

Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

Thursday, January 30, 2025, 2:30 pm
via Microsoft Teams

— Meeting Summary —

- 1. Introductions** – Emily Dozier (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and led introductions (see list below).
- 2. Presentation: *New York Bicycle Coalition’s Local Safety Programs*** – Ed Brennan, NYBC Asst. Director of Bicycle Safety Education.

Ed shared examples of NYBC’s safety education programs, including their online safety videos, ‘learn to ride’ park in Albany, free printed materials, and safety videos on buses in the Capital Region. He also discussed NYBC’s classes to educate law enforcement personnel about laws related to bicycles, e-bikes, and e-scooters. He is working with DCTC and the Traffic Safety Board to schedule a class in Poughkeepsie in the spring for local law enforcement.

Tracy and Nancy asked about helmet distribution events. Ed replied that NYBC has not done a helmet distribution in Dutchess County, but he can send other free materials to distribute. Ed recommended that Nancy look online at Helmets-R-Us to get affordable helmets. Bill added that Dutchess County gets helmets through GTSC grant funding, but they are usually reserved for kids in need.

Gerry asked Ed about data specific to bicyclists hitting pedestrians. Ed did not have data on hand but acknowledged that these incidents are rare but undoubtedly unfortunate. Nancy let Gerry know that the Northside Line has separate lanes for walking and bicycling.

Lisa asked about education for people riding e-bikes and e-scooters. Ed pointed her to rack cards and other materials available on the NYBC website. Laurie inquired about the option of the police training sessions being virtual so folks in northern/eastern Dutchess could participate. Ed stated that it may be able to be recorded. Lisa asked how to make bicycling for transportation safer. Ed noted that NYBC provides instruction on how to ride in traffic and advocates for laws such as safe passing to make it safer to ride on the road.

- 3. Roundtable Updates**
 - a. **County Public Works:** Emily shared that DPW is working on ped/bike intersection improvements in Millerton on Maple Ave. DPW is also working on a complete streets redesign for Annandale Rd through Bard College.

- b. Traffic Safety Board: [Watch Out For Me campaign](#): Emily shared key resources on the website like the full and short form videos, brochures, and curricula.
- c. NYSDOT: Emily noted that NYSDOT's [local projects page](#) has information about projects in Dutchess County.
- d. Rob is considering starting a bicycling advocacy group for the Poughkeepsie area and welcomes any resources people can share.
- e. Tracy is looking to better understand bike culture at Vassar College and to re-apply to the League of American Bicyclists as a Bicycle Friendly University (it was given a Silver rating previously). She is also interested in collaborating with other community groups and advocacy organizations.
- f. Laurie shared her excitement for the Annandale Road redesign and relayed that Village mayor is helping spread the word about the Safety Action Plan's online survey.
- g. Nancy is hoping that Revive College Hill will get a grant for performances in the Cistern again this year. There is confusion around whether grant money will be available given the federal administration changes.
- h. Bill shared that the Traffic Safety Board scheduled its first bike rodeo in the Town Fishkill. He encouraged anyone to reach out to him if interested in scheduling a bike rodeo.
- i. Gerry noted that the [Shorewalkers](#) are hosting a walk around Manhattan in May.

4. DCTC Studies

- a. [Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail](#) Feasibility Study: Emily shared that the existing conditions report is on the website, along with a place to sign up for the mailing list. More updates are coming soon as the team develops road crossing options and alignment alternatives.
- b. City of Poughkeepsie speed limit reduction study: Emily reminded the group of DCTC's current study looking to reduce speed limits city-wide from 30mph to 25mph.
- c. [Safety Action Plan](#): Emily encouraged the group to sign up for updates, take the survey and use the interactive map.
- d. [Pedestrian/bicycle counts](#): Emily noted that the website is now updated with summary documents and the [traffic data app](#) has the 2024 data.

5. Events, Funding & Announcements

- a. [AARP Community Challenge Grants](#): due by March 5, 2025
 - a. Flagship Grants: up to \$25,000 for enhancing public spaces, transportation connectivity, or community resilience
 - b. Capacity-Building Microgrants: up to \$2,500 for walk audits and bike audits
 - c. Demonstration Grants: up to \$25,000 to enhance pedestrian safety, reconnect communities divided by infrastructure, & other projects
- b. [Winnakee Land Trust Trails Roundtable](#)
- c. [Hudson Valley Greenway: Community and Trail Grants](#)
- d. [T-Mobile Hometown Grants](#): up to \$50,00 for community spaces
- e. [Rugged Ridge Trail Access Program](#): up to \$5,000 for land conservation and trail access
- f. [Extreme Terrain Clean Trail Grant Program](#): \$250 grants for trail improvements
- g. [Cycle the Hudson Valley](#) (Albany to NYC): August 4-9 (registration now open)
- h. PTNY's [Empire State Greenways Conference](#): October 15-17, Kingston

6. Follow-up Items

- a. [Bike Dutchess](#) app: send Emily bike rack/fix-it station locations (photo and description) and any suggestions for improvements.
- b. See our [BPAC webpage](#) for meeting summaries, recordings, and presentations, as well as a link to sign up for our email list.
- c. Let Emily know if you have a presentation idea!

7. Next Meeting: April 24, 2025, 2:30 pm

- a. Meeting schedule: January, April, July, October; last Thursday, 2:30 - 4:00

January 2025 BPAC Meeting Participants:

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Kristen Taylor	T/Poughkeepsie	ktaylor@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov
Gerry Matusiewicz	Shorewalkers Club	
Nancy Foster	Walkway Ambassador; Revive College Hill Coalition	nancyfoster@optonline.net
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