

## Planning Committee Meeting (Virtual)

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

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 recorded, as previously agreed upon.
2. **Announcements**
  - a. [Funding Opportunities](#)
    - i. There is a new webpage for funding opportunities on the USDOT website.
  - b. Federal Updates
    - i. [USDOT memo on SAFE ROADS program](#) (July 1, 2025): In relation to the Safe Arterials for Everyone through Reliable Operations and Distraction-Reducing Strategies (SAFE ROADS) program, State DOTs have been asked to prepare a list of safety project recommendations on arterials (including intersections). In Dutchess County, this could include Route 9, Taconic State Parkway, Routes 44 and 55, etc. There is no funding attached to this initiative; DCTC will update the committee with any new information.
    - ii. USDOT memo to funding recipients (July 2, 2025): Secretary Duffy issued a memo reinforcing the shift in priorities away from non-statutory requirements (equity, environmental, justice, etc.). This may affect funding opportunities as well as project selection at the federal level.
      - Nick D’Allesandro (T/East Fishkill) asked if the Federal Transit Administrator had been appointed yet. The nominee, Mr. Marcus Molinaro, is the former Dutchess County Executive and DCTC Chairperson. Mark DeBald (DCTC) confirmed that Congress had not yet approved his designation (Note: Mr. Molinaro has subsequently been confirmed by Congress).
  - c. State Updates
    - i. [Draft NYSDOT Transportation Master Plan](#): NYSDOT extended the public comment period to August 11, 2025. We encourage committee members to comment on the draft. The trends and priorities of the State plan align with DCTC’s long-range plan.
    - ii. [NYS Rail Plan RFP](#): New York is planning to update its 2009 State Rail Plan and has released an RFP for consultant support.

### 3. Partner Updates

- a. Chris White (C/Beacon) shared that the Fishkill/Teller Ave project is approximately two months out from substantial completion and thanked DCTC staff for their support.

### 4. Old Business

- a. Policy Board Meeting (June 25, 2025)
  - i. Voting members met on June 25<sup>th</sup> at the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library to review a series of resolutions. The Board approved DCTC's next five-year capital plan – the FFY 2026-2030 TIP - and an accompanying conformity statement attesting that the projects will not worsen regional air quality. An amendment to the current 2023-2027 TIP was also approved, which included funding for the NYSDOT Route 9 repaving project and a variety of County Public Transit bus purchases.

### 5. New Business

- a. Transportation Plan update
  - i. Background: The Transportation Plan is our core product, updated every five years. It looks ahead 25 years to set long-term goals for the county's transportation system and set policies and priorities for future federal funding. The 2021 Plan, [Moving Dutchess Forward](#), is a completely online product and the 2026 update will follow the same format. The 2026 plan will have a planning horizon of 2050.
  - ii. Public Engagement: Highland Planning is managing public engagement for the 2026 plan. This includes a program where they will hire two people with strong local connections and an interest in transportation to serve as Community Ambassadors. We are still finalizing the details and will share the application when available. We invite the committee to send us nominations. Additionally, we are holding several pre-engagement interviews with focus groups, which will help shape our public outreach strategy.
    - Karen Smythe (V/Red Hook) encouraged the DCTC to reach out to rural communities not centered in Poughkeepsie or Southern Dutchess. Mark agreed that it will be essential to reach a variety of communities, and that ideally, one of the Ambassadors will be able to connect with folks in the Harlem Valley and Northern Dutchess.
  - iii. Schedule: We're hoping to unveil an updated LEARN section, in conjunction with an online survey and redesigned website, later this year. This will also be accompanied by a video, followed by four others, each tied to major pieces of the plan. We are including more video content than our previous plan to better engage people. The plan update will be developed over the next year, with a deadline of July 2026 for approval by the Council. The framework of the plan will stay the same, but the trends and recommendations will be updated to reflect revised data and funding estimates. Overall, there will probably be a shift away from the pandemic, which influenced our expectations about population and travel behavior.

- iv. Plan Structure: As with the 2021 plan, the introduction will be followed by an overview of the region and transportation system. After that, there are four sections organized by our goals: 1) Learn, 2) Assess, 3) Advocate, and 4) Invest. The overall emphasis is on barriers to safety, reliability, and access and the policies that will prepare the county to face the transportation challenges of the future.
  - Karen commented that the structure is logical and easy to understand/follow.
- v. Goal 1: The first piece of the plan, titled Learn, describes trends related to demographics, travel behavior, housing, our economy, freight, climate change, and transportation technology. We are currently reviewing the trends from the 2021 plan to see if they still resonate. The committee discussed current trends; key comments are listed below.

- a. Demographic Trends

- 1. Nick D'Allessandro (T/East Fishkill) noted that East Fishkill had a slight decrease in population since the last Census, but there are several large housing projects in the works. On the other hand, the Town has seen an increase in enrollment in the southern portion of the Wappingers Central School District. Mark asked Nick if he could send the DCTC any available school district data/reports.
- 2. Karen commented that Red Hook is working to add housing as well, and that similarly, there has been a slight increase in enrollment in the lower grades at Red Hook Central School district, matched by an increase in young families moving to the area.
- 3. Nick, Karen, and Chris have all seen a marked rise in household incomes over the last several years. Chris added that developers in Beacon are catering to the luxury market.
- 4. Herb Litts (GPI) suggested clarifying that incomes are rising but buying power or real income is not.

- b. Travel Trends

- 1. Karen wondered if people would prefer public transit if it were more readily available and if data on the Red Hook bus line bears that out.
- 2. Karen noted the hybrid work schedule seems predominant in Red Hook.
- 3. Nick added that in East Fishkill more people are returning to work in-person, which is unsurprising since they are home to many people working in Westchester or NYC.

- c. Housing Trends

- 1. Chris noted that Beacon has hundreds of upcoming apartments including a new TOD by the train station.
- 2. Nick commented that there has been an uptick in applications for multi-family in East Fishkill (aimed at high-income renters), but high property

values and lack of infrastructure (water and sewer capacity) are a barrier to building units.

3. Karen added that Red Hook also needs an expansion of water and sewer infrastructure to build more houses.

d. Economic Trends

1. Karen noted that e-commerce has helped small businesses to stay afloat beyond their retail space.
2. Nick added that retrofitting existing spaces in East Fishkill industrial sites has created 1,200 jobs and generated over \$700 million in new growth over the last 6-7 years. Capitalizing on these developments and marketing them has brought tremendous economic growth to the Town and to Dutchess County at large.
3. Chris White said Beacon has seen \$225 million in new development in a similar time frame, with lots of infill on Main Street, as well as tourist-oriented development (boutique hotels, restaurants, etc.).

e. Freight Trends

1. Karen asked if an increase in trucking on Route 9 is expected. Emily replied that while I-84 is the county's main freight corridor, any increase in trucking will also affect our major roads.
2. Herb added that Ulster County has seen an uptick in tractor trailers being rerouted by GPS onto local and county roads. Emily agreed that truck routing is an ongoing issue, as many village main streets are State-owned.
3. Herb relayed that Peterbilt just announced a new fleet of autonomous tractor trailers.

f. Transportation Technology Trends

1. Karen expressed reservations about pulling back too much on the future of autonomous vehicles since they will eventually come to Dutchess County. And it's possible that delivery bots could pop up in Poughkeepsie or Beacon for example.
2. Chris added that if the technology becomes advanced enough, Beacon would be interested in using an autonomous bus for the Beacon Free Loop service. On the other hand, many people moving to Beacon want a walkable environment.

- b. Mid-Hudson Federal Certification: Our Transportation Management Area (TMA), shared with Orange and Ulster County, will undergo a certification review this year, which happens every four years. This review is scheduled for the week of September 22<sup>nd</sup> and includes in-person and hybrid meetings. Ahead of the review, the TMA sent a joint response to FHWA and FTA addressing recommendations from the previous 2021 certification. Gautam Mani (FHWA) added that it is a review of the planning process to identify best practices across

MPOs and identify areas for improvement/opportunities for technical assistance. Additionally, FHWA and FTA want feedback from the Planning Committee which can also be offered anonymously.

## **6. Planning Updates**

- a. [Safety Action Plan](#): We have finalized the list of priority locations, including state locations provided by NYSDOT, a county list based on crash analysis, and a local list based on crash data and then vetted by municipalities. The final report will also include a countermeasure toolkit with a set of safety countermeasures such as curb extensions and speed feedback devices (along with local examples) that can be applied to various locations. All the municipal priority locations, along with one county and one state location, will also undergo a desktop review with a map, summary of the data, and potential improvement options. There will also be field investigations and renderings of seven locations across the county, scheduled for August 28-29<sup>th</sup>. On Tue., August 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a virtual stakeholder meeting (3-4:30pm) and a virtual public meeting (5-6pm).
- b. [Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail Feasibility Study](#): The draft final report was reviewed by the Advisory Committee and will be shared at a virtual public meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup> from 12-1pm. The final draft report, as well as previous reports and key materials, can be found on the [study website](#).

## **7. Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. Planning Committee (Virtual) – August 27, 2025 at 10 am

# 7/30/2025 Meeting Participants<sup>[ED1]</sup><sup>[ED2]</sup>:

| Name                  | Organization           | Address or Email                                                                     | Phone        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Mark Debald           | DCTC                   | <a href="mailto:mdebald@dutchessny.gov">mdebald@dutchessny.gov</a>                   | 845-486-3600 |
| Emily Dozier          | DCTC                   | <a href="mailto:edozier@dutchessny.gov">edozier@dutchessny.gov</a>                   | 845-486-3600 |
| Nina Leonard          | DCTC                   | <a href="mailto:nleonard@dutchessny.gov">nleonard@dutchessny.gov</a>                 | 845-486-3600 |
| Chris White           | C/Beacon               | <a href="mailto:cwhite@beaconny.gov">cwhite@beaconny.gov</a>                         | 845-838-5009 |
| Shelly Johnston       | Creighton Manning Eng. | <a href="mailto:sjohnston@cmellp.com">sjohnston@cmellp.com</a>                       | 518-689-1814 |
| Stephen Gill          | DC DPW                 | <a href="mailto:sgill@dutchessny.gov">sgill@dutchessny.gov</a>                       | 845-486-2928 |
| Herb Litts            | GPI                    | <a href="mailto:hlitts@gpinet.com">hlitts@gpinet.com</a>                             | 845-741-1997 |
| Jesse Vogl            | LaBella                | <a href="mailto:jvogl@LaBellaPC.com">jvogl@LaBellaPC.com</a>                         |              |
| Allyce Braddy         | NYMTC                  | <a href="mailto:allyce.braddy@dot.ny.gov">allyce.braddy@dot.ny.gov</a>               | 845-431-5936 |
| Caitlin Holt          | NYS DOT                | <a href="mailto:caitlin.holt@dot.ny.gov">caitlin.holt@dot.ny.gov</a>                 | 845-413-2314 |
| Shawn Jackson         | NYS DOT                | <a href="mailto:Shawn.Jackson@dot.ny.gov">Shawn.Jackson@dot.ny.gov</a>               |              |
| Nicholas D'Alessandro | T/East Fishkill        | <a href="mailto:dalessandron@eastfishkillny.gov">dalessandron@eastfishkillny.gov</a> | 845-221-4303 |
| Karen Smythe          | V/Red Hook             | <a href="mailto:mayor@redhooknyvillage.org">mayor@redhooknyvillage.org</a>           | 845-758-4715 |