



BikeCNY meeting, held July 19th, 2016.

BikeCNY met @ 6:30 p.m. in Illick Hall, SUNY-ESF Campus.

\* Attending: Bob Dougherty, John Allen, Steve Reiter, Kathy Downing, Morgan Bulman, Peter King.

\* Group approved minutes from our previous meeting, held June 19, 2016.

\* Group derived an Ad-hoc agenda, from our current concerns:

**(I) Our recent consulting ride with Steve Clark, visiting from the League of American Bicyclist.**

**(II) Planning issues: a) Onondaga Lake**

**Parkway, b) Our upcoming potential meeting with City, c) Our relations with NYS-DOT. (III) Our ongoing Rides.**

**(I) BikeCNY's ride July 12, with Steve Clark from the League of American Bicyclist.** We rode with Steve Clark, showing him the 'good and the bad' in Syracuse bicycling, local planning and politics. We also met with Steve after the ride, joined by Andy Maxwell from the City's Innovation-Team.

Former cycling planner Paul Mercurio had applied with the League for bike-friendly city status for Syracuse. Adrian from the Innovation-Team re-submitted the bike-friendly app, and also said the City spoke with League representatives. The City is now pursuing a two-year rezoning process.

Steve showed us and Andy Maxwell where the city could pursue some basic improvements, like reduce vehicle lanes on some streets. For example, while trying to reach the Creekwalk riding north, we encountered a traffic 'river' on South Franklin and Water at about 4:30pm. On S. Franklin and maybe Salina south of downtown, Steve suggested reducing from four or three lanes to two as a 'traffic-calming' measure. Calling these reductions 'traffic-calming' seems more appealing than 'road diets'. We also agreed, Syracuse can use more way-finding along our streets, often potentially confusing 'outlanders'.

Our further questions here include: Do contraflow bike lanes make sense on Water? Does Water street adequately meets cyclist needs here as the only bike-friendly option, especially as the City closes Water for half the year? For many examples like Water, the City has pursued only the easiest options, covering the remainder with sharrows. Paul accomplished much, but could not continue implementing his bike plan; and the process now seems frozen. We shared our doubts about moving forward politically, given how City planners have merged with **Syracuse-Onondaga Planning Agency (SOCPA)** and so now on the County's payroll. SOCPA planning decisions apparently require County Legislature approval.

We considered pushing bike lanes on Euclid again soon. Within the city, seems like the Common Council opposes any planning innovation, like trying out floating parking at SU. Post-Standard articles this summer described how the Syracuse Property Owners Association (SPOA) regularly funds some Common Council campaigns (*2 articles, June 22 & July 7, 2016*). One SU landlord Ben Tupper wrote an op-ed letter asserting he resists contributing on local political campaigns (*letter, July 11, 2016*).

Andy Maxwell mentioned how parking for every building is required by New York State zoning code, though the Common Council frequently and freely waives the parking requirement on request. Steve Clark also mentioned, any city can pursue as policy track, reducing total street traffic volumes (Vehicle Miles Traveled, or VMT). There are a variety of policy tools and guidelines available which cities have pursued in reducing VMT. Moving-People Transportation Coalition is raising this concern for Syracuse, and BikeCNY is a Moving-People member.

Steve Clark might send us his written impressions and comments, but has not yet.

**(II) (a) Onondaga Lake Parkway, AKA NY Route 370**

Group discussed the recent NYS-DOT meeting on Tues. July 12th, about their proposed project on Onondaga Lake Parkway (AKA NY Route 370) in Salina town, Onondaga Co. The O.L. Parkway seems significant in connecting Syracuse with the northern suburbs. Bob Dougherty spoke with Onondaga County's Environmental director Travis Glazier, and emailed NYS-DOT's flyer and comment form. DOT offers two options, between four and two driving lanes, with no turning lane. DOT requires all comments submitted by July 26th.

**(II) (b) BikeCNY's Potential upcoming Meeting with City planner Owen Kerney.**

\* We heard from Andy Maxwell what city planners are doing, though we didn't ask about Euclid..

\* **Owen & Sam are working on Elevating Erie.** In this process, they are usefully, strategically conflating two ongoing projects, the ongoing Canalway Trail, and Elevating Erie, a design challenge for attempting upgrading sprawl development on Erie Boulevard. We find this seems a smart approach, for building perspective and seeking funding.

Combining projects may find **earmarked funds**, which by definition cannot be used for other purposes like schools. In recent forums, Owen & Sam suggest a historic narrative will drive their funding search.

\* Schumer & Joanie are on the news, talking about **money to finish the Loop around the Lake.** We noted how the County's **Lake Amphitheater abruptly interrupts the Lake Trail.** Steve shared his **recent experience in visiting Burlington, VT**, where Local Motion Bike Ferry & Island Line (??) has set up a ferry routinely and affordably crossing Lake Champlain to an island. Steve contrasted his smoothly connected experience here, with how Onondaga County is redirecting cycling traffic around the Amphitheater.

**(II) (c) State DOT planning issues.**

Seems like DOT so often sees their mission as moving traffic as quickly as possible. After DOT's 2003 East Genesee Project through Dewitt, the bicycle lanes stop at each intersection. While these intersections pose no difficulty for experienced cyclists, others may find them intimidating.

>> See **Fig. 1 below**, describing what Steve R was talking about.

NYS-DOT are engaging many projects in Syracuse now. Group discussed **creating a policy template for NYS-DOT, for defining what we want in any street project.**

>> Approaching DOT directly with community concerns has succeeded for 'Moving-People Transport Coalition', in one recent example removing DOT's proposed I-81 offramps near Martin Luther King School. In this case, public pressure expressed at a Moving People meeting on this question also proved useful (May 20, 2016 article).

**Rides**

\* John Allen reported on **Sunday's Cycle in the City.**

Sunday's Cycle in the City was sunny, dry, and cooler, with about 37 people riding. John says recent attendees express being satisfied with these rides. The entire year's CITC maps from May – Oct. are posted online now, on the County's 'Healthy Places' website. (URL = <http://www.ongov.net/health/healthyplaces.html>)

\* BikeCNY is holding a 'Cuse-Cruise' tomorrow, Wed., July 18<sup>th</sup>. We spoke with Buffalo Slo-Roll, but they would charge us a thousand dollars. Our Cuse-Cruise starts and ends at J. Ryan's bar.

\* One rider joining our 1<sup>st</sup> Cuse-Cruise is Donna, and she is since actively hosting her own slow rides on the South Side.

SU student Morgan Bulman interviewed BikeCNY about our history and current interests in bicycle advocacy for CNY.

**Next meeting:** Unless we decide otherwise, our next meeting is Sept. 20, 6:30—8:00pm at ESF, Illick Hall, Room 8. (same location)

**Reference**

***Syracuse Property Owners Association (SPOA)’s political contributions for Common Councilors.***

Baker, Chris (2016, June 22) Syracuse landlords balk at proposed rental inspection law. *Syracuse.com*. Retrieved from

[http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2016/06/syracuse\\_landlords\\_voice\\_opposition\\_to\\_rental\\_inspections\\_bill.html](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2016/06/syracuse_landlords_voice_opposition_to_rental_inspections_bill.html)

Baker, Chris (2016, July 07) University area landlords who gave big bucks to Syracuse politicians fight looming rental laws. *Syracuse.com*. Retrieved from

[http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2016/07/big\\_money\\_in\\_syracuse\\_politics\\_doesnt\\_come\\_from\\_cor\\_or\\_destiny\\_it\\_comes\\_from\\_su.html](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2016/07/big_money_in_syracuse_politics_doesnt_come_from_cor_or_destiny_it_comes_from_su.html)

Tupper, Ben (2016, July 11) Syracuse landlord: I care for my properties, tenants, community (Your letters) *Syracuse.com*. Retrieved from

[http://www.syracuse.com/opinion/index.ssf/2016/07/syracuse\\_landlord\\_i\\_take\\_care\\_of\\_my\\_properties\\_care\\_for\\_my\\_community\\_your\\_letter.html](http://www.syracuse.com/opinion/index.ssf/2016/07/syracuse_landlord_i_take_care_of_my_properties_care_for_my_community_your_letter.html)

***Moving-People Transport Coalition, influencing the NYS-DOT process.***

McAndrew, Mike (2016, May 20). DOT's I-81 project director: We don't know what we are going to build yet. *Syracuse.com*. Retrieved from [http://www.syracuse.com/state/index.ssf/2016/05/dots\\_i-](http://www.syracuse.com/state/index.ssf/2016/05/dots_i-81_project_director_we_dont_know_what_we_are_going_to_build_yet.html)

[81\\_project\\_director\\_we\\_dont\\_know\\_what\\_we\\_are\\_going\\_to\\_build\\_yet.html](http://www.syracuse.com/state/index.ssf/2016/05/dots_i-81_project_director_we_dont_know_what_we_are_going_to_build_yet.html)

***Syracuse-Onondaga Planning Agency (SOCPA) website:***

<http://www.ongov.net/planning/contact.html>

***Local Motion Bike Ferry & Island Line***, which Steve Reiter described visiting.

[http://www.localmotion.org/island\\_line\\_bike\\_ferry](http://www.localmotion.org/island_line_bike_ferry)



**Fig. 1: DOT Bike lanes on East Genesee.** In this Google-Earth image of Orvilton Drive & East Genesee in Dewitt, we're just uphill from Erie Boulevard's south end to the East, & just before Holy Cross Church to the West. NYS-DOT held their 1st East Genesee meeting at Holy Cross on May 13, 2003. Per our discussion, this intersection shows how DOT skips cycle lanes through intersections.



(Source = NYS-DOT Press Release (May 13, 2003) NYSDOT Announces Public Information Meeting On Proposed NYS Route 5 & 92 Improvement Projects In The Town Of Dewitt (Onondaga County). Retrieved from: <https://www.dot.ny.gov/news/press-releases/2003/200391>