

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

January 28, 2016, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Dutchess Community College, 122 Bowne Hall (1st Floor), 53 Pendell Road, Poughkeepsie

Meeting Summary

1) Introductions

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

2) Presentation & Discussion: Emily Flynn, [Bicycle Friendly Kingston](#); Tim Weidemann, [Kingston Land Trust](#)

Emily Flynn, the leader of Bicycle Friendly Kingston, explained that Bicycle Friendly Kingston is an advocacy group dedicated to making a safer, more bikeable city. They meet twice monthly (day and evening meetings) to discuss current and potential bicycle infrastructure, organize events, and educate Kingston residents about responsible bicycling. Bicycle Friendly Kingston holds regular events for all ages and abilities, such as Bike-to-Work Day (in coordination with the local YMCA), a Feast on Two Wheels, the Mural-to-Mural O+ Ride (as part of Kingston's O+ Festival), Winter Chill Rides, Bike Valet Parking, a Bike Fix-it Clinic, and a film screening (Winter of Cyclists). For more information on Bicycle Friendly Kingston events, please visit the [BFK Events Calendar](#).

Emily added that, in her experience, bicycling events are most successful when advertised through many public channels (e.g. Facebook, e-newsletters, etc.), when tied into other events (e.g. Mural-to-Mural O+ Ride), and when individuals are required to purchase tickets prior to the event (through EventBrite); this improves both interest and attendance to the event. She emphasized that the overall goal is to get people out bicycling, and anytime that goal is achieved, it is a success.

Emily introduced the 'Building a Better Broadway' project; this project is currently in development and would help revitalize the mid-town section of Kingston. Upgrades to current infrastructure would include sidewalks, signage, traffic signals, intersection realignments, reduced turning radii, bus infrastructure, and a protected bike lane. Emily stated that adding bicycle infrastructure to mid-town Broadway would encourage more bicycling for transportation, connect downtown and uptown Kingston, reduce traffic congestion, increase health benefits, and improve the environment. Finally, Emily suggested communicating early and often with public stakeholders about a project's intent, progress, and implementation.

Next, Tim Weidemann discussed his work with the Kingston Land Trust. He explained that this organization is unique in its role as an urban land trust. The organization was created to

promote the best use of underutilized city spaces. The Kingston Land Trust's key initiatives are the Kingston Greenline, urban agriculture, and open space protection.

Tim noted that the Kingston Land Trust has partnered with the City of Kingston on the Kingston Connectivity Project. The City of Kingston has received a \$2 million grant to connect mid-town Kingston to rail trails and the waterfront. Construction is anticipated in 2016.

Finally, the Kingston Greenline is a network of linear parks and complete streets throughout the City of Kingston. Tim hopes that this kind of infrastructure will spur a shift in thinking among the residents of Kingston; he hopes people will use the trails for transportation as well as recreation.

3) Implementation: Progress Reports

Karen Flaherty (Mid-Hudson Bicycle Club) announced that she is talking to the Town of Poughkeepsie Recreation Director and a Town Board member about creating a trails walkabout program similar to the [Hyde Park trails walkabout](#). She also noted that the signal at the 'jug handle' from Burnett Blvd onto Route 55 is not sensitive enough to detect a motorcycle.

Bill Johnson (Traffic Safety Board) said that the Traffic Safety Board (TSB) has grant funding to provide bicycle helmets at events. Emily suggested that he could coordinate with the Poughkeepsie City School District's summer feeding program to hold bicycle and/or pedestrian safety events for school-aged kids. Ozie Williams (Department of Behavioral & Community Health) added that the kick-off event in Pulaski Park would be a good opportunity to reach a lot of kids.

Bill Trifilo (Dutchess County DPW) announced that four foot shoulders will be incorporated on both CR 21 (Noxon Rd) and CR 49 (Titusville Rd) as part of the intersection redesign project. Cynthia Ruiz (Dutchess County Public Transit) stated that DPW has a new salt treatment for County roads that uses one-third less salt. Lisa Mondello (NYSDOT) noted that NYSDOT uses a brine solution, which is applied in anticipation of snow/ice.

Ozie Williams (Department of Behavioral & Community Health) stated that the County Executive recently announced a goal for Dutchess County to be the healthiest county in New York State. The County has a new [Healthy Living website](#). Ozie is also working on healthy meeting guidelines. Upcoming events include: February 5- Wear Red Day (for heart health); March 19- Dutchess Heart Walk; April 1- National Walking Day; May- Bike Month; May 4- Bike to School Day; May 20- Bike to Work Day.

Shelby Tompkins (PDCTC) noted that the PDCTC's long-range transportation plan, [Moving Dutchess 2](#), is almost complete. She encouraged the Committee to review the recommendations at the end of the chapter 6 that pertains to their area. Emily added that the recommendations from *Walk Bike Dutchess* were incorporated into Moving Dutchess 2.

Amy Kacala (Scenic Hudson) announced that three elements of the Highlands Fjord Trail should be completed in 2016: the Washburn parking lot, the Fair Street sidewalk, and the first set of gateway signs. The “Breakneck Connector” segment between the Breakneck Train Station and the Breakneck Ridge trailhead is currently in design and may go out to bid in the fall.

Lisa Mondello (NYSDOT) noted that NYSDOT is installing pedestrian countdown timers at a number of intersections around the Region. These are only at locations with existing pedestrian signals. Construction should be complete by the end of 2016.

Betsy Brockway (Town of Pawling) announced that the Pawling’s [Park Master Plan](#) (produced by the Pawling Community Foundation) is complete. Two key recommendations related to walking and bicycling include a new path between Lakeside Park and Murrow Park, and a rail trail on the Beacon line from Hopewell Junction to Putnam County. Betsy also suggested that an article on local bicycling-related projects could be submitted for the Poughkeepsie Journal’s Thursday ‘Players’ column.

Cynthia Ruiz (Dutchess County Public Transit) announced that she is putting together an Advisory Committee for the County’s Transit Development Plan. Committee meetings will start in April. She will reach out to each municipality for a nominee. Also, the County transit system has new scheduling software. There will be a free app and a new website with real-time bus information.

Jim Korn (Beacon Trails Committee) stated that the Fishkill Creek Greenway Trail will be developed in pieces as development is proposed along the trail alignment. A new trail from the Beacon trail station to the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, called the Beacon-Hudson Trail, is being planned. The Town of Fishkill received a grant and has a consultant working on it.

Mark Roland (Bike Beacon) is working on several projects. He received a mini-grant from the New York Bicycling Coalition to produce some educational materials about the sharrows on Main Street. He also wants to work with the Drivers Education program at Beacon High School to educate students about rules of the road related to bicycling. He plans to organize some easy family rides on the Beacon Loop Trail (a 4 mile loop), and is working on a ‘Bike to the Train’ project to encourage people to bike to the train station instead of driving.

Kevin Newman (City of Poughkeepsie resident) stated that he is the Mid-Hudson Valley ambassador for [Adventure Cycling’s National Bike Travel Weekend](#) (June 3-5). He will help people identify routes and amenities in the area. He also noted that [Bike Your Park Day](#) is September 24th.

Jane Geisler (Town of Union Vale resident) asked who is responsible for cleaning the sidewalks and curbs along Route 44 (Main St) in Pleasant Valley. Lisa Mondello (NYSDOT) explained that the Town is responsible for the sidewalks, while NYSDOT’s local residency is responsible for periodically cleaning along the curb.

Emily (PDCTC) briefed the committee on the second public meeting for the [Route 376 at Robinson Lane Intersection Improvement Project](#) in East Fishkill. NYSDOT considered two design options for the intersection: adding turning lanes or a roundabout. They selected turning lanes as the 'preferred alternative' mainly to minimize impacts on adjacent properties (they would have to acquire substantially more land to construct a roundabout). All four approaches would have a dedicated left turn lane; the Lake Walton Road approach would also have a right turn lane. There were a lot of residents at the meeting and they supported the proposed design. The project engineer stated that there would be 6 ft shoulders on Route 376 and 4 foot shoulders on Robinson Lane and Lake Walton Road. Emily strongly encouraged NYSDOT to incorporate sidewalks, at a minimum to connect the two plazas on Route 376, and ideally to connect the Dutchess Rail Trail to Van Wyck Jr High School. The final public meeting for the project will be before construction starts. Project construction will begin in summer/fall 2017 and continue through 2018.

4) Updates/Announcements

Emily made several announcements:

- Funding: Greenway grants are due February 18; all municipalities in Dutchess County are eligible as Greenway Communities, and all except for Stanford are eligible for additional funding, as Greenway Compact Communities.
- Complete Streets: Emily was asked by the City of Beacon to give a presentation on January 11 to the City Council on Complete Streets. The City is interested in adopting a Complete Streets policy. Emily discussed the best practice elements of a policy, provided several sample policies, and suggested ways the City could consider implementing a policy.
- Bridge Hours: Emily spoke with Chris Kelly at the New York State Bridge Authority about the hours of the walkway/bikeway on the Mid-Hudson and Newburgh-Beacon bridges. Chris is open to working with cyclists to make the Newburgh-Beacon and Mid-Hudson bridges work better for bicycle transportation. He asked for a specific list of requests. Emily asked Mark Roland (Bike Beacon) if he would put together a list of requests. Anyone else who would like to work on this issue can contact [Mark](#).
- Bike to School Day is May 4. Emily asked Committee members to contact their local school to offer help with an event. Bike to School Day event registration opens in February at <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org>

5) Follow up items

1. Contact your local school to offer to help with a Bike to School Day event (May 4).
2. Contact Mark Roland if you'd like to work on a set of requests for the Bridge Authority.
3. Review & send updates for the online [bicycle parking finder](#) to Emily.

4. Send Emily ideas for future presentations.

6) Next Meeting: April 28, 3-5pm, DCC, Bowne Hall

Date: January 28, 2016

Time: 3:00-5:00 pm

Location: DCC, 122 Bowne Hall

Name	Organization/Municipality	Email	Phone
Jim Korn	Beacon	jkorn@jamesakorn.com	
Mark Roland	Wigwam Economy/Bike Beacon	freelance500@yahoo.com	
Betsy Brockway	Town of Pawling resident	betsy.brockway5@gmail.com	845-855-5395
Kevin Newman	City of Poughkeepsie Resident	slowrider@bicycle.bigk12603.com	845-559-7008
Ozie B. Williams	Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health	owilliams@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3542
Shelby Tompkins	Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council	stompkins@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
William Trifilo	Dutchess County Department of Public Works	wtrifilo@dutchessny.gov	845-486-2936
Bill Johnson	Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board	wjohnson@dutchessny.gov	(845) 486-3603
Lisa Mondello	NYS DOT	lisa.mondello@dot.ny.gov	845-431-5783
Karen Flaherty	Mid-Hudson Bicycle Club	karty707@verizon.net	845-452-0707
Jane Geisler	Town of Union Vale resident	n/a	845-677-9909
Emily Dozier	Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council	edozier@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Amy Kacala	Scenic Hudson	akacala@scenichudson.org	
John Galbraith	sPOKe	jmgbike@gmail.com	(845) 452-3195
Cynthia Ruiz	Dutchess County Public Transit	cruiz@dutchessny.gov	(845) 473-8521