

## Albany Bicycle Coalition Meeting Notes for February 23, 2023

**Zoom Only Meeting Attendees:** Chester Bennett, Pam Bentien, Ed Brennan, John Gillivan, Danette Jewel, Mark Maniak, Andrew Matrai, Clair Nolan, David Pisaneschi, Glenn Sandberg, Ira Share, Peter Thomas, Lorenz Worden

### **Special Topic - Capital Region Vision Zero Alliance 1st Meeting was held February 9th. Meeting Summary and Next Steps**

- 19 diverse attendees held a lively, wide ranging & enthusiastic discussion
- Reviewed our terrible statistics, especially since covid (e.g. locally Albany County pedestrian fatalities:
  - 2 ped deaths in 2019
  - 3 in 2020
  - 5 in 2021
  - 8 in 2022
- Reviewed what other places are doing to turn things around - creating vision zero policies and action plans and taking actions
- Discussed the role this alliance of concerned organizations and persons could play in driving the political will for local changes by **communicating** developments, **coordinating** efforts, **diversifying** the call for change and **amplifying** the call for change.
- Communications
  - Setup e-mail: [visionzero518@gmail.com](mailto:visionzero518@gmail.com)
  - Website under construction: <https://visionzero518.org>
    - Needs original photos of the area - anyone wishing to contribute email: [visionzero518@gmail.com](mailto:visionzero518@gmail.com)
    - Needs Feeding! Send the following to [visionzero518@gmail.com](mailto:visionzero518@gmail.com):

- Local road project links and local legislative efforts
- Local activism and traffic safety programming
- Needs site review and recommendations
- E-mail newsletter is planned down the road
- Diversification - All are asked to spread the word: Capital Region Vision Zero Alliance needs contacts and people to make contacts. We need more regional participation, and advocates for:underserved communities, public health, youth, senior and the handicapped

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

- Lower speed limits to 25 mph - Albany and Schenectady both report they are conducting studies
  - A copy of DOT guidelines indicate the state is insisting on traffic studies - see:
   
<https://www.visionzero518.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/SpeedLimitsINFO.pdf>
- Speed Humps - \$1M Allocated in Albany City - citizen siting suggestions sought:
  - See link to map and criteria at [Albany | Capital Region Vision Zero Alliance \(visionzero518.org\)](https://www.visionzero518.org)
  - E-mail recommendations to your Council Person
- Speed Cameras - under consideration, but requires state legislative approval
- Walkable Albany and others, including at least one Albany City Council Person are working on local legislation regarding pedestrian signaling (beg buttons)
- Sidewalk Extensions - Glenn and Ed reported going to a packed Lark Street Infrastructure Project Meeting. Much of the meeting discussed the potential loss of 9 parking spaces in favor of curb extensions to improve pedestrian safety, “daylight” intersections and calm traffic.
  - Over 100 in attendance
  - A few were vociferous about the need for parking
  - Many, many more applauded when Albany’s parking director explained there was more than enough parking nearby

- The Statewide Safe Streets Coalition, which includes ABC held a meeting on the proposed law to set a minimum distance to pass cyclists with NYS Senate Counsel's Office. The coalition recommends the NJ law (N.J. Stat. § 39:4-92.4) as a model:
  - it works for bikes, peds and other "personal conveyances"
  - it says move to another lane if possible
  - it says give 4 feet if lane change not possible
  - it says slow down to 25 mph or lower posted speed if lane change or 4 feet not possible and be prepared to stop and don't pass at all if not it isn't safe
  - It satisfies the NYSDOT objections that the law not permit drivers to cross a solid yellow line
  - the NJ statute also has a penalty. (It is our understanding that this is **not** something Safe Streets is sold on.)
  - **Current: Vehicle and Traffic**  
§ 1122-a. Overtaking a bicycle. The operator of a vehicle overtaking, from behind, a bicycle proceeding on the same side of a roadway shall pass to the left of such bicycle at a safe distance until safely clear thereof.
- The Safe Streets Coalition is also pushing for the Complete Streets Maintenance bill to be included in the budget bill - they are working up an online petition
- <https://act.transalt.org/a/support-new-york-safe-streets-act> to register your support with your state legislators

## Reports

- **Cycle Schenectady Report** - Art Clayman reported that Schenectady is also pursuing a traffic study to support lowering speeds to 25 mph.
- **CDTC Active Transportation Committee October Meeting** - Ed Reported
  - 2023-24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Draft is available at:
    - <https://www.cdtcmopo.org/about/unified-planning-work-program>
    - **Survey & Comments needed by Feb 28th.**
    - There is \$1m available for \$1.2 M in requests
    - Projects of Note:
      - Voorheesville Complete Streets Study

- Broadway Menands Intermodal Flood Resiliency
- Castleton Complete Streets Study
- Central Avenue West Study
- Rotterdam Guilderland Ave/Curry Rd Multimodal Study
- Town of Bethlehem 25 mph study
- Open House March 1st 4 - 7pm at CDTC 1 Park Place Albany
- New \$1.5M (80%) Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Recently Awarded to CDTC
  - 80% Grant
  - For CDTC and project partners to pursue Vision Zero safety planning
  - The grant proposal was combined with other partner efforts - so some funds may effectively be earmarked
- **Treasurer's Report** - David reported our ABC finances are in good shape, several expenditures were noted as paid or to be paid.

### Old Business –

- **MHBHT Connector Update** - John and Ed
  - Reported on having a very good meeting with airport planning personnel
  - The team is looking to meet with the Albany County Director of Operations with a goal of a connector trail feasibility study
  - A Hudson Valley Greenway Grant is one funding possibility
  - A Rosendale Road / Old River Road Intersection Project was also discussed.
    - It is scheduled for 2023 (on “archaeological” hold)
    - It will likely be a roundabout.
    - It will not improve dangerous bike ped travel on Rosendale as it climbs to Route 7

### New Business –

- **T-Shirts** - Ed reported we still have a limited quantity of t-shirts available. Anyone interested should e-mail [albanybicyclecoalition.com](mailto:albanybicyclecoalition.com)
  - Performance T-Shirts \$26 1 x 2XL, 3L, 2M
  - Standard Cotton T-Shirts \$18 4L, 3M
- **Smart Cycling Training**

- April 28 (classroom) and April 29 (on bike)
- \$5 discount for voting members, \$10 for Century Members and \$20 for Long Haul Members
- e-mail [albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com](mailto:albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com) by the 2nd week of April if interested
- **Champlain Canal Bike Rodeo/Safety Day** - John G. reported this will be held the 3rd weekend in May in Waterford (May 20 & 21).
  - We are looking for volunteers for tabling Saturday 10 - 4 & Sunday 10 - 2 with an off road Champlain Canal Ride on Sunday
- **Ideas Needed for Ride of Silence! May 17th** - Before the ride last year we held a vigil for over 40 victims of traffic violence on Central Avenue. Do we want to do something similar this year? We are looking for suggestions! A meeting of this team will be held after John G. returns the second week of March.
- **Earth Day Ride April 22nd**
  - Looks like we have narrowed down to a “water themed” Albany ride, looking at major water projects (new and old) and Albany’s streams and lakes
- **Tulip Fest Ride May 13 & 14** -
  - We will be in the Tulip Fest “Sustainability Tent”.
  - We plan to lead a ride along Madison’s bike lanes.
  - We need to talk to the City about moving the tent and adding a bike corral
- **Adirondack Sports Expo March 18 & 19** - We have bare minimum for volunteers - a couple more would be great
- **Upcoming** – Rides/events (Go here -  
<https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/resources/upcoming-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: 4/27, 5/25.