

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

October 20, 2022, 2:30 p.m.
(via Microsoft Teams)

Summary

- 1) Introductions:** Emily Dozier (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting (see attached list).
- 2) Presentation:** *Beacon-Hudson River Trail* – Thomas Wright, City of Beacon Greenway Trail Committee & Jeff Wright, NYS Bridge Authority (NYSBA).

Thomas gave an overview of several trail projects in Beacon in various stages of development, and then focused on the Beacon-Hudson River Trail, 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. It is estimated to cost about \$5 million. The first phase would be from the bridge to just above the riverfront rail line, along NYSBA land. The design originally focused on a stone dust surface, but the team is considering changing to asphalt, which would make it better for bicycle transportation. Thomas noted that this project is part of a larger vision to create a bicycle connection between Newburgh and Beacon, part of which is expanding the hours for the walkway on the bridge.

Jeff announced that the NYSBA just approved a resolution to allow changes to those hours for each bridge individually; the hope is to make the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge walkway open 24/7 so it can function as a transportation option. Jeff noted that NYSBA is adding lights on the walkway. The group agreed that there is great potential to connect these trails to the Empire State Trail and other trail systems to create a viable transportation network.

Emily asked what requirements the NYSBA or MTA have required; Thomas said that both require fencing, but there hasn't been too much red tape. The alignment was adjusted to avoid multiple property owners; most of the land is either owned by NYSBA or MTA. Jeff noted that NYSBA is open to changes on their bridges; as an example, they worked on the [Skywalk](#) on the Rip Van Winkle Bridge.

- 3) DCTC Local Projects:** Emily described several projects that DCTC is working on.
 - a. Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan: DCTC is working with a local Task Force and participated in Dover Day in September to get feedback on preliminary recommendations. They have also been coordinating with NYSDOT and MTA. We hope to have a final report in early 2023.
 - b. Rhinebeck Route 9 Complete Streets Study: This study looks at walking and bicycling improvements on Route 9 north and south of the Village core. A draft report was sent to the Village in September for feedback. DCTC will incorporate new traffic data (volume, speed, and ped/bike counts) once available into the final report.
 - c. DPW projects: DCTC is helping Dutchess County Public Works with several projects:
 - Millerton- Maple Ave sidewalks: This project builds on DCTC's Millerton Pedestrian Plan (2018); it will fill sidewalk gaps and improve crossings on Maple Ave (County Road 62). A consultant has started evaluating options.
 - 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 2017 [Arlington Pedestrian Plan](#). The consultant is working on design alternatives.

- Innis Avenue sidewalk project: This project improves sidewalks and fills gaps on Innis Avenue between Arnold Rd and Jackman Dr (north). The project should go out to bid in November.
- 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. A survey was done this summer/fall and a RFP for design will be developed over the winter.

4) Partner Reports/Roundtable

- Roundtable projects/updates:
 - Michael O'Brien announced that the Hopewell Depot has acquired a vintage caboose and is planning to create a self-guided tour to attract the thousands of people passing by on the rail trail. Ross Ritter asked about access between the trail and the Town's recreation park; Michael noted that the Town is working on a loop trail.
 - Ross Ritter noted that the Route 376 roundabout is almost done, and the sidewalks and crosswalks make it much better for people walking.
- County DPW: Emily stated that the project formerly known as the Dutchess County [Urban Trail](#) has been renamed the Northside Line. Phase I is under construction, and the segment from Parker Ave to West Cedar St should be done this year. The rest of Phase 1 should be done in summer 2023. Phase 2 design is underway and should go out to bid in 2023.
- Traffic Safety Board/[Watch Out For Me campaign](#): Emily announced that the final video produced by Forge Media, which focuses on bicycle safety and sharing the road, was just completed and will be added to the [campaign website](#) as well as Twitter, [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).
- [County Transit](#) is working on a new shelter program. New shelters will be installed at ten locations this summer as Phase 1.
- NYSDOT [local projects](#): Michael O'Brien said he had not heard much lately on the Route 82 bridge in Hopewell Junction.
- The group discussed the potential for expanding hours on the Mid-Hudson Bridge walkway and/or the Walkway Over the Hudson. The Walkway is installing lights.
- [Ped/Bike Counts](#): Emily reviewed the data collected this year. A summary and various tables and charts are posted on the website. Some of the data was collected to inform DCTC's Rhinebeck and Dover Plains studies. Automated counts will also supplement the volunteer data. DCTC is hoping to create an app to make the data easier to use and analyze.
- E-bikes: Ross raised the issue of e-bike speeds on the rail trail, particularly throttle e-bikes. Emily reviewed the three classes (see this [fact sheet](#) for reference) and noted that State Parks allows Class I and II e-bikes on the Walkway; County Parks is working on a similar policy for the rail trails. Ross noted that unexperienced riders going fast create safety issues.

5) Funding, Events & Announcements

- [Winnakee Land Trust Trails Roundtable](#): see the website for a recording of the 10/18 meeting.
- [Hudson Valley Greenway: Community and Trail Grants](#): the next deadline is November 4th.
- Federal infrastructure funding – see the various [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law programs](#).

6) Follow-up Items

- [Bike Dutchess](#) app: send Emily bike rack and fix-it station locations (photo and description) and any suggestions for improvements.

- b. Send Emily ideas for future BPAC presentations or site visits.
 - a. The group suggested a presentation on the Northside Line or a presentation by NYSDOT on State road projects, including the Route 82 bridge project.

7) Next Meeting: January 26th, 2:30 pm

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

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Date: October 20, 2022

Time: 2:30 pm

via Microsoft Teams call/online meeting

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