

Dutchess County Transportation Council

Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 23, 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. [Recreational Trails Program \(RTP\) funding](#)

Mark informed attendees about a new funding opportunity: The Recreational Trails Program, or RTP, provides federal funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational uses. Eligible applicants include municipalities and pre-qualified not-for-profits. The deadline to submit is July 30th, and the process goes through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). There is a \$25,000 (federal) minimum grant for small projects, and a \$250,000 (federal) maximum grant for large projects. For equipment only, \$5,000 (federal) awards are available. Mark offered interested parties to contact the DCTC if they have questions or require additional information.
 - b. [ADA Transition Plan webinar](#)

Mark shared information about a free webinar series from the FHWA that focuses on ADA transition plans for Local Public Agencies (LPA). Of particular interest to attendees is the July 14th webinar, *LPA Experiences in Transition Plan Implementation*, which will highlight how some communities are improving access for individuals with disabilities.
3. **Public Participation** – Mark provided an opportunity for members to share announcements or questions; there were none.
4. **New Business** – Mark shared several updates, including an overview of the five draft resolutions that will be voted on at the next DCTC Meeting. The meeting will be in-person, and is scheduled for Tuesday, July 27th at 1:30 p.m. at Locust Grove Estate. When available, meeting materials will be posted on [consolidated calendar](#) and sent to Council members. Mark reviewed each of the draft resolutions:
 - a. Draft Resolution #21-04: Resolution to adopt the DCTC’s new long-range metropolitan transportation plan, [Moving Dutchess Forward](#).
 - b. Draft Resolution #21-05: Resolution to adopt the [Poughkeepsie Ozone Nonattainment Area Transportation Conformity Determination Statement](#). Mark noted that this is a requirement when adopting a new plan, and that the conformity statement is being done in concert with the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) and the Orange County Transportation Council (OCTC).

- c. Draft Resolution #21-06: Resolution to approve allocation of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 formula funds for regional transit projects. Mark added the following information about this resolution and the recent Mid-Hudson Valley TMA FTA Section 5307 Call for Projects:

Mark explained that there was \$15 million available in transit project funding for the DCTC, OCTC, and UCTC. Five applications were received and went through a process of eligibility review and screening criteria. Although all applications were determined to be eligible, two did not meet the screening criteria: the Newburgh-Beacon connector project, and an East Fishkill sidewalk improvement project. Resolution #21-06 recommends the remaining three projects for funding:

- i. Dutchess County Public Transit (DCPT) Facility Rehabilitation – submitted a total grant request of \$5.535 million, which includes various preventative maintenance, repairs, and improvements for rehabilitation of the DCPT bus facility. The TMA MPOs recommend approval of the total grant request (\$4.428 million).
- ii. Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Harmon to Poughkeepsie Signal Improvement – submitted a total grant request of \$15 million for the Railroad Force Account phase of a \$198 million signal and communications improvement project on Metro-North’s Hudson line. The TMA MPOs recommend approval of a portion of the grant request (\$4.180 million).
- iii. Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) Electric Bus and Storage Facility – submitted a total grant request of \$5 million, which includes the purchase of electric buses and design work for a new bus storage facility. The TMA MPOs recommend approval of the total grant request (\$4.000 million).

Oluseye Folarin (MTA) added that the MTA signal improvement project aims to attract more passengers and improve efficiency. It is a large and complex project to which the MTA is committed. He asked when the award letters are expected to go out. Mark said that letters should go out in the next week.

- d. Draft Resolution #21-07: Resolution to approve an amendment to the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). TIP Amendment #20-04 adds five new federally funded projects: repaving the Taconic State Parkway in the towns of Pleasant Valley and Clinton, repaving Route 9 from Route 9D to Route 113 (Spackenkill Road) in the Town of Poughkeepsie, purchasing two support vehicles and maintenance equipment for Dutchess County Public Transit (DCPT), purchasing bus maintenance diagnostic equipment and software for DCPT, and bus facility improvements for DCPT. The 15-day public comment period will end on July 16th.
- e. Draft Resolution #21-08: Resolution to endorse new safety performance targets established by DCPT in their Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTSAP).

David Ray (T/Hyde Park) asked for clarification of attendance requirements at the July voting meeting. Mark confirmed that the meeting is in-person, so the presence of all voting members is requested. David replied that he may be designated to vote on behalf of Supervisor Rohr. Oluseye Folarin (MTA) asked about how to obtain meeting

materials. Mark confirmed that the resolutions and meeting packet will be emailed, and likely mailed to council members for good measure

5. [Moving Dutchess Forward \(2021 Transportation Plan\)](#)

a. [Plan update & schedule](#)

Mark noted that the draft plan is complete and available for review. The newest website content includes our [Goal 4 – Invest section](#) and [map](#), [System Performance Report](#), [Performance Measures](#), and [Vision Statement](#).

b. [Public engagement](#)

Mark reviewed DCTC's most recent public engagement efforts:

- i. [Outreach to local governments](#) – We will continue to work with Town boards to spread the word about the plan. Tomorrow, we are providing a brief presentation at East Fishkill's June Town board meeting. Those interested in hosting our presentation should [contact us](#) for more information.
- ii. [Public comment period](#) (open through July 16th) – Mark encouraged attendees to use this comment period to review the draft plan and reach out to us with comments and questions. Comments can be submitted through our website, by email, phone, mail, and even fax. Mark also noted that we can provide printed plan material if anyone is in need.
- iii. [Virtual public meeting](#) – We held a Zoom meeting on June 16th to review the final draft plan and gather public feedback. About 30 people attended the meeting, which was a good turnout compared to in-person meeting attendance for past plans. Meeting materials, including a copy of the presentation, a video recording, and meeting summary, are available on the [Resource Library](#).

Mark asked members of the group to share feedback if they attended the virtual public meeting. Caitlin Holt (DOT) commented that she attended both public meetings for the long-range plan, and thought they went well and garnered good feedback. Mark replied that we had more participation than with traditional in-person meetings and may consider using a hybrid (virtual + in-person) approach in the future.

c. [Draft Plan Overview](#)

Mark provided a brief review of the four goals of *Moving Dutchess Forward*:

- i. [Learn](#) – Prepare a transportation system that can anticipate and adapt to changes in the population, economy, technology, climate, and travel behavior.
- ii. [Assess](#) – Provide safe and convenient access for all people to housing, jobs, goods and service, and recreational amenities, regardless of age, ability, race, income, or mode of transportation.
- iii. [Advocate](#) – Promote smart transportation and land use policies and practices to remove barriers to access and support economic opportunity, environmental preservation, and improved quality of life.
- iv. [Invest](#) – Make transformative investments in our regional transportation system while maintaining fiscal constraint and leveraging private investment.

d. [Invest](#)

Emily Dozier (DCTC) provided more details on the final section of the plan – Invest. She briefly reviewed [how transportation funding works](#), [how much we expect to be available through 2045](#), and how much we expect will be needed for [basic infrastructure maintenance](#) and for [transformative investments](#), noting that our estimates are extremely conservative, assuming flat funding but increasing costs. Emily then reviewed our fiscal constraint table which summarizes funding availability and needs, noting that we expect to cover our projected deficit through new funding opportunities that could not be predicted in our estimations.

Tara Grogan (DCTC) then provided a brief overview of our [Transformative Investments](#) discussion. She noted that we split this piece into two sets of recommendations: Transformative Packages, and Transformative Projects. This section of the plan is accompanied by an [interactive map](#) that describes the various packages, and shows locations, pictures, and details of various projects.

i. [Transformative Packages](#)

Tara briefly reviewed the list of transformative packages, which are envisioned as ongoing projects on our capital or planning program, intended to address the trends, barriers, and needs identified in the plan. They also make up the bulk of our proposed investment. The 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. She noted that there are more details and examples available on our website.

ii. [Transformative Projects](#)

Emily briefly reviewed the list of transformative projects, which were selected based on how well they address barriers to safe and reliable access, basic needs, and equity. The 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 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. Website content includes project details, costs, sponsors, and funding sources.

6. Project Updates

a. [Arlington Main Street Redesign](#)

Mark reported that we are working with DPW and the Town of Poughkeepsie to begin implementing recommendations of this plan to make Main Street in Arlington a more Complete Street.

- b. [CR 69 at Henry St in Village of Pawling](#)
Mark shared that a project recommendation from our [Village of Pawling Pedestrian Plan](#) is nearly complete. DPW is in the final stages of extending curbs and marking a crosswalk at the Henry St/CR69-Dutcher Ave intersection in Pawling. They added sidewalks with ADA ramps and tactile pads and are finishing up the striping for the crosswalk. Mark noted that this is a great example of an inexpensive improvement with meaningful impacts for safety. Mark expressed thanks for DPW's work on this and other projects.
- c. [Poughkeepsie 9.44.55](#)
Mark noted that we have been working with our consultant and are preparing to go public on some draft design concepts for the Arterials. Public outreach for this phase will likely consist of a self-paced online presentation.
- d. [Traffic Count Program](#)
We are waiting on a final schedule from our contractor which we will share with municipalities when available. [Contact Tara](#) if you have questions.
- e. [Mid-Hudson Valley TMA](#)
We are continuing to collaborate with our regional freight plan working group. We've been researching what types of data are available as we consider freight movements, commodity types, reliability, restrictions, and safety.

Mark also noted that we are closely following the INVEST Act, would reauthorize the FAST Act, and the potential for a large infrastructure bill, the American Jobs Plan.

Emily asked if NYSDOT could confirm information about new bike/ped coordinators for Region 8. Caitlin confirmed that yes, they have changed. The primary contact is Mohammad S. Islam, or 'Mo', and secondary is Steve Macavery. Sandra requested that she be copied on communications.

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](#), and to reach out with questions and comments.

- 7. Upcoming Voting Meeting: Tue., July 27, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. at Locust Grove Estate (this will be an in-person meeting in accordance with State guidance)**

6/23/2021 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
Mary Aldrich	DCDPW	maldrich@dutchessny.gov	845-486-2906
Caitlin Holt	NYS DOT	caitlin.holt@dot.ny.gov	845-413-2314
Harriet Lewis	NYS DOT	harriet.lewis@dot.ny.gov	518-485-0196
Sandra Jobson	NYS DOT	sandra.jobson@dot.ny.gov	845-475-5867
Robert Mortell	NYMTC-MHSTCC	robert.mortell@dot.ny.gov	845-431-5710
Oluseye Folarin	MTA	ofolarin@mtahq.org	212-878-7080
David Ray	T/Hyde Park	dpr5285@icloud.com	845-518-4299
Don Beer	T/Poughkeepsie	dbeer@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov	845-790-4736
Herb Litts	GPI	hlitts@gpinet.com	
Shelly Johnston	Creighton Manning Engineering	sjohnston@cmellp.com	518-689-1814