

Dutchess County Transportation Council

Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 28, 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 stated that there was nothing new to report on federal appropriations.
- c. The County's 2021 budget will be unveiled soon – all our staff positions will be maintained. However, our department will operate under an austerity budget, so we do not anticipate any new consultant contracts or new studies for next year. We will assist the department with its new housing initiative.
- d. Mark mentioned that some people may have seen the Governor's press release about various repaving projects throughout NYS, including the Hudson Valley. Mark noted that these were actually approved by the DCTC over the summer via a TIP Amendment – in Dutchess, they included repaving the following roads:
 - i. \$6.8 million to resurface Route 52 from Merritt Blvd to Fishkill Hook Rd and Old State Rd to the Putnam County Line in the Towns of Fishkill and East Fishkill.
 - ii. \$2.2 million to resurface Route 44 from Route 82 in the Town of Washington to Franklin Ave in the Village of Millbrook.
 - iii. \$1.4 million to resurface Route 82 from Route 44 in the Town of Washington to Franklin Ave in the Village of Millbrook.
- e. 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. Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan: Mark updated members on the interim plan update that is currently underway. We issued an online survey to about 35 human service agencies that serve our elderly population and persons with disabilities. We received responses from 12 agencies, so we're following up with the others.

5. New Business

- a. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP): Mark noted that the focus of today's meeting is again on *Moving Dutchess Forward* – our long-range transportation plan, and specifically the work that has been done to date. We also wanted talk more about barriers to reliable access – specifically about transit access.
 - i. Plan update
 - Schedule: we are still on schedule for completion by next June, if not earlier. We have completed our analysis of future trends for the Goal 1-Learn discussion, where we are trying to learn about what the future might hold for our population, economy, housing, travel, freight, climate change, and transportation technology. We are busily working on the Goal 2-Assess section, where we are identifying barriers to safety, reliability, and basic needs such as employment, housing, education, goods and services, and recreation. Mark estimated that we were about half-way through that analysis – having drafted the safety and reliability discussions, and now focusing on needs. Members indicated that schedule looked acceptable.
 - Standing photo request: Mark reminded the Committee that photos of their communities (with people) are always welcome.
 - Map Viewer: Mark noted that OCIS is working on a mapping viewer for the plan that we previewed last week. The viewer looks impressive and will be an excellent tool/addition to the plan. It includes a direct data pull from the Census Bureau.
 - ii. Public engagement update
 - Website status
 - Virtual tools (website, online surveys, and videos)
 - In-person opportunities: Emily noted that we want to hear from residents who have transportation challenges.
 - iii. Barriers to basic needs discussion – as needed.
 - Transit Access analysis – Dylan Tuttle (DCTC) reviewed the work we've done to measure the level of transit service in the county, as part of our reliable access discussion in the plan. Natalie Quinn (City of Poughkeepsie) stated that in the future to consider incorporating road type and walking comfort.
- b. FFY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Modification 20-J: Mark advised the Committee that this action was related to the repurposing of high priority (i.e. earmark) funding throughout the state. The project (PIN 876258) will cover the repaving of Grand Ave from Hooker Ave to College Ave in the City of Poughkeepsie to include upgrades to sidewalks and curb ramps. As per our bylaws, an Amendment is not required for earmark projects.

6. Project Updates

- a. [Mid-Hudson Valley TMA Regional Transit Study](#)

- i. Mark notified the group that the study consultant is still finalizing the draft final report but is scheduled to provide a presentation on the study's recommendations at our Nov. 24th Planning Committee meeting. As a preview, the recommendations will cover a range of improvements such as the use of micro-transit services and regional transit management models to improve regional connections.
- b. [Poughkeepsie 9.44.55](#)
 - i. Mark reminded the Committee that the virtual presentation on the interchange redesign concepts was still available on the project website. The video presentation provides background on the four redesign concepts and includes some simple surveys to gauge viewer's reactions to the concepts. We're very pleased with this virtual tool, which has been well received by the public and gotten good press coverage. The surveys are open until Nov. 4th, but we'll keep the presentation on the website throughout the study. Mark ventured to say that the virtual tool has given us more exposure than a one-off in-person event. Something that other MPOs have reported for similar projects.
- c. [Arlington Main Street Redesign Initiative](#)
 - i. Mark noted that a virtual webinar was held on Oct. 5th to review the final redesign concept to make Main Street from Grand to Taft Ave a Complete Street. Another presentation will be made later today to the Town's Comprehensive Plan Review Committee. We still hope to have the final report completed by the end of the year.
- d. Traffic Counts
 - i. Mark noted that the 2020 count program has been completed. Luckily, we had a smaller schedule than usual, so we were able to wait until the fall to conduct the counts and avoid the heart of the pause caused by COVID-19.
- e. Emily Dozier (DCTC) added that there will be a BPAC meeting on Oct. 29th at 3 p.m. She also alerted the Committee to the new Empire State Trail website, and the pending opening of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail-Phase IV.

7. Final announcements – none were noted.

8. Next Meeting: Tue., November 24, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

NOTE CHANGE FROM USUAL DAY & TIME:

- Review Moving Dutchess Forward website, survey, and other outreach
- Presentation on Connect Mid-Hudson – regional transit study

10/28/20 Meeting Participants:

| Name | Organization | Email | Phone |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--|---|
| Mark Debald | DCTC | mdebald@dutchessny.gov | 845-486-3600 |
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| Natalie Quinn | City of Poughkeepsie | NQuinn@cityofpoughkeepsie.com | 845-451-4047 |
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