



Meeting Notes

Albany Bicycle Coalition Monthly Meeting

3/28/19 7:00 PM

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

C:\Users\Lorenz M. Worden\Documents\Bicycle\Meetings\1-2019\ABC Meeting Notes ~ 3-28-19.doc

Reports –

- **Treasurer's Report** (David P.) – Report rendered. PayPal working well. Roster of paid members circulated.
- **City of Albany Report** (Brad Glass, Dir. Planning) –
 - o **South End Bikeway Connector** is in the final phases of design to be completed by May. Construction scheduled to start in June with completion by the end of the year. (This will ensure that the trail is operational from the Helderberg Hudson Rail Trail to the Albany Riverfront Park.) Some amenities on the under-I-787 linear park will be added in 2020. There will be a curbed median to separate the northbound motor vehicle lane from the two-way cycle track on South Pearl Street. There will be a landscaped buffer from S. Pearl St. to Church St. on the (former) I-787 entrance ramp.
 - o **Albany Bicycle Master Plan** – Funding approved to update the Albany Bicycle Master Plan and to add to it a pedestrian component.
 - o **Bike Count** – The bike count will proceed as in past years but moving the data collection dates to May (from April) and to September (from October) to capitalize on the weather related aspects of bicycling/observing.
- **New York Bicycling Coalition** - is getting “back on track” with its funding and program. It is looking for a part-time, short-term (interim) executive director to manage the return to full program offerings.

Old Business –

- **Transport Troy** (Pam) - Work continues on the map for the Collar City Ramble /Uncle Sam Trail. The next Transport Troy meeting 4/10, Wednesday.
- **Albany-Bethlehem Connector** (Mark) – Regrettably, the Town of Bethlehem did not receive funding for construction on its Delaware Avenue traffic-calming project. However, we will continue developing a safe bicycle connection between Bethlehem and the City of Albany.
- **New Scotland Ave.** (Ed, Others) –
 - o **Manning Boulevard to Whitehall Road** – This project has an estimated 7-year completion horizon. There are three design possibilities. Info here – <https://hospitalareastudy.weebly.com/> Send comments to – AlbanyHospitalAreaTrafficStudy@cmellp.com
 - Parking on both sides with one of the lane of motor vehicle traffic in each direction and *shared bicycle lanes*.
 - Parking on Alternate sides of the street with *shared bicycle lanes*.
 - No parking on New Scotland Ave. but fully developed (“real”) bicycle lanes.
 - o **The Three Intersections** – Manning, Lenox, and Krumkill – could all have different treatments. One possibility is for traffic circles/roundabouts. In two cases, there are land acquisition issues that may preclude this option. An alternative for the Lenox-Buckingham-New Scotland intersection is bumpouts to make the turns closer to 90° to reduce motor vehicle traffic speed. (This intersection is particularly challenging for

people on bicycles heading west on New Scotland Ave. due to the need to move from the right side of the road to the straight lane which is typically filled with high-speed, aggressive petrovehicles.)

- **Major Dwelling/Commercial Building on New Scotland at S. Allen** – Although this project will probably move along, there will be alterations possibly in response to neighborhood concerns about traffic congestion, height, and overall size.
- **Lower New Scotland Business District** – This project is moving along for the area between Quail and Ontario Sts. A major change will be a bump out on Quail St. to reduce motor vehicle speeds coming into New Scotland Ave. and to provide better site lines.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (John G. report via email):
 - *Sidewalk Removal of Snow* – Do the Town of Colonie and City of Albany have guidelines or procedures for proper removal? Is it the responsibility of the homeowner to remove the snow? What happens after 24 or 48 hours after the snow has fallen and the homeowner does not take action? Does the City or Town or Village charge the homeowner?
 - *Bike to School Day is 5/8* – I am following up with the Village to see if someone in the elementary schools would be interested in participating. If so, can a group of volunteers help lead the children from a common place to meet to ride to their respective schools? Other possibilities would be Town of Colonie, Town of Guilderland, and City of Albany etc. Maybe our bike coalition could offer assistance depending on how many volunteers are available as well schools interested.
 - *Complete Streets Advisory Committee* – Bridges have been added to Tier 1 status for sidewalks/bike lanes or 5-foot shoulders under NYSDOT repaving initiative.
 - *Community Planner Forum* meeting the following day (3/13) – This meeting was well attended by CDRPC, planners, and trainers from Region 1. The topics pertained to Planning & Zoning Boards. They are also targeting Town Supervisors, Mayors, etc. Very interesting because I met a lot of new faces and people that are trying to change the way municipal planning is conducted in the Capital Region. Not sure how or what effect I can make.
 - *2019 CDRPC/CDTC Technical Assistance Programs* – Only 3 or 4 projects have been identified for 2019 so far. The grant requires 25% matching by the municipality. The deadline for grant application is 4/16/19.
 - *CDTC Planning Updates* – There is a proposal for a Route 155 Guilderland on which ABC has commented favorably.
 - *Central Avenue LED lighting* is being installed – RPI did a study on different color LEDs to see what the effect or comments would be. According from the Village of Colonie, the LED's will be white.
 - *Next BPAC meeting* is Tue, 4/9, 9:00 AM.
- **Capital Region Complete Streets** (Lorenz) – Supporters meeting scheduled for Thr, 4/4, 5:30 PM.
- **Town of Colonie Complete Streets – Comprehensive Plan** (Hugh, John G.) – From the public meeting hosted by the town, the handouts, and the revised plan, many of our comments pertaining to pedestrian and bicycle safety have been incorporated. ABC will write to Supervisor Mahan and J. LaCivita on creation of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The next public meeting will be on 4/4.
- **MHBHT Roots (David P.)** – Letter to D. McCoy. Sadly, the response from Albany County has been very unhelpful. A meeting with the county exec's designee scheduled for 4/5, 2:00 PM to articulate the problem of the root damage in the hope that we will get some positive response.

- **Flyover-Washington Ave./Fuller Rd.** – (Hugh) DOT sign plan review. In the letter from New York State Department of Transportation, there was an indication of several share-the-road signs to warn motorists about people on bicycles. None of these signs is currently in place (removed? knocked down?) thus requiring our follow-up on that issue. Secondly, the concern remains about crossing the flyover by bicycle with high-speed motor vehicles entering from the on-ramp exiting from Fuller Rd. and from the middle traffic circle. That is, there are two independent stream of motor vehicles trying to enter one on ramp to Washington Avenue Westbound. We again believe that an electronic signal is needed at this location.
- **Earth Day Ride 2019** – (Ed, Hugh, Mark, All) - The ride is scheduled for Saturday, 4/27, 10:00 AM meeting at the Six Mile Park on Fuller Road. The route is eleven miles out-and-back; we look forward to having a successful ride. Hugh contacted the Albany Department of General services in an effort to get the potholes on Rapp Rd. patched before the ride. Members were encouraged to contact Department of General Services separately with the same objective in mind – generalservices@albanyny.gov .
- **Capital Roots Bicycle Racks** (Lorenz) – Submitted our report to Capital Roots for suggested locations for 12+ racks in Arbor Hill, West Hill, South End, and Pine Hills.

New Business –

- **Slow Ride-Albany** (Mark) – Mark provided an overview of the Slow Roll rides hosted by Cleveland, Detroit, Buffalo, and other cities. These are community-engagement rides held once per week in non-winter periods. They involve hundreds or thousands of people on bicycles. We noted that there would be a substantial effort in initiating and continuing such a project. We will continue exploring the possibility of a “Slow Roll Albany.”
- **Bicycle Rides for the Visually Impaired** – Sean proposed procuring tandem bicycles that to offer bicycle trail rides to those with visual impairments. A tandem captain would navigate and would provide a ride for a visually impaired stoker. Sean will meet with the Albany Commissioner of Parks and Recreation to explore this possibility. The question of cost of tandem bicycles was raised. Sean will explore.
- **BikeAlbanyMap** – BAM updated for Helderberg Hudson Rail Trail and Madison Ave. Opalka 5/17 event will feature a BAM “slide show”— a 7-minute PowerPoint on the history and function of BikeAlbanyMap.com. Part of Opalka's “PechaKucha” event. 7:00 PM, Sage College of Albany, 140 New Scotland Ave. <https://opalka.sage.edu/programs-events/>
- **Washington Park** (Ed) – The question arose about conditions in the park (many cars, high speeds, many turns) and how then might be addressed. The possibility of some form of pavement treatment such as embossed “bricks” or redesign of the swooping entrances and intersections that encourage speeding. We also recalled that no response was received from the City of Albany on the 8/16 suggestion to close the road on the west side of the pond to motor vehicles. There was also brief mention of our long-dreamed of complete closure of the park to motor vehicles on one day of each weekend (e.g., Saturday) so that the park could be used as a park. While we recognize that the park will always be (1) a major connector for petrovehicles and (2) a parking lot, there are many low-budget, simple techniques that the City of Albany could implement to make the park accessible and safe.
- **Upcoming Events** – Attendees were encouraged to look at the many events listed in these notes and in the meeting agenda.

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

- **4/4 – Capital Region Complete Streets** – Supporters meeting Thr, 5:30 PM.

- **4/9 – 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.
- **4/26-28 – Canal Clean Sweep** – <https://www.ptny.org/events/canal-clean-sweep>
- **4/27 – Earth Day Ride** – Sat. 10:00 AM, Six-Mile Park, Fuller Rd. (Rain Date – 4/28, Sunday)
- **4/25 – ABC Meeting** – Thr, 7:00 PM, LaSalle School, George E. Hanner Center, 391 Western Ave., Albany <https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/>
- **4/27 – Albany Bike Rescue Workshop** - Sat, 12:00-5:00pm, Honest Weight Food Co-op, outside Patio/Conference Room. Basic (10-15 minute) repairs. Bring your bike for a quick tune up or repair. Refurbished bicycles available for purchase.
- **4/27 – Bike Safety Class with Albany Bike Rescue** – Sat, 5:00-6:00 PM. Honest Weight Food Co-op Community Room. Class and info session on safe cycling practices, basic/at-home maintenance skills, NYS vehicular law as it applies to bicyclists, and sharing quick tips on how to keep your bicycle in safe mechanical order before every ride.
- **5/4 – I Love My Park Day** – <https://www.ptny.org/events/i-love-my-park-day>
- **5/8 – Bike to School** - <http://www.cdtcmpo.org/>
- **5/11 - Troy Bike Rescue Annual Bike Fest** – Sat, 5-8 PM, \$20, Sanctuary for Independent Media, 3361 6th Ave, Troy. <http://troybikerescue.com/>
- **5/14 – 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.
- **5/15 – Ride of Silence** – Two starting points – Albany Riverfront Park-Boat Launch area, 6:00 PM and W. Capitol Park & Washington Ave. & State St., 6:30 PM. <http://www.rideofsilence.org/main.php>
- **5/17 – BikeAlbanyMap at the Opalka Gallery** – A 7-minute PowerPoint on the history and function of BikeAlbanyMap.com. Part of Opalka's "PechaKucha" event. 7:00 PM, Sage College of Albany, 140 New Scotland Ave. <https://opalka.sage.edu/programs-events/>
- **5/17 – Bike to Work** - <http://www.cdtcmpo.org/>
- **5/30 – ABC Meeting** – Thr, 7:00 PM, LaSalle School, George E. Hanner Center, 391 Western Ave., Albany <https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/>
- **7/7-14 Cycle the Erie Canal Bike Tour** - <https://www.ptny.org/cycle-the-erie-canal/annual-bike-tour> Registration now open.

Attending – Pam, Sean, Brad, Ed, Hugh, David P., Mark, and Lorenz.