



Meeting Summary

Task 4.67

Active Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: April 8, 2025

Start – End Time: 9:00 AM- 10:45AM

Location: 1 Park Place, Albany NY 12205

Facilitator: Ethan Townsend

Name	Title	Representing
Valerie Deane	CHIPS, Rail & Bike/Ped Coordinator	NYS DOT Region 1
Scott Miller	Advisory Council Member	Saratoga PLAN
James Rath	Executive Director	Capital Streets
Ed Brennan	President	Albany Bicycle Coalition
Charles Welge	Director of Public Health Planning and Education	Albany County Department of Health
Nate Owens	Senior Planner	Town of Bethlehem
Linda von der Heide	Principal Planner	Rensselaer County Executive's Office
Ethan Townsend	Transportation Planner	Capital Region Transportation Council
Adam McCarvill	Transportation Planner	Capital Region Transportation Council
Parker Morris	Transportation Planner	Capital Region Transportation Council
Teresa LaSalle	Director of GIS & Data Services	Capital Region Transportation Council

Agenda Items:

1) Welcome and Introductions

2) Discussion Items

a) 2024 Trail Count Program

The Transportation Council's 2024 Trail Count Program Report has been released. The report provides information on the nine (9) trail counts conducted by the Transportation Council in 2024. The 2–3-week counts were extrapolated into year-long trail use estimates. Comparisons are made in the report to prior years counts at the same sites (where available). The report also contains general information about Multi-use Trails in the Capital Region.

b) 2025-2030 TIP

The Transportation Council's 2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is currently out for public review. The draft 25-30 TIP includes six (6) new Active

Transportation Specific projects being recommended for funding, at a combined total of \$28.3M.

c) InMotion 2050

An update was provided on the ongoing update to the Transportation Council's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan, "inMotion: The Plan to 2050". The draft Vision Statement and Draft Goal were shared with the ATAC, as well as several Active Transportation specific actions that are being promoted by the plan. The plan development is currently in stage 4 of the 5-stage process "Decision Making". Draft strategies, Performance Measures and the Financial Plan are currently being finalized, after which the full draft plan will be compiled and begin to be reviewed for finalization. The final plan is anticipated to be adopted at the September Policy Board meeting.

d) 2025-26 Unified Planning Work Program

The 2025-2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Transportation Council has begun. Active Transportation initiatives are largely being continued as they have been in years prior. Three new studies are being funding through this UPWP that relate to active transportation: Albany County Active Transportation Technical Assistance, Village of Ballston Spa Traffic Calming Master Plan, and Saratoga Springs West Avenue Complete Streets Study.

e) Regional Trail Planning

The floor was opened to meeting participants to share updates on Trail Planning efforts throughout the Region.

Ed Brennan shared that there is a problem in the Town of Bethlehem where the new Blessings Road Trail meets the roundabouts at NY-85. The intersection feels unsafe for cyclists due to the high speed and volume of traffic on NY-85. Nate Owen, with the Town, shared that the Town has been listening closely to the concerns of residents and users to hopefully address the safety concerns at the roundabout.

Scott with Saratoga PLAN asked if there has been any regional process to collect pedestrian and cyclist accident data at roundabouts. No one attending the meeting was aware of any. Scott also shared that Saratoga PLAN will be convening a working group to look into the feasibility of trail that would connect the Villages of Ballston Spa and Scotia.

Nate Owens with the Town of Bethlehem shared that the Cherry Avenue multi-use path is under construction.

f) Status of Planning Initiatives

The current status of the Transportation Council's various planning initiatives were shared.

3) Active Transportation Planning Task Discussion

The Transportation Council is currently exploring Active Transportation planning activities that the ATAC could be involved with. Two current ideas are the building of a Regional Trail Census, and development of an Active Transportation Network.

a) Build Trail Census

A Regional Trail Census is one possible activity the Transportation Council could undertake with ATAC participation. The Census would be a combination of several Transportation Council efforts such as the Trail Count Program and Trail Map, with a more detailed level of information than any of the current Transportation Council products. There are several forms the Census could take, that would need to be figured out during development.

Participants offered a variety of data pieces that would be helpful to include in a Trail Census. They include signage, budget estimate of construction, and maintenance costs.

b) Active Transportation Network Development

Another activity the ATAC could be involved with, is the planned development of an Active Transportation Network for the Capital Region. The network is envisioned to be a "National Highway System for Cyclists and Pedestrians" in the Capital Region. More focused than the 2015 Bicycle Pedestrian Priority Network, the Active Transportation Network would identify primary corridors through the Region for safe and convenient Active Transportation. The Network would differentiate currently extant facilities/routes, and proposed connections to complete a thorough network.

ATAC involvement in this project would be vital to identify current infrastructure the Transportation Council is unaware of, provide recommendations on priorities and connections, and review the Network as it is developed.

4) Other News & Updates

a) Dunn Memorial Bridge Bike/Ped Route Update

NYSDOT is beginning work to make the Dunn Memorial Bridge Bike/Ped route more permanent. Work is expected to begin this spring and hopefully be concluded by the end of summer. Work will primarily happen at night with detour accommodations to be made by NYSDOT. The trail is anticipated to be 6'9" wide and have a concrete buffer with glare screen, totaling 42" in height. The Quay Street crossing will be upgraded, and new lighting and signage will be provided along the route.

b) Capital Streets, 2 Year Celebration – April 10

Capital Streets will be holding their 2 Year Celebration April 10 from 6-9pm. For more information, reach out to James Rath.

c) PTNY Canal Clean Sweep – April 18-20

Parks & Trails New York's (PTNY) annual Canal Clean Sweep event is coming up the weekend of April 18-20. Registered events can be found on PTNY's website, and anyone wanting to put on an event near them is encouraged to register for one.

d) 2025 Empire State Greenways Conference October 15-17

The 2025 Empire State Greenways Conference hosted by PTNY has been announced. The conference will be held October 15-17 in Kingston, NY. More information will be coming soon. Conference details and registration can be found on the event website: <https://www.ptny.org/events/empire-state-greenways-conference>

5) Upcoming Meetings

The remaining ATAC meetings for the year are scheduled for July 8, 2025, and October 14, 2025.