

Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

Thursday, July 27, 2023, 2:30 pm
via Microsoft Teams

— Meeting Summary —

- 1. Introductions** – Emily Dozier (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and led introductions. (see list below).
- 2. Presentation:** [Spackenkill Road Sidewalk Feasibility Study](#) – Tara Grogan, DCTC (see slides and link to recording on the [BPAC webpage](#)).

Tara discussed a current study that she is managing to determine the feasibility of installing sidewalks on Spackenkill Rd (State Route 113) between Croft Rd and west of Cedar Ave. The Town of Poughkeepsie asked DCTC to do the study based on requests from residents, particularly given the number of schools in the area and concern for the safety of people walking on the roadway. The concept is also in the Town’s new Comprehensive Plan. DCTC is working with an engineering consultant, Creighton Manning, and an Advisory Committee on the study. The design concept that has been analyzed includes a 5 foot sidewalk with a buffer, and 11 foot travel lanes with a 5 foot shoulder. So far, the analysis shows sidewalks on each side of the road would be feasible but would entail some property acquisitions. The study is also considering bike lanes, ideally buffered, based on input from residents and the School Board. Intersection improvements such as crosswalks, curb ramps, and pedestrian signals are also recommended.

Tara reviewed a basic concept plan, described outreach and feedback from students and the broader community, and discussed some of the issues and trade-offs, including cost, maintenance, traffic operations, and property impacts. She asked for the group’s input on sidewalk buffers and bike lanes. She stated that once the study is done, the Town will need to decide if they want to pursue a grant to construct the project, in coordination with NYSDOT (the road owner).

The group discussed the benefits of sidewalk buffers; the need for more than just standard bike lanes to encourage a broader population to bicycle (given speeds and volumes on this road); whether pedestrian counts from a similar project (pre and post construction) could be used to analyze the benefit/cost; and the estimated cost (about \$5 million, assuming federal funding). Suggestions included using a bike lane to buffer the sidewalk, rather than a separate sidewalk buffer, or striping the road with lanes for walking and bicycling, rather than constructing a curbed sidewalk. Emily noted that since Spackenkill Rd is a State road, NYSDOT standards will determine

what is feasible. For sidewalks, NYSDOT requires a curb. We are still determining what bicycle facility options NYSDOT would be comfortable with.

3. DCTC [Local Projects](#)

- a. [Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail](#) Feasibility Study: The study will evaluate the access, crossings, environmental issues, potential phasing, and other elements to see how the former Beacon Line (from the City of Beacon waterfront to Hopewell Junction) could be converted into a rail trail. A contract with a consultant is close to being finalized.
- b. [Resilient Ways Forward](#) – Transportation Vulnerability Study: This study is evaluating the impact of climate change on our transportation infrastructure. Emily encouraged the group to use the [mapping survey](#) to show where events such as flooding, heat, ice or snow have affected their ability to travel.

4. Partner Reports

- a. Roundtable projects/updates:
 - i. Brian explained that since 1973, the City of Poughkeepsie has had an [ordinance](#) that requires people to register their bike with the police to legally ride it in the city. This has resulted in many bikes being taken by the police, particularly from people of color. Brian worked with the NAACP on legislation to make bicycle registration optional, which the Common Council will consider this fall.
 - ii. Thomas provided an update on the Beacon-Hudson River Trail, which he presented to the [BPAC in October 2022](#). The project is close to being shovel ready. They are planning to apply for some more planning funds, and then a grant for implementation (about \$5 million). They are working with the Bridge Authority and the City of Newburgh on a broader walking/bicycling trail network.
 - iii. Nancy shared that the College Hill Coalition is holding the 3rd annual [Frederick Douglass Day celebration](#) on July 29th.
 - iv. Michael described East Fishkill's Junction Loop Trail, which recently received a Greenway grant, and would allow people to access key destinations in Hopewell Hamlet.
 - v. [Northside Line](#): Emily noted that the first part of Phase 1 (from Parker Ave to Cedar St) is open; the rest of Phase 1 (north to Hudson Heritage) will open around October. There may be a grand opening/ribbon cutting in November. Phase 2 (connecting to the Marist Campus) will be constructed in 2024.
 - vi. [Watch Out For Me campaign](#): Emily noted that County staff will be at National Night Out in the City of Poughkeepsie on August 1st (5-8 pm outside City Hall) to do a crosswalk education activity with kids.
 - vii. The Kingston YMCA is looking for donations of bicycles for their youth Lend-A-Wheel program. Emily will include the flyer in the meeting summary.

5. Funding, Events & Announcements

- a. [Winnakee Land Trust Trails Roundtable](#) (7/18); recording to be posted on website
- b. Event registration is open for the 2023 [Hudson River Valley Ramble](#) (September)
- c. [NYS Cycling Census](#) – Report and Dashboard
- d. [NYBC](#) pocket guides & ebike rack cards available

- e. New [online Greenway Trail System Map](#)
- f. [Hudson Valley Greenway: Community and Trail Grants](#) – due September 1st
 - a. Recent award: \$100,000 to Town of East Fishkill for the Junction Loop Trail for Hopewell Junction Hamlet
- g. League of American Bicyclists’ Bicycle Friendly University & Community [submissions open](#) (due 8/10 & 8/30, respectively)
- h. [RTC Trail Grants Program](#) – due 7/31
- i. [T-Mobile Hometown Grants](#) – up to \$50,00 for community spaces
- j. Federal infrastructure funding – [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law programs](#)
- k. CFA - Various Grant Opportunities available until July 28, 2023. [Learn more.](#)
- l. [Extreme Terrain Clean Trail Grant Program](#) – small grants for trail improvements

6. Follow-up Items

- a. [Bike Dutchess](#) app: send Emily bike rack/fix-it station locations (photo and description) and any suggestions for improvements.
- b. Send Emily ideas for future presentations
- c. See our [BPAC webpage](#) for meeting summaries, recordings, and presentations, as well as a link to sign up for our email list.

7. Next Meeting: October 26th, 2:30 pm

- a. Nancy and the College Hill Coalition may present on their trail and park improvement concepts. Alternatively, we could ask the City of Kingston to present on a recent federal RAISE grant award for trail and complete street projects.
- b. Meeting schedule: January, April, July, October; last Thursday, 2:30 – 4:00pm

July 2023 BPAC Meeting Participants:

Name	Organization	Email
Emily Dozier	DCTC	edozier@dutchessny.gov
Yvonne Caruthers	Beacon Bike-Ped Committee	ybcaruthers@proton.me
Colleen Dorney	Dutchess Tourism	colleen@dutchesstourism.com
Nancy Foster	Walkway Ambassador/Revive College Hill Coalition	nancyfoster@optonline.net
Tara Grogan	DCTC	tgrogan@dutchessny.gov
Michael O’Brien	Town of East Fishkill resident	michaelbpobrien@gmail.com
Brian Robinson	City of Poughkeepsie resident; CEO of Equitable Future (civil rights non-profit)	brian.robinson@equitablefuture.org
Thomas Wright	Beacon Greenway Committee	twright@beaconny.gov



THE YMCA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

GOT A BIKE? WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING BICYCLE DONATIONS FOR OUR LEND-A-WHEEL PROGRAM!

The YMCA accepts donated bikes and recycles them! If an old bike is cluttering up your garage, the Y could use it. If your child has outgrown a bike, it may be great for another child. Your bike will make a difference in the life of an adult or youth in our community!



- The YMCA solicits donations of used bicycles from the public, refurbishes them, and makes them available to county residents who cannot afford other forms of transportation
- Bike recipients are offered bike helmets, lights, and locks.
- We use request and referrals from community, government and educational institutions to match bikes with those in need.
- Beyond a simple bike request form, there is no paperwork or bureaucracy.

NEED A BIKE?

If you need a bike to get to work, school, appointments or errands, you can request one. As bikes get donated and fixed, we will contact you with just the right one! Contact the Y for a bike request form today!

Bike recipient June 2023

For more information, contact Justin Ledoux, YMCA Bicycle Programs Manager @ 845-338-3810, x 102 or jledoux@ymcaulster.org