



Meeting Notes

Albany Bicycle Coalition Monthly Meeting

6/24/21

7:00 PM – via Zoom

In Attendance: Pam, John G., Glenn, Pam, Hugh, Ed and guest John Major of Champlain Canalway Group

Treasurer's Report: David submitted his Treasurer's Reports indicating ABC remains in the black.

Transport Troy Update - Pam submitted the following:

"We met on June 9 via zoom and had 8 in attendance. We are gearing up the Ramble planning. It has been suggested that we move the "big day" earlier in September and add activities on other weekends. No decision yet so stay tuned. Also on the agenda, the Uniting Line artist has been selected from among the finalists and other related projects & activities are under consideration for the area under the Collar City Bridge. The City has plans for other extensive park improvements throughout the city. The "parklet module" is getting used in front of the Independent Living Center but needs signage to explain its concept & get word out to merchants who might be interested in making use of modules in front of their business."

Cycle Schenectady Report – Art Clayman of Cycle Schenectady reported they held the following events:

* Mont Pleasant neighborhood ride on June 12: We had a small turnout of eight people - but a nice ride on a beautiful day. Besides stopping and learning about the new library and some park projects, we were able to ride on some rarities in Schenectady: two legitimate bike lanes, and the only known street in the city with sharrows.

* Juneteenth celebration in Central Park on June 19 - We joined with the bike rescue to give away about 25 bikes (kids' and adults'), fixed some bikes, and had kids ride through cones and test their bike-handling skills in a bike rodeo. Art had a chance to talk with the mayor (bike lanes will come with street repaving, said he), and a city council member.

* Summer Solstice ride on June 21: We rode the bike trail to historic Lock 25, going through the new tunnel in Rotterdam Junction along the way.

In other Cycle Schenectady News:

- Art also spoke to a member of the PD's community engagement unit. They may participate in the bike rodeo Cycle Schenectady plans for on Hamilton Hill on July 31
- Art spoke to reps of the Nubian Empire Ski Club of Albany, a group formed in 2001 to promote participation in winter sports and other seasonal activities by Capital District African Americans. They have a youth development committee as well. They do some off-season bike rides and suggested we explore holding some joint activities.
- Cycle Schenectady has done some cross-publicity for events with ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse. We put their June 25th infrastructure ride on our FB page and website, and they did the same for our Summer Solstice ride.
- Art created a safe streets survey for the 7 city council candidates and 2 county legislature candidates asking opinions on: lower speed limit, weekend closures of Central Park's interior roads to cars, temporary neighborhood street closures, Complete Streets ordinance, bike plan implementation. None opposed what we advocate, and most favored or strongly favored the whole program, including the council president.
- ABC has now updated the CapitalNYBikeMap to include the new section of trail in Rotterdam Junction with the tunnel, and a couple of rides into Scotia that Art gave them. Thanks to Glenn Sandberg for that, and all the work he has done on the map.

Old ABC Business –

Root Damage MHBHT- DOT Repair Project - The work continues and was expected to be completed by July 1st. Ed rode this on Saturday, June 26th. Most was already completed. It appeared another layer of pavement remained to be completed approaching the Watervliet terminus. Moreover, it appears to have been paved the whole length from the Albany City Line to Watervliet.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee CDTC June Meeting was attended by John G. - John reported:

* it was noted the Zim Smith has 25 mph speed limit signage - perhaps leftover from snowmobiles. This has caused some confusion for cyclists.

* A Smart Cities Toolbox is being developed

* CDTC Ditch the cars campaign kicked off. Running thru October.

<https://www.cdtcmopo.org/news/latest-news/510-cdtc-s-ditch-the-car-challenge-is->

[on?highlight=WyJkaXRjaCIsInRoZSIslmNhciIsImRpdGNoIHRoZSIslmRpdGNoIHRoZSBJYXliLCJ0aGUgY2FyI0=](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzuGJLwayTE)

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* CDTC announced webinars on complete streets.

<https://www.cdtcmpo.org/news/latest-news/506-cdtc-announces-complete-streets-webinar-series?highlight=WyJjb21wbGV0ZSIslmN0cmVldHMiLCJ3ZWJpbmFyliwiY29tcGxldGUqc3RyZWV0cylsImNvbXBsZXRIIHN0cmVldHMqd2ViaW5hcilsInN0cmVldHMqd2ViaW5hcJd>

Upcoming Webinars:

Tuesday, July 13 at 3:30 - 5:00 pm: Complete Streets Demonstration Projects

Tuesday, August 17 at 3:30 - 5:00 pm: Open Streets

* CDPHP is expanding bikes to Warren County with 25 bikes and growing the whole program from 350 to 500 bikes.

* Saratoga Springs Biketoga announced they are holding Slow Rolls on Sundays.

* Next CDTC BPAC meeting Tuesday July 13th 9am

Transportation Projects

South End Connector – Ed attended the meeting on under 787 section improvements. The current proposal will provide:

* Better connections to South End Streets with signage.

* Improved foliage.

* Three developed sections: one area with basketball courts and small cycling course for youngsters, a second area for seating and tables for chess/checkers a third area with exercise stations for pullups, dips, etc.

* More decorative fencing by the railway

* Funding for art work will be sought next year

Washington Park / Center Square Study- awaiting announcements from the City.

Rapp Rd. Campaign Coordinator – Hugh is still trying to contact different persons. An official roadway right-of-way is essential to further discussion.

Keeler Proposal (John) – will follow up with town engineer Zach Harrison. Zach is supposed to be keeping John in the loop

Patroon Greenway Project (Ed) – Contractor is selected. Initial meeting for the Citizen Advisory Committee will be July 12th. Ed will attend.

Rides

Slow Roll Rides – We are going to try to do two rides:

- * Arbor/West Hill. Tentatively Scheduled for August 15th. Ed and Glenn have ridden the proposed route that will highlight several gems in those neighborhoods: the Meyers Residence, Arbor Hill Park, Tivoli Preserve, Bleeker Stadium, Swinburne Park, Arbor Hill Library.
- * Libraries Ride - between two or three branches in conjunction with Library. Glenn is working with his contact at the Libraries.

Daily Grind Ride – Rescheduled for August 21

New Business –

Champlain Canal Trail North of Upper Newtown Rd – John Major of the Champlain Canalway group explained how the contractor ran into considerable wetlands/water issues on the section north of Upper Newtown Road. DEC and the Army Corp of Engineers would not approve rebuilding the towpath trail, which is currently underwater. Funding and planning will be needed for bridging this section.

Twin-City Bike Ride Update – John is still working on planning with Art at Cycle Schenectady

Bike Map Updates – Glenn reported he extended the map to Pattersonville, added routes to Scotia and the Champlain Canal to Mechanicville & beginning of Zim Smith Trail. Glenn will be adding more in Scotia, exploring an addition from Renns to HVCC, and definitely adding Zim Smith and perhaps the Ballston Veteran's Trail.

Delmar Traffic Calming Referendum – Referendum is to be held in conjunction with the November election. We are trying to arrange a speaker from the Bethlehem Bike Ped Committee for our next ABC Meeting. See their website at
<https://www.bethlehemcommunitystreets.org/>

Resuming In-person Meetings and perhaps Hybrid Meetings is still being explored.

ABC TV! - We are exploring doing a monthly 30 minute Public Access Cable TV program that we can record and post on an ABC YouTube Channel

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

Meeting Dates – ABC meets the last [not the 4th] Thursday of each month unless there is a conflicting holiday. Upcoming dates are as follows: 7/29, 8/26, 9/30, 10/28, 11/18 (not 11/25), and 12/30.

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