

Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council
Technical Committee Meeting Summary
Wednesday, May 22, 2013
10:00 a.m.

Dutchess County Planning Department (Main Conference Room)
27 High Street (2nd Floor), Poughkeepsie, NY

Introductions – See attached list.

Announcements – Mark Debald (PDCTC) made the following announcements:

- TEP: The Transportation Enhancements Program (TEP) provides funding for projects in one of five categories:
 - 1) Provision of Facilities for Bicyclists and Pedestrians
 - 2) Scenic and Historic Highway Programs
 - 3) Landscaping and Other Scenic Beautification
 - 4) Preservation of Abandoned Railway Corridors (Including Conversion and Use for Pedestrian and Bicycle Trails)
 - 5) Environmental Mitigation to Address Water Pollution Due to Highway Runoff or Reduce Vehicle-caused Wildlife Mortality while Maintaining Habitat Connectivity

NYS DOT announced a call for projects for \$30 million in TEP funding under a statewide competitive process. The program is funded by a set-aside under the federal Surface Transportation Program (STP). Eligible projects must have a municipal sponsor (though non-profits may apply) and include a minimum 20 percent non-federal match. Projects must have a minimum total cost of \$200,000 and the federal share of approved projects is capped at \$2.5 million. For more information, see the [PDCTC website](#), which includes links to the brochure, guidebook, and other information.

Applications for TEP project funding are due to NYS DOT-Region 8 no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, **August 16, 2013**. Applicants are required to attend a TEP workshop/webinar in advance of applying for TEP funds. For this application round, applicants will also be required to attend a Federal-Aid 101 Workshop, unless they can show they attended one of the Federal-Aid 101 Workshops held in 2012. The following training opportunities are scheduled in the Hudson Valley:

TEP Workshops

- Poughkeepsie Town Hall, 1 Overocker Rd., Poughkeepsie. Wednesday, **June 12th** at 9:00 a.m. (followed by the Federal-Aid 101 Workshop).
- The 1887 Building, 124 Main St., Goshen. Tuesday, **May 28** at 1:00 p.m.
- Red Hook Town Hall, 7340 South Broadway, Red Hook. Tuesday, **June 4** at 1:00 p.m.

Federal-Aid 101 Workshops

- Poughkeepsie Town Hall, 1 Overocker Rd. Poughkeepsie, Wednesday June 12, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. (following the TEP Workshop)
- And, as a webinar from the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council on May 22, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/430183439>

Questions about the TEP program or a specific project proposal for the program should be directed to the NYSDOT-Region 8 TEP coordinator: Mr. Thomas Weiner, Transportation Enhancement Program Coordinator, NYSDOT Region 8 Planning Department, 4 Burnett Boulevard, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. (845) 431-5723 or thomas.weiner@dot.ny.gov

The PDCTC, in coordination with NYSDOT-Region 8 and other regional MPOs, will review TEP applications for completeness and eligibility and prioritize proposals for submission to NYSDOT Main Office. Proposals should be consistent with area Metropolitan Transportation Plans, including the PDCTC's *Moving Dutchess*. Award announcements are expected in October 2013.

Brad Barclay (DC DPW) asked about the status of the Strategic Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP) funding application for the Harlem Valley Rail Trail. Mark noted that NYSDOT issued a letter indicating that the STEP program was not a new funding program, but rather a way to prioritize “beyond preservation” projects at statewide level. As such, no funding has been set aside for STEP projects. Due to this, Mark suggested that DPW consider applying for TEP funding for the Harlem Valley Rail Trail.

Mark explained that this is the final round of TEP funding, which was authorized under SAFETEA-LU, the previous federal transportation bill. The current bill, MAP-21, combines STEP, Safe Routes to School, Recreational Trails, and other non-motorized programs into a new program called Transportation Alternatives.

- TIGER: USDOT announced the availability of \$474 million for a fifth round of the TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) competitive grant program to fund surface transportation projects that have a significant impact on the nation, a region or metropolitan area. Projects can include highways and bridges, public transportation, passenger and freight rail transportation and marine port infrastructure investments. Grants may range in size from \$10 million to \$200 million. Grants to rural areas may be less than \$10 million, but must be more than \$1 million. Applications are due June 3. See the [PDCTC website](#) for more information.
- PDCTC Voting Members: Effective April 1, 2013, the Dutchess County Supervisors and Mayors Association selected Supervisor Virginia Stern as one of two voting members from the rural towns. We are awaiting the designation of the second rural representative. Also, the Town of Beekman has replaced the Town of LaGrange as a rotating member from the partially-urbanized area.
- PDCTC Project Updates: The PDCTC completed a major update of its Travel Demand Model

to better perform future energy analyses, land use scenario planning, and congestion management planning. The new model includes a more accurate road network and better-defined Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) to analyze how population, housing, and employment changes affect travel demand. The model uses a 2010 base year, which uses data from the 2010 decennial Census. We have also completed Tasks 1 (Financial Review) and 2 (Operational Review) of the Dutchess County Bus Service Expansion Feasibility Study. The study will determine the feasibility of expanding the Dutchess County public transit system in the City of Poughkeepsie without increasing costs to the County. The study recommendations should be available in early June.

- Federal Certification: The PDCTC, along with the Ulster County Transportation Council and Orange County Transportation Council, will undergo its federal certification process this month. FHWA representatives will be visiting us May 29-30 to review our planning process and ensure that it meets federal guidelines.

Public Participation – Mark asked if there were any announcements from the group.

- Bus Amenities Program: Emily Dozier (PDCTC) announced that LOOP has funding to purchase bus stop shelters, bicycle parking racks, and other transit amenities. Municipalities that are interested in receiving these amenities must sign a contract with LOOP agreeing to install, maintain and insure the amenity. Cynthia Ruiz (DC Public Transit) added that bus stop signs are also available, and that the bike racks can be located anywhere—they do not have to be along a bus route. She also clarified that the contract does not require municipalities to receive anything, but it enables them to receive amenities if they desire. Municipalities can call Cynthia (845-473-8521) to set up a contract or get more information.
- MTA Hearing: Marleen Stein announced that MTA is holding a Public Hearing on Proposed Requests for Federal Financial Assistance for Capital Improvement Projects on **June 18, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.** in the MTA Board Room, Fifth Floor, 347 Madison Avenue, Manhattan. The notice is posted on the [PDCTC website](#).
- Complete Streets Short Course: Emily announced that she and another County planner led a short course on Complete Streets—how to integrate walking, bicycling, accessibility, and access to transit into local road design, maintenance, and operations. The presentation and course handouts are on the [Planning Department's website](#) (see the County Planning Federation page).
- NYSDOT Region 8 Notifications: Emily stated that according to Lisa Mondello, the Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator at NYSDOT Region 8, the Region has a new policy for informing municipalities of resurfacing projects in their area. Municipalities will now be sent a notification after the project receives Design Approval. Previously, municipalities were not notified until later, making it hard to coordinate. Cynthia requested that LOOP be notified as well. Bob Mannix (NYSDOT-Region 8) suggested that we contact Tom Weiner at Region 8 to be added to the notifications. Greg Bentley (DC DPW) added that DPW sends out a County press release to inform the public of any County projects that may affect local travel.

Draft 2014-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Mark explained that the FFY 2014-2018 TIP will become effective on October, 1, 2013. As such, most NYSMPOs will need to approve their TIPs in June 2013. As a reminder, we will lose CMAQ funding after FFY 2014. No air quality conformity is required, since we will approve the TIP with an effective date post-July 20th (the effective date of the EPA’s new ozone non-attainment area designations).

The PDCTC has programmed \$61 million for the five-year period (federal and State funds): \$39.5 million under federal highway programs and \$21.5 million for federal transit programs. This includes State and local projects in Dutchess County. The new TIP was based on the 2011-2015 TIP and adjusted to reflect projects that have been completed or been removed due to lack of funding or withdrawal by the sponsor. This update included revising the funding programs to reflect MAP-21.

Mark reviewed a handout of tables from the TIP narrative document showing the projects that have been removed, the programmed funding amounts by source and year, and the amount of funding programmed compared to funding targets (fiscal constraint). He also reviewed the project listing (TIP strip). He noted that there are two DPW projects that need to obligate funding by September 30th of this year. The full TIP (124 pages), as well as separate files for the narrative only, project listings, and appendices are available on the [PDCTC’s website](#).

Mark showed a new online TIP Viewer application that the PDCTC has developed with OCIS to help visualize our TIP projects. The [TIP Viewer](#) was unveiled as part of the 30-day public comment period. A link to the viewer can be found on the PDCTC website under the TIP button on the left side.

As per our public participation policy, a 30-day public comment period will run from May 20th- June 18th. A public notice was sent to our public information list, and we will hold a public meeting on June 5th at 3:00 p.m. at our office.

2013-2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Budget Amendment – Mark explained that the PDCTC adopted the current Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) in March based on estimates of available funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The FHWA and FTA have subsequently revised their actual funding apportionments, which will result in a decrease of \$814 in FHWA planning funds and an increase of \$3,661 in FTA funds for the UPWP program year. The UPWP is the Council’s annual statement of work, identifying the federally funded planning activities to be carried out by the Council. Due to the funding change, we will need to amend the 2013-2014 UPWP’s budget. A 15-day public comment period will begin June 4th and end June 18th.

Resolutions – Mark noted that three Resolutions will be presented to the Executive Committee at its June meeting. These include:

- Resolution 13-03: to approve the TIP

- Resolution 13-04: to approve the Adjusted Urbanized Area Boundary (AUZA).
- Resolution 13-05: to amend the UPWP.

The adjustment to the Urbanized Area boundary is done to smooth out the boundary (which is developed based on Census data) to facilitate transportation planning activities. The adjusted boundaries are subject to approval by USDOT and need to be forwarded to FHWA and FTA with an approval letter from NYSDOT. USDOT has indicated that the urbanized area boundary adjustments and revisions to MPAs should be approved by September 30, 2013.

Public Participation – Mark asked if there were any announcements from the group. Greg asked if there was an update on the proposed UPWP task to expedite local projects. Mark requested that DPW provide a sample RFP/RFQ for an on-call consultant.

Upcoming Meetings:

a. **Executive Committee: June 20, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.** at Dutchess County Quiet Cove Riverfront Park (Navy Crew House), Clearwater Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY. Actions will include resolutions to approve the new TIP, AUZA, and amended UPWP budget. Anyone who will be representing a voting member will need to provide a designation letter.

Mark noted that the distribution of FTA Section 5307 funding for FFY 2013 will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting, since we haven't received our allocation yet.

b. Technical Committee (TENTATIVE): Wednesday, July 24, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

Attendance List

Meeting: PDCTC Technical Committee Date: 5/22/2013

	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Phone Number
1	Brad	Barclay	DCDPW	486-2121
2	Greg	Bentley	DCDPW - Engineering	486-2925
3	Joe	Chenier	City of Poughkeepsie	451-4215
4	Jen	Cocozza	PDCTC-Dutchess	486-3600
5	Sean	Crimmins	Town of Poughkeepsie	220-6442
6	Mark	Debald	PDCTC-Dutchess	486-3600
7	Emily	Dozier	PDCTC-Dutchess	486-3600
8	Bonnie	Fransom	H2M/Town of Hyde Park	499-2264
9	Bob	Mannix	NYS DOT-Region 8	431-5728
10	Kathy	Monroe	Region 8 MPO	431-5710
11	James	Morena	MTA/Metro North (by phone)	
12	Cynthia	Ruiz	DCPT	473-8521
13	Marleen	Stein	MTA	212-878-7080
14	Virginia	Stern	Town of Stanford	868-1310