

DUTCHESS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Better ways from here to there

Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

Thursday, April 25, 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:** Walkway Bike Event – Eric Hoppe, NYS Parks (see link to recording on the [BPAC webpage](#)).

Eric described plans for a bike event on the Walkway, called 'Wheels in the Sky', on June 8th from 12-4 pm. The event would entail a bike show, vendors/swap meet, bike repair training, and a presentation by Fred Schaeffer on the west side of the Walkway, followed by a guided ride to the east side. Ultimately, Eric would like this to be an annual event and grow over time.

Ross asked about e-bikes on the Walkway. Eric stated that State Parks allows [Class 1 and 2 ebikes](#). He sees more issues with unregulated mobility vehicles. More rangers will be on the Walkway this summer, probably on ebikes to help with enforcement. Increased signage is also planned. Staff are also working with the Ulster County legislature on some legislation.

Eric noted that he will do outreach for the bike event through the Friends group and social media. Senator Rolison is interested in participating, as he was one of the first bicycle police in Poughkeepsie. Ross suggested that the Fats in the Cats, the Mid-Hudson Bicycle Club, and Bikeway could help promote the event. Karl encouraged using the Ulster County Trails Committee to help with outreach. Thomas said he could help share information and graphics through Instagram. Eric said he would provide materials for the group to help share.

Julia Raskin shared information about Scenic Hudson's [Let's Bike Hudson Valley ride series](#) in May for Mental Health Awareness Month and Bike Month. This includes events in Kingston (May 8, 4pm at the Kingston YMCA), Newburgh (May 18, 11am at Safe Harbors of the Hudson), and Poughkeepsie (May 19, 1pm at Malcom X Park). Each event has several partners; the Poughkeepsie event includes a talk by Courtney Williams, the Brown Bike Girl. She asked for the group to help share information. Emily showed the flyer and outreach toolkit and will share these via email.

3. Roundtable updates

- Thomas Wright shared that the Regional Connector, a planned one-mile trail between the Beacon train station and Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, was covered by the [Highlands Current](#) recently. He noted that Scenic Hudson's May 18 event will include a tour of the Velocipede

bicycle museum at 10am. The Beacon Greenway Trails Committee unveiled a new map for the Fishkill Creek Trail on Churchill Street. A new segment south of Route 9D will open soon.

- b. County DPW: Emily noted that the [Northside Line](#) is open to Hudson Heritage; the sidewalk improvements on Innis Avenue in the Town of Poughkeepsie are also done.
- c. Traffic Safety Board: The Watch Out For Me [campaign website](#) includes a series of 5 videos and 12 new video shorts on topics including crossing the street safely, distraction, sharing the road, and being visible. Emily asked the group to help distribute these to the community.
- d. County Transit: Emily noted that the proposed route and schedule changes are on hold for now.
- e. NYSDOT: See the NYSDOT [local projects page](#) for information about projects in Dutchess County. Construction on the Hooker Ave/Raymond Ave roundabout starts in May.

4. DCTC [Local Projects](#)

- a. [Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail Feasibility Study](#): Tara explained that this study is evaluating the feasibility of developing a rail trail from the City of Beacon waterfront to Hopewell Junction on the former Beacon rail line. The website is now live, and it includes an online survey and a sign-up list for email updates. The consultant team is working on an existing conditions analysis. There will be two pop-up events to get additional public input, one at the Beacon Farmers Market on May 19, and one at East Fishkill's Sons of Italy Festival over Memorial Day weekend. Tara encouraged everyone to check out the website and take the survey.
- b. [Resilient Ways Forward](#): This is DCTC's Transportation Vulnerability Study, which looks at climate impacts to sidewalks, rail trails, and transit, as well as roads, bridges, and culverts. Tara stated that the assessment is complete, and the website includes an [online map](#) that shows the findings. We are currently working on an adaptation toolbox. There was a virtual public meeting on April 10th; the recording is on the website.
- c. Countywide Safety Action Plan: Emily noted that DCTC is selecting a consultant for a Safety Action Plan, which will study crash trends and issues around the county, including for people walking and bicycling. The intent is to make every municipality in the county eligible for Safe Streets For All implementation funding to help address traffic safety issues.

5. Events, Funding & Announcements

- [Celebrate Trails Day](#) – April 27
- [I Love My Park Day](#) – May 4. This includes an event at College Hill Park.
- Scenic Hudson's [Let's Bike Hudson Valley](#) Rides – May 8, 18, & 19
- Parks & Trails New York [Greenways Advocacy Summit](#) – May 20, Albany
- Walkway Over the Hudson 'Wheels in the Sky' event – June 8, 12-4
- [Cycle the Hudson Valley](#) event: August 4-11
- [Walk Bike & Roll NY Symposium](#) – September 16-18, Binghamton.
- [New York Bicycling Coalition Bike Summit](#) – October 17-18, Albany
- [Winnakee Land Trust Trails Roundtable recording \(April 16th\)](#)
- [Hudson Valley Greenway: Community and Trail Grants](#): due May 3rd
- [League of American Bicyclists'](#) recognition programs: Bicycle Friendly Business (June 5), Community (June 25), & University (August 8)

- Federal infrastructure funding: [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law programs](#)
 - [Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program](#) (ATIIP) – due June 17
- [T-Mobile Hometown Grants](#): up to \$50,000 for community spaces
- [Extreme Terrain Clean Trail Grant Program](#): \$250 grants for trail improvements
- American Trails free [Foundations of Sustainable Trails online training](#)
- Other announcements
 - Tara reminded the group of DCTC's [Traffic Data app](#), which includes data from pedestrian and bicycle counts.
 - Ross asked about NYSDOT's Route 82 bridge project; Emily didn't have any updated information. Nancy suggested getting an update on this for the next meeting.
 - Dutchess Tourism recently updated and re-printed their [Bike Tour Guide brochure](#). Emily suggested reaching out to [Colleen Dorney at Tourism](#) for brochures.
 - Ross asked about a waterfront trail near Marist. Emily showed the area on Google maps and described the intent for a continuous Greenway Trail along the Hudson but noted that there are several gaps.

6. 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!

7. Next Meeting: July 25th, 2:30 pm

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

April 2024 BPAC Meeting Participants:

Name	Organization	Email
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