



**Meeting Notes**  
Albany Bicycle Coalition Monthly Meeting  
4/29/21  
7:00 PM – via Zoom

**Interview With Albany Bicycle Police Officer Troy Zalatan**

Lorenz introduced PO Zalatan. Office Zalatan has almost 13 Years with the department and was part of the Neighborhood Engagement Unit (NEU) or beat officer for more than 5 years covering part of the South End and the Mansions Neighborhood. His primary mode of transportation for his assignment was on a bicycle and he had to attend a weeklong NYS bicycle operator's course.

During the course of our fascinating interview with Officer Zalatan, we learned he generally rides 20-30 miles per day. The Dept. has a couple of e-bikes but most use their standard bikes. The e-bike would need to be operated in economy mode to last a whole shift. Currently e-bike access is limited by rank and seniority. There are currently 6 officers in the bike unit. He described his weeklong bike training program as almost entirely in the saddle. The training also including tactical use of the bicycle and riding and managing his bicycle in many types of situations.

When asked what a cyclist should do if struck by a motor vehicle, Officer Zalatan advised:

- 1) Get out of the road if you can to avoid getting hit again
- 2) Get as much information as you can
- 3) Call the police

In the event of a cyclist being harassed by a road rager (e.g. repeatedly purposely driving close to the rider, throwing things at the rider), Officer Zalatan advised

- 1) Not engaging the perpetrator.
- 2) Getting somewhere safe
- 3) Calling the police (he considered this type of incident reckless endangerment)

With respect to the use of our few bike lanes for double parking, he said there were likely two tickets that could be issued – one for double parking and a separate ticket for parking in a bike lane.

To avoid collisions in the first place he says it helps to look where drivers are looking and try to make eye contact.

**PO Troy Zalatan agreed to provide his contact info:** [tzalatan@albanyny.gov](mailto:tzalatan@albanyny.gov)

## Reports

- **Transport Troy Update** Pam provided this synopsis of what was covered at the last Transport Troy meeting, via Zoom, on April 14, 2021:

- They received positive feedback on the rollout of their Trails Map.

- The design of the prototype module of the "parklet furniture"\* is being fine-tuned and should be ready to construct. Discussion covered features, cost of materials and how to ramp up from prototype to production.

- Most of the rest of the meeting involved discussion of housekeeping issues (use of Google docs & other tools), developing promotional materials, etc.

- Next meeting will be 2nd Tuesday in May

- **Cycle Schenectady Report**

Cycle Schenectady sponsored a Zoom presentation on the city's bike master plan, adopted in 2017 and never acted on.

Participating were

- CDTC official who worked on the plan,
- city engineer
- director of planning and development.
- more than 50 people signed on

They learned, the city had a couple of bike-friendly projects ready to go this year and more possible next year.

Cycle Schenectady is also pushing for bike lanes and other traffic-calming measures through the Safe Streets Coalition

- we started with the Schenectady United Neighborhoods group.
- We are seeking other community support
- signed on are: Proctors, Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority, tourism agency, Discover Schenectady Coalition

- Goals:

- identify dangerous streets and intersections and demand that the city do something about them.

- lower city to 25 mph and
- adopt a Complete Streets ordinance and philosophy.

The county is holding a Complete Streets workshop on 5/6 that the city will participate in, as well as Cycle Schenectady.

The group is also pressuring the city to have its contractor redo a section of the Mohawk Hudson Bike Trail that was dug up last year (just five years after a complete rehab by the state) for a sewer project.

- This new section of trail has cracks on the edge, tracks from heavy construction equipment, and a washboard effect in places.
- The mayor says these issues are on the city's "punch list" for the project, but Cycle Schenectady is pushing for more than a simple repair and repaving.
- Knowledgeable people have told us that the base was inadequately laid and prepared, and the trail can expected to fail in about five years.

In early March we also participated in a Zoom meeting with city and county officials, environmental groups and religious leaders, aimed at creating a Sustainable Schenectady. We had a good initial discussion and agreed to meet again, though no date was set.

On 4/24 we held our first event since our creation last year: an Earth Day ride starting at Mohawk Harbor (casino), to lock 8 and back. 24 people and a beautiful day

Planning spring and summer ride series: six casual, family-friendly rides (one per month) through Schenectady's various neighborhoods.

Planning joint ride with Albany Bicycle Coalition being arranged by John Gillivan.

## Old Business –

- **Albany Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan** – There is still no final plan. The website still shows the draft plan. BUT there is a new "Executive Summary Document" that can be found at: <https://vizcomm.wixsite.com/albanybikepedplan> - Interesting Reading!
- **Root Damage MHBHT (David)** – Pending grant amount of \$125,000. David has been relentless in pursuing remediation of root damage on the MHBHT. He has found a County Legislator that is advancing a County Resolution to get it done. He is asking for all concerned to write, call or email their County Reps to support the effort. Use this link to find yours: <https://www.albanycounty.com/government/county-legislature/legislator-list>
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee CDTC (4/13 Meeting)** – This was attended by John G. and Ed B.

- There was a report of a successful pop up bike lane in downtown Poughkeepsie, all that was entailed in setting it up and lessons learned
- CDPHP Cycle reported
  - \* 3000 rides their 1<sup>st</sup> week with the help of great weather
  - \* they have expanded to area Colleges & Waterford
  - \* may expand to Glens Falls/Queensbury and perhaps Lake George.
  - \* scooters are coming along with racks and a fine system to encourage a “neat operation”.
  - \* They believe they have learned lessons from issues in other municipalities
  - \* Scooters have top speed of 15-18mph but are limited to 8mph for 1<sup>st</sup> time users
  - \* They have a “geofencing system that can turn off motors in particular areas
  - \* They are looking at a way to combine the speed limitation feature with the geofencing feature.
  - \* In place of Ride to Work they are working up a Ditch the Car Challenge that will run throughout the warmer months
  - \* They announced a Technical Assistance Program for small projects like recreational trail planning, data analysis and mapping. For more info: 518-458-2161 or [techassist@cdprc.org](mailto:techassist@cdprc.org)
  - \* A statewide trails plan meeting will be held in June
  - \* Trail counts have reported a significant increase in trail usage
  - \* NYS will be developing a Statewide Bike Plan

- **Transportation Projects**

- **South End Connector Safety Enhancements**

Mark Reported he was still pursuing a response from the Second Ward Representative Derrick Johnson regarding serious safety issues at the Broadway/Quay and S. Pearl/787 Ramp intersections

- **Washington Park and Walking-Riding Collaboration** – Ed Reports we are still looking for an announcement of the Washington Park/Center Square Study Public Comment Period

- **Keeler Proposal** John G. reports the Town of Colonie Planning Board is still actively pursuing a conceptual design with their engineering consultant (Advance Engineering) for a multi-use path that would run behind the Keeler Honda Motorcar complex and tie into the Empire State Trail (MHBHT) at Mohawk Riverside Landing Park located on River Road. This proposed trail would connect to the Shaker Trail by way of British American Blvd at Route 7 and eventually connect to the Albany-Colonie Connector Trail. The current Rosendale Road access to the MHBHT from Route 7 is narrow, steep and not safe for bicyclists and pedestrians.

- **Patroon Greenway Project** Yasmine Robinson reports - CDTC is in the process of executing a contract with a consultant. [They] don't have an exact start date yet, but I expect things to get rolling in early summer. If the Bike Coalition has any public outreach strategies or ideas, feel free to

send them over. Engaging the community members of Arbor Hill, West Hill, and West End as well as many others will be an important aspect of this project and it's always helpful to hear what engagement methods work best for different communities.

- **Rides**

- **Ride of Silence (All)** – Resuming group rides –
- - ROS - Is Happening May 19<sup>th</sup>! Deadline for registration is Monday, May 17th, 2021. The max number of riders is 30. Groups will be limited to a max of 10 riders per group that will be led through the City of Albany.
- **Slow Roll Albany** Ed and Mark are working on planning. We want to start doing these later in the summer. We will be reaching out for partners and local neighborhood support.
- **YMCA Ride Against Racism** Ed reports a last minute call from Jamie Crouse confirmed YWCA did indeed want our support. We put out a call for volunteers to show up at one of the three starting locations to provide access to air pumps, basic tools, advice and ABC Propaganda.
- **Bike Capital Region** Ed and John have been serving on the organizing committee of this umbrella bike organization meant to encompass Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties. They reported BCR held their first Zoom Presentation to a wide group of persons involved in area bicycle organizations. The presentation was well received. Additional presentations to other groups will follow.

## **New Business**

- **Election of Officers – Completed. Per our bylaws, new officers will take effect at the June Meeting**
  - Ed Brennan, President
  - Glenn Sandberg, Vice President
  - David Pisaneschi, Treasurer
  - Mark Maniak, Secretary
- **Twin-City Bike Ride Update** – John G. confirmed we received a \$1,853 grant from CDTS with a \$616 ABC match. He is working with Cycle Schenectady to setup the Ride for late summer.
- **Uncle Sam Trail and Watervliet Cycle Track Concerns** – Glenn S. reported on issues he found on his recent visit to the Uncle Sam Trail and Watervliet Waterfront and how they would be presented in CapitalNYBikeMap.com
- **South End Connector Trail Ambassadors – Hugh reported:**
  - glass/trash issues along the South End Connector (especially near 787).
  - he gave a presentation to the South End Neighborhood Association in pursuit of Trail Ambassadors for the South End Connector

- the City OGS reported they were sending a street sweeper down the trail along 787 twice a week (the membership was collectively skeptical)
- **Utilitarian Cyclists** – Lorenz reports “we linked up a Times Union feature writer with the Albany Common Council Ward #1 member in an effort to identify potential interviewees. The objective is to publicize the needs and experiences of riders who depend on their bicycles as their major form of locomotion.”

### Upcoming

- **Rides/events/issues** <https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/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: 5/27, 6/24, 7/29, 8/26, 9/30, 10/28, 11/18 (not 11/25), and 12/30.