

MPO 101

By Ashlee Long, Planner

What is the OCTC?

Since 1982, the Orange County Transportation Council (OCTC) has been the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Orange County. By federal law, an MPO is designated by each state's governor for every urban area in the United States with at least 50,000 residents. MPO's look at regional transportation issues, which involves addressing land use, air quality, energy, economic development, commerce, and quality of life.

The OCTC, acting as the local MPO decision making body, is comprised of 15 voting members. Council membership is based on a municipality's urbanized area classification, with urbanized cities serving as permanent voting members and the towns and villages serving on a rotating basis. In addition, Orange County, the New State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), the New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA), and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) serve as voting members on the Council, while the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA), and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) serve as permanent non-voting advisory members.

The Planning Committee supports the OCTC and reviews plans and programs prior to Council action. Membership on the Planning Committee is open to all municipalities in Orange County.

In addition to carrying out transportation planning in Orange County, OCTC also takes a regional view as part of the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh Urbanized Area, locally referred to as the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA). TMAs are defined as urbanized areas with a population over 200,000, and together portions of Dutchess, Orange, Ulster Counties in New York, and Passaic County in New Jersey form a TMA. The Dutchess County Transportation Council and the

Ulster County Transportation Council manage the metropolitan planning process for their respective counties, while the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority is responsible for metropolitan planning for northern New Jersey. The TMA focuses on addressing regional transportation issues and meeting federal requirements set forth for a TMA. An example of this partnership includes the completion of a single Congestion Management Process (CMP) for the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh UZA.

What does an MPO do?

The OCTC, staffed by the Orange County Planning Department, routinely develops three core documents: a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), and a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The LRTP outlines the OCTC's goals and policies for the next 25 years and is updated every four years. The TIP is updated every two to three years and serves as the five-year capital program for federally funded transportation projects in Orange County. The UPWP is updated annually and is a program of the federally funded transportation planning activities undertaken each year. These tasks and projects support the goals, objectives, and recommendations of the LRTP, including administrative, technical, and transportation planning tasks to be performed by OCTC staff.

Want to contact OCTC?

Interested groups or individuals can join our mailing list, which we use to distribute notices regarding upcoming meetings and products. The public is encouraged to attend our public information meetings and all OCTC products are available either on the OCTC webpage or upon request.

OCTC Contact

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