



NEW YORK COMMITTEE for the EAST COAST GREENWAY

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EAST COAST GREENWAY ALLIANCE: www.greenway.org / 401-789-4625

FOR CURRENT ECGA NATIONAL NEWS: www.greenway.org/blog

NY-ECG e-Bulletin

January 15, 2010

UPCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS, open to all.

BIKE WALK ALLIANCE OF WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM, GENERAL MEETING-

Tuesday, JANUARY 19, 2010, 7 pm., Bronxville Public Library, 201 Pondfield Rd., Bronxville NY 10708. Agenda, and other news, posted on www.westchesterbikewalk.org.

NYC COMMITTEE MEETING, Wednesday, JANUARY 20, 4 to 6 pm, NYC Parks & Recreation office, 24 W. 61 Street (west of Broadway), 4th floor, Manhattan. Subways: 1, A, B, C, D to 59 St/Columbus Circle. Progress reports and planning.

Bike Walk Alliance of Westchester/Putnam's FOCUS ON WHITE PLAINS -

Thursday, FEBRUARY 4, 7:30 pm, at home of Ken Weiner, 32 Cushman Road.

RSVP davidmckaywilson@aol.com. Welcome a new city administration and brainstorm about ways to make White Plains a more bike-friendly city. Help develop a safe bicycle route for the East Coast Greenway through White Plains to Westchester Avenue.

NATIONAL BIKE SUMMIT 2010, March 9-11, Washington DC. The 10th annual gathering of bicycle advocates - among them coalitions, nonprofit organizations, manufacturers - coordinated by the League of American Bicyclists (L.A.B.). Be inspired by success stories from around the country and educated about governmental funding, then visit your Congressmen and Senators and their aides. Networking happens throughout. Registration (early-bird due by Feb. 4) includes the Keynote Luncheon on Wednesday and receptions. For details and to register: www.bikeleague.org. If you will attend (paying your own way), let ECGA Mid-Atlantic trail coordinator Mike Oliva (mike@greenway.org) know so he can again coordinate visits to congressional offices representing districts along the East Coast Greenway in New York. (For story and photos of last year's Summit in the NY-ECG March 2009 Newsletter: www.greenway.org/ny1.php.)

GUIDED BICYCLE RIDE FROM MANHATTAN TO TARRYTOWN, Sunday, March 28, departs 9 am from Bike and Roll, Hudson River Greenway at 43d Street. A leisurely 30-mile one-way ride (with return options) along the East Coast Greenway and Westchester trails, largely off-road. Leaders: ECGA Mid-Atlantic Trail Coordinator Mike Oliva, Anthony Savarese, and WCC leaders. Tax-deductible donation to ECGA encouraged. Details and registration: www.ecgridemarch28.eventbrite.com.

ECOND WESTCHESTER BIKE SUMMIT, Thursday, MAY 6, 3 – 6 pm, Greenburgh Town Hall. Info: www.westchesterbikewalk.org. The Summit is being funded by an \$8,000 grant from the Westchester Community Foundation.

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New York-ECG Committee joining with New York residents to plan and promote local projects; Focus on East River Manhattan, Yonkers, Hutch

EAST RIVER GREENWAY. Three organizations – Transportation Alternatives (T.A.), East Coast Greenway, and Upper Green Side – have joined forces to help close the gap between 37 – 61st streets along the Manhattan side of the river. T.A.’s East Side Committee is headed by Scott Baker; Upper Green Side by Michael Auerbach and Glenn McAnanama; while Executive Director Dennis Markatos-Soriano represents the ECGA in this effort. Watch the new Website, www.eastrivergreenway.org, and www.facebook.com/EastRiverGreenway, for progress reports. See www.transalt.org/calendar for T.A. events and news.

But the focus will also be on improving the mobility and safety of road-users in the Upper East Side, including a major overhaul of the hazardous First and Second Avenue corridors. See T.A.’s Fall 2009 *Reclaim* magazine, “How Long will the East Side Wait?”

YONKERS. As related in the December 2009 Newsletter, approval by NYS DOT of the county’s application for funding of a 4-mile multi-use trail adjoining Westchester Avenue is contingent on use of an existing TE grant to create bike/walk connections near and in the Bronx River Reservation in Yonkers, termed the “Bronx River Parkway Reservation Pathway Extension.” The grant had been awarded to both Westchester County and the City of Yonkers in 2002. Mike Oliva recently received a response from Louis C. Kirwen, III, Commissioner, Yonkers Dept. of Planning and Development, thanks to ECGA member Barbara Howard’s prodding. (As we know, local champions are vital!) Mr. Kirwen indicates Yonkers’ continued support for the project and his intention to complete the planning and design phases in the next 18 to 24 months. Unfortunately, State DOT had pushed back funding for the project to the year 2015, but it may be persuaded to “amend” this forward if there are enough vocal supporters asking for it. Also Yonkers does not currently have the required \$300,000 local match in its capital

budget. Mike is trying to set up a meeting with Yonkers and County officials to work out a project plan.

HUTCHINSON PATHWAY, north of I-287 to Connecticut. Another worrisome gap in the East Coast Greenway has been the stretch along the Hutchinson River Parkway, in Westchester County, and the Merritt Parkway, in Connecticut. The Connecticut DOT had always resisted the project, but indicated at a western CT bike summit last fall that it would no longer oppose construction of a multi-use trail along the Merritt Parkway's right-of-way. Needless to say, the Connecticut advocates are now redoubling their efforts.

Thus this is a good time to advocate for continuation of the pathway on the New York side of the border, along the Hutchinson River Parkway for 3.5 miles through the same right-of-way, to connect to the planned (but unfunded, alas) Westchester Avenue pathway. The project would not require any major infrastructure. NY State DOT, which owns and manages the roadway, indicated to ECGA Mid-Atlantic Trail Coordinator Mike Oliva and NY-ECG Chair Jackson Wandres that they would support the project if sufficient political and public support could be demonstrated. Mike and Jackson, bringing along preliminary design plans, were also encouraged by a Jan. 14, 2010, meeting with four planners from Westchester County. It'll be a slow process, as we have learned, but important to start.

COME TO THE JAN. MEETINGS (see top) FOR DETAILS ON THESE AND OTHER PROJECTS.

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THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE FOR THE EAST COAST GREENWAY works for in-state improvements to the existing interim route and completion of off-road portions. It welcomes participation in its activities and advocacy efforts.

I want to join or donate to the ECGA. See www.greenway.org or call 401-789-4625. One may join or donate on-line by credit card, or by check. *If in part for the benefit of the New York Committee for the ECG,* please so state, and indicating amount, in the memo line. Members who provide their e-mail addresses will receive e-mailed bulletins, the primary source of news about the Greenway in the state.

I can't join just now, but want to receive ECG e-news. I'm e-mailing my name and e-mail address to my state's e-mail address shown at the top of this e-Bulletin. Questions? Call us.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Telephone _____

Checks are to be made payable to "ECGA" and mailed with this form to East Coast Greenway Alliance, 27B North Road, Wakefield RI 02879 The ECGA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.