

Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

Thursday, July 30, 2026, 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:** [Bike Poughkeepsie](#) – Rob Cerrato

Rob gave an overview of Bike Poughkeepsie, a new advocacy organization. Rob highlighted several current initiatives, including clearing snow from the Dutchess Rail Trail, redesigning the Route 44/55 Arterials in Poughkeepsie, coordinating with Strong Towns Poughkeepsie, and advocating for a defined safe passing law in Dutchess County.

Rob provided more detail on the safe passing law. It would define ‘safe passing’ as at least 3 feet, which would provide more clarity for drivers and cyclists as to what a ‘safe pass’ means. He is working with County Legislators on this issue and has a petition on the [Bike Poughkeepsie](#) website. The group discussed the enforceability of such a law and felt that a clear standard is more enforceable, would provide more security for cyclists, and is also important for educating drivers. Lisa suggested broadly defining ‘vulnerable road users’ in the proposed law to include construction workers and postal workers.

Rob also described [Bike Poughkeepsie](#)’s work with Strong Towns Poughkeepsie. They are currently collaborating on low-cost safety improvements at the Marple Rd/Seitz Terrace intersection. The project would include striped shoulders, painted curb extensions, and stop signs on Marple Rd. The Strong Towns Poughkeepsie group plans to present the concept to the Town.

Rob encouraged people to get involved by attending community rides, assisting with bicycle repair clinics, supporting local advocacy campaigns, and joining the group’s [newsletter](#) and [Discord](#).

Ross noted the importance of paving shoulders on County and other roads. Colleen suggested partnering with the City of Poughkeepsie’s DRI (Downtown Revitalization Initiative) projects, especially the Market Street redesign project, and the City’s BID (Business Improvement District)’s efforts. Ross suggested evaluating Hooker Ave for potential bike lanes; Emily noted that DCTC evaluated Hooker and other City streets as part of the [Walk Bike Dutchess](#) plan in 2014.

3. Partner Reports & DCTC Studies

- a. Ross announced that [NYSDOT](#) is paving Route 376 in early August, which hopefully will include paving the shoulders. He noted that having a NYSDOT and County DPW staff on these calls would help.
- b. Melanie recommended a film called [Changing lanes](#), which is about a pedestrian/bicycle project in Queens. She suggested arranging a public viewing.
- c. Emily shared an update from Tracy Wright-Mauer, who is planning a Vintage Bike Night this Fall. It would be a bicycle show like vintage car meets, possibly with a contest, a photo "booth" and/or a repair cafe. It could be held in conjunction with the Arlington Farmers Market on a Thursday evening. Anyone who wants to collaborate can contact trwrightmauer@vassar.edu.
- d. Emily shared an update from Nancy Foster: Frederick Douglass Day will be on August 1 at College Hill in Poughkeepsie from 12-2.
- e. Emily updated the group on various County efforts:
 - a. County DPW projects: The Maple Ave sidewalks improvements in Millerton should start construction in late 2026; the Main/Grand intersection improvement in Arlington (with pedestrian signals and improved crosswalks) is in final design, with construction planned for 2027; and a new sidewalk project on Jackson St in Fishkill is starting, with construction planned for 2028.
 - b. The County's Complete Streets Committee has a [Watch Out For Me campaign](#); Emily encouraged the group to share the videos and other resources on the website.
 - c. [County Transit](#) is installing new fareboxes that will accept payment by phone and credit card. This should be ready by Fall. They are also installing additional shelters at high-use locations.
 - d. Emily shared the [NYSDOT local projects page](#) for project information. They are planning a roundabout at the Route 82/52 intersection, to be constructed in 2027-28.
 - e. DCTC is wrapping up its countywide transportation plan, [Moving Dutchess Forward](#). The Plan is all online and includes information about various types of transportation. There is also a map viewer with maps showing sidewalks, rail trails, bus service frequency, key destinations, and other information. Emily outlined some of the [investment priorities](#). The public comment period closes July 31 and DCTC's Policy Board will vote on the Plan in early August.
 - f. DCTC is currently soliciting locations for automated ped/bike counts. Emily shared the [Traffic Data](#) app, which shows all our count data. Emily reminded the group that our volunteer ped/bike count program is transitioning, now that we have more reliable data available through video-based counts. She encouraged anyone with a count suggestion to coordinate with their municipality to make an official request.
 - g. The County's Complete Streets Committee recently published a [report on progress](#) since the County's 2016 Complete Streets law. It also outlines new goals for the next ten years.
 - h. Ross shared concerns about throttle bikes and scooters on the rail trails. Emily noted that Tracy expressed similar concerns. Emily suggested that the [New York Bicycling Coalition](#) could present at our next meeting, as they are working on this issue.

4. Events, Funding & Announcements

Emily outlined some upcoming events and opportunities (see list below). Gerry added that [Summer Streets](#) is starting in Manhattan on select Saturdays.

- [July 30th Rhinecliff Train Station open house](#) (5-7 pm at Morton Memorial Library)
- August 4th: National Night Out: crosswalk education at City of Poughkeepsie event
- August 5th (1pm): [Trail Based Tourism webinar](#) (Rails to Trails Conservancy)
- August 11th (noon): PTNY [Bike Bus webinar](#)
- Smart Growth America: [Dangerous by Design 2026 report](#); [interactive map](#)
- [League of American Bicyclists certifications](#): Bicycle-Friendly University (due 8/5); Bicycle-Friendly Business (due 10/28); Bicycle-Friendly Community (due 6/16/27)
- Grants:
 - [Hudson Valley Greenway: Trail Grants](#): up to \$250k; due August 7
 - [Rugged Ridge Trail Access Program](#): up to \$5,000 for land conservation and trail access
 - [Extreme Terrain Clean Trail Grant Program](#): \$250 for trail improvements

Emily noted that her role at DCTC will be expanding in the Fall, and asked for ideas for the future, given reductions in her capacity. Ideas included meeting less frequently, having group members help arrange speakers, and possibly meeting for an hour vs 90 minutes.

5. Follow-up Items

- a. [Bike Dutchess](#) app: send Emily bike rack/fix-it station locations (photo and description) and any suggestions for improvements.
- b. See our [BPAC webpage](#) for meeting summaries, recordings, and presentations, as well as a link to sign up for our email list.
- c. Let Emily know if you have a presentation idea!

6. Next Meeting: October 29th, 2:30 pm

- a. Potential presentations: NYBC re ebikes/emotos, PTNY re Trail Oriented Development
- b. Meeting schedule: January, April, July, October; last Thursday, 2:30 - 4:00 (subject to change)

July 2026 BPAC Meeting Participants:

Name	Organization	Email
Emily Dozier	DCTC	edozier@dutchessny.gov
Nina Leonard	DCTC	nleonard@dutchessny.gov
Lisa Kaul	County Legislator- Poughkeepsie	lkaul@dutchessny.gov
Colleen Dorney	Destination Dutchess	colleen@destinationdutchess.com
Rob Cerrato	Bike Poughkeepsie	robcerrato@gmail.com
Steve Herschbein	Town of Beekman resident	steven.herschbein@gmail.com
Fred Wells	East Fishkill CAC member	
Carl Whitehead	Town of Poughkeepsie Planning Board	carl.h.whitehead@gmail.com
Yvonne Caruthers	Beacon Bicycle Coalition	ybcaruthers@proton.me
Alix Winsby	County Legislator – Wappingers Falls	awinsby@dutchessny.gov
Ross Ritter	Town of LaGrange resident	r Ritter@homesteadfunding.com
Rick Bause	Resident	
Melanie Dupuis	Wappingers Falls resident	edupuis@pace.edu
Rusty McKenna	Wappingers Falls resident	cfmckenna@aol.com
Mark Roland	Beacon resident	freelance500@yahoo.com
Laurie Husted	Bard College/Red Hook Trails	husted@bard.edu
Gerry Matusiewicz	Shorewalkers Club	
Lori Robertson	Walkway Over the Hudson	lrobertson@walkway.org