

Albany Bicycle Coalition Meeting Notes for August 31, 2023

Attendees: Chester Bennett, Ed Brennan, Hugh Johnson, Mark Maniak, Michele Maserjian, David Pisaneschi, Glenn Sandberg, Ira Share, Peter Thomas, Lorenz Worden

Special Topic - Mayhem on the Roadways

- **Safe Streets Coalition Legislative Agenda for Next Session** Ed reported the Safe Streets Coalition is still in the process of narrowing down their legislative priorities for the next session
- **Albany City Ordinance Proposals**
 - 25 MPH Ordinance: This proposal is still under consideration by the City Council Public Safety Committee. Deborah Zamer introduced the legislation and has sought information from the City about the status of the required traffic study. ABC and Downtube have filled numerous pages of citizen petitions. More will be sought during the Upper Madison Street Fair. Ed will get a change.org online petition started.
 - Albany Speed Cameras for School Zones - Authorization for this "demonstration Project" was approved by the NYS Assembly and Senate after a unanimous resolution requesting it by the City Council. It is expected the Governor will sign the bill. The matter is on the City Council Public Safety Committee Meeting for Sept 11 at 5:30pm
 - Beg Buttons - G. Romero is working with walkable albany and others on ordinance language that will give pedestrians a 3 second start with all traffic having red lights at signalized intersections. The crossing signals will be automatic and not require button activation.
 - Patroon Creek Greenway - David P. is working with his City Council Person to offer a Resolution to have the Planning Department seek a NYS Environmental Bond Act Grant to fund phase 1 of the Patroon Creek Greenway. They will discuss seeking an FHWA Reconnecting Communities Grant as well.

Reports

- **Bikeatoga/Union Ave Update** - Ed Lindner of Bikeatoga didn't have anything to report during the busy track season. He reported their Mayor said the Union Avenue bike lane extension to Congress Park will be readdressed in the Fall. He expects the 25 mph ordinance will be picked up after the Public Safety Commissioner Election.

- **8/30 Capital Streets Albany Priorities Bull Moose Meeting** - Ed and Chester reported:
 - At least two dozen people turn out to discuss priorities that Capital Streets, Walkable Albany and Albany Bicycle Coalition will jointly pursue for the City of Albany
 - Priority A - Implement the Washington Park Plan - begin with easy low cost parts of the published study recommendations, like closing the Sprague and Lancaster entrances and the park road south of the lake
 - Priority B - Improvements to Western Avenue including linking the Madison bike lanes with those on Western in Mckownville. This is a long term proposal. The short term ask is for an engineering study.
 - Priority C - Morton Avenue / Rensselaer Avenue - Would link Lincoln Park to the South End Connector and adjoining neighborhoods. Ask is for paint job of bike lanes or at least climbing bike lanes on the side nearest the Lincoln Park
 - Priority D - Ask for study of how streets are planned and managed and whether one transportation dept would be better instead of 3 (currently divided between Planning, DGS and Police Dept)
 - Discussion of strategies to achieve these ends, including:
 - Start before budget season
 - Estimated \$250,000 total cost
 - ID'g helpful Council people
 - Attend and speak at public meetings
 - Work on neighborhood associations
 - Work on press
- **8/29 Capital Region Transportation Comm Menands Bridge Meeting** - Per Ed
 - DOT arranged meeting with Active Transportation Committee of the “Capital Region Transportation Council” (previously CDTC)
 - This project is currently in the “PEL” Stage (as is the DOT Reimagining 787 Process).
 - PEL = Planning and Environmental Linkage. This is a study approach that is typically used to identify transportation issues, along with environmental concerns, in a corridor or a specific location. It is generally conducted

before any project construction phasing is identified, and before specific problems and solutions are known.

- Data from the PEL feeds into the NEPA process: NEPA is acronym for National Environmental Policy Act under which federal agencies like the FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) mandate that environmental, social and economic considerations be made in transportation project decision making - with public input.
- Complete the survey:
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/829ActiveTranspo>
- Website: <https://www.dot.ny.gov/troymenandsbridge>

- **DOT Reimagining 787 Effort** - (Ed) - PEL stage - seeking public comments
 - The website is: <https://787.dot.ny.gov>
 - You may also send comments to: 787@dot.ny.gov
- **Sand Creek Road Complete Streets Project**
 - Town of Colonie is looking to improve bike/ped conditions on Sand Creek Road between Albany-Shaker Road and Wolf Road
 - The project survey has closed
 - For info see: www.sandcreekcompletestreets.com
- **Albany/Troy / Daily Grind to Bard & Baker Ride** - Glenn reported another successful ride: good food at Bard and Baker, good weather and happy riders

Old Business – Transportation Projects

- **County Rail Trail Bridge Update** - Glenn reported the detour was still in place, the faulty bridge was gone, paving was underway for the Rt 85/New Scotland Road surface. There was no sign of the promised temporary replacement bridge and nothing new in the media.
- **Brevator Complete Streets Project - Ed reported:**
 - The public comment period ended
 - Per DGS, the project is to start Spring 2024
 - Should include either bike lanes or a multi-use path and pedestrian safety improvements
 - <https://www.albanyny.gov/2177/Brevator-Street-Improvement-Project>
- **Lark Street Improvement Project - Ed reported**
 - The bike unfriendly cobbles at the corners on Lark are gone

- Pedestrian friendlier design is in the works
 - Per DGS project is scheduled to be completed by October
 - <https://www.albanyny.gov/2158/Lark-Street-Infrastructure-Project>
- **Dunn Memorial Bike-Ped Detour** - Ed reported
 - Sadly, the detour will be in place for years to come - til the 787 reimagining project is determined and perhaps til it is completed
- **New Scotland Avenue Bike Lanes Update** Glenn reported speaking briefly with DGS official Frank Zeoli who said the work will not be done until September or October. Ed reported they are still working on sidewalks and haven't started street work. We hope to see bike lanes between Manning and O'Neil by the end of October.
 - <https://www.albanyny.gov/2168/New-Scotland-Avenue-Infrastructure-Project>
- **Albany High School Area Traffic Calming** - (Chester reported,
 - He has a call scheduled with the new Superintendent of Albany Schools to discuss the traffic safety conditions around Albany High, particularly Washington Avenue
 - He will also reach out to the Albany High PTA
- **South End Connector Ambassadors/Construction Disruption**
 - Hugh noted Ambassadors are on the job reporting on and cleaning up the South End Connector.
 - More Ambassadors are needed. To learn more about volunteering e-mail albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com
 - Work under 787 is causing some detours on the Connector, though these have not been occurring in the evening and perhaps not every day

New Business

- **Manning Boulevard Improvement Project** - Glenn and Chester both attended the DGS presentation. DGS will be doing work on Manning between Western and Washington. They noted no real bike infrastructure is planned. Current DGS idea is to make the carriage roads on either side of the main road one way and divert bike traffic there. If the whole road area is considered, including the green space, there is more than enough room for bike, parking and travel lanes.

<https://www.albanyny.gov/2201/Manning-Boulevard-Improvement-Project>

- **Albany Pedestrian Experience Improvement Project- Clinton Avenue**

Ed noted there are two phases to this project, with phase 1 this year and phase 2 next year. It is unclear what will be done this year and what will be done next. The total project is to include:

- Striping of **new bicycle lanes** along Clinton Avenue from North Hawk Street to Broadway - in other words - continuous bike infrastructure connecting Ten Broeck Street and Clinton Avenue from N. Manning Blvd to the Albany Skyway, the Empire State Trail and the Albany County Rail Trail!
- <https://www.albanyny.gov/2202/Albany-Pedestrian-Experience-DRI---Clinton-Ave>
- FWIW ABC did ask for this in our 2022 Bike to Work Day speech to the Mayor and attendees at the park with us at the bottom of Clinton
- **Upper Madison Ave Street Fair** - October 1/Western Ave ALB
 - Ed needs help at the ABC Table. The Fair is noon - 5 (setup 11, tear down between 5 - 5:30)
- **Elections** - Mark will be setting up a meeting of the Board to discuss the process
- **Pedal to Peebles with PTNY, Sept 23**
 - see: <https://www.ptny.org/events/pedal-to-peebles>
- **Bike the Branches - October 7, 11:30am**
 - Glenn reports the ride is all arranged with the Albany Public Library
 - Riders should meet at 11:15am at the Pine Hills Branch
 - For details: <https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/upcoming-events/>
- **New Scotland / Madison Bike Lane Ride** - We expect to conduct a ride starting and ending at Martell's at the Albany Municipal Golf Course. It will happen in mid October or early November depending on when DGS completes their work on the new New Scotland bike lanes.
- **ABC Tech**
 - We discussed possibly moving ABC mail to Constant Contact or another mail system after a recent service disruption prevented the ABC Meeting Agenda from being distributed in a timely manner
 - There was no consensus whether this would be worth the cost
- **T-Shirts** - Ed reported we still have a limited quantity of t-shirts available. Anyone interested should e-mail albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com

- Performance T-Shirts \$26 1 x 2XL, 3L, 1M
- Standard Cotton T-Shirts \$18 3L, 2M
- **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: 9/28, 10/26, 11/30.

Treasurer's Report - David reviewed the status of ABC's accounts. We are still in the black. The latest reconciliation was approved.