

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

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

Dutchess Community College, 122 Bowne Hall (1st Floor), 53 Pendell Road, Poughkeepsie

Summary

1) Introductions

Emily Dozier (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves (see attached list).

2) Presentation: *Town of Red Hook Village to Village Trail* - Brenda Cagle & Lisa Whalen

Brenda and Lisa described lessons learned from the Red Hook Trail Committee's work on the Village to Village (V2V) trail. The trail connects the villages of Red Hook and Tivoli via a combination of roads and off-street trails. Two Greenway Grants funded a Town Trail Plan and several elements of the trail, including design, signage, and kiosks. They relied on volunteer in-kind work for the matching funds. The northern portion of the trail, from River Road to Tivoli, is part of the Empire State Trail, and will receive traffic calming (speed tables) and sharrows as part of that project. Winakee Land Trust's planned Sawkill Link Trail will also connect to the V2V trail. Brenda noted that a future goal is to better connect the various trails in the town.

3) DCTC Updates/Announcements (Emily Dozier)

- a. Pedestrian-Bicycle counts: Emily discussed the volunteer counts, which will be done September 10-12 and 14th. She distributed a sign-up sheet, which is also available online at <https://volunteersignup.org/DKFXJ>. Emily encouraged everyone to volunteer.
- b. Pedestrian safety education grant: The County Planning and Health departments were awarded a second grant for pedestrian safety education in the City and Town of Poughkeepsie. They are hoping to work at the Early Learning Center in the fall.
- c. Planning/DPW Complete Streets coordination: The County has a \$1 million Universal Accessibility pilot project to improve access on County roads and other facilities. The County's Complete Streets Committee developed a list of recommendations for DPW, which she distributed. These include sidewalk, ramp, and crossing improvements on various County roads. DPW will need to develop an RFP and select a consultant to do the work. Emily has also been coordinating with DPW's Director of Highway Construction and Maintenance to see if shoulder widening could be incorporated into some of their 2020 paving projects. Emily distributed a sheet highlighting priority locations for shoulder widening for review and input.
- d. [Regional Transit Plan](#) (Connect Mid-Hudson): This project is ongoing; it includes transit connections between Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange counties as well as regional destinations.

- e. [Pawling Pedestrian Plan](#): This project is complete; the materials are on the project webpage.
- f. Arlington Main Street Redesign Project: This is a new project to redesign Main Street (County Road 114) in Arlington as a more complete street. It builds on DCTC's [2017 Arlington Pedestrian Plan](#). A kickoff meeting was held on July 10th and it should be completed within a year.
- g. Route 44/55/9 Interchange and Arterial Study: This is a very large new project to study alternatives for the Route 9/44/55 interchange and the arterials. DCTC and its consultant team will work with NYSDOT, the City and Town of Poughkeepsie, other stakeholders and the public to develop and test design alternatives. The project contract has not been finalized but should be done soon. Ross Ritter encouraged the team to consider bicycle access to the Mid-Hudson Bridge.

4) Local Projects (All)

- a. Paul Hesse (City of Poughkeepsie) stated that the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan grant-funded project is ongoing; it includes improvements to signalized crosswalks and uncontrolled crosswalks on Main Street and a few other streets. Paul also described the CSX rail lines that Scenic Hudson is transferring to the County for development as rail trails. These will connect the area north of Marist College with the Walkway and the City's proposed Fall Kill Trail. Emily distributed the [press release](#) and Paul showed the rail lines on a map.
- b. Tom Bauer (Walkway Ambassador) noted that the Walkway Welcome Center on the Poughkeepsie side is open; the group agreed that it is very nice.
- c. Sharon Kroeger stated that the Trail to the Train project is waylaid again, hopefully not for long. There is also a new Historic District that includes Leedsville Rd and Amenia Union/South Amenia Road. She is interested in bicycle wayfinding signage on these roads; Emily suggested the [Greenway Community Grants](#).
- d. Laurie Sandow noted that National Night Out is August 6th by City Hall; she asked if a bicycle rodeo or other pedestrian/bicycle activity could be included. Emily stated that MASS Design is planning some pedestrian/bicycle activities. **Emily** reached out to Bill Johnson about a bike rodeo or helmet check but did not hear back; she will follow up. Laurie also stated that the Thursday Night Lights events at the Poughkeepsie Middle School could be a good venue for a bike rodeo or other activity, particularly as the August 8th event includes a fitness challenge. **Emily** will reach out to Bill Johnson.
- e. David Gordon (Mid-Hudson Bicycle Club) described his frustration with closings of the Walkway for special events. He stated that there should be access during these events. The group noted that the events are fundraisers that support the maintenance and operation of the Walkway. However, the group agreed that there could be better information about the closures; Tom Bauer asked **Paul Hesse** if these could be publicized in the City's e-newsletter (the Buzz).

- f. Steve Gill (County DPW) described current projects, including improvements along Myers Corners Road that will include wider shoulders, and signal upgrades that will include video detection rather than loop detectors. This will improve detection of bicycles and motorcycles. He also noted that the Harlem Valley Rail Trail extension from Millerton to Columbia County is under construction. Emily added that anticipated completion is fall 2020.
- g. Ross Ritter stated that there is a big hole on the north side of Hillside Lake Road/Route 376 at Van Wyck Junior High School. The County has improved the road but not addressed the hole. **Steve Gill** will ask Gary Cooper (DPW Maintenance) about this. Ross added that there are potholes on Titusville Road near Titusville Heights Rd and the shoulders should be paved. **Steve Gill** will ask Gary Cooper (DPW Maintenance) about this also. Finally, he stated that NYSDOT paved Route 376 but didn't do the shoulders. **Emily** will follow up with NYSDOT.
- h. County Traffic Safety Board: Emily stated that as part of the [Watch Out For Me](#) campaign, pedestrian and bicycle safety ads are on the outside and inside of all County buses. They are considering similar ads on bus stop shelters.
- i. [County Transit](#): Emily noted that a new Riders Guide should be finished soon. Public transit is also working on contracts for a bus stop accessibility evaluation and a new dispatch, vehicle location, and passenger information service, including a new app.
- j. NYSDOT: Emily stated that work on the [Empire State Trail](#) is continuing; there were public meetings in June for the Maybrook Trail, which will connect the Dutchess Rail Trail in Hopewell Junction with the Putnam County trails to New York City. It will be a 23-mile 'rail with trail.' More information is at [maybrookrailway.org](#).

5) Funding, Events & Announcements

- [Recreational Trails Program](#) grant applications are due July 26 (part of the CFA).
- [Greenway Community Grants](#) are due Sept 6; [Greenway Trail Grants](#) are due November 8
- b. Events:
 - [sPOKe](#) rides: 1st Saturday of each month; 10:30 am at the Walkway's Poughkeepsie lot. Paul Hesse will lead the next ride on August 3rd, which will have a transportation theme.
 - [Scenic Hudson's Farmland Cycling Tour](#) is September 28.

6) Follow-up Items

- a. Sign up for ped/bike counts! <https://volunteersignup.org/DKFXJ>
- b. [County bicycle parking map](#): review & send updates
- c. Send Emily ideas for future presentations!

7) Next Meeting: October 31 (Halloween!), 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, 122 Bowne Hall

Name	Organization/Municipality	Email	Phone
Tom Bauer	Walkway Over the Hudson Ambassador	bauert123@verizon.net	914-456-9656
Brenda Cagle	Town of Red Hook Trails Committee	brendacagle@yahoo.com	(845) 901-3543
Bruce Cuttler	Town of Red Hook Trails Committee	bcuttler@frontiernet.net	(845) 758-0828
Emily Dozier	Dutchess County Transportation Council	edozier@dutchessny.gov	845-486-3600
Steve Gill	Dutchess County Public Works	sgill@dutchessny.gov	845-486-2928
David Gordon	Mid-Hudson Bicycle Club	dgordonlaw@optonline.net	(845) 943-1142
Paul Hesse	City of Poughkeepsie	phesse@cityofpoughkeepsie.com	845-451-4106
Sharon Kroeger	Wassaic Hamlet/Amenia	generalstoresk@optonline.net	(845) 373-7735
Ross Ritter	LaGrange/Bikeway	rritter@homesteadfunding.com	914-456-6493
Laurie Sandow	City of Poughkeepsie resident	lauriesandow@gmail.com	
Lisa Whalen	Town of Red Hook Trails Committee	ejw44@hvc.rr.com	(845) 399-9943