

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

April 30, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

(via conference call/online meeting)

Summary

- 1) Introductions:** Emily Dozier (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting (see attached list).
- 2) Presentation:** *NYS [Climate Smart Communities program](#) and Dutchess County's Progress on Transportation-Related Actions* – Michelle Gluck, Cornell Cooperative Extension Resource Educator

Michelle described the Climate Smart Communities program and Cornell Cooperative Extension's role in assisting the County and other municipalities. She outlined several transportation-related actions that communities can get points for, including Planning & Infrastructure for Bicycling and Walking. The County recently received a bronze-level certification, due in part to many bicycling and walking-related initiatives. Michelle shared some actions the County could pursue to achieve silver-level certification, including alternative fuel infrastructure, advanced vehicles, bike share, and strategies to increase public transit ridership and alternative transport modes. She closed by noting that actions that support walking and bicycling help a community become more resilient, not only in terms of climate change, but also for pandemics and other stresses (see slides [on the BPAC webpage](#)).

Mark Roland asked about alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure. Brad Barclay noted that the County is working with Central Hudson to evaluate converting County vehicles to hybrid or electric. The County has installed electric chargers at four locations, including one in Beacon. They are all level 2 chargers (slower). They may consider a level 1 (fast) charger. You pay for the electric use through an app. The chargers can be used for any type of electric vehicle, though Tesla also has its own style of chargers.

3) DCTC Updates/Announcements

- a. [Arlington Main Street redesign project](#): Emily explained that this project aims to redesign Main Street in Arlington as a more complete street. The project's Advisory Committee and consultant team is currently refining the preferred design concept.
- b. [Poughkeepsie 9.44.55](#): Emily noted that there was an open house for this project in March, and the project team is currently working on redesign options for the Route 9/44/55 interchange (the bow-tie). After that, the team will work on redesign concepts for the arterials through the City and Town of Poughkeepsie. Check out the [project website](#) for more information!

4) Progress Reports

a. County DPW: signal upgrades; Universal Accessibility projects; ped/bike counter
DPW staff were not on the call, so Emily provided updates.

- DPW is planning to upgrade County signals at Red Oaks Mill/Titusville, Noxon/Robinson, DRT/N Grand, and Innis/DeLaval this year. The three signals on streets will include video detection instead of loop detectors, which more reliably detects motorcycles and bicycles. DPW started this program last year and will continue to upgrade several signals each year.
- DPW is also pursuing several projects with new 'universal accessibility' funding. These include accessibility upgrades at County buildings as well as some sidewalk and crosswalk improvements. They are currently working on a design for the Dutcher Ave/Henry St intersection in the Village of Pawling, which will narrow the intersection and add a crosswalk. This recommendation came out of [DCTC's Pawling Pedestrian Plan](#).
- DCTC is working with DPW to purchase a permanent bicycle/pedestrian counter to install on the Dutchess Rail Trail as a pilot project. If successful, additional counters could be installed. In the meantime, DCTC is getting video counts on the DRT and Harlem Valley Rail Trail to document use during COVID-19.

b. Traffic Safety Board: [Watch Out For Me campaign](#)

Bill Johnson stated that it will be difficult to conduct bicycle rodeos and helmet checks under social distancing requirements. He has supplies but is not sure how they will modify their programs. **If anyone has suggestions, reach out to Bill.**

Fred Schaeffer stated that the Walkway now has a 10-mph speed limit, and State Parks staff are interested in trying to enforce it. He asked how speeds are handled on the DRT; Brad Barclay stated that there is not a speed limit, but County Sheriff staff do patrol the trail (see trail rules [here](#)). **Fred said he would update the group** as the Walkway determines the best approach.

c. [County Transit](#): Accessibility evaluation; new app

Transit staff were not on the call, so Emily reported several updates:

- Transit has almost completed an evaluation of bus stop accessibility, including whether there is a sidewalk and curb ramp at each stop. This will be finished after COVID.
- Transit also developed a much-improved app. It is not available yet, but will be rolled out post-COVID.
- The County's Complete Streets Committee is working with Transit to install 'Watch Out For Me' decals on several bus stop shelters as a pilot. The decals show people crossing the street and are intended to remind drivers to watch out for people crossing near bus stops.

d. NYSDOT: State Ped/Bike Plan update; [Empire State Trail](#); [other projects](#); [State Bike Route map](#)

Emily provided several updates:

- NYSDOT has a new Pedestrian/Bicycle Program Manager at the Main Office in Albany, Karen Lorf. Karen is starting to work on an update to the State's 1997 Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan and shared the basic scope for the Plan with Emily, as follows:

The New York State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan will be a policy document to define future goals, policies, and objectives to guide the creation of a comprehensive bicycle, pedestrian, and active transportation network for the State of New York. The NYS Bicycle and Pedestrian Long Range Plan 2020 will build upon the 1997 plan. It will be a framework to:

- Inventory facilities
- Identify existing needs
- Develop criteria for the projection of future needs
- Create guidance
- Be a resource to develop facilities
- Be an accountability document with specified performance measures, to enable NYSDOT to measure its progress toward achieving the plan's purpose.

The Plan will include on-street and off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and will aim to create a comprehensive network, using not only State-owned roads but also local road and trails.

Karen is open to input on the scope; **please forward any ideas to Emily.**

- NYSDOT is working to complete the Empire State Trail by the end of 2020. This includes the extension of the Dutchess Rail Trail from Hopewell to Putnam County. Brad clarified that Metro-North is managing this project. Ross Ritter noted that it is mostly paved.
- NYSDOT has a new [online State bicycle routes map](#).

e. Roundtable: projects/updates

- Emily noted that the March 7th Brown Bike Girl event that was discussed at the January BPAC meeting was a big success. **She will email a summary** with the meeting notes.
- The County is working with the City of Poughkeepsie and others on the Poughkeepsie Urban Trail, which uses an old CSX line between the former Psych Center, the waterfront, and the Walkway. The team is contracting with a consultant for the design.
- The NYS Office of Parks is working with Parks & Trails New York on a state-wide Greenways Plan. The intent is to create a trail network, including connections to the Empire State Trail. Parks & Trails NY has [information on their website](#), including a survey.

- The County is close to completing the Harlem Valley Rail Trail extension to Columbia County; **Brad will check with DPW on the status.**
- Ozie Williams asked about the Walkway’s signage at the corner of Washington St and Parker Ave. Fred stated that it is for the Washington St entrance project, which will create a patio space with seating. He added that the Walkway is adding lighting on the bridge as well. Ozie noted that the image only shows white people, despite the fact that diverse groups use the Walkway and live in the surrounding neighborhood. She encouraged the Walkway to be more inclusive in the images they present. **Fred said he would pass this along to the Walkway organization.** Emily noted that this will also be important in project materials and outreach for the Poughkeepsie Urban Trail.
- Lisa Whalen stated that the Town and Village has installed signage along the Village to Village Trail in Red Hook, so the only missing signage is along the County Road. **Emily will check back with Steve Gill at DPW about the status of the installation.**

5) Funding, Events & Announcements

- Funding:
 - [Greenway Grants and Greenway Conservancy Trail Grants](#) due May 8
 - [AARP Community Challenge Grants](#) due May 15th
- City of Poughkeepsie pop-up cycle track demonstration project: Emily noted that the City is working with Parks & Trails NY on a one-day ‘cycle track’ (two-way on-street bike lane) on the west side of Market St between Church St and Mansion St. This was initially scheduled for May (Bike Month), but will likely be in late summer/early fall.
- [County bicycle parking/bike routes map](#): Emily stated that she would like to update the ‘Bicycle Parking’ application to include more bike racks and the trail extensions currently underway (once completed). She would also like to re-name it to better reflect the content (bike routes and trails in addition to parking). She asked for suggestions for names and updates. Mary Kay asked if the [Dutchess Tourism bike tours](#) could be added to the map. **Emily said she would add them.**

6) Follow-up Items

- [County bicycle parking/bike routes map](#): send ideas for updates and a better name
- Send Emily ideas for future presentations
 - Fred said he could present on the history of the Walkway and Dutchess Rail Trail.
 - A presentation on the Poughkeepsie Urban Trail would also be interesting.

7) Next Meeting: July 30, 3 pm

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

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via conference call/online meeting

Name	Organization/Municipality	Email
Emily Dozier	Dutchess County Transportation Council	edozier@dutchessny.gov
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Ozie Williams	Dutchess County Health Dept	owilliams@dutchessny.gov
Fred Schaeffer	Walkway	FredinhV@aol.com
Dave Anderson	Town of Beekman resident	davidandersonpe@gmail.com
Brad Barclay	Dutchess County Planning	bbarclay@dutchessny.gov
Mark Roland	City of Beacon resident	freelance500@yahoo.com
Mary Kay Vrba	Dutchess Tourism	mkv@dutchesstourism.com
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Ross Ritter	Bikeway/LaGrange resident	rritter@homesteadfunding.com