

Executive Summary

Moving Dutchess Forward is our long-range transportation plan (Plan) for Dutchess County, New York. It serves as the strategic guiding document for improving transportation in the county over the next 25 years.

Our Approach

Moving Dutchess Forward is unlike our previous transportation plans – not only in how we present its content, but also in the scope of that content. We seek to humanize our discussion of goals and priorities, so instead of focusing on infrastructure for the sake of infrastructure, we focus on people – specifically, how our transportation system enables or prevents people from participating in the basics of life (living, working, learning, etc.).

The Plan looks at the policies and infrastructure needed to improve access, considering safety, reliability, and basic needs. It also looks at equity to understand how access is different for some population groups and identifies locations where we need to carefully consider the effects of our transportation decisions and investments.

The Plan is digital – designed to be explored online, and built to be flexible and interactive, with maps and visuals. Outreach for the Plan included the website, an online survey, two virtual public meetings, an online Funding Priorities tool, email blasts, posters and other printed materials, social media posts, a comment line, presentations at municipal board meetings, and regular Planning Committee updates.

Our Vision: “By 2045, Dutchess County’s transportation system will be safer, more reliable, resilient, and equitable.”

Organization

After an introduction to our region, a summary of our demographics, and an inventory of our existing transportation system, the Plan is organized around four goals:

- 1. Learn:** Prepare a transportation system that can anticipate and adapt to changes in the population, economy, technology, climate, and travel behavior.

This section describes trends related to demographics, travel behavior, housing, our economy, freight, climate change, and transportation technology. By analyzing these trends, we hope to better adapt our transportation system and prepare it for the shifting nature of and demand for transportation in our county and region. At the end of each section, we outline ‘our role’: how we (the DCTC) can respond to these trends in our transportation planning work.

2. **Assess:** Provide safe and convenient access for all people to housing, jobs, goods and service, and recreational amenities, regardless of age, ability, race, income, or mode of transportation.

This section identifies transportation barriers related to safety, reliability, access to basic needs, and equity. It includes an extensive analysis of crash data to identify high crash locations and an analysis of walking, bicycling, and transit access. These discussions of barriers are accompanied by tables, infographics, and interactive maps, and conclude with ‘our role’: how we (the DCTC) can address these barriers.

3. **Advocate:** Promote smart transportation and land use policies and practices to remove barriers to access and support economic opportunity, environmental preservation, and improved quality of life.

This section focuses on actions that we (the DCTC), Dutchess County government, and local municipalities can pursue to address the barriers identified in our Assess section. The ‘Local Actions’ piece is organized as a list of questions for municipalities to consider, with best practices provided for each.

4. **Invest:** Make transformative investments in our regional transportation system while maintaining fiscal constraint and leveraging private investment.

This section describes how transportation funding works, how much we expect to be available through 2045, and what investments we will prioritize. It also takes a close look at the funding needed to maintain the major pieces of our transportation system: bridges, roads, transit service, sidewalks, and rail trails, and the funding needed to finance our transformative investments.

Transformative Investments

Making transformative change requires vision and commitment, but also funding. We expect that maintaining our transportation system through 2045 will use most of our available funding. But the need for basic maintenance shouldn’t prevent us from pursuing truly transformative projects that remove barriers and expand access. To focus our investment on addressing the barriers identified in *Moving Dutchess Forward*, we recommend a series of transformative packages and specific transformative projects.

‘We estimate that over \$1.1 billion is needed to maintain our transportation system through 2045.’

Transformative Packages

We identify ten Transformative Packages, which are holistic, ongoing investments to address the trends, barriers, and needs identified in the Plan. They are focused on maintaining safe and reliable access across all forms of travel, and make up most of our expected investment. They include:

1. Road & Bridge Maintenance & Operations
2. Safety Improvements at High Crash Locations
3. Walking & Bicycling Improvements
4. Shared-use Paths & Rail Trails
5. Bus Service Improvements
6. Train Access Improvements
7. Congestion Management & Traffic Operations
8. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
9. Complete Streets Corridor Studies
10. Land Use & Zoning Reform Incentive Program

Transformative Projects

We also identify eight Transformative Projects, which are specific projects that address the needs and barriers identified in the Plan. Most have been planned or are actively being planned. They include:

- A. Market Street Two-way Redesign, City of Poughkeepsie
- B. Arlington Main Street Redesign, Town of Poughkeepsie
- C. Transit Services for the Harlem Valley & Northern Dutchess
- D. Route 44/55 Arterials Redesign, City & Town of Poughkeepsie
- E. Hopewell Junction Route 82 Redesign, Town of East Fishkill
- F. Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail, City of Beacon, & Towns of Fishkill & East Fishkill
- G. Route 9/44/55 Interchange Redesign, City of Poughkeepsie
- H. I-84/Route 9D Interchange Improvements, Town of Fishkill

Moving Dutchess Forward

For this Plan, we purposely sought to humanize the narrative – turning our focus away from the infrastructure itself and instead to the reasons why we have infrastructure in the first place. We strove to better understand how people interact with our transportation system, acknowledging its failings, but also its opportunities. We also wanted a Plan that resonated with the public that not only will serve as a resource for us, but also for you. And we intend to update it as needs and conditions change. We're excited to work on *Moving Dutchess Forward* with you.