

## Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 25, 2023  
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 for the benefit of those who are new to the group. Participants are asked to prepare ahead of time so they can participate and contribute to the meeting, and to turn on their cameras if they have one. Participants are also asked to start on mute, unmute to speak or use the chat, and avoid multitasking. Tara shared a link to a Padlet survey to poll the group about the ground rules and gather ideas about how to improve the meetings.
2. **Announcements**
  - a. FFY 2022 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects: The [Annual Listing of Obligated Projects](#) for 2022 is now on the DCTC website. It shows how federal funds were spent during that year.
  - b. Funding Opportunities: Applications for the 2023 [RAISE Grant program](#) are due February 28<sup>th</sup>; minimum awards are \$5M for urban areas and \$1M for rural areas. There is also a special grant program through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for [Areas of Persistent Poverty](#) to improve the quality of life in disadvantaged areas; the grant will fund both capital and planning projects.
  - c. New rotating voting members in 2023: Mark announced voting membership changes on the Council, with the Town of Union Vale and Village of Wappingers Falls rotating on as voting members for 2023.
  - d. 2020 Census Urban Areas: The Census Bureau issued its list of newly designated urban areas based on the 2020 Census. A map was shared with the group to show the changes in our urban area. The Poughkeepsie-Newburgh urban area shrank from 2010 Census due to changes in the Census Bureau's criteria. Urban area boundaries drive a lot of the formula funds for the MPO; many federal programs use the areas to determine how much funding to allocate. Herb Litts (GPI) added that one good thing is that our area doesn't extend into New Jersey anymore. Mark agreed and noted that this should help with suballocating regional transit funds, as we shouldn't need a NY-NJ split letter for the funding.
  - e. Cornell Local Roads Program Training: Emily highlighted upcoming training opportunities through the [Cornell Local Roads Program](#). Legal Liability Issues for Transportation Plans/Studies will be held virtually on February 16<sup>th</sup>. It is recommended for municipalities to

learn about liability related to any studies they may be considering. Two Federal-Aid 101 trainings will be held virtually on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and September 12<sup>th</sup>, which will be helpful for anyone who is considering applying for federal funding. There is also an in-person training regarding ADA in the Public Right of Way in July.

- f. **Complete Streets Trainings:** [Urban Cycling Solutions](#) is offering free virtual Complete Streets Trainings throughout the state. It focuses on how to design and operate facilities for all types of transportation. The town of Dover took advantage of the training last year and found it very helpful.

**3. Public Participation** – Emily provided an opportunity for announcements or questions. Chris White (City of Beacon) shared that they’ve just received authorization to go out to bid on the Fishkill/Teller Avenue rehabilitation project and thanked the DCTC for their help and support on the project. Scott Bryant (Town of East Fishkill) also shared that the Carol Drive bridge project in East Fishkill has gone out to bid.

#### **4. Old Business**

- a. **Public Participation Plan:** Mark announced that the [Public Participation Plan](#) was approved on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. It addresses recommendations from the long range plan and touches on things that were learned during that planning process about public engagement.
- b. **TIP Amendment #23-01:** The Council also approved a TIP amendment adding three new projects selected from the 2021 statewide solicitation for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP): 1) a roundabout at the intersection of Raymond Ave and Hooker Ave/New Hackensack Rd in the Town of Poughkeepsie; 2) pedestrian and intersection improvements on Route 52 in the Town of East Fishkill; and 3) offset roundabouts at Routes 82 and 376 in the Town of East Fishkill. These programs fund projects which promote reductions in vehicle emissions and single occupant vehicles or promote other modes of transportation.

#### **5. New Business**

- a. **BRIDGE NY Program:** The DCTC has about \$4.3M available in federal funding to the support rehabilitation or replacement of county and local bridges in Dutchess County. The recent call for projects closed on January 20<sup>th</sup> and resulted in three applications: 1) Dutchess County Public Works: CR 103-Annandale Road over the Saw Kill in Red Hook; 2) Town of East Fishkill: Warren Farm Road over the Wiccopee Creek; and 3) Town of Rhinebeck: Parsonage Street over the Landsman Kill. The BRIDGE NY review team consists of NYSDOT and DCTC staff, with Caitlin Holt, NYSDOT, leading the team. Applications will be evaluated under criteria from NYSDOT and the DCTC’s new project selection framework. Recommendations will be sent to NYSDOT by February 28<sup>th</sup>.

A concurrent call for culvert projects was administered by NYSDOT and there are seven applications from municipalities in Dutchess County for that program.

- b. [Carbon Reduction Program \(CRP\)](#): Mark reminded the group about the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), which was approved as part of the new Infrastructure Act and seeks to reduce on-road carbon emissions. Eligibility requirements are similar to the CMAQ program. For Dutchess County, there is about \$1.2M available over five years. We are still exploring the best use of the relatively small amount of funds. We are also still learning about how the program will work with the USDOT [Justice40](#) initiative to ensure that 40% of the funding benefits disadvantaged communities.
- c. [Regional Transit Funding](#): There is about \$12.9M in federal transit funds from FFYs 2020-2022 available in our region. We polled local transit operators in Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange counties to determine which projects could use those funds. Dutchess County Public Transit responded with a request of \$3.1M for improvements including automatic vehicle location systems, bus security camera upgrades, new fare collection system, engine and/or transmission overhauls, and bus shelters. No other requests have been received; this will be discussed with Orange and Ulster counties.
- d. [Draft 2023-2024 Planning Program \(UPWP\)](#): The [Unified Planning Work Program](#) describes the planning tasks and budgets for the State fiscal year, which begins April 1. For 2023-2024, we will receive about \$896,000 in planning funds, which is a four percent increase from 2022-2023. A 15-day public comment period for the Planning Program will begin in February and we will seek Council approval in early March. There are two new tasks in the draft program. One is a multi-year study called the Orange and Dutchess Transportation Access and Mobility study, which will examine access between Beacon and Newburgh, and to Stewart Airport. It will look at how existing ferry and bus services might be improved, as well as the possibility of a light rail line. Sandra Jobson (NYSDOT) asked who submitted the application and if she could have a copy of it. Mark responded that Orange County submitted the application and that he would share it with her.

The other new task is a feasibility study for a proposed Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail. All four of the involved municipalities have expressed support and it is a recommended transformative project in [Moving Dutchess Forward](#), DCTC's long-range plan. Sandra Jobson expressed excitement about the project and shared that Orange County is also working on a robust trail system. Chris White added that this trail would connect to the Fjord Trail that is being planned in Beacon and Cold Spring and expressed appreciation for the study. An RFP for the feasibility study was issued; responses are due on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mark shared the overall budget for the UPWP. There are two sources of federal planning funds from the FHWA and the FTA. The total budget for the year, including both sources of federal funds, state and local matches, and unprogrammed funds from previous years, is \$1.9M. We expect that the studies and tasks for this year's UPWP will be undertaken without any shortfalls in the budget. In fact, it is unlikely that all of it will be spent due to staff capacity; we also like to retain some funding for future uncertainties.

## 6. Planning Updates

- a. Traffic Count Program: Tara explained that the 2022 traffic count program is complete and shared a map of where vehicle counts were done. The new data will be available on our [Traffic Data app](#) by the next meeting. A new contractor has been selected and work on the program should begin in April. Emily added that the program, which collects data on volume, speed, and truck percentages, is somewhat flexible and that the DCTC can entertain requests for counts at specific locations.
- b. Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan: The Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan is almost done. A draft report was sent to the Task Force, which will have its final meeting at the end of January. The report will also be sent to NYSDOT and Metro-North for their review. We are also working with Creighton Manning Engineering, our on-call consultant, on a more detailed analysis of two priority locations, the intersections of Route 22/Mill St and Route 22/School St. The final plan will likely be presented to the Town in early spring. Emily said that the DCTC usually does one Pedestrian Plan per year and communities can let us know if they're interested. Sandra Jobson suggested colored renderings of the recommendations at priority locations because they can be useful if the Town applies for a grant. Emily responded that Creighton Manning will do the technical analysis and plans, and their subconsultant, FHI, will do renderings.
- c. Spackenkill Road Sidewalk Feasibility Study: The kickoff meeting for the Spackenkill Road Sidewalk Feasibility study took place in December. Creighton Manning is currently working on preliminary concept drawings. Eventually, they will be shared with local stakeholders and the public for feedback.
- d. Vulnerability Assessment: The Steering Committee held its kick-off meeting in December. So far, the scope of the project has been finalized, public outreach and data plans are in place, and the data has been collected. Next steps include analyzing the data, doing stakeholder interviews, developing a project website, and working on an interactive map viewer. In addition, we are looking for a name for the study. The group was asked via Slido poll which name they preferred: "Moving Towards Resiliency," "Resilient Ways Forward," or another suggestion. Resilient Ways Forward was the most popular selection. Updates will be shared with the group as this project progresses.

## 7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

**1/25/2022 Meeting Participants:**

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