

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

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

Dutchess County Planning Department, 27 High St, 2nd Floor, Poughkeepsie

Summary

1) Introductions

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

2) Presentation Walkway Over the Hudson improvements- Eric Hoppe, Park Manager

Eric provided draft guidelines for a new bike policy, focused on common sense safety practices and courtesy towards pedestrians and other patrons. It includes bicyclists yielding the way; no motorized bikes allowed; helmets required (per State law) for anyone under 14; riding single file; a speed limit of 10 mph (or slower during events/crowded conditions); passing slowly on the left and announcing verbally and/or with bell when passing; and obeying traffic rules, signs, and instructions. The policy will be posted on signs near the entrances; Eric is working on the language and sign design. Eric also shared decals that will be installed on the Walkway surface near the entrances and elevator to guide bicyclists towards the center and pedestrians to the sides.

The group discussed the guidelines. David Gordon suggested applying the speed limit when bicyclists are within 50 feet of pedestrians; he noted that at certain times of day, a higher speed may be reasonable.

Eric shared additional updates:

- A historic/vintage bicycle presentation and ride, highlighting the role of the bicycle in the early women's rights movement, is planned (similar to the [2017 "Woman on a Wheel" event](#)). Eric will forward Emily the details.
- The Walkway is also planning bicycle education events (rodeos/skills clinics). Emily encouraged Eric to reach out to Tom Polk with the New York Bicycling Coalition.
- I Love My Park Day is Saturday May 5th. See the [Parks & Trails NY website](#) for information and to [sign up for events](#) (including several at the Walkway).
- On Earth Day, Walkway staff installed bluestone pavers and a picnic area near the Washington St/Parker Ave intersection. Additional work is planned for I Love My Park Day.
- Bike repair stations are planned to be installed as part of the Empire State Trail improvements, possibly at both ends of the Walkway.
- The [welcome center](#) at the west end of the bridge will have its official opening/ribbon cutting in June. Construction has begun on a smaller station on the east side, near the

parking lot. It should be completed in 2019.

Kevin Newman asked if bike parking racks would be installed under shelters. Eric was not certain.

Emily asked if Eric was aware of the [State's Bicycle Tourism Promotion Act](#) (S03441), which provides grants for up to 15 bicycle tourism kiosks. This may be related to the Empire State Trail. Eric said he would look into it.

3) Updates/Announcements

The group gave the following updates:

Carl Whitehead (Town of Poughkeepsie Planning Board) stated that bike racks are being installed at new apartments near Cosimo's. Bike racks will also be included at the planned mixed-use development on Route 44 (near the Lutheran Care Center). Carl will send photos of some other new bike parking.

Dylan Tuttle (Transportation Council) stated that DCTC is starting its traffic count program in early May. It will include bicycle-specific counts (using tubes) and pedestrian/bicycle counts (using video) at several locations later in the summer. DCTC will organize our annual volunteer pedestrian/bicycle counts in September. We are investigating the possibility of a ped/bike count app, which would help volunteers collect counts more easily and would streamline the data processing.

David Anderson (Town of Beekman CAC) emphasized the importance of shoulders to improve safety for bicyclists on Beekman Road (County Route 9). Dylan Tuttle noted that there is a [construction project on CR 9](#) between the Taconic and Sylvan Lake Road, scheduled for 2019. Emily added that DCTC conducted a Safety Assessment on CR 9 between Beekman-Poughquag Rd (CR 7) and Route 55 in 2013. The [report](#) discusses the lack of shoulders (see page 25 and the Owner's Response on page 84 of the pdf). Bill Trifilo (County DPW) stated that he would report David's concern back to DPW and keep it on his radar. While DPW supports wider shoulders, limited right of way and adjacent roadside features (trees, rocks, structures, etc.) are major constraints.

David also asked about local access/parking for the Empire State Trail in Beekman. Emily suggested looking at the [Empire State Trail webpage](#), which has a link to the [Maybrook Trailway page](#) (formerly the Beacon Line Rail Trail). The [final Maybrook concept plan](#) shows locations of trailheads.

David noted that the town of Framingham, Massachusetts has an annual bicycle helmet giveaway, sponsored by the fire department. He recommended it as a model community event.

Bill Trifilo (Dutchess County Department of Public Works) stated that DPW staff have been meeting with property owners along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail extension (Millerton to Columbia County). Construction is planned this year. DPW is also upgrading its traffic signals, starting with a few this year. All the new signals will have video detection instead of loop detection. This should be more cost effective and also detect bicyclists and motorcyclists much better. Carl Whitehead asked whether video detection would be possible for the planned traffic signal at the proposed

development on Route 44. Bill stated that Route 44 is a State road, and he is unsure whether NYSDOT is considering video detection.

Kevin Newman (City of Poughkeepsie resident) discussed the Hudson Valley Rail Trail extensions from Tony Williams Park to New Paltz (two projects). This will be part of the Empire State Trail.

David Gordon (Mid-Hudson Bicycle Club) stated that he would like to designate a network of scenic, relatively low-stress roads for bicycling, focusing on northern and eastern Dutchess county. He is hoping that the bike club can work with the County to create maps of this network. Bill Trifilo suggested connecting the network to the Empire State Trail. David will talk to the bike club and follow up with Emily.

Emily gave several updates:

NYSDOT was not able to attend, but is working hard to implement the on-road portions of the [Empire State Trail](#), including River Road and Woods Road in Red Hook. They are also working on safety improvements at signalized crosswalks and uncontrolled crosswalks on State roads as part of the State's [Pedestrian Safety Action Plan](#).

DCTC is working with the County's Complete Streets Committee on the [Watch Out For Me campaign](#). They are distributing street safety tips brochures and "Watch Out For Me" reflective wristbands to schools, and have applied for a grant to develop a targeted educational program.

Funding announcements are expected in June for the [Pedestrian Safety Action Plan local solicitation](#). It looks like the City of Poughkeepsie may get a decent amount of funding to improve crosswalks in the downtown area, particularly on Main Street.

A call for submissions for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is expected in May. This federal program funds pedestrian and bicycle projects like sidewalks and/or bike facilities.

The [New York Bicycling Coalition](#) (NYBC) has developed a "Walk Safe Bike Safe" elementary school curriculum. Their education staff can train local gym teachers or other instructors on the curriculum. Contact them at education@nybc.net. Emily also shared NYBC's updated 'Pocket Guide,' which now includes pedestrian safety information.

The County was recently approached by [ofo](#), one of several 'dockless' bike sharing companies. They want to establish a presence in Dutchess County and have also been talking to Vassar, Bard, and SUNY New Paltz. [Ithaca NY](#) recently launched a dockless bikeshare program with LimeBike. With these programs, people can leave the bike anywhere—making them very flexible and convenient, but also potentially more of a management challenge.

Events:

- The County's Planning Federation is hosting a [Complete Streets short course](#) on May 31 from 6-8 pm in Millbrook. Emily and Bob LaColla (Town of Fishkill Supervisor) will speak about how to implement Complete Streets at the local level. Emily distributed a [one-page fact sheet](#) that will be included at the course.

- NYBC's [NY State Bike Summit](#) will be September 28 in Saratoga. Prices go up after April 30th. 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. They are looking for proposals now.

4) Homework

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.

5) Next Meeting: July 26, 3-5pm, DCC, Bowne Hall

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Time: 3:00-5:00 pm

Location: Dutchess County Planning, 27 High St

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