

Planning Committee Meeting (Virtual)

Wednesday, July 29, 2026
10:00 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: [Greenway Trail Grant Program](#): The Hudson River Valley Greenway opened applications for projects that create or improve recreational land and water trails. Municipalities and non-profits are eligible to apply; a 50/50 match is required. Eligible project types include feasibility studies (max \$50,000), engineering and design (max \$75,000), and capital construction (max \$250,000).
 - b. Upcoming Training: the [Cornell Local Roads Program](#) is hosting a workshop on ‘Solutions for Safer Roads and Streets’ on October 14 in Putnam County. This training is recommended for highway and public works staff.
 - c. Call for Planning Proposals: The DCTC will soon announce applications for transportation planning assistance. Recent examples include the City of Poughkeepsie Speed Limit Study and the City of Beacon Sidewalk Inventory (see also our [Publications page](#)). Proposals will be selected this fall. The DCTC will use federal planning funds to support selected tasks, at no cost to municipalities, though in-kind services and logistical support are typically requested.
 - Karen Bage (Cedarwood Engineering) asked about the requirements once a proposal is selected. Emily clarified that a municipality would need to provide ongoing project coordination and logistical support either through a task force or a single point of contact, help arranging meetings and outreach, and other tasks as needed. We typically also request a resolution of support from the municipality.
3. **Partner Updates – none**
4. **Old Business**
 - a. Call for Safety Projects – We received eight applications for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding to support safety improvement projects. DCTC is meeting with NYSDOT to review the applications and will follow up with each applicant to discuss their application.
 - Dover – Regans Mill Rd/Berkshire Rd intersection redesign
 - Hyde Park – Pine Woods Rd Improvements

- East Fishkill – Unity Plaza pedestrian signal
- T/Fishkill – Solar powered radar speed signs
- T/Pawling – Bundy Hill Rd safety improvement
- C/Poughkeepsie – Speed reduction project
- T/Poughkeepsie – Van Wagner Rd safety improvements
- NYSDOT – Intersection pedestrian safety enhancements
 - Karen Smythe (V/Red Hook) asked about the locations in the NYSDOT project. Emily noted that the NYSDOT application, using previous DCTC studies, proposes pedestrian safety improvements on state highways that travel through town centers and villages, such as the Villages of Rhinebeck, Millerton, and Wappingers Falls, and the Towns of Dover and Pine Plains.

5. New Business

- a. Federal Transit Funding: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) distributes funding on an annual basis to urban areas. The funds are suballocated across the urban area, split between Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties. The [FFY 2026 allocations](#) to the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh Urban Area decreased slightly from 2025: Section 5307 (bus and rail) funding decreased by 2% to \$18.2 million total and Section 5339 (bus) funding decreased by 3% to \$1.07 million total.
- b. 2026 Transportation Plan update: We are at the end of our long-range transportation plan update. [Moving Dutchess Forward](#) serves as a 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. Like the 2021 version, the Plan follows four steps – Learn, Assess, Advocate, and Invest.
 - i. Public Engagement: To publicize the Plan and engage with the community, we held two pop-ups: the Dutchess Outreach Food Pantry (July 9) and the East Fishkill Farmer’s Market (July 18). We also held a final virtual public meeting on July 22.
 - Tiana Grimes (MTA) asked about the due date for comments. Mark Debald (DCTC) noted that the 30-day comment period ends July 31; comments will be summarized and provided to the Policy Board prior to the voting meeting on August 6.
 - ii. Invest: The Invest section focuses on maintaining existing infrastructure and services, due to anticipated future funding. It includes a set of illustrative projects with transformative potential if additional funding could be secured. The [Map Viewer](#) lists the investment priorities and shows these illustrative projects.
 - How much is available: We finetuned our funding assumptions based on feedback from NYSDOT. The new total for anticipated available funds (\$1.8 billion through 2050) is about the same as the 2021 Plan, which presents a challenge given inflation. This is a conservative estimate, as it assumes no increase in funding levels.
 - How much is needed: We estimate nearly \$2.5 billion is needed over the planning period (to 2050) to maintain a state of good repair for transportation infrastructure and services. We assumed 3% annual inflation in our calculations.

Our funding needs have nearly doubled from the 2021 Plan due to rising inflation and growing maintenance needs.

- We established 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, and Congestion Management & Traffic Operations.
- Fiscal Constraint: Comparing the funding needed with the estimated available funding, there are insufficient federal funds to fully maintain infrastructure and services. More funding would be needed, which could come from competitive federal grants or additional state, county, and local funding. Worst-case, if additional funding cannot be secured, service reductions or deferred maintenance would be required to close the gap. However, lower inflation and/or additional federal funding could change the picture.
- Karen Smythe asked whether others are doing similar plans and how the federal government takes these efforts into account. Emily replied that every MPO has a long-range transportation plan. Mark added that we receive feedback on the plan from our federal partners, including the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. Mark also noted that the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations is lobbying on behalf of MPOs in the upcoming infrastructure bill.
- Illustrative Projects: The Plan includes 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.
- Carl Whitehead (T/Poughkeepsie) asked for an update on the Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail considering recent news articles about lawsuits. Emily clarified that the rail trail is still a viable project, MTA still owns the right of way, and the lawsuits are regarding property owners being reimbursed by the federal government for the value of their land. The lawsuits do not directly affect a potential trail project.
- Public Comments: Feedback to date has centered on bus service and maintenance, traffic safety and enforcement, roadway and congestion improvements, and walkable communities and bicycle infrastructure, with specific mentions of support for the Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail and the Beacon-Newburgh ferry.
- Carl agreed with the continued community support for the Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail and the mention of congestion in Fishkill. Emily noted that Route 52/Main St functions as both a State route and a main street, which presents conflicting goals. However, the congestion causes slow speeds that also increase road safety.

6. Planning Updates

- a. [Coordinated Plan](#): The Coordinated Plan focuses on the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities. The draft plan is open for public comment until July 31. Any feedback will be summarized and presented to the Policy Board ahead of the voting meeting on August 6.
 - i. The plan identifies four overall gaps/needs: geographic (service area), temporal (service hours), institutional (stakeholder communication and data sharing), and informational (communications and marketing).
 - ii. The plan proposes 7 actions to progress the recommended strategies:
 - Develop a Coordinated Transportation Communications and Information Program
 - Establish a Mobility Coordination Committee
 - Establish a Mobility Management Function
 - Improve Data Sharing and Technology Coordination
 - Improve Rural Mobility Transportation Options
 - Explore a Coordinated Transportation Brokerage Pilot
 - Support Workforce Development and Shared Driver Resources
- b. [Traffic Count Program](#): The 2026 Traffic Count program is in progress. We will gather data from approximately 200 locations. We are using cameras to collect data for most of the locations this year, with tube counts as needed for vehicle counts. We are currently accepting requests for pedestrian and bicycle counts.
 - i. Karen Smythe asked if the pedestrian and bicycle counts include e-bikes. Emily noted that it is difficult to tell from a video whether a bike has e-assist or not, but we will confirm with the contractor.

7. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. 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.
- b. Planning Committee – Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 10 am.

7/29/2026 Meeting Participants:

Name	Organization	Email	Phone Number
Emily Dozier	DCTC	edozier@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Mark Debald	DCTC	mdebald@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Nina Leonard	DCTC	nleonard@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Karen Bage	Cedarwood Engineering	kbage@cedarwoodengineering.com	
Shelly Johnston	Creighton Manning Engineering	sjohnston@cmellp.com	518-689-1814
Fred Wells	East Fishkill Resident		
Herb Litts	GPI	hlitts@gpinet.com	845-741-1997
Tiana Grimes	MTA	tigrimes@mtahq.org	212-878-7007
Oluseye Folarin	MTA	ofolarin@mtahq.org	212-878-7080
Josh Schneider	MTA	jschneider@mtahq.org	
Vallon Parsons	MTA	vallon.parsons@mtahq.org	
Allyce Braddy	NYMTC	allyce.braddy@dot.ny.gov	845-431-5936
Caitlin Holt	NYS DOT	caitlin.holt@dot.ny.gov	845-413-2314
Shawn Jackson	NYS DOT	Shawn.Jackson@dot.ny.gov	
Michael Whitton	T/Clinton	townsupervisor@townofclinton.com	845-266-5721
Michael Welti	T/Poughkeepsie	mwelti@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov	845-485-3657
Carl Whitehead	T/Poughkeepsie	carl.h.whitehead@gmail.com	845-758-4715
Karen Smythe	V/Red Hook	mayor@redhooknyvillage.org	845-758-1081