

Public Bus Transportation in Dutchess County

Fact Sheet prepared by the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region

Dutchess County is served by The Dutchess County Loop Bus System, the City of Poughkeepsie Bus System, and specialty transportation services, such as Dial- A- Ride. There are overlapping needs of county and city residents regarding routes and destinations for transportation. A major study was done in 2009 by the Poughkeepsie Dutchess County Transportation Council regarding improved and coordinated service. Further discussions considered greater coordination between the County and City bus systems to reduce redundancies in service and administration.

Issues:

- Budget issues. Public bus transportation is not self-supporting. Currently both the City and County subsidize their services. At this time the actual cost of the service and what is actually spent by each municipality are not clear. Both jurisdictions have budget issues and the challenge is to determine where savings might be achieved and how the jurisdictions could reallocate subsidies.
- Service Priorities: Once redundancies are eliminated, it is likely that service decisions would have to be made regarding priorities, routes, schedules and operation responsibility.

Proposals and Recommendations:

The Poughkeepsie Dutchess Country Transportation Council is working with a transportation consultant to examine the costs, benefits and logistics of having the Dutchess County LOOP Bus System operate the bus system in the City of Poughkeepsie. The analysis is expected by the summer of 2013 and is a component of Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro's Transportation Strategic Review.