

Albany Bicycle Coalition Monthly Meeting Notes June 30, 2022

Attendees: Dennis Gaffney, Andrew Matrai, Chester Bennett, Pam Bentien, Albany Council Member Deborah Zamer, David Pisaneschi, Mark Maniak, Ed Brennan

Special Topic - Mayhem on the Roadways -

- Ed noted the Times Union report that Schenectady and Albany were found to be the 2nd and 12th most dangerous places nationally for pedestrians based on driver's failure to yield to pedestrians
- Ed reported that three Crash Victims Rights and Safety Act bills were awaiting Governor Hochul's Signature:
 - Statewide Speed Limit - Authorizes cities, villages and towns (outside NYC) to reduce the speed limit to twenty-five miles per hour (S02021/A01007).
 - Complete Streets Funding - Increases state funding where the municipality agrees to fund a complete street design feature(S3897/A8936).
 - DMV Pre-Licensing Course - Educates NY drivers about safely interacting with vulnerable road users (S1078A/A5084).
- Friends of cycling are encouraged to contact the Governor's office to encourage her to sign these bills. This can be done on the web, by phone or in writing as follows:
 - <https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>
 - 1-518-474-8390 | Office hours: 9:00am to 5:00pm
 - The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224
- Legislation Recommendations for Next Session included:
 - Reintroducing the five CVRSA bills that did not pass this session: (1) three foot passing law, (2) Complete Streets Approach for All Road Maintenance, (3) Complete Streets Approach for all State funded road projects, (4) rights for crash victims to police reports and participation in court and administrative hearings and (5) lower speed limit for NYC
 - Ed suggested resurrecting the Creto-Kade Bill that had been supported by a motorcycle organization called ABATE. The bill had once passed the Senate. It would insure at least a separate misdemeanor charge for anyone that seriously injures a vulnerable road user while disobeying another traffic law.

- Ed also suggested that hit-and-run law be amended so that it would be a felony and not just a misdemeanor anytime someone fled the scene of a collision where a vulnerable road user was struck on the theory that motorists should always assume serious bodily injury to vulnerable road users.
- Mark suggested the NY laws should be changed to force vehicles to always stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk. In other states the driver must stop - NY is unclear.

Special Topic - Post Legislation Local Efforts

- Push 25 MPH Speed Limits Locally -
 - Ed noted that Schenectady Common Council is ready to pursue a 25mph speed limit there as soon as the Governor signs the associated bill. This was reported earlier in the week by the TU.
 - Albany Council Member Deborah Zamer (14th Ward) reported she is drafting an ordinance for 25mph for Albany and is looking for support. She has already spoken with Traffic Engineering and our Treasurer. She said there may be some delays in implementation due to the City's lack of staff and the lack of steel for signs. She also noted that some primary roads may be selected to stay at a higher speed. We remarked that some of those primary roads, most notably Central Avenue were our most deadly and in need of the lower speed limit.
 - Ed cited the following information in support of the lower speed limits:
 - Per the National Transportation Safety Board
 - - if a pedestrian is hit by a motor vehicle at 40mph the pedestrian dies 85% of the time.
 - - if a pedestrian is hit by a motor vehicle at 30mph the pedestrian dies 45% of the time.
 - - if a pedestrian is hit by a motor vehicle at 20mph the pedestrian dies 5% of the time.
 - After New York City lowered its speed limit to 25 mph last year, traffic fatalities fell by more than 22 percent, per Transportation Alternatives. Pedestrian fatalities fell by more than 25 percent (reported in TU).
 - "Lower speed limits make everyone drive slower, including people who disobey the limit," the study says. "Both Boston and Portland found that after lowering speed limits, those who exceeded the

speed limit responded by reducing their driving speeds. The most dangerous drivers, those driving over 35 mph, saw the biggest reduction in speeds.” (reported in TU)

- Seattle lowered speed limits, didn't change the road - but increased the density of signage showing the lower speed limits and their data shows up to 39% less crashes. (reported by Seattle DOT)
- Ed said we also need to encourage Albany to take advantage of the Complete Streets Funding Law once it is signed by the Governor. With 87% of Complete Streets aspects of road projects funded by the state, Albany should make funding projects to implement the Albany Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan a regular part of the City Annual Budget.
- Strategies to pursue the 25mph and Complete Streets efforts might include:
 - City Council Letters & Appearances. It was noted that in addition to Member Zamer's support, Mr. Flynn, Ms. Romero, Mr. Owusu and Mr. Hoey sponsored the resolution in March in favor of the CVRSA
 - Appearances at Neighborhood Associations Meetings
 - Letters to the Editor
 - ABC Web Blog
 - Appeals to other organizational allies such as Walkable Albany and PTA's.

Reports

- **Treasurer's Report** - David reported donations were flat for the summer, but we still had more than adequate funds in our account. David cited the economic doldrums for possible reason for donors pulling back. It was suggested that we go back to “passing the hat” at the end of our free rides. Mark suggested we might conduct an appeal letter in Fall. We are working on a t-shirts sales plan (see below).
- **Transport Troy Update** Pam reported Transport Troy is assessing its goals and means of meeting them and is planning a meeting in July to address options for moving forward or reorganizing.
- **Bikeatoga Report** - Ed Lindner reported
 - He'd spoken to 3 of our 5 council members about 25 mph and thinks they have an excellent chance of lowering speed limits in Saratoga when the bill becomes law.
 - Their main focus this summer is working to get bike/ped infra money in the 2023 budget. So, lots of meetings, but nothing to report on that just yet.

- They can report that Bikeatoga was just awarded \$6k from the Saratoga County Covid Relief fund, which will be a huge help keeping the shop going.
- **Capital Motion** - It was unclear what the status of this organization was but they were scheduled to be conducting the following Friday, July 1 at Schenectady Mohawk Harbor as part of the Albany Symphony Trailblaze Event:
 - 4:30pm - Free bike safety clinic with Capital Motion
 - 5:00pm - Free guided group ride with Capital Motion (3.6 miles round trip)
- **CDTC Bike Ped Committee 6/14/22 Meeting** - Ed reported:
 - Binghamton MTO discussed their Two Rivers Greenway Trail Maintenance Report (available on their website)
 - 11 miles were built out and they were building 2.5 miles more
 - Mapping and maintenance reporting was done with ArcGIS (same as the upcoming version of our CapitalNYBikeMap.com)
 - Separate gradings were created for pavement and “maintenance”
 - The Trail Maintenance Report would be updated at regular intervals
 - They had nothing in writing to commit municipalities to actually do maintenance. Work was mostly driven by public complaints. They are hoping regular maintenance reporting will drive future improvements
 - Bike to Work was down from 2019, one new school participated in Bike-Walk to School
 - Ditch the Car launched again this year on June 4th. Sign up at: www.cdtcmpo.org/DitchTheCar
 - June 27 - Aug 12 TIP Public Comment Period, see: www.cdtcmpo.org/2022tip (list on draft proposed tip and how to get involved/comment)
 - \$8.232 million available in bike ped investments (beyond “preservation”)
 - CDTC is accepting COEXIST grant requests (demo projects)
 - \$5000 for LCI training
 - \$15000 for PD sponsored safety training
 - CDTC also has fund for “Tech Assistance” for smaller projects
 - There may be new Federal funding from the bipartisan infrastructure law - www.cdtcmpo.org/BIL, of particular note is Safe Streets and Roads for All - this is out there now with grants being accepted now thru 9/15/22
 - Now that Mr. Andy Beers has retired, the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation will be taking over most of the management of the Empire State Trail. Parks and Trails also has some role, though the delineation of responsibilities is unclear.

Old Business –

- **Transportation Projects**
 - **Patroon Greenway Project Final Report** - The final report due 6/30/22. Last checked, only Draft Final Report was online - see <https://www.patroongreenway.com/>
 - **Ann Lee Trail Sys - MHBHT Connector** - Ed reported on exploration of a Sicker Road to Buhrmaster Road option to get from Ann Lee Trail System to Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail. Tax maps show nearly all the property for this connection is owned by the Airport, County or Town. There is currently access to the MHBHT from where Buhrmaster meets River Road. The last parcel along Buhrmaster is privately owned.
- **South End Connector** - Hugh got a call from Karen L. at DOT. She says the DOT has started working on the conduit project on the South End Connector that will hopefully minimize runoff and glass buildup.
- **CapitalNYBikeMap.com Conversion Update** - Ed noted Glenn is working on converting the map from one running on Carto software to one running on ARCGIS. Carto did finally extend our grant to use their software for a year extending the conversion deadline.

New Business –

- **T-Shirts** Lorenz reported:
 - We have a local vendor.
 - We will offer cotton Ts (same as current shirts) as well as performance material (John G's suggestion)
 - We will gift our major donors a performance shirt.
 - We will invite the ABC RiseUp list to buy shirts. They will have to (1) pay via David P. and (2) give number and size specs via albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com
 - David P. will work on creating a separate paypal payment link for the shirts so it isn't confused with our donation link
 - ABC will make a small profit on each shirt
 - Basic Cotton T-shirt proposed price: \$18.00 (what we wear now)
 - Performance material T-shirt proposed price: \$26.00

- **Rides**

- **Albany Bike to Work Day** - Ed Reported the following from the City Sponsored Ride :
 - perhaps 3 dozen people, media coverage by News 10, inter alia
 - Mayor Sheehan was complimentary of ABC, saying she was looking forward to hearing our infrastructure recommendations
 - Ed spoke to the glories of the new Skyway, but said what we really need is for the Skyway to be the the start of a Bike Ped Network as described in the Bike Ped Master Plan, with the Skyway being:
 - The East End of the Patroon Creek Greenway,
 - Connecting 2 blocks up to existing Clinton Ave bike lanes an
 - Connecting West on Broadway to existing bike lanes at Loudon Road and Menands
- **Beer and Barges Ride** - Ed reported this ride sponsored by the Erie Canal Museum had about 2 dozen riders. The cost was \$20 and concluded with 1 free beer at C.H. Evans Brewing. Ed passed out ABC cards and stickers & made some contacts for a possible joint history oriented ride in the Fall.
- **Champlain Canalway Cycling Carnival/Bike Safety Day** - John Gillivan was unable to attend the meeting, but reported that he is looking for volunteers to help with two Bike Safety Days:
 - Village of Colonie Centennial Celebration/Bike Rodeo at Cook Park on Saturday, July 16th, 2022 from 12:00 to 5:00 PM. Need volunteers for ABC table and bike rodeo.
 - Champlain Canalway Cycling Carnival at Hudson Crossing Park on Sunday, August 7th, 2022 from 12:00 to 4:00 PM.
- **Slow Rides for 2022** - Ed is still looking for suggestions for an additional slow ride this summer. Options discussed, but not decided upon included:
 - A Patroon Creek Ride - to support action on the Final Patroon Creek Report
 - YWCA/Troy Ride - we discussed this might be done in conjunction with the Troy Ramble
 - Capital Corruption Ride - Ed is working on a possible history oriented ride in downtown Albany featuring discussions of governmental corruption in the 60's and '70's. Ed has been in discussion with interested partners for this ride which is proposed for the Fall Hudson Valley Ramble series.
- **Daily Grind Ride** - August 13th has been proposed as the date for this annual ride - e-mail albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com about conflicts.
- **Membership Outreach/Tabling**
 - **Tabling** Ed reported:

- He and Lorenz had a successful tabling at the Delaware Neighborhood Farmer's Market. They made several contacts with local cyclists despite the rain.
- Next tabling is during the Live at Five - Reggae Night - July 21st. Ed and Glenn are scheduled. We are looking for an additional volunteer.
- **Local Cycling Fact Sheet** Lorenz reported
 - The fact sheet we hand out at events is out of date
 - New draft was e-mailed out to the Core Group.
 - Please review the draft and let Lorenz know of any corrections or suggestions by Wednesday, July 8
 - A major change is adding Cycle Schenectady, BikeShare, Bikeatoga, and Transport Troy.
- **Business Card Redesign** - there have been no objections to changing to from the cycle shaped round format to a typical business card format
- **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: 7/28, 8/25, 9/29

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