DUTCHESS COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Better ways from here to there

Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

Thursday, October 29,, 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:** E-Bikes & E-Motos – Anne Savage, NY Bicycling Coalition

   Anne described the dramatic growth in e-bikes and e-mobility more broadly, and the safety trends nationally and in NY State. She emphasized that almost all the data conflates legal e-bikes with faster, heavier 'e-motos', which are not defined in State law and thus not legal.

   She explained current NYS laws regarding e-bikes (and e-scooters), many of which are not well understood. For example: you must be 16+ to ride an e-bike or e-scooter in NYS; helmets are required for e-scooter riders age 16-17 (but not for e-bikes); and the only e-bikes allowed in NYS (outside NYC) have a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph, a maximum of 750 watts, and operable pedals. Legal e-scooters also have a maximum speed of 20 mph.

   Anne highlighted an upcoming campaign to explain the differences between e-bikes and e-motos. She also reviewed the flexibility the State gives municipalities to regulate e-bikes, which results in a patchwork of local laws. For example, per State law, e-bikes cannot be ridden on street with speed limits over 30 mph, but municipalities can override this. Park and Trail managers can also set rules to allow e-bikes/e-scooters (per State law, they are not allowed on public lands).

   Anne described various States' approaches to regulation and proposed legislation in NYS, including a bill to define e-motos and prohibit their sale. She encouraged people to define the key issue(s) in their community and consult with law enforcement before passing local laws. NYBC can provide educational materials (for free) and classes for law enforcement. Anne emphasized that e-bikes provide affordable transportation for many people, and the issues typically relate to behavior, not legal e-bikes.

   The group discussed pros and cons of Class 2 e-bikes (throttle assisted, up to 20 mph) and equity considerations, potential federal, state, and local legislation, and the need for simpler and more consistent legislation.

3. **Partner Reports**

a. Kathy Smith stated that the Walkway Over the Hudson has convened a shared use working group to work on safety improvements, focusing on reducing bicycle speeds and establishing trail etiquette.
b. Emily noted that the County Legislature recently passed a 3 foot safe passing law. It has not yet taken effect, but the BPAC is referenced in the law to help promote education (see attached). She asked the group to share examples of good educational materials that we could use or adapt.
c. NYSDOT: David Ellis said he would be happy to help respond to ped/bike concerns on State roads in Region 8.

4. DCTC Studies (not discussed)
a. Moving Dutchess Forward: Adopted August 2026
b. Traffic Counts/Data: 2026 ped/bike counts
c. Local Transportation Studies

5. Events, Funding & Announcements (not discussed)
a. League of American Bicyclists certifications: Bicycle-Friendly Business (due 10/28/26); Bicycle-Friendly Community (due 6/16/27)
b. Grants:
    a. Hudson Valley Greenway:
        i. Community Planning Grants: up to $100k; Due 11/6
        ii. Trail Grants: up to $250k; Due 2/12/27
    b. Rugged Ridge Trail Access Program: up to $5,000 for trail access

6. Follow-up Items
a. Bike Dutchess app: send Emily bike rack/fix-it station locations (photo and description).
b. See our BPAC webpage for meeting summaries, recordings, and presentations, & a link to sign up for our email list.
c. Let us know if you have a presentation idea!

7. Next Meeting: January 28th, 2:30 pm
a. Meeting schedule: January, April, July, October; last Thursday, 2:30 - 4:00

October 2026 BPAC Meeting Participants:

Name	Organization	Email
Emily Dozier	DCTC	edozier@dutchessny.gov
Nina Leonard	DCTC	nleonard@dutchessny.gov
Anne Savage	New York Bicycling Coalition	anne@nybc.net
Steve Gill	County Public Works	sgill@dutchessny.gov
Paul Hesse	County Planning	phesse@dutchessny.gov
Bill Johnson	County Traffic Safety Board	wjohnson@dutchessny.gov
Trevor Redl	County Legislator /Town of Poughkeepsie	tredl@TownofPoughkeepsie-ny.gov
David Ellis	NYSDOT Region 8	david.ellis@dot.ny.gov
Colleen Dorney	Destination Dutchess	colleen@destinationdutchess.com
Cat Viega	Red Hook Greenway & Trails Committee	trails@redhookny.gov
David Brangitis	Bard College/Red Hook Greenway & Trails Committee	dbrangaitis@gmail.com
Rob Cerrato	Bike Poughkeepsie	robcerrato@gmail.com
Steve Herschbein	Bike Pougkeepsie /sPOKe	steven.herschbein@gmail.com
Yvonne Caruthers	Beacon Bicycle Coalition	ybcaruthers@proton.me
Johanna	Beacon Bicycle Coalition	beaconbicyclecoalition@gmail.com
Kathy Smith	Walkway Over the Hudson	kdsmith@hvc.rr.com
Lori Robertson	Walkway Over the Hudson	lrobertson@walkway.org
Cian Ormond	Vassar College	cormond@vassar.edu
Tracy Wright-Mauer	Vassar College/sPOKe/Bike Poughkeepsie	trwrightmauer@vassar.edu
Ross Ritter	LaGrange resident	rritter@homesteadfunding.com
Rusty McKenna	Wappingers Falls resident	cfmckenna@aol.com
Rosemary Fritz Grabowska	Vassar College/ Poughkeepsie resident	rfritzgrabowska@vassar.edu
Gerry Matusiewicz	Shorewalkers Club	

GOVERNMENT SERVICES & ADMINISTRATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2026174

RE: LOCAL LAW NO. __ OF 2026, A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM PASSING DISTANCE FOR VULNERABLE ROAD USERS

Legislators KAUL, REDL, WINSBY, VALDÉS SMITH, ALEXANDER, ARNOFF, BRENDLI, DRAGO, KEARNEY, LAWLER, MCHOUL, RHODES and SHAH offer the following and move its adoption:

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the County of Dutchess hereby adopts Local Law No. __ of 2026, which has been submitted this date for consideration by said Legislature.

LOCAL LAW NO. __ OF 2026

A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM PASSING DISTANCE FOR VULNERABLE ROAD USERS

BE IT ENACTED by the County Legislature of the County of Dutchess, New York, as follows:

SECTION 1. TITLE.

This Local Law shall be known as the "Dutchess County Safe Passing Law."

SECTION 2. PURPOSE.

State law requires a driver passing a bicyclist to leave a safe distance but does not say what that distance is. Many roads in Dutchess County have narrow shoulders or none at all and no bicycle lanes, and the people who walk, bicycle, ride, and work along them share those roads with motor vehicles out of necessity. A defined minimum passing distance gives drivers a standard they can follow, gives law enforcement a standard it can apply, and reduces preventable injuries and deaths.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.

Terms used in this Local Law that are defined in the Vehicle and Traffic Law have the meanings given in that law unless otherwise stated here.

"Vulnerable Road User" means any of the following, while upon a roadway or its shoulder and outside of a motor vehicle:

A. A pedestrian, including a person walking or jogging; a person using a wheelchair or other mobility device, however powered; a person using a service animal, and the animal; and a person waiting to board or having just left a bus, taxicab, shuttle, train, or ferry.

B. A person on a bicycle, electric bicycle, motor-assisted bicycle, or other non-motorized means of transportation, including roller skates, inline skates, roller skis, a skateboard, a longboard, or a scooter.

C. A person riding or leading a horse or other animal, and the animal.

D. A person engaged in construction, maintenance, repair, or a similar function.

E. A police officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, or other first responder acting in the course of their duties.

SECTION 4. MINIMUM PASSING DISTANCE.

A. The operator of a motor vehicle approaching or overtaking a vulnerable road user on the same side of the roadway shall pass to the left of the vulnerable road user at a distance of not less than three feet, measured from the rightmost projection of the motor vehicle to the nearest point of the vulnerable road user, until safely clear.

B. An operator who cannot pass at that distance under the conditions then present shall not pass until it can be done at that distance.

C. This section does not apply to a Vulnerable Road User described in Section 3.B where the roadway has a clearly marked bicycle lane, as defined by Vehicle and Traffic Law § 102-a, when that bicycle lane is available for that Vulnerable Road User's use.

D. Nothing in this Local Law authorizes an operator to cross the center of a roadway, to pass, or to take any other action in violation of the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

E. Any discrepancy between this Local Law and the Vehicle and Traffic Law shall be resolved in favor of the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

SECTION 5. ENFORCEMENT.

This Local Law may be enforced by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, the New York State Police, and any city, town, or village police department within Dutchess County.

SECTION 6. PENALTIES.

A person who violates Section 4 of this Local Law is guilty of a violation, punishable by a fine not to exceed $225 for a first offense, $325 for a second offense, and $425 for a third or subsequent offense. This section does not preclude a person from being charged with, convicted of, or punished for any other violation of law.

SECTION 7. EDUCATION.

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, the Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board, and the Dutchess County Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee are encouraged to include safe passing in their existing public education materials and officer training.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Local Law is held invalid or preempted, that determination shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. SEQRA.

This Legislature determines that this Local Law is a Type II action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and that no further action under SEQRA is required.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Local Law shall take effect ninety days after filing with the Secretary of State.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

☑ NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

APPROPRIATION RESOLUTIONS

(To be completed by requesting department)

Total Current Year Cost $ _____

Total Current Year Revenue $ _____
and Source

Source of County Funds *(check one)*: ☐ Existing Appropriations, ☐ Contingency,
☐ Transfer of Existing Appropriations, ☐ Additional Appropriations, ☐ Other *(explain):*

Identify Line Items:

Related Expenses: Amount $ _____
Nature / Reason:

Anticipated Savings to County: _____

Net County Cost (this year): _____
Over Five Years: _____

Are there any costs associated with this resolution that impact any municipality within Dutchess County?

☐ No ☐ Yes (If Yes- Please Explain): _____

Additional Comments/Explanation:

Prepared by: KRISTOFER MUNN Prepared On: 9/29/2026

Government Services and Administration Roll Call

District	*Name*	*Yes*	*No*
District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon	Valdés Smith*	X	
District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie	Atkins*	X	
District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck	Munn*	X	
District 3 - LaGrange	Polasek*	X	
District 12 - East Fishkill	Metzger*	X	
District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Redl	X	
District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie	Lawler		ABSENT
District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Shah (VC)	X	
District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck	Kearney (C)	X	
District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger	Giles	X	
District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook	Drago	X	
District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale	Tresca	X	

Present: 11 **Absent:** 1 **Vacant:** ____

Resolution: ____ **Motion:** ____

Total : 11 **Yes** ____ **No**

Abstentions: ____

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