

Capital District Transportation Committee
Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

March 12, 2019 Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Linda von der Heide, Rensselaer County Planning; Ivan Vamos, NYBC; Brent Irving, CDTA; James Rath, City of Troy; Valerie Deane, NYSDOT Region 1; Audrey Burneson, NYSDOT Region 1; Lauren Stairs, Schenectady County Public Health Services; Lauren Alpert, City of Albany Planning; Martin Daley, CDRPC; John Gillivan, Village of Colonie, Town of Colonie; David Morrow, General Public; Jim Mearkle, Albany County DPW; John Mitchell, CCTWG, Halfmoon TOSC; Calvin MacDowell, Capital Roots; Tricia Bulatao, Albany County DOH; Lauren Bailey, CDTA; Jen Ceponis, CDTC; Jordan Solano-Reed, CDTC; Dave Jukins, CDTC

1.0 New Business

1.1 Welcome and Introductions

1.2 Presentations and Discussion: Sidewalk Snow Removal Policies; New Visions 2050 Update

(see attached)

- <https://dailygazette.com/article/2019/02/25/foss-cities-need-to-do-more-to-clear-sidewalks>
- <https://usa.streetsblog.org/2019/02/21/more-cities-are-taking-responsibility-for-clearing-sidewalks-of-snow/>
- <https://www.citylab.com/perspective/2019/01/snow-removal-laws-shoveling-city-sidewalks-rules-syracuse/579886/>
- Rochester, NY – leader in municipal snow clearing for pedestrian infrastructure
- Snow Summit – Syracuse pilot for snow removal on key routes
- Bloomington, MN, Duluth, MN, and Burlington, VT have municipal sidewalk clearing in the winter.
- Complete Streets policies and planning should consider municipal sidewalk clearing and shoveling as an integral component.
- What do local municipalities and planners need to explore municipal sidewalk clearing?
 - Cost breakdown
 - How to work with plow to stop plowing snow from roads onto sidewalks
 - Safety campaign for how people can safely walk in the street when the sidewalk isn't clear
 - Bike lanes, which can be a safe temporary space to walk when the sidewalks aren't clear
 - Heated sidewalks information

New Visions 2050 Update

CDTC is preparing for an update of New Visions, the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Committee discussion recommended adding a health impact analysis, healthcare cost-savings, economic benefits, increasing TIP money for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, calculating the economic benefits of existing projects (theoretically using Healthy Trails, Healthy People county-level data), the topic of a regional revolving loan fund, and a parking inventory.

Additional data needs discussed included: construction costs, maintenance costs, real estate value benefits from trails and Complete Streets, equity, costs of not implementing bike and pedestrian infrastructure in the forms of injuries, lawsuits, lost economic benefits – general opportunity costs. The committee also discussed the bike and pedestrian crashes that the police don't report. Final recommendations included addressing the growing issues with SUVs and light trucks, adding Health Department asthma data, incorporating the CDTC Infrastructure Report and Safety Plan, and discussing peer regional practices.

1.3 CDTC Updates

- 1.3.1 Bike to School Day: May 8th
- 1.3.2 Bike to Work Day: May 17th – CDTC is hosting its annual competition for the region, and events will be happening across all four counties. CDTC will go live with sign-ups and additional information in the coming weeks! In conjunction with Bike to Work Month, the CDTC BPAC May meeting will likely happen in Troy, with a bike ride!
- 1.3.3 TIP Schedule Update –The new TIP has a \$6.5 million bike and pedestrian projects set-aside, and programming is on-going at this time.
<http://www.cdtcmpo.org/documents/transportation-improvement-program/tipupdate>
- 1.3.4 Capital Coexist Mini-grants: \$40,000 was requested for projects, with \$25,000 available. A subcommittee met in February to recommend projects for funding, and eight projects were selected to be in funded completely or partially.
Albany County Library has a materials lending library for trial projects! Unused!
- 1.3.5 LOS evaluation subcommittee – CDTC is continuing to review and test approximately several methodologies for bike and pedestrian LOS with a subcommittee and staff. CDTC will produce a white paper on the findings.
- 1.3.6 Regional Safety Action Plan update – the plan is nearing its final steps
- 1.3.7 2019 Bicycle & Pedestrian Education Series – APBP webinars are on-going through CDTC
- 1.3.8 Complete Streets Advisory Committee Update(s) – committee agreed to recommend that bike/ped facilities be prioritized on bridge project proposals during TIP evaluation process.
- 1.3.9 Smart Communities Task Force Update – CDTC expects a Smart Streetlights Guide for the Capital Region from Saratoga Springs, with techs and specs

1.4 TAP/CMAQ – NYSDOT had received a number of pre-applications and the final application deadline was August 16th. No updates on finalists.

1.5 Linkage Updates – See Linkage update table.

1.6 Local Program Updates

Troy will be hosting a Bike to Work Day event. Details are forthcoming.

Schenectady County Public Health has bike kits for bike rodeos.

Albany will be producing a bicycle and pedestrian master plan. The Albany Connector Trail is in design phase. Albany will also be hosting a Bike to Work Day event, with a community ride down Madison towards City Hall.

Albany County DOH and DPW are trying to coordinate local policies and procedures for Complete Streets policies across all levels of government.

Albany Bicycle Coalition is hosting an Earth Day Ride on April 27th, and is initiating their Capital Coexist mini-grant project.

CDPHP Cycle is offering an early-bird membership, and is working to host a Bike Month kick-off ride.

Albany County still has a Lending Library for pop-up projects!

1.7 Other Updates – Bike to School Day is May 8, 2019, and Bike to Work Day is May 17, 2019.

National Park Service announced 2019 Challenge Cost Share Program to support projects that help people enjoy and protect national park, national trail, or wild and scenic rivers. Applications are due April 8: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1837/index.htm>

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor has launched a Canalway Challenge: <https://eriecanalway.org/explore/challenge>

AARP grant opportunity that funds projects that build momentum for local change to improve livability for all residents. Applications are due April 17: <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/about/info-2017/aarp-community-challenge.html?CMP=RDRCT-CSN-LIVABLE-COMMCHALL-52617>

2.0 Upcoming Meetings

Meetings are open to the Public. The next CDTC Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting is **April 9, 2019 at 9:00am at CDTC**.

Sidewalk Snow Removal Policies

A collection of policies across Upstate New York



CDTC Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Tuesday, March 12, 2019



Wolf Rd, Colonie



Alplaus Ave, Glenville



Ten Broeck St, Albany

- <https://www.citylab.com/perspective/2019/01/snow-removal-laws-shoveling-city-sidewalks-rules-syracuse/579886/>
- <https://dailygazette.com/article/2019/02/25/foss-cities-need-to-do-more-to-clear-sidewalks>



Forced into the street by blocked sidewalks, a woman pushes a stroller past piles of snow outside Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. // Josh Reynolds/AP

PERSPECTIVE

Why Cities, Not Individuals, Should Clear Snow From Sidewalks

Most U.S. cities leave the responsibility of sidewalk snow removal to homeowners, landlords, and businesses. The result: endangered pedestrians.

JAN 11, 2019



A man clears snow from the sidewalk in front of his house in Albany, New York. (Mike Groll/AP)

More Cities Are Taking Responsibility for Clearing Sidewalks of Snow

By Angie Schmitt | Feb 21, 2019 | 6



Photo via City of Minneapolis



It's that time of year, where you see people walking in the street because the sidewalks are full of snow, or you have to brave death and do it yourself.

It's one of the more remarkable double-standards — or inequities — in transportation: Clearing streets of snow is a non-negotiable priority for public agencies, but safe routes for pedestrians are left to a piecemeal private system that mostly fails.

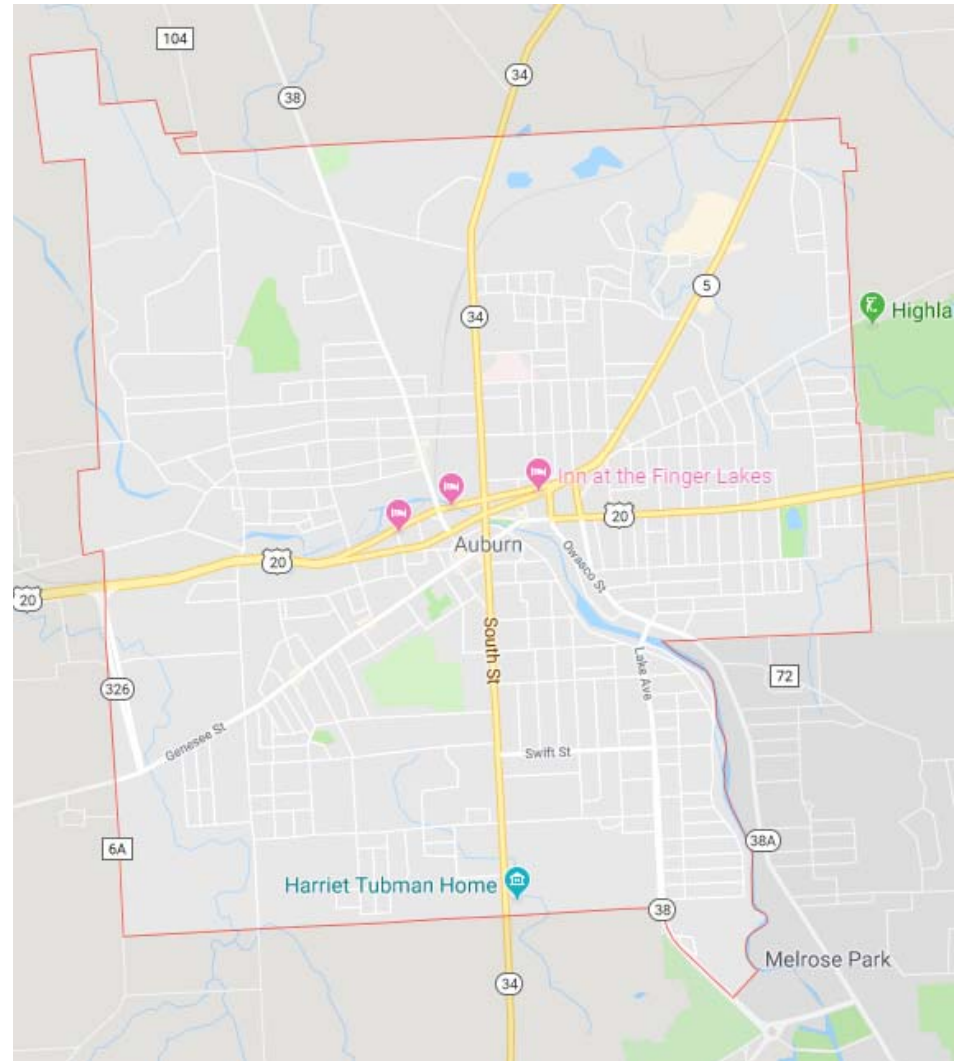
We wanted to highlight a couple of cities that are doing more than most to

Auburn, NY

Sidewalks

The city possesses a sidewalk plow as part of its snow removal equipment. This will be dispatched to plow the snow from city owned sidewalks: bridges, parks, parking lots, buildings, etc. It will be dispatched as part of the normal snow and ice removal operations to assure the city sidewalks are kept clear to provide pedestrian access.

The City of auburn does not clear private sidewalks. This is addressed in Chapter 259-6 of the Municipal Code of the City of Auburn.



- However, it is responsibility of individual homeowner to maintain and replace curbing and sidewalk in front of their own home per the City Code.



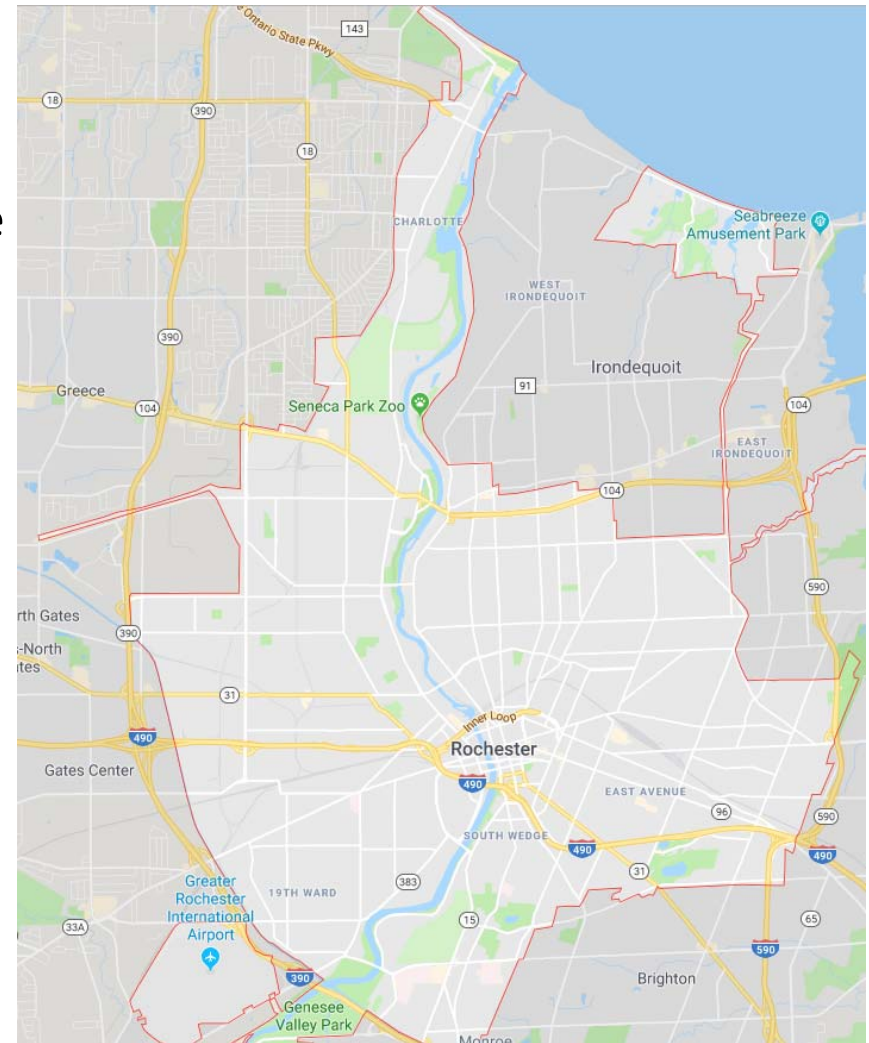
Rochester, NY

The property owner's responsibility:

Per City Code, it is the responsibility of property owners to remove snow from the sidewalk in front of their property. For people with physical disabilities, even 1 inch of snow on the sidewalk can drastically impede movement. Please clear the snow so all can go!

The City's role:

The City of Rochester provides supplemental service to help property owners clear their sidewalks during a substantial winter storm. The City plows sidewalks when 4 inches of new snow has accumulated. Property owners are responsible to remove any remaining snow and ice.



Sidewalk snow plowing facts

- The City plows sidewalks when 4” of new snow has freshly fallen, dependent upon weather events and forecasts, and the condition of the sidewalks.
- The City plows all sidewalks that are at least five feet in width.
- The City plows 878 miles of sidewalks. These miles are divided into distinct sidewalk plow runs of approximately 15 miles.
- Each sidewalk plow run takes about five hours to complete.
- Depending on the severity of a storm, sidewalk snow plowing policies must sometimes be altered to meet the needs of the situation.
- The City uses private contractors to plow sidewalks.
- Sidewalk plowing usually happens in the evening and early morning when pedestrian traffic is lowest, but this schedule is modified to respond to actual storm conditions.

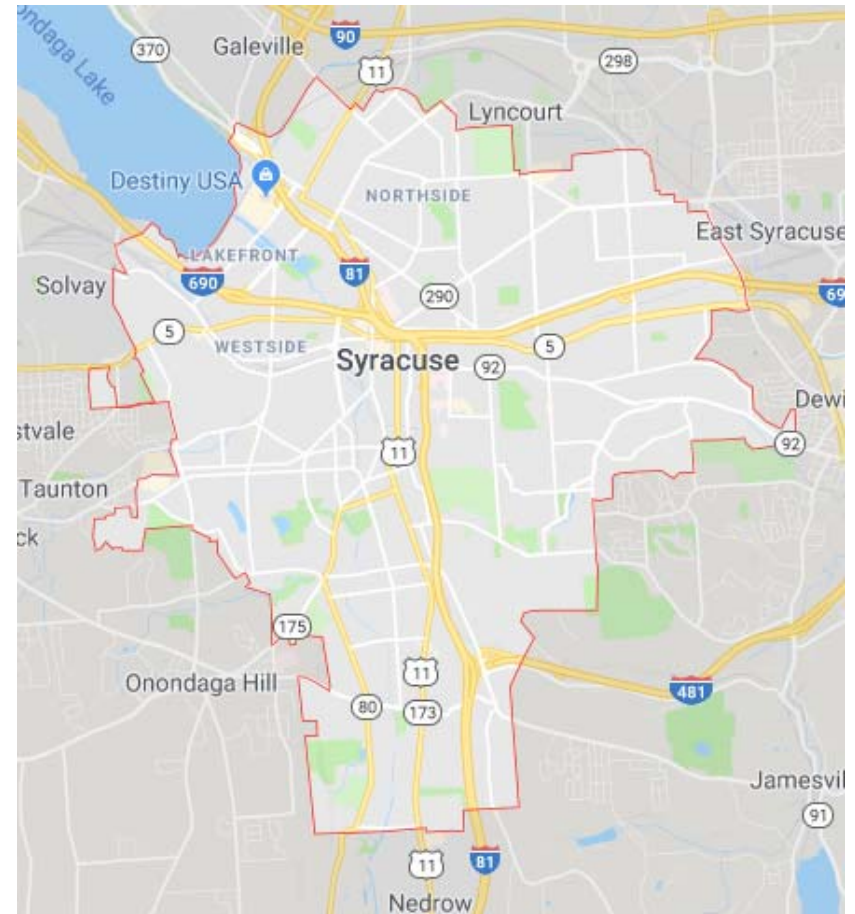
Fees

Sidewalk snow plowing is financed by an embellishment fee on your property tax bill that is based on the property's front footage. Please see [Embellishment Charges for Local Works](#) for additional information.

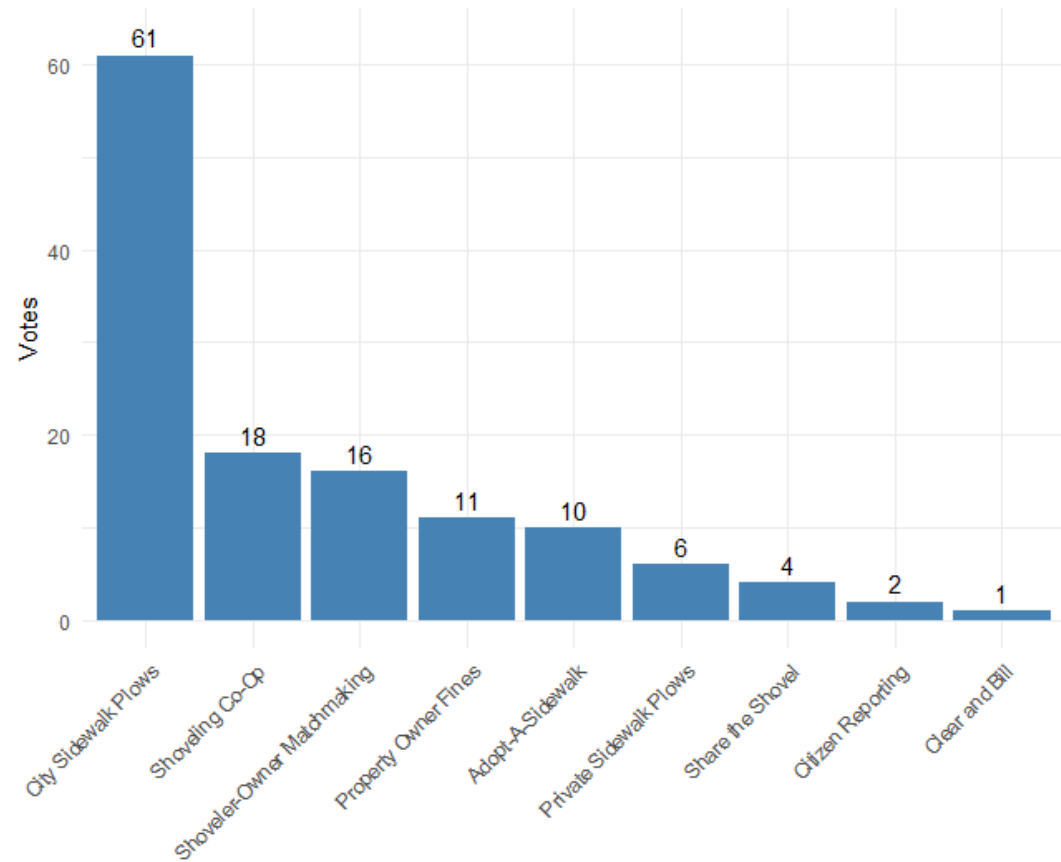
Syracuse, NY

Pilot Program

Syracuse will hire a private contractor to plow 20 miles of priority sidewalks after each snow event that accumulates totals of three inches or more. The priority walkways were determined by reviewing feedback from residents at “[snow summits](#)” the city held, and from data compiled by the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Corporation. The data from SMTC identified which sidewalks were major thoroughfares with the highest pedestrian traffic.



Syracuse “Snow Summit”



<http://data.syr.gov.net/pages/snow-summit>

Other cities....

- Bloomington, MN
- Duluth, MN
- Burlington, VT



Burlington, VT
Source: MyChamplainValley.com

Foss: Cities need to do more to clear sidewalks

Sara Foss | February 25, 2019

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A pedestrian is forced to walk in the street to avoid a snowy sidewalk along State Street in Schenectady in 2017.

PHOTOGRAPHER: GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

SHARE



On one of my recent strolls around town, I found myself crossing the street to avoid an ice-covered sidewalk, then re-crossing it when I encountered another slick stretch of walkway.

If you live in a Capital Region city, you're probably familiar with what I'm talking about.

Ice-and-snow covered sidewalks are a significant problem this time of year, forcing pedestrians to seek out safer surfaces or risk breaking their neck.

As long as I've lived here I've heard people complain about the condition of the sidewalks in the winter, and listened to city leaders talk about what might be done to improve the situation.

But I can't say that I've seen any real improvement in the condition of the sidewalks, and as long as the responsibility for clearing them is left to property owners, I doubt I ever will.

There's only one way to ensure that city sidewalks are safe for pedestrians to walk on, and that's to make clearing them a government responsibility.

PREMIUM CONTENT

Editorial: 'Fusion voting' gives voters more choice

5:17 AM



Software company Kitware unveils new headquarters in Clifton Park

10:00 PM



Ash Wednesday services in church - and 'to go'

Complete Streets

Cities with Complete Streets ordinances, which aim to make streets safe for all users, should evaluate how a lack of sidewalk snow removal obstructs that commitment to pedestrians for a significant portion of the year.



Source: Smart Growth America

New Visions 2050

Long Range Plan Update Discussion

Bicycle & Pedestrian Action Plan

- Changes since NV2040
 - Technology
 - Modes / Mobility Options
 - Policies
- Data trends – Household Travel Survey, bike counts, ped counts, trail counts, trail spending, households without vehicles, health, crashes, etc.
- Forecasts (under different scenarios) – trail use, mode share, demand, population & demographics, mobility options, built environment, health, etc.

2040 Bike/Ped Objectives & Performance Measures

- a) Improve safety; reduce the number of vehicle crashes involving bicyclists & pedestrians.
Measure: crashes involving bicyclists & pedestrians
- b) Increase the number of bicycle and pedestrian trips (especially commuting trips) in the Capital region.
Measure: rate of bicycling and pedestrian commuting (Census & local counts)
- c) Reduce obesity rates, heart disease & other chronic illnesses related to inactivity
Measure: rate of obesity, heart disease and other chronic illnesses in the Capital Region
- d) Increase economic activity related to bicycling and walking
Measure: combine expenditures for major running and bicycling events in the Capital region with those at bicycle-pedestrian-oriented businesses (ex. Bicycle shops, running/hiking shoe stores)
- e) Increase funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects, particularly on the on-road portions of the bicycle and pedestrian priority networks.
Measure: dollars in the TIP

Key Bike/Ped Recommendations

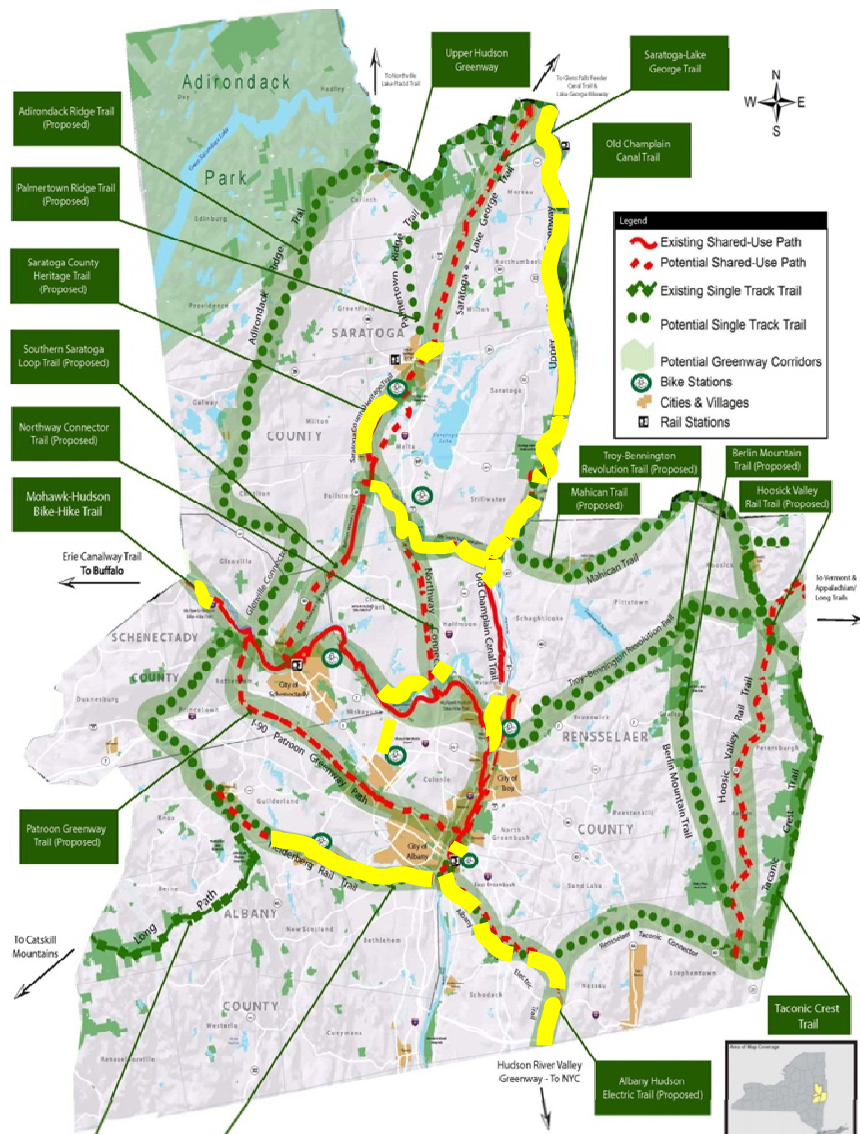
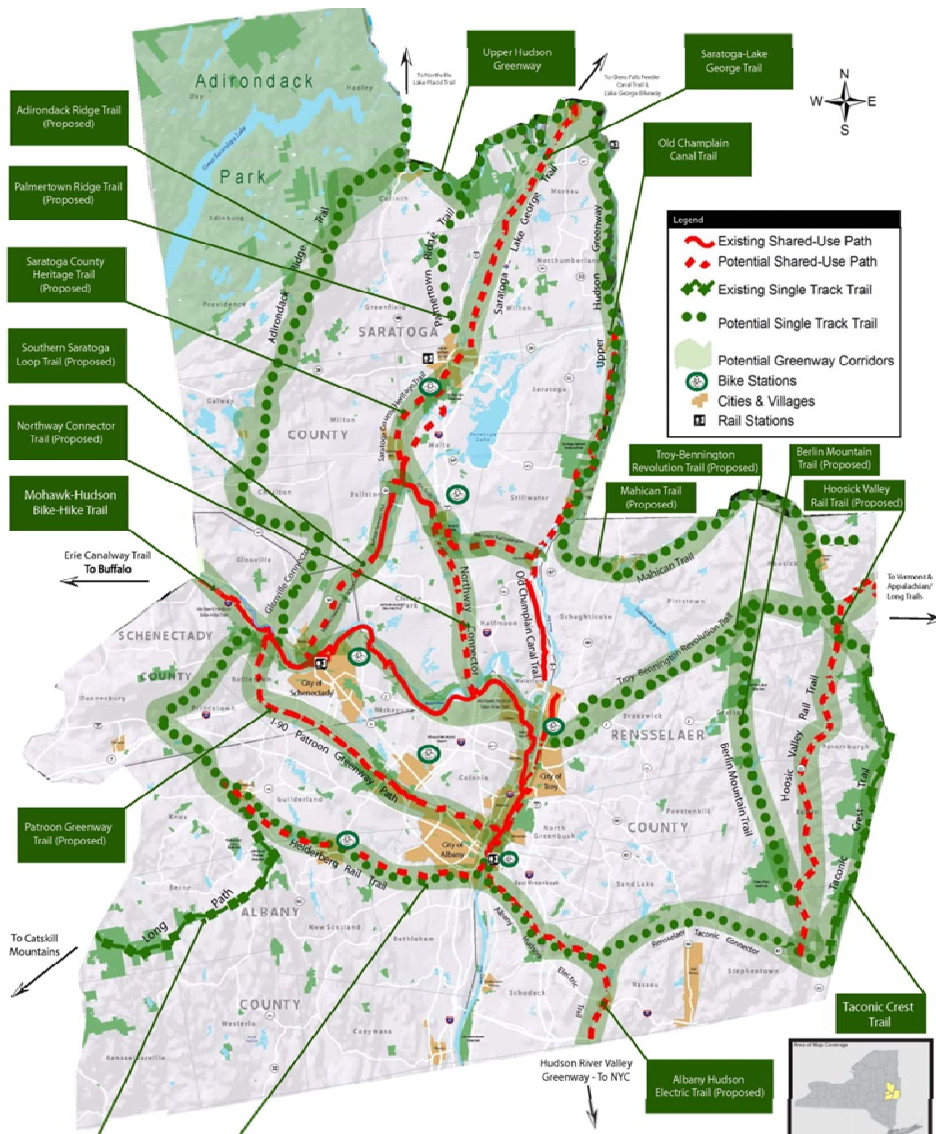
- Promote the development of dedicated bicycle & protected bicycle lanes
- Measure the economic impacts of bicycling, walking, and transit infrastructure
- Complete the following trail/greenway projects:
 - Uncle Sam Bikeway
 - Patroon Creek Greenway
 - Mickey Mahar Trail
 - Zim Smith Trail
 - South End Bikeway / Waterfront Connector
 - Livingston Avenue Bridge bike/ped facility
 - Watervliet connection to MHBHT
 - MHBHT Scrafford Ln connection

Status	Recommendation
●	Update TIP evaluation methodology
●	Develop bicycle and pedestrian priority matrix – help prioritize projects that have greatest potential impact on New Visions goals
●	Develop and maintain inventories – ADA transition Plans, sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, highway shoulders, etc.
◐	Measure the economic impacts of bicycling, walking, & transit infrastructure in the Capital District
● *	–Business
○	–Health – work with state and county health departments
○	–Evaluate existing projects
●	Develop and distribute a potential user survey – what types of infrastructure are desired and what are the perceived and real barriers to bicycling and walking in the Capital Region.
●	Find local project champions, especially to help garner support to close gaps in regional bicycle and pedestrian networks, like trails.
●	Research and establish a program managed by CDTC to leverage dollars by coordinating group purchases for amenities such as bike racks, signage, and materials for pavement markings for pedestrians and/or bicyclists.
	Research the feasibility of and potential fund source(s) of a regional revolving loan fund specifically for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects
●	Support the Complete Streets Advisory Committee in developing a Complete Streets guidebook that outlines specific types of improvements by street typology, including retrofits, and a Complete Streets user checklist.
●	Recommend funds be carved out in the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) specifically for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and education projects.
○	Inventory parking and utilization in the Capital District to help establish new parking maximums, which consider access to alternative modes of transportation.
● ●	Continue to incrementally increase funding available for bicycle and pedestrian projects through the CDTC Bicycle/Pedestrian Network Set-Aside
◐	Complete the following trail/greenway projects:
●	- Uncle Sam Bikeway
○	- Patroon Creek Greenway
○	- Mickey Mahar Trail
●	- Zim Smith Trail
●	- Albany County Rail Trail with a connection to the Corning Preserve trail

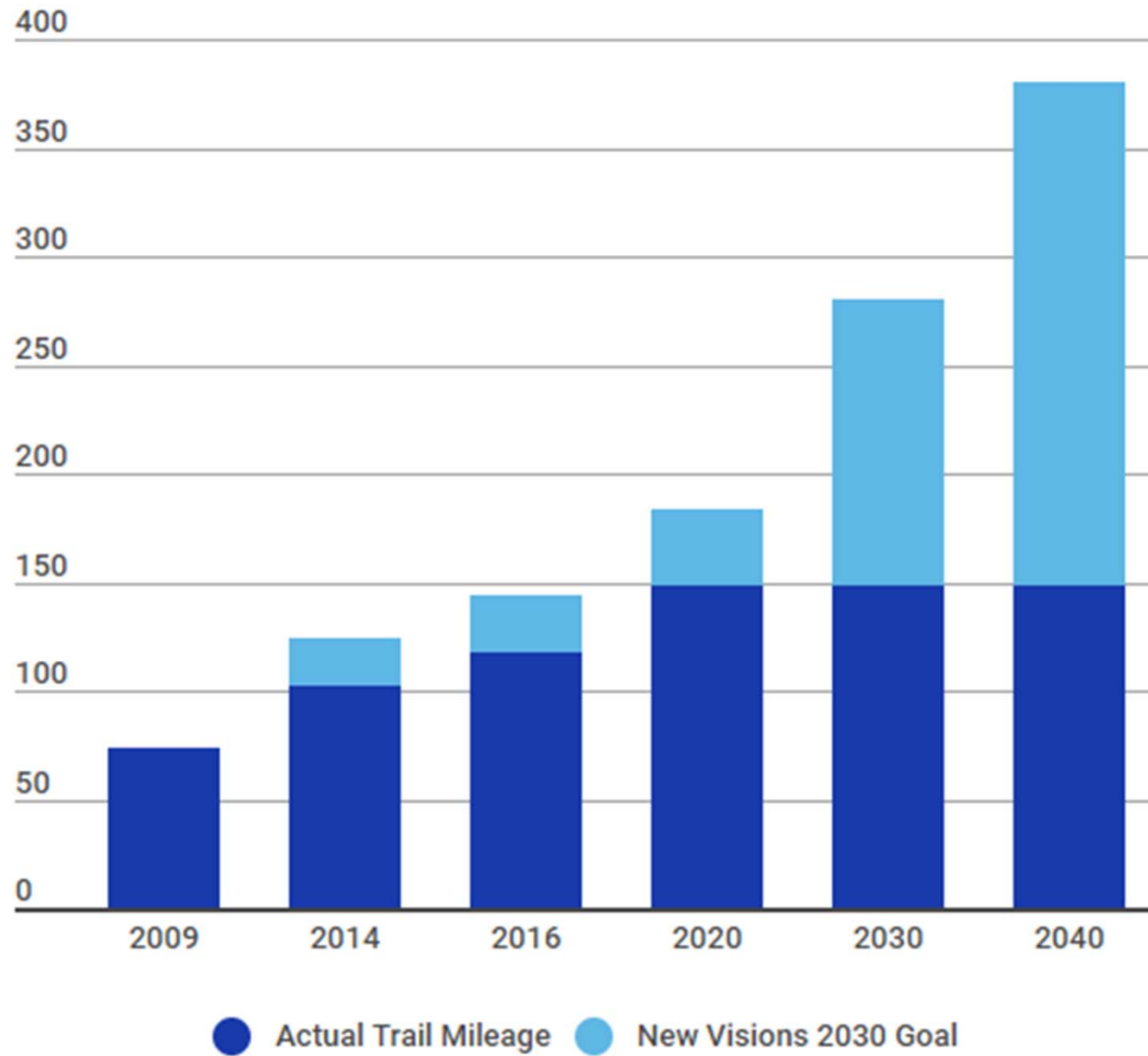
●	Completed
●	Planned / ongoing
●	Not feasible / unlikely
○	Not yet initiated

Major Accomplishments

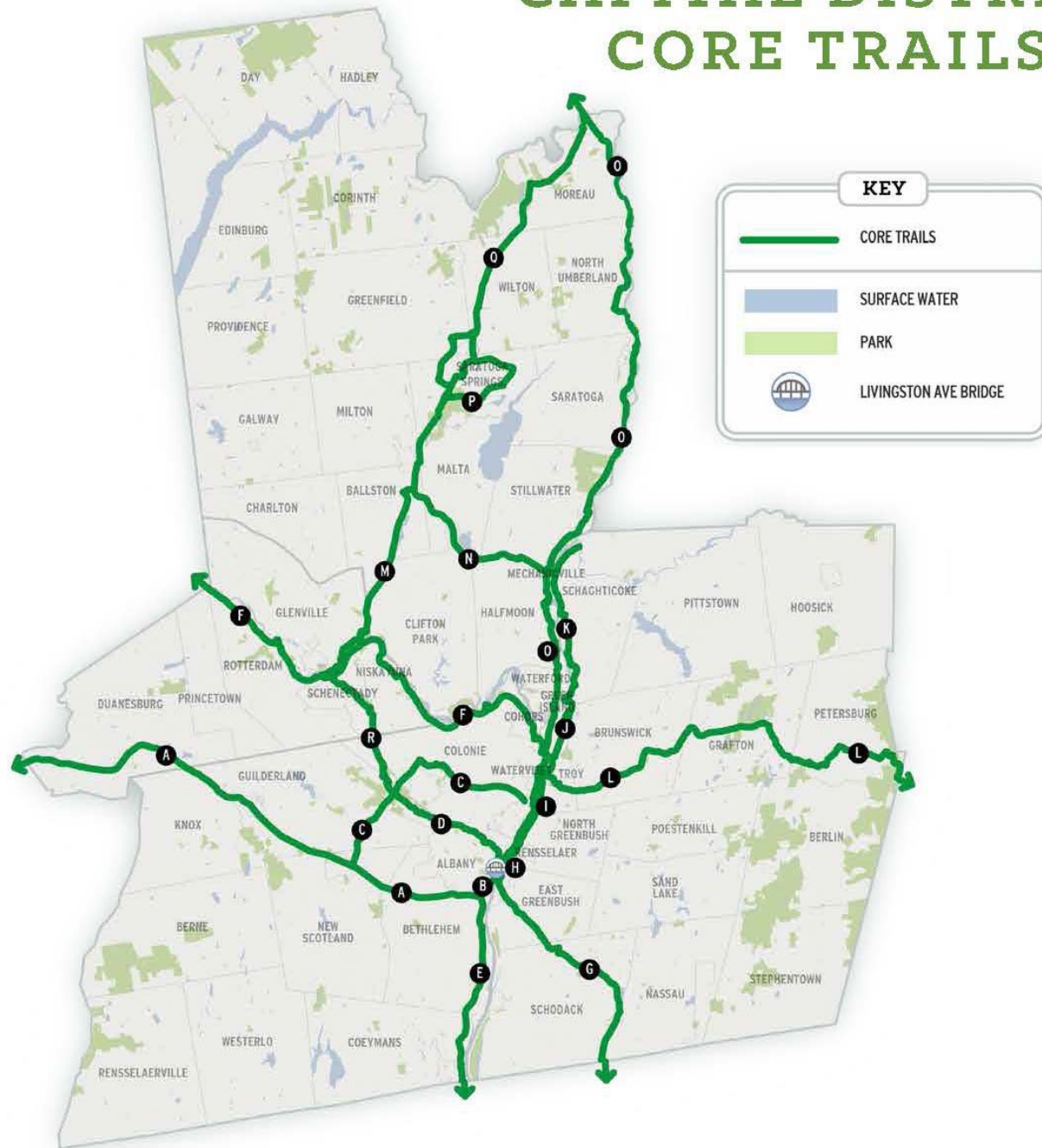
- Regional Trail Perspectives (2017)
- Capital District Trails Plan (2019)
- Schenectady Urban Bike Infrastructure Plan (2017)
- Albany Waterfront Connector Feasibility Study - South End Bikeway (2017)
- Albany Complete Streets Policy & Design Manual (2016)
- Delaware Avenue Complete Street Feasibility Study (2017)
- Walking Guide
- Bicycling Guide
- Capital Coexist Traffic Safety Ambassador Grants a/k/a Mini-grants
- Education Series – APBP webinars, NACTO trainings, etc.
- Complete Streets Workshops
- Sidewalk inventory
- Bike to Work / School Day(s)



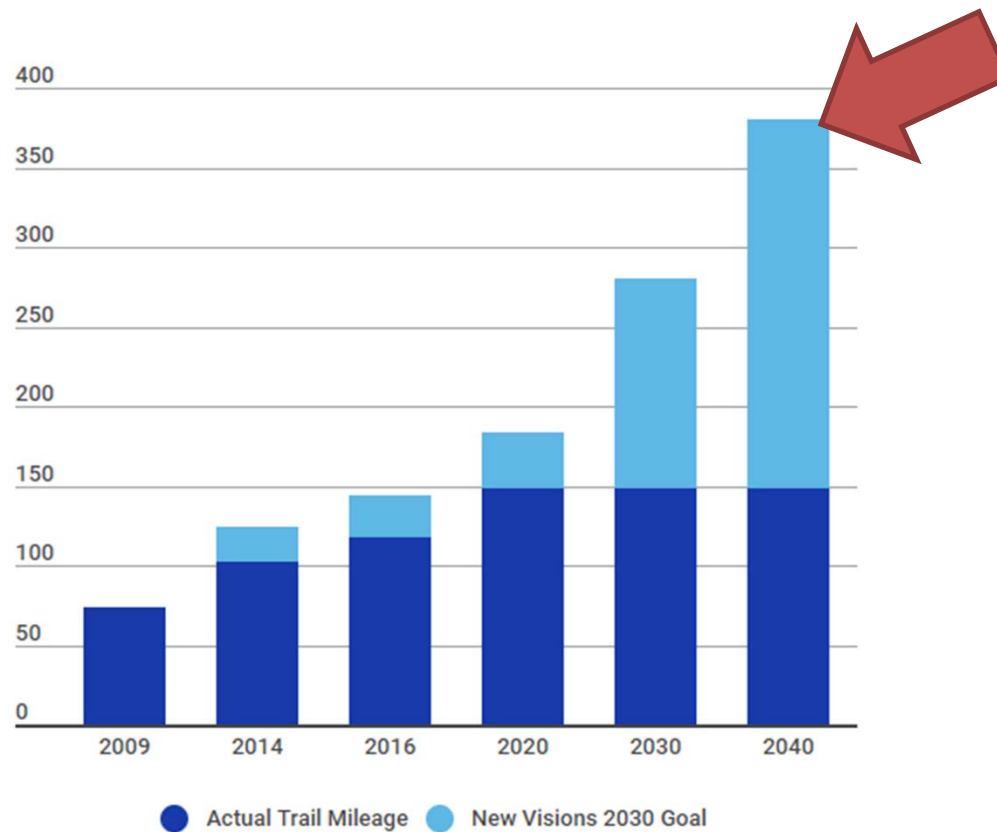
Miles of Trail



CAPITAL DISTRICT CORE TRAILS



Miles of Trail

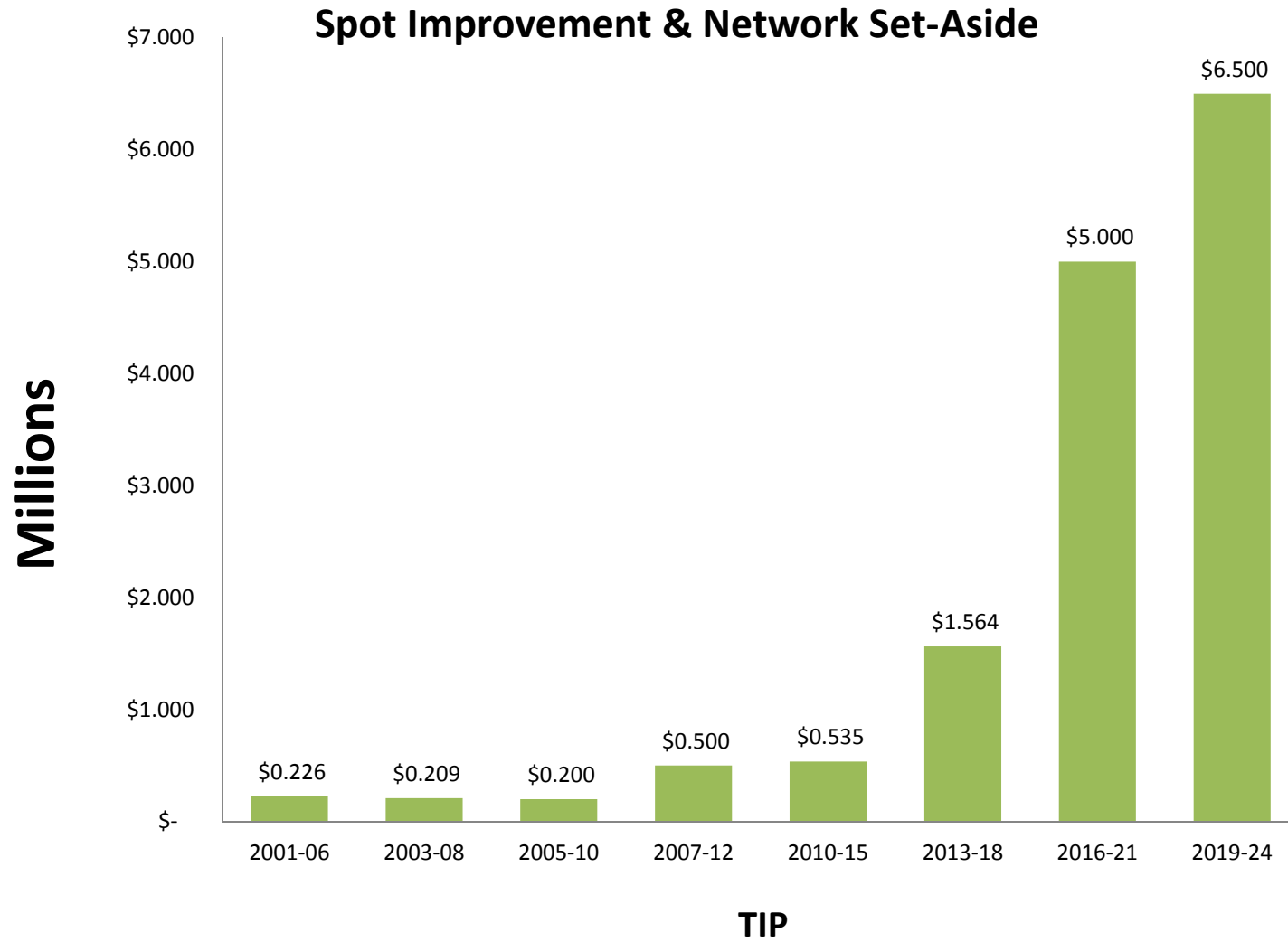


CURRENT AND TARGET RATE OF TRAIL CONSTRUCTION OF THE CORE TRAIL SYSTEM

CAPITAL DISTRICT GREENWAY AND TRAILS PLAN

Rate of Trail Construction			
	Current	Target	Unit
Miles of Trails that Need to be Constructed Annually	7	10.0	Miles
Number of Years to Full Build Out/Implementation Complete Based on Miles of Trails Constructed Annually	28.5	20.0	Years

TIP Funding



Data

- Construction costs
- Maintenance costs

Scenarios

- Full build out of trails plan by 2050
- What if land use density increases?
- What if federal/state/local funding support increases? Decreases?
- What does vehicle automation mean for bicycle & pedestrian access & safety?
- Region-wide Complete Streets policies?

Goals

Planning Principle & Investment Recommendations

- TBD

Key (Short Term) Actions Needed

- TBD

Capital Coexist Mini-grants

Project Sponsor	Sponsor Type	Project Type	Location	Total Project Cost	Total \$ Requested	Match	Proposed Funding*
Albany Bike Rescue	Non-Profit	Bike Voucher Program	Albany, NY	6,363.50	4,363.50	31.43%	\$ 3,863.50
Albany County DPW	Local government	Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Gear Giveaways	Albany County	14,830.88	5,000.00	66.29%	\$ 2,500.00
Bethlehem PD	Local government	Walk & Roll bike/ped safety event	Bethlehem, NY	6,255.00	4,691.25	25.00%	\$ 1,700.00
Capital Roots	Non-Profit	Pedestrian Safety Campaign	Cohoes & Rensselaer	6,380.00	3,580.00	43.89%	\$ 3,580.00
Niskayuna	Local government	Bike lane demo	Niskayuna	4,704.00	2,500.00	46.85%	\$ 2,500.00
Saratoga Springs	Local government	Protected bike lane demo	Saratoga Springs	10,822.00	4,814.00	55.52%	\$ 4,814.00
Schenectady County DOH	Local government	Bike rodeo kit	Schenectady County	4,984.61	3,640.61	26.96%	\$ 3,640.61
Albany PD	Local government	Bike rodeo pop-ups	Albany, NY	6,666.67	5,000.00	25.00%	\$ 2,380.00
	Total			61,006.66	33,589.36		\$ 24,978.11
	average			-	4,198.67	40.12%	\$ 3,122.26

CDTC 2019 BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN EDUCATION SERIES

Mar 20	3:00 – 4:00 PM	<i>Navigating Without Curbs: Accessibility on Shared Streets</i>	.1 CEU	CDTC
Apr 17	3:00 – 4:00 PM	<i>Designing Streets for the Speeds You Want</i>	.1 CEU	CDTC
May 15	3:00 – 4:00 PM	<i>Maintaining Green Infrastructure: Hints for Success</i>	.1 CEU	CDTC
Jun 19	3:00 – 4:00 PM	<i>Finding Common Ground with First Responders: Enhancing Safety and Maintaining Access in Street Design</i>	.1 CEU	CDTC
Jul 17	3:00 – 4:00 PM	<i>Return on investment for Active Transportation</i>	.1 CEU	CDTC
Aug 21	3:00 – 4:00 PM	<i>Getting the Green Light: Improving Actuation and Detection for Cyclists & Pedestrians</i>	.1 CEU	CDTC
Sep 18	3:00 – 4:00 PM	<i>Can We Talk About the Street? Building Support for Controversial Projects</i>	.1 CEU	CDTC
Oct 16	3:00 – 4:00 PM	<i>If We Build it Will They Come? Estimating Demand for Biking and Walking</i>	.1 CEU	CDTC
Nov 20	3:00 – 4:00 PM	<i>Aging in Place: Designing Communities to Support Mobility</i>	.1 CEU	CDTC
Dec 18	3:00 – 4:00 PM	<i>Education and Encouragement: Bringing the Right People Together</i>	.1 CEU	CDTC

STATUS OF LINKAGE PROGRAM STUDIES AS OF JANUARY 1, 2019

STUDY NAME AND LOCATION	SPONSOR, PROJECT CONSULTANT, CONSULTANT COST AND CDTC CONTACT	DATE PROGRAMMED	STATUS	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE AND COMPLETION TIME (ORIGINAL UPWP FUNDING DATE TO ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE)	PROJECT WEBSITE LINK
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ALBANY COUNTY

1. Albany Patroon Creek/Washington Avenue Corridor Study	City of Albany Creighton Manning Engineering \$90,000 Carrie Ward	Planning Committee Selected 2/1/17. Policy Board Approved UPWP 3/2/17	The Study Advisory Committee is reviewing the draft final report and expects to meet in January to provide final comments.	February 2019 22 Months	https://washingtonpatrooncorridor.weebly.com/
2. Albany Shaker Road Corridor Study	Albany County/Town of Colonie Creighton Manning Engineering \$80,000 Chris O'Neill	Planning Committee Selected 2/3/16. Policy Board Approved UPWP 3/29/16.	The final report is complete and is available on CDTC's website. This study is complete.	November 2018 32 Months	https://albanyshakercolonie.com/

RENSSELAER COUNTY

1. Hoosick Street Parkway Implementation Study	City of Troy TBD \$92,500 Rima Shamieh	Planning Committee Selected 2/7/18. Policy Board Approved UPWP 3/1/18.	The signed Memorandum of Understanding has been received by CDTC. The Request for Expressions of Interest is under development by CDTC and the City.	August 2019 15 Months	TBD
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SCHENECTADY COUNTY

1. Craig-Main Complete Streets Study	City of Schenectady Place Alliance \$90,000 Jacob Beeman	Planning Committee Selected 2/7/18. Policy Board Approved UPWP 3/1/18.	Signed contract was received back from CDTA on 12/18/2018. The Study Advisory Committee is under development and study kickoff is anticipated in January 2019.	August 2019 15 Months	TBD
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