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## Appendix A: FHWA/FTA Letter



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**New York Division**

June 29, 2021

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Albany, NY 12207  
518-431-4127  
Fax: 518-431-4121  
NewYork.FHWA@dot.gov

**Federal Transit Administration - Region 2**

One Bowling Green, Suite 429  
New York, NY 10004-1452

In Reply Refer To:  
HPD-NY  
TRO-02

Mr. Marcus J. Molinaro  
County Executive, and Chairman  
Dutchess County Transportation Council  
27 High Street, 2nd Floor  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Mr. Steven M. Neuhaus  
County Executive, and Chairman  
Orange County Transportation Council  
255 Main Street  
Goshen, NY 10924

Mr. Patrick K. Ryan  
County Executive, and Chairman  
Ulster County Transportation Council  
6th Floor County Office Building  
244 Fair Street  
Kingston, NY 12401

Re: Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area Certification

Dear Sirs:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) New York Division and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Region 2 will be conducting a Certification Review of the transportation planning process for your metropolitan area on September 27<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. These dates were selected in consultation with the directors of the three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) that comprise the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA): Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC), Dutchess County Transportation Council, (DCTC), and the Orange County Transportation Council (OCTC).

## Appendix A: FHWA/FTA Letter (Con't)

Titles 23 and 49 of United States Code (U.S.C.) require the Secretary of Transportation to designate urbanized areas over 200,000 in population as Transportation Management Areas (TMA). As a result of the 2010 Census, the Mid-Hudson Valley continues to be a TMA. Designated TMAs are subject to special planning and programming requirements. In accordance with 23 U.S.C 134(k)(5), the Secretary must certify compliance of the MPO(s) in each TMA with the metropolitan planning regulations not less than once every four years. This is a joint responsibility of the FHWA and FTA. The four-year cycle runs from the date of the previous jointly signed Certification Report, which was June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The primary purpose of the Certification Review is to ensure that the planning requirements of 23 U.S.C 134, 49 U.S.C 5303, and 23 C.F.R. Part 450 are being satisfactorily implemented. As in past reviews, we intend to highlight good practices, exchange information, and identify opportunities for improvements. The review in September may include a virtual and/or a field visit with the opportunity for the public to participate. Additionally, as part of the review, the Federal Review Team would like to meet with you to discuss the transportation planning process in the Region. We will schedule this meeting through the MPO Directors. The remainder of the review will primarily include discussion with the MPO staff; local member agencies may also be present to offer comments and their insights.

Some of the focal points for the Certification Review meeting may include the following:

- Status of recommendations from the previous certification
- MPO Agreements
- Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Transit Activities-Human Services Transportation Plan
- Non-motorized Bicycle-Pedestrian Transportation Planning
- Financial Planning
- Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Planning and Environmental Linkages and Environmental Mitigation
- Title VI and Environmental Justice
- Public Participation
- Consideration of Safety and Security in the planning process
- Performance Based Planning and Programming

There will be an opportunity for the public, including key MPO committee members or other local elected officials, and special interest groups, to provide comments directly to FHWA and FTA staff concerning their views of how the transportation planning process is conducted in the Mid-Hudson Valley area. This review will allow the public to participate through a 30-day comment period.

## Appendix A: FHWA/FTA Letter (Con't)

We request that all three MPO's provide us with the status of recommendations from the previous 2018 certification and a description of the relevant MPOs' efforts to incorporate those recommendations into the planning process by July 30, 2021. Please provide any documentation that supports your efforts to date.

Further details, including a draft agenda for the virtual/on-site discussion, will follow separately. The Federal contacts for the review are Maria Chau of FHWA, ([Maria.Chau@dot.gov](mailto:Maria.Chau@dot.gov)) and Jennifer Terry of FTA, ([Jennifer.Terry@dot.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Terry@dot.gov)). The review is a positive means to advance our mutual goals to maximize the effectiveness of the planning process. We look forward to our virtual/on-site visit.

Sincerely,

RICHARD  
JOSEPH  
MARQUIS

Digitally signed by  
RICHARD JOSEPH  
MARQUIS  
Date: 2021.06.30  
10:00:03 -04'00'

Richard J. Marquis  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
New York Division

Digitally signed by  
STEPHEN C  
GOODMAN  
Date: 2021.07.06  
09:48:10 -04'00'

Stephen Goodman P.E.  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration  
Region II

cc: Dennis Doyle, Director, Ulster County Transportation Council  
Mark Debal, Director, Dutchess County Transportation Council  
Julie Richmond, Director, Orange County Transportation Council  
Lance MacMillan, PE, Regional Director, NYSDOT Region 8  
Sandra Jobson, RA, RLA, AICP, Regional Planning and Program Manager, NYSDOT  
Ron Epstein, NYSDOT Main Office, Director the Policy and Planning Division  
Michael Flynn, Acting Director NYSDOT Statewide Planning Bureau  
Harriet Lewis, NYSDOT Statewide Planning Bureau  
Robert C. Parrington, Senior Transit Planner, Orange County Department of Planning  
Michael Grattini, Dutchess County Public Transit Administrator  
Toni Roser, Deputy Director, Ulster County Area Transit  
Sajaa Ahmed, Director, Ulster County Area Transit  
Anna Price, FHWA NY Division, Director, Office of Program Management  
Donald Burns, FTA Region 2, Director, Office of Planning and Program Development  
Jennifer Terry, FTA, Community Planner



## Appendix B: Status of 2017 Certification Review Findings

DCTC, OCTC, AND UCTC provided FHWA/FTA with both the requested materials for the desk audit and an update on the status of the Recommendations from the 2017 Certification Review through their response letter dated July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. There were 2 Corrective Actions and 8 Recommendations which are listed below. FHWA and FTA reviewed the responses and have found them to be satisfactory.

The following is the status of the **Corrective action**<sup>1</sup>:

| <b>Corrective action</b>  | <b>Status</b>  |
|---|--|
| <p><i>Unified Planning Work Program</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The UPWPs for DCTC, UCTC, and OCTC all do not meet the program and monitoring requirements as required by 23 CFR 420.117. The Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) do not provide a detailed close out on activities and an expenditures report for the end of the annual UPWP cycle. DCTC, UCTC, and OCTC must each develop a work plan on meeting these requirements and submit it to FHWA and FTA by August 1, 2018.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Completed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requirements were satisfied with the initial submission of the UPWP expenditure reports by August 1, 2018 and subsequent improvements on reporting requirements in 23 CFR 420.117</li> </ul>  |
| <p><i>Congestion Management Process</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As the need for a revised CMP in the MHVTMA has been identified as a Corrective Action in the two previous TMA reviews, and there were no actions identified during the interview process that could be identified as the TMA collectively working together to identify strategies which improve system performance and reliability, and the MHVTMA's CMP has not been added to, updated, or revised since 2012; the federal Federal Team directs the following action:</li> </ul> <p>The TMA must revisit the corrective actions and recommendations issued by FHWA/FTA during the 2010 and 2013 Certification Reviews when it updates its CMP. In particular, the TMA must work towards:</p> | <p><b>Completed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requirements was satisfied with the submission of a work plan to develop the CMP. Subsequently, MHV TMA completed a joint CMP in 2021 completion of the initial submission of the UPWP expenditure reports by August 1, 2018 and subsequent improvements on reporting requirements in 23 CFR 420.117</li> </ul> |

<sup>1</sup> Mid-Hudson Valley TMA responded to the two Corrective Actions in letters dated Month XX, 201X and Month XX, 201X

| Corrective action   | Status |
|---|--------|
| <p>Developing relevant multimodal performance measures, creating an implementation schedule and identifying funding sources for improvements, and identifying a process for periodic assessment of the effectiveness of implemented strategies. The relevant FHWA guidance should be reviewed and agreed upon TMA priorities should be identified. A proposed TMA work plan to accomplish these actions must be submitted to FHWA and FTA by October 1, 2018.</p> |        |

The following is the status of the **Recommendations**:

| Recommendations  | Status                                 |
|--|--|
| <p><i>Long Range Transportation Plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In their next LRTP updates, DCTC, UCTC, and OCTC should discuss recommended additional financing strategies to fund desired projects in the LRTP and help address uncertainty in future availability of current funding sources.</li> <li>- DCTC, UCTC, and OCTC should explain explicitly in their LRTPs how the results of the TMA-wide congestion management process were considered in development of investment strategies within the TMA area.</li> <li>- DCTC, UCTC and OCTC should coordinate with NYSDOT Region 8 to develop a TMA-wide system-level estimate of costs and revenue sources expected to be available to adequately operate and maintain the federal-aid highways and public transportation.</li> <li>- OCTC should provide a discussion of potential program-level environmental mitigation activities and potential locations of those activities based on investments proposed in the plan.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Completed / In progress:</b></p> |

| <b>Recommendations</b>  | <b>Status</b>     |
|---|-------------------|
| <p data-bbox="203 233 597 266"><i>Unified Planning Work Program</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="215 289 737 457">- DCTC, UCTC, and OCTC should develop a list of desired potential projects on which to use their unspent balances of FHWA PL funds in future years and add this list to the narrative of the UPWP.</li> </ul>  | <b>Completed:</b> |
| <p data-bbox="203 512 678 546"><i>Transportation Improvement Program</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="203 579 760 789">a) We recommend that DCTC, UCTC, and OCTC include a description in their TIPs of the processes and techniques they are currently using to monitor projects from planning to construction and keep member agencies informed of project progress.</li> <li data-bbox="203 831 760 1041">b) We recommend that for the purposes of TIP implementation and monitoring, UCTC and OCTC include a listing of major projects that were implemented from the previous TIP, either directly or by reference to an annual list of obligated projects.</li> <li data-bbox="203 1083 760 1293">c) We recommend that for the purposes of TIP implementation and monitoring, OCTC include its TIP amendment and administrative modification procedures in its current TIP, either directly or by reference to MPO operating procedures.</li> <li data-bbox="203 1335 760 1472">d) We recommend that OCTC modify its TIP to include a description of how the program of projects was arrived at for public transit funding.</li> <li data-bbox="203 1514 760 1713">e) We recommend that the Metropolitan Planning Organizations consider evaluating ‘project delivery readiness’ for the deliverability of all projects using federal-aid funds and to consider other methods to improve TIP performance.</li> </ul> | <b>Completed:</b> |
| <p data-bbox="203 1755 634 1789"><i>Resiliency and Emergency Planning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="203 1839 760 1898">a) We recommend that DCTC add performance measures related to resiliency to their existing set</li> </ul>  | <b>Completed:</b> |

| Recommendations  | Status            |
|--|-------------------|
| <p>of performance measures to track the success of their resiliency planning efforts over time.</p> <p>b) We recommend that OCTC use the vulnerability datasets and asset maps they helped create to integrate goals, objectives, and performance measures related to resiliency into their TIP and LRTP to track the success of their planning efforts over time.</p>   |                   |
| <p><i>Transit Activities – Human Service Transportation Plan</i></p> <p>a) We recommend that the MHVTMA continue to work towards completion of a TMA-wide transit study. This study could greatly assist in providing an overall framework for future service integration studies in the area.</p>   | <b>Completed:</b> |
| <p><i>Non-Motorized Pedestrian/Bicycle and Trails</i></p> <p>a) The Federal Team recommends the TMA consider additional partnerships in the update of their non-motorized bicycle and pedestrian plans and consider the advantages and disadvantages of developing or coordinating a regional non-motorized bicycle and pedestrian plan.</p>   | <b>Completed:</b> |
| <p><i>Integrating Freight in the Transportation Planning Process</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Given the increased emphasis on goods movement, the Federal Review Team recommends that the MHVTMA explore the development of a joint Regional Freight Plan to assist the TMA in better understanding goods movement needs in the region and to coordinate goods movement priorities with NYSDOT in their process of developing a State Freight Plan.</li> </ul> | <b>Completed:</b> |
| <p><i>Performance Based Planning.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Federal Review Team recommends that the Mid-Hudson TMA continue to collaborate with NYSDOT and transit</li> </ul>   | <b>Completed:</b> |

| <b>Recommendations</b>  | <b>Status</b> |
|---|---------------|
| providers on Transportation Performance Management and PBPP, especially in establishing targets and developing performance-based planning agreements. |               |

## Appendix C: Certification Review Agenda

### MHV 2021 Virtual Certification Review Schedule

| <b>MHV 2021 Virtual Joint Session</b>   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup></b>                                      |  |  |
| <b>Afternoon Session Day 1</b> <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> |  |  |
|   | <b>Session Topic</b>   | <b>Session Leads</b>   |
| PM: 1:00 – 1:30   | <b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b><br><b>Overview of Certification</b>   | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>MHV: OCTC, DCTC, UCTC Directors   |
| 1:30 – 2:00   | <b>Overview of TMA / TMA Highlights / Regional Issues</b><br>MHV provides highlights on transportation planning and activities               | MHV: OCTC, DCTC, UCTC Directors & Staff  |
| 2:00 – 2:10   | Break  |  |
| 2:10 – 2:40   | <b>Status of Items from Previous Review</b>  | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>MHV: OCTC, DCTC, UCTC Directors & Staff   |
| 2:40 – 3:20   | <b>Title VI/Civil Rights</b>   | FHWA: Kara Hogan<br>FTA: Luis<br>MHV: OCTC, DCTC, UCTC Directors & Staff   |
| 3:20 – 3:30   | Break  |  |
| 3:30 – 4:15   | <b>Tribal Nations Coordination</b>   | FHWA: Tricia Millington<br>FTA: James Goveia<br>MHV: OCTC, DCTC, UCTC Directors & Staff  |
| 4:15 to 5:00  | <b>Consultation and Coordination</b>   | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>MHV: OCTC, DCTC, UCTC Directors & Staff   |
| 5:00 to 5:15  | <b>Close out for the day</b>   | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry  |
| <b>OCTC Virtual Session</b>   |  |  |
| <b>Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup></b>                                     |  |  |
| <b>Morning Session Day 2</b> <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>   |  |  |
|   | <b>Session Topic</b>   | <b>Session Leads</b>   |
| AM: 9:00 – 9:15   | <b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>   | FHWA: Maria Chau FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>OCTC: Julie Richmond   |
| 9:15 – 10:15  | <b>Overview of MPO / MPO Highlights / Status of Recommendations</b><br>OCTC to provide highlights on transportation planning and activities. | OCTC: Julie Richmond, Rob Parrington, Ashlee Long, Lauren Burns, Zack Coleman, Jessica Ridgeway  |
| 10:15 – 10:45   | <b>Performance Measures</b>  | FHWA: Gautam Mani<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry   |
| 10:45 – 11:00   | Break  |  |
| 11:00 – 12:00   | <b>OCTC Policy Board Chair Interview</b><br>Orange County Executive - Steven Neuhaus   | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry  |
| PM: 12:00 to 1:00   | Lunch Break  | <b>Afternoon Session Day 2</b> <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>  |
| 1:00 – 2:45   | <b>Planning Process</b><br>(UPWP, LRTP, TIP)   | FHWA: Maria Chau FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>OCTC: Julie Richmond, Rob Parrington, Ashlee Long, Lauren Burns & Zack Coleman   |
| 2:45 – 3:00   | Break  |  |
| 3:00 – 3:30   | <b>Bike/Ped/Trails</b>   | FHWA: Nicole McGrath<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>OCTC: Alan Sorensen, Julie Richmond, Rob Parrington, Lauren Burns, Zack Coleman, Ashlee Long & Jessica Ridgeway |
| 3:30 – 4:00   | <b>Planning Environmental Linkage</b>  | FHWA: Maria Chau FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>OCTC: Julie Richmond, Ashlee Long & Lauren Burns   |
| 4:00 - 4:45   | <b>Public Involvement Process</b>  | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>OCTC: Julie Richmond, Ashlee Long, Lauren Burns & Jessica Ridgeway  |
| 4:45 to 5:00  | <b>Close out for the day</b>   | FHWA: Maria Chau FTA: Jennifer Terry   |

## Appendix C: Certification Review Agenda (Con't)

### MHV 2021 Virtual Certification Review Schedule

| <b>UUTC Virtual Session</b>   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Wednesday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup></b>                                       |  |  |
| <b>Morning Session Day 3 <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></b>   |  |  |
|   | <b>Session Topic</b>   | <b>Session Leads</b>   |
| AM: 9:00 – 9:15   | <b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>   | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>UCTC: Dennis Doyle/Brian Slack                  |
| 9:15 – 10:15  | <b>Overview of MPO/MPO Highlights / Status of Recommendations</b><br><small>UCTC to provide highlights on transportation planning and activities</small> | UCTC: Dennis Doyle/Brian Slack   |
| 10:15 – 10:45   | <b>Performance Measures</b>  | FHWA: Gautam Mani<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry   |
| 10:45 – 11:00   | Break  |  |
| 11:00 – 12:00   | <b>UUTC Policy Board &amp; Planning Committee Roundtable</b><br><small>- <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></small>                          | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry  |
| PM: 12:00 to 1:00   | Lunch Break  | <b>Afternoon Session Day 3 <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></b>              |
| 1:00 – 2:45   | <b>Planning Process</b><br><small>(UPWP, LRTP, TIP)</small>  | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>UCTC: Dennis Doyle/Brian Slack                  |
| 2:45 – 3:00   | Break  |  |
| 3:00 – 3:30   | <b>Bike/Ped/Trails</b>   | FHWA: Nicole McGrath<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>UCTC: Dennis Doyle/Brian Slack              |
| 3:30 – 4:00   | <b>Planning Environmental Linkage</b>  | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>UCTC: Dennis Doyle/Brian Slack                  |
| 4:00 - 4:45   | <b>Public Involvement Process</b>  | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>UCTC: Dennis Doyle/Brian Slack                  |
| 4:45 to 5:00  | <b>Close out for the day</b>   | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry  |
| <b>DCTC Virtual Session</b>   |  |  |
| <b>Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup></b>                                    |  |  |
| <b>Morning Session Day 4 (<a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>)</b> |  |  |
|   | <b>Session Topic</b>   | <b>Session Leads</b>   |
| AM: 9:00 – 9:15   | <b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>   | FHWA: Maria Chau FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>DCTC: Mark Debald                                  |
| 9:15 – 10:45  | <b>Overview of MPO/MPO Highlights / Status of Recommendations</b><br><small>MHV to provide highlights on transportation planning and activities</small>  | DCTC: Mark Debald  |
| 10:45 – 11:00   | Break  |  |
| 11:00 – 11:30   | <b>Performance Measures</b>  | FHWA: Gautam Mani FTA: Jennifer Terry  |
| 11:30 – 12:30   | <b>DCTC Policy Board Chair Interview</b><br><small>Dutchess County Executive - Marcus Molinaro</small>   | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry  |
| PM: 12:30 to 1:00   | Lunch Break  | <b>Afternoon Session Day 4 (<a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>)</b>            |
| 1:00 – 2:45   | <b>Planning Process</b><br><small>(UPWP, LRTP, TIP)</small>  | FHWA: Maria Chau FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>DCTC: Mark Debald, Emily Dozier, & Tara Grogan     |
| 2:45 – 3:00   | Break  |  |
| 3:00 – 3:30   | <b>Bike/Ped/Trails</b>   | FHWA: Nicole McGrath FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>DCTC: Mark Debald, Emily Dozier, & Tara Grogan |
| 3:30 – 4:00   | <b>Planning Environmental Linkage</b>  | FHWA: Maria Chau FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>DCTC: Mark Debald, Emily Dozier, & Tara Grogan     |
| 4:00 - 4:45   | <b>Public Involvement Process</b>  | FHWA: Maria Chau FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>DCTC: Mark Debald, Emily Dozier, & Tara Grogan     |
| 4:45 to 5:00  | <b>Close out for the day</b>   | FHWA: Maria Chau FTA: Jennifer Terry   |



## Appendix C: Certification Review Agenda (Con't)

### MHV 2021 Virtual Certification Review Schedule

| <b>MHV 2021 Virtual Joint Session</b>       |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup></b>      | <b>Morning Session Day 5</b> <a href="#">Click here for link</a>                        |  |
| AM: 8:00 – 8:30                             | <b>Performance Measures</b>   | FHWA: Gautam Mani<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>MHV: OCTC, DCTC, UCTC Directors & Staff    |
| 8:30 – 9:00                                 | <b>Freight</b>  | FHWA: Gautam Mani<br>MHV: OCTC, DCTC, UCTC Directors & Staff                           |
| 9:00 – 9:45                                 | <b>Bike/Ped/Trails</b>  | FHWA: Nicole McGrath<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>MHV: OCTC, DCTC, UCTC Directors & Staff |
| 9:45 – 10:00                                | Break   |  |
| 10:00 – 11:00                               | <b>Intelligent Transportation System/Congestion Management Process</b>                  | FHWA: Tim Crothers<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry<br>MHV: OCTC, DCTC, UCTC Directors & Staff   |
| 11:00 – 12:00                               | Break (NYSAMPO Director's Meeting not part of Review)                                   |  |
| PM: 12:00 to 1:30                           | Lunch Break   | <b>Afternoon Session Day 5</b> <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>          |
| 12:30 – 1:30                                | <b>Review Team Caucus</b>   | All Federal Review Team<br>Review Team – Teams link: Federal Only                      |
| 1:30 – 2:30                                 | <b>Close out</b>  | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry  |
| <b>Public Involvement Sessions</b>          |   |  |
|   | <b>Session Topic</b>  | <b>Session Leads</b>   |
| <b>Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup></b> |   |  |
| AM:   | <a href="#">Link to DCTC Planning Committee Meeting</a>                                 |  |
| 10:00 – 11:00                               | <b>DCTC Policy Board Roundtable</b>   | FHWA: Maria Chau FTA: Jennifer Terry   |
| PM:   | <a href="#">Link to Roundtable</a>  |  |
| 4:00 – 5:00                                 | <b>MHV Cert Review Stakeholder/Public Roundtable</b>                                    | FHWA: Maria Chau FTA: Jennifer Terry   |
| <b>Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup></b>    |   |  |
| AM:   | <a href="#">Link to Roundtable</a>  |  |
| 10:00 - 11:00                               | <b>OCTC Policy Board &amp; Planning Committee Roundtable</b>                            | FHWA: Maria Chau FTA: Jennifer Terry   |
| <b>Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup></b> |   |  |
| AM:   | <a href="#">Link to Roundtable</a>  |  |
| 11:00 – 12:00                               | <b>UCTC Policy Board &amp; Technical Committee Roundtable</b>                           | FHWA: Maria Chau FTA: Jennifer Terry   |
| <b>Meetings with Policy Board Chairs</b>    |   |  |
| <b>Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup></b>   |   |  |
| AM/PM: 11:00 – 12:00                        | <a href="#">Calendar appointment sent</a>   |  |
|   | <b>UCTC Policy Board Chair Interview</b><br>Ulster County Executive – Patrick Ryan      | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry  |
| <b>Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup></b>   |   |  |
| AM/PM: 11:00 – 12:00                        | <a href="#">Calendar appointment sent</a>   |  |
|   | <b>OCTC Policy Board Chair Interview</b><br>Orange County Executive - Steven Neuhaus    | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry  |
| <b>Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup></b>  |   |  |
| AM/PM: 11:30 – 12:30                        | <a href="#">Calendar appointment sent</a>   |  |
|   | <b>DCTC Policy Board Chair Interview</b><br>Dutchess County Executive - Marcus Molinaro | FHWA: Maria Chau<br>FTA: Jennifer Terry  |

## **Appendix D: Certification Review Participants**

This is a list of those who participated in the virtual Certification Review during the virtual sessions from Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

### **DCTC**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Mark Debald        | <i>Transportation Program Administrator, Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC)</i> |
| Emily Dozier, AICP | <i>Senior Planner</i>  |
| Tara Grogan        | <i>Junior Planner</i>  |

### **OCTC**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Alan J. Sorensen | <i>Commissioner, Orange County Dept. of Planning</i>               |
| Julie Richmond   | <i>Deputy Commissioner, Orange County Dept. of Planning (OCTC)</i> |
| Lauren Bennett   | <i>Transportation Planner</i>                                      |
| Ashlee Long      | <i>Transportation Planner</i>                                      |
| Rob Parrington   | <i>Senior Planner – Transit</i>                                    |
| Zachary Coleman  | <i>Planner-Transportation/Land Use</i>                             |
| Jessica Ridgeway | <i>Planner – Transportation /Land Use</i>                          |

### **UCTC**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Dennis Doyle | <i>Director, Ulster County Planning Department/Ulster County Transportation Council</i> |
| Brian Slack  | <i>Principal Transportation Planner, Ulster County Transportation Council</i>           |
| David Staas  | <i>Senior Transportation Planner, Ulster County Transportation Council</i>              |

### **Transit**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Catherine Corless | <i>Deputy Director, Grants Management Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)</i>    |
| Oluseye Folarin   | <i>Assistant Director, Grants Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)</i>            |
| Julia Seltzer     | <i>Assistant Director, Regional Planning Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)</i> |

### **NYSDOT**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Michael Flynn   | <i>Section Head, Statewide Planning Bureau, Main Office</i>           |
| Jonathan Hill   | <i>Transportation Planner, Statewide Planning Bureau, Main Office</i> |
| Harriet Lewis   | <i>Transportation Planner, Statewide Planning Bureau, Main Office</i> |
| Lance MacMillan | <i>Regional Director, NYSDOT Region 8</i>                             |
| Sandra Jobson   | <i>Regional Planner &amp; Program Manager, Region 8</i>               |
| Nicole Farmer   | <i>Transportation Analyst, NYSDOT Region 8</i>                        |

## Appendix D: Certification Review Participants (Continued)

### **Federal Review Team**

#### **FHWA NY Division**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Maria Hayford     | <i>Senior Community Planner – Review Co-Lead</i>            |
| Gautam Mani       | <i>Community Planner</i>                                    |
| Nicole McGrath    | <i>Community Planner</i>                                    |
| Kara Hogan        | <i>Civil Rights Specialist</i>                              |
| Tim Crothers      | <i>ITS Operations Engineer</i>                              |
| Tricia Millington | <i>Local Programs, Program Manager (Tribal Coordinator)</i> |

#### **FTA Region 2**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Jennifer Terry | <i>Community Planner – Co-Review Lead</i> |
| James Goveia   | <i>Community Planner</i>                  |

## Appendix E: Public Involvement Notices

These were notices that were sent out by DCTC, OCTC, and UCTC for public comments and roundtable discussions.

**From:** [Grogan, Tara](#)  
**To:** [dctc](#)  
**Subject:** Mid-Hudson Valley TMA Certification Review: Roundtable Invitation and Notice of Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 11:16:43 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Transportation Interest:

You are invited to participate in a [public virtual roundtable](#) discussion as part of the 2021 Federal Certification Review for the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA). The roundtable will be on **Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 4:00pm on Zoom.**

The primary purpose of the certification review is to ensure that federally required planning activities are being satisfactorily implemented by the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA, which is comprised of the Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC), the Orange County Transportation Council (OCTC), and the Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC).

The Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration are also accepting [written comments](#) on DCTC's implementation of the federal transportation planning process **through October 22, 2021.**

For more information on the roundtable discussion and to submit comments, please see the [meeting invitation](#) and [public notice](#), also available on our [website](#). Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

**Tara Grogan**  
**Junior Planner**  
**Dutchess County Transportation Council**

85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 107  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
Phone: (845) 486-3632 Fax: (845) 486-3610  
Email: [tgrogan@dutchessny.gov](mailto:tgrogan@dutchessny.gov)

[www.dutchessny.gov](http://www.dutchessny.gov)

## Dutchess County Transportation Council

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### Public Notice

#### Federal Certification Review of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process

September 1, 2021

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are currently conducting their quadrennial Federal Certification Review of the Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC). We are interested in hearing from you about how the transportation planning process is being conducted in the Mid-Hudson Valley region.

The U.S. Department of Transportation requires every metropolitan area with a population over 50,000 to have a designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to qualify for receipt of federal highway and transit funds. DCTC is the designated MPO responsible for transportation planning in Dutchess County. Together with the Orange County Transportation Council (OCTC) and Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC), we form the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA).

The primary purpose of the certification review is to ensure that the required planning activities of 23 USC 134 and 49 USC 5303 are being satisfactorily implemented by the DCTC and the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA. **FHWA and FTA are accepting written comments from the public on DCTC's implementation of the federal transportation planning process through October 22, 2021.**

On the back of this notice are questions to respond to about how the transportation planning process is being implemented and opportunities to participate in that process. You may also provide an open written response.

Comments may be sent to:

and/or

Maria Chau, FHWA  
FHWA NY-Division Office  
Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building, Room 719  
Albany, NY 12207  
[Maria.Chau@dot.gov](mailto:Maria.Chau@dot.gov)

Jennifer Terry, FTA  
FTA Region 2  
One Bowling Green, Room 429  
New York, NY 10004  
[Jennifer.Terry@dot.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Terry@dot.gov)

Thank you in advance for your feedback.

**For more information about the DCTC, please contact:**

Dutchess County Transportation Council  
85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 107  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
(845) 486-3600  
[dctc@dutchessny.gov](mailto:dctc@dutchessny.gov)  
[www.dutchessny.gov/dctc](http://www.dutchessny.gov/dctc)

## Appendix E: Public Involvement Notices (Con't)

# Dutchess County Transportation Council

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### **FHWA/FTA Certification Review - Public Comments**

1. How well do you understand the DCTC, OCTC, and/or UCTC transportation planning process?
2. How well is the DCTC, OCTC, and/or UCTC transportation planning process working to effectively improve transportation in the region?
3. Are there opportunities for you to provide input on transportation issues and plans, such as the long-range transportation plan, other studies and issues?
4. Is there equal access and opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, incomes and races to provide input in the transportation planning process?
5. What are some things that work well?
6. What areas do you think can be improved?

## Appendix E: Public Involvement Notices (Con't)

**From:** [OCTC Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Notice of the MHVTMA Virtual Public Roundtable and Comment Period  
**Date:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 1:25:24 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

You are invited to participate in a virtual public roundtable discussion as part of the 2021 Federal Certification Review for the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA), which comprises the Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC), Orange County Transportation Council (OCTC), and Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC).

By law, areas with population of over 200,000 that are TMAs must be certified every four years through a Certification Review process. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are currently conducting this review on the implementation of the transportation planning process in the Mid-Hudson Valley under federal regulations. We are interested in hearing from you on your experience with DCTC, OCTC, and/or UCTC. The virtual roundtable will take place on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Your comments and feedback are welcomed and will be considered in the certification process. The [meeting information and comment form](#) can be found on the [OCTC website](#). Information on how to participate in this meeting virtually is also indicated below. We thank UCTC for generously hosting this virtual event.

**Topic:** 2021 Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area Certification Review

**Time:** September 22, 2021, 4:00 PM

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://ulstercountyny.zoom.us/j/83016637309?pwd=NW93VGwxMnJlTGQ0dFRQL2RmNTBMTQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 830 1663 7309 **Passcode:** 718466

**One tap mobile:** +16465588656,,83016637309#,,,,\*718466# US (New York)

**Dial by your location:** +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

**Meeting ID:** 830 1663 7309

**Passcode:** 718466

Find your local number: <https://ulstercountyny.zoom.us/u/kzl0TUjVv>



## Appendix E: Public Involvement Notices (Con't)

Additionally, if you wish to submit open written comments or respond to the [subsequent form](#) you can email **Maria Chau**, *Senior Community Planner* from FHWA, at [Maria.Chau@dot.gov](mailto:Maria.Chau@dot.gov) or **Jennifer Terry**, *Community Planner* from FTA, at [Jennifer.Terry@dot.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Terry@dot.gov) or reach us via mail at the addresses below. We will be collecting responses until October 22, 2021.

Maria Chau  
Federal Highway Administration  
New York Division Office  
11A Clinton Avenue, Suite 719  
Albany, NY 12207

Jennifer Terry  
Federal Transit Administration-Region 2  
One Bowling Green, Suite 429  
New York, NY 10004-1452

We thank you in advance for your participation in the review.

This communication may contain confidential information and is intended only for the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. Any review, dissemination, or copying of this communication by anyone other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender, and destroy all copies of the original message. No responsibility is accepted by Orange County Government for any loss or damage arising in any way from receiving this communication.

## Appendix E: Public Involvement Notices (Con't)

Mid-Hudson Valley TMA Certification Review: Public Stakeholders Roundtable Invitation... Page 1 of 3

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

[View this email in your browser](#)



Greetings,

You are invited to participate in a virtual public roundtable discussion as part of the 2021 Federal Certification Review for the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA) which comprises of the three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) [Orange County Transportation Council \(OCTC\)](#), [Dutchess County Transportation Council \(DCTC\)](#), and [Ulster County Transportation Council \(UCTC\)](#).

By law, areas with population of over 200,000 persons that are TMAs are required to be certified every four years through a Certification Review process. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is currently conducting this review on the implementation of the transportation planning process in the Mid-Hudson Valley Metropolitan Planning Area under federal regulations. As participants in the MPO planning process we are interested in hearing from you on your experience with OCTC, DCTC, and /or UCTC. The virtual roundtable meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 22nd 4pm – 5pm.

Your comments and feedback are welcomed and will be considered in the certification process. Information on how to participate in this meeting virtually is indicated below. For further information on the TMA Certification Review, please visit the [UCTC website](#). We thank UCTC for generously hosting this virtual event.

**Topic:** 2021 Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area Certification Review

**Time:** Sep 22, 2021 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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**Join Zoom Meeting**

[https://ulstercountyny.zoom.us/j/83016637309?](https://ulstercountyny.zoom.us/j/83016637309?pwd=NW93VGwxMnJ1TGQ0dFROL2RmNTBMQT09)

[pwd=NW93VGwxMnJ1TGQ0dFROL2RmNTBMQT09](https://ulstercountyny.zoom.us/j/83016637309?pwd=NW93VGwxMnJ1TGQ0dFROL2RmNTBMQT09)

**Meeting ID:** 830 1663 7309

**Passcode:** 718466

**One tap mobile**

+16465588656,,83016637309#,,,,\*718466# US (New York)

+13126266799,,83016637309#,,,,\*718466# US (Chicago)

**Dial by your location**

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 720 707 2699 US (Denver)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

**Meeting ID:** 830 1663 7309

**Passcode:** 718466

Find your local number: <https://ulstercountyny.zoom.us/u/kzI0TUjVv>

**Add to Calendar (.ics)**

Additionally, if you wish to submit open written comments or respond to the subsequent form you can email **Maria Chau**, Senior Community Planner from FHWA at [Maria.Chau@dot.gov](mailto:Maria.Chau@dot.gov) or **Jennifer Terry**, Community Planner from FTA at [Jennifer.Terry@dot.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Terry@dot.gov) or reach us via postal mail at the following addresses. We will be collecting responses till October 22nd, 2021.

Maria Chau  
Federal Highway Administration  
New York Division Office  
11A Clinton Avenue, Suite 719  
Albany, NY 12207

Jennifer Terry  
Federal Transit Administration-Region 2  
One Bowling Green, Suite 429  
New York, NY 10004-1452

**Meeting Invitation and Comment Form**

We thank you in advance for your participation in the review.

## Appendix E: Public Involvement Notices (Con't)

Mid-Hudson Valley TMA Certification Review: Public Stakeholders Roundtable Invitatio... Page 3 of 3

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This message is being sent to individuals and organizations associated with the Ulster County Transportation Council and the Ulster County Planning Department.

**Our mailing address is:**

Ulster County Transportation Council  
244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY, United States  
PO Box 1800  
Kingston, NY 12402-1800

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Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



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## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments

This section includes the summary of comments from Roundtables with the DCTC, OCTC, and UCTC Policy Board & Planning Committee Members, stakeholders and the public.

### Roundtable Questions

1. What are some of the most pressing concerns on transportation for the region?
2. Do you think the MPO transportation planning process is addressing those concerns adequately? In your tenure as part of the planning process how has the MPO planning process evolved?
3. Does the LRTP development process provide an opportunity for all Policy Board members to express their vision for the Region?
4. How do you represent your constituents in the MPO process and how do you influence the Region in your position as the Policy Board Chair in transportation?
5. How does the Policy Board set policy and make decisions on how Regionally significant projects are implemented in the Region?
6. How is equity addressed in the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA with regards to policy, project selection, etc? How is equity represented on DCTC, OCTC, and UCTC's Policy Board, Planning committee, and other parts of the planning process?
7. Do you have any questions about the process, requirements, or regulations that you have always wanted to ask but never had the chance?

## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

### DCTC Policy Board & Planning Committee Members

#### Attendee List & Summary of comments from Roundtables

Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021 10:00 am – 11:00 am

#### Attendee List

| <b>Name</b>        | <b>Organization</b>          | <b>Title</b>                                       |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Mark Debald        | DCTC                         | <i>Transportation Program Administrator</i>        |
| Emily Dozier       | DCTC                         | <i>Senior Planner</i>                              |
| Tara Grogan        | DCTC                         | <i>Junior Planner</i>                              |
| Mary Aldrich       | Dutchess County Public Works | <i>Director Fiscal Services</i>                    |
| Caitlin Holt       | NYS DOT-Region 8             | <i>Transportation Analyst</i>                      |
| Ray Oberly         | Town of Clinton              | <i>Town Supervisor</i>                             |
| Sandra Jobson      | NYS DOT-Region 8             | <i>Regional Planning &amp; Programming Manager</i> |
| Robert Mortell     | NYMTC-Mid Hudson South TCC   | <i>Transportation Analyst</i>                      |
| Oluseye Folarin    | MTA                          | <i>Assistant Director, Grant Management</i>        |
| Catherine Corless  | MTA                          | <i>Deputy Director, Grants Management</i>          |
| Herb Litts         | GPI                          | <i>Consultant</i>                                  |
| Richard Thurston   | Town of Wappinger            | <i>Town Supervisor</i>                             |
| Natalie Quinn      | City of Poughkeepsie         | <i>Planning Director</i>                           |
| Mike Welti         | Town of Poughkeepsie         | <i>Director of Municipal Development</i>           |
| Charonique Roberts | Dutchess County Planning     | <i>Principal Program Assistant</i>                 |
| Maria Chau         | FHWA                         | <i>Senior Community Planner</i>                    |
| Nicole McGrath     | FHWA                         | <i>Community Planner</i>                           |
| Jennifer Terry     | FTA                          | <i>Community Planner</i>                           |

#### Summary of comments from Roundtables

1. When asked how well they understand the transportation planning process, several policy board members indicated that they have a high-level understanding of the process and feel comfortable asking DCTC staff questions, if needed. Specific comments included that they know key terms and local issues well but have less knowledge of regional issues.
2. When asked how effective the DCTC transportation planning process is at improving transportation in the region, policy board members commented that DCTC is responsive, provides a regional perspective, and helps their municipalities advance local transport priorities. Regarding assistance with local priorities, members mentioned specific projects like a downtown

## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

parking analysis that set the stage for subsequent rezoning and new development and an analysis of potential safety improvements on high-crash local roads that municipalities shared with county and state road maintenance departments to implement. Members also mentioned DCTC willingness to facilitate conversations between municipalities and NYSDOT, which has helped advance projects. A few members commented that DCTC would benefit from additional staff and funding.

3. When asked if the transportation planning process provides sufficient opportunity to share input on issues, studies, and plans, policy board members stated that DCTC offered formal and informal opportunities for this. They noted that DCTC's roadshow PowerPoints for key studies is another tool. They also noted that DCTC requests input frequently via several different formats. Policy board members noted that DCTC responded well to COVID by instituting online public participation so that studies could continue. They noted that the municipalities sometimes did not provide feedback when requested.

**Observation:** It is unclear if delays in receiving feedback from policy board members impact MPO work and whether staff view the delays as a problem. If yes, staff should work with the MPO members to address this.

4. When asked about equity in the transportation planning process, most policy board members agreed that DCTC tries to ensure that all members of the public have a chance to participate, regardless of age, ability, race, income, etc. They noted DCTC efforts to communicate with the public via in-person and online meetings, print and online newspapers, and public comment options via phone, letter, email and website. Members noted DCTC recent efforts to reach people at community events, rather than always asking people to attend another meeting. Some members noted that municipal staff are well-informed, but the public is less so. One individual noted that they receive at least one call a day about a transportation issue and suggested that the region needs more outreach to ensure the public is better informed.

**Observation:** If it has not done so, DCTC could create educational materials (e.g. video, fact sheet, etc.) on the transportation planning process to share with elected officials to give to constituents to answer basic questions. If these materials exist, DCTC could re-share with MPO members for them to share with the public.

5. When asked about positives in the planning process, members mentioned excellent documentation of issues and discussions on the webpage, professional and responsive MPO staff, sustained focus on getting municipalities to solicit local planning projects with both local and regional impacts.
6. When asked to share ideas to improve the transportation planning process, policy board members said they would appreciate a reduction in the two to three year wait times for studies. Understanding that the MPO has limited staff to do work and limited funds to hire consultants, board members suggested more staff.



## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

### OCTC Policy Board & Planning Committee Members

#### Attendee List & Summary of comments from Roundtables

Friday, September 24th, 2021 10:00 am – 11:00 am

#### Attendee List

| <b>Name</b>           | <b>Organization</b>    | <b>Title</b>   |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--|
| Harry Porr            | Orange County          | <i>Deputy County Executive</i>   |
| Alan Sorensen         | Orange County Planning | <i>Commissioner</i>  |
| Julie Richmond        | Orange County Planning | <i>Deputy Commissioner</i>   |
| Lauren Bennett        | OCTC                   | <i>Transportation Planner</i>  |
| Erik Denega           | Orange County DPW      | <i>Commissioner</i>  |
| Travis Ewald          | Orange County DPW      | <i>Deputy Commissioner</i>   |
| Oluseye Folarin       | MTA                    | <i>Assistant Director, Grants Management</i>   |
| Catherine Corless     | MTA                    | <i>Deputy Director, Grants Management</i>  |
| Julia Seltzer         | MTA                    | <i>Assistant Director, Regional Planning</i>   |
| Jacob Tawil, P.E.     | City of Middletown     | <i>Commissioner of Public Works</i>  |
| Mike Sweeton          | Town of Warwick        | <i>Supervisor</i>  |
| John Revella          | Village of Walden      | <i>Village Manager</i>   |
| Nicole Farmer         | NYS DOT                | <i>Transportation Analyst</i>  |
| Lance MacMillan, P.E. | NYS DOT                | <i>Hudson Valley Regional Director<br/>Regional Planning &amp; Programming<br/>Manager</i> |
| Sandra Jobson         | NYS DOT                |  |
| Lizy Philip           | NYS Thruway Authority  | <i>Capital Program Manager</i>   |
| Maria Chau            | FHWA                   | <i>Senior Community Planner</i>  |
| Nicole McGrath        | FHWA                   | <i>Community Planner</i>   |
| Jennifer Terry        | FTA                    | <i>Community Planner</i>   |

#### Summary of comments from Roundtables

1. When asked how well they understand the transportation planning process, policy members commented that they learned the process via years of experience and asking questions of OCTC staff. OCTC staff's willingness to summarize topics is critical because many members lack time to read long documents. Consequently, they've had many pointed discussions about process and funding requirements. Members also agreed that institutionalized processes help municipalities improve projects such that more MPO projects qualify for funding. Members noted that the tenor of MPO operations is collegial with members working by consensus to help each other

## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

reach local goals simultaneously with the MPO achieving regional goals. Practically speaking, this sometimes means that a municipality will delay a project to allow another municipality to advance its project earlier to maintain fiscal constraint as required by federal law.

2. When asked how effective the OCTC transportation planning process is at improving transportation in the region, policy board members commented that the process helps them evaluate projects on the basis of how these can impact Orange County and the larger region. For example, a roundabout in Middletown improves safety, which benefits Middletown and the region. Likewise, an Americans with Disabilities Act study demonstrated enough benefits to convince the municipality to fund its implementation. Via the process, OCTC and the municipalities work together to fund projects that benefit both cities and rural areas. Members mentioned a need for increased funding and several unsuccessful attempt to apply for TIGER grants.
3. When asked if the transportation planning process provides sufficient opportunity to share input on issues, studies, and plans, policy board members stated that OCTC creates committees for studies. They noted that if participation lags, it is not the fault of staff because staff offers ample opportunity to meet with consultants and administers periodic surveys to obtain member feedback. Members noted that they would like to prepare for the planned expansion of Stewart Airport and would like more attention to the Route 17/ Route 6 / I-86 project.

**Observation:** OCTC staff can accommodate this request via more outreach to members and the public on these two topics.

4. When asked about equity in the transportation planning process, staff replied that there is a public notice for every planning committee and policy board meeting; meetings are virtual and in-person at ADA and transit accessible locations, often in environmental justice areas; and staff work with community groups to increase participation. Policy board members noted that trail advocates and others attend meetings.
5. When asked about positives in the planning process, members mentioned that the coordination helps members keep their projects on schedule. Members said the requirement to reach consensus (bylaws require 100% approval for votes) forces them to debate and really understand the positive and negative aspects of a project. It also helps them to focus on projects and keep politics out of the transportation planning process.
6. When asked to share ideas to improve the transportation planning process, policy board members suggested streamlining red tape to reduce administrative costs so that a larger share of funds supports projects. Members also suggested the region use the Hudson River as a transportation corridor with ferries up and down the river in addition to across the river. Aside from these comments, members also noted a need for more money and for more park-and-rides to keep pace with population growth.

**Observation:** I-87 runs roughly parallel to the Hudson River, which is a marine highway, designated as M-87. The US Maritime Administration oversees marine highways. Visit their website for more information on the [marine highway system](#).

[Ferry projects](#) are eligible for funding under FTA's section 5307 program. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law offers funding for [electric or low emission ferry boats](#). FHWA also funds [ferry projects](#).

## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

### UCTC Policy Board & Planning Committee Members

#### Attendee List & Summary of comments from Roundtables

Wednesday, September 29th, 2021 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

#### Attendee List

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Organization</b>                           | <b>Title</b>   |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Mike Baden        | Town of Rochester                             | <i>Supervisor</i>                                      |
| Lynn Dennison     | Kingston Complete Streets<br>Advisory Council | <i>Chair</i>   |
| Steve Noble       | City of Kingston                              | <i>Mayor</i>   |
| Herb Litts        | Ulster County                                 | <i>Legislator</i>                                      |
| Marybeth Majestic | Town of Gardner                               | <i>Supervisor</i>                                      |
| Neil Bettez       | Town of New Paltz                             | <i>Supervisor</i>                                      |
| Fred Costello     | Saugerties                                    | <i>Supervisor</i>                                      |
| Sandra Jobson     | NYS DOT-Region 8                              | <i>Regional Planning &amp; Programming<br/>Manager</i> |
| Sajaa Ahmed       | Ulster County Department of<br>Transportation | <i>Acting Director</i>                                 |
| Maria Chau        | FHWA  | <i>Senior Community Planner</i>                        |
| Jennifer Terry    | FTA   | <i>Community Planner</i>                               |

#### Summary of comments from Roundtables

1. When asked how well they understand the transportation planning process, members stated that the process is complicated but becomes clearer with time. Most members graded themselves at approximately 3/5 and 3 or 4 out of 5 on understanding the process. One member described the planning process as useful in helping the MPO to recognize systematic challenges impacting many towns. Another member appreciated the transportation planning process's multimodal focus. Another member noted the region has undertaken or completed many federal aid projects, like a "complete streets" renovation of Broadway, due to long-term planning from UCTC.

Members mentioned that the staff is very responsive, provides a document outlining their responsibilities, relevant materials before meetings, and excels at answering questions, which helps members evaluate options and make equitable decisions by consensus. One member noted that staff trained her on the funding process in about one month. Another member said the MPO runs well and is one of the better meetings on the schedule.

## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

2. When asked how effective the UCTC transportation planning process is at improving transportation in the region, policy board members said they appreciated UCTC staff for providing technical expertise, facilitating meetings between local and state government when needed, and laser-like focus on getting projects implemented. One member noted that every plan UCTC helped that municipality write has been implemented. Another said that his municipality relies upon recent UCTC studies to address issues as those arise. Another member noted that the staff provides stability, expertise, and value to help the MPO Board advance projects, even with changes in the elected officials.
3. When asked if the transportation planning process provides sufficient opportunity to share input on issues, studies, and plans, policy board members mentioned that staff welcome comments and truly listen to both council members and people who are not council members. Members noted that no issue is too small. In response to safety concerns raised with the MPO, the county DPW installed signs warning drivers about slow vehicles in areas with farms. Members said that appreciated UCTC assistance with public involvement, especially with hard to reach populations.
4. When asked about equity in the transportation planning process, members noted that meetings and hearing are well advertised, and people can comment on every topic at every meeting. Members noted that UCTC helped with public meetings during the UCAT – Kingston Bus consolidation by providing Spanish translation at meetings.
5. When asked about positives in the planning process, members mentioned excellent staff availability and communication to members complete with phone call reminders of important items because they understand that elected officials have overflowing schedules and inboxes. They also appreciated assistance with grant development. One member mentioned that the process follows a progression from UPWP task to completed plan to implemented project to transformation to address a transportation need. Members appreciated that planning studies limit scopes to realistic projects that can get built. Members see the planning process as allowing continuity for multi-year projects through different mayors and supervisors. Members noted that the study for a new roundabout on a state highway encountered little opposition from the public because they were knowledgeable thanks to UCTC's public participation process.
6. When asked to share ideas to improve the transportation planning process, policy board members expressed a desire for the MPO to think more regionally about access to rail, Stewart Airport, and employment. Others noted a need to help Ulster's aging residents learn to use non-motorized modes (walking, biking, and transit) as they lose the ability to drive and to make paratransit more regional to get people to medical appointments, which are more likely to be outside their county of residence as hospitals close due to consolidation.

Some thought that a joint meeting of the three MPO Boards would enhance cooperation and mirror the collaboration happening at the staff level and between the three county executives. Members said the joint meeting could be only once a year and online in deference to busy schedules.

## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

### MHV Public & Stakeholder

#### Attendee List & Summary of comments from Roundtables

Wednesday, September 29th, 2021 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

#### Attendee List

| <b>Name</b>           | <b>Organization</b>                                | <b>Title</b>   |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| David Staas           | UCTC   | <i>Transportation Planner</i>  |
| Dennis Doyle          | UCTC   | <i>Director</i>  |
| Brian Slack           | UCTC   | <i>Transportation Planner</i>  |
| Mark Debald           | DCTC   | <i>Transportation Program Administrator</i>  |
| Ashlee Long           | OCTC   | <i>Transportation Planner</i>  |
| Lauren Bennett        | OCTC   | <i>Transportation Planner</i>  |
| Elaine McClung        | Orange County Planning Board                       | <i>Chair</i>   |
| Chris White           | City of Beacon                                     | <i>City Administrator</i>  |
| Herb Litts            | Ulster County                                      | <i>County Legislator</i>   |
| Steve Strauss         | Empire State Passengers Association                | <i>Executive Director</i>  |
| John Harper           | Newburgh Transportation Advisory Committee, Member | <i>Systems Advocate for Independent Living, Inc. in Orange and Sullivan Counties</i> |
| Robert Mortell        | NYMTC  | <i>Program Support</i>   |
| Oluseye Folarin       | MTA  | <i>Assistant Director, Grants Management</i>   |
| Lizy Philip           | NYS Thruway Authority                              | <i>Capital Program Manager</i>   |
| Harriet Lewis         | NYSDOT   |  |
| Call-In participant 1 |  |  |
| Call-In participant 2 |  |  |
| Call-In participant 3 |  |  |
| Ali Mohseni           | NYMTC  | <i>Staff Director, Lower Hudson Valley Unit</i>                                      |
| Vernon Benjamin       | Town of Saugerties                                 | <i>Special Operations Coordinator</i>  |
| Maria Chau            | FHWA   | <i>Senior Community Planner</i>  |
| Nicole McGrath        | FHWA   | <i>Community Planner</i>   |
| Jennifer Terry        | FTA  | <i>Community Planner</i>   |

## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

### Summary of comments from Roundtables

1. When asked how effective the MHVTMA (DCTC, OCTC, UCTC) transportation planning process is at improving transportation in the region, one stakeholder mentioned DCTC helping their municipality add two projects to its long-range transportation plan. Another wants DCTC (and the MHVTMA as a whole) to examine the connection between long distance passenger rail and mass transit because residents need access by more modes than driving. He noted that all rail service is on the east side of the Hudson while the west side of the river is more populous in some locations. People also mentioned a need for more FRA funding to support rail.

People also expressed a desire to understand better how projects overseen by FRA fit into the transportation planning process since these often are not in the TIP and to increase public involvement of Amtrak earlier in the project development process.

2. When asked if the transportation planning process provides sufficient opportunity to share input on issues, studies, and plans, one stakeholder stated that 25% of people have a mobility issue so accessibility is a primary concern. He appreciates being asked to provide input to the municipality, MPO, and FHWA/FTA. Stakeholders mentioned their desire for transportation planning to move beyond requirements.
3. When asked about positives in the planning process, one stakeholder said the process works sufficiently well, but he wants the TMA to share more information on discretionary funding and to pursue more discretionary funding.

**Observation:** MPOs may choose not to pursue discretionary funds for many reasons. In the OCTC planning and policy board meeting, a stakeholder mentioned several failed TIGER applications. This suggests that the MHVTMA may experience challenges creating successful applications for discretionary funds. FHWA and FTA are willing to speak with the TMA about this issue in the future.

4. When asked about their understanding of the transportation planning process, equity in the transportation planning process, and ways to improve the transportation planning process, there was no response.

**Observation:** The reticence of meeting participants to speak about these topics may indicate an opportunity for all three MPOs to educate the public on the transportation planning concepts and process. This can happen organically as the MPOs conduct public outreach for future studies, plans, and projects.

## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

### Public / Stakeholder Comment – Via Email

Responses from FHWA and FTA were emailed to each commentor.

From: John Harper <jharper@myindependentliving.org>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:54 PM  
To: Chau, Maria (FHWA) <Maria.Chau@dot.gov>  
Subject: RESPONSES TO THE SURVEY

Orange County Transportation Council  
Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area  
FHWA/FTA Certification Review - Public Comments

#### 1. How well do you understand the DCTC, OCTC, and/or UCTC transportation planning process?

I have a sense of the inter-relatedness and I am aware that, given the population in the catchment area, there is a requirement to ensure broad consultation on the planning process

#### 2. How well is the DCTC, OCTC, and/or UCTC transportation planning process working to effectively improve transportation in the region?

Speaking on behalf of the citizenry in Newburgh who are living with disabilities, there are many accessibilities to public transportation issues. Buses drivers vary the schedules and the routes without notice. These are a few of the problems

#### 3. Are there opportunities for you to provide input on transportation issues and plans, such as the long-range transportation plan, other studies and issues?

I am very grateful to Jessica Ridgeway from the Planning Dept. who reached out to me in June and asked for input on inclusion in the planning process. This gave me a wonderful opportunity to suggest the following:

##### MY SUGGESTIONS

- Individuals living with mobility and sensory disabilities including low vision/blind, hard of hearing/deaf, cognitive, self-care and independent living challenges.
- Barriers to participation: limited mobility, or sensory perception which impedes ability to access meetings or materials may limit participation without assistance or reasonable accommodation.
- Strategies for Engagement
- Formulate and publish Planning Department's policy and practices for inclusive participation (See sample below)
- Ensure that all Planning Department staff are trained in the Department's policy and practices and are aware of their obligation to act in accordance with this policy and corresponding practices
- Increase physical accessibility by ensuring meeting venues comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Standards as issued by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) for places of public accommodation.
- Utilize Virtual Public Engagement strategies to extend opportunities online and provided closed captioning and/or sign language services and other user-friendly formats for people with disabilities.
- Utilize a website design, registration processes, and pre-event communications which are accessible and user friendly for people with disabilities.



## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

- Ensure that an accessibility statement is included on all publicity materials (poster, flyers, emails and web postings).
- Sample Policy Statement: The Orange County Planning Department is committed to providing full and equal access to participation in planning activities for all county residents regardless of abilities and will work to eliminate any barriers to such access and participation through reasonable accommodation as needed.

### **4. Is there equal access and opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, incomes and races to provide input in the transportation planning process?**

The following would be suggestions:

- Require transportation service providers, including taxis, limousines, and Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), to have accessible vehicles. A.3183 (Steck).
- Require counties to expand paratransit beyond ADA minimums. A.3181 (Steck) as well as S.5092 (Kennedy).

The limited availability of accessible transportation services is a major barrier faced by people with disabilities, often leading to unemployment, inability to access medical care, lack of access to voting sites, and isolation from friends, family, and full community participation. The lack of on-demand accessible transportation is a major contributor to this pervasive problem across the State. Throughout most of the State, neither taxis or transportation network companies (TNCs) provide wheelchair-accessible service. Outside New York City, there is virtually no wheelchair accessible taxi service. In some communities, paratransit is the only option; in others, there is nothing. It is imperative that all for-hire transportation services – including taxis and new transportation network companies – ensure a percentage of their fleet is accessible.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates all counties provide paratransit services to people with disabilities unable to take the fixed route bus. Service must be provided to locations within  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of the closest fixed route bus stop. While this is a minimum service, counties can and should provide transportation services to people with disabilities throughout their service area to ensure they can get to work, doctor appointments, and generally participate in their community. Further, the State must not permit transit authorities to cut back paratransit services when they limit or eliminate fixed route bus lines as this will have a disproportionately harmful impact on people with disabilities.

### **5. What are some things that work well?**

I applaud your efforts to expand participation in the planning process as this is the only way to raise issues which need attention.

### **6. What areas do you think can be improved**

Broader notification of planning process opportunities by notifying the Independent Living Centers in the catchment area. These centers are most likely to be engaged with citizens with disabilities who have unique transportation needs and concerns and can notify them of opportunities.

Thank You,

John Harper  
Systems Advocate

Independent Living, Inc.  
30 Industrial Drive  
Middletown, NY 10940  
Phone (845) 342-1162 Fax (845) 342-1192

## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

### Public / Stakeholder Comment – Via Email

**From:** Robert Dennison <radennison3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2021 8:26 AM  
**To:** Chau, Maria (FHWA) <Maria.Chau@dot.gov>; Terry, Jennifer (FTA) <jennifer.terry@dot.gov>  
**Cc:** Brian Slack <bsla@co.ulster.ny.us>; Robert Dennison <radennison3@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** FHWA/FTA Certification Review Public Comment Form

Here is my comment form. I am looking forward to our conversation this morning. RAD

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RAD3

UCTC

**1. From your perspective how well do you understand the UCTC transportation planning process?**

I understand it very well. I served as Secretary to NYMTC and co-chair of OCTC, DCTC and UCTC when I was the NYSDOT Region 8 Director. I was the Regional Director when UCTC was formed

**2. From your perspective how well is the UCTC transportation planning process working to effectively improve transportation in the Region?**

I think the UCTCC does a good job of transportation planning, despite the recurring problem of competing with NYSDOT for scarce resources. The lack of resources has led to a maintenance first approach which results in less resources for the local system.

**3. Are there opportunities for you to provide input on transportation issues and plans, such as the long-range transportation plan and other studies and issues?**

Yes, the UCTC tries very hard to get input from the members of the MPO and the public.

**4. Are there opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, incomes, races, to provide equal access and opportunity for input in the transportation planning process?**

Yes, the UCTC tries to engage the whole community in its planning activities. This has been particularly challenging this year given the limits on public gathering.

**5. What are some things that work well?**

The web site.

The staff is active in community committees and in advancing local initiatives like the pathway system in the County.

**6. What areas do you think can be improved?**

I think more active participation by NYSDOT at the Regional level would add value and make advancing planning activities easier.

## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

### Public / Stakeholder Comment – Via Email

**From:** Jeanette Wolfberg <jeanettewolfberg@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2021 11:16 AM

**To:** Chau, Maria (FHWA) <Maria.Chau@dot.gov>; Terry, Jennifer (FTA) <jennifer.terry@dot.gov>

**Subject:** DCTC Federal Certification Review

Dear Ms. Chau and Ms. Terry,

Transportation in Dutchess County can be improved by:

1. Getting trains to stop at Hyde Park, at least on weekends. It does not matter whether Metro-North or Amtrak does it.
2. Running buses or vans from several points in eastern Dutchess County to Poughkeepsie. One run from each place should get to Poughkeepsie by 8 am on weekdays, for purposes such as jury duty. There can also be midday runs. And there should be runs that return from Poughkeepsie after the workday.
3. Getting trains from Poughkeepsie or Rhinecliff northward that get to Rensselaer before 7:30 am or 8:00 am on weekdays. It doesn't matter whether Amtrak, the CDTA, or something else runs them.
4. Adding a few local train stations between Poughkeepsie and Rensselaer. (Some would be in Columbia or Rensselaer Counties).
5. Develop the train route from Beacon to Danbury for, if nothing else, a way to move Metro-North equipment between different lines.

Please advocate funding and programs that would encourage the above proposals.

Thank-you,

Sincerely,

Jeanette Wolfberg  
537 State Street  
Hudson, NY 12534

## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

### Public / Stakeholder Comment – Via Email

**From:** Michael Sweeton <msweeton@townofwarwick.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2021 10:21 AM  
**To:** Chau, Maria (FHWA) <Maria.Chau@dot.gov>  
**Subject:** OCTC Virtual Policy Board Planning Committee Roundtable Invite.pdf

Here are my answers to your questions

**1. From your perspective how well do you understand the UCTC transportation planning process?**

i have served on the OCTC for many years and understand how the process works from the planning and policy perspectives.

**2. From your perspective how well is the UCTC transportation planning process working to effectively improve transportation in the Region?**

all members have adjusted to the limited funding of recent years and have focused on larger, regional significant projects. we also look to make sure we adequately fund projects to ensure completion.

**3. Are there opportunities for you to provide input on transportation issues and plans, such as the long-range transportation plan and other studies and issues?**

our planning meetings , monthly, give ample opportunity to provide input on transportation issues facing our region and county. when any issue requires more indepth discussion or research we form sub committees.

**4. Are there opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, incomes, races, to provide equal access and opportunity for input in the transportation planning process?**

we hold public input sessions on all the OCTC plans. we hold them across the county in both urban city areas as well as our more rural, suburban areas. all our regular meetings are also open for public comment and input.

**5. What are some things that work well?**

the fact that we must reach consensus is a powerful tool because we debate, weigh options and merits of projects. the result in the end is good projects that improve transportation throughout the region.

**6. What areas do you think can be improved?**

getting more resources for regional projects is a priority. there is much to do.

## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

### FHWA/FTA Certification Review Notice to Receive Public Comments

1. From your perspective how well do you understand the UCTC transportation planning process?  
After serving continuously on the UCTC since 2016 either as a voting member or proxy I am very familiar with the Transportation Plan, the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), etc and how they relate to the planning process.
2. From your perspective how well is the UCTC transportation planning process working to effectively improve transportation in the Region?  
The UCTC transportation planning process is working very effectively to improve transportation in the Region. The UCTC plays a crucial role in coordinating plans and programs across the MPO as well as with public transit operators and adjacent metropolitan planning organizations.
3. Are there opportunities for you to provide input on transportation issues and plans, such as the long-range transportation plan and other studies and issues?  
Yes, we are regularly asked for input on a wide range of transportation issues from safety plans, to the UPWP and the long-range transportation plan.
4. Are there opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, incomes, races, to provide equal access and opportunity for input in the transportation planning process?  
Yes. Even before transitioning to virtual meetings due to covid, which allows easier access the UCTC had regular meetings in which citizens, public and private agencies, and elected officials were encouraged to participate in all aspects of the planning process.
5. What are some things that work well?  
The full time support staff (Dennis, David, Bryan) does an excellent job of making sure everyone understands both the process and the problem so that they can make informed decisions (both short and long-term) based on information and not feelings. Also, the cooperative nature of the decision making process ensures that everyone's voices are heard not just the loudest ones in the room.
6. What areas do you think can be improved?  
On the Federal and State level I wish less emphasis was placed on moving cars and more on public transit and bicycles and pedestrians safety.



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**Dennis Doyle**  
Director, Ulster County Transportation Council  
244 Fair Street, PO Box 1800  
Kingston, NY 12402-1800  
T: 845.340.3340

## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

**From:** straussnyc@verizon.net <straussnyc@verizon.net>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 3:00 PM

**To:** Terry, Jennifer (FTA) <jennifer.terry@dot.gov>; Chau, Maria (FHWA) <Maria.Chau@dot.gov>

**Subject:** Further Written Comments on DCTC Federal Recertification

Ms. Terry and Ms. Chau:

Attached please find ESPA's written comments on the recertification of the Dutchess County Transportation Council. I have also attached a copy of our comments on the Long-Range Transportation Plan which has some similar but more project specific comments. Thank you again for the opportunity to be involved in improving the transportation planning and implementation process in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

Steve Strauss

Executive Director

Empire State Passengers Association

[www.esparail.org](http://www.esparail.org)

646-334-4214

## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)



P.O. Box 434  
Syracuse, NY 13209

October 18, 2021

Ms. Maria Chau  
Federal Highway Administration  
New York Division Office  
11A Clinton Avenue, suite 719  
Albany, NY 12207

Ms. Jennifer Terry  
Federal Transit Administration, Reg. 2  
One Bowling Green, suite 429  
New York, NY 10004-1452

Re: **Dutchess County Transportation Council 2021 Certification Review**

Dear Ms. Chau and Ms. Terry:

On behalf of the Empire State Passengers Association, a statewide intercity passenger rail and local transit advocacy organization, I would like to provide some additional comments on the Dutchess County transportation planning process and Transportation Improvement Program document. They build on ESPA's comments during the September 22<sup>nd</sup> Virtual Public Roundtable.

Our comments are not intended to negatively single out Dutchess County's transportation planning process. We do not view their activities as being particularly different from that of other MPOs in New York State. Rather we wish to highlight the need for New York MPOs to provide the public and elected officials more information on the transportation funding options available to their communities and to bring intercity passenger rail service improvements into the planning and mobility "toolboxes".

As discussed in ESPA's comments on the Dutchess County Long Range Transportation Plan earlier this year (copy attached), we believe the DCTC needs to do a better job in making known the Federal Railroad Administration programs that are available to fund intercity passenger rail improvements in Dutchess County and to fund intercity passenger rail's share of project costs for projects that benefit both Amtrak and Metro-North Railroad in the southern portion of the County.



## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

While FRA funding programs have the disadvantage of being discretionary versus the formula funding that makes up the majority of the FHWA and FTA funds that come to the DCTC, FRA programs nevertheless need to be listed and described in the TIP and the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Similarly, other U.S. DOT discretionary funding programs (RAISE) should also be publicized at the DCTC level so that elected officials and residents are aware of these funding options for projects that are either constrained in the TIP or unfunded. More discussion on the ability to flex funding between FHWA and FTA and vice-versa should also be noted.

The other deficiency in the DCTC planning process of concern to ESPA is the omission of intercity passenger rail projects funded by either Amtrak or NYS DOT. It is our position that U.S. DOT regulations require all federally funded transportation projects to be included in the appropriate TIP. Accordingly, these projects, such as the upcoming major rehabilitation of the Rhinecliff Amtrak station and the construction of a new, high-level train bordering platform, need to be in the TIP. Similarly other Amtrak track and signal work in Dutchess County (generally funded by NYS DOT under Section 209 of PRIIA) should also be included in the document.

Finally, the DCTC, like nearly all MPOs, should develop a more public friendly presentation or compilation of the TIP. While the current format works well for transportation professionals, and their "How to Read the TIP" guide is helpful, simple steps like grouping projects by local/regional agencies with title page dividers might improve readability, along with a Table of Contents.

A more public friendly presentation and better grouping of projects by maintenance/restoration, system expansion, normal replacement for vehicles and equipment and other categories might encourage greater public participation in the process. Paid notices on social media should be part of the publicity campaign. If the DCTC does not already post notices for comment periods at major transportation nodes (toll plaza electronic message boards, bus shelters, train stations, DMV offices, etc.) it should consider doing this, too.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the DCTC planning process and you review the Council's compliance with the requirements associated with receipt of federal transportation planning and construction funding.

Sincerely,



Steve Strauss  
Executive Director  
Empire State Passengers Association



## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)



July 15, 2021

Dutchess County Transportation Council  
85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 107  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Re: **Moving Dutchess Forward**

Dear Transportation Council:

The Empire State Passengers Association, a state-wide intercity passenger rail advocacy organization, with an interest in local transit and last mile connections, is pleased to provide you with comments on the Council's latest update to your Long-Term Transportation Plan.

While ESPA appreciates the more thematic approach to long range transportation and mobility goals and needs in Dutchess County, we also see a weakness in that citizens are not able to see a long-range list of actions and anticipated actions that transportation and mobility providers providing services in the County plan to undertake to meet the themes and objectives of the Plan. Without a "list" of some sort, it is difficult to measure success or failure. Similarly, the Plan's Performance Measures generally omit goals and sometimes definitions so measuring the success or failure of the Plan will be hard.

The Plan seems merely evolutionary with respect to actions over the next 25 years when many others are calling for more revolutionary change. For instance, many of the major automobile manufacturers have announced the phase-out of gasoline-powered vehicles by 2030. New York's enacted Climate Change law requires greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 40 percent by 2030 and no less than 85 percent by 2050 from 1990 levels. The Dutchess County Transportation Plan does not appear to address actions necessary to comply with the requirements of the Climate Change law. The Plan does not discuss how the County might use a large increase in transportation infrastructure funding and what priorities it would recommend to other agencies should the Biden Administration and Congress significantly increase infrastructure capital funding in the short term.

Turning to more specific omissions in the rail and bus transit areas, ESPA recommends that you modify the Plan in several areas.

## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

Dutchess County Transportation Council  
July 15, 2021  
Page 2

1. **Transit and Intercity Passenger Rail Funding** – The Plan omits discretionary capital investment grant programs offered by the Federal Railroad Administration. There are two programs available to NYS DOT and Amtrak.
  - The Federal State Partnership for State of Good Repair and
  - The Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements ProgramThese two programs are available for rail investments north of Poughkeepsie and for the intercity passenger rail share of investments south of Poughkeepsie. The failure to list these programs means elected officials, local governments and County residents could be unaware of these additional sources of capital funds.
2. **NYS Department of Transportation's Role in Funding Intercity Passenger Rail Service in New York state** – Under the Passenger Rail Improvement and Investment Act of 2008, states are responsible for the net capital and operating cost of providing Amtrak service on routes 750 miles in length or less. In New York, the state funds the net cost of all Amtrak service in Dutchess County except for the Lakeshore Ltd., which is a long-distance train funded by the federal government. Here again, failing to discuss the state's role in improving Amtrak stations and service in the County could cause elected officials, local governments and County residents to overlook this route to better service.
3. **Lack of serious commitment to improved rail service in the County** – If the County is serious about reducing greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) it must plan and advocate for improved rail service and improved access through additional parking facilities, on-demand transit routes, station shuttles and mixed-use development around stations. The proposed Plan is deficient in this area. Rhinecliff in particular needs additional parking and a deck of additional parking could be constructed there without any disturbance to scenic sightlines due to the steep grade-separation between the station and the track levels.
4. **Include Metro-North and Amtrak Speed and Reliability Projects in the Plan** – In 2005 NYS DOT, Amtrak and Metro-North completed a study of Hudson line improvements that would improve reliability, increase capacity and reduce travel time for Amtrak and Metro-North customers. Amtrak has recently confirmed that all 3 agencies continue to use the recommendations from the study in considering and planning capital projects. While the cost figures are no longer current, the applicable projects should be considered by DCTC for inclusion in the transformational projects list of the Plan. [https://www.dot.ny.gov/content/delivery/Main-Projects/S93751-Home/S93751-Repository/HudsonLineTransportationPlan\\_Final\\_Report\\_2005.pdf](https://www.dot.ny.gov/content/delivery/Main-Projects/S93751-Home/S93751-Repository/HudsonLineTransportationPlan_Final_Report_2005.pdf)

## Appendix F: Roundtable Summary and Public Comments (con't)

Dutchess County Transportation Council  
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5. **Put some substance into the Transit Plan** – The Bus Transit component of the Plan needs substance. In addition to measuring the number of county residents living within one-half mile of a “frequent or somewhat frequent” transit line, the Plan needs a goal of where this number should be in 25 years and how the County will get there. Similarly, where is the definition of “frequent” bus service and what is the goal for the County in the percent of routes that will have frequent service for what percentage of the day and how many days in the week? From an equity standpoint, the Plan should consider negotiating an intra-county Metro-North rail fare along with free or reduced-price transfers to the bus system to promote greater transit use and take advantage of spare capacity on MNR.
6. **Develop a shuttle or on-demand transit system to serve Rhinecliff station** – As the fourth busiest Amtrak station in New York, the Rhinecliff station could support an “on-demand” type shuttle system to connect the station to downtown Rhinebeck, Bard College, and the Dutchess County Fairgrounds as well as weekdays to Kingston and weekends to Woodstock. MPOs representing counties on the west side of the Hudson need to be involved in the planning and funding of this program. Federal demonstration grants are available and transportation providers such as Via have expressed interest in such a program. With increased numbers of part-time residents residing in the area, this type of program is critical to managing traffic demand.

ESPA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the update to the Dutchess County Long-Range transportation plan. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you and our members in the County to strengthen the rail and bus transit components of the Plan. We hope our suggestions will lead to improvements and refinements in the Plan before it is considered for adoption on the 27<sup>th</sup> and we hope that your federal partners will encourage you to better define your objectives and add measurable goals and details.

Please include ESPA's comments in the record of the Plan review process.

Sincerely,



Steve Strauss  
Executive Director  
Empire State Passengers Association  
[www.esparail.org](http://www.esparail.org)