Active Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: October 21, 2026
Start – End Time: 9:30 AM-10:40 AM
Location: 1 Park Place, Suite 101, Colonie, NY 12205
Facilitator: Teresa LaSalle

Name	Title	Representing
Amy McCain	Board Member	Albany County Planning Board
Jen Hunt	Executive Director	Saratoga Trails Alliance
Tom Hulihan	Planning Director	City of Rensselaer
Ivan Vamos	Emeritus Member	New York Bicycle Coalition Board
Scott Miller	Secretary	Saratoga PLAN Trails Committee
Bill Herman	Committee Member	Saratoga PLAN Trails Committee
Nate Owens	Deputy Town Planner	Town of Bethlehem
Valerie Deane	Senior Transportation Analyst	NYSDOT – Region 1
Ethan Warren	Senior Planner	CDTA
Charles Welge	Director, Public Health Planning & Education	Albany County Department of Health
Jen Viggiani	Open Space Coordinator	Town of Clifton Park
Peter Thomas	Committee Member	Bethlehem Bike/Ped Committee
Ed Brennan	President	Albany Bicycle Coalition
Erica Schneider	Policy and Planning Manager	Parks & Trails New York
Jeff Olson	Co-Founder / Vice President	Re:Charge-e
Dan French	Program Manager	NYS Department of Health
Teresa LaSalle	Director of GIS/Data Services	Capital Region Transportation Council
Josh Exler	Senior Transportation Planner / GIS Specialist	Capital Region Transportation Council
Adam McCarvill	Transportation Planner	Capital Region Transportation Council
Craig Rippon	Administrative Specialist	Capital Region Transportation Council

YouTube Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sy8N4ZIXnGI

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

Teresa LaSalle began the meeting at 9:30 AM. Those attending in person introduced themselves. Teresa introduced those attending virtually and reviewed the agenda.

2. **Discussion Items:**
    a. 2026 Trail Count Program – Status Update

Teresa provided an update on the Transportation Councils ongoing 2026 Trail Count Program, including count distribution by county, and the highest and lowest volume trails counted this year. The annual trail report will be released in early 2027. If anyone has any last-minute counts needed this year there is still some time, so reach out to Ethan at etownsend@capitalmpo.org.

Scott Miller asked if the Saratoga County trail count data will be included in the report. Teresa said she was unsure, and it probably wouldn't be an apple-to-apple comparison, but she would mention it to Ethan.

    b. NYSDOT Active Transportation Strategic Plan Discussion

Teresa shared information about the NYSDOT Active Transportation Strategic Plan that is currently being developed. Four public meetings were held across the state in September, including one virtual meeting. The plan is anticipated to be completed in Fall of 2026. For more information visit the plan's webpage www.nysdotwalkbikeplan.com or send an email to ATSP@dot.ny.gov.

Adam McCarvill asked Valerie Deane at NYSDOT if this effort is tied to the statewide mobility services programs like 511NY and bikeshare programs. Valerie was unsure of such a connection.

Scott Miller asked if public input was closed given the near completion of the plan. Valerie stated she believed the formal survey window was closed, but if anyone has last minute input to please send it as soon as possible.

There were several questions about the plan from the chat. Valerie shared some information, but suggested individuals reach out to the NYSDOT Main Office for more information.

    c. Active Priority Network – Project Update

Teresa shared information about the Transportation Council's new "Active Priority Network" initiative. It will likely be replacing the older Bike/Ped priority networks, to combine the Council's various active transportation planning products. The goal is to create a network like the National Highway System for Active Transportation in the region. The purpose is to direct federal transportation funds towards targeted improvements to close gaps and enhance the mobility options for non-motorized travelers. So far, the project has consisted of identifying the primary existing infrastructure that will make up the network, after which gaps will be identified to make connections between existing routes. There are three core types of infrastructure being examined: trails, bicycle facilities, and sidewalks.

Josh Exler began explaining a variety of maps that have been developed and the criteria for doing so. Trails were initially screened to remove trails under one mile. Trails were then added back that made connections to major trails or crossed major bridges. Trails over one mile were then removed if they serve a primarily recreational function or had a more suitable parallel route. Small, outlying floaters in disconnected areas were then removed as well. For bicycle infrastructure, bike lanes, signed shoulders, and cycle tracks are included, but sharrows are not. Sidewalks were filtered to only include sidewalks on US, State, and County routes as they are typically the direct major routes between communities. This layer still needs to have outlying "floaters", and some parallel alignments need to be removed.

At this stage the Council is looking for feedback on the approach so far. The next steps are to continue the mapping efforts to refine the existing infrastructure. The trimmed down maps will then be compared to existing regional planning products to ensure key routes from those plans are included if they are removed. Then once the existing infrastructure is finalized, the effort to identify gaps to be shown on the network will begin.

A summary of questions, answers, and discussion follows. Only paved trails are included as federal guidance does not consider unpaved trails to have a transportation use. There was significant discussion about stone dust trails and how they could be incorporated in the plan even though they do not qualify for the federal funds this network is targeting. Once the existing infrastructure has been refined a bit more, the Council will likely put out an interactive map to collect public feedback. This is expected soon, but no specific timeline is available. It was recommended that different facility types should be quantified by their benefit as off-road infrastructure is typically preferred. The question of trail maintenance was raised, and if that could be shown as a part of this project. It was suggested that the types of funding available that this project is targeting be outlined when this is shared for public feedback. Documenting bike parking was suggested. Teresa shared that would likely not be included as a part of this effort but may be a good fit for the regional trails map. This project does not have a specific timeline associated, though is intended to inform the TIP scoring process that will begin late 2027.

Useful links relevant to the discussion: Regional Trails Map (Online) Capital District Trails Plan (2019)

d. Status of Planning Initiatives

Teresa provided an update on the Transportation Council's various planning initiatives.

3. Participant Updates

Nate Owens shared an update that the Delaware Avenue Complete Streets project in Bethlehem is wrapping up. They are also working on design for sidewalk replacements and new sidewalks along several stretches of state road in the Town. The Town is also working on a speed limit reduction program on several neighborhood roads. The Town is also updating their zoning code which includes a variety of active transportation provisions.

Scott Miller shared an update on the EZ Connector Trail project which aims to connect the Veterans Bike Trail in Ballston with the Empire State Trail in Scotia. The working group for the plan has accepted the consultant's preferred alternative, so cost estimates are now being developed.

Jen Hunt shared an update on the Saratoga Trails Alliance efforts to expand the Zim Smith trail to the north. A letter was sent to the county commissioner asking for an update on the project, but they have not received an answer yet. Teresa shared that she knows the environmental review has been holidng the project up, and suggested Jen reach out to Ethan or Sandy to see if they knew more.

Ivan Vamos shared that there was a recent Times Union article about fatal and serious injury crashes in the region.

4. **Tentative 2027 ATAC Dates**

Tentative ATAC meeting dates for 2027 were proposed. They are January 13, April 14, July 14, and October 13. All the meetings are on Wednesdays at 9:30am. If anyone is aware of major conflicts with those dates please share them with Ethan as soon as possible.

Meeting ended at 10:40 AM.