

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

April 29th, 2021, 3:00 p.m.
(via Microsoft Teams)

Summary

- 1) **Introductions:** Emily Dozier (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting (see attached list). If anyone would like to be added to (or removed from) the email list, let Emily know.
- 2) **Presentation:** *Dutchess County's [Parks & Trails app](#)*, Devin Rigolino, Dutchess County Planning

Devin [presented the County's Parks & Trails app](#) and highlighted various features, including searches for specific parks, filters by park type or features, park lists by municipality, the county-wide map, individual park maps, photos, links to park websites, and a contact tool to report errors or omissions.

Ross Ritter asked if there could be a link to adjacent counties' park/trail websites. Devin will look into this. Mark Roland asked if there was a map of all the bike routes. Emily noted that the County's [Bicycle Parking app](#) includes the rail trails, local bike routes, and State bike routes. The State also has a [State Bike Route map](#). The [Empire State Trail](#) website includes maps of the statewide trail as well as individual sections.

- 3) **Newburgh-Beacon Bridge path** – Mark Roland/Naomi Hersson-Ringskog

Mark and Naomi discussed the existing dawn to dusk 'curfew' on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge path and the possibility of removing it to allow 24-hr access for people on bikes. They explained the economic, equity, and environmental benefits of this change. Naomi is preparing a support letter for organizations and individuals to sign. The group discussed the existing lighting and the fact that cyclists must have front and rear lights at night; the existing security cameras; and the need for snow/ice removal in winter. Mark added that a trail will be built from the bridge to the Beacon train station, which will improve access as well. Naomi and Mark will keep the group updated on this effort.

- 4) **DCTC Updates/Announcements**

- a. [Moving Dutchess Forward](#): Emily noted that the Transportation Council is continuing to work on the new countywide long-range transportation plan. The project website includes sections of the draft plan, including a new 'Advocate' section with best practices for the Council, the County, and local municipalities, to help them improve transportation access, including walking and bicycling. The 'Invest' section and an

interactive funding priorities tool are coming soon. She encouraged the group to review the website and sign up for the email list (under Get Involved) if they are interested.

- b. [Arlington Main Street redesign project](#): Emily stated that this project, which aims to redesign Main Street in Arlington as a more complete street, is complete. The final report is posted on the website.
- c. [Poughkeepsie 9.44.55](#): Emily noted that this project is in Phase 2, which looks at design options for the arterials, including how to make them better for people walking and bicycling. We are hoping to have a virtual public meeting in early summer. Carl Whitehead asked if a design for the interchange was selected. Emily stated that a preferred concept was identified; the Interchange Concepts & Analysis report on the website (under Library) discusses this.

4) Partner Reports/Roundtable

- a. County DPW:
 - a) Universal Accessibility program: DCTC is working with DPW on improvements to County roads to make them better for walking. A project on Dutcher Ave and Henry St in the Village of Pawling will narrow the intersection and add a crosswalk (construction in June 2021). We are also working with DPW and a consultant on sidewalk improvements along Innis Avenue in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Preliminary design is underway.
 - b) Urban Trail: The concept-level design is complete and the consultant is working on the detailed design. Plans for public outreach are being finalized; outreach should begin soon. The overall goal is to start construction in 2022.
- b. Traffic Safety Board:
 - a) Bill Johnson stated that he has bike helmets available for events; reach out to him if you are interested (wjohnson@dutchessny.gov).
 - b) The [Watch Out For Me campaign](#) website has a new Resources for Educators section that includes curricula and videos to teach safe walking and bicycling to various ages.
 - c) Emily added that we have many pedestrian safety ads that used to be on the County buses and are looking for new homes. They range in size but are mostly 30 inches tall and 48 to 120 inches long. There are two images: [Be Safe Be Smart Be Seen](#) and [Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalk](#). They do not have grommets, but holes can be punched to hang them. Emily asked everyone to let her know if you have a spot for any of these. Mark Roland expressed interest.
- c. [County Transit](#) is working on a transit plan that will recommend changes to the bus routes and potential new services. A public survey was held and recently closed. The findings from this plan will be coordinated with the recent [accessibility study](#), which recommended improvements at specific bus stops (shelters, access, lighting, etc).

- d. NYSDOT:
 - a) Emily noted that NYSDOT is constructing a roundabout at the Route 376/All Angels Hill Rd intersection; it should be done in 2022.
 - b) Michael O'Brien stated that NYSDOT is working with the Town of East Fishkill on a replacement of the Route 82 bridge in Hopewell Junction. A project meeting was held with the Town, local business owners, and DCTC this week. NYSDOT is considering three options to replace the bridge: an at-grade crossing with the Empire State Trail, which would include HAWK signals; a pedestrian/bicycle bridge; and a lower vehicular bridge over the trail. NYSDOT will evaluate the three options and then present them for public input. Emily added that NYSDOT seemed most interested in one of the bridge options; they acknowledged that an at-grade crossing was the least desirable from a safety perspective. More information is on the [NYSDOT projects website](#) (project ID# 801449).
- e. Roundtable: projects/updates
 - a) Emily noted that DCTC will be collecting pedestrian and bicycle counts at several locations this year, including the new section of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail and the new Maybrook Trailway.
 - b) Carl Whitehead stated that the Town of Poughkeepsie is working on its Comprehensive Plan update. One item of interest is a potential rail trail connection to Peach Hill Park, but the piece through the Gables development is a challenge.
 - c) Colleen Dorney said that Dutchess Tourism is getting a lot of positive feedback on their updated Cycling Tours brochure (to be posted [here](#)). Nancy Foster asked if Bike New York's [Discover the Hudson Valley Ride](#) was happening this summer; Colleen will find out.
 - d) Ross Ritter raised concerns about the safety of the [Dutchess Rail Trail crossing at Bridge Street](#) in Hopewell Junction. This is an at-grade crossing with only warning signs for drivers.
 - e) Mark Roland announced that he will be writing a new column in the [Beacon Free Press](#). For May (Bike Month), he will focus on bicycling.
 - f) Steven Jones said that the Hyde Park Climate Smart Communities task force is interested in extending bicycle paths into Hyde Park. He asked if the Urban Trail could connect into Hyde Park from its northern terminus at the Hudson Heritage site. Carl noted that there will be an improved 4-way intersection on Route 9 at Quiet Cove Park; from there, you could ride into Hyde Park on Route 9, which has wide shoulders in this area. Carl offered to provide Steven with more information on this.

5) Funding, Events & Announcements

Emily noted the following upcoming funding deadlines and events:

- a. [Greenway Planning, Greenway Trail, and Heritage Development Grant Applications](#) – due May 7th. For 2021, there is \$136,000 for Planning grants and \$500,000 for trail grants. There are additional grant cycles in September and November.

- b. [Two for the Trails grants](#) – due May 31st. These grants are for non-profit organizations (501c3) only. They can fund trail construction, maintenance, and trailhead improvements. Funds must be used within 1 year.
- c. [I Love My Park Day](#): There is a Dutchess Rail Trail cleanup on May 1st, from 9-12. Use the link to register; scroll down to the bottom to select the DRT project.
- d. Bike Month – Scenic Hudson event: Scenic Hudson is hosting Charles Brown, senior research specialist at the Voorhees Transportation Center to speak via Zoom on the topic of Arrested Mobility. The tentative date is Thursday, May 27th, from 5-6pm. Details should be posted on <https://www.scenichudson.org/explore-the-valley/events/>.
- e. [Kingston Women’s Bike Festival](#): This event includes several sessions, including how to shop for a bike, tips for riding with kids, bicycle law, and others. All are free.
- f. [Mental Health awareness bike ride](#) – Saturday, May 15th. This event is being organized by County Legislator Barrington Atkins. It starts at the Walkway parking lot at 11am. It is free, but registration will help the organizers plan.
- g. [Winnakee-Dutchess Trails Roundtable](#) – May 25th at 1pm. See the link or <https://www.winnakee.org/dc-trails-roundtable/> for more information.
- h. [Beacon rail trail](#): This is not an active project, but there is interest from the County, City of Beacon and others in creating a rail trail to connect the Beacon train station to the DRT in Hopewell Junction. The rail line was formally abandoned recently.
- i. Other announcements/updates:
 - a. Nancy Foster noted that the Walkway is hosting a lecture about College Hill on June 6th.
 - b. Emily emailed the group about free bicycle repair clinics at the [Kingston YMCA](#) in May.

6) Follow-up Items

- a. Send [Devin Rigolino](#) any additional suggestions for the Parks & Trails app.
- b. Let Emily know if you have a spot for the pedestrian safety signs.
- c. [County bicycle parking/bike routes map](#): send bike rack locations (photo and description) & suggestions for improvements to the map to Emily.
- d. Send Emily ideas for future presentations.

7) Next Meeting: July 29th, 3 pm

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

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Name	Organization/Municipality	Email
Emily Dozier	Dutchess County Transportation Council	edozier@dutchessny.gov
Tara Grogan	Dutchess County Transportation Council	tgrogan@dutchessny.gov
Carl Whitehead	Town of Poughkeepsie Planning Board	carl.h.whitehead@gmail.com
Colleen Dorney	Dutchess Tourism	colleen@dutchesstourism.com
Michael O'Brien	Town of East Fishkill	michaelbpobrien@gmail.com
Nancy Foster	Walkway Ambassador	nancyfoster@optonline.net
Ross Ritter	Bikeway/LaGrange resident	rritter@homesteadfunding.com
Devin Rigolino	Dutchess County Planning	drigolino@dutchessny.gov
Mark Roland	City of Beacon resident	freelance500@yahoo.com
Naomi Hersson-Ringskog	Dept of Small Interventions, Newburgh	nringskog@gmail.com

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Name	Organization/Municipality	Email
Siennah Yang		siennah.yang@gmail.com
Steven Jones	Hyde Park Climate Smart Communities	stbjones@gmail.com
Bill Johnson	Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board	wjohnson@dutchessny.gov