

Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 28, 2022
10:00 a.m.

— Meeting Summary —

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

2. **Announcements**
 - a. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA): Mark (DCTC) announced that there are a couple of new programs, one of which is the Carbon Reduction Program. The Carbon Reduction Program supports projects that reduce on-road CO2 emissions. It can be used to fund pedestrian, bike, and transit projects that demonstrate a reduction in single-occupancy vehicle use and CO2 emissions. It is a formula program and the funding for Dutchess County is about \$1.2M over five years. We are currently exploring different ways to use the funding. The criteria and eligibility details are [available online](#). As more information becomes available, it will be shared with the group.

The FHWA announced their Commuter Authority Rail Safety Program (CARSI) awards for 2022, and NYSDOT/MTA received \$4.4M to improve Dutchess and Putman Harlem Line rail crossings.

Mark shared a link to the [USDOT website](#) that shows all the Notices of Funding Opportunities available under the new Infrastructure Act. Mark encouraged municipalities to check the website regularly, so they can learn about upcoming grant opportunities.

Emily asked if anyone had applied or is interested in applying for any of the new programs. No specific projects were mentioned, but Supervisor D’Alessandro (Town of East Fishkill) expressed interest and said that he would discuss options with his Town’s engineer and planner. Emily also asked for suggestions for how to spend the Carbon Reduction Program funding. Suggestions included on-demand transit in Rhinebeck and active transportation. Mark added that the funds can be used to supplement existing eligible projects that have already been programmed.

- b. Updated USDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities Table: Emily shared that there is an [updated Bicycle and Pedestrian Funding Opportunities table](#), which USDOT publishes. It now reflects the new programs. It is a lot of information, but it could be a good resource for engineers and planners.

- c. New State Law re 25 mph speed limits on local roads: Emily announced that there is a [new State Law](#) allowing municipalities to reduce area speed limits (except for on State roads) to 25 mph. Engineering considerations and MUTCD guidance still need to be taken into account. She encouraged municipalities to review the law and discuss it with their attorneys. Supervisor D’Alessandro expressed interest in this. [For more information, see the [Cornell Local Roads Programs website](#) explaining the law. Note that cities and villages can lower speed limits themselves, but counties and most towns must petition NYSDOT to change the speed limit].

Cornell Local Roads Program: Emily reminded the group about training opportunities through the [Cornell Local Roads Program](#). The Work Zone Traffic Control training will be held on October 20th in Dutchess County.

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

4. **Old Business**

- a. Recent DCTC Actions: Mark announced that the DCTC Policy Board met on August 31st and approved resolutions for the following:
 - i. Draft TIP and Air Quality Conformity Statement. The draft TIP is now in the draft Statewide TIP (STIP). The STIP will likely be approved late October/early November.
 - ii. Transit Funding from the ARPA and CRSSA relief packages.
 - iii. Annual distribution of transit funds for 2021 and 2022.
 - iv. Endorsing statewide safety performance measures for 2023.
- b. DCTC logo: The DCTC has chosen a new logo and is working with the consultant to integrate the design into reports, email templates, website, etc. The new logo was presented to the Council at their August meeting and will launch within the next few weeks. Supervisor D’Alessandro asked how much the new logo cost. Mark responded that the cost was about \$18,000, with 95% of the cost reimbursed by federal funds.
- c. Vulnerability Assessment: The contract is almost fully executed. The study will be coordinated with the County’s Natural Resources Inventory and Climate Action Plan, and we will work with OCIS to create an online platform. We expect to start in early November. An advisory or steering committee will also be formed and will include representatives from NYSDOT and DPW. Mark mentioned that the goal is to have a broad level of experience and perspective on the committee, so please let him know of possible candidates, especially from local government agencies like municipal highway departments.
- d. On-Call Transportation Planning Support: The RFP process for the on-call transportation planning support consultants has concluded. The primary and secondary consultants have been selected and the contracts are in process. Hopefully, they will be in place soon so that work can begin on some planning tasks that require technical support.

5. New Business

- a. Draft Public Participation Plan: Emily gave an overview of DCTC's updated Public Participation Plan (PPP), which was recommended in DCTC's new long-range plan and the recent federal certification review. Emily shared the draft PPP with the group and explained the main points of the document. There will be a 45-day comment period when it is ready to be released. Mark added that the PPP is currently embedded in the bylaws, but once it is approved, it will become a standalone document.

Steve Strauss (Empire State Passenger Association) commented that some local elected officials and others are not familiar with the MPO process. He suggested that the DCTC hold their MPO 101 presentations in conjunction with Mayors and Supervisors meetings or other similar meetings so officials and others can learn about the MPO and what it does. Supervisor D'Alessandro (East Fishkill) suggested that DCTC staff present MPO 101 at a Mayors and Supervisors Association meeting. Mark responded that they've done this in the past and that it is a great forum. Emily suggested doing it annually since elected officials change often.

- b. 2023-2024 Planning Program (UPWP): Mark informed the group that the DCTC is starting to think about the next UPWP, which will span April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024, and what tasks might be completed with the resources available. There may be a call for planning proposals this fall, if the DCTC has the staff capacity given some of the other tasks underway. More information will be shared as available. In the meantime, Mark stated that if anyone has an idea for a planning study, they should let us know. The UPWP will be drafted early next year, so we still have time discuss ideas.

6. Planning Updates

- a. Traffic Count Program: Tara announced that traffic counts are underway. She shared a map of where counts have been done and where they are still scheduled. The map also showed where automated pedestrian/bicycle counts are planned. Emily's volunteer pedestrian/bicycle counts have concluded and the data for those 60 counts is being processed. A new RFP for the traffic count program will be posted on October 3rd with responses due November 7th. Municipalities were reminded that special requests for traffic counts can also be entertained through the program.
- b. Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan: Tara shared that the draft recommendations were presented at Dover Day on September 17th to get feedback from the public. The results showed that the highest priority is the School Street/Route 22 intersection which has numerous pedestrian crossings. The second highest priority was to add a crosswalk and a better sign at the entrance to Ketcham Park and the third priority was to add a third leg to the crosswalks at Route 22 and Mill Street to connect all sides of that intersection. We will continue to coordinate with the MTA and NYSDOT on some of the preliminary recommendations. Once the Task Force reviews the recommendations, we will prepare a public presentation and draft report. This study, as well as the other local planning studies, are on DCTC's [Local Planning Initiatives](#) webpage.

- c. Village of Rhinebeck Route 9 Complete Streets Assessment: DCTC is working with the Village of Rhinebeck on a Complete Streets study for the northern and southern gateways on Route 9 into the village. The report is almost complete and contains information regarding existing conditions, recommendations for improvements, and a several maps. Traffic and pedestrian/bicycle count data will be added to help the Village decide on which recommendations to progress. After the report is done, the Village will work with their engineer on costs and detailed designs.

- d. Arlington Parking Study: The Arlington Parking study with the Town of Poughkeepsie and the Arlington Business Improvement District (BID) is in progress. DCTC staff met with the BID, a Town volunteer, and an intern from Vassar College who will collect the data. Starting in October, the team will count the number of vehicles in parking lots and parked on the street to determine parking usage during peak times around Vassar College. We are using an app called Field Maps to collect the data. The study will help the Town and BID understand parking demands and better manage parking supply.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. (virtual)

9/28/2022 Meeting Participants:

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