

Albany Bicycle Coalition October Meeting Notes

On Thursday, October 28th, Albany Bicycle Coalition held a hybrid In Person/Zoom Meeting. In attendance were Lorenz Worden, Hugh Johnson, Mark Maniak, Pam Bentien, John Gillivan, Glenn Sandberg, Rob Carle, Margaret Carle, David Pisaneschi, Andrew Matrai and Ed Brennan.

- **Treasurer's Report** - David P. reported that membership dues/income was down this year. He remarked that we had additional new expenses including the Ride Against Racism Sponsorship and Zoom Fees. He offered that it may be time for a membership drive.
- **Transport Troy Update** - Pam reported that Transport Troy did not hold their October Meeting. She was happy to report the Uniting Line mural project under the Collar City Bridge has been completed and was officially opened Tuesday afternoon, October 27th. Looks good! Dignitaries, activities, music and free Iron Works BBQ made it festive. Now it needs amenities around the art and events to draw the community in.
- **Cycle Schenectady Report** – Art from CS reported via e-mail that thanks to a bike-sympathetic chairman at the Metroplex Development Authority, Ray Gillen, they are getting some things done:
 - Saratoga Associates, which has experience with bike master plans and Complete Streets, was hired to do a sign and wayfinding plan for the existing unsigned trail that starts at Central Park, goes through Vale Park, and ends downtown. They sought Cycle Schenectady's input, and even gave CS the choice of sign types and colors. The plan is really good, and they say it's the first real local signage plan for CDTC's Capital Trails Plan.
 - Metroplex and Schenectady County also hired Saratoga Associates to do a more comprehensive sign and wayfinding plan for the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail (MHBHT) and its connections. They have produced a draft plan, which Art saw and commented on, and it is even more impressive than the aforementioned project. It will be released to the public the week of November 1st.
 - The city is also going ahead with a long-awaited contra-flow lane on Washington Ave. It will allow cyclists to safely navigate a one-way street that runs between the Stockade and SCCC and the section of the MHBHT that starts there.
 - Metroplex and Town of Glenville have finalized plans for a nice 4.5-mile River Loop, made possible by the paving of a now nearly impassable dirt path on the Glenville side. The loop will take riders through the Mohawk Harbor casino site and Stockade, over a multiuse path on the Western Gateway Bridge, up the newly paved path in Glenville to Freemans Bridge Road, over a new multiuse path on the Freemans Bridge, and back to Mohawk Harbor.
 - CS will also be pushing their own plan for a one-mile bike, pedestrian route in Central Park that will include a protected bike lane.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee CDTC.** John G. reported:
 - Ben Woelk & Judy Binnix of the Genesee Transportation Council presented Health Impact Assessments (HIA's) they did for the Rochester Bike Share and the Genesee Valley Greenway State Park. The HIA's were useful in achieving Technical Assistance Program (TAP) and private Foundation grants for infrastructure improvements like resurfacing and programmatic changes like bike share station placement and allowing bike share cash transactions and subsidies to the benefit of poorer populations
 - CDTC has merged and simplified the 2022/23 UPWP Funding to coordinate grants such as Linkage, Coexist, Staff Funding, etc into a 1 Year Program. There will be No Funding Limit or Cap. They are soliciting for planning projects and programs for the Capital Region. CDTC is

- encouraging municipalities to collaborate with other towns & cities as an alternate way of increasing & diversifying their applications.
- New Visions Bike/PED Recommendations:
 - Develop robust bicycle & pedestrian data collection
 - Measure the economic value of walking & bicycling infrastructure
 - Explore integration of HIA into metropolitan planning process
 - Cultivate partnerships in the Capital District Region
 - Provide training, educational opportunities, tools, resources on Bike/PED infrastructure design to local planners and consulting engineers
- Transportation Improvement Projects (TIP) On-Line only Solicitations for 2022/27 are underway - Project Proposals deadline is December 3rd, 2021
- Capital Coexist 2.0 Projects must re-apply if funds were not used over the past two years
- Path Counting Program - One of the three automated counters was stolen in Troy recently. Program is on Hold until CDTC can evaluate how to secure the counters safely.
- CDTC/CRPC Technical Assistance Program (TAP) - All proposals are due by December 1st, 2021.
- New Visions Virtual Learning Series continues - Next is on November 6th, 2021 from 3:30 to 5:00 PM Subject: Generic Environmental Impact Statements (GEIS). See Webpage for all upcoming sessions: <https://www.cdtcmpr.org/news/nv-webinars>
- CDRPC reported that the Town of Guelderland Complete Streets effort is proceeding.
- Jen Ceponis of CDTC mentioned that a virtual Complete Streets meeting was planned with the Town of Colonie in less than a week.
- Next CDTC BPAC Meeting is scheduled Virtually for **Tuesday, November 9th, 2021 at 9:00 AM.**

Transportation Projects

Patroon Creek Greenway Feasibility Study -

- Ed attended their Public Event on Northern Blvd by the Kipp Valley Charter School and spoke with the contractor and the Community Liasons - Benita Law-Diao (area health/nutrition activist and cyclist) and Salah Harris (UAlbany Student and local). They have completed much of the research for the project and are focusing on gaining community interest and input and studying route options.
- A second public event is Wednesday, November 3rd, from 4:00 – 6:00PM at KIPP Tech Valley Middle School: along the temporary trail on Manning Blvd. N. near the entrance to Tivoli Lake Preserve. Visitors are invited to learn more about the Patroon Creek Greenway Feasibility Study, experience what an off-road connection between Tivoli Preserve and Northern Blvd feels like, and share thoughts about the destinations/services that the future Patroon Creek Greenway should connect to. There will be a food truck on-site (Wrap De City) and there will be free giveaways for participants! Rain location: Livingston School Apartments Community Room, 315 Northern Boulevard, Albany (please bring a mask)
- Project website is: www.PatroonGreenway.com

Rides

- Daily Grind Ride - Completed! Pam, Glenn, Burt, Hugh, JP and Ed got together to renew this annual ride. The weather forecast was touch and go. Despite some gustiness on the return trip, it turned out to be a great day for a ride.
- Halloween Albany Rural Cemetery Ride - Was held as scheduled on Sunday, October 31st. John G. will provide a report at the next meeting.

New Business

- Delmar Traffic Calming Referendum. Citizens of Bethlehem vote on Proposition 6 on 11/2. In addition to Chris Churchill's opinion piece the Times Union published an Op Ed by our own Lorenz Worden and a letter from Hugh Johnson. Lorenz will send all relevant documents and links to the ABCore. We agreed that the “anti-group’s” arguments have little factual support in contrast to the documented economic and safety benefits of Traffic Calming and bicycle lanes.
- Intercity Rides for 2022 - Ed proposed reaching out to Transport Troy, Biketoga, Cycle Schenectady to see if they were interested in pursuing a sponsored series of four inter-city rides. Albany/Troy, Albany/Schenectady, Troy/Saratoga and Schenectady/Saratoga. Hugh, Rob, Mark, John G. and Ed will meet separately and hopefully with members of the aforementioned groups to work on feasibility, planning and sponsorship.
- Candidates Questionnaire - We have had two candidates respond. Lorenz, Glenn and Ed would follow up to get the responses posted on the ABC website
- Response to Recent Cyclist Mayhem on Area Roads - In response to crashes on area roads, John and Lorenz are working on police reports and two new ghost bikes. They reviewed the recent cases as follows: John Lynch (killed 7/20/21) Deborah Carpenter (hit-and-run injury 9/1/21) Jeremy Williams (killed 9/21/21), and Jen Hebner (hit-and-run jogger injury, 8/23/21). Rob reported that he and Margaret had re-installed ghost bikes for Roger Sawyer and Nicholas Richichi.
- Redesign of Homepage - Glenn will make minor changes – reducing and relocating the donation script, moving "Events" up, and relocating Albany Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan.
- Times Union “Plan Ahead” Section - As recommended by Lorenz, we will use this avenue for our event promotions but not our regular meetings.
- Troy’s 2022 budget - Lorenz reported that Troy’s 2022 budget has \$3 mil for Uncle Sam Trail north of Van Der Heyden. We noted some of the “pinch points” in use of the riverfront trail by people on bicycles. This is especially the case near the path under the Green Island Bridge. Lorenz will draft a letter to the mayor on ABC’s support for the project, on our work with Transport Troy, and on our interest in correcting some of the Uncle Sam Trail issues.
- Annual membership drive - Mark noted it is time to do an end of year appeal letter. He will check on the status of charitable donations in the 2021 Tax Code and prepare a draft letter highlighting our recent accomplishments and goals for next year.
- ABC TV - Ed sent out a message to Keith Irish and the manager of the Public TV Access Studio at the Washington Public Library that we are interested in touring the facilities to see what is involved in producing ABC's own public access programming that can also be published to YouTube.
- Review of Responsibilities: The group reviewed our web, e-mail, bike map, Zoom, Facebook and (perhaps) ABC-TV/YouTube efforts and distribution of labor.

Upcoming – Rides/events/issues? (Go here - <https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/resources/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: 11/18 (not 11/25), and 12/30