

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

October 28th, 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 BPAC email list, let Emily know.

2) NYSDOT Update: Steve MacAvery had to leave the call early, so shared his update first. There is a local TAP (Transportation Alternatives) project on Route 9 in Hyde Park that will reconstruct sidewalks, replace curb ramps, and upgrade signals near the McDonalds. It is close to being advertised. The City of Poughkeepsie is also working on their Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) project. In New Paltz, NYSDOT is reviewing plans for a shared use path on Henry DuBois Drive (a local project). This will become part of the Empire State Trail.

Carl Whitehead noted that work is also being done on Route 9 by the new Hudson Heritage development in Poughkeepsie, which will align the access with the entrance to Quiet Cove Park and add a signalized crossing.

Emily asked about NYSDOT's PSAP project, noting that some crossings on the eastbound and westbound arterials were not upgraded, and others don't have full pedestrian signals. Steve said that the project is done. There may have been constraints to adding a second push-button pole at some corners. Anyone can email him specific locations to investigate.

3) Presentation: *Marist College Bicycle Connections* – Samantha Roberts & Gabriel Castillo-Sanchez

Sam and Gabe discussed their efforts to improve bicycle access and safety on the Marist campus, and improve connections to nearby destinations. This would help with parking issues on campus, promote the college's sustainability goals, and improve quality of life. They are planning to create a short document and a visual to post at Donnelly Hall on campus. Their short-term goals include bike lanes on campus, bike repair locations, bike racks, possibly a bike-share system, and a parking buy-out program. Long-term, they are considering showers for bike commuters, improved access on Cedar St and Fairview Ave, and improving connections to the Walkway.

They shared results of an ongoing student survey showing frustration with transportation on campus, and interest in having a bike on campus if better resources were provided. Sam noted that there is currently a stigma attached to bicycling, and not many students bike on campus.

Ross Ritter encouraged secure bike storage and possibly a bicycle training room (for indoor workouts). Sam noted that they are working with a professor to organize a bike outing and bike repair workshops, and are considering creating a bicycle club. Jeff Anzevino encouraged them to suggest improvements to local streets, building on the access created by the planned Urban Trail. He suggested installing bicycle lockers (or other secure storage) at all dorms to make it more convenient to bike, and applying to the [League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle-Friendly University](#) program to get feedback on best practices. Emily noted that DCTC has [bicycle parking recommendations](#) online. She also suggested reaching out the [Laurie Husted at Bard](#) (Chief Sustainability Officer) and Micah Kenfield at Vassar (Sustainability Director) to learn what they have done to improve bicycling. Finally, she noted that the Urban Trail project will include separated paths on the north sides of Fulton St and Cedar St.

4) DCTC Updates/Announcements

a. Pedestrian/Bicycle counts

- 2021 count data summary: Emily reviewed a summary of the volunteer ped/bike counts collected this year, as well as charts showing trends over the past 10 years. Paul Hesse noted the sidewalk cycling disparity between Beacon and Poughkeepsie and suggested that crowded sidewalks in Beacon could encourage people to ride on the street instead. Tara Grogan added that outdoor dining space in Beacon uses a lot of the sidewalk space. The committee asked if sidewalk cycling was allowed in Beacon; Emily noted that Beacon has [a local ordinance](#) prohibiting bicycling (as well as skateboards, scooters, etc) on Main Street sidewalks. The summary and charts are posted on [DCTC's website](#).
- DRT trail counter: The Hudson Valley Greenway is installing a counter on the DRT near the Hopewell trailhead. This will be up for 1 year and will count total users (it won't differentiate peds vs bikes). We still hope to install several permanent counters on the DRT. This will act as a pilot to see how it works.

b. [Poughkeepsie 9.44.55](#) Arterials redesign concepts: Emily noted that there was a virtual on-demand meeting about the Arterials redesign options. The recording is on the project [website](#). The preferred option based on public feedback would keep the streets as one-way, but reduce the lanes from three to two, and add parking, green space, or loading zones, as well as a buffered bike lane. Emily asked the group for feedback on the concept, including whether the buffer should be between the bike lane and travel lane, the bike lane and parking, or if a parking-protected bike lane would be better. A parking-protected lane would make garbage collection and plowing more difficult and could raise conflicts at intersections and driveways.

Ross questioned the premise of a bike lane on the Arterials, saying people should use the DRT or Hooker Avenue instead, and that the arterials are not safe. Paul noted that the rail trail doesn't serve destinations in the city. Natalie Quinn emphasized that the

main goal of the redesign is to increase safety, including slowing speeds, and to better serve the community's needs. Jeff said he liked the bike lane concept, as it helped to build a network of options for people.

- c. [Bike Parking application](#) updates: Emily stated that she is working with the County's OCIS (IT Department) to improve this application to focus more broadly on bicycle routes and amenities, including public parking and restrooms, route elevations, scenic and historic points, and bike fix-it stations. They plan to add the Urban Trail, rail trail access points, and other features. They are working with the Town of North East to create a specific url that directs people to a map of the Town and including some Town-specific data. This could be done for any other municipality that is interested. Emily asked the group for any suggestions, and for locations of fix-it stations. Paul noted that there are fix-it stations on the DRT at Morgan Lake and Hopewell Junction. He also suggested adding the bike share station on the Walkway. Jeff noted that the CIA also has a bike share station.

5) Partner Reports/Roundtable

- a. County DPW - Universal Accessibility projects, [Urban Trail](#): DPW staff were not on the call, but Emily noted that the Urban Trail [website](#) has materials from an Open House in August, including more detailed maps. Construction will be done in phases and is expected to begin in 2022.
- b. Traffic Safety Board - [Watch Out For Me campaign](#): TSB staff were not on the call, but Emily noted that they are still looking for locations for the [former bus ads](#). Kathleen Davis asked about the bus stop shelter decals and suggested the [shelter at College Ave & Worrall Ave](#) in Poughkeepsie.
- c. [County Transit](#): Emily noted that the Transit study is nearing completion. In response to a question about new shelters, she said that Transit evaluated all their stops and has recommendations for new shelters and other improvements but is waiting to implement them until any changes to the routes (based on the transit study) are confirmed.
- d. NYSDOT: [local projects](#); [State Bike Route map](#) (see item 2 above).
- e. Roundtable: projects/updates:
 - Ross asked about the DRT pavement between Maloney Rd and Page Lumber, which was brought up at the last meeting. Emily reported that she contacted Sandy Washburn at County Parks, who said it's on their radar, and they submitted a budget request for annual maintenance of the rail trail surface. They plan to address this area as 'priority one' next year.
 - Kathleen asked about the Harlem Valley Rail Trail pavement. Emily said she wasn't sure if this fell under County Parks or the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association. Kathleen will email Emily the specific location of concern.

- Naomi Hersson-Ringskog reported that the Bridge Authority passed a Resolution allowing them to determine separate walk/bikeway hours for each bridge. There will be a 45-day comment period, then an assessment by NYSDOT and the Bridge Authority, and then a vote to approve the hours. Naomi and Michael O'Brien will update the group as this progresses.

6) Funding, Events & Announcements

- a. [Greenway: Community Grants & Conservancy Trail Grants Applications](#) – due November 8th
- b. Other announcements/events: Paul noted that [sPOKe is holding a Halloween ride](#) on Sunday 10/31, starting at 10:30 am at the Walkway parking lot in Poughkeepsie.

7) Follow-up Items

- a. Let Emily know if you have a use for our [pedestrian safety signs](#).
- b. [County bicycle parking/bike routes app](#): send bike rack & fix-it station locations (photo and description) & suggestions for improvements to the app to Emily.
- c. Send Emily ideas for future presentations.

8) Next Meeting: January 27th, 3 pm

Meeting schedule: January, April, July, October; last Thursday, 3:00 – 4:30 pm (typically)

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Name	Organization/Municipality	Email
Emily Dozier	Dutchess County Transportation Council	edozier@dutchessny.gov
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Samantha Roberts	Marist College	Samantha.Roberts1@marist.edu
Gabriel Castillo-Sanchez	Marist College	Gabriel.Castillo-Sanchez1@marist.edu
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Colleen Dorney	Dutchess Tourism	colleen@dutchesstourism.com
Jeff Anzevino	Scenic Hudson	janzevino@scenichudson.org
Kathleen Davis	Winnakee Land Trust/Hyde Park Trails	kathleendavis072@gmail.com
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Paul Hesse	City of Poughkeepsie	PHesse@cityofpoughkeepsie.com

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Name	Organization/Municipality	Email
Michael O'Brien	Town of East Fishkill	michaelbpobrien@gmail.com
Lisa Whalen	Town of Red Hook Trails Committee	ejw44@hvc.rr.com
Ross Ritter	Bikeway/LaGrange resident	rritter@homesteadfunding.com
Steve MacAvery	NYS DOT Region 8 - Mobility Management Team lead	Steve.macavery@dot.ny.gov
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David Anderson	former Beekman resident	davidandersonpe@gmail.com
Naomi Hersson-Ringskog	Newburgh Transportation Alternatives	nringskog@gmail.com