

**Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council
Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting #14**

April 30, 2015, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Dutchess Community College, 115 Bowne Hall (1st Floor), 53 Pendell Road, Poughkeepsie

Meeting Summary

1) Introductions

Mark Debald (PDCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves (see attached list).

2) Announcements

Mark explained that in late March, the President unveiled the Grow America Act, a six-year, \$478 billion intermodal transportation reauthorization proposal. Mark noted that we are currently operating under MAP-21 which expires on May 31, 2015. As there is not enough time to draft, debate, pass, and most importantly fund, a multi-year surface transportation bill, other accommodations have to be made. Mark emphasized that the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is utilized for bicycle-pedestrian projects and remains dependent on the approval of this federal funding.

Mark announced that the Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council's new long-range plan, *Moving Dutchess 2*, is looking at crash data spanning from 2009-2013. The Council is looking at bicycle-pedestrian crashes across the county to determine potential hotspots. He also noted that in the event that the 2014 crash data becomes available, it will also be incorporated into the study.

Mark stated that the United States Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx has unveiled a Mayors' Challenge associated with the Safer Streets, Safer People campaign. This cause encourages local politicians and the public, in a collaborative effort, to increase the current standards for bicycle and pedestrian safety across the nation. Mark noted that, as of now, Ithaca, Great Neck, and New York City are the only municipalities in the state to participate. He advised the committee to contact their local governments to get more information about the challenge. Mark explained that there is no additional funding available to municipalities for partaking in this program. He also mentioned that America Walks, an interest group for the promotion of walking, will be holding an upcoming webinar associated with the Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets. It will be taking place on Friday, May 22nd at 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Mark distributed the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Traffic Safety Facts. This fact sheet interprets bicycle and pedestrian crash data. Mark explained that the total national fatalities, from 2004-2013, are declining. This trend, however, is not an accurate depiction of pedestrian fatalities, which are actually occurring at a higher rate. Mark noted that a key finding in this study was that 49 percent of all fatal pedestrian crashes in 2013 were due to some degree of alcohol involvement, whether it was the driver and/or pedestrian.

Mark informed the committee that May is National Bike Month. Ozie B. Williams (Dept. of Health) announced that Friday, May 15th is Bike to Work Day.

Mark explained the Upper Route 9G Corridor Management Plan (CMP). The CMP will focus on the four-mile segment of Route 9G from CR 78 (Broadway/West Kerley Corners Rd) in the Village of Tivoli/Town of Red Hook to Route 199 (West Market Street) in the Town of Red Hook. The project is a response to local concerns about transportation safety along the 9G corridor in the Town of Red Hook and Village of Tivoli. The CMP will also evaluate overall safety and operations on two secondary corridors in the area: the section of CR 78 (Broadway) from the Hudson River to Route 9G in Tivoli and CR 103 (Annandale Rd) from Route 9G to Route 199 (West Market St) in Red Hook. A public workshop is scheduled to take place on May 6th at Bard College. There will be two sessions, from 2-4 p.m. and from 6-8 p.m. at Bertelsmann Campus Center.

Mark noted that there is a Marist professor (John Galbraith) who leads a group called Poughkeepsie Bicycle Advocates. This group is fixing up unwanted bikes and providing them to individuals in need. They also hold monthly rides around the City of Poughkeepsie. The group meets at the Walkway on the Poughkeepsie side parking lot, typically on the 3rd Saturday of the month. The Poughkeepsie Bicycle Advocates Facebook page has more information about the group.

Karen Flaherty informed the committee that the Poughkeepsie Farm Project at the Vassar Ecological Preserve is a project focusing on community bike maintenance; this project is founded on the principle of public service to communities. She announced that it will start at the end of May and continue on regular distribution days throughout the summer.

Mark announced that a local marathon is taking place at the Dutchess County Rail Trail on Saturday, June 13th. Ozie B. Williams (Dept of Health) said that Dr. Reiber is coordinating this event and more information can be found on the Health Department's website. Karen Flaherty said she thinks the Rail Trail should inform the public of the event because many individuals travel from across the state to utilize the trail.

Kathleen Davis (Hyde Park Recreation) announced that Hyde Park Recreation will be holding a free Hyde Park trail hike on Saturday, June 6th. Individuals interested in participating can meet at Vanderbilt Mansion Saturday morning. Any further questions should be directed to the Recreation Office in Hyde Park.

Mark showed the committee a smart cycling guide created by The League of American Cyclists. This group is an advocacy group for safe bicycling around the nation. He also announced that the New York State Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (NYSAMPO) created a fact sheet based on pedestrian and bicycle laws. Essentially, it is a brief educational summary, acting as a conduit for citizens to acquire more information on the subject.

3) Dutchess County Tourism- Bicycle Tours Brochure update

The updated bicycle tours guide is complete and available on the Dutchess Tourism website: http://dutchesstourism.com/PDF/Dutchess-Tourism-bike-tour-guide_web.pdf. Thanks to everyone who helped with this!

4) WRS DRT brochure

William Trifilo (Dept. of Public Works) said an updated Dutchess Rail Trail brochure is being developed; he will have more updates as more work is done.

5) Implementation: Progress Reports

- a. Local projects— Mark announced that there are potential sidewalk studies to be taking place in the Town of Pawling, the Town of Millerton, and in the Town of Poughkeepsie (centering on the Arlington business district).

Kathleen Davis (Hyde Park Recreation) mentioned that the Town of Hyde Park has applied for TAP funding and has received it. The work to be done on Route 9 sidewalks, as a result of this funding, has not yet commenced.

Karen Flaherty suggested that the committee look at improving the Vassar Farms corridor as there is practically no shoulder along this road. The committee discussed the potential relationship between improvements along this corridor and the new Boardman Road library.

- b. County DPW— William Trifilo (Dept. of Public Works) informed the committee that the Department of Public Works is in the process of putting Share the Road signs along the CR-20 corridor between the Town Recreation Park and the Appalachian Trail. He also discussed the Department of Public Work's effort to improve all traffic signals and their potential transition to smart, wireless signals. He mentioned that the speed limit along Annandale Road has been reduced from 30 mph to 25 mph. William Trifilo also announced that the bicycle signal detection at Degarmo Rd and Overlook Road is working fine.
- c. County-wide projects — Mark said he would check back with Cynthia as to the status of the DC Public Transit bicycle racks. Betsy Brockway (Town of Pawling) suggested that the committee evaluate the current bus routes. Mark said that this is something Cynthia is looking in to, as it is an in-house study and not a consultant study.

Bill Johnson (Traffic Safety Board) announced that there will be a series of bike safety rodeos coming up in the near future including in the Town of Poughkeepsie, Spackenkill School, the Town of Beekman (May 6th, 7th, or 8th), and the Town of Red Hook (May 9th). He mentioned the Traffic Safety Board did a helmet and bike safety demonstration at St. Peters School in the Town of Poughkeepsie. He also noted that the Traffic Safety Board received their annual allocation of 290 helmets. In conjunction with the leftover helmets from last year, they now have 400 helmets in total. Bill noted that he would like to help Poughkeepsie Bicycle Advocates by contacting local police departments and towns, and inquiring about leftover/unclaimed bicycles.

Mark explained the County Complete Streets Committee. This committee is internal to the County and is taking a comprehensive approach to develop accessible, sustainable, and safe streets for all residents in Dutchess County. Mark noted that the Complete Streets Committee has developed a checklist to be used by engineers to ensure that they remain cognizant of Complete Streets recommendations when constructing their projects. William Trifilo (Dept. of Public Works) said the checklist has been well-received by the engineers. Ozie B. Williams (Dept. of Health) inquired about the procedure for adding sidewalks to municipalities in different housing divisions. Mark explained that the policy is based off of the respective municipality's comprehensive plans and zoning laws. He noted the distinction between the Smart Growth program, which occurs at the state level, and the Complete Streets program, which occurs at the county level with recommendations on a local level. The Town of Fishkill has enacted a local Complete Streets policy. Furthermore, Mark

explained that the Complete Streets Committee is working on collecting educational materials for this campaign. The materials will be based off of the Be Street Smart website. The next Complete Streets Committee meeting will take place at the Department of Health to discuss the educational platform. Mark also said that he would forward the Be Street Smart website to the BPAC Committee. Bill Johnson (Traffic Safety Board) said he intends to use the resources on the website for his upcoming bike rodeos.

Betsy Brockway (Town of Pawling) inquired about the status of the infomercial at the Senior Picnic sponsored by the Office for the Aging. She said that there is a marked lack of education regarding pedestrian and bicycle safety among older demographics. Mark said he would look into this. Additionally, Bill Johnson (Traffic Safety Board) said he is responsible for collecting medication at the Senior Picnics. He also mentioned the placement of county-wide receptacles for these types of materials. He said the exact locations are on the STOP-DWI website and to contact him or Mark for further information.

6) Presentation & Discussion: Pine Plains Pedestrian Plan, Mark Debold, PDCTC

Mark Debold gave a presentation on the Pine Plains Pedestrian Plan. Essentially, this plan's goal is to minimize conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles, to encourage slower speeds through traffic calming, and to encourage the creation of bicycle facilities. He used this presentation as an example study to depict how the Metropolitan Planning Organization enacts change on a local level. He said this study was, in part, financed by federal, TAP funding and run by a local task force.

He explained that this study has a straightforward scope of work; there are two key components: an inventory of existing sidewalk conditions and the development of recommendations to assist the Town with improving sidewalks. He noted that the field observations included a pronounced lack of sidewalks in the southwestern section of the Town Center, sidewalks only on one side of the street, a lack of crosswalks at key locations, sidewalks in disrepair, and occasional ponding at intersections.

Mark also mentioned that another component of the study included a survey on *Survey Monkey* to get an accurate representation of the local needs from the public. Betsy Brockway (Town of Pawling) asked Mark if she could utilize his expertise in time because the Town of Pawling also wants to create a public survey. He, of course, said she could.

He said the final product was a series of maps showing the recommended improvements, such as the replacement of existing sidewalks, the addition of new, strategically-placed sidewalks/bicycle sharrows, the creation of crosswalks, the installation of pedestrian waking signals, the addition of lane markings, and the creation of a multi-use trail. An attendee commented that she finds roads with lane marking to be less safe than roads without them. This is due to the fact that lane markings prevent vehicles from crossing them, whereas without lane markings vehicles move over when they see a pedestrian or bicyclist. Mark said he will keep that in mind.

Betsy Brockway (Town of Pawling) commented that she finds it interesting that the *owners* of the sidewalk are the ones expected to maintain it. She mentioned that she thinks it would be better if the cost/responsibility of maintaining the sidewalks were distributed among the owners and the town to have consistently safer sidewalks.

Finally, Mark quickly noted other planning studies done by the Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County

transportation Council; these included the Route 9 Land Use and transportation Study, the CR 93 Corridor Management Plan, the Transit Development Plan, the Village of Rhinebeck Sidewalk Study, and the Hyde Park Sidewalk Study. Kevin Newman (City of Poughkeepsie) inquired about a potential pedestrian plan for the City of Poughkeepsie. Mark said that the Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council has offered, but has not heard back yet. William Trifilo (Dept. of Public Works) mentioned that he thinks Overocker Road and the Crystal Glen Condos (between N Grand Ave and the rail trail) would make great candidates for sidewalk work.

- 7) **Next Meeting**— Mark announced that the next committee meeting will be July 30 from 3 p.m.– 5 p.m. at Dutchess Community College in Bowne 122. *[NOTE: this meeting was later rescheduled to August 27 from 3-5 pm].*



Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council

Date: April 30,2015

Time: 3:00-5:00 pm

Location: DCC, 115 Bowne Hall

*Please write "Y" here to give us permission to take your photo at the meeting and use it in the Plan or other documents.

If you do not want your photo taken or used, please write "N"

Name	Organization/Municipality	Email	Phone	Photos ok?*
Betsy Brockway	Senior/Retired/Pawling	betsy.brockway@gmail.com	845-855-5395	Yes
Susie Dearne	City of Poughkeepsie Resident	susiemuse@verizon.net	845-473-7050	Yes
Shelby Tompkins	Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council	stompkins@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600	Yes
Bill Johnson	Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board	wjohnson@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3603	Yes
Kevin Newman	City of Poughkeepsie Resident	slowrider@bicycle.bigk12603.com	845-559-7008	
Kathleen Davis	Hyde Park Recreation	recdirector@hydeparkny.us	845-229-8086	Yes
Ozie B. Williams	Dutchess County Department of Health	owilliams@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3542	Yes
William Trifilo	Dutchess County Department of Public Works	wtrifilo@dutchessny.gov	845-486-2936	Yes
Mark Debald	Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council	mdebald@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600	Yes
Karen Flaherty	Mid-Hudson Bicycle Club	karty707@verizon.net	845-452-0707	