

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

April 25, 2019, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Dutchess Community College, **115 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).

**2) Presentation:** *City of Poughkeepsie Bicycle Planning* – Paul Hesse & Natalie Quinn

Paul described the City's efforts to improve bicycle infrastructure on its streets. He explained that a previous City planner developed a system of bicycle routes which were adopted in the City Code but never implemented. A few adjustments were suggested by the Transportation Council in the County's 2014 *Walk Bike Dutchess* plan. The City is now working on four of the routes and planning to install sharrows, signage, and bicycle parking at key locations. The hope is that the sharrows are a first step, and that eventually the City could construct dedicated bicycle infrastructure.

Paul noted that the City is also forming a Complete Streets working group which will formulate a Complete Streets Policy for the City to adopt and follow.

The group discussed the pros and cons of sharrows and various signs, as well as the importance of education as a part of any bicycle infrastructure improvements.

Paul also updated the group on two pedestrian/bicycle-related projects in the City:

- The City was awarded a State Pedestrian Safety Action Plan grant last year for pedestrian safety-related intersection improvements downtown. The project is currently in the engineering/design phase to determine exactly what treatments are feasible for the selected locations. The work will likely be done in 2020.
- The City applied for a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant to return Market Street to two-way traffic but was recently informed that they did not receive funding. However, the City is continuing to pursue the project, including doing an environmental review.

**3) DCTC Updates/Announcements**

- a. Pedestrian-Bicycle counts: Dylan Tuttle (DCTC) noted that pedestrian and bicycle counts would be conducted in the late summer. In addition to our volunteer manual counts (in September), DCTC will conduct video counts at several key activity centers and bicycle tube counts along the rail trails and the future on-road section of the Empire State Trail in Red Hook. Tom Bauer asked whether bike tubes on trails could collect speed data, especially for high-traffic areas like the Walkway. Dylan stated that he would find out. [*update: speeds can be collected as part of the bicycle tube counts*].

- b. Projects:

- [Watch Out For Me](#): Emily updated the group on the Watch Out for Me campaign that is organized through DCTC's Complete Streets Committee. Emily, along with staff from the DC Department of Behavioral and Community Health, led a pedestrian safety education program in Morse Elementary School gym classes in the fall, and plan to start again this spring. They have also conducted pedestrian safety education trainings at senior centers; the next one will be at the City of Poughkeepsie Senior Center on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Watch Out for Me signs are also on all the DC Public Transit buses, and the group is exploring the possibility of adding similar signs to bus shelters in key locations.
  - [Planning/DPW Complete Streets coordination](#): Emily informed the group that DCTC and the Complete Streets committee developed a list of potential short-term sidewalk improvements on County roads, as requested by DPW Commissioner Bob Balkind. DPW is seeking \$1 million to improve accessibility on County facilities, including roads, buildings, parks, and transit.
  - [Pawling Pedestrian Plan](#): Emily noted that the Pawling Pedestrian Task Force just held its last meeting; final edits to the plan are now being made, and a final presentation is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - [Arlington Main Street Redesign Concept](#): The review committee has conducted consultant interviews for this project (to redesign Main Street in the Town Poughkeepsie to be a more complete street) and anticipates making a selection shortly.
- c. Funding:
- [TAP/CMAQ solicitation](#): Grant selections were just announced; the only Dutchess County project awarded funds is a roundabout at the intersection of Route 376/New Hackensack Rd/All Angels Hill Rd (NYSDOT project).
- d. Events:
- [Hyde Park Earth Day, April 27, 10-2 at the Hyde Park Drive-In](#): Bill Johnson noted that sPOKe Poughkeepsie will be doing bicycle repair and collecting used bikes.
  - [International Trails Symposium, April 29-May 1, 2019 \(Syracuse\)](#): Emily stated that she will be presenting at this conference about the County's pedestrian and bicycle counting program.
- e. Other announcements/updates
- Bill Johnson noted that there would be a bike rodeo on April 27<sup>th</sup> at Gold's Gym in LaGrange from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
  - Evelina Knodel (MASS Design Group) informed the group about a gallery show on the history of the arterials in the City of Poughkeepsie, which runs until May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Trolley Barn (489 Main Street).

#### 4) Progress Reports

- a. County DPW: Bill Trifilo informed the group that a groundbreaking ceremony for the Harlem Valley Rail Trail extension from Millerton to Columbia County was held and preliminary construction has begun. Anticipated completion is October 2020.
- b. Traffic Safety Board:
  - Bill Johnson noted that in addition to the Gold's Gym rodeo, other rodeos will be held on May 29<sup>th</sup> at Overlook Elementary and on June 15<sup>th</sup> at Noxon Elementary, both from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm.
  - Sharon Kroeger and Bill Johnson discussed the possibility of a bike safety event at the Wassaic firehouse.
- c. [County Transit](#): Emily noted that a new Riders Guide should be finished soon. Public transit is also working on an RFP for a bus stop accessibility evaluation and in the middle of reviewing submissions for a new dispatch, vehicle location, and passenger information service (including a new app).
- d. NYSDOT: [Empire State Trail](#)
  - Emily informed the group that DCTC met with County DPW, the Town of Red Hook, Bard College, and NYSDOT to review plans for slowing traffic on the on-road section of the Empire State Trail in northern Dutchess.
- e. Local projects
  - Sharon Kroeger told the group that progress had been made on the Wassaic Trail to the Train, and that the project should be happening soon. She also discussed the need for a bike repair shop in eastern Dutchess.
  - Ross Ritter asked about pavement quality on Route 376 south of New Hackensack Rd. Emily said she would follow up with NYSDOT.
  - Mark Roland asked about bike lockers at Beacon Train Station. Emily said she would follow up with Metro-North.
  - Jane Geisler noted that the trash can at the Appalachian Trail train stop had disappeared; Sharon Kroeger commented on the importance of trash collection at a gateway to a carry-in/carry-out trail. Emily said she would follow up with Metro-North.
  - Mark Roland asked if anything was being planned for Bike Month/Bike to Work Day. Emily said that the Planning Department usually does a ride on Bike to Work Day. The group discussed the possibility of organizing something for May 2020. Emily noted that the NYS MPO Association has developed bicycle safety videos; she will email links to the group.

## 5) Follow-up Items

- a. [County bicycle parking map](#): review & send updates
- b. Send Emily ideas for future presentations

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

- a. Meeting schedule: January, April, July, October; last Thursday, 3:00 – 5:00 pm (typically)

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**Time: 3:00-5:00 pm**

**Location: DCC, 115 Bowne Hall**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Municipality</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
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Emily Dozier	Dutchess County Transportation Council	edozier@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Bill Johnson	Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board	wjohnson@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3603
Paul Hesse	City of Poughkeepsie	phesse@cityofpoughkeepsie.com	845-451-4106
Natalie Quinn	City of Poughkeepsie	nquinn@cityofpoughkeepsie.com	845-451-4047
Jane Geisler	Appalachian Trail/Town of Union Vale		845-677-9909
Tom Bauer	Walkway Over the Hudson Ambassador	bauert123@verizon.net	914-456-9656
Bill Trifilo	Dutchess County DPW	wtrifilo@dutchessny.gov	845-486-2936
Ross Ritter	LaGrange/Bikeway	rritter@homesteadfunding.com	914-456-6493
Laurie Sandow	City of Poughkeepsie resident	lauriesandow@gmail.com	
Mark Roland	City of Beacon resident	freelance500@yahoo.com	(845) 590-4849
Leslie Power	Vassar College/Staatsburg	lepower@vassar.edu	845-702-7047
Sharon Kroeger	Wassaic Hamlet/Amenia	generalstoresk@optonline.net	(845) 373-7735