DUTCHESS COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Better ways from here to there

Planning Committee Meeting (Virtual)

Wednesday, October 28, 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 Email List: We are updating our email list; we encourage attendees to share the link to sign up for our email list with anyone interested. You can use the same link to unsubscribe.

   b. November Ballot: Voting members will receive a ballot in early November to approve the 2026 Section 5307 transit funding allocation and an amendment to the Capital Program.
      - Section 5307 Allocation: this Resolution seeks approval for the allocation of transit funding in the three-county region.
      - Amendment #26-4 adds two NYSDOT paving projects to our Capital Program (TIP): on Route 52 in Fishkill and East Fishkill, and on Route 22 in North East and the Village of Millerton. The amendment is open for public comment through 10/30.

   c. TAP Award: The City of Poughkeepsie was awarded funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) to improve sidewalks and install bicycle lanes on a section of South Grand Avenue.

   d. Planning Program Update: DCTC's 2026-2027 Planning Program has been updated to include language about a new Shared Cost Initiative, an effort led by the MPO in Syracuse to better understand data gaps and needs for the MPOs in New York State.

   e. Capital Program (TIP) Update: NYSDOT measures Capital Program performance by looking at the number of projects on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) that obligate their construction funding on schedule. In 2026, the three projects on our Capital Program that were expected to obligate their construction funding did so, while three out of four NYSDOT projects in Dutchess County did so.
      i. Local projects: Washington St Bridge in the City of Poughkeepsie, Sawkill Bridge in the Town of Red Hook, and Route 52 intersection improvements in the Town of East Fishkill.
      ii. NYSDOT projects: Route 9 repaving from Spackenkill Rd to W Dorsey Ln, Route 376 resurfacing from Boardman Rd to Route 82, and Route 9 signal improvements in Fishkill.

3. **Old Business**
   a. Federal Grants
      i. PROTECT Grant – There were two local applications for this federal funding for resilience projects to improve existing infrastructure: the City of Poughkeepsie applied to replace the Mansion St Bridge, and County DPW applied to replace a bridge on E Noxon Rd near Union Vale Middle School.
         - Nicole Farmer (NYSDOT) added that NYSDOT applied for a planning grant to develop a tool for prioritizing culvert resilience projects, as well as a 15-year improvement plan across Region 8.
         - Emily noted that MTA/Metro-North is also working to improve the resiliency of the Hudson Line, given flooding issues.

      ii. Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility Pilot Program – Dutchess County applied for this federal funding to develop an "information hub" for transportation services, advancing a recommendation from DCTC's recently completed Coordinated Plan.

4. **New Business**
   a. Dutchess County Public Transit (DCPT) Presentation – Amanda Sammon and Yalitza Benetiz (DC Public Transit) presented the services they provide within Dutchess County, including the fixed route bus system and three demand response programs.
      i. There are 12 fixed routes that operate out of the Poughkeepsie Transit Hub with a standard one-trip fare of $1.75 (reduced fares available to seniors, individuals with disabilities, veterans, students, children ages 5 to 12, and those who have Medicaid). DCPT is in the process of installing new fareboxes that will allow people to pay with a credit card or smartphone.
      ii. All three demand response programs require registration and reservations in advance.
         - Complimentary ADA/Paratransit service is available to people with disabilities traveling within ¾ mile of a fixed route. Registration for ADA/Paratransit service includes medical verification. The one-way fare is $3.50 and accompanying aides travel free.
         - The Dial-A-Ride Program is supported by municipalities and currently available in Hyde Park, City and Town of Poughkeepsie, Wappinger and Wappingers Falls, Town and Village of Fishkill, and East Fishkill. The one-way fare is $3.50, with a reduced fare option available.
         - The FLEX service is available to all residents of Dutchess County, with a one-way fare of $5.00 within a town and $6.00 across towns.
      iii. DCPT has a Lifeline Transit Pass Program available to non-profits, schools, and government agencies serving low-income populations. Organizations buy fixed route passes at the reduced fare and provide them to clients for free.
      iv. DCPT ridership has more than recovered following the pandemic, surpassing the 2019 ridership by 40,000 rides in 2024.
      v. Further information can be found on the Dutchess County Public Transit webpage. There is also a real-time bus tracker available online or as an app.

- Rosie Grabowska (C/Poughkeepsie Resident) thanked DCPT for the presentation, asked how the transfer fare ($0.30) is advertised to passengers, and suggested adding fare information on bus stop signs. Amanda replied that fare details are on the website. In the future, bus stop shelters will have a QR code to direct people to this information. Rosie inquired about the logistics of the transfer fare with the new fareboxes; Amanda said this is still being worked out with the contractor.
- Steve Strauss (Empire State Passengers Association) asked if the NYS First Mile Last Mile program is used to fund the FLEX service and if there is an app for FLEX reservations. Amanda clarified that FLEX is funded entirely by Dutchess County and that people can make reservations through their call center. There was a demand response reservation app pilot with existing customers, but it was not pursued, as customers preferred to speak directly with a call center staff person.
- Laureen Abbatantuono (T/Beekman) asked about the possibility of shelters or crosswalks on Route 55. Amanda noted that shelters installed by DCPT must meet accessibility (ADA) regulations and that the road owner, NYSDOT, would need to support adding sidewalks for DCPT to install a bus shelter that is accessible. Nicole offered to pass along her inquiry to the appropriate contact at NYSDOT.
    - Melkorka Kjarval (V/Red Hook) asked how to assess the accessibility of a site for a possible shelter. Amanda said they welcome ideas and requests from the public and to email her to start that conversation.
    - Rosie asked if there are any plans to expand the fixed route service to meet increasing demand. Amanda noted that there are no plans at the moment but encouraged Rosie to contact her directly to discuss her transit experience.

5. Planning Updates

a. Traffic Count Program: Aside from a handful of recounts, the 2026 Traffic Count program is complete. This year we gathered data at 230 locations and anticipate adding them to the Traffic Data app before the end of the year. We welcome feedback on our recent one-page handout differentiating the traffic count cameras from automated license plate readers (e.g. Flock), and on the 2026 program overall.

i. Emily added that NYSDOT also collects traffic counts and has asked for requests for counts on State Roads in 2027. Any data requests can be sent to Nina Leonard at DCTC.

b. Planning Studies

i. Several of our planning studies will be supported by DCTC's on-call consultants; those contracts are being finalized. There are 4 studies planned to begin in 2027:
    - Town of Stanford Hamlet Transportation Plan
    - Village of Red Hook Pedestrian Plan (likely done in-house by DCTC/Planning)
    - Village of Pawling Parking Study
    - Town of Poughkeepsie Zack's Way/Boardman Rd Path Feasibility Study

ii. Feel free to reach out with requests for information or technical assistance.
    - Rhonda (V/ Wappingers Falls Resident) asked when the next call for planning support would take place. Emily replied that it will likely be in 2028.

6. **Partner Updates – None**

7. **Discussion – Future Presentation Ideas:** DCTC is interested in including presentations in future meetings and asked for feedback on several ideas.
   a. Rhonda expressed interest in local project updates by sponsor agencies for more clarity on the process, and for a presentation on OFA and Veterans' transportation services. Steve Strauss requested updates from NYSDOT on the Rhinecliff Amtrak station project.
      i. Rhonda noted that the senior population in Wappingers Falls struggles to connect with transit services. Amanda noted that DCPT visits senior centers and other destinations across the county to increase awareness of their programs, and they welcome requests.

8. **Upcoming Meetings:**
   a. Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee – Thursday, October 29th at 2:30 pm.
   b. Planning Committee – Wednesday, **November 18th** at 10 am.

10/28/2026 Meeting Participants:

Name	Organization	Email	Phone Number
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Rhonda	Resident, V/Wappingers Falls		
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