



## Meeting Notes

Albany Bicycle Coalition Monthly Meeting

10/29/20

7:00 PM – via Zoom

### Reports –

- **Treasurer Report** (David P.) – Reports rendered. We reviewed the membership “drive” and the comparative and regular treasurer reports. Results from the membership drive were impressive and welcomed by all. We agreed to make our customary donation to LaSalle School in recognition for its courtesy and hospitality to ABC.
- **Transport Troy Update** (Pam) – There was no October Transport Troy meeting. The waterfront and Frear Pk. Nature walk for the Collar City Ramble went well with good turnout.

### Old Business –

- **Albany Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan** (Ed, all) – We submitted ABC’s position paper and shared it widely within the city. We will wait for either (1) the city’s draft bike/ped report or (2) other city initiative. We expect the Planning Office to meet again with Planning, Economic Development, and Land Use Committee of the Albany Common Council. They will probably present a draft report. We will be looking to provide our comments on the draft report at that time.
- **CapitalNYBikeMap Enhancements** (Glenn) – Our Sep. 2020 publicity campaign shows long-term effects. Although visit volume is tapering off with the colder weather, volume remains over 50% higher than last year. A new 2-mile branch will be added from the Kenwood Ave./Cherry Ave. area to the New Scotland Ave. medical center neighborhood. A new “UAlbany-to-State Campus Bicycle Connector” is now fully paved, but is still blocked for no apparent reason at the UAlbany end. This connector is invaluable as a non-Western Ave., non-Washington Ave. bicycle route connecting (for example) the Six-Mile Trail and the Town of Colonie to the City of Albany. Other new route development will be resumed around March 2021, including research into new Schenectady routes and the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail. Glenn will do a CapitalNYBikeMap presentation at CDTC’s 12/8 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting.
- **MHBHT Root Damage** (David) – Albany County maintains it is unable to provide prior contracts between it and NYSDOT. DOT committed to an 11/11/20 delivery of the contracts. David will forward DOT’s response when received. Our next step is to draft a joint letter to Assembly members Fahy and McDonald to (1) outline our efforts and (2) call for them to provide both impetus and funds to repair the MHBHT surface from Corning Riverfront Park to the Cohoes city line. David will draft letter as soon as DOT makes its final determination but not after 11/12/20.
- **Patroon Greenway Project** (Ed) – Ride II report done and posted. Next step is to arrange a Zoom meeting with Albany water department and Albany Recreation. If we can arrange it, we will include Capitalize Albany using the proposed Skyway as a selling point. The objective is to get their “buy in” to the concept of the Tivoli St.-Everett Rd. portion and to get their support in making it happen. Coincidentally, Jim Gillivan reported that CDTC approved a \$75,000 City of Albany funding request for a Patroon Creek Greenway Study. Following this meeting, we requested a copy of the proposal from both Capital District Transportation Committee and City of Albany planning office.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (John) – There was an Empire State Trail presentation which noted “end of year completion” with the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail to be done by 11/15, and the Rotterdam Junction tunnel by spring 2021. Much work going on in

Montgomery and Herkimer counties. The Empire State Trail map is now online – <https://empiretrail.ny.gov/map>. There was some discussion about the trail surface – whether paved or stone dust/gravel. We noted that the Empire State Trail commitment is for a (mostly) off-road trail but not for it to be paved entirely. There was a proposal for the Patroon Greenway Project (see above under “Patroon”) on which Lorenz sought clarification from CDTC and the city. Next meeting – Tuesday, 11/10, 9:00 AM. <http://www.cdtcmpo.org/> Register here <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAldOCsqTspG9IJ12mWiu9njq0ac4aXZHQ>

- **Western Ave. Traffic Calming** – No response from mayor on 7/30 letter. Follow up sent 10/11 to which there was no response. Lorenz will send a final letter to the mayor on both Western Ave. Traffic Calming (<https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/2020/08/10/traffic-calming-on-western-ave-make-it-happen/>) and Clinton Ave. (<https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/2020/10/11/94035/>) bicycle lane rehabilitation.
- **Connector Enhancements (9/17 email)** – There has been no response from the City of Albany on ABC’s call for modification to the South End Connector – at least two of which are safety related. Lorenz and Mark to send items to Albany Common Council members Ward 1 - Hon. Sonia Frederick and Ward 2 - Hon. Derek Johnson and others who are supportive of a community-level asset. Mark will draft email. May meet with them and others for support for safety-related issues with the South End Connector.

#### **New Business –**

- **Walking-Riding Collaboration** – (Ed, Lorenz) – Need to reach out to Walkable Albany leaders for a “get acquainted meeting.” ABC endorsed their letter calling for no motor vehicle in Washington Park or Sundays. There is much common ground for people walking and on bicycles.
- **MHCC Gravel Gobbler** – Rob reported that this year’s ride will be a “do-it-yourself” with donations going to Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY. Rob noted that this year, more than ever due to COVID-19, we need to help feed the hungry. To participate, go here - <https://www.mohawkhudsoncyclingclub.org/calendar/rides/2020/10/03/virtual-gravel-gobbler>
- **Hudson AirBnb for People on Bicycles** - (<https://airbnb.com/h/brickbarnhouse>) David to draft and ABC response to this initiative.
- **Crash Reporting (APD)** - Lorenz identified an APD commander who will guide us on this issue.
- **ABC Hack and Security Enhancements** – (Glenn) In mid-October a spam email was sent to members of ABC's distribution list. ABC conducted a thorough investigation of the incident, and made several improvements to all relevant security procedures. At this time, there is no need for additional corrective action. We will monitor.

**Meeting Dates** – ABC meets the last [not the 4th] Thr of each month unless there is a conflicting holiday. Upcoming dates are as follows: 11/19 (not 26), and 12/17 (not 24).

**Upcoming** – Rides/events/issues? (Go here - <https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/resources/events/>)

**Zoomees** – Mark, Ed, Pam, David, Rob, Glenn, Hugh, John G., and Lorenz.

+++++