

# Dutchess County Transportation Council

## **Planning Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 27, 2022**

**10:00 a.m. via Teams**

### **Meeting Summary**

**1. Introductions** – Mark Debald (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and led introductions. See attached list. He also briefly went over the meeting ground rules.

**2. Announcements**

- a. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA): Mark explained that while there may be large sums of money available and new programs created, the IIJA has not changed some of the basic rules for using federal funds. Each of these new programs has its own eligibility criteria and evaluation processes as well. Federal rules, including local match requirements, have not changed. Typically, the requirement is 80% federal funds and 20% local funds. In some cases, it can be a 50/50 split. The new law does authorize a large amount of transportation money but will take time to filter down to agencies or to be offered through national or statewide competitions.

Jeff Aman (public attendee) asked what is meant by “local” in the term “local match.” Mark explained that it refers to the funds that a municipality must contribute to a federally funded project. State funds may sometimes be used to help meet this local match requirements, usually up to 15% of the cost of the project – however, this is done on a project-by-project basis and is not guaranteed.

Mark reminded the group about some of the new federal programs that are now accepting applications, including the Bridge Investment, Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A), and Reconnecting Communities programs. He also shared deadlines for the programs and a link to where all the Notices of Funding Opportunities can be found. DCTC staff is available to assist municipalities or agencies that are interested in applying. Since we are only in the first year of these five-year programs, there will be opportunities to apply in the future. Notices of funding opportunities will be shared via email as available.

- b. TAP/CMAQ award announcements: The Governor has announced the awards for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) improvement Program. Both are federal programs that support pedestrian and bicycle projects with the goal of reducing single occupant vehicles and lowering total emissions. Dutchess County received awards totaling over \$13M for four projects: NYSDOT received a \$5M award to construct a roundabout Hooker Ave & Raymond Ave in the Town of Poughkeepsie; East Fishkill received two awards totaling \$6.8M to construct off-set roundabouts at Routes 82 & 376 and for pedestrian improvements on Route 52; and Hyde Park received \$1.1M to add sidewalks and lighting on Main Street. These projects will be added to the TIP as an amendment after the TIP update.

- c. Cornell Local Roads Program: Mark reminded the group about upcoming training opportunities in Dutchess County through the [Cornell Local Roads Program](#). The Safe Systems Workshop, which will be held on August 16<sup>th</sup>, needs attendees or it may be cancelled, so Mark encouraged agencies to send staff. He noted that it is open to highway superintendents, DPW staff, and planners. A Work Zone Traffic Control Workshop will also be held on October 20<sup>th</sup> and a third training opportunity, which will be offered virtually, is the Federal Aid 101 workshop on September 13<sup>th</sup> – this could be helpful for municipalities/agencies that are considering applying for federal funding.

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

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

- a. Recent DCTC Actions: Mark thanked the DCTC voting members for their prompt response and approval of the following actions:
  - i. An amendment to the Planning Program which added funds to the UPWP.
  - ii. An amendment to the current TIP which added new projects and funding to existing projects.
- b. DCTC logo and style guide: Tara shared a draft version of the logo that was chosen. There may still be a few minor edits to come, but it is a good representation of what the logo will look like. The contractor, Drake Creative, is currently working on a style guide for letterhead, reports, PowerPoint presentation slides, etc., which were shared with the group. Tara encouraged the group to share their thoughts on the logo and style guide.
- c. Vulnerability Assessment RFP: Mark shared that a consultant for the vulnerability assessment has been selected and they are currently working on the scope of services and the contract. The DCTC is also aligning the vulnerability assessment with the County's Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) and Climate Action Plan. Accordingly, we are working with County Planning and OCIS on a coordinated planning effort that will develop an engaging online format. The work will likely start in the fall and information will be shared with the group as it becomes available.

Mike Welti (Town of Poughkeepsie) asked if MTA is aware of the assessment or if they will participate. Mark responded yes and that Oluseye Folarin, who represents MTA, is attending this meeting. In addition, MTA would be represented on the assessment's steering committee along with other key stakeholders.

- d. On-Call Transportation Planning Support RFP: We received seven proposals for this RFP and are still in the review process. Mark thanked the consultant community for the responses. Selected on-call consultants will provide technical assistance for in-house planning studies and assessments. It will be a multi-year contract and it will help us to react more quickly to our planning needs.

## 5. New Business

- a. Federal Transit Funding: We recently received draft allocation amounts for Federal Transit funding from the Section 5307 and 5339 programs, both for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 and 2022. The programs support local and regional transit operators and the suballocations are calculated using an agreed upon formula from NYSDOT. Mark shared tables of the draft suballocations, which are currently under review by the three local MPOs. For Section 5307, there is a concern in Ulster County about Adirondack Trailways and their transit needs. As a result, the MPOs are not in full agreement on the division of funds among private operators that provide commuter services. We expect an agreement soon, which will hopefully be done in time for our August 31<sup>st</sup> Policy Board meeting. For Section 5339, Mark explained that the total allocation won't change, but the suballocations to each region may as we refine the formula inputs.

Oluseye Folarin (MTA) asked when the suballocation resolutions would be voted on, since MTA would like to use the money in a 2022 grant application. He noted Orange County is planning to move up their Section 5307 resolution vote to August 9<sup>th</sup>. Mark responded that if the numbers are finalized, the resolution to approve the suballocations will be voted on at the August 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.

- b. Draft FFY 2023-2027 TIP: Work on the TIP has progressed nicely and the public notice for the draft was issued on Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. The public comment period will end on August 24<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a virtual public meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm. The goal is to approve the TIP at the Policy Board meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup>. A draft Air Quality Conformity Statement is forthcoming and we intend to hold its comment period from July 29<sup>th</sup>- August 30<sup>th</sup>. The Conformity Statement shows that the projects proposed in the TIP will not worsen regional air quality and allow us to meet national air quality standards.

Project highlights for the TIP include five bridge replacements: Route 82 in East Fishkill, Garden St, Mansion St., and Washington St. in the City of Poughkeepsie, and the Saw Kill Bridge in the Town of Red Hook. Other projects include the Teller Ave. reconstruction in the City of Beacon, and the replacement of 33 buses for Dutchess County Public Transit. Chris White (City of Beacon) asked if DC Public Transit would consider purchasing an electric bus for the loop route in Beacon. Mark responded that this is being looked at by DCPT, though it's unlikely any of their 2026-2027 bus purchases will be electric.

Mark briefly demonstrated the TIP viewer for the group. The TIP viewer shows the locations of the projects as well as basic information about them.

Mark then shared tables that summarized federal highway and transit funding in the draft TIP. Highway funding, which includes NYSDOT projects in Dutchess County, totals \$114.5M over the five years. The numbers on the table are for federal funds and do not include local matches. Transit funding totals \$76.2M over the five years and reflects an increase from the previous TIP.

## 6. Planning Updates

- a. High-end speeding analysis: Tara Grogan (DCTC) announced that the high-end speeding analysis is still in draft form and that it will be posted on the website when it is complete. The report defines high-end speeding as where the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed on a road segment is greater than ten miles over the speed limit for that segment. The analysis focused on county and local roads and showed that 15% of the 816 road segments analyzed had high-end speeding. Of those, ten segments had speeds at least 17.5 miles per hour over the speed limit. Tara shared a pie chart which showed a breakdown of how much over the speed limit drivers in the 15% of segments were driving. Tara shared a table showing the ten road segments where speeding was 17.5 or more miles per hour over the speed limit.

The information will be provided to municipalities and local law enforcement for targeted enforcement and to help identify priority areas. The data was also cross analyzed with speed-related crash data. Tara shared tables showing the road segments with the highest numbers of speed related crashes and the highest crash rates. The percentage of crashes due to unsafe speed did not seem to change due to COVID. However, one significant finding related to COVID was that the fatality rate for all crash types almost doubled in 2020.

- b. Traffic Count Program: Tara announced that traffic counts are underway. They began in northwestern Dutchess during the week of July 18<sup>th</sup>. A new RFP for the traffic count program will be issued later this year.
- c. Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan: Tara shared that the recommendations are ready to be reviewed with the project's Task Force at a meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Public outreach is planned for Dover Day on September 17<sup>th</sup>. This study as well as other projects and studies are on the DCTC's website on the [Local Planning Initiatives](#) page.
- d. Village of Rhinebeck Route 9 Complete Streets Assessment: We are working with NYSDOT and the Village on the draft recommendations. We expect to then work with the Village's engineer to develop design concepts.
- e. Arlington Parking Study: Ian Wickstead (DCTC Intern) has been working on the Arlington parking study in the Town of Poughkeepsie, to help the Town and Business Improvement District evaluate parking capacity and use. Ian set up a data collection tool in ArcGIS Field Maps which allows the user to collect parking data in map form using a smartphone. The goal is to have interns from Vassar College collect data in the fall.

Michael Welti thanked the DCTC for the work done so far in Arlington and asked if a sidewalk study on Spackenkill Road is still planned for later in the year. Mark responded that it is and that it could potentially be the first task assigned to the new on-call consultant.

Oluseye asked if the policy board meeting will be exclusively in person or if there is a provision for attendees to attend virtually. Mark responded that it will be exclusively in person, due to uncertainty about the reliability of the technology at Locust Grove. Oluseye asked for a copy of the agenda well ahead of time, which Mark said that he would provide.

**7. Next Meeting: DCTC Policy Board** (voting members), Wednesday, August 31, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. at Locust Grove Estate (in person). There will be no Planning Committee meeting in August.

**7/27/2022 Meeting Participants:**

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