

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

October 29th, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

(via Microsoft Teams)

Summary

1) Introductions: Emily Dozier (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting (see attached list).

2) Presentation: *Urban Trail* – Jack Gorton & Brendan Fitzgerald, Project Consultants, HVEA Jack and Brendan provided an overview of the project (formerly known as the Poughkeepsie Urban Trail, name TBD). It connects the Hudson Heritage site (former Psychiatric Center) in northern Poughkeepsie, the Walkway and Dutchess Rail Trail, Marist College, the Poughkeepsie train station and waterfront, and northside neighborhoods. The design is in the very early stages, but it is intended to be wide and open 24/7, with lighting and design features to provide comfort and safety along the trail and at street crossings. Mapping is complete, and the team is developing design concepts. They have had meetings with key stakeholders and hope to have a website up by the end of 2020, which will provide more opportunities for input. Matt Dutcavich (Dutchess County DPW) added that they hope to have plans ready for bid by the end of 2021 and start construction in 2022.

Attendees were excited to see the project progressing. The group discussed the connection at the Hudson Heritage site and a potential future Falkill trail connection. Jack, Brendan and Matt offered to provide updates and additional opportunities for input as the project progresses.

3) Harlem Valley Rail Trail extension

Matt Dutcavich gave an update on the HVRT extension from Millerton to Columbia County. It should be complete around Thanksgiving. He noted that the trail is narrow (8-10 feet wide) due to environmental constraints but passes through beautiful natural surroundings. He encouraged everyone to check it out once it is complete. Emily asked if anything was planned for the official opening. Matt said that an event is unlikely given COVID and the time of year.

4) [Dutchess Tourism Bike Tour Guide](#) update

As discussed on our July call, Dutchess Tourism asked for feedback on the routes and design of their Bike Tour Guide. Colleen Dorney from Tourism gave a brief overview. Specific suggestions included: provide some shorter routes/cut-off options; incorporate Scenic Hudson's Farmland Cycling Tour route; provide a link to directions that cyclists can download onto an app or device such as Strava, Garmin or others. Emily asked attendees to send her any feedback by Monday 11/2 so she can compile it for Tourism by the end of the week.

5) DCTC Updates/Announcements

- a. September Volunteer Counts: Emily provided an overview of the annual volunteer counts done in September (see summary and charts on our [Transportation Data](#)

[webpage](#)). Volunteers collected 43 counts at 26 locations this year. The weather was good, but COVID affected some locations (such as Arlington, since Vassar College students are not allowed off-campus). Rhinebeck, the Walkway, and Beacon continued to have the highest numbers. Compared to previous years, overall pedestrian numbers were down slightly, but bicyclist numbers were up about 10%. Based on data from several locations on the DRT and HVRT, trail use has increased almost 40% in 2020 compared to 2017.

Dylan noted that NYSDOT is starting to do more pedestrian/bicycle counts, and we could share data in the future. Bruce noted that people with second homes in Northern Dutchess have been staying there during COVID, contributing to the activity in Rhinebeck and Red Hook. Teresa Sanchez added that the Walkway's counts include data on mask compliance and which access points people use.

- b. [County bicycle parking/bike routes map](#): Emily asked for input on ways to improve this app. Suggestions included: show the County bus routes; add fix-it stations (once installed) along the Empire State Trail; make it a separate app (similar to the Transit app). Dylan noted that a private company developed the transit app for the County; this wouldn't be feasible for the bike parking app.
- c. [Arlington Main Street redesign project](#): This project, which aims to redesign Main Street in Arlington as a more complete street, is nearing completion. A public Zoom meeting was held in early October to share the preferred design concept (see the project website for a link to the video and slides).
- d. [Poughkeepsie 9.44.55](#): The project team created an online meeting to share four redesign options for the Route 9/44/55 interchange (the bowtie)—see the link to the Virtual Meeting on the website. There are survey questions to gauge people's thoughts on each option. The next phase of the project will evaluate redesign concepts for the arterials through the City and Town of Poughkeepsie.
- e. Moving Dutchess Forward: DCTC is working on an update of the countywide long-range transportation plan, which will set policy and project priorities. A consultant has developed a project website which will be unveiled soon. The team is also working on a public survey and a short video.

4) Partner Reports/Roundtable

- a. County DPW: DCTC worked with DPW to design an improvement at Dutcher Ave and Henry St in the Village of Pawling to narrow the intersection and add a crosswalk. It will go out to bid soon. They are now working together on sidewalk improvements along Innis Avenue in the Town of Poughkeepsie.
- b. Traffic Safety Board: [Watch Out For Me campaign](#). 'Watch Out For Me' decals have been installed on several bus stop shelters, and more are planned.

- c. [County Transit](#): Transit completed an evaluation of each bus stop's accessibility (sidewalks, ramps, shelters, etc). Recommendations are being considered for each location.
- d. NYSDOT: There is a new [Empire State Trail](#) website. The trail between Hopewell and Putnam County should be open to the public in early 2021.
- e. Roundtable: projects/updates
 - a) Bruce Cuttler stated that the Winnakee Land Trust acquired 345 acres along the Sawkill Creek, near the Red Hook Recreation Park. It will connect to the Village to Village trail.
 - b) Mary Nisley asked if the Dutchess Rail Trail could be plowed this winter to allow more winter-time use. The group discussed potential liability issues, whether sanding would be needed, and the labor required to plow the trail. Fred Shaeffer noted that the Walkway is plowed, but it is closed when it is icy. It isn't possible to close the DRT. Emily will ask DPW if plowing could be feasible.
 - c) Ross Ritter asked if there is any regulation of e-bikes on the rail trail. He has noticed increasing numbers of e-bikes, and they can go faster than seems safe. Emily will ask DPW.
 - d) Paul Hesse summarized the [August City of Poughkeepsie pop-up cycle track](#) (see the link for a summary report). It was a lot of work but successful at showing the potential for bicycling infrastructure on Market St. The City is working with a consultant to develop additional design options.
 - e) Sharon Kroeger provided an update via email:
 - i. The Wassaic Trail to the Train is open. This trail connects the Wassaic train station (and Harlem Valley Rail Trail) to the hamlet of Wassaic.
 - ii. There is a new Wassaic Commons Bicycle Shop at 3 Main St in Wassaic. It is open Wednesday through Sunday from 8 am to 6 pm. The phone number is (914) 393-0253, the fellow in charge is Jordan Hutton.

5) Funding, Events & Announcements

- a. [September online Complete Streets training](#) (see link for slides/recording)
- b. [America Walks Community Change Grants](#) – due 11/9. These are \$1,500 grants to help groups create active places. See the link for more information.

6) Follow-up Items

- a. Provide feedback on Tourism's Bike Routes Guide to Emily by 11/2
- b. [County bicycle parking/bike routes map](#): send bike rack locations & upgrade suggestions
- c. Send Emily ideas for future presentations

7) Next Meeting: January 28th, 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
Michelle Gluck	Cornell Cooperative Extension - Dutchess	mg822@cornell.edu
Paul Hesse	City of Poughkeepsie	phesse@cityofpoughkeepsie.com
Karl Beard	National Park Service (retired)	karl.kd2fx@gmail.com
Ross Ritter	Bikeway/LaGrange resident	rritter@homesteadfunding.com
Colleen Dorney	Dutchess Tourism	colleen@dutchesstourism.com
Fred Schaeffer	Resident	FredinhV@aol.com
Bruce Cuttler	Red Hook Trails	bcuttler@frontiernet.net
Matt Dutcavich	Dutchess County Public Works	mdutcavich@dutchessny.gov
Brendan Fitzgerald	HVEA Engineers	bfitzgerald@hveapc.com

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Name	Organization/Municipality	Email
Jack Gorton	HVEA Engineers	jgorton@hveapc.com
Caroline Alsup	Scenic Hudson	calsup@scenichudson.org
Danielle Krol	Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council	dkrol@smtcmpo.org
Kathleen Davis	Winnakee Land Trust/Hyde Park Trails	kathleendavis072@gmail.com
Mary Nisley	Resident	marynisley@gmail.com
Carl Whitehead	Town of Poughkeepsie Planning Board	slowflight@aol.com
Dylan Tuttle	Dutchess County Transportation Council	dtuttle@dutchessny.gov
Matthias Howley	Vassar Collge/Dutchess County Transportation Council intern	mhowley@vassar.edu
Jeff Anzevino	Scenic Hudson	janzevino@scenichudson.org
Teresa Sanchez	Walkway	tsanchez@walkway.org

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Name	Organization/Municipality	Email
Laurie Husted	Bard/Red Hook Trails	husted@bard.edu
Natalie Quinn	City of Poughkeepsie	NQuinn@cityofpoughkeepsie.com
Sharon Kroeger	Resident	generalstoresk@optonline.net