



Meeting Notes

Albany Bicycle Coalition Monthly Meeting

3/25/21

7:00 PM – via Zoom

Reports –

- **Treasurer Report** (David P.) – David submitted spreadsheets of accounts and activity demonstrating the ABC account remains positive.
- **Transport Troy Update** (Pam) – Pam reported:
 - Parklet “furniture” was being constructed to be used in downtown Troy. These will be modular units with decking to make them level with the curb and 2 sides forming a right angle so that there is a substantial barrier between the seating area and traffic. Benches will be built into the interior side, with a canopy for shade (or to keep rain off). The barrier wall may include a planter or space for signage above it. Although there may be some Parking Day activities later in the season (usually Sept. 20), these modules are intended to be used throughout the season in the areas around Monument Square which were part of the Summer Square program last year. They will provide space for safely distanced seating for passersby and customers of downtown shops & restaurants.
 - James Rath continues work on the Troy Trails map. We’re still working up to a distribution release of the printed trail maps but we received word at the Transport Troy meeting that they were printed & ready. (Since the meeting the map has appeared on the web at: bit.ly/troytrailsmap).
 - The Uniting Line mural project has been funded by a Bloomberg Grant and additional funding from ACCR. Three artists (Fernando Orellana, Jade Warrick, and Simona Bortis-Schultz) have been selected to beautify and unify the bleak area under the Collar City Bridge which separates Downtown from North-Central.

Old Business –

- **Albany Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan** (Ed)

Per a March 19th message from Zach Powell of Albany Planning Dept. the final plan can be expected towards the end of March or beginning of April (as of April 3rd, the website still has the Draft Plan). See <https://vizcomm.wixsite.com/albanybikepedplan>
- **Root Damage MHBHT** (David) – David reported that he had received some documents from his Freedom of Information Act submissions concerning assigning responsibility to repair root damage to the Corning Trail between Albany City and the lower 4th Street parking area in Watervliet. The documents were not entirely conclusive and at least one related to a different part of the MHBHT in Cohoes. He continues to seek responses from Assemblypersons Steck and Fahy and County Legislator O’Brien who supposedly submitted a related resolution to the Albany County Legislature. Ed reported he received a reply from County Legislature Chair Joyce who said they would continue to advocate. Michael Morris with the county emailed “New York State Department of Transportation owns the path and has, apparently, not maintained it adequately. The property is still under the control of the state, including maintenance.”
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee CDTC 3/9 Meeting** (John) –
 - Zach Powell from the City of Albany spoke out the status of the Albany Bike & Pedestrian Plan. He claimed Zoom meetings took place for person to person

feedback. Demonstration projects will be held this year. ABC biking routes were confirmed to be the most important.

- CDTC Office is planning on reopening on April 15th, 2021.
 - Ivan Vamos from NYBC spoke about the memorial that is being planned for Lou Rossi. The memorial will be located in the south end at the Corning Preserve at the intersection of State Bike Routes 5 & 9, Erie Canal & Empire State Helderberg Rail Trail. Completion of the OGS project will be determined by the 40 year old pump station located nearby. The memorial fund is being managed by NYBC.
 - Andrew Tracey from the Transportation Research Board provided some highlights of Impacts from COVID-19 on transportation in the USA. There was a rise in e-Commerce; Increase in both biking & walking due to low risk factors; Increase in TeleHealth Services; Work from home commuting trends were much less with incomes of \$100k or more versus lower incomes; Traffic Deaths were up 34% with main contributors of excessive speed, reckless driving & rollovers. Google Mobility Data for the Capital Region showed transit volumes were down 500,000 over the past year, Route 9 traffic volume was up, Wolf Road traffic is still down and I-87 has recovered to pre-COVID-19 levels. In summary, less traffic during AM/PM rush hours and more traffic during off peak hours.
 - Bike Month - Slogan is "Ditch the Car " increase walking & biking to school & work in the Capital Region. Program will be launched from May thru Oct 2021 with incentives.
 - MUTCD ``Manual on Urban Traffic Control Devices" was presented by Sandy/Jordan of CDTC. It has been over 10 years since the MUTCD was revised/updated. It includes bike boxes, red lanes for transit & green lanes for bicycles.
 - There has been some early discussion pertaining to the Albany County Loop Trail. This supporting trail has been identified in the Capital District Trails Plan. Essentially it would run along Route 155 from Voorheesville to the Town of Colonie, Albany International Airport and finally Albany Shaker Road points east.
 - The Next CDTC BPAC meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, April 13th, 2021 at 9:00 AM.
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- **South End Connector Safety Enhancements** (Mark) – After a successful meeting with Ward 1 representative Sonia Frederick, Mark continues to pursue a response from Ward 2 Representative Derek Johnson.
 - **Washington Park and Walking-Riding Collaboration** (Ed) – Per Bill Trudeau "Thank you for your email. We are working to secure contracts with our consultant team. The project will be administered similar to the New Scotland Ave study. We will have public meetings, although probably virtual. We will have a project web site and email. These are tasks that will be established once the consultant is on board. "
 - **Grants (Ride, Bike Day)** (John) – John reported on follow up from a recent meeting with Jen Ceponis of CDTC concerning the Schenectady/Albany Twin Cities Bike Ride. Questions about funding for insurance and municipality support letters appear to be resolved favorably. \$273 ride insurance should cover 52 riders. We would be responsible for notifying, working with municipalities on the route, not necessarily required to have letters of support.
 - **Patroon Greenway Project** (Ed) – No update since our promising meeting with Albany City Planning. We do not yet know if a contractor has been identified.
 - **YMCA Ride Against Racism** (Ed) – Sat, 5/1, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. ABC services and support financially the ride. (Jamie Crouse, jamiiec@ywca-gcr.org). The Ride is still on. ABC is an Honorary Committee member for the ride. Details on what role we may or may not play in the event are forthcoming.

- **Rapp Rd. Campaign Coordinator** (Hugh, Ed) – Official layout of the roadway right-of-way is essential to further discussion.
- **Keeler Proposal and SAVE Colonie** (John, et al.) – John reported the current plan looks to move the path so it would align on Troy Schenectady Road across from British American Blvd which already has bike lanes. There would be a connection to town land that would be used for a path connecting to the MHBHT. It was believed this would be less steep than using Rosendale Road to get to MHBHT and certainly less dangerous.
- **Monkey Wards Way** (Glenn) – CapitalNYBikeMap enhancements including the Monkey Wards Way MHBHT/Broadway Menands connector are online. Glenn previewed plans to look at recent improvements in Watervliet near the Arsenal and Cohoes along 787.
- **LaSalle Annual Donation** – this was agreed to. We all hope to be able to have in person meetings again towards fall.
- **Bike Capital Region** (Ed, John) – This new umbrella bicycle organization is gearing up to do a presentation to potential board members. Representatives of Albany, Saratoga, Schenectady and Troy Bike Groups have been among those assisting in the organizing of BCR.
- **Spring 2021 Rides** (All) – Resuming group rides – John and Ed need to speak about the Ride of Silence. Other group rides will likely be postponed until fall.

New Business –

- **Slow Roll Albany** (Ed, All) – Ed and Mark will get together and seek out other likely candidates to develop an action plan.
- **4/24 – Celebrate Trails Day** – [Celebrate Trails Day | Formerly Opening Day for Trails | Rails-to-Trails Conservancy](#)
- **4/24 – South End Earth Day** – Sat, 4/24. Workers needed to clean up the “trash-magnet” fence across South Pearl St. from Cherry Hill and the playground nearby at Ezra Prentice Houses. Volunteers – register here: [2021 South End Earth Day \(SEED\) Volunteer Registration \(google.com\)](#)
- **Bicycle Policeman Speaker** (Lorenz) – We are looking at having an Albany Bicycle Policeman at an upcoming meeting. Lorenz is seeking questions that we can send to the speaker in advance.

Zoomers – David, John, Mark, Pam, Glenn, Ed

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