

## **Albany Bicycle Coalition Meeting Notes for October 26, 2023**

**Attendees:** Chester Bennett, Ed Brennan, Mark Maniak, David Pisaneschi, Glenn Sandberg, Em Scimeca, Patty Sawyer, Ira Share, Peter Thomas, Lorenz Worden, Emily Zanat

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

- **Safe Streets Coalition Legislative Priorities for Next Session:**
  - Budget only: Increased Complete Streets funding
  - Legislative priorities
    - Sammy's Law - permit speed limits under 25 mph in NYC
    - Complete Streets Maintenance - provides for funding for and consideration of cost effective complete streets changes to projects like repavings
    - In Car Tech To Stop Repeat Speeding Offenders
    - Safe Passing of Vulnerable Road Users (NJ version of 3 foot law)
    - Idaho Stop
  - Joint Letter to DOT
    - Asks DOT to facilitate & Not Obstruct Municipal 25 MPH efforts
- **Albany City Ordinance Proposals**
  - 25 MPH Ordinance - Engineering study is in the budget ask for 2024 - Ed has reached out to Council Person Deb Zamer to deliver our petitions
  - Albany Speed Cameras for School Zones - Law Permitting these was signed by Governor Hochul 9/29 - we need to implement this wisely to avoid the debacle experienced in Buffalo where they were installed and removed after public outcry
  - Beg Buttons - Ed reported he and Naqiy spoke at a Common Council Meeting.
    - Proposal would require leading pedestrian intervals and automatic intervals for pedestrians (without button pressing)
    - Mr. Trudeau and a Creighton Manning representative spoke somewhat favorably of leading pedestrian intervals, but said automatic ped intervals were counter productive
    - Lorenz commented that it would be better to give pedestrians next interval priority after a button was pressed - Ed will pass Lorenz' recommendation on the the Beg Button group
  - Patroon Creek Greenway -
    - David P. reported his council person suggested the proposed resolution that the Planning Office pursue grants for this project had

no hope in the short term due to the City's many other priorities and limited manpower of the Planning Office

- This is on the agenda for the Nov 16 General Services, Health and Environment Committee Meeting 5:30pm City Council Chambers
- Bikes and Skateboards on Sidewalks - Council Person Ginnie Farrell said she wants to readdress skateboards and biking on sidewalks.
  - Ed had been researching local ordinances from other NY jurisdictions.
  - Lorenz noted that pedestrians shouldn't suffer other modes of transport invading sidewalks because public policy fails to make roads safe for bikes and skateboarders
  - Ed noted correcting roads will take a decade or more and cyclists and skateboarders need safety now
  - Consensus seemed to be that
    - bikes and boards should use bike lanes when they are available, but may use sidewalks when they are not
    - Bikes and boards using sidewalks need to
      - yield to peds,
      - Keep to a jogging speed - not over 5pm
      - not ride within 3 feet of peds & to stop and/or dismount and walk when conditions would cause them to be closer to pedestrians
    - Peter Thomas noted that electric skateboards should be treated differently and promised to research how they should be distinguished from regular skateboards

## Reports

- **Bikeatoga/Union Ave Update** - Ed Lindner e-mailed the following report:
  - Bikeatoga is thrilled to announce receiving two grants from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to install historical markers commemorating Saratoga's 1890s bicycle paths and America's first bike tourist, who rode his penny farthing from 59th Street NYC to Saratoga Springs in July 1879.
  - He wants to pursue more markers along his route. Noting he stayed in Albany's Delavan Hotel, he asked if we could look into a marker here
  - Saratoga Springs Mayor Kim announced plans for an engineering study to reduce speed to 25 mph for inner district, perhaps including other neighborhoods after the analysis

- **Cycle Schenectady Update** - Art Clayman reported CS struggles getting more people involved in activities and is looking for ways ABC and CS could increase cooperation
- **Capital Streets Update**
  - Working up memos on our common Albany priority projects
  - Cranksgiving in Albany 11/12 - details forthcoming
  - Cranksgiving in Troy 11/18
    - Coffee - 11AM at (LOCATION TBD!)
    - Ride Start - 12 Noon at the triangle where Hill and 4th St meet (across from 215 4th Street)
    - Afterparty - 1PM-ish at (LOCATION TBD!)
- **Capital Region Transportation Council - Active Transportation Advisory Committee Oct 10 Meeting Report**
  - CDTC Cycle Reported
    - seeing different types of people using the new e-bikes, particularly older people.
    - lots of last mile use by bus riders
    - starting to integrate with Navigator app - but they still require two apps for payments
    - They can provide cycling heat maps if we ask
  - CRTC Demonstrated their Regional Multi-Use Trail Map
    - They spoke about how the map could be used by people like bike commuters
    - The map provides very detailed information about our multi-use trails. It also includes other bike infrastructure, such as sharrows without regard to whether they are safe. It includes routes we wouldn't recommend to cyclists.
    - It lacks the rider tested routes and warning notations we include on our [capitalnybikemap.com](http://capitalnybikemap.com)
    - Glenn and Ed have a meeting scheduled with Jen Ceponis at CRTC to discuss concerns and direction for the two maps
    - compare:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/42b97acc49d44925ab6fdcadb8fd38f?org=CDTA&views=View-4>

- **Albany Bike the Branches Ride Report** Per Glenn the rain rescheduled ride had just 14 riders, but otherwise a fine ride with good weather. Suggested if we do the ride again we should make sure it appears in the Library e-newsletter.
- **Upper Madison Ave Street Fair**
  - Ed reported tabling the event with Glenn and Hugh.
  - We shared space with the WesternAveALB group that is promoting bike lanes and other improvements on that part of Western between the Madison Ave bike lanes and the Western Ave bike Lanes by SUNY in McKownville
  - We had great discussions with many citizens that were happy to sign the Western Ave petition and our petition to lower city speeds to 25 mph.

#### **Old Business – Transportation Projects**

- **County Rail Trail Bridge Updates -**
  - Glenn reported the temporary bridge over New Scotland was nearly complete, but still lacks any height signage warning for trucks. He noted this bridge, though higher was not as sturdy as the old bridge
  - Peter told us work continues on the bridge overpassing the trail near Bender Farm. Trail users should be prepared to detour due to daily closures from Hilton Road to Upper Font Grove Road until Dec 8: 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.
- **Washington Ave/Albany High School Area Traffic Calming -**
  - Chester noted there was no update from the City or School District but the High School is diverting drop offs and pickups off Washington Ave to minimize chaos and congestion
  - Patty Sawyer asked what could be done for Washington Avenue Extension to calm traffic. It was noted how bus routes end at Crossgates Commons, but many workers and medical patients need to walk to locations further West. Ed suggested contacting the 12th Ward Council Person E. Hyde Clarke to see if anything was in the works.
- **378/Troy-Menands Bridge Update-**

- Ed noted there was a conflicting meeting that same night on plans for the 378/Troy-Menands bridge
- Since our last meeting Cyclist Raymond McCabe was killed by a dump truck while westbound between the bridge and Broadway
- All are encouraged to demand safe passage for bikes/peds from the Bridge to Broadway and Troy by commenting to Susan Olsen (phone: 518-457-8197; email: Susan.Olsen@dot.ny.gov) or Greg Wichser (phone: 518-485-7324; email: Greg.Wichser@dot.ny.gov)
- Website: <https://www.dot.ny.gov/troymenandsbridge>
- **DOT Reimagining 787 Effort** - This project is in the “PEL” stage - seeking public comments
  - The website is: <https://787.dot.ny.gov>
  - You may also send comments to: 787@dot.ny.gov
- **Clinton Ave Bike Lane Extension to Broadway** -
  - Ed showed photos of the current state of the work and DGS plans for the area between where Broadway meets the Albany “Skyway” & where bike lanes currently exist at Clinton and Ten Broeck
  - When completed this will be a significant link for large pieces of Albany’s bike infrastructure
  - <https://www.albanyny.gov/2202/Albany-Pedestrian-Experience-DRI---Clint>
- **Brevator Complete Streets Project** - Ed attended the final Brevator meeting
  - They have opted for a multiuse path along the East side of Brevator instead of bike lanes on either side
  - They lacked a complete solution for how cyclists should safely turn into and out of the path at the Western and Washington intersections. The plan shows the multiuse path becoming a sidewalk at either end, suggesting cyclists would walk their bikes at those locations
  - Per DGS, the project is to start Spring 2024
  - Lorenz suggested bike boxes be deployed on Washington and Western as was done by the Green Island Bridge
  - <https://www.albanyny.gov/2177/Brevator-Street-Improvement-Project>
- **Lark Street Improvement Project** - Ed noted this work is supposed to be done by the end of this month, but they were still doing work on sidewalk “bump outs”
  - <https://www.albanyny.gov/2158/Lark-Street-Infrastructure-Project>

- **New Scotland Avenue Bike Lanes Update & Ride Announcement -**
  - Ed showed pictures of the newly painted bike lanes
  - Some finishing touches were still to be done - like laying green paint in “conflict zones”
  - **A free celebration ride** will take place Saturday, November 4th at 3:15pm, starting at Martel’s/Albany Capital Hills Golf Course Parking Lot
  - For details see: <https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/upcoming-events/>
- **South End Connector Ambassadors/Construction Disruption -**
  - Ed showed a picture of a new exercise area newly constructed under 787 along the SEC
  - The group discussed a lack of bollards along portions of the SEC, particularly along South Pearl by the Ezra Prentiss Apartments where cars occasionally drive onto the bike trail and park to drop off deliveries.
  - There was no consensus about whether we should raise concerns, demand bollards and possibly alienate neighbors
- **Manning Boulevard Improvement Project -**
  - Ed reported being told that DGS was ceding to neighbor concerns about making the “carriage roads” one way in each direction and were planning on repaving the roadway as it was.
  - To send concerns about losing this opportunity for protected bike lanes that would complete this piece of a vital north-south link on the Albany Bike Ped Master Plan - see comment link at: <https://www.albanyny.gov/2201/Manning-Boulevard-Improvement-Project>
- **Kenwood Avenue Traffic Calming**
  - 12-year-old boy was hit by a car on 10/2 at 6:54 PM. A jogger previously had been hit along this stretch.
  - Lorenz expressed concerns about proposed slip lanes and traffic circles on this stretch.
  - Feedback accepted thru 10/29
  - <https://www.townofbethlehem.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1961>
- **Dunn Memorial Detour Work Update -** Ed reminded attendees this detour will likely be in place for years to come
  - Erica Schneider, PTNY and Martin R. Daley, Albany Dir. of Infrastructure Mgmt have been after DOT for detour improvements. As a result:

- NYSDOT will be resetting the grates and upgrading as necessary to provide a pedestrian and bicycle friendly facility.
- DOT is looking into a request for improved lighting
- DOT plans to install new concrete barriers and to mount a screen or fence on top to provide a minimum 42 inch height.
- Chain link fencing will be installed along the top of the bridge rail in place of the temporary orange plastic fencing, and the width of the path will be approximately 6 feet 9 inches.
- There will be additional signs and markings at the crossing of Quay Street and the City of Albany is on board with installing RRFBs at the Quay Street crossing.
- Unfortunately, no timeline of when this will all take place.

## **New Business**

- **Halloween Ride Oct 28th** - 20 riders visited many Albany Rural Cemetery residents. We had a fine time with warm weather undeterred by a brief shower.
- **World Day of Remembrance for Traffic Crash Victims Protest**
  - Nov 17th 12:30pm Academy Park, Albany - **all are invited!**
  - We will be spotlighting Albany's traffic violence victims and asking for these specific improvements for the City of Albany
    - 25 mph City Wide Speed Limit
    - School Zone Speed Cameras
    - Simple low cost safety improvements for Washington Park that were recommended by a City sponsored study
  - Media advisory has been sent out
  - City Permit has been acquired
  - Erica from PTNY has worked up some great graphics
  - We will continue to reach out to electeds and partners
- **New Yorkers for Transportation Equity** -
  - New Statewide Group met Friday 10/27 at Albany Public Library
  - Survey:
    - [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJXi9p1iowH8olCqDNngZFN-WPkAYUayTAI1VMjqT1tMBH\\_A/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJXi9p1iowH8olCqDNngZFN-WPkAYUayTAI1VMjqT1tMBH_A/viewform?usp=sf_link)
- **League of American Cyclists Slow Roads Save Lives Campaign**

- Pledge here to lower your driving speed in your neighborhood:  
<https://bikeleague.org/take-action/slow-roads-save-lives/take-the-pledge/>
- **New York State Transportation Master Plan** - Let NY DOT know that we want improvements for Active Transportation!
  - Survey <https://publicinput.com/j1748>
  - <https://nystransportationmasterplan.com/>
- **ABC Elections** - The following persons are seeking positions
  - President: Ed Brennan, Vice President: Chester Bennett, Treasurer: David Pisaneschi, Secretary: Mark Maniak
  - An e-mail will be sent out to voting members (those that have paid at least \$25 Annual Voting Member Dues)
- **ADK Sports & NE Ski Expo** 11/11 - 11/12- (John G)
  - Capital Ctr, Albany - 10 - 5 Saturday /10-4 pm Sunday
  - Probable volunteers so are: John G. mark, Ed, Lorenz and Peter Thomas
  - More Volunteers Needed! Pick a time and join us.
- **We are seeking ideas for this years Holiday Lights / Game Night Ride**
- **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, 1M
- **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: 11/30, 12/28

**Treasurer's Report** - David described the state of our financials. We are a bit behind last year, but still in the black. The bank reconciliation was approved.