

Capital District Transportation Committee

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting July 13, 2021 Meeting Notes

Attendees: Edward Davidson, Albany Bicycling Coalition; Andrew Matrai; Tess Drauschak, Capital Roots; Barbara Nazarewicz, Stantec; Martin Daley, CDRPC; Tina Carton, Saratoga Springs; Carrie Ward, CDTC; Ben Woelk, UD4H; Jody Binnix, GTC; Kyle Hatch, Chazen; Rima Shamieh, CDTC; Jim Levy, Planning 4 Places; Charles Welge, Albany County; Brent Irving, CDTA; Lauren Stairs, Schenectady County; David Woodin, Waterford; Jeff Olson, re-Charge; Jim Moore, DASNY; Steve Feeney, Schenectady County; John DiMura, LaBella; Nicole McGrath, FHWA; Ethan Warren, CDTA; James Rath, City of Troy; Sam Morreale, City of Albany; Jack Celuch, Albany County; Ed Brennan, Albany Bicycling Coalition; Fred Mastroianni, GPI; Jen Hogan, NYSDOH; Melissa Cherubino, Glenville; Art Clayman, Cycle Schenectady; Jordan Solano-Reed, CDTC; Nate Owens, Bethlehem; Janette Kaddo Marino, Bikeatoga; John Gillivan, Albany Bicycling Coalition; Jennifer Viggiani, Clifton Park; Linda von der Heide, Rensselaer County; Valerie Deane, NYSDOT; Lindsey Garney, CDTA; Rogerio Rodrigues, CMPAC; Ivan Vamos, NY Bicycling Coalition

1. Welcome/Intro

Jen welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. CDTC Covid 19 Update

Jen spoke on how CDTC is eager to once again have in person meetings but have not changed Covid policy yet so meetings will remain virtual.

3. Lark Street Improvement Study Demonstration Project (Presentation by Lauren Alpert City of Albany attached)

Jen introduced Lauren Alpert from city of Albany to speak on Lark Street Improvement Study.

Lauren shared her screen and announced the project partners which included Pint-Sized, Three Fish, the Poke Bar, Albany County Department of Health, Capital Roots, the Albany Parking Authority, and Empire State Development. The consultant team was Bergman Associates and Land Art Studio. Lauren mentioned where they focused their work and the goals which were some things like supporting safe travel, enhancing parking, and strengthening connections from downtown Washington Park. Open storefronts were used to promote pop-ups and demonstration projects and collect feedback from the public. Storefronts were staffed by the City and consultant team during peak pedestrian travel times, like lunchtime and after work hours. The final report included recommendations like curb extensions, sidewalk expansion and raised intersections and new crosswalks.

The City was the first to use the materials from the Albany County Complete Streets Lending Library so there was a lot of assembly and preparation required during the set-up of the demonstration projects. The City notified nearby residents about the event a week prior.

Ivan Vamos asked about the existing cobblestone intersections and if there were plans to replace them. He suggested a less expensive surface that gives the look of brick but is less troublesome for mobility devices or people wearing high-heeled shoes.

Janette Kaddo Marino asked about the total cost of the pop-up and Lauren said the project cost about \$75,000 and was funded through a grant from Empire State Development. Lauren wasn't certain of the exact cost of the pop-up.

See the attached presentation for additional details.

4. CDTC/NYS DOT/CDTA Updates

a. Capital Coexist 2.0

Jen presented projects that were completed and ones that could not be completed due to Covid. She also presented a few pictures of the event in Bethlehem called Walk & Roll.

b. Smart Communities

Jen spoke about developing a Smart Cities Toolbox with a \$100,000 budget to define "Smart Cities" and identify underutilized evolving technologies that can be deployed in the Capital Region and provide examples of similar sized towns that have successfully implemented similar projects.

c. Ditch the Car Pledge.

Rima gave an update on the Ditch the Car campaign. She explained the monthly raffle and what prizes are available. People can join the campaign until October 8th. To date, 3500 miles and several 100 trips have been. People can still join all the way up to the end on the challenge. People earn badges for logging trips and posting to social media (#518DitchTheCar). Find more details on the CDTC webpage at: <https://www.cdtcmpo.org/ditchthecar/>.

d. CDTC/CDRPC Technical Assistance Program

Jen explained the program and what it provides to local governments. Applications will be accepted through Dec.1, 2021 if you need help with a project and have any questions email www.techassist@CDRPC.org or call 518-458-2161.

e. New Visions

Jen mentioned the New Visions virtual learning series 3 part complete street workshop, which is on CDTC web page and YouTube channel. Tuesday July 13 @3:30 Complete Streets Demonstration Project and August 17, @3:30 Open Streets www.cdtcmpo.org/nv2050

f. CDPHP Cycle Update

Jen talked about CDTA Scoot Program with electric scooters racks being installed in the region at least 1 in each of the cities with about 50 scooters to start out with.

g. DOT Update

Jen provided information on the recently announced TAP-CMAQ program. Workshop webinars have been scheduled. Additional details can be found at <https://www.dot.ny.gov/TAP-CMAQ>.

5. Other Updates

Jen shared an update on CDTC Planning Initiatives. See the attached spreadsheet for details.

- 6.** Next meeting: Scheduled for August 10, at 9am via Zoom. Please register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vceurrz0pGdSj2w-qOfd7eBHXzFey4Q24>.