

Albany Bicycle Coalition Meeting Notes for April 25, 2024

Attendees: Ed Brennan, Ira Share, John Gillivan, Lola Grillo, Zvi Gomez Fisher, Mike Maloney, David Pisaneschi, Glenn Sandberg, Peter Thomas, Deborah Zamer,

Special Topic - Addressing Mayhem on our Roadways

- **Albany City Ordinance Proposals**

- Proposal for **Albany Pedestrian and Cycling Advisory Commission** - Council Person Deborah Zamer and Zvi Gomez Fisher joined us to discuss this potential Albany City Law. It is the brainchild of Zvi, a bright Albany High School Student serving as an intern with the City Council. The Commission would:
 - have 5 Albany City resident volunteers appointed by the Mayor and City Council
 - Include at least one resident with a child in a City school
 - Have members that engage in or advocate for active transportation
 - Be as diverse as possible
 - Include non-voting “ex-officio” members of relevant City departments and the Sustainability Advisory Committee
 - Determine City areas that were unsafe for vulnerable road users
 - Study what should be done to correct safety deficiencies
 - Recommend changes to responsible departments, which would need to respond within six weeks
 - Review implementation of the City’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and produce an Annual Report
 - Help publish maps and guides for self-guided tours
 - Foster public comments and discussions
- Mr. Gomez Fisher and Council Member Zamer were receptive to thoughts and concerns brought up at our meeting and in recent online discussions. Some of the comments went into amendments that the Law Committee approved and sent on to the Common Council on May 1st. Concerns included:
 - The commission should be renamed to reflect “active transportation” (the name change was included by amendment)
 - the Commission would need access to location specific crash data this is not currently publicly accessible (they are considering how to accommodate this)
 - the proposed law does not include the City Engineer. (this was included by amendment)

- James Rath had commented, the bike-ped scope is more narrow than necessary and a more robust committee on streets and transportation, should include transit/CDTA, disability advocates, storm water issues, parking authority folks, etc. Others agreed disability and transit champions should be represented if possible, but other issues should probably be left for other departments or committees to provide commentary to the Commission - to keep the focus of the Commission manageable.
- Mr. Rath and Ms. Gonzalez both pointed out that the amount of voluntary work expected by the Commission, particularly the annual report and research, might be more than can be expected of volunteers.
- Mr. Rath noted City residents need a meaningful way to comment on the annual paving schedule, budget and long range plans.
- Mr. Rath also noted that Troy had a similar advisory committee that was routinely ignored by the City. We don't want this commission to be "a box checked" implying that the City was listening to the needs of vulnerable road users without actually doing anything.
- Jackie Gonzelez - asked that there be adequate paid staff in addition to the unpaid advisory committee, to make sure things actually get done and so the city doesn't externalize these responsibilities on volunteers.
- Ed noted there was still no response from our new City Engineer on the letter sent on behalf of ABC last month.
- City 25 mph Legislation - Council Member Zamer said she had no update from the administration on progress of the City's investigation of lowering the area speed limit. Ed reported hearing at the CRTC Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting that the City's study had been completed. Council Member Zamer said she would investigate.
- **Safe Streets Coalition Update**
 - 1st Coalition Bill Passed - Sammy's Law which allows NYC to lower speed limits to 20mph was in the Budget Bill!
 - Automatically ask your state reps to sign on to the rest of the coalitions bills: <https://transalt.org/safe>
 - Sign Up To Attend May 7 NYSSSC Lobby Day at Capitol:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1y6MjOhbSeafd3rvmvWV33I7dTUbYDHFsqiOnBKLhHYg/viewform?edit_requested=true
 - There will be vehicle with Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA) for onsite demo of how persistent speeders can be throttled down to our speed limits
- **New Yorkers for Transportation Equity Day of Action**

- Sign up for May 14th Day of Action at the Capitol - e-mail albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com if you can attend any time 9am to 4pm
- We have appointments with Offices of many local legislators: Santabarbara, Bendett, Fahy, McDonald, Steck and Ashby. This is your chance to tell our state reps you want our NY transportation dollars spent on more than just moving cars and trucks!
- **Ride of Silence 2024 May 15** (May 22nd Rain Date) - please join this important global annual event remembering cyclists killed and injured by traffic violence and dedicating ourselves to making our roads safe for cyclists.
 - Gather for memorial at Evergreen Memorial Park (Cemetery) 5pm
 - Visits to fatal crash sites of Joe Crandall, Roger Sawyer, Jeremy Williams
 - Ride commences at 6pm 15.2 miles
 - Back before sundown at 8pm
 - Riders should be comfortable riding with traffic (especially Rapp Rd and Albany St, fairly busy with little to no shoulder & New Karner busy, with good shoulder)
- **Central Avenue**
 - Upcoming Road Study in Colonie - Still No Date Yet
 - Upcoming Redesign Meetings in Albany - Still No Date Yet

Reports

- **Capital Streets/Walkable Albany/ABC Cooperative Effort -**
 - A Candidate Survey of Complete Streets / Bike-Ped issues was sent on behalf of the three organizations to those running for Pat Fahy's Assembly seat. (Pat Fahy is expected to win the Senate seat of Mr. Breslin)
- **Bikeatoga Update** - Ed Lindner reported they are holding "Slow Rolls" every 3rd Sunday of the month, 10am-noon from the Statute of Life in Congress Park
- **Earth Day Ride** - Everyone agreed the ride was a success. 20 riders negotiated a planned route with stops to discuss places where Complete Streets improvements were made and were still needed in the City of Albany. Afterwards, many joined for refreshments and banter at Martel's. Extra **green kudos** to those that also biked to the event!
- **Broadway Resiliency Plan Meeting** Ed reported attending a Zoom meeting on how to improve flooding and sustainability on Broadway from Clinton Ave in Albany to Watervliet. The notion of continuous bike lanes on the corridor was discussed, with the possibility of protecting the lanes with a permeable buffer of green space.
 - <https://www.resilientbroadway.com>

- Take the Site Survey at the link above!
- **CRTC Active Transportation Advisory Committee Report**
 - Jen Ceponis announced she is leaving for the private sector. Her leadership on matters relating to the CDTC Trails Plan and safe travel for all users was recognized. It is hoped she inspired others at CRTC to continue her good works.
 - Feature Presentation: Regional Vision Zero Action Plan Update (by Carrie Ward)
 - Key outcomes include
 - Building partnerships and a shared vision around regional roadway safety using a 4 E's approach - engineering, education & enforcement ("emergency svcs" being the #4 E added to the traditional 3 E's)
 - Developing a comprehensive Safety Implementation Program of fundable projects and annual reporting on that program
 - Adopting a "*Safe System Approach*", which has had success in other countries. Including: adopting a vision zero target with a date.
 - Equity analysis, safety analysis (data review, historic trends, network screening, high injury network, systemic safety analysis), speed limits to enable certain municipalities to reduce speed limit to 25 mph.
 - Developing a strategy and selecting projects, safety investigations at 40 sites, and policy and process changes, a transparent progress report, and a final vision zero action plan
 - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb-8bzvqrkwNSCpjcd1N_BA

Transportation Projects

- **County Rail Trail / SE Connector Updates** - Peter reported the subsidence issue west of Delmar was corrected but the work on the overpass near the bender farm is continuing and resulting in closures west of Upper Font Grove Rd.
- **Manning Boulevard Improvement Project**
 - Unfortunately, little is to be changed in final recommendation
 - <https://www.albanyny.gov/2201/Manning-Boulevard-Improvement-Project>

- Recommendations for protected bike lanes on this essential North-South connecting street that were in Albany's own Bike Ped Master Plan appear to have been ignored. The paving work that will be done will likely doom this part of the plan for the next decade until the road decays enough to merit investment in another project.
- **Brevator, Washington and Western**
 - **Albany High School Area Traffic Calming** - there are rumblings that the City and the School District may cooperate on a study to address dangerous conditions by the High School.
 - **City Grant Proposals for Washington and Western**
 - Said to complete loose ends of **Brevator and Manning Projects**
 - **ABC** and others submitted letters of support for City grant proposals to address bike-ped issues on portions of Washington and Western (with the promise of these whole roadways to eventually have Complete Streets treatments).
 - **Brevator Project:**
 - Per DGS, the project is to start Spring 2024
 - <https://www.albanyny.gov/2177/Brevator-Street-Improvement-Project>
- **Wadsworth Center Proposal for Harriman Campus** - we will try to devote some time to this issue at our next meeting. Assembly Member Pat Fahy is fighting to make the Harriman Campus less of a 1970's homage to the supremacy of the automobile and more connected to the community and amenable to walking, biking and active transport.
- **Frisbie Ave** - this DGS project is still looking for comments:
<https://www.albanyny.gov/2263/Frisbie-Avenue-Street-Improvement-Proje>
- **Congress Street Bridge** - Congressman Paul Tonko recently touted the award of federal funds to make this bridge and its approaches on both sides of the river more bike-pedestrian friendly
 - <https://www.troyny.gov/216/Congress-Street-Bridge-Study>
- **Reimagining 787** - Materials From the May 1, 2024 Open House are available for review and comment! at: <https://webapps.dot.ny.gov/reimagining-i-787>

Rides & Other Business

- **Albany Social Cycling** “Slow Roll Albany” Ride
 - Thursdays meet at Washington Park Playhouse 6pm, roll 6:30
- **Tulip Fest** Washington Park May 11th & 12th. Volunteer for the ABC table in the Sustainability Tent! - e-mail albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com if you have a couple of hours to spare.
- **City of Albany: Basic Bicycle Maintenance** May 9, 5:30-6:30PM, parking lot at 200 Henry Johnson Blvd. Our friends at Albany Bike Rescue will take the lead. Come out, pump some tires and learn some bike maintenance.
- **Ride of Silence.** May 15th. (May 22nd Rain Date) See above.
- **City of Albany Bike to Work Day** Friday, May 17, 2024 (Rain Date: May 31)
 - 8:15AM Meet at CDPHP Hub at JCC (360 Whitehall Road)
 - 8:30AM Ride to Mr. Bumbles Café (263 New Scotland Ave)
- **Bethlehem Walk and Roll Fest** Sat, May 18, 10AM - 1PM, 250 Delaware Ave. Delmar NY rear parking lot.
- **Waterford Canal Fest** 5/18 Bike Rodeo, 5/19 Champlain Canal Ride. If you can help out either day: e-mail albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com
- **City of Albany: Bike Safety** May 23rd, 5:30-6:30PM, parking lot at 200 Henry Johnson Blvd. - If you can help out: e-mail albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com
- **City of Albany: Bike Advocacy** May 30, 5:30-6:30PM, parking lot at 200 Henry Johnson Blvd. Grand powwow joining ABC, Capital Streets and anyone else that cares about cycling in the City of Albany.
- **Bike Safety Day at Derby Park in Hudson Falls.** 6/1/24 Rodeo & Rides
- **Bike the Branches 2024** - Library wants to do a September Ride, date TBD
- [Walk, Bike, & Roll New York Symposium in Binghamton](#), September 16-18
- **NYBC Bike Summit in Albany**, October 17 & 18
- **League of American Cyclists Slow Roads Save Lives Campaign**
 - Pledge here to slow yourself down when driving in your neighborhood: <https://bikeleague.org/take-action/slow-roads-save-lives/take-the-pledge/>
- **CRTC In Motion: The Plan to 2050** - This is the long-range transportation plan for the Capital Region that will guide federal transportation investments for the next 25 years. <https://www.inmotionplan.org> (Ed 1 min)
 - You Tube Workshop: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9_DBH-Jmxo
 - Survey: <https://form.jotform.com/crtcmopo/long-range-survey>
- **New York State Transportation Master Plan**
 - Survey <https://publicinput.com/j1748>
 - <https://nytransportationmasterplan.com/>
- **New York State Active Transportation Survey!**

- <https://nysdotwalkbikeplan.com/>
- **Upcoming** – Rides/events (Go here - <https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/resources/upcoming-events//>)
- **T-Shirts** - We discussed placing a new order. In the meantime we still have a limited quantity of t-shirts available, e-mail albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com.
 - Performance T-Shirts \$26 1 x 2XL, 3L, 1M
 - Standard Cotton T-Shirts \$18 3L
- **Upcoming Meetings:** May 30, June 27, July 25, Aug 29
 - No In Person June Meeting at the Hanner Center due to construction
- **Treasurer's Report** - David went over the books and ABC is still in the black