



Capital District Transportation Committee

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Open House for Capital District Trails Plan

Public Invited To Review a Draft of the Capital District Trails Plan

ALBANY, NY August 8, 2018 – The Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) will be hosting a public open house to unveil a draft of the upcoming *Capital District Trails Plan*. This master plan outlines a strategy to complete a network of multi-use trails and bike routes connecting cities, towns and villages throughout Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties.

This public open house will be held at the **Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center, 25 Quackenbush Square in Albany on Thursday, September 13th between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.** Area planners, local officials, and members of the general public who are interested in multi-use trails and bike routes are invited to stop by to review draft materials and provide comments.

“The Capital District has over 100 miles of multi-use trails, bringing enormous recreational and health qualities to the region while serving as safe transportation routes for walking and cycling,” said Michael Franchini, Executive Director of CDTC. “CDTC’s 2016 trail counts estimated 1.6 million visitors annually, including tourists. Our region is at the crossroads of the Empire State Trail project and the Capital District Trails Plan aims to leverage this opportunity to develop a vision for a seamless network of multi-use trails that connects people with jobs, safe walking and cycling facilities, activity centers, and each other.”

Those interested in attending the open house are encouraged to visit the CDTC Facebook event page at www.facebook.com/pg/CapitalDistrictMPO/events/ to indicate their interest so that the organizers have an idea of how many people to expect. The public can also follow the hashtag **#518Trails** on social media for project updates and announcements.

Members of the project team—including the CDTC and planning and engineering consultants—will be in attendance to discuss the vision plan and take questions. The team is eager to discuss the draft ideas and have an opportunity to collect comments or suggestions which can be used to refine and finalize the plan.

In the development of this draft plan, the project team conducted public workshops in each of the four Capital District counties in the winter and spring to collect information and suggestions on what trail and bike routes were most desired by the community, and looked for ways to complete connections with many existing trails and the upcoming Empire State Trail. Draft recommendations will include

proposed trail connections, anticipated economic benefits as well as ideas for marketing and branding this important quality of life resource in the Capital District.

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties, the CDTC is a forum for local elected officials and transportation representatives to share ideas and make decisions about major transportation capital investments, including bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The project team, led by CDTC, includes consultants from Behan Planning and Design, The Chazen Company, Sidekick Creative and ConsultEcon.

For more information about this important regional project, please visit our website at www.cdtcmpo.org/trails.

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