



Meeting Notes

Albany Bicycle Coalition Monthly Meeting
1/30/19 7:00 PM

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

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Reports –

- **Treasurer's Report** (David P.) - PayPal is working well. The RiseUp list resulted in a number of new members.
- **Albany-Colonie Connector** – No updates.
- **Bethlehem-Albany Connector** (Mark) – No updates.
- **New Scotland Ave. Traffic Calming** – (Ed) Public meeting #2 in spring.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (Lorenz) – 1/14. Many projects proposed from municipalities in the 4-county MPO region. \$5 million "bike-ped" project set aside to continue in 2019. The city is combining the Albany Bicycle Master Plan into a proposed Albany Pedestrian-Bicycle Master Plan meaning that bicycle issues risk being swamped by the pedestrian issues. Nonetheless, combined plans have been successful in some municipalities.
- **Town of Colonie Complete Streets** – No updates.
- **Capital Region Complete Streets** – Albany Complete Streets Coordinator appointed by Mayor – John Darougar jdarougar@albanyny.gov, 518-434-5696, Dept. of Engineering.
- **MHBHT Roots** (David P.) – Email to NYS Parks and Recreation to ascertain if it is responsible for the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail root damage as well as a dangerous pavement break near the Menands border.
- **Flyover-Washington Ave./Fuller Rd.** (Lorenz) – Hugh will assess DOT's sign suggestions using the sketch map provided. We discussed the on ramp to Washington Ave. westbound from southbound Fuller Rd. and traffic circle motor vehicles. The area is tight in terms of reconstruction or relocating the cross walk/multiuse path crossing.

New Business –

- **Guilderland Outreach Report** (Albany-Colonie Connector) (Aaron, Ed) – The meeting with Supervisor Peter Barber and Planner Ken Kovalchik was judged very successful. Mr. Barber was supportive of the need to rebuild Rapp Rd. from the landfill to Colonie Village. We learned a great deal about bicycle-related developments in the Guilderland area. Action steps are:
 1. Submit supportive comments on the Rapp Rd. apartment proposal especially as it relates to the bicycle facilities from Western Ave. at the Capital City Diner to Gipp Rd. and improved bicycle access to Crossgates Mall;
 2. Comment on the grant proposal for rebuilding/redesigning of Rt 155 from Western Ave. to Albany-Shaker Rd. (wide shoulders, room for bicycle lanes, etc.); and
 3. Monitor the CDTA Purple Line proposal as it relates to bicycle connection to Crossgates Mall, the proposed bicycle lanes on Western Ave. from I-87 to Carmen Rd./Rt 146.
- **Admin.** – Meeting notes are now on our website under "About." We may add a project inventory.
- **Mohawk-Hudson Cycling Club-ABC Coordination** (Rob) – We discussed briefly using the Earth Day Ride 2019, the Ride of Silence, or some other ride as a joint project.
- **Dreamhost BikeAlbanyMap** – (Glenn) Web hosting for the BikeAlbanyMap is now free (savings=\$120/yr.) due to our 501(c)3 status update.

- **Capital District Transportation Committee Trails Plan** – See final plan at – <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RlbINgIXK2XoZH1LAxktTGZJpgactLQz/view> Glenn will explore adding this as a link on our website.
- **Mapping Troy** (Glenn, Pam) - Transport Troy held a well-attended meeting to explore mapping all the bicycle and trail options with a target date of the Collar City Ramble 2019. The evolving Uncle Sam Trail and the network of hiking trails around Prospect Park and the Normanskill would be key features. We also discussed coordination with Troy on an expanded BikeAlbanyMap wherein the BAM would add bicycle routes from Albany to Troy, and new routes within Troy based on input from Transport Troy staff. Glenn noted that we are in need of some higher-level technical advice before we will be in position to expand the map. We will work with others on this issue. (See addendum below for more on Transport Troy.)
- **Schenectady Bicycle Coalition** (Lorenz) – Art Clayman held the kick-off meeting at which the attendees agreed that the ABC model is what they desire. We offered to meet with his group in Schenectady or have them meet with us in Albany. More to follow.

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

- **2/12 – 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.
- **2/28 – ABC Meeting** – Thr, 7:00 PM, LaSalle School, George E. Hanner Center, 391 Western Ave., Albany <https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/>
- **3/4 – Park Advocacy Day** – <https://www.ptny.org/events/advocacy-days>
- **3/12 – 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.
- **3/18 – Trail Advocacy Day** – <https://www.ptny.org/events/empire-state-trail-advocacy-day>
- **4/19-22 – Canal Clean Sweep** – <https://www.ptny.org/events/canal-clean-sweep>
- **4/20 - Earth Day Ride** – Possible dates Sat. 4/20, Sat. 4/27, or Sun. 4/28.
- **5/4 – I Love My Park Day** – <https://www.ptny.org/events/i-love-my-park-day>
- **7/7-14 Cycle the Erie Canal Bike Tour** - <https://www.ptny.org/cycle-the-erie-canal/annual-bike-tour> Registration now open.

Attending Ed, Glenn, David P., Pam, Hugh, and Lorenz.

+++++ Report from Transport Troy 1/23/19 Meeting To Discuss Plans for Troy Trail Maps ++++++

Barb Nelson chaired the meeting where about 2 dozen people gathered at the Independent Living Center in Troy to discuss making a map (paper and on-line) to show the trail options in Troy. Various organizations were represented, including ABC, the City of Troy, Rensselaer Co., CDTC, Alta Planning, Capital Roots, Rensselaer Land Trust, Troy BID, TAP, Independent Living Ctr., CAC/Staalesen Preserve, CDTA, local business people and a reporter.

After each had introduced themselves and said a little something about their interest in the project, there was a review of some of the existing trails and proposed trails. Large maps were available to follow the locations.

Uncle Sam Trail - existing, long established, under-appreciated, needs more & better access points to connect it to neighborhoods, signage, and lighting. Some of these issues have been addressed in previous planning but not implemented, Alta has those plans, funding is needed for implementation.

S. Troy Trail - new extension of Uncle Sam Trail but not completely connected to the existing portion yet due to construction in the downtown area along the waterfront, it also needs better connection to the Troy Menands Bridge (ideally something similar to the link on the west end which connects to the Bike Hike Path there), the possibility of an alternate S. Troy route along the Industrial Rd. depends on Complete Street practices being implemented when that is constructed (probably later in 2019?).

[Glenn remembers this part a little differently: "Re: better connection to the Troy Menands Bridge, via Industrial Rd: The people I talked with separately after the meeting said there wasn't really any time line at present. That tells me it could easily be a couple years before anything actually happens; almost certainly not in 2019. So, I would just say: "funding and scheduling still to be determined." "]

The Narrows (Burden Preserve, Staalesen Preserve, etc.) - this is a combination of existing, under development and proposed sections which will connect along the Wynantskill from the old Burden Ironworks site (Upper Works, proposed section) through the Burden Preserve, Staalesen Preserve (under development) and a proposed connector to Prospect Park which will loop around the plateau between the Wynantskill and Poestenkill (passing near the threatened Ida Lake). Much of this is on land already owned by the city of Troy but access needs to be arranged for some portions and some infrastructure (bridges, etc.) needs to be built.

Garnet Douglas Baltimore Trail - recently opened route from Hill St. in Little Italy that follows the old carriage road up into Prospect Park. This has been adopted by Adam Siemiginowski of The Hill at Muza (restaurant/pub on Congress St.) as a way of drawing attention to his neighborhood and the amenities there. He has a video showing the route and how the Park connects to Congress St.

Discussion turned to ways & means. Karl Beard (NPS, not present due to shutdown) may be able to help with urban rangers. Transport Troy needs to mobilize volunteers and partner with existing friends groups such as Friends of Prospect Park, Friends of Frear, etc. and maybe add a city coordinated trail workday for the whole trail system. Other resources could include CDTC, PTNY, ECOS. Dig the Falls says they can mobilize volunteers for projects. I Love NY may have funds available (per Linda from Rens. Co.).

What should be on the map? Existing, potential, both? Need ways to distinguish bike, hike, accessibility, etc. PNB suggested keeping the paper map simple and throwing in the finer touches in the on-line version. On-line a potential user could look for a walk downtown with historical interest, a more rustic scramble, a bike route to do errands or to get a workout. Need to bring in Cultural Alliance partners for this part, as the goal is to connect to all kinds of amenities. The BID will also be a partner/resource for this as they act as tourist information in addition to their regular duties. Needs to show access points, bus connections, bike share hubs, access to River, etc. [from Glenn: "However there's also a risk, as one woman pointed out, of making the map too cluttered to be legible. So the challenge is to strike a balance between completeness and readability."]

Glenn Sandberg from ABC spoke about his work on the Albany interactive bicycling map.

Various mapping tools were mentioned and will be investigated further by the committee that was formed to work on the map. These include All Trails.com, Google, GIS, Strava (cycling mapping), and CDTC.MPO trails.

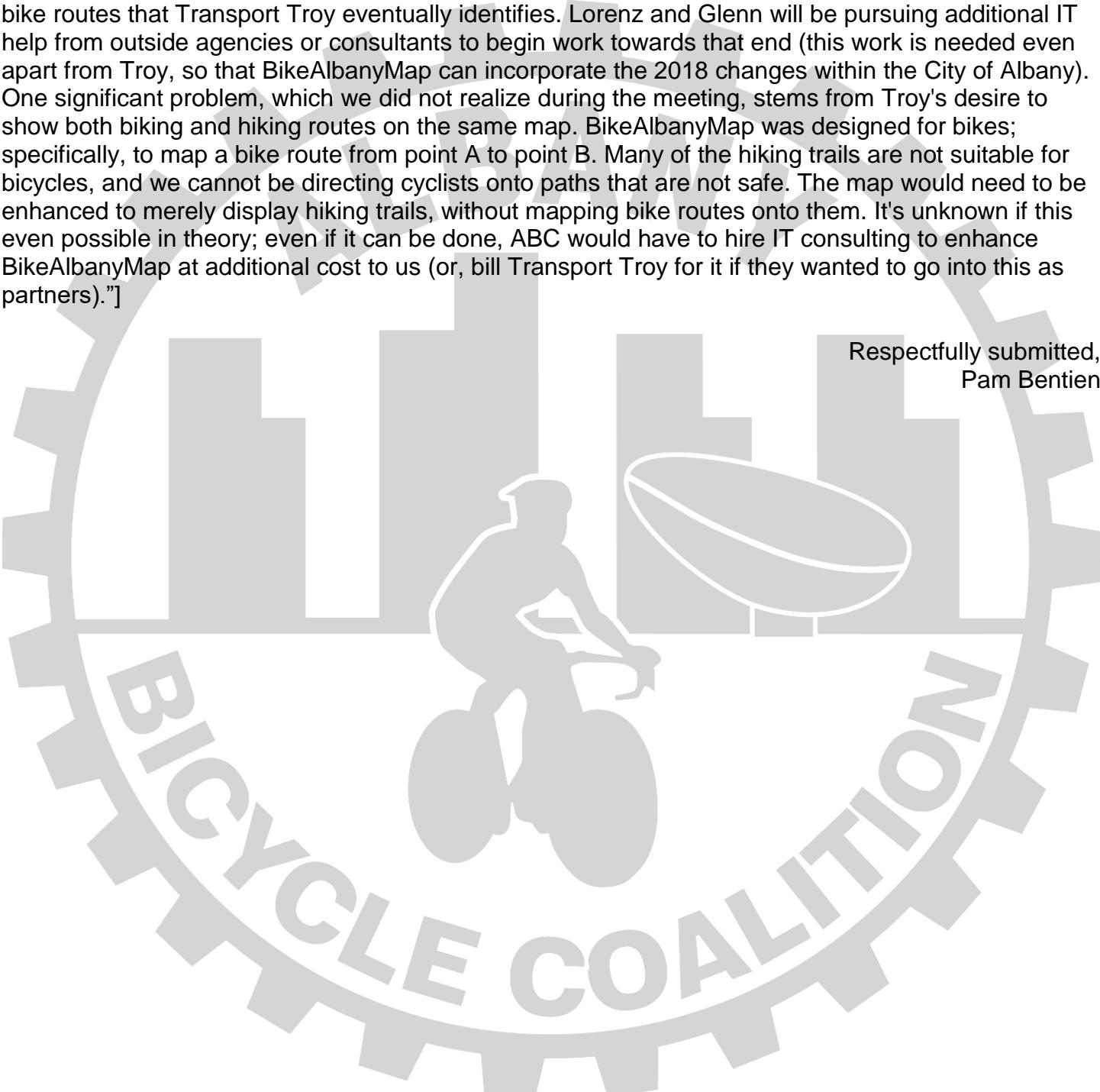
John Johanson (CAC/Staalesen) proposed a timeframe for the work of the committee.

- 1) Collect data and scout trails
- 2) Print results
- 3) Seek public comment, charrette, neighborhood group meetings
- 4) Add final tweaks

5) Complete by late June, July in order to be printed and have available to launch at 2019 Ramble in Sept.

[Glenn notes: "No timeline was discussed re: an online map. Instead, discussion mainly pertained to how routes would be determined, and the required steps towards getting these into a paper map in time for September's Ramble."

Further: "ABC's online BikeAlbanyMap.com could be extended north to Troy, to incorporate whatever bike routes that Transport Troy eventually identifies. Lorenz and Glenn will be pursuing additional IT help from outside agencies or consultants to begin work towards that end (this work is needed even apart from Troy, so that BikeAlbanyMap can incorporate the 2018 changes within the City of Albany). One significant problem, which we did not realize during the meeting, stems from Troy's desire to show both biking and hiking routes on the same map. BikeAlbanyMap was designed for bikes; specifically, to map a bike route from point A to point B. Many of the hiking trails are not suitable for bicycles, and we cannot be directing cyclists onto paths that are not safe. The map would need to be enhanced to merely display hiking trails, without mapping bike routes onto them. It's unknown if this even possible in theory; even if it can be done, ABC would have to hire IT consulting to enhance BikeAlbanyMap at additional cost to us (or, bill Transport Troy for it if they wanted to go into this as partners)."]



Respectfully submitted,
Pam Bentien