



CAPITAL REGION
**Transportation
Council**

Meeting Summary

Task 4.67

Active Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: October 22, 2025

Start – End Time: 9:30 AM-11:00 AM

Location: 1 Park Place, Albany NY 12205

Facilitator: Ethan Townsend

Name	Title	Representing
Sara Constantineau	Landscape Designer & Planner	Highland Planning
Melissa Phillips	Director of Right-of-Way and Real Estate	National Grid
Jim Salengo	Regional External Affairs Manager for Albany County	National Grid
Valerie Deane	Senior Transportation Analyst	NYSDOT Region 1
John Mitchell	Trails & Open Space Committee Member	Town of Halfmoon
Gail Mitchell		Interested Citizen
Scott Miller	Advisory Council Member	Saratoga PLAN
Lauren Dryburgh	Planning Department	Town of Colonie
Ethan Warren	Senior Planner	Capital District Transportation Authority
James Rath	Executive Director	Capital Streets
Juvena Ng	Traffic Engineer	CHA Consulting
Kris Alfonso	Senior Manager, Community Prevention	NYS Department of Health
Thomas Hulihan	Planning Director	City of Rensselaer
Ed Brennan	President	Albany Bicycle Coalition
Nate Owens	Senior Planner	Town of Bethlehem
Benjamin Luke	Public Health Educator	Albany County Department of Health
Charles Welge	Director, Public Health Planning & Education	Albany County Department of Health
Tim Lane	Trustee	Village of Menands
Ivan Vamos		Interested Citizen
Linda von der Heide	Principal Planner	Rensselaer County Executive's Office
Ethan Townsend	Transportation Planner	Capital Region Transportation Council
Andrew Tracy	Director, Transportation Planning	Capital Region Transportation Council
Adam McCarvill	Transportation Planner	Capital Region Transportation Council
Parker Morris	Transportation Planner	Capital Region Transportation Council
Leah Rye	Administrative Specialist	Capital Region Transportation Council

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting started at 9:36 AM.

2. Feature Presentation: Resilient Broadway Multimodal Linkage Study – Sara Constantineau, Highland Planning

Sara Constantineau gave a presentation on the Resilient Broadway Multimodal Linkage Study, covering the study background and goals, baseline corridor assessment, study recommendations and implementation strategy. The study area is a 6.5- to 7-mile corridor that goes through portions of the City of Albany, Village of Menands, Town of Colonie and City of Watervliet.

There was specific discussion about the characteristics of permeable pavement proposed, redevelopment of empty parking lots along the corridor, how utility conflicts will be handled, curb accessibility, and strategies for providing as much green infrastructure as possible. A question was asked about how the budget was broken out by municipality, and Sara answered that the breakdown by municipality would be included in the final study, which would be available soon.

3. Discussion Items

a. Powerline Trails Discussion – National Grid

Jim Salengo shared that this topic coincided with questions that were coming from various municipalities about the idea of recreational trails and rights of way. It was clarified this presentation only applied to National Grid and not any other utility providers in the state.

Melissa Phillips gave a presentation including a PowerPoint about the use of National Grid property for recreational purposes (such as installing trails). National Grid wants to find opportunities where it can help communities, but everything must be compatible with its reliability metrics. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on National Grid trails, except for snowmobiles (under a separate license). Melissa was unsure if e-bikes were considered motorized for this purpose but would seek clarification.

Melissa described National Grid's internal review process regarding requests for use of National Grid property for recreational or other purposes. Melissa responded that when National Grid goes through its internal process, it brings in stakeholders from every line of the business to vet those types of things out. Melissa indicated that there is a fee associated with doing this work. The key requirements of a request are: 1) Meet National Grid Insurance requirement with indemnification. 2) Proof of funds to construct, design, review cost and associated expenses. 3) Be able to provide comprehensive design plans and profiles.

Scott Miller indicated that requiring funds before there is an agreement in place is a Catch-22 situation. Someone can't get a grant to build a trail on a place that they don't have permission to build a trail. Melissa responded that she will take this as a topic offline and see what options National Grid has available.

Ed Brennan asked if there is a fee associated with just submitting a request. Melissa responded that National Grid will do early high-level consultations to identify potential "hard no's," which would not incur a fee.

Ethan Warren asked if there were any differences for paved versus unpaved trails. Melissa responded that the determination for a trail to be paved or unpaved depends on the location and other factors, but both types can be considered.

Adam McCarvill asked if there was any publicly available information on projects that have been approved and/or completed. Melissa responded that National Grid maintains internal GIS data on this, but she will look to see what type of information may be available publicly.

There was some group discussion on how this information would be useful for future applicants. If anyone has any questions, Melissa can be reached at Melissa.Phillips@nationalgrid.com.

b. 2025 Empire State Greenways Conference Sessions

Ethan shared some key takeaways from the 2025 Empire State Greenways Conference that he recently attended in Kingston, NY.

c. Active Transportation Priority Network Discussion

Ethan showed a slide listing areas to connect (downtowns, universities, transportation hubs, community locations and employments hubs) and facility types to be included (cycling and pedestrian) and not included (sharrows and general painted shoulders). If anyone sees anything major that is missing from this list, please let Ethan know by emailing him at etownsend@capitalmpo.org.

d. 2025 Trail Count Recap

Ethan shared that the Transportation Council was able to do seven successful trail counts, five in Albany County and two in Saratoga County. The annual report is expected to be released in early 2026.

e. Status of Planning Initiatives

Ethan showed a slide with information on the various planning initiatives. The Transportation Council is close to wrapping up the Broadway Flood Resilient Multi-Modal Corridor Study and the Central Avenue West Corridor Study.

f. World Day of Remembrance – Ed Brennan, Albany Bicycle Coalition

Ed shared information on the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. The commemoration event in Albany will take place on Friday, Nov. 14th at 11:00 AM in Albany's Academy Park. The national theme for this year is "safe speeds save lives."

4. Participant Updates

John Mitchell shared that he is advocating for a road diet in the Mechanicville/Halfmoon area. Route 146 ends at the bottom of the hill in Mechanicville and becomes a four-lane road that narrows the further it goes. He believes it should be a three-lane road with a bike path. Ethan suggested that John encourage the Town of Halfmoon and the City of Mechanicville to apply for a Transportation Council's linkage study.

Ivan Amos shared that the Village of Menands has had a study going on called the Little River Project. More details will be needed on the project as it relates to Reimagine I-787. Tim Lane from the Village of Menands has joined Ivan on this project. Flooding and drainage issues are significant concerns. Ivan and Tim will provide further information on this project as it continues.

Linda von der Heide shared a concern about e-bike users in Troy that are going much faster than 25 miles per hour. Ed Brennan indicated that the law prohibits e-bikes on sidewalks, and there are specific definitions for what an e-bike is. More public education on e-bikes and e-scooters is needed. The NY and Albany Bicycle Coalitions have e-bike and e-scooter law/guide cards. If anyone would like some of these cards, please write to Ed at ed@nybc.net.

5. Other News & Updates

There were no additional news items or updates to share.

6. Upcoming Meetings: 2026 Meetings TBD

Ethan Townsend shared that this is the last Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting for 2025. Meetings for 2026 will be scheduled soon. The first one is likely to be in January, and they will likely occur quarterly after that, likely Wednesdays at 9:30 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM.