

County Public Works Commissioner Charlie Traver to Retire

Molinaro: “County has been well-served”

Poughkeepsie...Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro has announced the retirement of Dutchess County Commissioner of Public Works Charles (Charlie) Traver. Mr. Traver has served Dutchess County for nearly 40 years including more than 5 years as Commissioner of Public Works (including service as Acting Commissioner).

County Executive Molinaro stated, “Dutchess County is a better place thanks to the work and service of Charles Traver. Whether clearing snow or keeping our parks ready and welcoming to families for a day of fun, Charlie has been there to make it happen. He is a true public servant, serving the residents of Dutchess County with honesty and integrity. We wish him the very best in retirement and know he will be greatly missed.”

Charlie Traver has dedicated his entire career to public service in the Dutchess County Department of Public Works. He began his career in 1973 as a laborer in the Operations Division and was promoted to a variety of positions, including Assistant Civil Engineer, until becoming the Director of Highway Construction & Maintenance Division for Dutchess County Department of Public Works in 1999. He led the division for more than eight years when he was asked to serve as Acting Commissioner of Public Works following the retirement of former Public Works Commissioner, Michael P. Murphy. Mr. Traver was formally appointed as Commissioner of Public Works in April 2009.

As Commissioner, he has been responsible for planning and directing the operation of the Department of Public Works, which includes five divisions: Highway Operations, Engineering, Parks, Building & Facilities and Airport. Those five divisions encompass 395 miles of highways, 1.4 million square feet of county owned buildings, 6 County parks and the county government owned airport in the Town of Wappinger. He has directed a staff of more than 200 employees and overseen an annual operating budget of almost

\$25 million. He has also been responsible for the oversight of more than \$80 million in Public Works Capital improvements.

Under Mr. Traver's leadership, the Dutchess County Department of Public Works has completed several major capital projects.

- Planning and construction of the multi-phased *Dutchess Rail Trail*.
Three phases of the Dutchess Rail Trail have been completed with more than 10 paved miles of trail through Poughkeepsie, LaGrange, Wappinger and East Fishkill open to the public. Phase IV of the Dutchess Rail Trail, which includes the construction of a bridge over Rt. 55 is slated to begin in late summer/early fall of this year;
- *Quiet Cove Riverfront Park* property improvements including the renovation of the Navy Boathouse Annex in the Town of Poughkeepsie;
- Improvements to *Dutchess Stadium* in Fishkill;
- Redesign/Construction for the *Highway & Engineering Facilities Building* in the Town of Poughkeepsie;
- Expansion of the *911 Emergency Operations Center*;
- Improvements to *Bowdoin* and *Wilcox Parks* including new playground equipment and water spray features (currently underway);
- *Medical Examiner facility* (design process currently underway)

Mr. Traver said, "It has been an honor to spend my career serving the residents of Dutchess County. Having been born and raised in Dutchess County, I have always found it to be tremendously rewarding to help make our community a better place to live. I have been blessed to have worked with a great team of people throughout my years in Public Works, as well as throughout Dutchess County Government. I have had the pleasure of serving two excellent county leaders, former County Executive Steinhaus who originally appointed me as Commissioner and now for County Executive Molinaro, whose leadership I know will bring many great things for the future of Dutchess County."

Mr. Traver officially retires on June 29th, 2012. He will be recognized for his service this evening by County Executive Molinaro and the members of the Dutchess County Legislature this evening at the Legislature's 7pm Board meeting.

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