

Albany Bicycle Coalition Monthly Meeting Notes for August 25, 2022

In Attendance: Mark Maniak, Chester Bennet, Jeff Wager, Shawn Newton, Erica Schneider, Glenn Sandberg, Pam Bentien, Leah Golby, Lorenz Worden, David Pisaneschi, Hugh Johnson and Ed Brennan

Special Topic - Mayhem on the Roadways - Crash Victims Rights and Safety Act - Update on Bill Status

- Gov. Hochul Signed Into Law Education Requirement for New Drivers About Bikes and Peds on the Road
- Gov. Hochul Signed into Law Bill Allowing Municipalities to Lower Speed Limits to 25 MPH
- Local Assembly Member Pat Fahy's Complete Streets Bill Status Update - Bill Passed, But Not Signed by Governor. Safe Streets Coalition still wants to push signing for this year. We need letters to Hochul and TU emphasizing why this can't wait - for instance:
 - People are still dying at accelerated rate
 - Fed monies are available now that can be combined with the Fahy law funds - Fed monies that may not be available in years to come
- Gov. Hochul Signed Hit and Run Bill - raised fines for those found guilty
- Legislation Recommendations for Next Session - our proposals were submitted to Safe Streets Coalition
 - There was some interest crosswalk bill along the lines of Jersey's "stop and stay stopped" for peds in crosswalk law
 - Otherwise, they were not enthusiastic about pushing for punitive legislation (Such as Creto - Kade and additional Hit and Run laws)
 - Will change slate of bills next year to Streets Are For Everyone Act (SAFE STREETS ACT)
 - In keeping with SAFE theme, they don't want to push Idaho stop and removal of jaywalking statutes this year as this opens the slate up to criticism from those that see these activities as unsafe and will regard arguments that they actually promote safety with skepticism

Special Topic - Local Legislation Update

- Push For 25 MPH Speed Limits Locally
 - At the September 8th Common Council Meeting Deborah Zamer planned to introduce ordinance for 25mph in Albany. This was expected to be assigned to the Public Safety Committee.

- Updating Albany's Archaic Bike Ordinances. ABC Comments and Suggestions from our July Meeting Were Presented to Several Councilmembers for Consideration. They expressed appreciation for our work and may come back to us as they work on these matters.

Special Topic - Washington Park Comments Were Due Friday August 29th!

- Ed and Leah went through the pros and cons of the proposals for Washington Park. Those in attendance were encouraged to get in last minute comments, particularly regarding:
 - Plans for the Lancaster Avenue "Extension" that passes over the Knox Street "Mall". Ed suggested making this one-way "eastbound" instead of one-way "westbound" to provide greater chance vehicles would stop for bikes and peds using the "Mall"
 - Plans for New Scotland Entrance. Leah strongly suggested that the problem of cars not stopping at the stop sign on Washington Park Road just before the New Scotland Exit needs to be re-examined. This is especially dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians crossing into the park.
 - The lack of a bike lane along Washington Park Road. Ed pointed out bike lanes would provide safer travel for cyclists passing thru the park while narrowing and thereby calming traffic on Washington Park Road.
 - Lorenz asked that we challenge whether an exit was really needed from the park by Willet.
 - Mark asked that we recommend that the Park be closed to non-emergency traffic on weekends

Reports

- **Treasurer's Report** - David stated that there has been a lull in donations, but that we were still in the black.
- **Transport Troy Update** - Pam had nothing new to report as to whether a new group would be taking up Transport Troy's mantle
- **Cycle Schenectady Report** - Art Clayman had no major announcements this month. He noted that their planned Schenectady orientation ride for incoming students at Union was apparently such a great idea that the Dean of Union College decided to do it himself!
- **Bikeatoga Report** - reported they were working with Council people in Saratoga for a 25mph speed limit there.
- **There was no CDTC Bike Ped Committee August Meeting**
- **CDTC Crossing Beacon Webinar Report**

- Ed reported he learned that Beacons have an 80% compliance for vehicles stopping for persons/bikes that initiated the crossing beacons. This was described as much better than compliance where there is just a crosswalk. No wonder so many people don't bother with crosswalks!
- The presenters noted that beacons are fairly useless over 40mph
- For crossings over 40mph they recommended "full signalization" or a "HAWK" system.
- **Sustainability Transportation Advisory Comm. TIP Highlights** - Ed noted highlights of the CDTC 5 Year Transportation Improvement Program. There is apparently funding that is in the pipeline for the following projects of interest:
 - ID 4 Central Avenue in Albany - Henry Johnson to S. Allen is supposed to get a Madison Avenue type treatment (road diet, bike lanes, turning lane)
 - ID 5 Frisbee Ave - 2nd Ave to McCarty in Albany (bike lanes thru Hoffman park)
 - ID 3 Broadway in Albany to 1st St (to Menands Bike "access" - unclear what bike "access" means)
 - ID 75 Glenville - Freemans Bridge Rd Multi Use Path
 - ID 20 Schenectady Park Connector - extension of path system
 - ID 72 Town of Bethlehem Cherry Ave Extension - Planning for Multiuse Path to Rail Trail
 - ID 66 Zim Smith Trail 4 Mile Extension to Saratoga Spa St Park
 - ID 2 Brevator in Albany - bike lanes
 - ID 1 Shaker Road - From near Wolf Rd to past Everett - bikeable shoulders
 - ID 11 Cohoes Columbia St (mohawk to baker) Bike lanes
 - ID 12 Cohoes Ontario St (Olmstead to Cohoes Blvd) Bike lanes
 - For complete information, see:

<https://www.cdtcmopo.org/transportation-plans/transportation-improvement-program>

Old Business –

- **Transportation Projects**
 - **Patroon Greenway Project Final Report** - At the time of the meeting, the final report of the plan for a trail from the Hudson to 6 Mile Waterworks was still not released.
 - It is now available at: <https://www.patroongreenway.com/>
 - Taking a quick look at the Executive Summary, it appears the phased plan outlined in the report closely follows the recommendations ABC developed from our own rides and analysis.

Whether this was just common sense or in part as a result of our input to the study process is not known.

- Phase 2 of the plan from Six Mile Waterworks to Central follows the same basic route as the old CDTC Plan and the route ABC explored. A nice, but pricey addition is a bike-ped bridge over Fuller. It would be the best way to achieve a safe crossing. Time will tell if the \$\$ ever materializes.
- Phase 3 of the plan connects the two ends and is dependent on major renovations to the Everett Road crossing of I-90 as well as an somewhat expensive Central Avenue crossing. We all agreed the Everett Road crossing is especially awful and will take a major capital project to fix it. The study agrees and looks to the next bridge repair cycle. Looking at what we learned of the South End Connector, the political will for such an expenditure for bike-ped infrastructure will be helped along by pre-existing popular use of the two disconnected parts of the trail and the consequent desire to connect them.
- Phase 4 shows a long term desire to have a route that closely follows the Patroon Creek. While this may make for a great trail through more wooded areas, it promises to be very expensive and less crucial to connecting people to places they want and need to go without motor vehicles.
- It looks like a great plan that matches well with what we wanted. Hopefully, with continued advocacy, we will see the Patroon Creek Greenway actually happen.

- **New Scotland Avenue Update** - Per Ed
 - Word is this will include bike lanes from Manning to Whitehall
 - Last we heard this was out to bid
 - Project will commence sometime this Fall (hopefully)
- **South End Connector** - Hugh reported he would be meeting with the new Planning Director on September 6th to review the glass issue on the Connector
- **CapitalNYBikeMap.com Conversion Update** - Glenn reported there was no hurry to do the conversion to ArcGIS as we at last had our gratis use of our old map software extended for another year. He was working through some technical issues regarding how to efficiently make future updates to the map.

New Business –

- **T-Shirts Order Status** - David and Glenn agreed to work out how to allow PayPal payments for t-shirts. An announcement has since gone out inviting

orders by September 13th - see:

<https://capitalnybikemap.com/order-instructions.html>

- **Rides**

- **Bard & Baker Ride Report** - Glenn and Ed reported a successful ride on a beautiful day from the Bard and Baker on Madison Avenue in Albany to the Bard and Baker in Troy and back. There were ten participants in all. We had a fine lunch at the Bard and Baker in Troy. Besides good eats and coffee both B&B's have an impressive array of board games for patrons to enjoy.
- **Capital Corruption Ride** - Ed reported this ride focusing on Corruption in Albany during the 60's and 70's is on for September 24th 10:30am, starting at Quackenbush Square and we will be partnering with the Museum of Political Corruption. For more info see our events page - link below.
- **Party Ride?** - Erica presented a concept for neighborhood rides and/or fun theme rides perhaps ending at a pub. She believed this could be coordinated with other groups in the area. This concept fits well with our long desire to start "slow rides" in the city. Mark and Hugh agreed to work with Erica and Jeff to make this happen by Spring or possibly even this Fall.
- **A VIP (Visually Impaired Pedalers) Ride** was announced by Shawn Newton. It will take place at the Corning Preserve Boat Launch from noon to 3, starting at the Corning Preserve Boat Launch. He was looking for tandem bike "pilots" or "captains" to assist visually impaired persons to enjoy the thrill of cycling. For more info see our events page - link below.

- **Membership Outreach/Tabling**

- Ed was still pursuing Tabling at the Washington Park Farmers Market via phone tag

- **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: 9/29, 10/27, 11/17, 12/29