

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

July 28, 2022, 2:30 p.m.
(via Microsoft Teams)

Summary

- 1) Introductions:** Emily Dozier (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting (see attached list).
- 2) Presentation:** *Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan* – Tara Grogan, DCTC
Tara described the Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan, which is currently in progress, focusing on the data collection, findings, and draft recommendations. The Transportation Council has done a series of these plans in various villages, hamlets, and town centers. See our [Publications page](#) for previous reports.
- 3) DCTC Local Projects:** Emily described several projects that DCTC is working on.
 - a. Climate Vulnerability study: This study, expected to start in the fall, will evaluate the impact of climate change on our transportation system, including rail trails, bus stops, roads and bridges.
 - b. Rhinebeck Route 9 Complete Streets evaluation: DCTC is working with the Village and NYSDOT to evaluate potential walking and bicycling improvements on Route 9 north and south of the Village core.
 - c. DPW projects: DCTC is helping Dutchess County Public Works with several projects:
 - Arlington Main St/Grand Ave intersection: This project will redesign the Main St/Grand Ave intersection to make it safer for walking and driving. This was a key recommendation of DCTC's [Arlington Pedestrian Plan](#). A consultant will begin the design work soon.
 - Innis Avenue sidewalk project: This project improves sidewalks and fills gaps on Innis Avenue between Arnold Rd and Jackman Dr (north). The design work is almost done.
 - Bard-Annandale Road redesign: the County is working with Bard to improve Annandale Rd through the campus to make it safer, slower and more walkable. Survey work is being done this summer/fall and design work will follow.
- 4) Partner Reports/Roundtable**
 - a. County DPW: Phase 1 of the Dutchess County [Urban Trail](#) is under construction, and the segment from Parker Ave to Cedar St should be done this year. The rest of Phase 1 should be done in summer 2023, and the full project is expected to be completed in 2024.
 - b. Traffic Safety Board: Emily highlighted the [Watch Out For Me campaign](#); in particular the videos produced by Forge Media on walking, bicycling, and driving safety. These are available on the [campaign website](#) as well as Twitter, [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#). Please like and share them!
 - c. NYSDOT: See the [local projects](#) webpage for information about current projects.
 - d. Roundtable: projects/updates
 - E-bike regulations in Dutchess: Emily gave an overview of the NYS law regarding e-bikes. It allows Class I and II e-bikes only on streets with speed limits up to 30 mph unless a municipality passes a law to further expand or restrict their use. It is unclear how this relates to State and County roads; e.g., if a municipality allows e-bikes on all roads under its jurisdiction, this would probably not apply to State or County roads. The law also does not allow e-bikes on shared use paths/rail trails unless the trail owner specifically allows them. Emily shared a [fact sheet](#) about the law for reference. She also recommended a recent webinar (['The Past, Present and Future of Electric Bicycling'](#) by the Smart Growth Network)

- a. Gina Klein stated that the law doesn't allow people to use e-bikes for transportation, since it is so limiting. She suggested that the BPAC advocate for changes to the law.
- b. Jeff Wright asked about the Dutchess rail trails. Emily stated that County Parks has drafted a policy to allow Class I and II e-bikes on the Dutchess Rail Trail and Harlem Valley Rail Trail, but it has to go through the County Legislature, and will likely not take effect until 2023. State Parks (which includes the Walkway) did pass a policy allowing Class I and II e-bikes.
- c. Thomas Wright noted that Class III e-bikes (currently allowed only in New York City) would be useful in rural areas where travel distances are longer.
- d. Lisa Whalen noted that the various levels of 'permission' (local, County, State, etc.) don't make sense to a rider using the road network or a system like the Village to Village Trail or Empire State Trail, which includes various types of roads and trails under different owners.
- e. Emily stated that she asked NYSDOT's Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator for guidance, and the request was forwarded to NYSDOT's legal division. The law clearly needs to be revised.
- Beacon Hudson River Trail: Thomas Wright gave a brief overview of this project, which would connect the Beacon Train Station with the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge. The City of Beacon and the Bridge Authority are working together on it, along with MTA. Thomas and Jeff Wright will give a presentation on the project at the October BPAC meeting.

5) Funding, Events & Announcements

- a. [Winnakee Land Trust Trails Roundtable](#): see the website for a recording of the 7/19 meeting.
- b. [Hudson Valley Greenway: Planning and Trail Grant Applications](#): the next deadline is September 2nd. Emily noted that the grant award amounts have been increased.
- c. Federal infrastructure funding: applications for the [Reconnecting Communities program](#) are due October 13th. Emily noted that there will be 5 years of funding.
- d. National Night Out- August 2nd, 5-8 pm, Poughkeepsie City Hall plaza: Emily, Tara, and Ian will participate in this event, doing an interactive program to teach kids how to use a crosswalk.
- e. [Ped/Bike Counts](#): Our annual volunteer counts will be in mid-September (dates TBD), and volunteers are needed! Training is provided, and volunteers can choose a location they are interested in. Emily will send more information.
- f. Other announcements: Gina asked if the City of Poughkeepsie still requires people to register their bicycles. This came up several years ago and it seemed to be used to harass disadvantaged people. Emily said she believed it is in the City's code but will ask the City Police if it is still in effect [according to City Police, registration is still required, but this is sporadically enforced. See [code section 13-221](#)].

6) Follow-up Items

- a. [Bike Dutchess](#) app: Emily asked the group to send her bike parking and/or fix-it station locations (photo and description) as well as any suggestions for improvements to the app.
- b. Send Emily ideas for future BPAC presentations or site visits.

7) Next Meeting (CHANGE): **October 20th, 2:30 pm**

Meeting schedule: January, April, July, October; last Thursday, 2:30 – 4:00 pm (typically)

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