

Planning Committee Meeting (Virtual)

Wednesday, June 24, 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. Interested municipalities can reach out to DCTC to discuss project ideas. Key points include:
 - Local municipalities can apply online; applications are due July 2, 2026. (later extended to July 10)
 - 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. **Call for Planning Proposals:** Later 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](#)). Proposals will be selected in the Fall.
 - Jessica Sarrantonio (Destination Dutchess) asked whether DCTC could develop bike lanes with municipalities. Emily replied that DCTC does active transportation planning studies and noted there has been interest in Beacon for a bicycle plan.
 - iii. **BUILD America 250:** With the expiration of IIJA, Congress is developing its next surface transportation reauthorization bill. The current proposal, BUILD America 250, includes the following highlights:
 - MPO planning funds increase
 - For federal planning funds, the required local match is reduced to 10%
 - Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program stays
 - A new funding program is created for bridges
 - A new program, STAG, replaces BUILD/RAISE
 - Shift to formula funding (90%) and less discretionary funds (10%)
 - Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) is eliminated

3. Partner Updates

- a. Fred Wells (East Fishkill) introduced himself as a planner and a member of the citizens committee for the East Fishkill Master Plan implementation, which includes transportation initiatives.

4. Old Business

- a. FFY 2026-2030 TIP Amendments: Two proposed amendments to the capital program will be presented to the Policy Board:
 - i. #26-02 (Highway): Adds a NYSDOT paving project for the TSP in Milan and a bundled culvert project for locations on State highways in Dutchess. The two projects total over \$27 million.
 - ii. #26-03 (Transit): Adds the purchase of a new DCPT fare collection system totaling over \$630,00.
 - o Jessica noted that the ability to use credit cards and smartphones to pay for the bus will be a boost to tourism since visitors do not always carry cash. She asked about the timeline for implementation. Amanda Sammon (County Public Transit) noted that the system should be ready to use by the end of the summer or early fall.

5. New Business

- a. [2026 Transportation Plan update](#): The Plan is our strategic vision to improve transportation in Dutchess County through 2050. It sets our long-term goals for the system and priorities for federal transportation funding. We are on track for adoption on August 6, 2026.
 - i. Public Engagement: The second survey has closed, and we are reviewing the responses. A third and final virtual public meeting will be held on July 22, 2026. Once the full draft plan is online, there will be 30-day comment period ending July 31, 2026.
 - ii. As in 2021, the Plan unfolds over four goals – Learn, Assess, Advocate, and Invest. The final part of the plan, [Invest](#), will be posted shortly and offers a fiscally constrained list of recommended projects.
 - iii. Invest: The Invest section focuses on maintaining existing infrastructure and services to match anticipated future funding, while including illustrative projects with transformative potential if funding could be secured. The Map viewer will be updated soon with the investment priorities and illustrative projects.
 - o The Invest section focuses on three funding buckets: federal, state, and county/local, used for three general purposes: highway (which includes roads, bridges, sidewalks, and shared-use paths), transit, and planning.
 - o Federal funds are administered by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). These are complimented by state, county, and local matches in addition to other related funding sources.
 - o We anticipate over \$2 billion in funding will be available across the entire planning period, with the largest amount coming from highway funds. We estimated future funding by reviewing our current 5-year capital program (TIP) and planning program (UPWP). We assumed flat funding over the planning

period. We also reviewed recent trends in transit revenue and state transit operating assistance, and previous awards for competitive funding programs.

- Investment Priorities: The Plan emphasizes maintaining a state of good repair, with the understanding that it could be amended if our financial forecast changes. There are eight investment priorities: Road Maintenance & Operations, Bridge Maintenance & Replacements, Transportation Safety Improvements, Sidewalks & Other Walking Improvements, Rail Trail Maintenance, Bus Service Maintenance & Operations, Train Service Maintenance & Operations, Congestion Management & Traffic Operations.
- Michael Welti (T/Poughkeepsie) asked how redesigning the arterials would factor into these priorities. Mark DeBald (DCTC) replied that it is reflected in our list of Illustrative Projects, given the fiscal constraints of the Plan. Jessica asked if there was any prioritization among the infrastructure rated as poor. Mark replied that the Plan doesn't include that level of detail. Emily added that our local sidewalk studies look at Town and Village centers to develop a list of priorities.
- Mark noted that we assumed three percent inflation, which dramatically affected our financial planning. Comparing our needed funding with expected available funding, there is currently a shortfall of nearly \$400 million, with the most significant impact on bus transit. Amanda noted that our projections align with what Public Transit is seeing.
- Illustrative Projects: We outlined eight unfunded priority projects that could greatly improve safety, reliability, and access to basic needs – Market St Two-Way Redesign, Human Services Transportation, Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail, Route 44/55 Arterials Redesign, Route 9/44/55 Interchange Improvements, Redesigning State Routes through Town/Village Centers, and Zero Emission Bus Fleet.
- Jessica asked how the DCTC will move these projects forward, whether through grant-writing or community advocacy efforts. Mark replied that although the DCTC doesn't typically write grants, we assist agencies in doing so. Emily added that the DCTC can advance transformative projects through our planning work and studies that can support grant applications.

6. Planning Updates

- a. [Coordinated Plan](#): The Coordinated Plan focuses on the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities. The final draft plan will be posted shortly, to be followed by 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. We are using 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).

7. Upcoming Meetings:

- Moving Dutchess Forward Virtual Public Meeting – Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at 12pm
- Planning Committee – Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at 10 am
- Policy Board Meeting (In-Person) - Thursday, August 6, 2026 at 1:30 pm at The Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home, 4079 Albany Post Rd (Route 9), Hyde Park, NY 12538.

6/24/2026 Meeting Participants:

Name	Organization	Email	Phone Number
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