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

April 26, 2017, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Dutchess Community College, 115 Bowne Hall, 53 Pendell Road, Poughkeepsie

Meeting Summary

1) Introductions

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

2) Presentation: Planning for a More Walkable Beacon- John Clarke, Planning Consultant

John described efforts to encourage walkable and bikeable development patterns in Beacon. He stated that the best way to encourage walking and bicycling is by developing in centers, and locating destinations close to one another. He outlined Beacon’s new Linkage and Commercial Main Street zoning districts, which allow higher-density between the waterfront and Main St, and along the center portion of Main St, respectively. He explained that the new zoning has resulted in a lot of planned development, particularly near the train station.

The group discussed the history of Beacon, its revitalization, and current demographic trends. John noted that the City will require that any housing development with more than 10 units set aside 10% of units as affordable (based on 70% of the area median income). The city also recently adopted Complete Streets Guidelines. He is encouraging the City to develop a bike plan.

3) Project Updates/Group Discussion

Paul Hesse (City of Poughkeepsie) stated that the Market Street Connect project is still underway. The consultants are analyzing the preferred design, which is two-way traffic on Market Street.

Jane Geisler (Town of Union Vale) noted that the Route 82 bridge over Sprout Creek in Verbank has a temporary signal while NYSDOT repairs the bridge.

Shelby Frangk (DCTC) noted that DCTC’s annual traffic count program is starting; she has asked the contractor to collect bicycle counts on several roads using bicycle-specific tubes, and to collect pedestrian and bicycle counts on several rail trails/paths using video. She is still waiting to hear if this will be possible.

Bill Trifilo (County DPW) noted that construction would start soon on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail extension from Millerton to Columbia County [construction is planned for 2018].
Ross Ritter (Town of LaGrange) stated that NYSDOT’s paving work on Route 376 looked good; they are paving the full width of the shoulder. The Robinson Lane/Lake Walton Rd/Route 376 intersection project is starting; it will include turn lanes. Ross noted that there are significant potholes on the Route 82 bridge in Hopewell Junction (near Daddy O’s). He added that there has been a lot of development in the LaGrange Town Center (near Arlington High School), and it is starting to feel like a real Town center.

Kevin Newman (City of Poughkeepsie) noted that Bike New York’s Bike Expo is May 5-6 in New York City. He will be there, as will the Adventure Cycling Association. He added that National Bike Travel Weekend is June 2, 3, and 4, and Bike Your Park Day will be September 30th.

David Anderson (Town of Beekman) asked if there was any way to widen the shoulders on Beekman Rd (CR 9). He said it’s very unsafe for bicycling. Bill Trifilo noted that in some cases, the County can expand shoulders, but in others they have to purchase property from all the landowners along the road.

Sharon Kroeger (Town of Amenia) stated that the Trail to the Train (a trail extension connecting the Harlem Valley Rail Trail trailhead at the Wassaic Metro-North Station to the hamlet of Wassaic) could be done in about six months. The group discussed the importance of connections between rail trails and Town centers.

Carl Whitehead (Town of Poughkeepsie) stated that he continues to ask developers to install bike racks, as part of the Town of Poughkeepsie Planning Board’s review. He will send Emily photos of new bike parking in the Town.

Betsy Brockway (Town of Pawling) stated that this will be her last BPAC meeting. Emily noted that the Village of Pawling requested a sidewalk study; the Transportation Council will work on that once the Millerton Pedestrian Plan is complete.

Brenda Cagle (Town of Red Hook) stated that a large residential development with various housing types is in progress on Route 9 across from the Holy Cow. Construction of a new sidewalk on Route 9 between Town Hall and the Holy Cow will start this spring. The Town is working on implementing the Village to Village Trail (7 miles connecting Red Hook and Tivoli, mostly on streets) through kiosks, signage, and some traffic calming.

4) Announcements

County bicycle parking map: Emily showed the group the County’s new bicycle parking map application, which includes photos and descriptions of bike parking locations, resources, and a feedback form. Emily asked the group to continue sending her photos and information about publicly accessible bike racks so they can be added to the map.
Kingston Adult Bicycle Safety Class: Emily announced that the YMCA of Kingston is holding a bicycle safety series in May. She distributed information and a flyer.

Walk Friendly Communities: Emily encouraged local municipalities to consider applying for the Walk-Friendly Community designation. Part of the application is an evaluation of walkability and pedestrian safety that can help communities identify ways to improve. She distributed an email announcing the recent designees. The next round of submissions are due June 15. See www.walkfriendly.org for more information.

sPOKe Bicycle Rides: Emily distributed a flyer announcing monthly rides in the City of Poughkeepsie, organized by sPOKe. They meet on the Saturday after First Friday, at 10:30 am at the Walkway parking lot (Poughkeepsie side).

DCTC Bicycle skills course: Emily stated that she is working with a League of American Bicyclists certified instructor to organize a bicycle skills clinic. It would likely be on a Saturday morning this summer at the Walkway parking lot (Poughkeepsie side). It would be about 2 hours and free to attend. Emily asked for help with outreach. Ross said that Bikeway might send a mechanic and their trailer to assist with minor repairs. He also suggested that Sam Train, a local cyclist, might be interested in participating with his son’s Cub Scout group.

Events:
- Winnakee-Dutchess Trails Roundtable: next meeting June 22
- New York Bicycling Coalition statewide Bike Summit: September 15, Albany NY

5) Follow up items
- Review & send updates to the County bicycle parking map to Emily.
- Send Emily ideas for future presentations.
- See bolded items under agenda items #3-4 for individual follow-up items.

6) Next Meeting: July 27, 3-5pm, DCC, Bowne Hall
Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting
Date: April 27, 2017
Time: 3:00-5:00 pm
Location: DCC, 115 Bowne Hall

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<tr>
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PLEASE SIGN IN

Sign-in Sheet 1 of ____
Dear Supporter of Safe Bicycling:

I am happy to announce that the YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County will again be offering an Adult Bicycle Safety Class, titled “Everyday Biking,” beginning on Tuesday May 9th – just in time for National Bike Month!

The program is for anyone over 17 who has ridden a bike in the past, and is designed to provide information and develop skills that will result in increased safety and enjoyment of bike riding. Whatever the knowledge base and confidence level that participants come in with, they will leave with more! It will feature interactive classroom discussion and on-bike instruction, skills training in the Y’s parking lot and a road ride. A working bike and helmet are required; participants may bring their own or use the Y’s.

The curriculum has been developed by the League of American Bicyclists over the past 40 years. It has truly has stood the test of time as thousands of people have benefited from the League’s classes. This class, known as “Traffic Skills 101,” is the prerequisite for additional trainings and levels of expertise. A written exam and road test will be offered to those students who wish to further their bike safety education and become eligible for further classes. I hope some students will choose this opportunity as we have an “bik e instructor desert” here in the Hudson Valley.

Registration for the class is $50.00; scholarships are available, but please contact the YMCA at least two weeks before the program start date. The location will be the YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County, 507 Broadway, Kingston NY 12401. Enrollment is limited to 12 students. You can register online: https://ops1.operations.daxko.com/Online/2186/Programs/Search.mvc/programs?category_ids=40320 or at the Y Membership Office, 507 Broadway, Kingston (845-338-3810). Attached is a flyer and the registration form.

I will be the lead instructor. I have been the Bicycle Educator for the YMCA for the past 7 years, and am a life-long cyclist. I am a League Certified Instructor (LCI) with the League of American Bicyclists and a certified Ride Leader through the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA).

I hope you will be able to help me spread the news about this terrific program, and perhaps enroll yourself!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any further information.

Thank you for your assistance!

Tom Polk
Bicycle Educator
YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County
507 Broadway
Kingston NY 12401
845.338.3810, x 102 (Office)
845.338.0423 (Fax)
845.417.1280 (mobile)
For adults who already know how to ride a bike, but
are interested in learning more and gaining more
confidence when they ride.

An Ulster County education program geared to the
needs of adults! The class will feature interactive
classroom discussion and on-bike instruction and
practice. Bike and helmet required; participants may
bring their own or use the Y’s.

Classes held at the YMCA, 507 Broadway, Kingston.
Enrollment limited to 12 students. To sign up, log onto
www.ymcaulster.org or visit the YMCA Membership
Office, Monday through Thursday 9am-5pm or Friday,
9am to 3pm. If you have questions about the class,
contact the Instructor, Tom Polk at 845-338-3810,
x 102 or email him at tpolk@ymcaulster.org

Tom Polk, Bicycle Educator for the YMCA for the
past 7 years, is a life-long cyclist. He is a League
Certified Instructor (LCI) with the League
of American Bicyclists and a certified
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International Mountain Bike
Association (IMBA).

Everyday Biking
ADULT BICYCLE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Tuesdays, May 9, 16 & 23, from 5:30 to 8:30pm
Cost: $50.00; Scholarships available.
sPOKe is a group of bicycling advocates that rides on Saturdays following Poughkeepsie's First Friday. Our typical ride visits all 8 wards of the city and has a special theme or focus!

Join us in 2017, when we will ride:

April 8
May 6
June 3
July 8
August 5
September 2
October 7
October 28: Halloween Ride
November 18: 'Cranksgiving' Ride
December: Celebration of Lights Parade (evening)

Meet at 10:30 AM at Walkway over the Hudson parking lot in Poughkeepsie

All of our rides are leisurely and open to anyone who can responsibly ride on the street.

Learn more and get in touch on Facebook (www.facebook.com/spokepoughkeepsie) or on our website (spoke2015.wordpress.com)