

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

January 25, 2018, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Dutchess Community College, 105 Bowne Hall (1<sup>st</sup> Floor), 53 Pendell Road, Poughkeepsie

**Summary**

**1) Introductions**

Emily Dozier (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves (see attached list). Two new staff members were present: Dylan Tuttle of DCTC and Natalie Quinn, the new Senior Planner for the City of Poughkeepsie.

**2) Updates/Announcements**

The group gave updates on several projects:

William Trifilo (Dutchess County Department of Public Works) stated that a major focus of their work right now is sign updates and replacements. Several bus stop signs were knocked down by plows during recent storms, and will be repositioned.

Ozie Williams (Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health) discussed a new County employee wellness program, and encouraged attendees to contact her if their department could benefit from wellness programming.

Bill Johnson (Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board) informed the group that his bike helmet program has received funding for another year, and has some additional funds remaining from last year.

Amy Kacala (Scenic Hudson) discussed the [Fjord Trail](#)'s Breakneck Connector project. The bid came in high, so they are looking at options for either raising additional funds or value engineering the project. They are still hoping to begin construction this summer.

Bridgette Anderson (Dutchess Community College) said that she has been working with Dutchess County Public Transit on bus routes to the college. The college is also planning to submit a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) grant application for improvements to Pendell and Creek Roads, and has been in contact with NYSDOT about that.

Kevin Newman (City of Poughkeepsie resident) asked about the status of Hudson Valley Rail Trail extensions from Tony Williams Park to New Paltz. Emily said she would ask her contact at Ulster County. Kevin also noted pedestrian safety concerns related to sidewalk bicycling in downtown Poughkeepsie. Emily and Paul Hesse noted the importance of making improvements to city roads, and said that a number of projects are in the planning stage, and the city is likely to apply for a PSAP grant for the Main Street corridor.

Melaine Rottkamp (Dutchess Tourism) stated that Dutchess Tourism promotes various bike tours in the county in a [brochure](#) (updated in 2014), available online. They are also looking at ways to inform Metro-North visitors about other Dutchess-area trails during the Breakneck Ridge closure. Bike NY's [Discover the Hudson Valley Ride](#) will take place in June, and Melaine, Paul and Natalie discussed ways to welcome riders into the city, such as sweeping the streets and potentially using a large 'Welcome to Poughkeepsie' banner.

Fred Schaeffer (Walkway) stated that the [Walkway welcome center](#) at the west end of the bridge will have its official opening/ribbon cutting on May 20. Plans are moving forward for a similar, somewhat smaller station on the east side, near the parking lot. Fred also discussed efforts to monitor bike speeds on the Walkway, stating that while the issue has gotten better, the State Park lacks the staff to adequately enforce safe speeds. Bill Johnson asked about the possibility of the Mid-Hudson Bridge as an alternative for faster cyclists, if the lighting were improved. Fred and Emily stated that the Bridge Authority considers the bridge's walkway to be too narrow for bicycle traffic. Fred said that he believes adequate signage and a slight increase in enforcement would be enough to curtail the issue on the Walkway.

#### **Emily gave several updates on DCTC projects:**

The [Millerton Pedestrian Plan](#) is almost complete, with the final Task Force meeting on February 5.

Emily will be presenting the Beekman Street Complete Streets Analysis to City of Beacon officials on January 29. The analysis calls for a protected bike lane, sidewalk extensions, and consistent signage, among other recommendations. She passed around maps summarizing the proposed improvements.

The county is working on an ADA Transition Plan, which will inventory County facilities and establish a plan to bring them into ADA compliance.

DCTC has been working with the County's Complete Streets Committee on a pedestrian safety initiative, the [Watch Out For Me campaign](#). The effort includes ads on buses, posters for events, and street safety tips brochures. They also have new "Watch Out For Me" reflective wristbands, which she passed around to attendees. She encouraged anyone who wished to distribute them to contact her. Melaine suggested distributing the wristbands at the Walkway Marathon.

Emily also reminded the group about various grant programs and their deadlines. These include the [Pedestrian Safety Action Plan local solicitation](#) (due March 9), which funds systemic pedestrian safety improvements to an area (like crosswalk markings, signal improvements and signage), and TAP (call for submissions expected this spring), a federal funding program for larger pedestrian/bicycle projects like sidewalk and/or bike facility construction.

DCTC recently compiled all of its pedestrian and bicycle counts into one spreadsheet, and used that to create a GIS database. Emily is considering trying to add that map to the County website, similar to the [bike parking finder](#). Melaine commented on the potential usefulness of the bike parking finder for visitors.

**3) Presentation:** Dutchess County Public Transit Improvements- John Andoh, Transit Administrator

John Andoh, new County Transit Administrator, discussed [proposed changes to bus routes and schedules](#). He distributed a [map of current routes](#) along with a [fact sheet on the changes](#). The new system will have a hub-and-spoke design centered on the City of Poughkeepsie Transit Hub. Buses will all depart the station at :15 past the hour, with the L bus (the Main Street Shuttle) also departing at :45. Changes will go into effect in March, and new materials will be distributed to institutions like DCC.

John also stated that [all buses have bike racks on them](#), and that County Public Transit would like to find ways to encourage bike/bus trips. He also discussed improvements to the Dial-a-Ride service, and the importance of thinking “beyond the bus” for the future of transit, especially for rural areas. The group expressed appreciation for the changes.

**4) Homework**

Dylan Tuttle (DCTC) reminded attendees about the [Bicycle Parking Finder](#) tool, and to let Emily know about any bike racks they see that are not on the map (preferably with a photo of it).

Dylan also asked attendees to let Emily know about any presentations they would like to see at future meetings.

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

# Dutchess County Transportation Council

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

Date: January 25, 2018

Time: 3:00-5:00 pm

Location: DCC, 105 Bowne Hall

Name	Organization/Municipality	Email	Phone
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Dylan Tuttle	Dutchess County Transportation Council	<a href="mailto:dtuttle@dutchessny.gov">dtuttle@dutchessny.gov</a>	845-486-3600
Emily Dozier	Dutchess County Transportation Council	<a href="mailto:edozier@dutchessny.gov">edozier@dutchessny.gov</a>	845-486-3600
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