



Meeting Notes

Albany Bicycle Coalition Monthly Meeting
11/29/18 7:00 PM

LaSalle School – George E. Hanner Center
391 Western Ave., Albany, 12203.

C:\Users\Lorenz M. Worden\Documents\Bicycle\Meetings\1a- 2018\ABC ~ Meeting Notes ~ 11-29-18.doc

Reports –

- **Treasurer's Report** (David P.) – Rendered electronically.
- **Albany-Colonie Connector** – Updates
 - Letters to: Mayor Sheehan (10/2), Assemblymember Fahy (10/11), and Assemblymember Steck (11/27).
 - **Six-Mile Trail Signage** (Glenn, Lorenz) – Signs are ready to install (as of 11/23)
 - **Flyover** – Letter to DOT 9/4. Second follow-up call made 11/13; response promised “within two weeks.”
- **Bethlehem-Albany Connector** (Mark) – Albany Bicycle Coalition has started on an **Albany-Bethlehem Connector project** – working with Bethlehem and, ultimately, the City of Albany on connecting Bethlehem's Delaware Ave. Traffic Calming project (which ends at the city line at the south end of the Normanskill Bridge) to Madison Ave., Clinton Ave., Whitehall (multiuse path), and (all) other points in the City of Albany. This is with the objective of avoiding Delaware Ave. from I-90 Bridge/Mereline & McAlpin to Morton/Holland. This would be a “connector project” in the sense that we would not call for capital improvements other than signage and striping. ABC will develop preferred routes for people on bicycles. It recognizes that the best bicyclists can hope for is Shared Lanes on Delaware Ave. in Albany from the I-90 Bridge to Morton/Holland Aves. – not a good option for those who fear riding in heavy, close traffic. There are several alternative routes that we will explore some of which take advantage of unofficial pathways (“herd paths”) that connect paved streets. We will also get timeline advice from Bethlehem on its project.
- **Washington Ave. Traffic Calming** (Attendees – 11/8 meeting. See - <http://alloveralbany.com/archive/2018/10/24/albany-washington-ave-study-options-meeting>) – Much discussion on the merits of off-road, side/multiuse paths vs. on-road buffered bicycle lanes. For riders in the UA area west of the bridges, multiuse paths seem advantageous; for through riders, buffered bicycle lanes from Brevator/Jermain (area) to Fuller Rd. seem the best. We noted that Block 75 housing (formerly “Aspen”) would have another non-UA apartment a little to the east. We also noted that the treatment used in the bridge/underpass (eastern zone) area would determine the attractiveness (comfort level) of Washington Ave. as a bicycle route (since the available land for the roadway/bikeway/pathway is limited by the width of the two bridges and the underpass).
- **New Scotland Ave. Traffic Calming** (Attendees – 11/13 meeting. Background on New Scotland Ave. Meeting - <https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/New-Scotland-Ave-traffic-study-to-get-community-13351666.php>. There were many area residents in attendance whose major concern was the “drive time” traffic “gridlock” from Manning Blvd. to Whitehall Rd. There seemed to be support for designating the Manning-Whitehall segment as a two-lane street (which most of it is although not treated as such by many people in cars. Much of the meeting was designed for gathering feedback, to which end the audience was divided into smaller work groups. ABC plans to wait until the next public meeting to develop its recommendation.
- **South End Bikeway Connector** (Attendees) – (11/13) - City of Albany announced the final plan scheduled for completion in 2020. Some concern expressed about removal of the motor vehicle parking on the east side of S. Pearl St.

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (Lorenz) – 11/13 – The “bike/ped set aside” funding will continue for 2019 with the amount not yet set (was budgeted at \$1 million past years although more was spent). The sad news was the report that the Green Island was re-striped with 4 motor vehicle traffic lanes after this past summer’s repaving. This was viewed as a real affront to pedestrians, to cyclists, and to the cities of Watervliet and Troy them both having installed bicycle lanes/accommodations in the past several months. This Bridge is the no-hills/water level route to cross the Hudson River and is an element in both the Empire State Trail/MHBHT and Bike Route 9.
- **Town of Colonie Complete Streets** (John G., Lorenz) – Met with Albany County health on common grounds (11/20). Letter needed for the Albany-Colonie Connector and Complete Streets push in the Town of Colonie (Lorenz doing).
- **Capital Region Complete Streets/Complete Streets Coordinator** (Lorenz) – Met (11/20) with Mayor who stated that the functions of the Complete Streets Coordinator are to be housed in City Engineer’s Office. Next step is meeting with City engineer and the designated Complete Streets Coordinator.
- **Bicycle Count** (Lorenz) - Letter to City of Albany (10/27) to change dates, expand locations, add e- and share bicycles. We also noted that the city should post the current and historical ride data in an accessible location on a timely basis to support the work of the Complete Streets Coordinator and others
- **Lights in the Park Ride** (Attendees) – (11/25) – A good time enjoyed by all!
- **MHBHT Roots** (David P.) – On going frustration in identifying the “maintenance owners” of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail in Albany County.

New Business –

- Dec ABC meeting 12/20 (not 12/27)

Upcoming – Rides/events/issues? (Go here - <https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/resources/events/>)

- **12/20 (not 12/27) – ABC Meeting** – Thr, 7:00 PM, LaSalle School, George E. Hanner Center, 391 Western Ave., Albany <https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/>
- **1/8 – Capital District Transportation Committee-Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting** – Tue, 9:00 AM, 1 Park Place, Wolf Rd. Contact: jceponis@cdtcmpo.org, (518) 458-216. <http://www.cdtcmpo.org/>, all welcome.
- **1/31 – ABC Meeting** – Thr, 7:00 PM, LaSalle School, George E. Hanner Center, 391 Western Ave., Albany <https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/>

Attending Ed, John V., Glenn, David P., David D., Mark, Brent, Rob, and Lorenz.