

# Dutchess County Transportation Council

## Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

10:00 a.m.

### Virtual Meeting

#### Meeting Summary

**1. Introductions** – See attached list.

**2. Announcements**

- a. Mark Debald (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting, mentioning that everyone should have received the meeting materials with the email notice. Mark confirmed with the group that including the meeting link with the agenda seemed easier for attendees, and barring any security issues, that we'll continue to do so in the future.
- b. Mark alerted the Committee to a series of virtual workshops being held by the Cornell Local Roads Program this fall.
- c. Mark provided a brief update on federal appropriations and noted that there was not much new to report. From the lobbying angle, several transportation sector advocacy groups issued a joint letter to Congress in support of COVID-related funding for state and local governments, and to extend administrative deadlines for key MPO products such as the long-range transportation plan. Mark noted that our plan is due in March, but we are not likely to finish until June. We would not be able to amend the TIP during any lapse period if the deadline is not extended.
- d. Lastly, Mark noted that NYSDOT still intends to issue a statewide call for projects for the TAP/CMAQ program and the BridgeNY program. We will provide more info as available.

**3. Public Participation** – Mark opened the meeting for any comments or announcements from attendees; none were noted.

**4. Old Business**

- a. FFY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #20-02: Mark advised the Committee that the Amendment was approved by the Council. Mark thanked voting members for their support.
- b. CR 19-Slate Quarry Rd – Mark provided a follow-up on the situation at 735 Slate Quarry. DCDPW contacted the property owner to discuss the situation, and they are having a survey done this fall (probably October) to identify the best solution; it may involve a mix of guiderail, possible elevation work and/or high friction pavement. They should know what will work after the survey. Ray Oberly (Town of Clinton) asked how what could be done to make sure the work happens in 2021. Mark recommended periodically checking with DCDPW and offered that they are invested in seeing it through.
- c. Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan: Mark reminded members that this plan update is ongoing, and that staff is working to send a survey out to relevant agencies. Mr. Oberly and Mark discussed ensuring that rural areas are considered.

## 5. New Business

- a. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
  - i. Mark introduced Shawna Kitzman (FHI), project manager for the plan's public engagement effort. Shawna and Mark presented on plan website design and public engagement options and led a discussion on barriers to basic needs that county residents face (see presentation notes attached).

## 6. Project Updates

- a. [Mid-Hudson Valley TMA Regional Transit Study](#)
  - i. Mark notified the group that the draft final report is being revised by the consultant based on comments provided by the three Mid-Hudson MPOs.
- b. [Poughkeepsie 9.44.55](#)
  - i. Mark updated the group on this plan, stating that the project team is finalizing an online public engagement presentation reviewing the interchange design concepts. The presentation will be made available soon.
- c. [Arlington Main Street Redesign Initiative](#)
  - i. Mark noted that a virtual webinar will be made on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. to review the final redesign concept.
- d. Traffic counts
  - i. Mark noted that we will begin conducting the 2020 count program in September, likely the week of September 14<sup>th</sup>. Luckily, this year's program is on the lighter side, so we expect to complete our planned schedule this year, despite the pause caused by COVID.

## 7. Final announcements

- a. Emily reminded the Committee that Dan Suraci, a Principal at Urban Cycling Solutions and a Complete Streets expert, will be offering a free online training course on complete Streets on September 25<sup>th</sup> from 12-1:30 p.m. Though the webinar will look at examples within the City of Poughkeepsie, it is open to anyone who is interested. The training is funded by the NYS Dept of Health and Dan has done similar trainings around the Hudson Valley.

## 8. Next Meeting: Wed., October 28, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

**Meeting Participants:**

| <b>Name</b>    | <b>Organization</b>  | <b>Email</b>   | <b>Phone</b>                                |
|----------------|----------------------|--|---|
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| Robert Mortell | NYMTC                | <a href="mailto:robert.mortell@dot.ny.gov">robert.mortell@dot.ny.gov</a>               | <a href="tel:845-431-5710">845-431-5710</a> |
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| Ray Oberly     | Town of Clinton      | <a href="mailto:townsupervisor@townofclinton.com">townsupervisor@townofclinton.com</a> | <a href="tel:845-266-5721">845-266-5721</a> |
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| David Ray      | Town of Hyde Park    | <a href="mailto:dpr5285@icloud.com">dpr5285@icloud.com</a>                             | -   |
| Martin Hull    | WSP                  | <a href="mailto:martin.hull@wsp.com">martin.hull@wsp.com</a>                           |   |
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| Kathy Ember    | Planning 4 Places    | <a href="mailto:kember@planning4places.com">kember@planning4places.com</a>             |   |
| Shawna Kitzman | FHI                  | <a href="mailto:skitzman@fhiplan.com">skitzman@fhiplan.com</a>                         |   |
| Joaquin Brito  | FHI                  | <a href="mailto:jbrito@fhiplan.com">jbrito@fhiplan.com</a>                             |   |

# Dutchess County | Moving Dutchess Forward

## Planning Committee Meeting Notes

September 23, 2020

Mark Debald of DCTC opened the meeting. He reviewed the logo and style guide for Moving Dutchess Forward.

Ray Oberly of the Town of Clinton commented that red, green, and yellow are hard to read. Work products must be legible, not a work of art. The purpose of the plan is to be informational. Mark responded that the accent colors will be secondary to the main color. Shawna thanked Ray and assured him that the team is following WCAG guidelines for website design. Project designers will ensure that colors, interplay of colors, and font type and sizes are legible for all users.

Shawna shared her screen to begin the Powerpoint presentation. She noted that the presentation is available afterwards.

Ray addressed the slide about project schedule and stakeholder outreach, noting that October is budget season for municipalities. Municipal staff due will have limited availability. Shawna responded that this was meant to indicate outreach with the public, municipalities, and stakeholders. We will be sensitive to other's schedules. Stakeholder outreach is an ongoing process, but our team would like to get in front of public before year ends, which is why the marker on the project schedule is placed in October.

Ray suggested the presidential and local elections are inundating people. Their fatigued will likely prevent them from participating or reading project material. Mailing project content will not be get a good return on investment. Online meetings are not likely to draw more than several dozen.

Mr. Oberly suggested that the two best ways to get info is through quick presentations at town board meetings or to provide information online that people can reference on their time. Shawna agreed and asked if Mr. Oberly thought the team may have better luck in 2021. Mr. Oberly estimated better luck in late November into December, after the elections. However, must navigate the holidays. January might be good as there is a lull in meetings and other events.

Emily Dozier of DCTC noted the team is brainstorming outdoor events such as farmer's markets. She solicited ideas for a socially-distanced events. Mr. Oberly indicated that almost all functions (fire department dinners, for example) have been canceled or become a drive-by/pick-up events. Access to technology is another barrier for those who are not well connected digitally, such as rural and older populations within the County. But the team must figure out how to reach them.

Joe Chenier from City of Poughkeepsie suggests the Family Partnership Center Farmers market. Shawna mentioned that FHI has not been doing any in-person public outreach. Kathy Ember of consultant team (Planning4Places or P4P) mentions that they've only done one community event recently, a farmer's market.

In response to the plan's Goal 2, barriers to safe and reliable access to basic needs, Mr. Oberly indicated that people in rural communities generally don't have sidewalks, or even walking paths. He cited the lack of a path along Salt Pt Turnpike as an example. Many rural residents don't want sidewalks and prefer that municipalities do not cut down trees or infringe on their property for pedestrian infrastructure.

David Ray from Hyde Park suggested that sidewalks are expensive. If they are not ADA compliant, they become a liability. It takes a long time to upgrade infrastructure. Transit shelters to protect riders from inclement weather have made a big difference. The town was able to fund with state and federal grants. However, it is still expensive.

Mark underscored the DCTC's intention to be careful with how precise they are in recommendations while identifying potential funding sources. The plan is strategic and the team can consider a timeline longer than 25 years. What do stakeholders want system to look and feel like? The team is being aspirational in "moving forward" while balancing the identification of Countywide needs. Using lots of data, however personal perspectives help round out the narrative.

Mark asked about barriers to basic needs, specifically housing. Housing cost is one aspect, taking a look at affordability (HUD data). What areas have low transportation costs to housing? What areas have high transportation cost to housing? Some say there's a housing issue within Dutchess County. Housing opportunities and issues are integral to this transportation plan.

Shawna mentioned a trend that may impact Dutchess County's transportation and land use is the pandemic-led normalization of employees working from home. The phenomenon has created "Zoom Towns" (not unlike boom towns). This changes people's calculations about where they can live, reducing or eliminating the factor of commuting to employment centers.

As the team transitioned the presentation to valuable perspectives within the community, Shawna asked what organizations are working closely with the underserved, and how can we engage with these group to ensure these voices are included? Thoughts on who we should be connecting with?

David Ray of Hyde Park suggested food pantries (held on Thursdays and Fridays). He's seen elderly on bikes access the pantries for their food needs.

In discussing business, transit, and bicycle communities, the team solicited potential advocates. Mr. Oberly identified the Office of the Aging. Fred Schaefer is involved in the bike/ped community. Emily noted the BPAC for bike/ped issues, which she coordinates. David Ray suggested Kiwanis clubs or Lions clubs, or other service clubs. Mark suggested bus or transit drivers.

Sandra indicated that NYSDOT is available to provide need data or stats. Mark responded that the team has been crunching crash data and received the bridge data. One gap is pavement condition data but it's statewide issue. 2017 is latest available. Mark welcomed a conversation offline.

See further resources, compiled by DCTC on following page.

## Resources/Community Perspectives

- Dave (HP)- talk to **food pantries** re access issues (2 in HP); some people come on bikes
  - There are 5 that are open consistently in the county—we have contacts from COVID food distribution
- **BPAC** – for ped/bike issues (Emily runs this Committee)
- **Bus drivers** (DCPT); DCPT Accessibility Cmtee
- DCC (Dutchess Cmty College)- ask Bridgette Anderson for student contact
- Harlem Valley business org – see **list of business orgs**:  
<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Business/chambers-of-commerce.htm>
- Service orgs (Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary, etc)
- **OFA (Office for the Aging)**
- **North East Community Center (Millerton area)**
- AARP local chapters (Red Hook, other?) – looks like none in Dutchess  
(<https://secure.aarp.org/applications/VMISLocator/searchChapterLocations.action?&intcmp=CSN-LNK-AARPLOCAL-LRMACL-20190712-POUGHKEEPSIE-NY>)
- Health-related orgs (Heart Assoc, Alzheimers); United Way – see **lists of community service agencies**, libraries, etc here: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Business/business-and-community.htm>
- Division of Youth Services - <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Youth-Services/Division-of-Youth-Services.htm>
- **Karmen Smallwood- Path to Promise** (County employee, works with youth)-  
<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Youth-Services/Youth-Services-Path-to-Promise.htm>

## For outreach, but also for community profiles:

- Youth – Art Effect; Dutchess County Youth Bureau
- Older adults – Dutchess County Office for the Aging; senior center directors
- Low-income and/or minority - Family Partnership Center; Dutchess Outreach; Community Matters 2; HRH? Southern Dutchess NAACP?
- Differently-abled – Dutchess ARC, Abilities First, or Taconic Resources; ask Toni?
- Rural – North East Community Center; Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Suburban?
- Students-DCC?
- Business community – Dutchess Chamber of Commerce; Think Dutchess. Look for a freight angle?
  - Cassandra or other local business person
  - Fed Ex?
- Transit – Could start with a county bus driver? Train commuter?
- Bicycle – sPOKe; Brenda Cagle (Red Hook) or other trail advocate?