

Putnam County Transportation Advisory Council

841 Fair Street, Carmel, NY 10512

Putnam County Transportation Advisory Council (TAC) Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 2:00 -3:15 pm Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Barbara Barosa (Advisory Member and Chairperson), Clare Rigano (TAC Member), Matthew Covucci (Planning Staff), Sean Bennett (Planning Staff), Stacey Tompkins (TAC Member), Michelle Kupper (TAC Member), Rian Rodriguez (Advisory Member), Michael Chiodi (TAC Member), Jack Dantec (TAC Member), Ray Higgins (TAC Member), Tara Keegan (Advisory Member)

Absent:

Lillian Gyomai (TAC Member), Bill Gouldman (Advisory Member), Karl Rohde (Advisory Member), Sara Servadio (Advisory Member), Neal Zuckerman (Advisory Member)

- 1) Call to Order at 2:05pm
- 2) Acceptance of June 3, 2026 TAC meeting minutes.
 - J. Dantec made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 3, 2026 TAC meeting, R. Higgins seconded. Motion carried.
- 3) PART Operations Statistics, 2nd Quarter
 - S. Bennett, Planning staff, gives a breakdown of 2nd quarter key performance indicators related to PART operations. Ridership numbers are broken down and discussed by route and service mode, with additional details being provided for ADA paratransit and On-Demand Microtransit numbers, such as on-time performance and passenger wait times.
 - R. Rodriguez asked if paratransit trips were roughly evenly distributed across unique riders. R. Higgins asked if there were any theories as to why PART 5 numbers were going up as opposed to the other routes. T. Keegan asked if the On-Demand system was nearing capacity, as she said she had been promoting it, but didn't want to continue doing so if it would overburden the system.
- 4) What's New?
 - S. Bennett mentions soon-to-be-released Request for Proposals for cashless fare payment system and current efforts to advertise Croton Falls Shuttle service.
- 5) Open Forum

- T. Keegan asked about the cashless fare payment system and whether it would include the Cold Spring Trolley (which it would) as she expects increased interest from people coming up to Cold Spring from the city due to increasing visits from “influencers” creating content based in the area and attracting new interest. Many of these people would want a tap-and-go option for the Trolley.
- R. Higgins asked if the County had considered using OMNY since it is being used by MTA buses and Westchester Beeline. B. Barosa responded that it was looked into but would have substantial challenges in implementation.
- J. Dantec mentioned HART transit’s new “Where’s my Bus” app and asked if Putnam County had any plans or discussions about doing something like that? B. Barosa responded that there have been discussions, but internal upgrades to the County’s GTFS feed would need to be made.
- R. Higgins asked if there had been any efforts to do outreach at senior centers to explain how Putnam on Demand works and show them how to download the app. B. Barosa responded that there have been numerous outreach events, specifically with Office of Senior Resources as well, but that more work will be needed.
- M. Kupper asked regarding the Microtransit service if we had data on where people are coming from and going. B. Barosa and S. Bennett responded that yes, we have quite a bit of data on trip origin and destination, as well as data on trip requests when it involves locations that aren’t served.
- R. Rodriguez asked if there were plans to add bus stops or signage along the route. B. Barosa responded that the transit study did address the need for signage, shelters and other amenities, as well evaluating various areas where it might make more sense to replace flag service with dedicated stops only.

6) Transit Study Recommendations

- B. Barosa read through a summary of the key transit study recommendations including elimination of PART 1 service to Putnam Lake, the recommended branching pattern and addition of hourly service to PART 2 and the elimination of service north of Sybil Crossing on PART 5 (and its replacement with On-Demand Microtransit) as well as the recommended re-routing of Croton Falls Shuttle service to Union Valley Road.
- B. Barosa reviewed the transit study’s recommendations on creating two new Microtransit zones, one in Cold Spring-Philipstown and one in Putnam Valley-Lake Peekskill.
- The transit study’s recommendations for bus shelters and signage, digital tools (where’s my bus tracking) and countywide enhanced mobility (Section 5310) were also reviewed.

- B. Barosa outlined the changes that the department is currently looking to implement in the short-term, including the addition of a second vehicle and driver on PART 2 resulting in peak-hour 60-minute frequency and the creation of two new On-Demand Microtransit zones for Cold Spring and Putnam Valley. There is also the possibility of changing the current Croton Falls Shuttle alignment as recommended in the LaBella study.
- J. Dantec made a motion to support implementation of adding peak-hour 60-minute service on PART 2 and add two new Microtransit zones. R. Higgins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7) Discussion of Adoption of By-Laws

- S. Bennett reviewed a set of sample by-laws from the Seattle Transit Advisory Board as a potential basis for Putnam County's Transportation Advisory Council. However, there would be a need to add language regarding code of ethics, use of Robert's Rules of Order and a regular meeting schedule.
- After mentioning a regular meeting schedule, B. Barosa asked the group if they wanted to meet quarterly or semi-annually, or on some other basis. The TAC decided quarterly was good and that Tuesdays at 2:00 PM were a better choice moving forward and that the next meeting would be planned for November at this day and time, with the date to be determined.

8) Adjournment

R. Higgins made a motion to adjourn, J. Dantec seconded. Motion carried

Meeting ends at 3:08 pm.