DUTCHESS COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Better ways from here to there

Planning Committee Meeting (Virtual)

Wednesday, September 30, 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. DCTC Staff Changes: Mark Debald retired last week, so DCTC, now a staff of two, will have less capacity until a new staff member can be hired. As part of this transition, we want to explore how we can make DCTC and our planning committee meetings most useful to everyone.

   b. PROTECT Grant: Federal funding is available for transportation resilience projects that improve existing infrastructure; applications are due October 9th. We solicited new project ideas to be added to Resilient Ways Forward, our transportation resilience improvement plan. Once added, PROTECT applications for those projects are eligible for a reduced cost share (10%) and do not require a cost-benefit analysis. We will update Resilient Ways Forward with additional project ideas for any future PROTECT grants.
      i. Two project ideas were submitted:
         - City of Poughkeepsie - Washington St Bridge; the City plans to apply for PROTECT funds.
         - Village of Tivoli - Culvert Replacements; the Village will pursue other funding, as the project is not a good fit for PROTECT.

   c. Federal Transportation Bill Reauthorization: There has been an extension of the existing transportation bill (IIJA) through December 11th; funding for all programs is not guaranteed.

3. **Partner Updates**
   a. NYSDOT: Following several retirements at NYSDOT Region 8, Nicole Farmer is the Acting Planning and Program Manager and Vincent Grella has been promoted to Regional Program Manager. Reach out to Nicole (Nicole.Farmer@dot.ny.gov) with any local questions or concerns (and please cc DCTC).

   b. County DPW: Dave Whalen is now the Acting Commissioner. All questions can be directed to dpwadmin@dutchessny.gov or 845-486-2085.

4. **Old Business**

a. August Policy Board Meeting:
   i. The Council adopted 1) Moving Dutchess Forward, DCTC's long-range transportation plan, and the accompanying Air Quality Conformity Determination, 2) our Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, which addresses local transportation needs for older adults and people with disabilities, and 3) Section 5309 Federal Transit Funding for the Mid-Hudson Valley area.
   ii. Section 5307 Federal Transit Funding was not approved; Council members requested further detail on the allocations, including related to the MTA and commuter bus apportionments.

b. Presentation - MTA Investments in Dutchess County: David Cuff and Tiana Grimes from MTA presented an overview of MTA's investments in Dutchess. Metro-North runs the Hudson and Harlem Lines, accounting for nearly 2 million annual boardings across 10 stations in Dutchess County. There are several direct investments planned within the county including a new signal system for the Hudson Line, rehabilitation of the Poughkeepsie Station and parking garage, a secure bike parking pilot in Beacon, and several other improvements, as well as system-wide investments. Previous allocations of Section 5307 funding (FY 2021-2024) have been used for annual track work and maintaining a state-of-good-repair.
   i. Nick D'Alessandro (T/East Fishkill) and Karen Smythe (V/Red Hook) asked about the impact and consequences of the Coach USA misreporting on the 5307 funding. Emily promised to follow up with Council members with more information on the reporting error by Coach USA.
   ii. Stephen Gill (County DPW) asked for more information on the parking at the transit-oriented development in Beacon. David Cuff (MTA) replied that the new residential building will replace all the parking spots previously located on the site within the garage so that the project will not reduce train station parking capacity.
   iii. Al Torreggiani (T/Red Hook) asked if any funding provided by Dutchess County goes towards project cost overruns; David replied that MTA is responsible for all cost overruns.
   iv. Rob Cerrato (C/Poughkeepsie resident) asked if Wi-Fi had been considered for Metro-North trains since reliable internet access would improve the commuting experience. Paul Lucas (MTA) noted that they previously conducted a systemwide study. Implementation difficulties include the high cost of outfitting the trains with the necessary equipment and adding the towers necessary for consistent coverage.
   v. Elizabeth Holt (Bard) inquired about the possibility of extending Metro-North service further north. Paul replied that MTA is still interested in extending service and hopes to pursue the opportunity in the future.

c. Call for Safety Projects – We received eight applications for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding to support safety improvement projects. Four applications are moving forward; DCTC is working with NYSDOT to review the applications further.
   i. Al asked if there was a timeline; Emily estimated the process would take several months.

d. Call for Planning Projects – We received four applications for planning support and have scheduled follow-up meetings with each municipality:
   i. Village of Red Hook Pedestrian Plan
   ii. Village of Pawling Parking Study
   iii. Town of Stanford Route 82 Corridor Study
   iv. Town of Poughkeepsie Zack's Way/Boardman Rd Path Feasibility Study
      - Dominque (T/Poughkeepsie resident) asked if any improvements are being considered for the signal at Boardman Road/Spackenkill Rd intersection given potential changes in traffic. Emily stated that since Spackenkill Rd is a State road (Route 113), the signal is maintained by NYSDOT; the Town could work with NYSDOT to consider improvements.

5. New Business

a. On-Call Services: We received 8 applications for on-call consulting services. Contracts are in process with Creighton Manning, LaBella Associates, and MJ Engineering. DCTC will utilize these firms for studies/plans or discrete technical assistance requests based on team capacity and expertise.

b. Capital Program – TIP Updates
   i. Administrative Modifications #26-D and #26-E: Emily reviewed these modifications, which included cost and schedule changes to projects currently in our Capital Program. The current projects are on our TIP Viewer app (https://gis.dutchessny.gov/tip/).
   ii. Draft Amendment #26-4: We are drafting an amendment to add two NYSDOT paving projects to the capital program (on Routes 22 and 52). The amendment could possibly include the safety projects and/or TAP awarded projects depending on timing. The amendment will then be voted on by Transportation Council.

6. Planning Updates

a. Traffic Count Program: The 2026 Traffic Count program included counts at 230 locations, including 12 local requests and 26 pedestrian/bicycle counts. We used cameras to collect data for most of the locations this year, with tube counts as needed for vehicle counts. We welcome feedback on the program; future data requests can be sent to Nina at DCTC.
   i. We are developing a one-page summary that describes our count cameras and how they differ from automatic license plate readers like Flock cameras. This will be posted on our website.
   ii. The committee expressed interest in a future training on our Traffic Data Viewer app.

b. Planning Committee Polls & Discussion: Participants largely preferred virtual meetings with occasional in-person gatherings. There was interest in incorporating short presentations, trainings (if short), and topic-specific discussions into future meetings.

7. Upcoming Meetings:

a. Planning Committee – Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 10 am.

09/30/2026 Meeting Participants:

Name	Organization	Email	Phone Number
Emily Dozier	DCTC	edozier@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Nina Leonard	DCTC	nleonard@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Elizabeth Holt	Bard College	holt@bard.edu	
Karen Bage	Cedarwood Engineering	kbage@cedarwoodengineering.com	
Amanda LaRosa	Creighton Manning	ALaRosa@cmellp.com	
Stephen Gill	DC DPW	sgill@dutchessny.gov	845-486-2928
Stephen Caswell	DC Legislature	scaswell@dutchessny.gov	845-518-7236
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Jessica Sarrantonio	Destination Dutchess	jessica@destinationdutchess.com	
Fred Wells	East Fishkill Resident		
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David Cuff	MTA	David.Cuff@mtacd.org	
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Caitlin Holt	NYSDOT	caitlin.holt@dot.ny.gov	845-413-2314
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Jalissa Ocasio	Orange County	JMOcasio@orangecountyny.gov	
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Rosemary Grabowska	Resident, C/Poughkeepsie	rfritzgrabowska@vassar.edu	
Laureen Abbatantuono	T/Beekman	supervisor@townofbeekmanny.gov	845-724-5300
Nicholas D'Alessandro	T/East Fishkill	dalessandron@eastfishkillny.gov	845-221-4303
Alfred Torreggiani	T/Hyde Park	atorreggiani@hydeparkny.us	845-229-5111
Trevor Redl	T/Poughkeepsie	tredl@TownofPoughkeepsie-ny.gov	
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Charlie Cunningham	T/Stanford	charlie@eacreative.nyc	
Joseph Cavaccini	T/Wappinger	supervisor@townofwappingerny.gov	845-297-2744
Karen Smythe	V/Red Hook	mayor@redhooknyvillage.org	845-758-4715