

Albany Bicycle Coalition Meeting Notes March 28, 2024

Attendees: Chester Bennett, Ed Brennan, Jackie Gonzales, Lola Grillo, Hugh Johnson, Mike Maloney, Mark Maniak, Andrew Matrai, Glenn Sandberg, Ira Share, Peter Thomas, Kate Wood

Kate Wood, who is running for the County Legislature 5th district seat, formerly held by Matthew Peters, joined our meeting and introduced herself. She expressed an interest in transportation safety and other issues for non-motorists in Albany. While ABC is incorporated as a nonprofit and does not endorse any candidate we are grateful to have those in office or running for office, like Ms. Wood, join our meetings, listen to the issues we discuss and share their insights.

Special Topic - Mayhem on the Roadways

- **Safe Streets Coalition Update** - Ed reminded everyone to
 - Automatically ask your state reps to sign on to the Safe Streets Coalition slate of bills to make our roads safer by filling out the online form at: <https://transalt.org/safe>
 - May 7 our Safe Streets Coalition will have a Lobby Day at Capitol. This is a great opportunity to meet legislators and staff to help us get our bills passed - no experience necessary for this great experience! - Sign Up at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1y6MjOhbSeafd3rvmvWV33I7dTUbYDHFsqiOnBKLhHYg/viewform?edit_requested=true
- **Albany City Ordinance Proposals**
 - Albany City 25 MPH Effort - Ed reported he submitted a letter to our new City Engineer, Howard Goebel (copy to ordinance sponsor Deb Zamer)
 - Noted these dismal safety stats: From 2014 through 2021 total Albany pedestrian and cyclist fatalities and serious injuries never exceeded 24. In 2022 this figure jumped to 34 VRU fatalities and serious injuries. Preliminary ITSMR 2023 data shows at least 33.
 - Discussed these priorities
 - Lowering the City Speed Limit to 25 mph, including
 - The Safe Streets Coalition Streamlined methodology for cheap 25 mph implementation
 - Tarrytown's Methodology
 - Mamaroneck's Methodology
 - Ed's USLIMITS2 analysis of 60+ Albany Speed Studies

- Albany Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
 - Needs to be funded
 - Is ignored in paving & rd improvement planning
 - School Zone Speed Camera Enforcement
 - Complete Streets Efforts
 - Western, Washington, Central, Broadway and the Patroon Creek Greenway
 - Persistent City Trail Issues
 - Dunn Memorial Bridge Detour Issues
 - South End Connector Glass runoff from 787
- **Earth Day Ride** - This Year will have a Complete Streets Theme - Saturday, April 20th , 1pm
 - Planned route will visit: New Scotland and Madison bike lanes, Washington Park Study proposed improvements, Western Ave Transit Hub, Lark St. improvements, Central Ave (need for improvements), Lower Clinton Improvements and the Albany “Skyway”/East starting point of proposed Patroon Creek Greenway
 - We need volunteers for ride testing, media outreach, advertising, speaking
 - At Jackie’s suggestion, Ed will reach out to Kyle Hatch of Capital Streets about speaking
 - Glenn promised to forward last year’s flyers / announcements for updating
 - Peter offered to do video coverage
- **Central Avenue Campaign**
 - Ed noted there were still no announced dates for the upcoming Central Avenue Road Studies to be conducted in Albany and the Town of Colonie
 - Our **Ride of Silence** 2024 will be held on Wednesday, May 15th. Cycle Schenectady announced they will join us.
 - We will all gather to start at Evergreen Memorial Park/Cemetery, which is right by where Joe Crandall was struck and killed last November. After a general address that will bring attention to deadly issues on Central Avenue, ABC will lead Albany riders East toward Albany on a loop ride to visit other sites where cyclists have been killed and injured. Cycle Schenectady will lead riders West toward Schenectady to do the same. We need:
 - Ride testing volunteers
 - Advertising Volunteers
 - Ed will manage media outreach and look for speakers

Reports

- **Capital Streets 1st Year Party Report** - Jackie and others reported that 110 to 120 persons attended the Capital Streets party held Wednesday, March 29th at Lark Hall. People from many different organizations attended. James Rath and Jackie gave a presentation of the year's accomplishments. Attendees included Assemblymember Pat Fahy, Council Member Gabriella Romero and County Legislator Sam Fein. A live band contributed to the celebration. There was lots of energy!
- **Cycle Schenectady Update** - Art Clayman reported a bright bit of news concerning the new cycle track planned for Franklin Street, which would extend the greenway that now connects Central Park and Vale Park into downtown. Included are a reworking of a crappy sidewalk where the greenway now ends at Nott Terrace; where simple painted bike lanes had been expected, there will be a two-way, protected cycle track (protected by a planted island); and traffic lights that give cyclists a green light and a 5-second second head start at intersections.
- **CRTC In Motion: The Plan to 2050** - Ed reported the Capital Region Transportation Council is conducting a survey for public input for their next 25 year plan guiding federal transportation investments - the quick survey can be found at:
 - <https://form.jotform.com/crtcmpo/long-range-survey>

Transportation Projects

- **County Rail Trail / SE Connector Updates** -
 - Peter reported the County is actively working at fixing the trail subsidence on the western part of the County Rail Trail. Mark reported there is a continuing issue with gravel and glass washing onto the South End Connector along 787.
 - Peter also noted the Town was talking to CDTA about putting CDPHP Cycle! bikeshare stations along the trail.
 - There have been complaints about bike-pedestrian confrontations that have been happening along the trail. The Bethlehem Bike Pedestrian Committee is gathering best practices and rules of behavior on similar trails. Please send your suggestions to: albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com.
- **Blessing Road Pathway** - Peter noted that funding for the Blessing Road pathway is not in place, but the project is still planned.

- **Manning Boulevard Improvement Project** - Ed reported though little to be changed in “final” recommendation on the DGS website, the new Chief Engineer, Mr. Goebel, implied to Capital Streets it might not be so “final”
 - <https://www.albanyny.gov/2201/Manning-Boulevard-Improvement-Project>
- **Brevator, Washington and Western**
 - The results of City Grant Proposals for Washington and Western are a long way off. The proposals were said to complete loose ends of **Brevator and Manning Projects** (the loose ends being the intersections with Western and Washington)
 - **Brevator Project:**
 - Per DGS, the project is to start Spring 2024, for plan see:
 - <https://www.albanyny.gov/2177/Brevator-Street-Improvement-Project>
- **Frisbie Ave** - DGS is gathering comments for this road that passes by Hoffman Park and tends to get a great deal of anxious commuter traffic. See this page for more information and how to submit comments: <https://www.albanyny.gov/2263/Frisbie-Avenue-Street-Improvement-Projec>
- **Colonie Connector Update** - Ed reported
 - Caitlin O'Brien, Chief of Staff for the County Legislature Chair, reported that they took our suggestion and reached out to CRTC and had very positive discussions. They will be reaching out to the Town of Colonie.
- **Congress Street Bridge** -
 - Paul Tonko announced \$2.16M for a Rt 2 Multimodal Transportation Project - including improved bike-ped connections to Hudson Shores Park, the EST and Uncle Sam Trail
 - <https://www.troyny.gov/216/Congress-Street-Bridge-Study>
- **We discussed coming up with questions for those running for Pat Fahy's Assembly Seat** (we decided it was a bit early to discuss Mayoral hopeful questions). Ed would reach out to Walkable Albany and Capital Streets to see if they wanted to do a joint questionnaire.

Rides & Other Business

- **Albany Social Cycling** - “Slow Roll Albany” Ride - **Postponed** to Thursday, April 11 meet Washington Park Playhouse 6pm, roll 6:30.

- **Earth Day Ride** - Complete Streets Theme - Saturday, April 20th 1pm
- **Canal Sweep Day** - 4/19 - 4/21/24. Parks and Trails New York is hosting cleanups along the Erie and Champlain Canals and their adjoining trails that we love so much. For information and sign-up see:
<https://www.ptny.org/events/canal-clean-sweep>
- **Tulip Fest** E-mail albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com to volunteer for the ABC table (morning afternoon, even an hour or two)! Washington Park May 11th & 12th
- **Ride of Silence**. May 15th Details TBA
- **Waterford Canal Fest Bike Safety Day**. 5/18-19 Rodeo/Ride (e-mail albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com to volunteer)
- **Bike Safety Day at Derby Park in Hudson Falls**. 6/1/24 Rodeo & Rides (e-mail albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com to volunteer)
- **Bike the Branches 2024** - Library is interested in a September Ride
- **Outreach in 2024** - We discussed upgrading the ABC website and perhaps our e-mail support system. We looked at several different sites and e-mail generation systems that allowed more graphical content and a more up to date look. Peter and Andrew volunteered to examine options. Ed will set up a meeting.
- **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/>
- **New York State Transportation Master Plan**
 - Survey <https://publicinput.com/j1748>
 - <https://nystransportationmasterplan.com/>
- **New York State Active Transportation Survey!**
 - <https://nysdotwalkbikeplan.com/>
- **Upcoming** – Rides/events, go here:
<https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/resources/upcoming-events/>
- **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