

BikeAlbanyMap

Online, Interactive, Bicycle-friendly Routes in Albany



https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/albany_bike_map/



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- What is the Albany Bicycle Coalition?
- I'm not riding in traffic!
- Why this map?
- Who's it for?



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- **Objective:** online, interactive bike map with bicycle-friendly routes.
- **Primary considerations:** safety and comfort.

We especially want to encourage novice riders, visitors, and new residents, by showing that you can cycle throughout Albany on mainly bike-friendly streets.

- The map concentrates on secondary roads, side streets, and bike-pedestrian paths.
- Major arteries are used only where necessary to make connections.
- Traffic density is indicated by color coding.
- Traffic advice, where needed, is indicated by “caution” triangles.

Developed by: **Albany Bicycle Coalition** in cooperation with:

- **Mohawk Valley GIS**, Utica and
- **Parks & Trails New York**
- supported by a NY State grant from Assemblymember **Patricia Fahy**.



NYC Bike Map – Lower Manhattan & Brooklyn

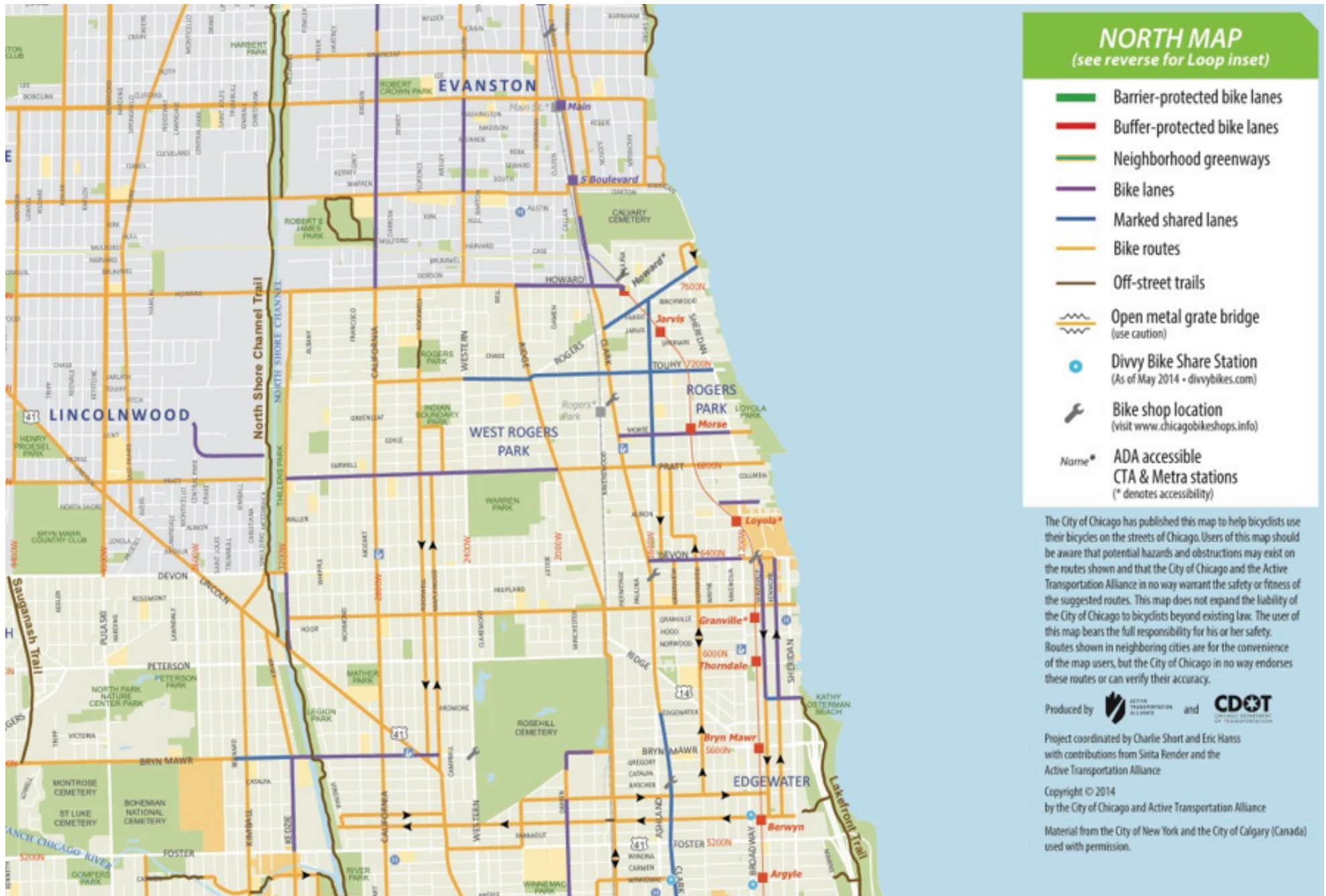
What's the one best route from A to B? Hard to tell. (And this is only a fraction.)





Chicago Bike Map – 7 Kinds of Roads

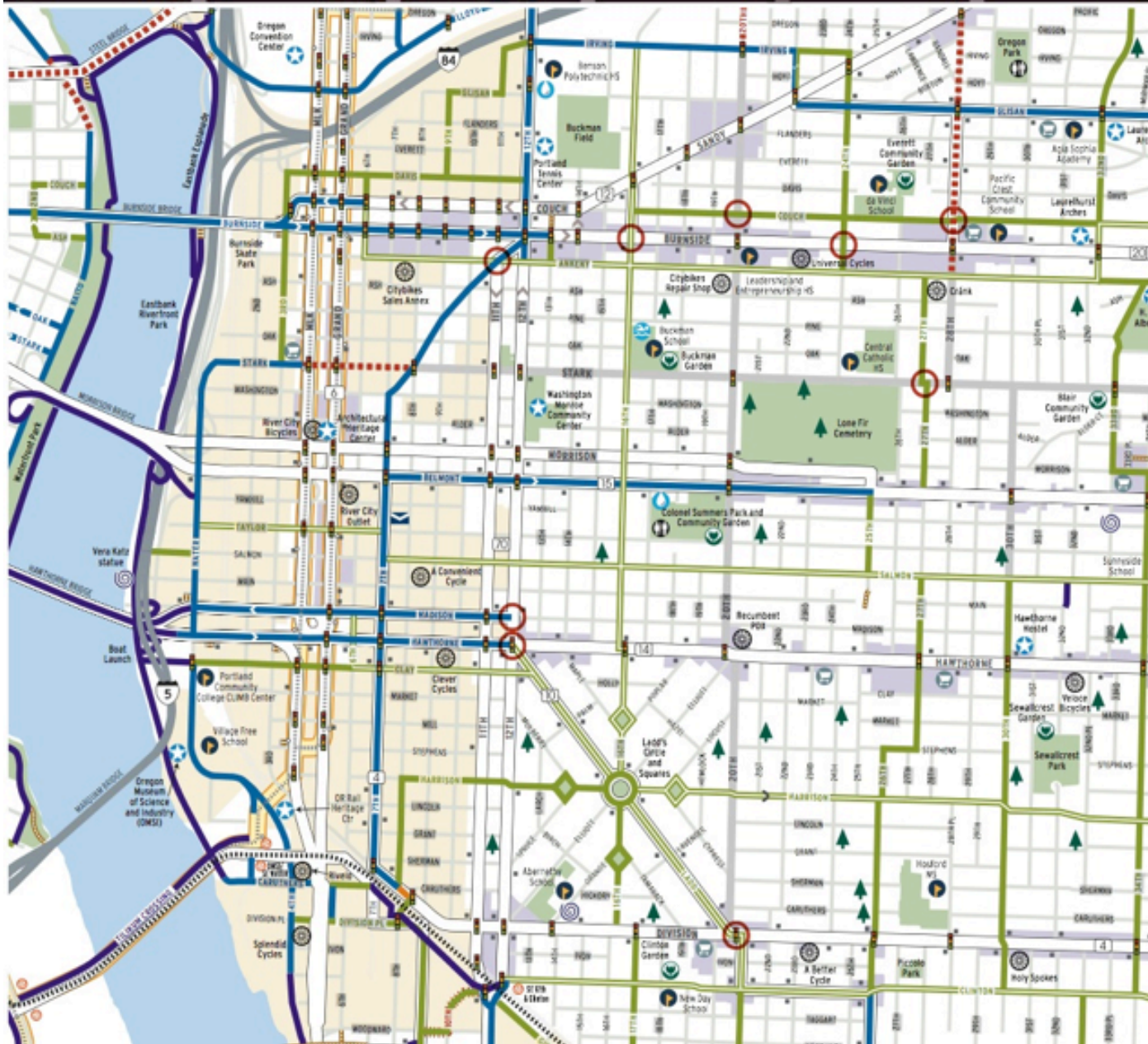
Difficult to memorize 7 varieties





Portland Bike Map – again, 7 Kinds of Roads

Complex descriptions. Fine-grain distinctions. Not always self-explanatory.



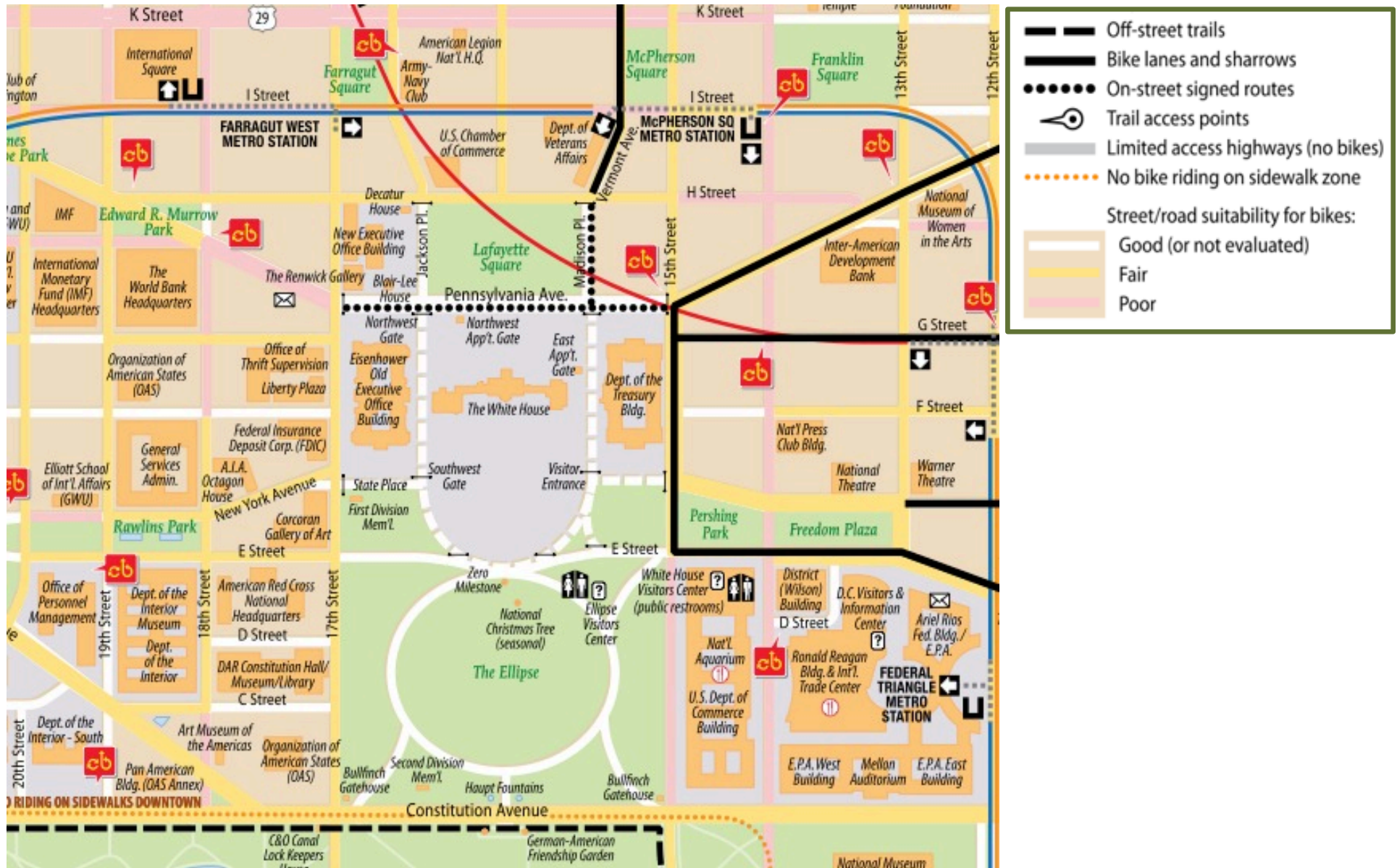
Bicycling

- Multi-use path, paved (no motor vehicles)
- Neighborhood Greenway/signed and marked route
- Shared roadway (lower traffic street)
- Bike lane (painted lane on higher traffic street)
- Shared roadway (moderate traffic/wide outside lane)
- Shared roadway/difficult connection (lower traffic street with sight distance limitations and higher speeds)
- Difficult connection (use caution, use sidewalk, or find a different route)
- Difficult intersection (use caution)
- Steep hill

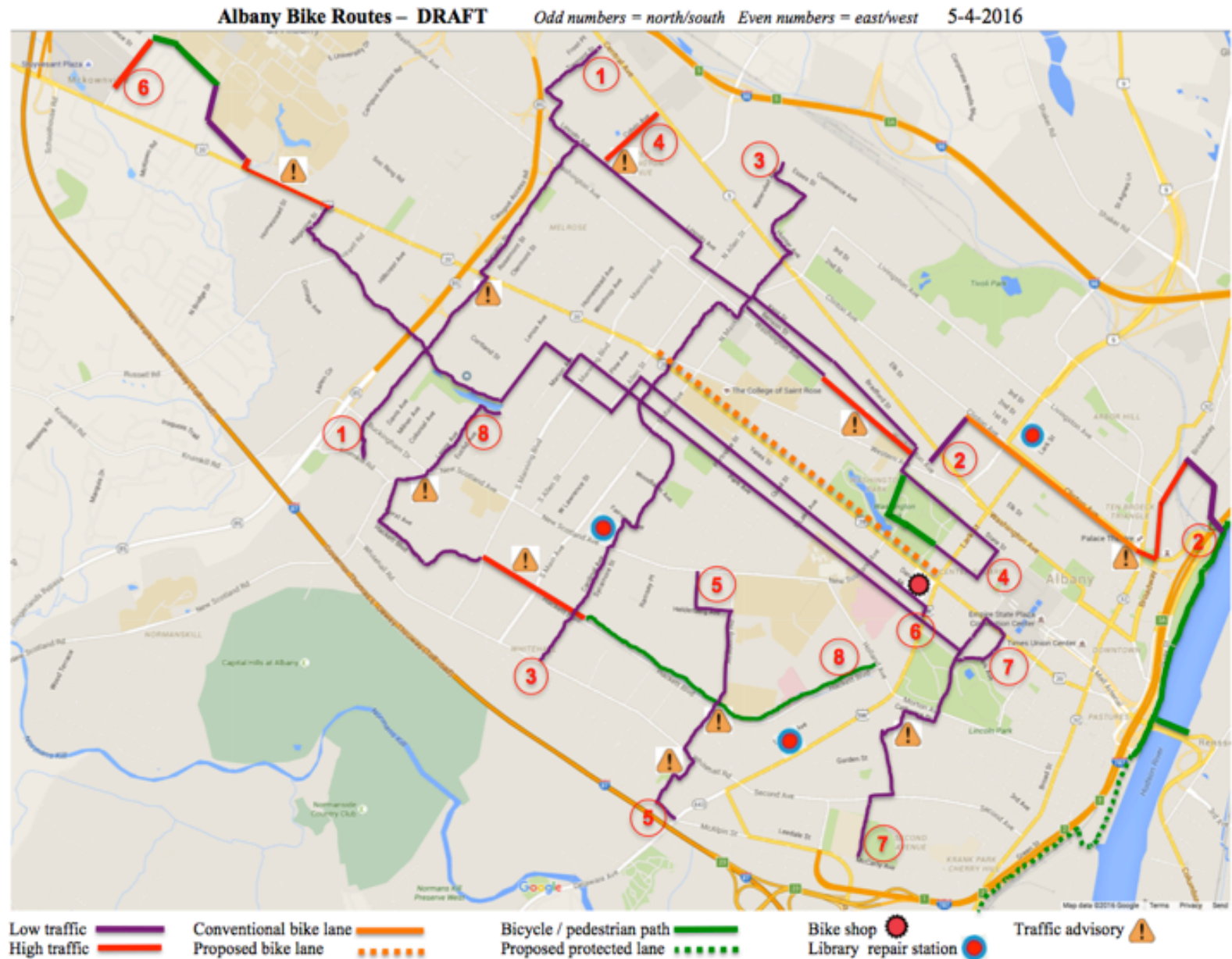


Washington D.C. Bike Map – Ambiguous Terminology

Bike lanes not = sharrows. Have to simultaneously consider black lines plus color code.



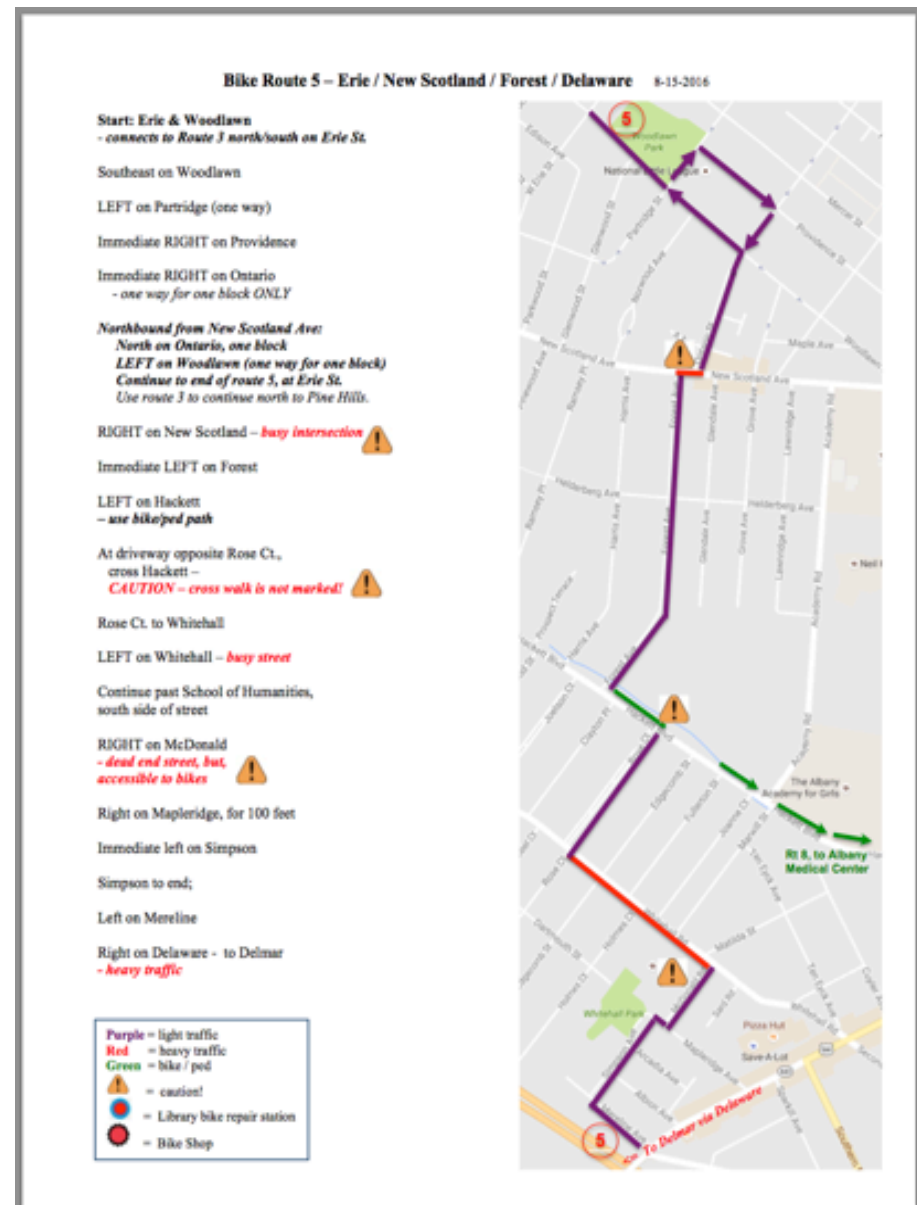
Draft: 8 basic numbered “routes.” Even = east/west, odd = north/south



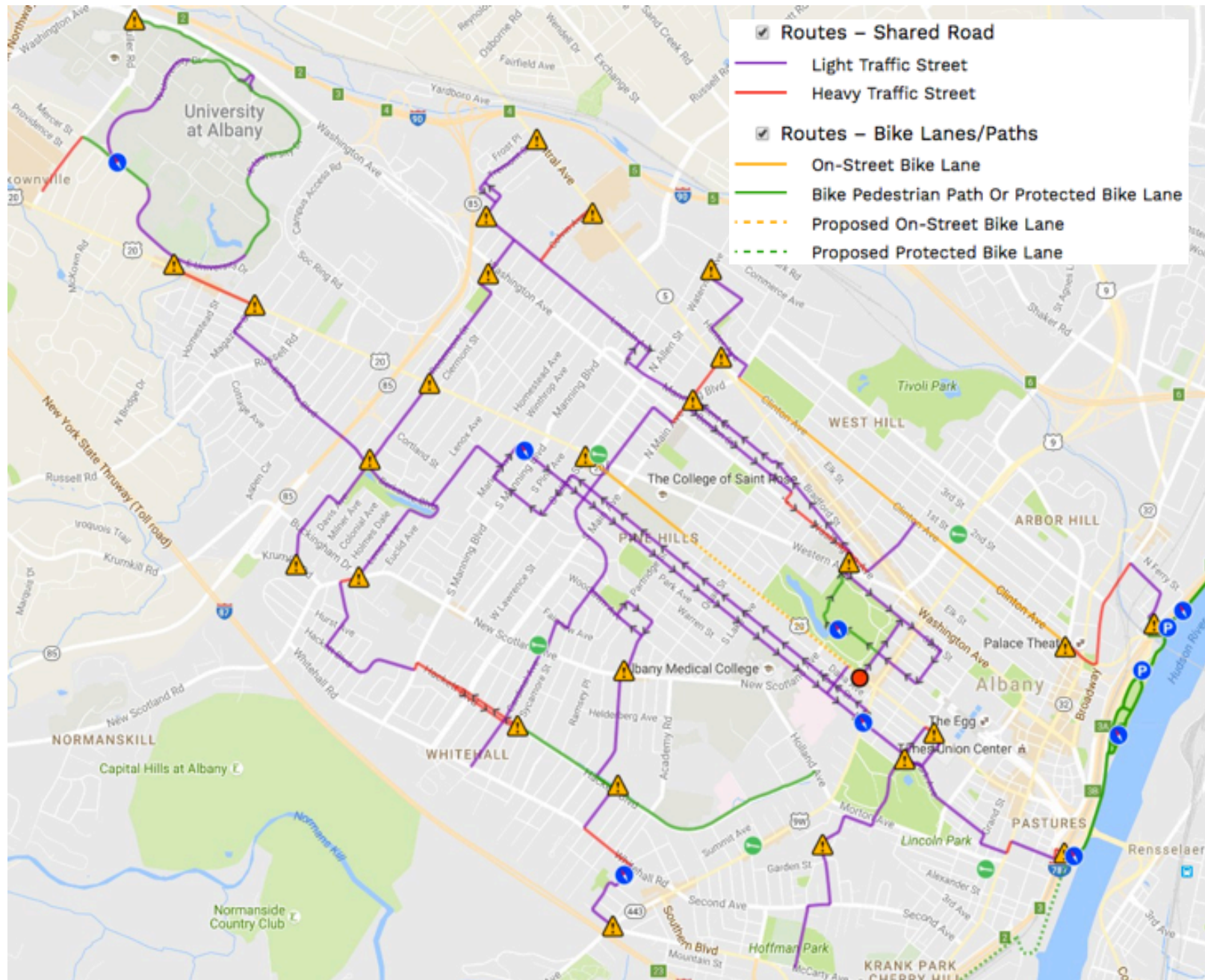


BikeAlbanyMap - Public Comment Period

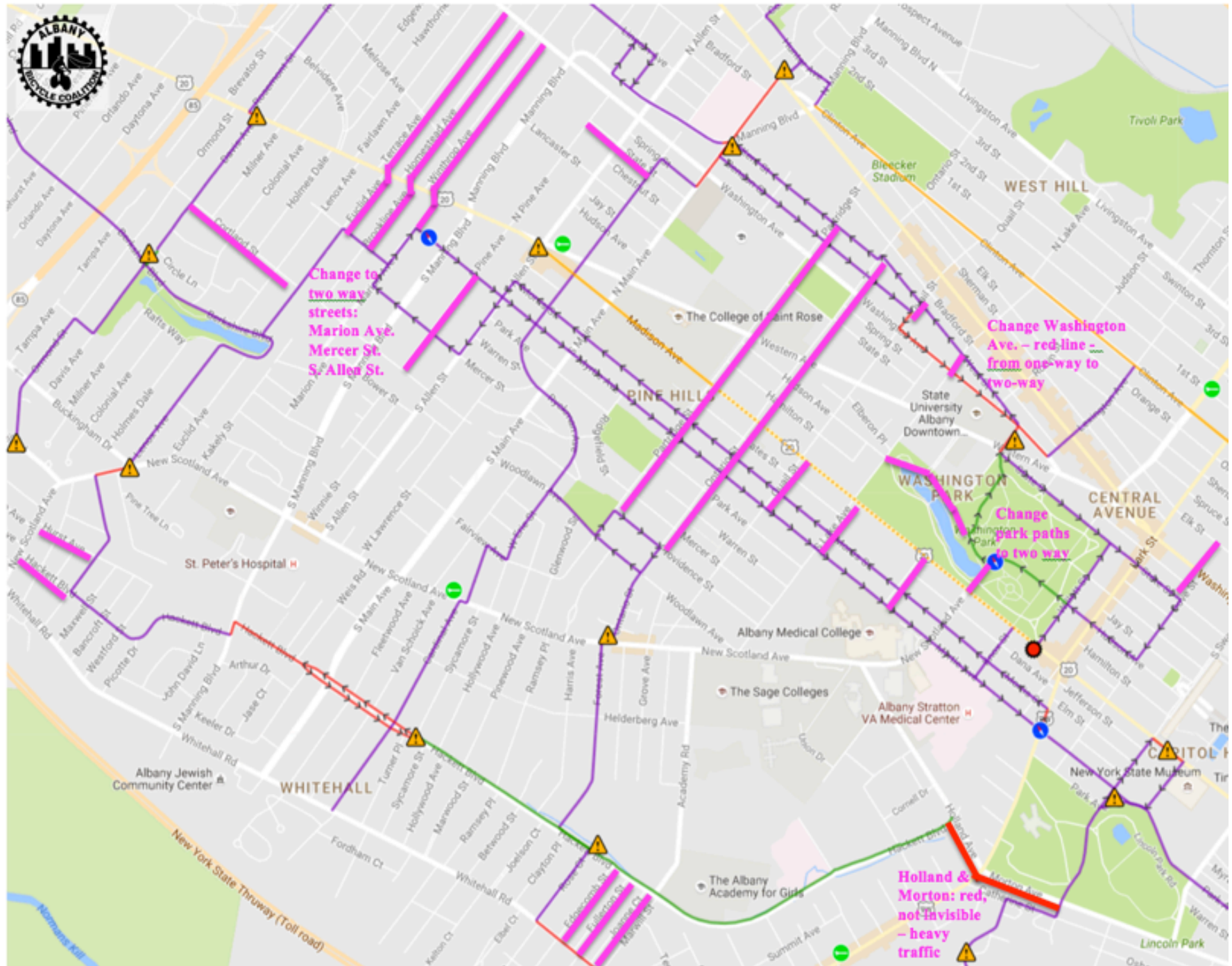
- “Cue Sheets” were posted on our website, for each route.
- We emailed over 900 people, inviting them to comment on the routes.
- We incorporated feedback:
 - ✓ Routes 1 & 5 were extensively revised (route 5 at right);
 - ✓ Route 7 was partially revised;
 - ✓ Route 6 was extended to the waterfront.



BikeAlbanyMap: Selective Routes, only 4 Kinds of Roads








“Invisible” connecting routes - avoid detours, tie map together





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- **Easy to understand at a glance** Avoids visual overload. Includes only a subset of all low-traffic streets.
 - Some parts are **necessarily circuitous** to *avoid high traffic* and hazardous areas. (Once you are comfortable riding in traffic, you can always “straighten out” portions where you want a more direct route.)
 - Routes are as long as feasible, consistent with the above .
 - At key points, you can click on icons ➔ for **pop-up traffic tips and information**.
 - **Custom Directions**, point to point:
blue line shows your trip, using our routes as much as possible (type in an address, select on map, or use GPS).
-  Caution Notice
 Bike Shop
 Bicycle Repair Station
 Route Information
 Parking



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Primary Funding

- An \$8,000 NY State grant from Assemblymember Patricia Fahy.

Additional funding

- “Enviro Tokens” program at Honest Weight Food Coop: \$274 *one nickel at a time* (= 5,480 contributions).
- Several private individuals, \$10 to \$150 each.

Needed to Finish

\$850



Public Response to BikeAlbanyMap

GOOD LUCK WITH THE ALBANY BIKE MAP! I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE AN APP TO GUIDE ME AROUND THE CITY. I JUST MOVED HERE 4 MONTHS AGO. ALL THE BEST TO you!

to me, Lorenz

THE CLASSIC MOVIE
© MATSUDA FILM PRO

Thank you! I'm so glad to have been able to contribute in a small way. Having my suggestions included has definitely made me a believer in this project. There's nothing like experience to help you figure out the best way!

Enclosed is a donation for the Bike Albany Map. I always thought this should be done and you did it!

Steve

SYRACUSE, NY 13203-3106

10/05/2016 Date

Pay To The Order Of Albany Bicycle Coalition \$ 20.

Twenty dollars and 09/100 cents Dollars

Bank of America

ACH R/T 011000130



#96460
#274 38

October 7, 2016

On behalf of our board of directors, staff and member-owners, we're proud to contribute to your organization. Please accept this donation as part of our Enviro Tokens fundraising program.

Our Enviro Tokens program started in September of 2015 as a way to offer shoppers the option to donate a nickel to a charity of their choosing for every reusable shopping bag they bring in turning a simple green living practice into a chance to give back – everybody wins!



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Conclusions

- To our knowledge, this is the only low-stress interactive bike map covering a single city. That puts the Capital Region at the cutting edge of bike-pedestrian planning.
- “*We have the technology.*” Since it’s based on Google Maps, this map is expandable further into the Capital Region.
- We encourage other communities to participate. You know your streets best. Plan your own routes, test drive them, involve the public.
- Funding and contracting – up to each community.
- We offer our experience and advice.

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Resources:

The map: https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/albany_bike_map/

Albany Bicycle Coalition <https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/>

Parks & Trails New York <http://www.ptny.org/>

Mohawk Valley GIS <http://mohawkvalleygis.com/>

