

**Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council**  
**Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting**

January 26, 2017, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Dutchess County Planning Department, 27 High St (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), Poughkeepsie

**Meeting Summary**

**1) Introductions**

Emily Dozier (PDCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves (see attached list).

**2) Presentation:** ‘Watch Out for Me’ campaign, Aisha Phillips, Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

Aisha described the County [Complete Streets](#) Committee’s ‘Watch Out for Me’ campaign, which is in the final planning stages. The intent is to educate people about safe driving, walking and bicycling, using ads on and inside County buses, as well as brochures and social media. She shared images of the interior bus ads, exterior bus ads, and Street Safety Tips brochure.

Aisha asked specifically for suggestions for distributing the brochures. Ideas included libraries, town halls, DMV offices, colleges, schools (through the CAPE program), County Traffic Safety Board, County defensive driving courses, driving schools, churches, libraries, post offices, train stations, and bus stop shelters. The group also suggested creating laminated versions to post at the Walkway, rail trail trailheads, and other locations. The laminated version could include a QR code to the website: [www.dutchessny.gov/WatchOutForMe](http://www.dutchessny.gov/WatchOutForMe). The group also liked the idea of a QR code on the interior bus ads.

Other suggestions included surveys to educate people about basic driving, walking and bicycling laws. This could be a pre- and post-campaign survey, and/or simple online quizzes, such as ‘Are you a Smart Driver?’ ‘Are you a Smart Pedestrian?’ and ‘Are you a Smart Bicyclist?’

Aisha noted that the campaign will include downloadable materials on the Watch Out for Me website that municipalities and others can use. It will also include social media posts on the County’s Facebook page. Kevin Newman noted that some municipalities have created educational videos, such as NYC’s [“Don’t be a Jerk” bicycle safety campaign](#) and videos in [Philadelphia](#) for safe bicycling and [walking](#).

The County’s Complete Streets policy and Resolution are available online at [www.dutchessny.gov/CompleteStreets](http://www.dutchessny.gov/CompleteStreets).

**3) Project Updates/Group Discussion**

Karl Beard (National Park Service) discussed the Governor's proposed [Empire State Trail](#). The trail would include 350 miles of new trail to create a 750-mile long trail, comprised of the Hudson River Valley Greenway and the Erie Canalway Trail. In the Hudson Valley, it would come north on the Putnam Trailway through Brewster, and connect to the Dutchess Rail Trail at Hopewell Junction with a new trail on the 'Beacon line' rail alignment. It would cross into Ulster County using the Walkway Over the Hudson, go north through Kingston, and then return to Dutchess County on the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge. It would then follow State Bike Route 9 north (using on-road facilities).

Bill Trifilo (County DPW) had no updates; Emily asked **Bill** to update the group at the next meeting on the schedule for the Harlem Valley Rail Trail extension to Columbia County.

Kevin Newman announced that the Market Street Connect project is having an open house at the Bardavon. Emily added that it will be from 4-7 pm on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, and will include images of different options for Complete Streets-related changes to downtown Poughkeepsie's streets. More information is available on the City's [website](#).

Linda French (Town of Dover) stated that she had no updates, but that there is a lot of interest in trails in Dover. Bill suggested that everyone visit the White Sands of Dover (also known as the [Roger Perry preserve](#)).

Karen Flaherty (Mid-Hudson Bicycle Club) said that the club was interested in partnering with a bike shop on a maintenance clinic. Emily asked **Karen** to forward updates as this is finalized. Karen has also discussed the idea of a trails walkabout program, similar to the [Hyde Park Trails Walkabout](#), with Town of Poughkeepsie staff. She will continue to pursue it.

Sharon Kroeger reiterated her safety concern on Smithfield Valley Rd (CR 83) in Amenia. Bill Trifilo said he was very familiar with the area, and some warning signs may be warranted. **Bill** will discuss it with DPW's traffic engineer and visit the site to consider the best approach.

Bill Johnson (Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board) said that he would like to conduct some helmet inspection events on the Dutchess Rail Trail. This could be coordinated with the Mid-Hudson Bicycle Club, if they would be willing to help trail riders with basic maintenance issues. He added that the Street Safety Tips brochures could also be distributed at these events.

Amy Kacala (Scenic Hudson) stated that the Breakneck Connector parking lot project (part of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail) is nearly finalized. NYSDOT will lower the speed limit on Route 9D from 55 to 40 mph in the area. She added that the City of Beacon is replacing the Tioranda bridge, and it will include 2 travel lanes as well as walking/bicycling areas on both sides (separated from traffic by planters). Amy noted that the Empire State Trail includes a portion of the Beacon line that MTA recently issued a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) about; however, the portion of that line from Hopewell Junction to Beacon is not part of the Empire State Trail, and communities are still very interested in trolley or rail service as well as a trail along that part of the line.

#### 4) Announcements

**NYS DOT:** Emily stated that Chris Lee (NYS DOT Region 8) was unable to attend, but told her that he will be updating NYS DOT's online bicycle routes map once an updated version is produced (see <https://www.dot.ny.gov/bicycle/maps?tab=map>). Any needed edits should be forwarded to Chris.

**County Transit:** Emily distributed a press release regarding upgrades to the County Transit's fareboxes and ticket options, and new Sunday service (to start February 5) and a new Route I (to start February 4). See the [County Transit webpage](#) for more information.

**Arlington Town Center Pedestrian Plan:** Emily is finalizing a plan to improve walkability in Arlington, particularly on Main Street. More information is on the PDCTC's [project webpage](#).

**County bicycle parking map:** The County is re-designing the [online bicycle parking map](#) as a County web map application this year. Emily asked the group to continue sending her photos and information about publicly accessible bike racks so they can be included.

**Funding:** Emily stated that the TAP (Surface Transportation Block Grant set-aside) awards should be announced by NYS DOT sometime soon (in "early winter"). Community Development Block Grant ([CDBG](#)) awards should be made in February.

**PDCTC Bicycle skills course:** Emily asked if there was interest in organizing a bicycle skills course this year, similar to one that the PDCTC organized in 2014. Marilyn Donahue-Schiller, a League of American Bicyclists certified instructor who lives in Clinton on weekends, reached out to Emily and may be willing to lead the course. The group discussed various questions regarding topics, locations, participants, fees, and length of the course. **Emily** will follow up with Marilyn.

#### Events:

- [Market Street Connect open house](#): Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4-7 pm, Bardavon, Poughkeepsie
- [Winnakee-Dutchess Trails Roundtable](#): next meeting March 23, Wallace Center, Hyde Park
- New York Bicycling Coalition statewide [Bike Summit](#): September 15, Albany NY

#### 5) Follow up items

1. Review [NYS DOT's online bicycle facilities map](#) and send edits to [Chris Lee](#).
2. Review & send updates for the online [bicycle parking finder](#) to Emily.
3. Send Emily ideas for future presentations.
4. See bolded items under agenda items #3-4 for individual follow-up items.

#### 6) Next Meeting: April 27, 3-5pm, DCC, Bowne Hall

**Date: January 26, 2017**

**Time: 3:00-5:00 pm**

**Location: Dutchess County Planning, 27 High St**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Municipality</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Karl Beard	National Park Service, Rivers & Trails Program	<a href="mailto:karl-beard@nps.gov">karl-beard@nps.gov</a>	(845) 229-9115 x2034
Emily Dozier	Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council	<a href="mailto:edozier@dutchessny.gov">edozier@dutchessny.gov</a>	845-486-3600
Karen Flaherty	Mid-Hudson Bicycle Club; Town of Poughkeepsie resident	<a href="mailto:karty707@verizon.net">karty707@verizon.net</a>	845-452-0707
Bill Johnson	Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board	<a href="mailto:wjohnson@dutchessny.gov">wjohnson@dutchessny.gov</a>	(845) 486-3603
Amy Kacala	Scenic Hudson	<a href="mailto:akacala@scenichudson.org">akacala@scenichudson.org</a>	(845) 473-4440
Sharon Kroeger	Wassaic Historic Agricultural Crossroads	<a href="mailto:generalstoresk@optonline.net">generalstoresk@optonline.net</a>	(845) 373-7735
Shelby Tompkins	Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council	<a href="mailto:stompkins@dutchessny.gov">stompkins@dutchessny.gov</a>	845-486-3600
Kevin Newman	City of Poughkeepsie Resident/Community Voices Heard	<a href="mailto:slowrider@bicycle.bigk12603.com">slowrider@bicycle.bigk12603.com</a>	845-559-7008
William Trifilo	Dutchess County Department of Public Works	<a href="mailto:wtrifilo@dutchessny.gov">wtrifilo@dutchessny.gov</a>	845-486-2936
Linda S. French	Town of Dover Supervisor	<a href="mailto:Supervisor@TownofDoverNY.us">Supervisor@TownofDoverNY.us</a>	845-832-6111
Aisha Phillips	Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health	<a href="mailto:aphillips@dutchessny.gov">aphillips@dutchessny.gov</a>	845-486-3473

# The New Empire State Trail

From Buffalo,  
to Canada,  
to Manhattan.

**#EverUpward**

