



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

March 1, 2010

UPCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS, open to all.

NATIONAL BIKE SUMMIT 2010, MARCH 9 - 11, Washington DC. Join some two dozen New Yorkers at this 10th annual gathering of bicycle advocates. Registration 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 coordinate our visits to congressional offices representing districts along the East Coast Greenway in New York.

SUPPORT GREENWAY IN JERSEY MEADOWLANDS, Wednesday, MARCH 24, Secaucus Public Library, 6 to 8:30 pm, 1379 Paterson Plank Road, Secaucus. Public hearing re-scheduled from Feb. 10. See article below.

NYC COMMITTEE MEETING, Thursday, MARCH 25, 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.

GUIDED BICYCLE RIDE FROM MANHATTAN and YONKERS, TO TARRYTOWN, Sun., MARCH 28, departs 9 am from Bike and Roll (Hudson River Greenway at 43d Street) and 10:45 am from H. F. Redmond Memorial Park, Yonkers. A leisurely 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, Barbara Howard, and WCC leaders. Tax-deductible donation to ECGA encouraged. Details and registration: www.ecgridemarch28.eventbrite.com.

ECGA TRAIL COUNCIL MEETING, Saturday, MAY 1, 9 to 3 pm, Rutgers campus, Newark NJ. Come hear staff reports about East Coast Greenway progress, region by region. Composed of representatives from along the entire route, the Trail Council meets semi-annually to guide trail development. Want to attend as a Trail Council member from NY? E-mail jwandles@rbagroup.com. Details later, on www.greenway.org.

SECOND WESTCHESTER BIKE SUMMIT, Thursday, MAY 6, 3 - 7 pm, Greenburgh Town Hall. Info: www.westchesterbikewalk.org. See article below.

NEWS FROM NEW YORK AND THE REGION

WESTCHESTER HAPPENINGS. The Bike Walk Alliance of Westchester and Putnam, an ECGA off-shoot, has been active this winter. A meeting in Bronxville focused on what local groups were doing to promote cycling and pedestrian issues. Eastchester activists discussed their project, with the town of Eastchester, to paint "sharrows" on roads used by cyclists. (Sharrows, large painted on-road markings, are a low-cost way to alert motorists that cyclists use the road.) The Alliance also held a meeting of White Plains residents to start a local committee there. The residents will ride around the city in early March to figure out the best routes there for promoting cycling. They will also work with city officials on bringing the Greenway through White Plains to Westchester Avenue. For more on the Alliance or to join, see www.westchesterbikewalk.org.

Westchester Avenue trailway: David Wilson, Limarie Cabrera, and ECGA regional trail coordinator Mike Oliva met with Congresswoman Nita Lowey (18th Dist.) on Feb. 5 in support of the ECGA's request for a \$4 million appropriation to fund a 4-mile, east-west, multi-use trail along Westchester Ave. The trail would connect White Plains with a planned Hutchinson River Greenway between I-287 and the Connecticut border, where it would connect with a planned Merritt Parkway trail and points east!

Westchester Bike Summit: Plans are moving ahead for the 2d Westchester Bike Summit, to be held on May 6 from 3 to 7 pm at Greenburgh Town Hall. The East Coast Greenway Alliance is partnering with the town of Greenburgh on the event, which will feature a presentation from Greenburgh Town Planner Tom Madden. Madden, a cyclist from Vancouver, is making cycling improvements a part of the town's master plan. The Bike Summit is supported by an \$8,000 grant from the Westchester Community Foundation, and refreshments will be funded by a generous donation from the Westchester Cycle Club. Want to help organize the Summit? Call 914-217-5600, or e-mail to DavidMcKayWilson@aol.com.

EAST RIVER GREENWAY. As described in the January 2010 issue, the East Coast Greenway Alliance has joined with Transportation Alternatives (T.A) and several other NYC groups and individuals to build public support for closing the gap along the East River Promenade between 37th and 61st streets in mid-town Manhattan. See www.eastrivergreenway.org, or www.facebook.com/EastRiverGreenway, for progress reports. For T.A. events and news: www.transalt.org/calendar. T.A.'s East Side Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month, and welcomes new faces.

The focus will also be on improving the mobility and safety of road-users on the Upper East Side, including a major overhaul of the hazardous First and Second Avenue corridors. Learn about new bike lanes and improved bus service at meetings of Community Board 6, www.cb6m.com, and Community Board 8, www.cb8m.com.

NJ TRANSIT URGED TO BUILD GREENWAY IN JERSEY MEADOWLANDS.

NJ Transit is building two new rail bridges across the Hackensack River adjacent to the current Portal Bridge, and "taking" 2.5 acres of parkland from Hudson County to build a new rail facility. By law, it must compensate the county in some way. The way being advocated by the county and by such groups as the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the East Coast Greenway Alliance is to build a single 20-foot-wide, off-road bicycle and pedestrian trail adjacent to railroad tracks for two miles across the Jersey Meadowlands. The trail would cross the Hackensack River on a new Portal Bridge as it connects Belleville Turnpike in Kearny with West Side Avenue in Jersey City, adjacent to the Hudson Generating Station. <http://www.greenway.org/images/meadowlands2.jpg>. That's why we want a large turnout at the March 24th hearing in Secaucus (details above). Do come, letting Mike Oliva (mike@greenway.org) know you will attend.

GREENWAYS IN PHILADELPHIA AND CAMDEN AWARDED LARGEST BIKE/PED STIMULUS GRANT

The East Coast Greenway and two other trail systems in the Philadelphia-Camden region are about to get safer and more accessible thanks to significant support from the US Department of Transportation (USDOT).

Out of 1400 applications, a multi-county, bi-state application (called GREAT PA/NJ) to build trail segments was one of only 51 selected in mid-February by USDOT for a discretionary [TIGER grant](#). The \$23 million grant will build trail segments along the Schuylkill River Trail, the East Coast Greenway, and Camden GreenWays in [2 Philadelphia projects](#) and [3 Camden projects](#) (projects in other counties unfortunately were not funded). The application was submitted by Philadelphia, Delaware, Montgomery, Schuylkill, Bucks, and Camden counties, and coordinated by the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) and the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, regional partners of the ECGA. Info: <http://blog.bicyclecoalition.org/2010/02/phillys-portion-of-23-million-tiger.html> and <http://www.greenway.org/blog/?p=468>.

A sold-out **NEW JERSEY BICYCLE SUMMIT**, the first of its kind in the state, was held on Feb. 27. It was presented by the New Jersey Bicycle Coalition, in co-operation with the New Jersey Department of Transportation. For info: www.njbikesummit.org.

STATEN ISLAND North Shore Waterfront Greenway and Park - Want to help advocate for a trail through historic communities along the Kill Van Kull? Contact Linda Eskanas, eskan2@aol.com, or Bob DeBiase, rldebiase@earthlink.net.

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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.* If you want to donate appreciated stock, or your employer has a gift-matching program, please call Dennis Markatos-Soriano at 646-684-4784.

MEMBERS WHO PROVIDE THEIR E-MAIL ADDRESSES will receive e-mailed bulletins, the primary source of local and national news about the Greenway.

I can't join just now, but want to receive ECG e-news. I'm e-mailing my name and e-mail address to eastcoastgreenwayny@gmail.com. Questions? Call 212-262-6880.

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