

Albany Bicycle Coalition December 2021 Meeting Notes

On Thursday, December 30th, Albany Bicycle Coalition held a hybrid In Person/Zoom Meeting. In attendance were Special Guests Janette Kaddo Marino of Bikeatoga, Art Clayman of Cycle Schenectady and Isaac Silberman-Gorn of Troy Bike Rescue. Also in attendance were Lorenz Worden, John Gillivan, Margaret Carle, Rob Carle, David Pisaneschi, Mark Maniak, Zachary Simpson, Vince Chirico and Ed Brennan.

- **Special Topic - Mayhem on the Roadways -**

- The discussion centered around progress on the joint statement of ABC, Bikeatoga, Cycle Schenectady and Transport Troy to the marked increase in deaths and injuries to cyclists and pedestrians.
- Isaac Silberman-Gorn offered that depending upon the audience, the length and content should vary considerably and one statement would not do for all needs
- Ed Brennan pointed out the statewide effort for the Crash Victims Rights and Safety Act (CVRSA), a collection of bills which addresses the issues of speed and complete streets and encouraged all in attendance to show their support (see bill information below)
- It was decided that Mr. Silberman-Gore's comments and the late arriving suggested changes from Mr. Rath, who was unable to attend, required further discussion at another meeting.

- **Special Topic - Capitaland Spoketacular**

- Ed summarized the progress on the proposed Spoketacular.
- We have a proposed pitch and a plan of action
- We are looking to those with experience in PR and communications for feedback on the pitch and suggestions for introducing the Spoketacular to our target partners
- Ed reached out to a local communications professional and also a contact at Discover Albany who said it would be discussed at their next meeting in January
- We have reached out to NYBC (no update)
- We have reached out to PTNY for their experience and thoughts on trail capacity and scheduling (no reply as yet)

Reports

- **Treasurer's Report** - David P. reported that finances were in good shape. Membership was pretty much in line with prior years and the end of year call for donations was very successful.
- **Transport Troy Update** - Pam reported there was not a December meeting for Transport Troy.
- **Cycle Schenectady Report** – Art Clayman was present to report on the activities of Cycle Schenectady.
 - On December 15th they held their first-ever all-member meeting, which included a first-ever board election. They now have an elected nine-member board that includes two women and two blacks, and a good mix of ages: young, middle-age, and those on the elderly side.
 - They submitted their official comments on the Schenectady County Comprehensive Wayfinding Plan commissioned by Metroplex and the county, and drafted by consultant 2K Design, by the Dec. 31 public comment deadline. They like the plan a lot, but made various suggestions to improve it, including adding a reference or link to the ABC CapitalNYBikeMap.
 - They learned from the mayor, at a neighborhood association meeting with Central Park as its subject, that the city will be replacing the public pool in the park because it no longer meets code using federal American Recovery Act money. The mayor said they also planned to create trails and multi-use paths in the park and roads leading to it, with the aim of making it easier and safer for peds and bicyclists to get to the new pool. We will seek to be involved in locating and designing those trails and paths.
 - After New Year's, Cycle Schenectady will meet with representatives of the Schenectady Greenmarket to talk about bike racks, bike corrals, discounts, and other steps to encourage and make it easier for people to come to this farmers' market by bike.
 - President Art Clayman had a number of communications with the police chief, DA and mayor concerning the cyclist killed in a crash in downtown Schenectady in mid-November. First was a letter he wrote two weeks after the crash asking why the investigation was taking so long, why the driver hadn't been charged in what was apparently a hit-and-run, and whether and when the details and results of the investigation would be made public.
 - A PD deputy responded immediately, apologizing for not being able to supply more info because it was still an "open investigation," but suggesting (what else is new?) that blame lay mostly with the cyclist. DA wound up concluding the same and sent Art an email in mid-December to that effect. DA said that, although he had some remaining questions for the police, not to expect charges due to the "unique circumstances" in this case. He

promised, once he got answers to his questions and the final autopsy report, to be as transparent as ethical considerations allow.

- Art responded with another letter after The Daily Gazette ran a story quoting the PD's public info officer about the special circumstances of the case. They were: **driver was in a van pulling a trailer. Driver was starting up after stopping at a light. Cyclist, riding against traffic alongside the trailer, grabbed hold of the trailer, locked his front wheel, was pulled under the trailer and killed.** Art said in his letter that, because drivers are so rarely held accountable when they injure or even kill cyclists, advocates are understandably cynical about justice being served in these cases. But he conceded that, thanks to the trailer, it was possible to believe this time that the driver really didn't know he'd hit anyone and it therefore wasn't a hit and run.
- On Monday of this week, Art wrote another letter to the police chief asking to see the full police report of the crash and the investigation. Tuesday he got a response from the chief suggesting they meet in his office after the new year and discuss. We shall see what he has to say, but Cycle Schdy wants to see the full report and investigation and is prepared to FOIL them if necessary. We will also use this incident, and other crashes in the region recently, to try to get the PD to give their officers special training in responding to and investigating crashes involving cyclists.

- **CDTC Bike Ped Committee November Meeting** - John Gillivan reported the last meeting highlighted
 - A presentation on the aforementioned Schdy County Comprehensive Wayfinding Plan
 - A presentation by the Institute for Traffic Safety Research. They offer services for local agencies seeking to reduce accidents in NYS communities
 - There were 92 "TIP" proposals will be evaluated for next couple of years
 - Village of Colonie submitted a UPWP application for a Sand Creek Road Study
 - Next meeting will be Tuesday Jan 11th at 9am
- **Old Business –**
 - **Transportation Projects**
 - **Patroon Greenway Project**

- Ed reported comments on the working draft of the proposed trail alignments were due 12/15
 - Over the next two months the consultant will be evaluating the trail alignment alternatives for the Patroon Creek Greenway. This analysis will include coordination with property owners as well as an in-depth evaluation of each alternative's connectivity, equitable access, cost, environmental impacts, and engineering constraints.
- **South End Connector Safety Enhancements**
 - Mark reported the glass on the connector hasn't been all that bad - been being cleaned by the City with some regularity
 - Has been salted under 787 - but not on the open area along 787
- **South End Connector Ambassadors** - Ed reported Hugh is looking for trail ambassadors to help with clean-up along the trail
- **Rides**
 - **Earth Day 2022** - Ed asked all to put on their thinking caps for ideas for our 2022 Earth Day Ride. COVID permitting, this will be our first ride of 2022.
- **New Business –**
 - **End of Year Membership / Donation Campaign / Swag** -
 - We discussed options for swag to reward our "Century" and "Long Haul" donors.
 - Ed found a couple of sites that offered things like logo'd water bottles and tire levers. Minimum orders were required - an up front investment rivaling our large donations.
 - Vince suggested <https://www.redbubble.com/>
 - Mark and others offered to look into other options
 - **ABC TV** - Ed and Glenn visited the Albany Spectrum Public Access TV studio. They were not comfortable with the state of COVID precautions at the site. Both he and Glenn now have a couple of GoPro's that they can use for their own field and interview videos. Ed demonstrated how Zoom could also be used for group commentary of field videos. We are going to see what we can do ourselves to create YouTube content.
 - **NYBC Membership** - It was agreed that we would submit \$75 for ABC's NYBC membership. David P. and Lorenz had this done by the end of the meeting.
- **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: 1/27, 2/24, 3/31.

+++++

The Crash Victim Rights and Safety Act Incorporates the following Bills:

Bill	Sen Spon.	Sen #	Ass Spon.	Ass #	Description
<i>Sammy's Law (25 mph NYC)</i>	Hoylman	S524	Gottfried	A4655	Would allow NYC to lower its speed limit below 25 mph given rise in speeding, without traffic calming measures. It will allow NYC to set a designated speed limit for deliveries and local vehicles on its new Open Streets. "Sammy's Law" is named after Samuel Cohen Eckstein, a 12 year-old who was killed in 2013 and introduced on what would have been his 20th birthday.
<i>Speed Limit to 25 MPH (statewide auth.)</i>	May	S02021	Paulin	A01007	Authorizes cities, villages and towns to reduce the speed limit to twenty-five miles per hour.
<i>Complete Streets</i>	Kennedy	S3897			Increases state funding for construction and improvement by the department of transportation where the municipality agrees to fund a complete street design feature as a component of the

					project. (more preference for this one because it includes funding requirements)
<i>Complete Streets Maintenance</i>	Kennedy	S5130	Rivera	A7782	To include, when possible, complete street design features in resurfacing, maintenance and pavement recycling projects and further enable safe access to public roads for all users.
<i>Safe Passage</i>	Harckman	S4529	Steck	A547	Would require a vehicle driver to pass a bicyclist with no less than three feet distance. 33 states and the District of Columbia have passed safe passage laws. Would amend the current vague unenforced “safe distance” standard.
<i>DMV Pre-Licensing Course</i>	Gounardes	S1078A	Gallagher	A5084/7032	Would require instruction in pedestrian and bicyclist safety as part of the drivers pre-licensing course to educate prospective licensees on how to safely pass a bicyclist on the road, their use of bicycle lanes and the danger that operating large multi-ton vehicles poses to bicyclists,

					pedestrians and other vulnerable road users.
<i>Crash Victim Bill of Rights</i>				Glick	Would enact rights for traffic crash victims in related legal proceedings similar to the federal Crime Victims' Rights Act, incl. the right to timely crash reports, attending hearings and submitting impact statements. It would also require the State of NY to produce a report to the State Legislature with data about the current crash victim compensation and support, like no-fault insurance and private insurance, to inform the need for adequate victim support.