

## **Albany Bicycle Coalition May 25, 2023 Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:** Chester Bennett, David Pisaneschi, Ed Brennan, Geri Walsh, Glenn Sandberg, Ira Share, Lorenz Worden, Mark Maniak, Peter Thomas

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

- **Safe Streets Coalition Lobby Day Report** - Ed reported
  - There were just a few days left in the session - pushing 3 bills
    - Sammy's Law for lower than 25 mph speed limit for NYC
    - Complete Streets Maintenance Bill
    - 3 Foot Law (for passing a cyclist)
  - There Was a Strong Albany Contingent! Along with Ann Savage, Leah Golby and James Rath:
    - Patty Sawyer, Ira Share and myself from ABC
    - Dr. Grillo came from our Ride of Silence
    - Marshall from Albany Kids Bicycling Facebook Group
    - Others in Ira's and Leah's contingent
  - To register your support before it is too late: <https://transalt.org/safe>
- **25 MPH Petition Drive**
  - 60 City of Albany Names collected at Tulip Fest - Mark volunteered to figure out how to put this on Change.org
- **Albany Speed Cameras for School Zones**
  - Requires state legislation - sponsored by Pat Fahy (A07043A) and Neil Breslin (S06802)
  - The Albany Common Council unanimously passed a Home Rule resolution in support of the state bills.
  - 5/24 was voted unanimously out of the Assembly transportation committee.
  - Referred to Ways and Means
  - Neil Breslin's Senate Bill has moved to the Floor

### **Reports -**

- **Tulip Fest Recap** - All agreed it was a good event, worth repeating
  - Steady business
  - Lots of contacts
  - Successful petitioning
  - Good networking with DGS and other folks

- **Ride of Silence Report** - Ed reported that the ride was successful with 18 participants visiting the sites of three cyclists lost to traffic violence in Albany and Watervliet
- **Champlain Canal Bike Rodeo/Safety Day and Canal Ride**
  - Ira reported the bike rodeo successfully passed out many helmets and the kids enjoyed the training exercises, though disaster was narrowly avoided when a driver mistakenly drove into the training course looking for parking
  - Ed reported the Sunday ride was also a success with x riders joining along
- **CDTC May Meeting on the Skyway Report** - Ed and Peter Thomas reported the CDTC held onsite get together on the Albany Skyway detailing the history of getting the Skyway funded and built and its upcoming connection to the Livingston Avenue Bridge
- **Welcoming EST Riders/Albany Gateways Meeting** Ed reported:
  - The Albany Gateways effort has 250G to welcome people to Albany. Between going to the Gateway Meeting with attended by Ed and several other supporters and networking with Frank Zeoli of DGS, he thinks we may see some signage and fun things for EST riders to take pictures by
  - Gateway Survey Link:
    - <https://shorturl.at/gitlS> - for those who were unable to attend the meeting, and feedback from both will be used to inform designs.
    - Visit the Gateways project website at <https://shorturl.at/bfgNZ> for more info and view a recording of the public meeting

#### **Old Business – 20 min**

- **Transportation Projects**
  - **MHBHT Colonie Connector Update** - John e-mailed
    - he will be attending a Planning Board Meeting for Keeler that will effect whether they can be a future connection from British American Blvd's bike lanes to the MHBHT
    - He will be attending a Albany Airport long range planning meeting to pursue a possible connection across unused Airport property to Buhrmaster Road and on to the MHBHT
  - **Brevator Complete Streets Project** - Ed and Glenn reported
    - Two plans were proposed,
      - one with a multiuse path on the residential (East) side of Brevator to connect Western with Washington Ave
      - One with separate bike lanes and sidewalks

- They need your comments by June 3!
- See all the proposal details and link to survey:  
<https://www.albanyny.gov/2177/Brevator-Street-Improvement-Project>
- **Dunn Memorial Bike-Ped Detour DOT Meeting** - Ed Reported
  - Dunn Detour may be there for many years -
    - Because the old structure which must be partially dismantled is not ADA compliant, there is an enormous expense to make the repairs ADA compliant
    - The pending plans for 787 may lay waste to any work done now
  - Livingston Ave Bridge
    - DOT solicited ideas on railing height and configuration
    - Hint that bike ped bridge may not be as done a deal as we thought
- **New Scotland Avenue Bike Lanes Update** Ed reported the work is in progress and new bike lanes and improvements for pedestrians at key intersections should be done in mid-July
- **Albany High School Area Traffic Calming** - Chester reported he is continuing to tweak his proposal. That a high school student was recently hit on Washington Avenue may spur the call for improvements
- **South End Connector Ambassador Project** - Peter Thomas reported
  - that Hugh successfully worked with Disability Services to store trail cleaning brooms and supplies for weekday access by ambassadors.
  - They are in the process of seeking ambassadors

## **New Business –**

- **Bethlehem/Delaware Ave Complete Streets Project** - Lorenz reported this project that was defeated in a referendum may be coming back in a different form: **Public meeting: June 15, 6:30 pm at Elsmere Avenue Elementary cafeteria (247 Delaware Avenue).**
- **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, 2M
- **Tabling Farmer's Markets** - Washington Park
  - We agreed to table on two days - Lorenz, Geri and Ed were among the volunteers
  - Insurance form needs to be sent along with other docs Ed prepped before leaving on his bike trek to Fargo, ND
- **Smart Cycling Training** - we are entertaining doing this again in September
- **Albany - Troy / Daily Grind to Bard & Baker Ride** - Is scheduled for Aug 12th (rain date week later)
- **Other Rides**
  - Beers, Bikes and Barges - not an ABC Ride - but worth a look!
    - June 8th Schenectady 6pm
    - July 6th Albany 6pm
    - Need to register \$25
    - <https://eriecanalmuseum.org/cycling/>
- **Instead of a June Meeting**, ABC members are encouraged to join the 6:30pm 6/29 Social Cycling event meeting in Washington Park by the boat house (stage)
- **Capital Streets / Social Cycling Bike to Work Day Plans**
  - See: <https://www.capitalstreets.org/biketoworkday>
  - Morning at Tricentennial Square 7:30am to 1pm
  - Evening Casual Group Ride with Albany Social Cycling 6pm, Washington Park Playhouse at 6pm
- **Picnic** - The picnic committee recommended and we all agreed:
  - Sept. 9th
  - 6 mile waterworks
  - We agreed to reserve a pavilion with ABC funds
  - Attendees are encouraged to make a contribution to offset those funds
- **Cycle the Hudson Valley** - <https://www.ptny.org/events/udson-valley-tour/register>
- **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: 7/27, 8/31

**Treasurer's Report** - David reported our finances are still looking good. He will send around reconciliations going forward for the board to approve at the end of future meetings.