

# DUTCHESS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Better ways from here to there

## Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

Thursday, October 26, 2023, 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:** Kingston's [RAISE Grant](#) – Ruth Ann Devitt-Frank, Director of Grants Management, City of Kingston (see link to recording on the [BPAC webpage](#)).

Ruth Ann provided an overview of Kingston's ['Weaving the Waterfront' project](#), which was recently awarded a \$21.7 million federal RAISE grant. This was the City's third attempt to win this grant. Ruth Ann discussed the components of the grant, including the narrative (about 30 pages), benefit/cost analysis, letters of public support, and budget. The City hired a consultant to pull the first application together, and an economic consultant to do the benefit/cost analysis. City staff updated the application for the second and third attempts to make sure that it met the revised application guidelines and evaluation criteria. The economic consultant updated the benefit/cost analysis. Ruth Ann offered to share the application files with anyone who is interested.

Ruth Ann noted that Kingston's mayor worked hard to develop relationships with Senator Schumer's office, as well as Pat Ryan's office. This, combined with a detailed, well-written application and a solid project, was critical for the project to get the grant. She suggested that a municipality should start thinking about large grants about a year in advance. The next round of RAISE grants may be announced this fall.

The group discussed the project's connections to the [Empire State Trail](#) and [Kingston Greenline](#), as well as the detailed budget. Ruth Ann noted that the grant requires a 20% local match, which will be covered by local bonds and possibly a congressional earmark.

- 3. Roundtable updates**
  - Brian announced that a [revised ordinance](#) regarding bicycle registration was introduced at the Poughkeepsie Common Council meeting this week. He explained that since 1973, the City of Poughkeepsie has had an [ordinance](#) that requires people to register their bike with the police to legally ride it in the city. This has resulted in many bikes being taken by the police, particularly from people of color. Brian worked with the NAACP on the proposed legislation to make bicycle registration optional. Bill noted that the Town of Poughkeepsie had a similar ordinance decades ago, but no longer does.

- b. Colleen noted that Dutchess Tourism is doing a minor update to its [Bike Tour Guide brochure](#) and asked for help identifying bike shops. The group discussed the shops listed; Emily will follow up with Colleen.
- c. Michael O'Brien announced that there will be a year-round drinking fountain on the rail trail at the Hopewell Depot Museum. Also, Parks and Trails NY's [Cycle the Hudson Valley tour](#) came through the Depot, which was very successful. However, he noted that the County and municipalities charged PTNY a permit fee to use the rail trail.
- d. Ross discussed safety issues related to e-bikes on rail trails; the group agreed on the need for both regulations and enforcement.

#### 4. DCTC [Local Projects](#)

- a. [Pedestrian/Bicycle Counts](#) – Emily announced that the 2023 volunteer count data is summarized and posted on DCTC's website. This includes some new charts about helmet use, sidewalk bicycling, and gender balance. Also, DCTC is working on a web-based app (similar to our [Traffic Data app](#)) to show all our ped/bike count data, including automated counts.
- b. [Spackenkill Road Sidewalk Feasibility Study](#) – This study is nearly complete; the draft report is posted on the website, as is a presentation to the Town Board from early October. There is a comment form that is open until the end of October.
- c. [Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail](#) Feasibility Study: The study will evaluate the feasibility of developing a rail trail on the Beacon Line from the City of Beacon waterfront to Hopewell Junction. The Advisory Committee had its first meeting, and a website is being developed. There will be outreach events in the spring, once the existing conditions analysis is complete.
- d. Ross asked about the Route 82 bridge; Emily noted that per the [DOT website](#), construction is planned for 2025. The existing bridge on Route 82 would be removed, and a ped/bike bridge for the Maybrook Trailway is planned.
- e. [Northside Line](#): Emily noted that the second part of Phase 1 (from Cedar St to Hudson Heritage) will be open this fall. It will be fully lit, as it is intended to be open 24/7.

#### 5. Funding, Events & Announcements

- a. [Hudson Valley Greenway: Community and Trail Grants](#): due November 3<sup>rd</sup>
- b. League of American Bicyclists' [Bicycle Friendly Business](#) due November 2<sup>nd</sup>; University & Community submissions due summer 2024
- c. [T-Mobile Hometown Grants](#) – up to \$50,000 for community spaces
- d. Federal infrastructure funding – [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law programs](#)
- e. [Extreme Terrain Clean Trail Grant Program](#) – \$250 grants for trail improvements
- f. [NYS Cycling Census](#) – Report and Dashboard
- g. [Online Greenway Trail System Map](#)

#### 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. Send Emily ideas for future presentations
- c. See our [BPAC webpage](#) for meeting summaries, recordings, and presentations, as well as a link to sign up for our email list.

**7. Next Meeting: January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 pm**

- a. Emily could also provide a preview of the Ped Bike Counts app if it is available. The College Hill Coalition may also present on their trail and park improvement concepts. Alternatively, Emily could ask Vassar College to discuss their new bike share program.
- b. Meeting schedule: January, April, July, October; last Thursday, 2:30 – 4:00pm

**October 2023 BPAC Meeting Participants:**

Name	Organization	Email
<b>Emily Dozier</b>	DCTC	<a href="mailto:edozier@dutchessny.gov">edozier@dutchessny.gov</a>
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<b>Brian Robinson</b>	City of Poughkeepsie resident; CEO of Equitable Future (civil rights non-profit)	<a href="mailto:brian.robinson@equitablefuture.org">brian.robinson@equitablefuture.org</a>
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<b>Thomas Wright</b>	Beacon Greenway Committee & Beacon Bicycle Coalition	<a href="mailto:twright@beaconny.gov">twright@beaconny.gov</a>
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