

Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council

Transportation Update: January-March 2009

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009

On March 3rd, the Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council (PDCTC) amended the [2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program](#) to include over \$32 million in transportation funding from the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#) ("Recovery Act"). Funding from the Recovery Act will support 29 local transportation projects: 17 highway and 12 transit. The projects include four bridge replacements, trail work in Wassaic, a new Park-and-Ride lot in Rhinebeck, and maintenance work on various State and County roads. Transit projects include the purchase of 16 new buses for the Dutchess County and City of Poughkeepsie bus systems, new farebox equipment, preventive maintenance work, and rehabilitation work on the Poughkeepsie train station building. In addition to these "Round One" shovel-ready projects, the PDCTC approved a list of "Round Two" projects that can be implemented if more funding becomes available or a "Round One" project fails to progress.



The Recovery Act institutes a high level of transparency on how funds are used and requires that responsible agencies implement projects in an expeditious manner—or recovery funds will be redistributed to other states and agencies that can get projects done. For reporting, the [Federal Highway](#) and [Transit Administrations](#) (FHWA and FTA) are developing mechanisms for their respective programs; project sponsors will need to provide regular updates on their projects, sometimes on short notice. The Round One and Round Two project lists are on the PDCTC's website: www.dutchessny.gov/pdctc.htm.

ALIS/TraCS: Tools for Safety Planning

NYSDOT, in conjunction with the [Department of Motor Vehicles](#) and the [Office of Cyber Security & Critical Infrastructure Coordination \(CSCIC\)](#), has developed an online database of motor vehicle crashes. Access to the database, which is called the Accident Location Information System, or ALIS, has been given to all MPOs in the state for testing and use.

The data in ALIS comes from two sources: Traffic and Criminal Software, or TraCS, which many police agencies have installed in their patrol cars, and the DMV accident report forms (Form MV-104). TraCS allows crash data and locations to be coded in the ALIS database quickly and accurately, which helps us with analysis and safety planning. PDCTC and NYSDOT staff will also use the ALIS data to develop local crash rates, which we can use to determine higher-risk and priority areas for safety improvements.

ALIS' functions include querying crashes by date, location, and other attributes; mapping crash locations; and creating reports. PDCTC staff currently has access to a simple query system. By the summer, we expect to get access to a second version with more advanced query reporting and analysis capability. Local agencies may be able to get access to ALIS through the County and NYSDOT. If you are interested, contact the PDCTC for more information.

Transit Development Plan Complete

The PDCTC completed the [Dutchess County Transit Development Plan \(TDP\)](#) in March, closing a two-year process to identify improvements to bus transit in Dutchess County. The TDP recommends a series of phased improvements to the Dutchess County and City of Poughkeepsie bus systems. These changes will improve how the two systems interact and provide customers with expanded transit options, including more frequent service on key road corridors and more week-day evening service and weekend service on select routes. The Final Report is available at: www.dutchessny.gov/pdctc.htm

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PDCTC

Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council

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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 Pagones	Town of Fishkill
Elliot G. Sander	MTA
Frank Susczynski	Town of Pleasant Valley
David Tetor	Town of Stanford
John C. Tkazyik	City of Poughkeepsie
Jon J. Wagner	Town of LaGrange

Upcoming Meetings

April 22, 2009 - Technical Committee
May 27, 2009 - Technical Committee

2009-2010 UPWP Adopted

The PDCTC approved the [2009-2010 UPWP](#) at its March 3, 2009 meeting. The UPWP describes upcoming activities for the PDCTC for the State Fiscal Year between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010. Preparation of an annual UPWP is required by the [United States Department of Transportation \(USDOT\)](#) and forms the basis for federal funding assistance for transportation planning. The [2009-2010 UPWP](#) programs over \$787,000 in planning funds for the program year. The UPWP is available on the PDCTC website: www.dutchessny.gov/pdctc.htm

Website Suggestions

The PDCTC is reviewing the style and content of its website (www.dutchessny.gov/pdctc.htm) and is interested in your feedback. Please let us know if there are features that we should add (or remove). We are especially interested in reorganizing the site to make it easier to find information. Email your comments to pdctc@co.dutchess.ny.us with "Website Suggestions" in the subject line, or give us a call.

JARC/New Freedom Programs

The three MPOs of the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA)– the PDCTC, [OCTC](#), and [UCTC](#)– issued a call for projects in January for two Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs: [Section 5316 \(Job Access Reverse Commute-JARC\)](#) and [Section 5317 \(New Freedom\)](#). The funds will support eligible transit projects in the three-county planning area (Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties). An application workshop was held on February 10, 2009 at the Dutchess County Planning Department, and one application was submitted by Orange County in support of a local JARC program. The TMA is assessing the project and will likely support its funding.

Membership Updates

Based on our Operating Procedures, April 1st marks the date that membership on the Council rotates among the partially urbanized towns: Beekman, LaGrange, and Pleasant Valley. Starting April 1st, the Town of Pleasant Valley replaces the Town of Beekman as a Voting Member on the Executive Committee. We welcome Supervisor Frank Susczynski to the Council and offer our thanks to Supervisor John Adams for his service. In addition, the Dutchess County Supervisors' and Mayors' Association reconfirmed Supervisor Jeff Burns (Town of Clinton) and Supervisor David Tetor (Town of Stanford) as Voting Members on the Council. We look forward to working with them and thank them for their continued service.

Would you like to receive this update via email rather than standard mail? If so, send an email to pdctc@co.dutchess.ny.us with Newsletter Subscription in the subject line.