

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

October 29, 2015, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

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

Meeting Summary

1) Introductions

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

2) Presentation & Discussion: Red Hook Trail Plan, John Kuhn, Town Recreation Director

Emily introduced John Kuhn, the Town of Red Hook Recreation Director. John explained that the [Red Hook Trail Plan](#) will identify existing trail conditions, currently proposed trails, and potential new trails within the Town of Red Hook, Village of Red Hook, and the Village of Tivoli. He stated that the Town is focused on establishing a comprehensive trail network to connect residents by walking and bicycling throughout the community.

John discussed the history of trails in the Town of Red Hook, as well as the current status of the Red Hook Trails Plan. John noted that the Red Hook Trails Committee was established in 1994 and renamed the [Red Hook Greenway and Trails Committee](#) in 1996. He highlighted several of the committee's projects, including the wetlands walk, which is a trail from the Red Hook Recreation Park to the Apple Ring Rd housing development; the Aspinwall Access, which connects Aspinwall Rd to the Recreation Park; and the Linden Ave./Recreation Park Link, which is a sidewalk along Linden Ave between the Middle and High schools and the Recreation Park.

John emphasized the importance of inventorying [existing conditions](#) and actually walking the trails; this ensures that the trails will be mapped correctly. He also noted the value of identifying the opportunities and constraints with each trail link and focusing on opportunities that will have the highest benefit for the cost.

He added that the current Trail Plan was made possible through a grant awarded by the Hudson Valley Greenway Conservancy in 2014. The grant requires matching funds provided by the Town of Red Hook, Village of Red Hook, and Village of Tivoli. Alta Planning is the consultant for the project. The plan is expected to be completed by January 2016.

3) Updates/Announcements

Karen Flaherty (Mid-Hudson Bicycle Club) announced that sPOKe (formerly the Poughkeepsie Bicycle Advocates) is leading a Halloween bike ride on Saturday, October 31, 2015. The event begins at 10 a.m. at the Mid-Hudson Heritage Center (317 Main St. in Poughkeepsie).

Bill Johnson (Traffic Safety Board) said that the Traffic Safety Board (TSB) was awarded a grant for their bike safety program in 2016. The TSB is currently inventorying resources to determine how many helmets will be available to give out in the upcoming year. Bill has provided helmets to sPOKe to give out with bicycles that they are refurbishing. He explained that the TSB does 15-20 bicycle rodeos a year, focusing on elementary school-aged children. The rodeos include a chalk course, helmet inspection, and bicycle safety tips. If this sounds like something your community would like to participate in, reach out to Bill!

Bill Trifilo (Dutchess County DPW) announced that two solar-powered, LED flashing beacons were installed on CR 103 (Annandale Rd.) at the Bard College entrances. Additionally, a school area warning sign (a yellow sign that shows two people walking) was installed on CR 41 (Netherwood Rd.) in the Town of Hyde Park. Bill also mentioned that the CR 21 (Noxon Rd)/CR 49 (Titusville Rd) intersection is being redesigned.

Emily added that Dutchess County DPW has incorporated wider shoulders on four bridge projects:

1. CR 28 (Old Hopewell Rd) bridge over Wappinger Creek in the Town of Wappinger/Town of Poughkeepsie– will be rebuilt with 4 ft shoulders.
2. CR 19 (Bulls Head Rd) bridge over Wappinger Creek, near Rt. 82 in Stanford – will be rebuilt with 4 ft shoulders on the bridge and 5 ft shoulders on the adjacent roadway.
3. CR 72 (North Ave) bridge over Great Spring Creek in Pleasant Valley– will be rebuilt with 5 ft. shoulders, which will extend partway on Sherow Rd.
4. Linden Ave bridge over the Sawkill Creek in Red Hook – will be rebuilt, replacing the sidewalk on the east side of bridge and adding a wider shoulder on the west side.

Shelby Tompkins (PDCTC) noted that the [Moving Dutchess 2](#) public workshops and survey are finished and the feedback is currently being analyzed. Lisa Mondello (NYSDOT – Region 8) suggested that the recommended projects from *Moving Dutchess 2* be forwarded to municipalities so they can incorporate them into their Comprehensive Plans.

Ross Ritter (Town of LaGrange) briefed the committee on the public meeting for the [Route 376 at Robinson Lane Intersection Improvement Project](#). He noted that the meeting was not well attended. He said the discussion focused on the two design options for the intersection: adding turning lanes or a roundabout. Motorists would experience, on average, a reduction of 65 seconds of delay with the roundabout and a reduction of 45 seconds of delay with the turning lanes. Ross suggested adding a two-way left-turn lane with 4 ft shoulders; he also suggested expanding the project limits to incorporate the commercial areas on both sides of the intersection. He stated that there was support at the meeting for incorporating sidewalks and crosswalks in the project. Lisa Mondello (NYSDOT – Region 8) noted that the Town has not required sidewalks for any of the development along Route 376. The next public meeting for the project will be in early December and will present a preferred alternative. Project construction will begin in summer 2017 and continue until spring 2018.

Amy Kacala (Scenic Hudson) announced that a consultant has been chosen for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail segment between the Breakneck Train Station and the Breakneck Ridge trailhead (the "Breakneck Connector"). She noted that the Hudson Valley Greenway has issued a RFP for a Greenway Trail gap analysis. She also stated that work is progressing on a trail along the river between the Beacon train station and the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge.

Lisa Mondello (NYSDOT) noted that NYSDOT will be [resurfacing Route 376](#) between Hackensack Heights Rd (just north of the Route 376/New Hackensack Rd/All Angels Hill Rd intersection) and Red Oaks Mill Rd (just south of the Spackenkill Rd/Route 376/Vassar Rd intersection) in 2016-2017. The project will restore the existing shoulders. Mark Kruk is the NYSDOT project manager.

Ozie Williams (Department of Health) stated that there will be a Halloween candy exchange on November 1. Individuals can drop off candy from 1-5pm at various locations in Dutchess and Ulster counties and receive healthy prizes in return, such as passes for mini-golf, ice skating, a gym session, Renegades game, or books. The candy will be donated to troops overseas. Ozie also noted that the Department of Health and the Department of Mental Hygiene will be merging to create the new Department of Behavioral and Community Health.

Kathleen Davis (Town of Hyde Park) stated that a new sidewalk between the Stop & Shop on Route 9 and Farm Lane is now complete, funded by Community Development Block Grant funds. She also noted that sidewalks will be installed between Terwilliger Rd and the Hyde Park Plaza, as a result of Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding.

Karl Beard (National Park Service) informed the committee that Winnakee Land Trust's 2015 Regional Trails Conference was successful and a new quarterly trails roundtable is being established. He added that the Park Service is working to provide a 'through route' for mountain biking using Vanderbilt trails, River Road, and trails on the FDR site to Route 9. Karl will bring maps of the proposed route to the next meeting.

Emily summarized the 2015 countywide pedestrian/bicycle counts. Almost 70 counts were taken countywide at 31 different locations. Emily noted that communities can use the count data in funding applications, and can ask for additional/special count locations if needed. The count data will be posted on the [Pedestrian & Bicycle Counts webpage](#).

Emily announced that the Town of Fishkill held a Complete Streets Workshop in early October, focused on the implementation of Complete Streets in the Town.

Emily informed the committee that Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding is available through NYSDOT for safety improvements, including centerline rumble strips and pedestrian countdown timers. For more information, please see the [PDCTC website](#).

Emily also encouraged individuals to visit the Upper Route 9G Corridor Management Plan (CMP) [website](#) to review the summary of the Safety Assessment done by the PDCTC and project team in September.

4) Future Presentation Ideas

The committee discussed possible presentations for future meetings. Ideas included a report on the quarterly Trails Roundtable or a discussion of the mountain bike trail/route in Hyde Park. Other ideas are an update from [sPOKe](#) (formerly the Poughkeepsie Bicycle Advocates) or Bike Beacon, or a presentation by [Bike Friendly Kingston](#).

5) Follow up items

1. Emily will send information on Winnakee's quarterly Trails Roundtable when available.
2. Bill Trifilo will send information on the Noxon Rd/Titusville Rd intersection project.
3. Karl will bring maps of the proposed mountain bike trails/route to the next meeting.
4. All: review & send updates for the online [bicycle parking finder](#) to Emily.
5. All: send Emily ideas for future presentations.

6) Next Meeting: January 28, 3-5pm, DCC, Bowne Hall

Emily asked how many people could make an evening meeting, such as 6-8 pm. Lisa Mondello and Bill Trifilo said they would not be able to do an evening meeting. Others agreed that it is important to have NYSDOT and Dutchess County DPW at the meetings.