

## Albany Bicycle Coalition Meeting Notes for April 27, 2023

**Attendees:** Ed Brennan, Hugh Johnson, Mark Maniak, Naqiy McMullen, Glenn Sandberg, Patty Sawyer, Ira Share, Peter Thomas, Lorenz Worden

### Special Topic - Mayhem on the Roadways

- Ride of Silence Plans - Ed went over Ride of Silence Plans
  - Wednesday, May 17th
  - Leaves Corning Preserve Boat Launch in Albany at 5:30 PM.
  - Riders should arrive between 5 and 5:25pm
  - Late joiners may meet the group when it passes by the Boat Launch again between 6:15 and 6:30.
  - Approximately 17.5 miles
  - Visiting cyclist fatality sites in downtown Albany, Watervliet and Troy.
  - Ed and John G. are to get press release details to Glenn
  - John G. is planning a 5:30pm pre-ride on a date TBD, volunteers wanted
- Municipal Legislation and Safety Efforts
  - East Greenbush 25 MHP Report
    - After an April 12 public hearing, the Town Board voted 4 - 1 on April 19 in favor of a resolution lowering speed limits to 25 mph on some 300 Town roads!
  - Albany Public Safety Committee 25 mph Proposal Report
    - Naqiy and Ed attended the introduction of an Albany City 25 mph ordinance proposal by Council Person Deborah Zamer
    - Ed testified to local statistics & need for lower speeds to combat trend of ***fewer but more violent crashes resulting in greater numbers of fatalities and greater numbers of serious injuries*** that are caused by larger vehicles and vehicle velocity
    - Naqiy spoke to the need to lower speed limits to give people transportation alternatives and to make the City more liveable
    - We noted some pushback from committee members on lower speeds on our major 4 lane thoroughfares (some of which are state roads and outside City power to lower the speed to 25 on its own)
  - Capital Region Vision Zero Alliance Petition Drive
    - We discussed starting a petition drive for lower speed limits
    - Mark said he'd check to see if petitioning is permitted at Tulip Fest
- The Statewide Safe Streets Coalition- Lobby Day May 23!!!!
  - Ed encourages anyone that can make it to sign Up for May 23rd Lobby Day - <https://nybc.net/advocacy/nys-safe-streets-day-of-action>

- If you have never been to visit behind the curtain of the NYS Legislature - this is your opportunity to experience how the sausage is made while fighting traffic violence
- See Our Safe Streets Legislative Goals and Automatically Tell Your Legislators to Support Our Bills: <https://www.transalt.org/safe>
- Idaho Stop Proposal [A3986/S2643](#) - We discussed and agreed to support a separate effort by a number of cycling organizations to support bills that would allow cyclists to treat stop lights as stop signs; and stop signs as yields.

## Reports

- **Earth Day Recap** - Glenn reported
  - A successful event: 42 riders safely enjoyed great weather & water theme
  - Attendees heard of the event in a variety of ways, mostly e-mail, but also flyers, facebook, newspaper
  - We agreed to reduce the ride to 10 miles next year & keep stops to 5 min
- **Bikeatoga/Union Ave Update** - Ed Lindner reported:
  - They expect NYSDOT to finish Union Ave bike lanes from Henning to East Ave before track opens
  - Expect City's final design of Union Ave Bike Lane From East Ave to Congress Park in month or so
  - Paul Tonko announced \$300,000 in funding for multiuse path planning paralleling Crescent Ave b/n Nelson and Rt. 9 near Spa Park
    - Would facilitate travel to Saratoga Lake
    - With Ballston to Spa Park extension of Zim Smith, would facilitate travel b/n Saratoga Lake all the way to Mechanicville
    - Ballston to Spa Park expected start in 2024 & completion in '25
  - 1st Annual Saratoga Foliage Ride this Oct 7-8
    - three routes on Saturday highlighting the 1777 Battle of Saratoga
    - Sunday rides will focus on fall foliage and local businesses
- **Cycle Schenectady Report** - Art Clayman reported
  - They have CDTC funding for bike rodeos that they are conducting with Schenectady's libraries
- **CDTC Active Transportation Committee March Meeting** - Ed reported
  - A NYS Active Transportation Plan is Underway by NYSDOT
    - Karen Lorf - state bike ped coordinator spoke to objectives:
      - establishing measurable goals for active transportation
      - policy guidance & conceptual designs for state facilities
      - extensive internal and external outreach
    - goal is to do this in 18 months
    - For Your Comments, e-mail [activetransportation@dot.ny.gov](mailto:activetransportation@dot.ny.gov)
- **Capital Streets Launch** - Mark & Ed reported

- Great standing-room-only crowd at 3/30 launch, followed by beer & networking at Rare Form Brewing.
- They have announcement coming regarding staff funding
- Will be coordinating Bike to Work Day with Albany for June 8
- Sept 10 Gravel Ride Fundraiser
- Transport Troy has merged with Capital Streets
- **Troy-Menands Bridge Meeting Report - Ed Reported**
  - DOT held a well attended Zoom event with 74 participants
  - Bridge is currently nearly 100 yr old bridge - it is safe, but:
    - Has deterioration of structural members
    - Is outdated for current standards
  - DOT acknowledged lots of interest in bike-ped issues:
    - Access to Troy side riverfront
    - Fixing bridge approach from Troy
    - Access to Broadway on Menands side
  - Presentation was mostly concerned about reducing commuter traffic backups on the bridge and Morrison St (leading up hill to HVCC)
  - 9 design proposals were offered
    - Concept of moving bridge North with direct approach to Mill Street was most popular (can handle traffic better than Morrison)
    - Option to move bridge to 787 Exit 6 (by old Montgomery Wards) was least popular
  - See and comment! <https://dot.ny.gov/troymenandsbridge>

## Old Business –

- **Transportation Projects**
  - **Connecting Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail to Colonie Ann Lee Trail System** - Ed reported we will pursue using vacant airport land to connect to Buhrmaster Road and MHBHT when new long range planning process for airport begins in late spring / summer
  - **New Scotland Avenue Update** Ed reported:
    - Bike lanes are coming from Manning to O'Neil Rd (by golf course)
    - City is making intersections and ped crossings safer
    - Should be done July-ish
    - <https://www.albanyny.gov/2168/New-Scotland-Avenue-Infrastructure-Project>
  - **Brevator Project**

- Not yet scheduled by Albany City Planning Dept.
  - Old concrete road to be replaced, plan seems to include bike lanes
  - <https://www.albanyny.gov/2146/Brevator-Complete-Street-Project>
- **South End Connector Ambassador Project** - Hugh reported
  - Center for Disability Services will store bags and brooms that were provided by Albany City DGS
  - They will be available weekdays 9 to 5
  - They will recruit ambassadors at upcoming “Love Your Park Day” County Rail Trail cleanup on May 6
- **Bethlehem Kenwood Ave.** Lorenz reported
  - There is no tentative plan, comments for the study ended April 30th
  - See: <https://www.kenwoodavestudy.com/>
  - There will be opportunity to comment on the plan when there is one
  - He is impressed by the Town’s emphasis on street safety, see:
    - <https://www.bethlehemsafestreets.com/>
    - [Bethlehem Walk & Roll Fest](#) Sat., May 20, 10 AM to 1 PM
- **Champlain Canal Bike Rodeo/Safety Day** - John G. e-mailed in a report:
  - See flyer:
 

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=6e1ad68fa3&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1764165244484084445&th=187b92f1629062dd&view=att&disp=safe>
  - He needs several volunteers !!
    - May 20th to help with bike rodeo at least some of day (10am - 6pm)
    - May 21st to assist with Champlain Canal Ride (10 am - 4pm) ride time TBD
- **Tulip Fest Tabling/Bike Corral May 13 & 14** - Ed and Glenn Reported
  - They met with DGS & we will be in the “Sustainability Tent” again this year
  - We are “sponsors” of the Bike Corral where cyclists can lock up their bikes
  - We will NOT be conducting a ride on Madison as Tulip Fest is too chaotic
  - We have some volunteers for our table, but COULD USE MORE - even if just for an hour or 2 - email [albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com](mailto:albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com)

**New Business – (Ed and others) 15 min**

- **T-Shirts** - Ed reported we still have a limited quantity of t-shirts available. Anyone interested should e-mail [albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com](mailto:albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com)
  - Performance T-Shirts \$26 1 x 2XL, 3L, 1M
  - Standard Cotton T-Shirts \$18 3L, 3M
  - Put your dibs in before we sell them out at Tulip Fest!
- **Tabling Farmer's Markets** - Ed is investigating tabling at Washington Park
- **We Discussed Starting Meetings at 6:30PM** - there was no consensus, so there will be no change
- **Welcoming Empire State Trail Riders at Discovery Center Update** -
  - We are pursuing signage on the EST directing bikers and hikers to the Discovery Center
  - PTNY and the Discovery Center are both Interested
  - Planning Board is having a Zoom meeting about increasing access between downtown and the waterfront on Thursday May 4
  - See: <https://www.albanyny.gov/2147/Hudson-River-Waterfront-Gateways>
- **ABC Picnic** - A committee was formed to plan a picnic for later this year
- **Kenwood Fire** - Peter Thomas noted that the disaster at the historic Kenwood Complex may lead to an opportunity to open this extensive property to County Rail Trail users. There are parties seeking acquisition by a public or not-for-profit entity. This is something we should watch and advocate for.
- **Grind to B&B Ride** - We agreed to convert the "Bard and Baker Ride" into a "Daily Grind to Bard and Baker Ride" since the Daily Grind closed their Troy shop and Bard and Baker closed their Albany shop - this will be scheduled for August
- **Other 2023 Rides**
  - Ed will contact our friends at the Underground Railroad Education Center and the Museum of Political Corruption about Updating our Past Rides
  - Glenn will contact the Library about updating our Libraries Ride in Honor of the Albany City Libraries 100th Anniversary
- **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: 5/25, 6/29, 7/27