

Planning Committee Meeting (Virtual)

Wednesday, September 24, 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 also recorded.
2. **Announcements**
 - a. [Funding Opportunities](#)
 - i. [5310 Program](#): This is funding to improve transportation services for older adults and people with disabilities. About \$600,000 is available in the three-county region. Applications are due November 3rd.
 - b. State Updates
 - i. The FFY 2026-2029 State Transportation Improvement Project (STIP) will soon be available for public comment.
3. **Partner Updates - none**
4. **Old Business – none**
5. **New Business**
 - a. Mid-Hudson Valley TMA Federal Certification Review:
 - i. September 25th - FHWA/FTA in-person meeting with the MPOs (DCTC, OCTC, & UCTC).
 - ii. October 2nd – FHWA/FTA virtual meeting with the DCTC.
 - iii. FHWA & FTA want public feedback on how DCTC is carrying out the metropolitan planning process. A [public survey](#) is available until Oct. 31st on the DCTC website (also available as a [pdf](#)).
 - iv. Gautam Mani (FHWA) explained the overall review process: the federal team conducts an initial risk assessment around best practices, topics not covered in the previous certification, and any concerns about meeting federal regulations. The federal team then reviews planning documents across the TMA, followed by a joint meeting with the MPOs (DCTC, OCTC, and UCTC). After this, the federal team meets virtually with each MPO separately. A final report with findings, recommendations, and any corrective actions will be delivered before the expiration of the TMA's certification in April 2026. Gautam emphasized that the process is aimed at improvement. Across both the joint meeting and individual MPO meetings, topics of discussion include the long-range transportation plan, safety and active transportation planning, regional transit, regional

- freight, congestion management, intelligent transportation systems, and opportunities for further regional collaboration.
- v. Lisa Kaul (DC Legislature) asked about the reach and effectiveness of public outreach thus far. Mark DeBald (DCTC) shared that public engagement is an essential piece of our work and that we are always looking for ways to improve the process. DCTC's public outreach efforts are tailored to the needs of a project and community. Our outreach efforts have focused on meeting people where they are, leveraging the relationships of community partners and attending community events. The long-range plan will also include a new outreach tool with the introduction of community ambassadors. Lisa recommended radio PSAs to reach people that might not be able to participate in meetings. Ray Tomczak (FTA) noted DCTC's Public Participation Plan, which was updated in 2022.
 - b. Transportation Plan update: We are working on the 2026 update of our long range transportation plan, [Moving Dutchess Forward](#), which looks out to 2050 and sets long-term goals for our transportation system and policies and priorities for federal funding. Like the 2021 plan, the 2026 update will be an online product organized around four goals: 1) Learn, 2) Assess, 3) Advocate, and 4) Invest. The overall emphasis is removing barriers to safety, reliability, and access to basic needs, and identifying policies and investments that will prepare us to face future transportation needs and priorities.
 - i. Public Engagement: Highland Planning, our outreach consultant, is assisting with public engagement for the new plan. Recent highlights include:
 - Completed pre-engagement interviews with various agencies to hear about their experience communicating with the public, to ensure that our public engagement plan is targeted and meaningful.
 - Started to review applications for the part-time paid Community Ambassadors. The two ambassadors will be extensions of the project team helping with direct outreach.
 - Started work on a video, fact sheet, online survey, and website update, which will be released as part of the Plan launch this fall.
 - ii. Goal 1: Learn - The first piece of the plan describes trends related to various topics. The committee discussed the draft 2026 trends for freight, climate change, and transportation technology; key comments are listed below:
 - Freight Trends
 - a. Karen Smythe (V/Red Hook) asked if the increase in truck freight would include larger trucks, which have serious impacts on the roads. We haven't investigated truck sizes but more trucks (of all sizes) will affect pavement conditions and safety. Amanda Sammon (DCPT) mentioned that roads are also impacted by smaller electric trucks (e.g., Amazon delivery vehicles), which are heavier due to their battery weight.

- b. Lisa asked about road maintenance responsibility and how agencies can coordinate and share the costs; DCTC staff indicated that maintenance falls to the road owner (e.g., NYSDOT, County Public Works, or the municipality).
- Climate Change Trends
 - a. This section will rely on the work done in our recent Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan, [Resilient Ways Forward](#).
- Transportation Technology Trends
 - a. Lisa asked how technology is improving transportation safety. Nina (DCTC) replied that technology like automated braking systems and driver assistance features are improving safety, as well as the use of speed and red light automated (camera) enforcement (not yet in our area).
 - b. Karen asked for clarity on automated enforcement programs. Mark commented that state legislative approval is required for automated enforcement. Some municipalities in NYS have pilot programs (e.g., Kingston, Albany, Syracuse).
 - c. Rosemary Grabowska (C/Poughkeepsie) added that she has seen drivers swerving around the speed bumps installed by the elementary schools in Poughkeepsie. Emily noted that the DCTC was not involved in the installation of these temporary speed bumps, but they are part of a larger effort to improve safety adjacent to city schools, including a future 25mph speed limit (on City streets only).
 - d. Rosemary asked if there was technology to monitor noise on residential roads. Nina replied that there is technology to monitor noise pollution, but further investigation is needed to know how this could be used for local roads.
 - e. Ray recommended that the rise of artificial intelligence along with related transportation technological improvements be included in the Plan.

6. Planning Updates

- a. [Safety Action Plan](#): The Countermeasure Toolkit will soon be available on the website. The DCTC and project consultants conducted field investigations at seven locations to identify potential safety improvements and will develop concept renderings. 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. The advisory committee will meet again in October and the final report should be finalized by early next year.
 - i. Karen expressed that she looks forward to working with the toolkit.
- b. [Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail Feasibility Study](#): The draft recommendations report can be found on the [study website](#), with the final fact sheet and report soon to follow. The DCTC will work with relevant stakeholders to see how the study's recommendations can be progressed.
 - i. Mark added that the Beacon-Hopewell Rail is a transformative project recommended in

[Moving Dutchess Forward](#), and offers a good example of how the long-range transportation plan plays into our planning efforts.

- c. [Coordinated Plan](#): We continue our outreach for the Coordinated Plan, which focuses on the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities. We will hold a series of public listening sessions at North East-Millerton Library, Red Hook Friendship Center, and Town of Poughkeepsie Senior Center, and continue our interviews with key agencies and providers.
- d. [Traffic Count Program](#): The 2025 counts are underway: our contractor is taking video counts on trails and at complex intersections. Volunteers are conducting manual pedestrian/bicycle counts over the week of Sept. 20th-27th.

7. Next Meeting:

- a. Planning Committee (Virtual) – Oct. 29, 2025 at 10 am

9/24/2025 Meeting Participants:

Name	Organization	Address or Email	Phone
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