

Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council

Transportation Update: April - June 2009

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009

The Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council (PDCTC) continues to closely monitor progress on transportation projects funded by the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#) ("Recovery Act"). At the time of writing, four locally sponsored ARRA projects in Dutchess County have been certified by the Governor: 1) Bridge rehabilitation on Lime Kiln Road over the Ten Mile River in the Town of Dover (Dutchess County DPW), 2) Dutchess County Pavement Markings, 3) Buckingham Avenue pavement rehabilitation in the Town of Poughkeepsie, and 4) Walkway Over The Hudson elevator construction in the City of Poughkeepsie. Governor's Certification allows the project sponsors to proceed with advertising for bids. The PDCTC wishes to thank all local project sponsors for their continued work on progressing ARRA funded projects.



Lime Kiln Road Bridge in Dover

On May 20 the PDCTC approved the distribution of ARRA transit funding among the Designated Recipients located in the three-county Transportation Management Area (TMA). In the PDCTC area, Dutchess County received \$4.5 million and the City of Poughkeepsie \$3.3 million to support capital projects such as bus purchases, while the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) received \$3.8 million to support the Poughkeepsie Station Rehabilitation project. More information about local ARRA projects is available on the PDCTC's website: www.dutchessny.gov/pdctc.htm.

Transportation Improvement Program

Besides programming ARRA funding for local projects, the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) identifies traditional federal funding for highway and transit projects through Federal Fiscal Year 2012. These non-ARRA funded projects, especially those in FFY 2009 and 2010, are the focus of what's termed "maintenance of effort" - the requirement to ensure that work on already programmed projects is not delayed due to the focus on ARRA projects. As agencies work on their maintenance of effort, work has also begun on the routine TIP update. A key component of this update is knowing how much future funding will be available to the PDCTC. Initial estimates show fewer dollars available, which will increase our scrutiny of already programmed projects and new projects, if solicited. The TIP update should be complete by March 2010.

2009 NYSMPO Annual Conference

On June 4-5, the [Association of NYS Metropolitan Planning Organizations](#) held its annual conference in Albany, NY. For 2009, the conference - titled "Planning in a Dynamic Age" - included sessions on various statewide planning initiatives, the future viability of federal transportation funding, re-authorization of the six-year federal transportation program, and strategies to address local mobility challenges and climate change.

The conference offered attendees an assessment of the impacts that pending federal legislation will have on the metropolitan transportation planning process. Of particular interest was the impact that the pending American Clean Energy and Security Act will have on transportation programs, including the possibility of new environmental modeling requirements for MPOs.

Questions on the amount and shape of future federal transportation funding remain unanswered as elected officials discuss the next transportation re-authorization bill; elected officials and transportation professionals alike appear to be in agreement about the inability of the Highway Trust Fund (Motor Fuel Tax) to meet future funding needs. This has prompted talk of a Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) based funding stream, though the implementation of such a system would take many years and need to overcome numerous operational hurdles.

PDCTC

Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council

27 High Street (2nd Floor)
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Phone: 845.486.3600
Fax: 845.486.3610
E-mail: pdctc@co.dutchess.ny.us
Website: www.dutchessny.gov/pdctc.htm

Our Organization

Established in 1982, the **Poughkeepsie - Dutchess County Transportation Council** serves as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Dutchess County. Federal regulations require that all Urbanized Areas (U.S. Census defined metropolitan areas with over 50,000 people) be represented by a MPO, which is responsible for ensuring that Federal transportation dollars are committed through a locally driven, comprehensive planning process.

Voting Members

William R. Steinhaus	County Executive
Matt Alexander	Village of Wapp. Falls
Jeffrey G. Burns	Town of Clinton
Chris J. Colsey	Town of Wappinger
Pompey Delafield	Town of Hyde Park
Astrid C. Glynn	NYSDOT
Steve Gold	City of Beacon
John Hickman, Jr.	Town of East Fishkill
Patricia Myers	Town of Poughkeepsie
Joan Pagonis	Town of Fishkill
Frank Susczynski	Town of Pleasant Valley
David Tetor	Town of Stanford
John C. Tkazyik	City of Poughkeepsie
Jon J. Wagner	Town of LaGrange
Helena Williams	MTA

Upcoming Meetings

July 29 - Technical Committee

August 26 - Technical Committee

September 23 - Technical Committee

TMA Travel Time Survey

The three MPOs of the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA)— the PDCTC, [OCTC](#), and [UCTC](#)— initiated work on a scope of services to survey travel times on major roads across the three counties. The Travel Time Survey is a follow-on project to the joint TMA Congestion Management Process (CMP) completed in 2005. The Survey will collect Global Positioning System (GPS)-based travel time data to measure traffic congestion; initial survey data will form a baseline, which will be compared to future travel time data. The data will also assist each MPO with calibrating their Travel Demand Models.

CR 93 Corridor Management Plan

The PDCTC has initiated work on the CR 93 (Myers Corners Road) Corridor Management Plan (CMP) in the Town of Wappinger. The CR 93 CMP will identify potential road and intersection improvements to increase pedestrian and vehicle safety, while also improving operations along the heavily travelled corridor. The CMP was initiated upon request by the Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Town of Wappinger. As part of this effort, the project consultant—Wilbur Smith Associates— will perform a computerized micro-simulation of travel patterns on the 4.5 mile corridor. This analysis will allow the project team to evaluate the impacts of various strategies on corridor operations. The CMP will also assess the impacts of various land use patterns on travel conditions.



Roy C. Ketcham High School is a major traffic generator along CR 93.

Walking-Cycling Survey

The PDCTC has created an easy-to-use online survey on walking and bicycling issues. The survey results will help us design a walking/bicycling map and website. We would like as much feedback as possible, so please take the survey and encourage your friends and co-workers to do so as well. It is available online at www.dutchessny.gov/pdctc.htm

New Connections Now Available

The PDCTC is pleased to announce that bound copies of *New Connections* - the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for Dutchess County - are now available. The Plan identifies policies and actions necessary to sustain a viable local transportation system for the next 25-years. Electronic copies of the Plan are also available on the internet at: www.dutchessny.gov/pdctc.htm. Please contact staff to request a hard copy.

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