

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

August 27, 2015, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Dutchess Community College, 122 Bowne Hall (1<sup>st</sup> Floor), 53 Pendell Road, Poughkeepsie

**Meeting Summary**

**1) Introductions**

Emily Dozier (PDCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves (see attached list).

Emily announced that the PDCTC is updating its long-range transportation plan, [Moving Dutchess 2](#). In support of Moving Dutchess 2, the PDCTC invites the public to attend one of its public workshops to share ideas about the transportation needs and priorities in their area. Emily encouraged individuals to attend the workshop in their local community and to take and post flyers for the workshops. She also encouraged individuals to take the PDCTC's [Transportation Survey](#), which will help identify local transportation needs and priorities for *Moving Dutchess 2*.

**2) Presentation & Discussion**

Emily introduced Amy Kacala from [Scenic Hudson](#), which is coordinating the planning of the [Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail](#). Amy explained that Scenic Hudson is focused on the protection and restoration of the Hudson River and its riverfront, as well as the preservation of the river's public use. The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail goes from Cold Spring to Beacon, crossing four municipalities and two counties. Amy emphasized that the trail is being formed in response to the immense popularity of Breakneck Mountain; she noted that Scenic Hudson's goal, in alliance with other project partners, is to make this area safer and more accessible.

Amy stated that the project goals for 2014-2015 included branding the trail with a logo to display on maps and wayfinding signs. The first set of signs will be fabricated and installed this fall.

Amy announced that Scenic Hudson finished the Master Plan for the trail in April. It identifies preferred routes for seven trail segments. They are moving forward with environmental review and implementation. Some of the major elements of the project include the installation of sidewalks along Route 9D, the reconfiguration of the Washburn parking lot, and the Breakneck Connector pedestrian bridge. The segments for the project are as follows:

1. Cold Spring to Little Stony Point (already in existence)
2. Little Stony Point to Breakneck Ridge (needs funding)
3. Breakneck Ridge to MNR Whistle Stop (funds available to implement)
4. Whistle Stop to Dutchess Junction Park (funds available to implement)
5. Dutchess Junction Park to Fishkill Creek (needs funding)

6. Crossing Fishkill Creek (already in existence)
7. Fishkill Creek to Beacon Station (already in existence)

Andy Pecoraro asked what the trail would be composed of; Amy responded that a public survey was given and the public's overwhelming response was that the trail should be composed of the most natural materials possible. Jeannie Chenette inquired if the trail would be multi-modal and if so, what kinds of measures would be taken to minimize the issues between varying types of users. She also asked who would be responsible for the trail once it is completed and would it be year-round. Amy responded that she is not sure if the trail will be year-round. That determination will be made through the Environmental Impact Statement. She also said that users will have to coexist because the trail is intended to be multi-use. What entity will manage the trail once has to be determined. Kevin Newman asked what kinds of precautions would be taken to effectively manage and minimize the impact of storm surges. Amy emphasized that this is the reason for a cantilevered pedestrian bridge (Breakneck Connector)-- to let the water go where it is already naturally going.

Amy continued to explain the trail development process. She said in order to make a project of this scope and scale work, you need committed partners, a generous donor, a supportive and enthusiastic community, and a sense that the project is imperative to the safety, use, and value of the region. She emphasized the importance of remaining organized, flexible, and on time, as well as responsive to community members throughout the project.

### **3) Updates/Announcements**

Cynthia Ruiz (Dutchess County Public Transit) announced that a grant was awarded to the County for transit amenities including bike racks and benches. Cynthia noted that the County is working on a reimbursement program so that municipalities can choose their own benches. She is in the middle of updating existing contracts for transit amenities and advised everyone to contact their local mayors/supervisors to encourage them to join the program. She added that it is the responsibility of the municipality to install, maintain, and insure each amenity.

Cynthia also mentioned that she is updating the countywide Transit Development Plan, which will summarize the state of the transit system in Dutchess County and outline needs. She will be speaking further on this topic at the PDCTC's Transportation Workshops in September; she informed everyone to contact her if they are unable to get to the workshops and she will do her best to help individuals get there.

Sarah Imboden said that the Town of Red Hook is aware that they have not yet picked up their bus stop shelters. The Town is still trying to determine where they should be placed. She announced that the Town is in the process of doing a trails master plan in coordination with the Villages of Red Hook and Tivoli and Bard College. They are currently conducting outreach efforts and inventorying existing conditions. Emily noted that this could be a potential future presentation for the BPAC.

Ross Ritter stated that the Town of LaGrange has done a great job repaving roads; from the perspective of a bicyclist, he is pleased with the quality of infrastructure. He said he is aware that the Town of

LaGrange has not yet signed a transit amenities contract, and would check with the Public Works Director. Cynthia restated that signing a contract does not obligate the Town to accept any amenities. Ross asked about markings on Route 376— Lisa Mondello (NYSDOT-Region 8) said she would look into it.

Ozie Williams (Dutchess County Department of Health) said she has disseminated the email announcing the transportation survey and workshops in support of *Moving Dutchess 2*.

Lisa Mondello (NYSDOT-Region 8) announced that NYSDOT has a new [Complete Streets checklist](#), which will be used to assess initial project proposals, starting in September. She said that this checklist is in Chapter 18 of the [Highway Design Manual](#) and applies to any kind of resurfacing project. Emily asked who would be reviewing the checklists once completed and Lisa said that they are still determining that. Lisa noted that the checklist has already been applied to one project.

Lisa also explained that the project for the Rt. 376 intersection at Lake Walton Rd./Robinson Ln. in the Town of East Fishkill is in its preliminary design phase. Emily asked about pedestrian improvements, which are recommended in Walk Bike Dutchess (recommendation LT-7). Lisa stated that NYSDOT did not see many people walking when the corridor was observed; however, the plans are still being determined. Ross Ritter said that sidewalks would help kids from local schools and individuals using the Dutchess Rail Trail safely walk along the street and access the businesses in the area. Lisa suggested that individuals talk to the Town of LaGrange to inquire if it would install sidewalks along the roadway.

Ed Nisley gave a presentation on roads in Dutchess County that are in need of surface repairs. He emphasized the importance of road maintenance to ensure the safety of people bicycling for transportation. He noted a success story with repairs on Maloney Rd. in the Town of Wappinger. The corridors/intersections of concern included Burnett Blvd. at Rt. 55 in the Town of Poughkeepsie (insufficient time for bicyclists to cross Route 55); Rt. 376 between Walker and Maloney (overgrown vegetation); Rt. 376 at Westview Terrace (delaminated asphalt); Rt. 44 at Quest Diagnostics (deteriorated road edge/shoulders); Rt. 376 North of Heathbrook (deteriorated road edge/shoulders); Red Oaks Mill intersection (deep crack across the travel lane); Manchester Rd. (branch/vegetation); Rt. 376 near Mulligan's Irish House(shoulder sink hole); and Spring Rd. in the Town of Poughkeepsie (recessed drain grates in shoulder).

Andy Pecoraro stated that the paving of Spring Rd. is an overall improvement. The driving lanes are narrow and there is a 4 foot shoulder. He added that the grates, which are recessed below the pavement level, could be replaced. He announced that the BMW dealership on Rout 9 added sidewalks in front of their business. Emily asked Andy to send pictures of the sidewalks so she can update the countywide sidewalk database. Andy concluded that it would be nice if the sidewalks along Route 9 from the Town of Wappinger to Casperkill in the Town of Poughkeepsie were better maintained.

Jane Geisler suggested that walking access within parking areas at the malls should be improved.

Betsy Brockway announced that the Town is working on park planning, including a possible paved trail between Lakeside Park and Murrow Park. She said that there is overwhelming public support for this project.

Bill Trifilo (Dutchess County DPW) informed the committee that the Department of Public Works installed Share the Road signs along CR20 between the Town of Pawling Recreation Park and the Appalachian Trail.

Emily noted that the PDCTC will be conducting a safety assessment on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of the upper Route 9G corridor; this assessment is associated with the [Upper Route 9G Corridor Management Plan \(CMP\)](#). She also stated that the PDCTC anticipates doing a sidewalk study for the Arlington business district in 2016.

Emily thanked everyone who was involved in updating the [Dutchess Tourism Bicycle Tours Guide](#).

#### **4) Ped/Bike Counts**

Emily asked for volunteers to conduct bicycle-pedestrian counts on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm and on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 12-2pm. This is done annually in coordination with the [National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project](#).

#### **5) Upcoming events/deadlines**

Emily (PDCTC) announced that the [CDBG \(Community Development Block Grant\) application](#) is available online now and due on October 16<sup>th</sup>; she noted that this is a great funding source for local sidewalk projects.

The Winnikee Land Trust will be hosting a Trails Conference on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30-4pm at the Marist Boathouse. They welcome individuals involved with trails committees and projects to bring visual presentations and literature about their projects. Online registration is available [here](#).

#### **6) Homework**

1. Sign up for ped/bike counts & recruit volunteers!
2. Review & send updates for the online [bicycle parking finder](#).

#### **7) Next Meeting: October 29, 3-5pm, DCC, Bowne Hall**

**Date: August 27, 2015**

**Time: 3:00-5:00 pm**

**Location: DCC, 122 Bowne Hall**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Municipality</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Jane Geisler	Town of Union Vale resident	n/a	845-677-9909
Kevin Newman	City of Poughkeepsie resident	<a href="mailto:slowrider@bicycle.bigk12603.com">slowrider@bicycle.bigk12603.com</a>	845-559-7008
Lisa Mondello	NYS DOT	<a href="mailto:lisa.mondello@dot.ny.gov">lisa.mondello@dot.ny.gov</a>	845-431-5783
Bill Trifilo	Dutchess County Dept of Public Works	<a href="mailto:wtrifilo@dutchessny.gov">wtrifilo@dutchessny.gov</a>	845-486-2936
Betsy Brockway	Town of Pawling resident	<a href="mailto:Betsy.Brockway5@gmail.com">Betsy.Brockway5@gmail.com</a>	845-855-5395
Mary & Ed Nisley	Town of Poughkeepsie residents	<a href="mailto:mary.nisley@pobox.com">mary.nisley@pobox.com</a>	845-471-8257
Emily Dozier	PDCTC/Dutchess County Planning	<a href="mailto:edozier@dutchessny.gov">edozier@dutchessny.gov</a>	845-486-3600
Shelby Tompkins	PDCTC/Dutchess County Planning	<a href="mailto:stompkins@dutchessny.gov">stompkins@dutchessny.gov</a>	845-486-3600
Cynthia Ruiz	Dutchess County Public Transit	<a href="mailto:cruiz@dutchessny.gov">cruiz@dutchessny.gov</a>	845-473-8521
Amy Kacala	Scenic Hudson	<a href="mailto:akacala@scenichudson.org">akacala@scenichudson.org</a>	
Ozie B. Williams	Dutchess County Health Dept.	<a href="mailto:owilliams@dutchessny.gov">owilliams@dutchessny.gov</a>	845-486-3542
Leslie Power	Vassar College	<a href="mailto:lepower@vassar.edu">lepower@vassar.edu</a>	845-437-5851
Andrew Pecoraro	Town of Poughkeepsie resident	<a href="mailto:apecor5@aol.com">apecor5@aol.com</a>	845705-3580

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Municipality</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Jeannie Chenette	Town of Poughkeepsie resident	<a href="mailto:jechenette@gmail.com">jechenette@gmail.com</a>	845-471-2426
Ross Ritter	Town of LaGrange Resident/Bikeway	<a href="mailto:rossritter1@gmail.com">rossritter1@gmail.com</a>	914-456-6493
Sarah Imboden	Town of Red Hook CAC	<a href="mailto:sdimboden@gmail.com">sdimboden@gmail.com</a>	845-417-6244