

Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

Thursday, January 25, 2024, 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:** DCTC’s Pedestrian/Bicycle Count Application, Emily Dozier (see link to recording on the [BPAC webpage](#)).

Emily provided an overview of DCTC’s updated [Traffic Data app](#), which currently includes vehicle volume, speed, and heavy truck data. The new version includes a separate tab for Pedestrian & Bicycle Data, which includes all our ped/bike counts going back to 2012. She showed how to use the map to find pedestrian/bicycle count data, and how to use the various filters (municipality, location, year, location type, count method, etc). She also showed the table, which summarizes the count information and includes links to pdfs with more detailed data. Tara noted that DCTC can provide more detailed information by request.

The map settings can be adjusted to symbolize the counts by weekday or weekend volume; to show aerial imagery; and to show street view imagery (where available). There are also links to other DCTC apps, including [Bike Dutchess](#). She encouraged everyone to try out the updated app once it goes live and send any feedback via the Contact Us tool in the upper right. We will email our general list and BPAC list once the new app is live.

Thomas Wright asked about trail counts; Emily clarified that we have only counts on rail trails (the Dutchess Rail Trail, Maybrook Trailway, Harlem Valley Rail Trail, Northside Line, and the Walkway Over the Hudson). Mark Roland asked how the data would be used; Emily noted that it is useful for grant applications and to advocate for safety and other improvements. Kathleen asked about a crash data map; Emily noted that municipalities can request access to the State’s crash database ([CLEAR](#)), and there is a new crash map for traffic safety and enforcement professionals, but not a good map for local crash data in our area as of yet.

3. Roundtable updates

- a. County DPW:
 - i. Emily noted that the [Northside Line](#) is open; there will be an official grand opening this spring. It is uncertain if the other phases will progress. Carl Whitehead noted that there are drainage issues near Cedar St.
 - ii. DPW is also almost done with the sidewalk improvements on Innis Avenue in the Town of Poughkeepsie. DCTC is also working with DPW on a redesign of Annandale Rd through

the Bard College campus and on improvements at the Main St/Maple Ave intersection in Millerton and at the Grand Ave/Main St intersection in Arlington.

- b. Traffic Safety Board:
 - i. Bill Johnson is preparing for bicycle safety rodeos and purchasing helmets; [let him know](#) if you are interested.
 - ii. Watch Out For Me Videos: Emily shared that the [campaign website](#) includes a series of 5 videos and 12 new video shorts on topics including crossing the street safely, distraction, sharing the road, and being visible. She asked the group to help distribute these to the community.
- c. County Transit: Emily noted that several route and schedule changes are proposed, though the proposed cuts in the Tivoli area will not happen due to public feedback. A public meeting is planned for January 29th - see the [County Transit](#) website for more information.
- d. NYSDOT: See the NYSDOT [local projects page](#) for information about projects in Dutchess County, including several roundabouts.
- e. Carl Whitehead noted that the new Town of Poughkeepsie Supervisor, Rebecca Edwards, is an advocate for walking and bicycling.
- f. Kathleen Davis asked about plowing the Dutchess Rail Trail. Emily noted that County DPW maintains the trail but does not plow it. The Northside Line is plowed.
- g. Thomas Wright shared that the Regional Connector is a one-mile planned trail between the Beacon train station and Newburgh-Beacon Bridge. Thomas and others are presenting the trail concept to various groups to gain local support.
- h. Kathleen asked if bus stop shelters could be added on Route 9 near the Culinary Institute and the Quality Inn/Terwilliger Rd; Emily noted that County Transit is working on adding more shelters; she can pass along the suggestions.
- i. Michael O'Brien noted that the Hopewell Depot is adding a self-guided tour this spring with four informational panels.
- j. Nancy Foster asked about the Route 82 bridge in Hopewell; Michael said it is progressing, but the Town is also working on roundabouts on Route 82 and other potential changes in the area, so it is complex. Emily stated that per the [DOT local projects webpage](#), construction is planned for 2025-2026. The existing bridge on Route 82 would be removed, and a ped/bike bridge for the Maybrook Trailway is planned.

4. DCTC [Local Projects](#)

- a. [Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail](#) Feasibility Study: This study is evaluating the feasibility of developing a rail trail from the City of Beacon waterfront to Hopewell Junction on the former Beacon rail line. A website and online survey will be launched soon, and there will be outreach events in the spring, once the existing conditions analysis is complete. We will email our general list with updates; see the link to sign up for DCTC's email list on our [homepage](#).
- b. [Resilient Ways Forward](#): This is DCTC's Transportation Vulnerability Study, which looks at climate impacts to sidewalks, rail trails, and transit, as well as roads, bridges, and culverts. The assessment is complete, and DCTC is working on an online map to show the findings. We are also developing an adaptation toolbox. There will be a virtual public meeting in April.
- c. Planning [call for projects](#): Applications are open for municipalities to request assistance from the DCTC on a local transportation issue. This could be a sidewalk study, safety assessment,

parking study, or corridor analysis. For examples, our [Planning studies map](#) shows all our previous studies. Paul Hesse added that these studies can help local municipalities develop grant applications and secure funding to implement recommendations.

5. Funding, Events & Announcements

- a. [Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices \(MUTCD\) update](#): This long-awaited update includes new guidance on using the road context to set [speed limits, and allows new types of pedestrian and bicycle facilities](#).
- b. Winnakee Land Trust Trails Roundtable [recording](#) (January 16th). This included a presentation on:
 - i. [Parks & Trails NY \(PTNY\) Legislative Priorities](#): Kathleen highlighted the proposed legislation to make it easier for utility companies to provide easements for trails.
 - ii. [PTNY Greenway Trails Development Guide](#): this is a new resource for trail development.
- c. [Hudson Valley Greenway: Planning and Trail Grants](#): due January 26th
- d. League of American Bicyclists' [Community Spark Grants](#): due February 1st (\$1,500 grants to create places where bicycling is safer, easier, and more accessible)
- e. [AARP Community Challenge grants](#): due March 6th (\$500-50,000 for various projects by non-profits or local governments)
- f. [League of American Bicyclists'](#) recognition programs: Bicycle Friendly Business (March 5), Community (June 25), & University (August 8)
- g. [T-Mobile Hometown Grants](#): up to \$50,00 for community spaces
- h. Federal infrastructure funding: [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law programs](#)
- i. [Extreme Terrain Clean Trail Grant Program](#): \$250 grants for trail improvements
- j. American Trails free [Foundations of Sustainable Trails online training](#)
- k. Rails to Trails: [Celebrate Trails Day](#) – April 27; consider organizing an event on your local trail!

6. Follow-up Items

- a. [Bike Dutchess](#) app: send Emily bike rack/fix-it station locations (photo and description) and any suggestions for improvements.
 - i. Local bike routes that are officially designated on a municipality's or organization's website can be added; coordinate with Emily.
- b. 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: April 25th, 2:30 pm

- a. Let Emily know if you have a presentation idea!
- b. Meeting schedule: January, April, July, October; last Thursday, 2:30 – 4:00pm

January 2024 BPAC Meeting Participants:

Name	Organization	Email
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Carl Whitehead	Town of Poughkeepsie Planning Board	carl.h.whitehead@gmail.com
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