

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

July 30, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

(via Microsoft Teams)

**Summary**

- 1) Introductions:** Emily Dozier (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting (see attached list).
- 2) Presentation:** *History of the Walkway & Dutchess Rail Trail* – Fred Schaeffer (see slides and outline [on the BPAC webpage](#)).

Fred described the history of two projects: the conversion of the Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge into the Walkway Over the Hudson, and the creation of the Dutchess Rail Trail from an old rail line that was planned to become County Road 11. Fred emphasized how he built support for the projects by taking people onto the bridge, touring other rail trails, writing articles, giving presentations, tabling at community events, and reaching out to potential supporters, donors and government decisionmakers. In the end both projects were huge successes, but Fred noted that many lucky events helped along the way. Fred stated that he is working on a book about these projects and is posting portions of the text on his Facebook page.

**3) DCTC Updates/Announcements**

- a. [Arlington Main Street redesign project](#): Emily explained that this project aims to redesign Main Street in Arlington as a more complete street. The project's consultant team is currently refining the preferred design concept and the Advisory Committee will meet in August.
- b. [Poughkeepsie 9.44.55](#): Emily stated that the project team is evaluating several redesign options for the Route 9/44/55 interchange (the bow-tie). After that, the team will work on redesign concepts for the arterials through the City and Town of Poughkeepsie.
- c. Long Range Transportation Plan: The Transportation Council is starting an update of the long-range transportation plan, which will set policy and project priorities for the county. A consultant will help design a project website and logo, and develop interactive virtual outreach activities.
- d. September Volunteer Counts: Emily stated that the annual volunteer counts will be September 15-17 (4-6 pm) and Saturday September 19 (12-2 pm). This year we will focus on sidewalk locations, since we can more easily use video and tubes to count the rail trails. Emily asked for any locations that people would like to count, and for volunteers who would like to help out. Emily will create a volunteer sign-up sheet so people can select locations.

#### 4) Partner Reports/Roundtable

Rail Trails: Ross Ritter asked if there could be a connection between the Empire State Trail and the East Fishkill park (via McGrath Field) south of Route 82 near the Fishkill Creek. Emily noted that MTA is managing the EST project and the Town property is directly adjacent to the MTA-owned parcel. Ross also suggested that the DRT crossing of Route 376/Bridge Street in Hopewell would benefit from an underpass. There are flashing STOP signs but he has observed conflicts and near misses at the crossing.

Tourism: Melaine Rottkamp, the new President and CEO of Dutchess Tourism, stated that Tourism would like to update the [Bicycle Tours brochure](#) (which BPAC members helped with several years ago). She asked the group if printed brochures are still useful to cyclists. The group agreed that they are useful, and expressed interest in helping with the update. Melaine also thanked Emily for adding the tours to [DCTC's Bicycle Parking app](#) (to be re-named—send Emily suggestions!).

City of Pok: Paul Hesse stated that the Poughkeepsie Urban Trail is still in the early planning stages. It will connect the northside of Poughkeepsie to the waterfront, Walkway, and DRT. Emily added that it will be a County park, and the County's intent is to work with the community on the design so the trail serves the neighborhood. It will be a 24/7 trail with lighting and a different design than the DRT.

County DPW: DPW staff were not on the call, so Emily gave a few updates:

- DPW is planning to upgrade County signals at Red Oaks Mill/Titusville, Noxon/Robinson, DRT/N Grand, and Innis/DeLaval this year. The three signals on streets will include video detection instead of loop detectors, which more reliably detects motorcycles and bicycles. Innis/DeLaval will also get pedestrian signals, which it currently lacks.
- DPW is currently finalizing a design for the Dutcher Ave/Henry St intersection in the Village of Pawling, which will narrow the intersection and add a crosswalk. This recommendation came out of [DCTC's Pawling Pedestrian Plan](#).
- The Harlem Valley Rail Trail extension to Columbia County should be done this fall. Emily added that the Wassaic 'Trail to the Train' project is now done—it extends the HVRT from the Wassaic train station south into the hamlet.

[Watch Out For Me campaign](#): Emily reported that the County's Complete Streets Committee is testing 'Watch Out For Me' decals on several bus stop shelters (Pawling Welcome Center, DCC parking Lot E, Collegeview/Fairmont near Vassar College, Hooker Ave by Krieger Elementary School, and 230 North Road). Check them out and let Emily know what you think!

[County Transit](#): Transit staff were not on the call, so Emily reported several updates:

- A new County Transit app is now available—see [Dutchess County Public Transit's website](#) for the link.

- Transit is completing an evaluation of bus stop accessibility, including whether there is a sidewalk and curb ramp at each stop. The next step will be developing recommendations for each stop (sidewalks, ramps, shelters, lighting, etc).

NYS DOT: Emily provided several updates:

- NYSDOT is updating the State Ped/Bike Plan, and the new Pedestrian/Bicycle Program Manager in Albany, Karen Lorf, is open to input (see our [April meeting notes](#) for the draft scope). Send any suggestions to Emily.
- NYSDOT is working to complete the [Empire State Trail](#) by the end of 2020. This includes the extension of the Dutchess Rail Trail from Hopewell to Putnam County. Ross Ritter noted that it is mostly paved.
- NYSDOT has a new [online State bicycle routes map](#).

## 5) Events & Announcements

- August 15<sup>th</sup> [Red Hook Mutual Aid Hang On To Our 'Hood Ride](#): Paul stated that this ride benefits tenants' rights work in the Tivoli/Red Hook area. The ride includes a 5-mile family ride, a 13-mile loop and a 25-mile loop. Masks are required. Donations are also welcome.
- August 21<sup>st</sup> City of Poughkeepsie pop-up cycle track: Paul, Emily, Parks & Trails NY and others are working on this one-day demonstration project. It will be a two-way on-street bike lane on the west side of Market St between Church St and Mansion St. A press release and website are coming soon.
- Karl Beard & Mary Kay Vrba retirements: Emily announced that Karl retired from the National Park Service as of the end of July. He will be sorely missed! Mary Kay Vrba retired in mid-July from Dutchess Tourism. Emily congratulated Melaine on her position as the new President/CEO.

## 6) Follow-up Items

- Sign up for the September volunteer counts: <https://volunteersignup.org/H9JJB>
- [County bicycle parking/bike routes map](#): send Emily ideas for a better name!
- Check out the Watch Out For Me bus stop shelter decals and tell Emily what you think
- Send Emily ideas for future presentations

## 7) Next Meeting: October 29<sup>th</sup>, 3 pm

Meeting schedule: January, April, July, October; last Thursday, 3:00 – 5:00 pm (typically)

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**Date: July 30, 2020**

**Time: 3:00 pm**

**via Microsoft Teams call/online meeting**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Municipality</b>	<b>Email</b>
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