

Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

Thursday, October 30, 2025, 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:** [Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail Feasibility Study](#) – Emily Dozier, DCTC

Emily provided an overview of the recently completed Feasibility Study, which she presented at Parks & Trails NY's recent Greenways Conference in Kingston. The recommendations report, which is posted on the study [website](#) and [DCTC Publications page](#), outlines the pros, cons, and estimated costs of a Rail to Trail option and Rail with Trail option. The report recommends the Rail to Trail option.

Pat Manning noted that East Fishkill is interested in implementing a portion of the trail; Emily suggested that the Town get an updated cost estimate for the specific segment they are interested in and hire a consultant to do the design work. Pat noted that Daddy O's restaurant in Hopewell Junction is interested in a long-term lease or sale to develop a trail-oriented business. Michael O'Brien asked about ownership of the corridor; Emily noted that the County may be willing to take the property from MTA, though this has not happened yet.

Yvonne Caruthers asked about funding for construction, given the changes in priorities at the federal level. Emily noted that there is some State funding for safety projects (as the trail would provide a safe, off-road transportation corridor) as well as for parks and trails. There may also be discretionary funding from State representatives. Yvonne noted that Beacon residents are also interested in a bicycle master plan to develop a city-wide approach.

3. Partner Reports & DCTC Studies

- a. Colleen noted that Destination Dutchess' update of their Bike Tour Guide will be published and updated [on their website](#) soon.
- b. Michael O'Brien reported that a bunch of volunteers from the Hopewell Depot collected trail user surveys for Parks & Trails NY's economic impact analysis of the Empire State Trail.
- c. County Public Works: Emily shared that DPW is planning to start construction in 2026 on sidewalk and crosswalk improvements on Maple Ave in Millerton. They also have funding for improvements to the Main St/Grand Ave intersection the Town of Poughkeepsie. Finally, they are starting preliminary planning for a sidewalk extension and improvements on Jackson St in the Village of Fishkill. DCTC is working with County DPW on all of these projects.

- d. Traffic Safety Board: Emily encouraged everyone to share the resources on the [Watch Out For Me campaign](#), including videos, posters and a quiz. Tracy suggested adding resources on how drivers can share the road with cyclists. Emily noted that there is a [video](#) (and some [video shorts](#)) about sharing the road, as well as a [brochure with tips](#), but she welcomes suggestions for additional resources.
- e. [Safety Action Plan](#): DCTC is hoping to finish this plan by the end of the year. A [countermeasure toolkit](#) is on the website. A report with suggestions for behavioral programs is coming, along with several other resources.
- f. [Pedestrian/bicycle counts](#): Emily reviewed the data from the volunteer ped/bike counts in September, which included 20 locations. We simplified the form this year, but also added separate counts for ebikes, other electric devices, and human-powered devices. Tracy suggested counting kids on bikes separately. Johanna suggested looking at different times for the bike counts (such as Saturday or Sunday mornings), as well as other locations in Beacon, because many people avoid cycling on Main St. Emily offered that she could also help volunteers in Beacon do a broader set of counts at different locations and times. The full data will be posted on the DCTC webpage (under [Transportation Data/Pedestrian & Bicycle Counts](#)) and our [Traffic Data app](#). Emily also explained that municipalities and others can request locations for manual/volunteer or camera counts (which are done by a contractor).
- g. Steve Herschbein noted that he is working with local Repair Cafes, Vassar College, Bike Poughkeepsie, sPOke, and others to collect, fix up, and distribute bicycles to people in need.

4. Events, Funding & Announcements

- a. [Hudson Valley Greenway: Community and Trail Grants](#)
- b. [Federal grants](#)
- c. [T-Mobile Hometown Grants](#): up to \$50,00 for community spaces
- d. [Rugged Ridge Trail Access Program](#): up to \$5,000 for land conservation and trail access
- e. [Extreme Terrain Clean Trail Grant Program](#): \$250 grants for trail improvements
- f. PTNY's [Empire State Greenways Conference](#): presentations are posted online

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: January 29th, 2:30 pm

- a. Meeting schedule: January, April, July, October; last Thursday, 2:30 - 4:00

October 2025 BPAC Meeting Participants:

Name	Organization	Email
Emily Dozier	DCTC	edozier@dutchessny.gov
Nina Leonard	DCTC	nleonard@dutchessny.gov
Yvonne Caruthers	Beacon Bicycle Coalition	ybcaruthers@proton.me
Colleen Dorney	Destination Dutchess	colleen@dutchesstourism.com
Steve Herschbein	Town of Beekman Resident	
Carl Whitehead	Town of Poughkeepsie Planning Board	carl.h.whitehead@gmail.com
Lori Robertson	Walkway Over the Hudson	lrobertson@walkway.org
Fred Wells	East Fishkill CAC member	
Gerry Matusiewicz	Shorewalkers Club	
Keren Orr	East Fishkill resident	
Michael O'Brien	Town of East Fishkill	michaelbpobrien@gmail.com
Pat Manning	Town of East Fishkill Economic Development	econdevdirector@eastfishkillny.gov
Nico Lob	East Fishkill resident	
Andrew Bell	Beacon Greenway Committee	
Johanna Funnell	Beacon Bicycle Coalition	
Tracy Wright-Mauer	Vassar College/sPOKe/Bike Poughkeepsie	trwrightmauer@vassar.edu