

Meeting Notes

Albany Bicycle Coalition Monthly Meeting 9/30/21

On Thursday, September 30th, Albany Bicycle Coalition held a hybrid In Person/Zoom Meeting.

In attendance: Lorenz Worden, Hugh Johnson, Mark Maniak, Leah Golby, Pam Bentien, John Gillivan, Jerry Finin and Larry Ruff.

- **Treasurer's Report** - Dave e-mailed in his Treasurer's Report demonstrating our continued financial viability.
- **Transport Troy Update** - Pam reported that
 - In lieu of their September meeting, Transport Troy members attended the unveiling of plans for 1 Monument Square. To view that event, see <https://youtu.be/1YwGVU4BG6U>
 - This year's Collar City Ramble events were spread out over three weekends in September, which allowed Pam to participate in the 9/18 bike ride which highlighted libraries. All the events she knew of reported "good attendance". They had slightly more participants this year for the kayaking event which follows a consistent climbing trend
- **Cycle Schenectady Report** – Art Clayman of Cycle Schenectady reported:
 - they had a successful Hamilton Hill Neighborhood ride on Sept. 11th with City Councilwoman Marion Porterfield serving as tour guide for a group of 12.
 - They teamed up with Electric City Bike Rescue in Central Park on September 25th for bike repairs and a bike rodeo at a NAACP Fall Festival.
 - Art planned to participate in a Zoom meeting sponsored by Metroplex to discuss signage on trails in the city with a focus on the so-called Central Park-downtown connector. The connector is an off-road Greenway that was created five years ago and still has nary a sign.
 - Their board meeting decided to pursue a couple of ideas:
 - a one-mile designated loop in Central Park for peds and cyclists that would include creating a separate path along a busy road when it is repaved.
 - a bike corral sponsored, and perhaps manned, by CS volunteers at the heavily visited Sunday Schenectady Greenmarket.
 - They will continue partnering with the bike rescue to give away bikes to kids. Last month they received a sizable donation to help do that.

- They also talked about pursuing a CDTC mini-grant to either:
 - buy reflective vests with our logo for handing out with the above-mentioned bikes; or
 - collect data at dangerous intersections with which to make the case for signs, crossings, or other infrastructure changes.

Old Business –

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee CDTC August Meeting** - John reported:
 - Jeff Olson - who was with DOT, ALTA and worked in an advisory capacity to the White House was guest speaker on micro-mobility, especially e-bikes
 - he is working with private concern on wireless charging (see: www.recharge-e.com)
 - he lamented lack of micro-mobility support in federal infrastructure bill (apart from a 30% tax credit)
 - he agreed bikes faster than 20 mph don't belong on multiuse paths
 - he noted the NYC answer to dangerous speeds of e-bikes was to limit all traffic to 25mph

In other news, CDTC reported:

- "Share the Road" signs being eliminated to be replaced by "Bike in Lane" signs. "Dismount at intersection" signs for cyclists are also on the way out.
- They are soliciting for "TIP" capital project proposals - due Nov. 5th. There was TIP Workshop on Sept 24th that is probably on the CDTC YouTube Channel
- The Ditch the Car promotion (in lieu of the "Bike to Work" campaign) ends October 8th
- They are accepting Technical Assistance Grants thru 12/1/21 - email techassist@CDRPC.org or call 518-458-2161

- New Visions Virtual Learning Series has variety of Webinars - including Complete Streets available
<https://www.cdtcmo.org/news/nv-webinars>
- CDPHP Cycle! reports a record year and still going - citing SUNY usage and expansion to Warren Cty
- Expect “Scoot” Scooter program to kick off in the Spring – they are just doing pop-up demos for now.
- They reported an “Albany County Loop Trail Feasibility Study” has a \$30,000 grant with date noted for Feb 2023
- **Transportation Projects**
 - **Rapp Rd. Repaving** - Repaving is completed. Shoulders generally appears to be a bit wider with some choke points. There is a painted fog line. At this point it appears all there is to do is push for a lower posted speed limit and cautionary signage for cyclists ("Bike in Lane", Sharrows) and for pedestrians.
 - **Keeler Proposal** - John G. reports this proposal from Keeler has been withdrawn
 - **Patroon Greenway Project** - Ed reported they have selected a public liaison who will be introduced in the October Advisory Committee Meeting
 - **South End Connector Safety Enhancements** Mark – reported that he participated in the LocalXDesign South End Connector Ride along with Glenn, Pam and Ed. They were able to discuss the safety issues we have been pursuing with the group which included representatives of Creighton Manning and the Albany City Planning Office. We believe we made our concerns understood, though any possibility for changes seemed likely to be in the long term.
- **Rides**
 - **Slow Roll Rides**
 - Library Ride Completed! – Ed reported we successfully held our Bike the Branches ride in cooperation with the Albany Public Libraries. Though attendance was modest, ABC was very well represented. We all enjoyed a fun, trouble free ride on a beautiful Fall Day. We agreed that next year we would try to do the ride in May rather than September when everyone was trying to squeeze in their last summer activities.
 - **Daily Grind Ride** - the group decided to schedule our ride October 16th. We will meet at the Albany Daily Grind at 204 Lark Street at 9:30am and ride together to the Troy Daily Grind.
 - **Cycle! United Ride** - Ed reported CDPHP Cycle! is postponing this event til the Spring
 - **Halloween Albany Rural Cemetery Ride** - John G is scheduling this event for Halloween morning, October 31st. He will share details on where to meet.

New Business –

- **Albany County Helmet Proposal for E-Bikes and Scooters** - New York Bicycle Coalition Board President, Leah Golby reported this proposed County Law was put up for discussion last week at the County Zoom Meeting. There were no speakers for or

against at the County Zoom session. Leah will follow up to see where the proposed law is in the legislative process.

- While recommending cyclists wear helmets, Leah explained opposition to the mandatory helmet law is based on the likelihood that it would dissuade many people from using e-bikes and the difficulty in determining what is and isn't an e-bike invited unnecessary policing of cyclists and perhaps instances of selective enforcement against persons of color.
- To see the proposed text,
see: <https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument/16796>
- **LaSalle School Bike Initiative** - Jerry Finin and Larry Ruff joined our meeting and shared how they have been holding rides with young men at LaSalle using a collection of bicycles they have been repairing. They explained how our ABC donations to LaSalle had already been used to purchase bike helmets. They explained how great these rides were for the young men. We agreed that we would let each other know about future rides in hopes that we could assist in rides or that they and LaSalle students might join in some of our ABC rides.
- **Delmar Traffic Calming Referendum** - Ed reported the group fighting for Traffic Calming from the Normanskill Bridge to Elsmere Avenue is contending with an entrenched group of business people that is fighting the proposal. We encourage ABC friends to visit their website: <https://www.bethlehemcommunitystreets.org>.
 - They are looking for:
 - donations for signs / palm cards / etc
 - residents of Bethlehem to post signs
 - Facebook / Instagram users to reply to or share their posts to boost their presence
 - An excellent essay endorsing the project and written by ABC's former President, Lorenz Worden, appeared in the Perspective Section of the Albany Times Union on Thursday, October 7th. More such letters and commentary to our media are encouraged!
- **Twin-City Bike Ride Update** – John G. reported this ride will be postponed until next year.
- **Candidates Questionnaire** - Ed shared questions collected to ask Albany City Mayoral and City Council candidates. The questions will be refined by the group and delivered to candidates in the next week or two.

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: 10/28, 11/18 (not 11/25), and 12/30.