

Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council

Transportation Newsletter: July - September 2010

Staffing & Administrative Capacity of MPOs

The Federal Highway Administration, through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program, recently issued a report on the Staffing and Administrative Capacity of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). The report addresses a variety of subjects related to how MPOs perform their duties, including their organizational structure, allocation of staff resources, membership, decision making, budgeting, host agency relationships, and staff technical capacity. Information in the report stems from a survey of 133 MPOs, representing a mix of organizations that serve large urbanized areas of over 1 million people to organizations such as the PDCTC that serve medium sized areas between 200,000-500,000 people. So, how does the PDCTC compare? Below are some highlights from the report and information related to our MPO:

- Average number of voting members: 16
The PDCTC has 15 voting members on its Executive Committee-the decision making body of the MPO.
- Percent of MPOs with at least one rotating voting member: 27 percent.
The PDCTC has five rotating voting members – 33 percent of the voting body.
- Percent of MPOs that maintain a Technical Advisory Committee: 91 percent.
The PDCTC maintains a Technical Committee that not only includes representatives from the Executive Committee, but is open to all 30 local municipalities in the county, regardless of voting status.
- Percent of MPOs with equal voting rights among members (one member, one vote): 87 percent.
Each PDCTC voting member has one equal vote.
- Percent of governing boards that meet monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly: 88 percent
The PDCTC Executive Committee has historically met once or twice a year, but will meet more frequently in the future.
- Percent of MPOs that have written agreements with neighboring MPOs: 37 percent.
The PDCTC, Orange County Transportation Council, and Ulster County Transportation Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2006, solidifying their planning relationship.
- Percent of MPOs hosted by another agency: 69 percent
The PDCTC is hosted by the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development.
- Average number of full-time employees for an MPO serving a 200,000-500,000 person area: 6
The PDCTC currently has two full-time employees.
- National ratio of MPO staff to population: one per 48,000 people.
The PDCTC staff to population ratio is currently one per 140,000.

The full report is available on the [Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations \(AMPO\)](#) website.

Recent Council Actions

The Executive Committee approved the following actions at their August 20th meeting: 1) Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and associated conformity determination, 2) Amendment to the 2008-2012 TIP programming \$95,000 in federal planning funds for the Poughkeepsie Station Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Study, 3) Apportionment of FFY 2010 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307/5340 funds in the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area, 4) Distribution of FFY 2010 FTA 5307/5340 funds in Dutchess County, 5) Endorsement of the Poughkeepsie Ozone Non-Attainment Area Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and 6) Endorsement of the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Request. The Committee will meet once more before the end of the year.

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 Steinhaus | County Executive |
| Jeffrey Burns | Town of Clinton |
| Chris Colsey | Town of Wappinger |
| Wayne Euvrard | Town of Amenia |
| Daniel French | Town of Beekman |
| Stan Gee | NYS DOT |
| Steve Gold | City of Beacon |
| John Hickman, Jr. | Town of East Fishkill |
| Thomas Martino | Town of Hyde Park |
| John McNair | Town of Pleasant Valley |
| James Miccio | Village of Fishkill |
| Patricia Myers | Town of Poughkeepsie |
| Joan Pagonos | Town of Fishkill |
| John Tkazyik | City of Poughkeepsie |
| Jay Walder | MTA |

Upcoming Meetings

Oct 27 (10 a.m.): Technical Committee

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CR 71 (West Road) Sidewalk Study

The Council is completing a report on the feasibility of constructing sidewalks along CR 71 (West Road) in the Town of Pleasant Valley. The study area has several pedestrian generators that justify consideration of pedestrian facilities. These include multi-family and single-family homes, a school and playing fields, the possible Redl Park, and the Pleasant Valley hamlet. The report evaluates constraints such as right of way, slopes, wetlands, sight distance, and utilities, and examines options for pedestrian access including a shared-use path, sidewalks, and shoulder improvements. It also discusses crosswalks, signage, roadway markings, and speed reduction strategies. Findings from the report will be presented to the Town Board at their October 13th meeting at 7 p.m.

Rhinebeck Village Sidewalks

The Council, along with the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development, continues to work with the Village of Rhinebeck on a Sidewalk Study that will include recommendations to improve the sidewalk system. An inventory and condition analysis was completed in August and presented to the Village's Pedestrian Task Force in September. A workshop with the Village Board is currently scheduled for November 10th at 7 p.m. at Village Hall.



Travel Time Survey

The PDCTC, Orange County Transportation Council, and Ulster County Transportation Council are continuing their work on travel time surveys along priority road corridors in the three-counties. A travel time survey identifies the time needed to travel between two points during peak travel periods. The data will establish a benchmark for future surveys and help identify congested locations. The project supports the three-county Congestion Management Process (CMP) - a federal planning requirement for large urbanized areas such as ours.

Planning Federation Short Course

The Dutchess County Planning Federation will host an educational program titled "The Transportation - Land Use Connection" on October 19, 2010 at the Farm and Home Center in Millbrook from 6-8 p.m. The session will focus on State and local responsibilities, impacts and benefits of development as they relate to the economy and local concerns, how to understand and evaluate transportation impact statements, the importance of SEQRA, principles of access management and common problems and mistakes communities make when evaluating proposed developments. Several case studies will be featured. For more information please visit the Dutchess County Planning Federation website at: <http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Planning/18234.htm>

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