

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

July 26, 2018, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

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

Summary

1) Introductions

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

2) Presentation *City of Poughkeepsie Northside Pedestrian Assessment* – Jeff Anzevino & Megan Nickel, Scenic Hudson

Jeff and Megan presented their methodology and findings from an assessment of sidewalks, curb ramps, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, and amenities on six streets on the north side of Poughkeepsie (Clinton St, Mansion St, Hamilton St, Forbus Ave, Main St, and Smith St). They intend to complete the report and maps in early August and provide them to the City to help prioritize repairs and improvements. Scenic Hudson also intends to expand this project next year.

Key findings included:

- Over 85% of intersections are in fair or poor condition
- About 50% of sidewalks are in fair or poor condition
- Clinton St has the poorest condition sidewalks
- Smith St has the poorest condition intersections
- There is a general lack of marked crosswalks
- Curb ramps need upgrades, and some are missing
- There are significant issues with vegetation obstructing sidewalks and other infrastructure

Comments from the group included:

- Some maintenance issues could be related to abandoned properties.
- The City needs to enforce existing ordinances related to sidewalk maintenance and snow removal.
- The City DPW also needs to improve maintenance of sidewalks and infrastructure on City property (eg, adjacent to College Hill Park). This may require additional staff.
- Consider a more strategic approach to sidewalk repair/maintenance, such as putting all streets on a regular repair cycle.
- Consider alternative solutions to improving sidewalk maintenance compliance, like a community organization (similar to the [Bed-Stuy Foot Soldiers](#)) or teen employment program.
- Consider partnering with other groups, such as people working on cleanups on the north side, Yvonne Flowers, and Ann Perry.
- Perhaps the data collection could be crowd-sourced, if the app could be shared. High School students might be interested in participating.

3) Group Updates

The group gave the following updates:

Dylan Tuttle (Transportation Council) stated that DCTC is conducting pedestrian and bicycle counts this summer and fall. These include bicycle-specific counts using tubes and pedestrian/bicycle counts using video at several locations in the Village of Pawling, City of Poughkeepsie, and on rail trails, as well as our annual volunteer pedestrian/bicycle counts in September. We may be able to develop a ped/bike count app, but not until next year.

Emily distributed a list of volunteer ped/bike count locations and asked people to sign up online at www.volunteersignup.org/W3YD3. She noted that volunteers can choose Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, September 11-13, from 4-6 pm, or Saturday September 15 from 12-2 pm. The times and dates are based on the [National Bicycle-Pedestrian Documentation Project](#) methodology but can be adjusted to avoid an event or capture better data if needed—please discuss with Emily.

Paul Hesse (City of Poughkeepsie) stated that the City received over \$4 million in [Pedestrian Safety Action Plan](#) funding from the State. This is for specific improvements such as crosswalks, pedestrian signals, signage, and curb extensions at intersections and mid-block crossings on key downtown streets including Main St, Mansion Street, and Market Street. They met with NYSDOT to discuss the process and schedule for construction. Paul cautioned that since this is federal funding, the design and construction process will likely take at least two years. The Market Street two-way conversion is a separate project, which the City is seeking funding to implement.

Bill Trifilo (Dutchess County Department of Public Works) stated that DPW will go out to bid for the Harlem Valley Rail Trail extension (Millerton to Columbia County) in the fall.

Kevin Newman (City of Poughkeepsie resident) discussed the Hudson Valley Rail Trail extensions from Tony Williams Park to New Paltz (two projects). He noted that there are Empire State Trail medallions on the rail trail in Ulster County, but not yet on the Dutchess Rail Trail.

Bruce Cuttler (Red Hook Trailway Committee) said that the Town is making progress on the Village to Village Trail from Red Hook to Tivoli, with Winnakee Land Trust contributing \$1 million to the project. They also completed the sidewalk on Route 9 in Red Hook. He is currently working on improvements to a new trail off of Linden Avenue.

John Galbraith (sPOKe) said that sPOKe's bicycle repair project continues on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church. He is looking for other volunteers. They have a lot of kids' bikes. Ross Ritter suggested that the bikes could be sent to Rwanda (working with a local project that sends soccer equipment and books). Bill Johnson suggested that the Traffic Safety Board could also help distribute them.

John also told the group that sPOKE will lead a ride through Poughkeepsie on August 3rd, beginning at 5 pm at the Walkway parking lot and ending at the First Friday event. He noted that there will be valet bike parking at First Friday. See <https://www.facebook.com/spokePoughkeepsie/> for more information.

Bill Johnson (County Traffic Safety Board) said they have bike helmets available for events. They distributed about 30 helmets at the Poughkeepsie northside cleanup/street fair last month. Health Quest and Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital also have a lot of helmets and are looking for groups and events for distribution. Bill is assisting with a bike rodeo in the Village of Wappingers Falls on Friday morning, August 10th. He also hopes to do some helmet check events on the Dutchess Rail Trail.

Sharon Kroeger (Wassaic) asked if they could do events on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail. Bill said he would like to but needs support from local law enforcement or the Sheriff's Office.

Ross Ritter (Town of LaGrange resident/Bikeway) reported that NYSDOT's Route 376/Robinson Lane intersection project is almost done. He also stated that the pavement and shoulder condition on the Route 82 bridge in Hopewell Junction is terrible. Pavement condition is also bad on Route 376 south of the County airport. Emily will email Sandra Jobson at NYSDOT-Region 8.

Sam Scardefield (Hudson Valley Design Lab) said they are participating in the City of Poughkeepsie's [National Night Out](#) event on August 7th from 5-8 pm. It will be in front of City Hall on Civic Center Plaza. The block will be closed down, and they are planning a pop-up bike lane on the east side of the street. Bill Johnson said he could reach out to Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital about bike helmets. Laurie Sandow (City of Poughkeepsie resident) is also involved in organizing the event.

Jane Geisler (Union Vale) asked about standards for street signs. She noted that Salt Point Turnpike (State Route 115) has very few signs.

4) DCTC Updates/Announcements

Emily gave several updates:

Pedestrian Education: The County Health Department, working with DCTC and the County's Complete Streets Committee, was awarded a grant for pedestrian safety education, building on the [Watch Out For Me campaign](#). Emily distributed a summary of the project proposal and asked for input. The focus is education for youth and seniors in the City of Poughkeepsie, as well as transit riders and drivers more broadly. Suggestions from the group included:

- Reach out to Karen Zierbel at the City Police Department
- Reach out to Felicia Watson, School Board Chair for the City School District
- Consider partnering with United Way, which also works in the City schools
- Consider education for middle and high school students also
- National Night Out would be a good event for outreach

NYSDOT: Region 8 no longer has a designated Pedestrian-Bicycle Coordinator, but Sandra Jobson, the Regional Planning Director, is happy to come to a meeting if there are specific issues related to State Roads.

Funding:

- [People for Bikes Community Grant](#): letter of interest by 7/23; application by October 19
- [Greenway Grants](#): due August 10, up to \$75,000 for trail construction projects
- [TAP/CMAQ solicitation](#): proposals due August 16

Events:

- July 28 [‘Woman on a Wheel’ historic bicycle talk/ride](#)- Walkway Ulster Welcome Center, 10 am
- NYBC’s [NY State Bike Summit](#) will be September 28 in Saratoga. There is also a free training on the 27th (registration required), focusing on complete streets and active transportation infrastructure, policy, implementation, and education and enforcement strategies.
- The [International Trails Symposium](#) will be in Syracuse in 2019.

5) Homework

- Sign up for ped/bike counts, and share with other potential volunteers: www.volunteersignup.org/W3YD3
- Review the Bicycle Parking Finder tool, and let Emily know about any bike racks they see that are not on the map (preferably with a photo of it).
- Let Emily know about any presentation ideas for future meetings.

6) Next Meeting: October 25, 3-5pm, DCC, Bowne Hall

Dutchess County Transportation Council

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

Date: July 26, 2018

Time: 3:00-5:00 pm

Location: DCC, 122 Bowne Hall

Name	Organization/Municipality	Email	Phone
Dylan Tuttle	Dutchess County Transportation Council	dtuttle@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Emily Dozier	Dutchess County Transportation Council	edozier@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Paul Hesse	City of Poughkeepsie	phesse@cityofpoughkeepsie.com	845-451-4106
Bill Johnson	Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board	wjohnson@dutchessny.gov	(845) 486-3603
Kevin Newman	City of Poughkeepsie Resident/Adventure Cycling Association	slowrider@bicycle.bigk12603.com	845-559-7008
William Trifilo	Dutchess County Department of Public Works	wtrifilo@dutchessny.gov	845-486-2936
Tom Bauer	Walkway Ambassador	bauert123@verizon.net	914-456-9656
Jane Geisler	Town of Union Vale Resident/Appalachain Trail Management Committee		845-677-9909
Ross Ritter	Town of LaGrange Resident/Bikeway	rritter@homesteadfunding.com	914-456-6493
Sharon Kroeger	Wassaic Historial Agricultural Crossroads	generalstoresk@optonline.net	(845) 373-9201
Bruce Cuttler	Red Hook Greenways and Trail Committee	bcuttler@frontiernet.net	(845) 758-0828
John Galbraith	sPOKe Poughkeepsie	jmgbike@gmail.com	(845) 797-2508
Justin Leigh	Dutchess County Transportation Council intern	jleigh@dutchessny.gov	

