

Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

Thursday, October 31, 2024, 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:** *DCTC's Transportation [Safety Action Plan](#)* – Emily Dozier, DCTC (see slides and link to recording on the [BPAC webpage](#)).

Emily introduced DCTC's county-wide Transportation Safety Action Plan, which is designed to meet the requirements of the federal Safe Streets & Roads For All (SS4A) program. Municipalities within Dutchess County do not need to do an Action Plan themselves but will be eligible to apply for SS4A implementation funds once this Plan is complete. The Plan is led by a consultant team that has done similar plans around the State and country. Emily reviewed the Plan's scope and schedule, outlined the public outreach components, and engaged the group in a discussion of transportation safety issues and opportunities. Key questions and feedback included:

- What is your biggest transportation safety concern?
 - Speed, distraction, tailgating, e-bikes, equity (safety for people without cars), transit access (lack of walking infrastructure), awareness of people walking & bicycling, lack of enforcement.
- What are some existing or proposed projects to improve transportation safety?
 - New trail connections in East Fishkill, sidewalk improvements in Millbrook, road paving in Town of Washington, intersection improvements (including posts to prevent drivers from passing at the 9G/Hollow Rd intersection; a proposed improved crossing with flashing beacons on Route 22 in Dover Plains), DCTC's proposed Columbus Drive redesign.
- What can be done to protect people walking and bicycling?
 - Bike lanes, especially protected bike lanes; raised crosswalks; traffic calming; separated infrastructure (like sidewalks and rail trails); flashing beacons.
- What are the most common causes of crashes or near misses in your area?
 - Speeding, distraction/texting, failure to yield, aging drivers, not fully stopping at stop signs, left and right turns across the crosswalk.
- What policies have been or need to be put in place to improve safety?
 - Lower speed limits, road signs about bicyclists' rights to use the road, automated enforcement (red light cameras, speed cameras), fines and points on insurance for traffic violations.

- What resources would be helpful to you to improve transportation safety?
 - More enforcement hours/funding, bike lanes, model Complete Streets policies, driver re-education, public information campaigns.

In terms of outreach, the group suggested reaching out to the Mid-Hudson Bicycle Club, providing information/flyers at bike shops, and participating in municipal 'Community Day' events.

3. Roundtable updates

- a. County DPW Projects: Emily noted that the sidewalk improvements on Innis Avenue (CR 75) in the Town of Poughkeepsie are done; this includes new pedestrian signals at the Emmott/DeLaval intersection. DPW is also working on plans to improve sidewalks on Maple Ave (CR 62) in Millerton, including access improvements at the intersection with Main St/Route 44. DPW is looking for funding to improve safety and accessibility at the Main St/Grand Ave intersection in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Finally, DCTC is working with DPW and Bard College on a redesign of Annandale Rd (CR 103) through the Bard campus to make it a more complete street.
- b. The Watch Out For Me [campaign website](#) includes a series of videos on topics including crossing the street safely, distraction, sharing the road, and being visible. The County is working on more bus ads to remind drivers to yield to people in crosswalks.
- c. [County Transit](#) has a new app; route changes are planned for January.
- d. NYSDOT: Emily noted that NYSDOT's [local projects page](#) has information about projects in Dutchess County. Some highlights include: the Route 376/Hooker Ave/Raymond Ave roundabout (under construction; to be done by 5/2025), the Route 82 Bridge in Hopewell (planned for 2025-2026), and a roundabout at the Route 82/52 intersection in Fishkill (planned for 2026-2028).

4. DCTC Local Projects

- a. [Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail Feasibility Study](#): Tara explained that this study evaluates the feasibility of developing a rail trail from the City of Beacon waterfront to Hopewell Junction on the former Beacon rail line. An online survey garnered more than 1,300 responses, the vast majority of which were very supportive of the concept. An existing conditions report will be posted on the website shortly, and the team is working on road crossing options and alignment alternatives.
- b. City of Poughkeepsie speed limit reduction study: Emily explained that this study evaluates whether the City could lower its city-wide speed limit to 25 mph. This is based on a recent [change in State law](#) that allows area-wide speed limits of 25 mph (instead of 30 mph). The data supports this change; the Mayor and City Administrator will discuss options with key staff and the Common Council.
- c. [Pedestrian-Bicycle counts](#): Emily thanked volunteers for helping with these annual counts. A summary will be posted on the website; this can be reviewed at the next BPAC meeting.

5. Events, Funding & Announcements

- a. AARP Walk Audits – November 18th, 10 am; 22 Market St, Poughkeepsie

- a. Emily encouraged everyone to participate in this event. If interested, please RSVP to rhaberman@aarp.org.
- b. [Winnakee Land Trust Trails Roundtable](#)
- c. [Hudson Valley Greenway: Community and Trail Grants](#): due November 1st
- d. Federal infrastructure funding: [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law programs](#)
- e. [T-Mobile Hometown Grants](#): up to \$50,00 for community spaces
- f. [Rugged Ridge Trail Access Program](#): up to \$5,000 for land conservation and trail access
- g. [Extreme Terrain Clean Trail Grant Program](#): \$250 grants for trail improvements

Bill Johnson noted that the City of Poughkeepsie is studying Child Safety Zones, to see if students could be bussed to school due to safety issues such as missing sidewalks, vacant buildings, etc. Emily noted that DCTC has a [map of existing sidewalks](#) for reference. Paul will send Bill a sidewalk evaluation study done by a Marist student working with Scenic Hudson several years ago.

Ross Ritter noted that there is a gravel ride called Ride the Ridge at Fishkill Farms this weekend.

6. Follow-up Items

- a. [Bike Dutchess](#) app: send Emily bike rack and 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!

7. Next Meeting: January 30th, 2:30 pm

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

October 2024 BPAC Meeting Participants:

Name	Organization	Email
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