played during the meeting, [Cross with Care](#) and [Be Safe, Be Smart, Be Seen](#). Members of the group praised the videos. Michael Grattini (DC Public Transit) shared that he posted the videos and received good responses.
  
  - c. **Cornell Local Roads Program:** There are some upcoming training opportunities in Dutchess County through the [Cornell Local Roads Program](#): Safe Systems, which is the new approach to safety from the Federal Government, on August 16<sup>th</sup>, and Work Zone Traffic Control on October 20<sup>th</sup>. A third training opportunity which will be offered virtually is Federal Aid 101 on September 13<sup>th</sup> -- this would be helpful for municipalities/agencies that are considering applying for federal funding.
  
  - d. **Hudson River Valley Greenway:** The [Hudson River Valley Greenway](#) has grants available for trail construction, planning/design, or rehab/improvement of trails. The available funding for these grants has increased over previous years. Applications for this round are due September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

#### **4. Old Business**

- a. DCTC logo project: Two design concepts for the new logo were shared with the committee and Emily asked for feedback. Several attendees gave their opinions and suggestions. A slido poll for each set of logos was also conducted. Emily explained that the draft designs will continue to be refined before a final decision is made.
- b. Vulnerability Assessment RFP: Six proposals for the Vulnerability Assessment were received and four firms were interviewed. We expect to select a consultant this month. The consultant will examine how climate change will impact our transportation system and infrastructure including bridges, roads, rail lines, etc. It is intended to be an online report with interactive maps. It will help municipalities and agencies address the various effects of climate change, including the effects it can have on vulnerable communities.
- c. On-Call Transportation Planning Support RFP: The RFP for on-call consultant transportation planning support has been issued and responses are due June 24<sup>th</sup>. The consultant will provide technical assistance with planning studies; it will be a multi-year contract. This will allow for more flexibility since a separate RFP will not be needed for individual studies. More information will be shared as the project moves forward.

#### **5. New Business**

- a. SFY 2021-2022 UPWP Performance & Expenditure Report: MPOs are required to produce a fiscal year-end expenditure report for the state fiscal year Planning Program, which shows the tasks that were accomplished and how much was spent on those tasks compared to what was budgeted. Mark shared a table of the DCTC planning tasks and budgets for 2021-2022. Highlights from the past year included the adoption of Moving Dutchess Forward, the completion of the Poughkeepsie 9.44.55 study, completion of the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan, a Safety Assessment in Clinton, and the annual traffic count program. Mark noted that FTA funds were zeroed out and there were more savings than expected from our FHWA funds.
- b. SFY 2022-2023 UPWP Amendment: Funds were added across tasks in the UPWP because of more savings than anticipated from the 2021-2022 UPWP and because additional funds for FTA planning work were received. This requires an amendment to the UPWP. A notice for public comments was announced on June 17<sup>th</sup> with comments due July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- c. Regional Transit Funding (ARPA & CRRSAA): Approximately \$69 million was approved by Congress in last year's ARPA and CRRSAA relief packages for transit services in our region. A working agreement was reached between Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties, NYSDOT, and MTA on how to suballocate the funds. A formula based on 2018 operating data was used to make the suballocations. However, since some private transit operators are still using CARES money, some of the funding is being reserved for

future allocations once needs are identified. Mark shared tables which showed how the funds will be allocated. A resolution must be passed to codify the suballocations. Michael Grattini asked if CRRSAA funds are for operating costs only or if they can be used for capital projects. Mark replied that he thinks they can be used for capital projects, but he will double check [Note: Mark confirmed that CRRSAA funds can be used for capital and operating costs].

- d. Draft FFY 2020-2024 TIP Amendment #5: The federal fiscal year will end soon, so an amendment will be made to right-size the 2020-2024 TIP before the year ends. The TIP amendment proposes changes to highway projects. Since the project costs of the Fishkill Avenue project in Beacon have increased by more than 25%, an amendment is required. Another proposed change is to move the Teller Avenue project in Beacon to FFY 2023 to offset the cost increase of the Fishkill Avenue project. Lastly, a new BRIDGE NY project will be added: the Saw Kill Bridge reconstruction in the Town of Red Hook.

Sandra Jobson (NYSDOT) asked if there were any changes to the Carol Drive Bridge project in East Fishkill. Mark responded that it was accidentally omitted from the presentation, but it is in the TIP strip. For this Off-System Bridge project, construction will be moved from FFY 2023 to FFY 2022. It also had significant cost increases and funds were offset from other another delayed project to make the move possible.

Public comments on TIP Amendment #5 are due on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The DCTC will process an email ballot to voting members since time is of the essence. Hopefully that will happen in mid-July.

- e. Upcoming FFY 2023-2027 TIP: We are working on the TIP narrative, which will summarize the capital program. A joint air quality conformity statement with NYMTC and OCTC is also in progress. We did provide the interagency consultation group with a draft list of projects. The TIP will be approved at an in-person meeting (likely at Locust Grove) on August 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 pm. Other actions such as the Regional Transit allocations will also be considered at that meeting. The TIP amendment is being processed early because it is time sensitive. The TIP approval date of August 31<sup>st</sup> is in line with several other MPOs. Sandra Jobson asked when the public comment period will take place. Mark responded that the required 30-day comment period will likely begin in late July to end at least one week before voting. The comment period will include the air quality conformity statement as well.

Mark outlined the four main components of the TIP: the State Highway Program, Transit Program, Local Highway Program (Formula), and Local Highway Program (non-formula) and gave a brief description of each. He also showed the current program listings and gave a brief explanation of the acronyms and how to read the TIP. The projects on the TIP will be shown on the [TIP Viewer](#) after the TIP is finalized.

Mark showed that there is over \$111 million available in federal funds: \$35 million for highway and \$76 million for transit. STBG Large Urban includes \$12.4 million plus a roll in of \$0.237 million; STBG Off System Bridge includes \$4.2 million. Most of the formula

funds are programmed. 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 \$2.959 million in STBG Large Urban and \$0.575 million in the Off System Bridge program for the latter part of the TIP. Mark showed the balances between the programmed projects and the planning targets for the two funding programs. Overall, the two programs are balanced over the four-year STIP period. On the transit side, there is an overall shortfall, but the target does not include the pending suballocations from ARPA or CRRSAA, which will be included once approved. It is reasonable to assume that the shortfall will be made up for.

## 6. Planning Updates

- a. Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan: Tara Grogan (DCTC) announced that field work in Dover Plains has been completed. The data that we gathered was compiled into maps, after which we met with the project task force to review the preliminary findings. Recommendations will be drafted next. Public outreach is also planned during Dover Day in September.
- b. Village of Rhinebeck Route 9 Complete Streets Assessment: The Complete Streets Assessment in the Village of Rhinebeck, which is focused on how to improve the northern and southern gateways into the Village, is underway. We shared preliminary graphics and discussed options with the Village. We have a meeting with NYSDOT Region 8 on July 8<sup>th</sup> to further discuss the options.
- c. Arlington Parking Study: We are working with the Town of Poughkeepsie and the Arlington Business Improvement District to inventory parking in Arlington. They seek to learn how much parking is available in the area and how well it is used. Ian Wickstead (DCTC intern) used GIS to inventory existing parking, researched the Town code to learn about parking restrictions, and did field work to confirm the data. The next phase will be to collect use information. This study could become a template for other parking studies once the methodology is set.
- d. Traffic Count Program: Tara shared that we are currently waiting for the contractor to finalize the schedule and then begin the counts. When the schedule is set, Tara will notify municipalities about the counts two weeks in advance. The data from NYSDOT's 2020-2021 traffic counts is now available on our [Traffic Data](#) viewer. We will also examine speed and volume trends from before COVID through the present to identify any patterns. A new RFP for the traffic count program will also be issued later this year.

There was a question in the slido Q&A which asked if the Dutchess County airport will be included in the Vulnerability Assessment. Mark responded that as a major transportation facility, it will be included. Oluseye Folarin (MTA) asked if the policy board meeting will be exclusively in person. Mark responded that it will be exclusively in person.

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

**6/22/2022 Meeting Participants:**

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