

CapitalNYBikeMap.com

The Capital Region's Interactive Bike Map
Formerly BikeAlbanyMap.com

Presented by: Glenn Sandberg

Designed by

Albany Bicycle Coalition

nonprofit 501(c)3



More info, and this PowerPoint, at:

AlbanyBicycleCoalition.com

Click the icon →

Scroll down to “Designing the Map”



CapitalNYBikeMap.com

Today's Topics

- Why we need a bike map
- How's it work? *Demo*
- Designing it – routes, color codes, icons
- Growth – 2016 to 2020, and beyond
- Coverage gaps, and CDTC Trails Plan
- Partnering with groups; linking to the map

Why We need Bike Maps

Safety and Comfort

- People don't want to bike in traffic.
- Most prefer low-traffic streets, bike paths and bike lanes – but don't know where to find them.
- Especially true for novice riders, visitors, and new residents



Navigation

- Street patterns in old cities are confusing.
- Finding a safe route connecting multiple neighborhoods and communities can be a real puzzle.

CapitalNYBikeMap is designed to solve these problems.



CapitalNYBikeMap at a glance

Features

Low-stress routes,
color-coded

Plan your own
custom bike route

Informative, clickable
icons

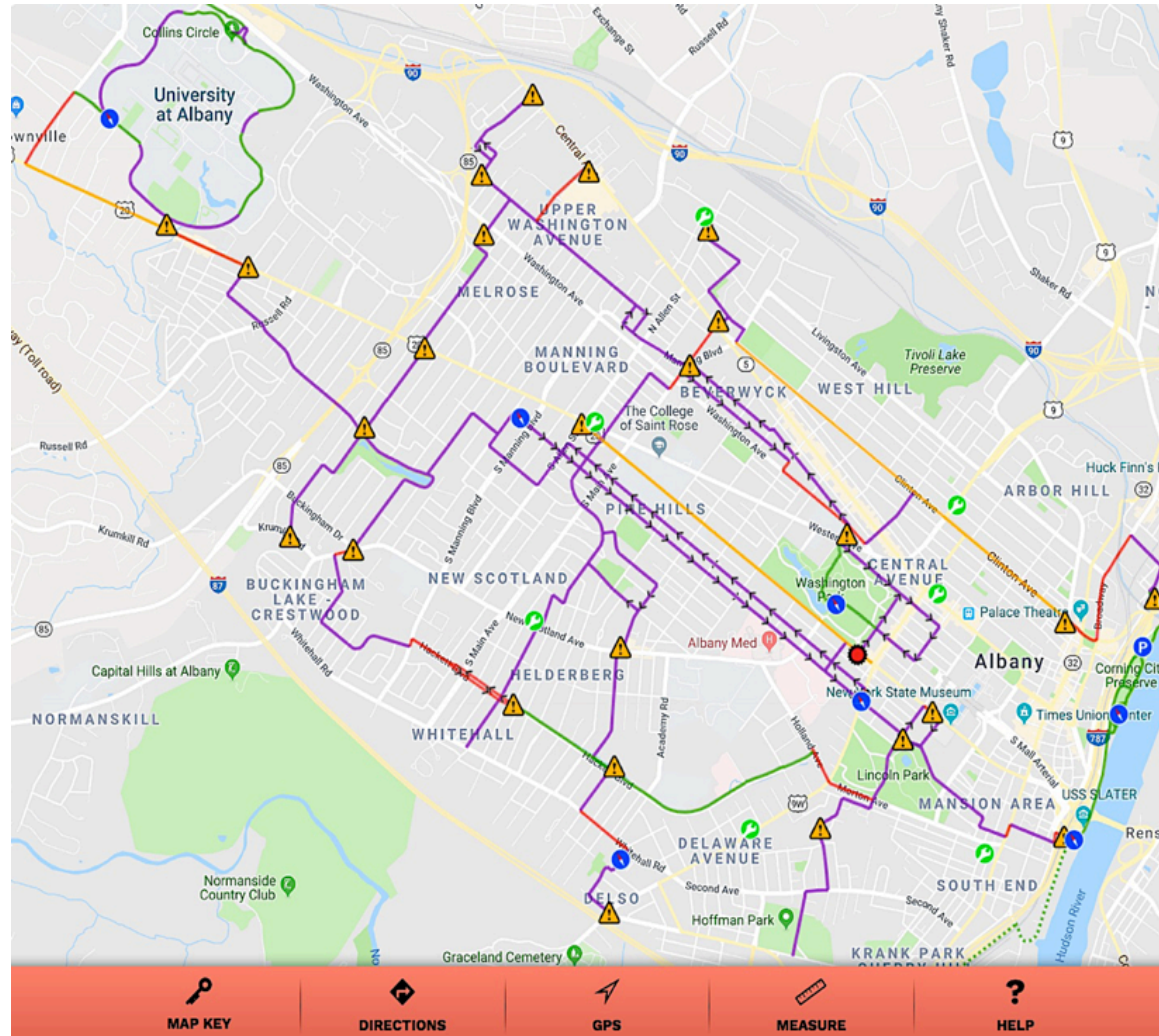
Zoom in/out

Based on Google
Maps – searchable,
shows points of
interest

Free!

Available
24 / 7

PC, laptop, tablet,
smart phone



Bottom Row

Map Key

Explains layers.
Pick only what
you want to see

Directions

Plan your custom
route

GPS

Optional – display
your location

Measure

exact distances,
like Google Maps

Help

Instructions for all
functions

Live Demo – How to map a route

Click the button

SELECT ON MAP

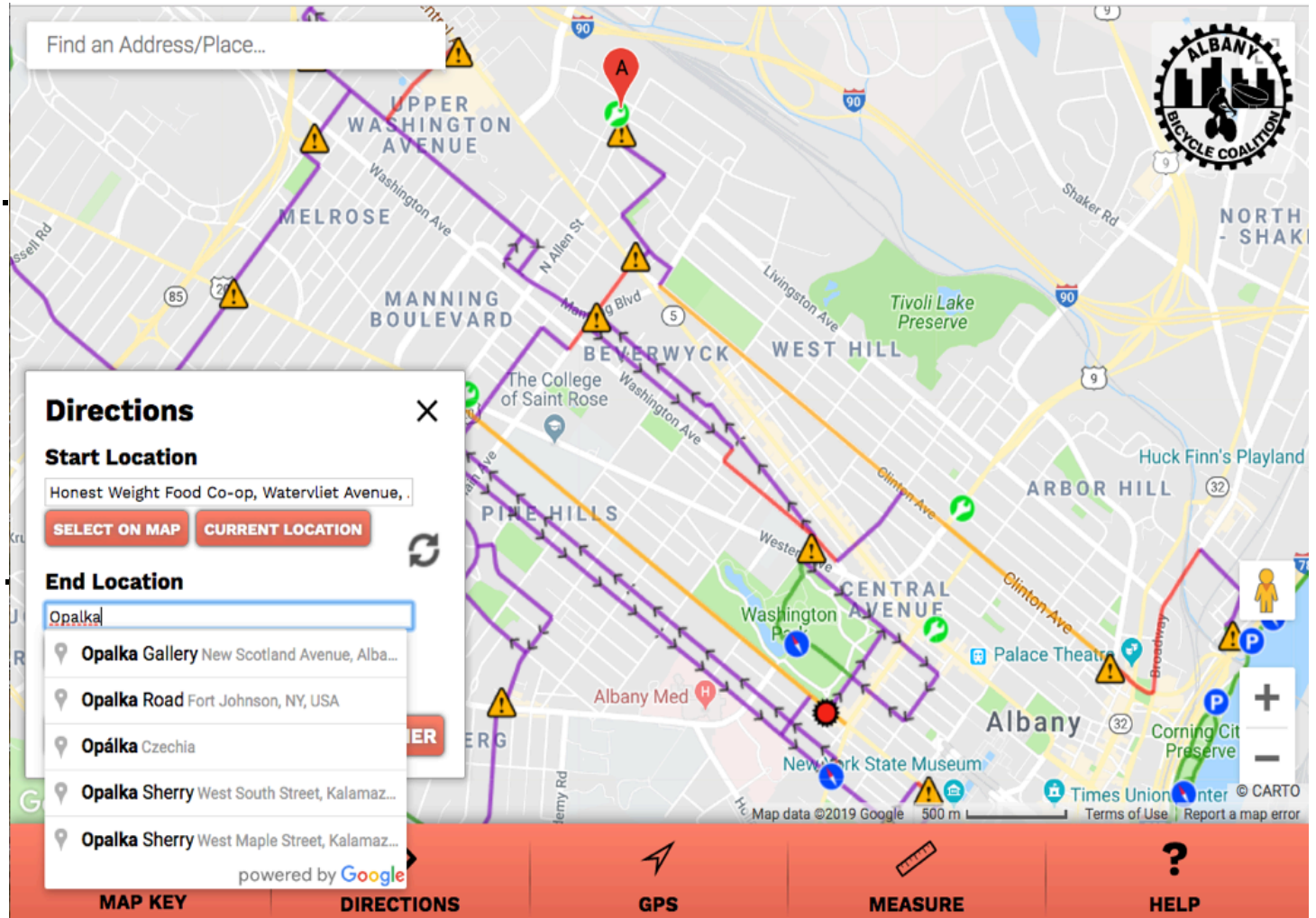
Then, click your mouse on a spot.
“A” will show the **Start**.

Or,
type an address.
(several choices pop up. Pick one.

“B” = the **End**

Click the green

PLAN ROUTE



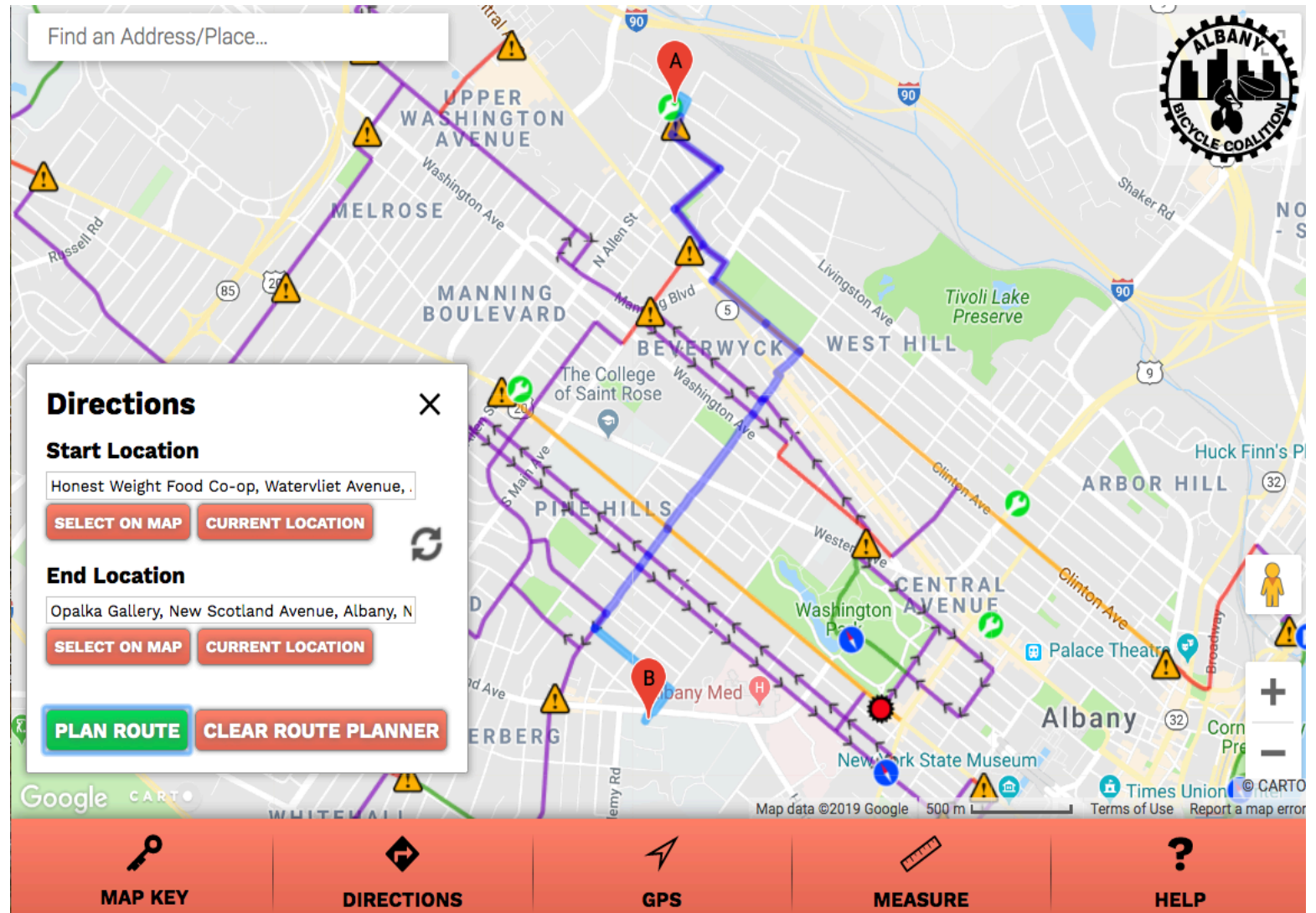
Done! Your own custom route.

A = Start

Blue line =
my route

B = End

I can zoom
in with my
mouse
wheel, or
the + at
lower right
corner.



Click circular arrows to reverse, and **Plan Route** again.
When finished, click the **CLEAR ROUTE PLANNER** button.

Origins – 2016

- January 2016: We received an \$8,000 New York State grant, via Assemblymember Patricia Fahy. Raised addition \$ via private donations.
- Hired an IT consultant, who already created the Erie Canalway map for Parks & Trails New York
- Began studying what other cities had done, looking for best practices - use of colors, symbols, etc.

Case studies:

New York, Chicago, D.C., Portland

NYC Bike Map

<https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/bikemap-2020.pdf>

4 Colors – nice and simple

We used two of these color codes as is:

Green = NYC protected lanes (Albany: multi-use paths & protected lanes)

Purple: shared streets

Modified:

We need **blue** to map custom routes; can't use that for bike lanes.

Instead, used **orange** for bike lanes, since we didn't need "signed route."



But: dense, crowded.

Too many choices.

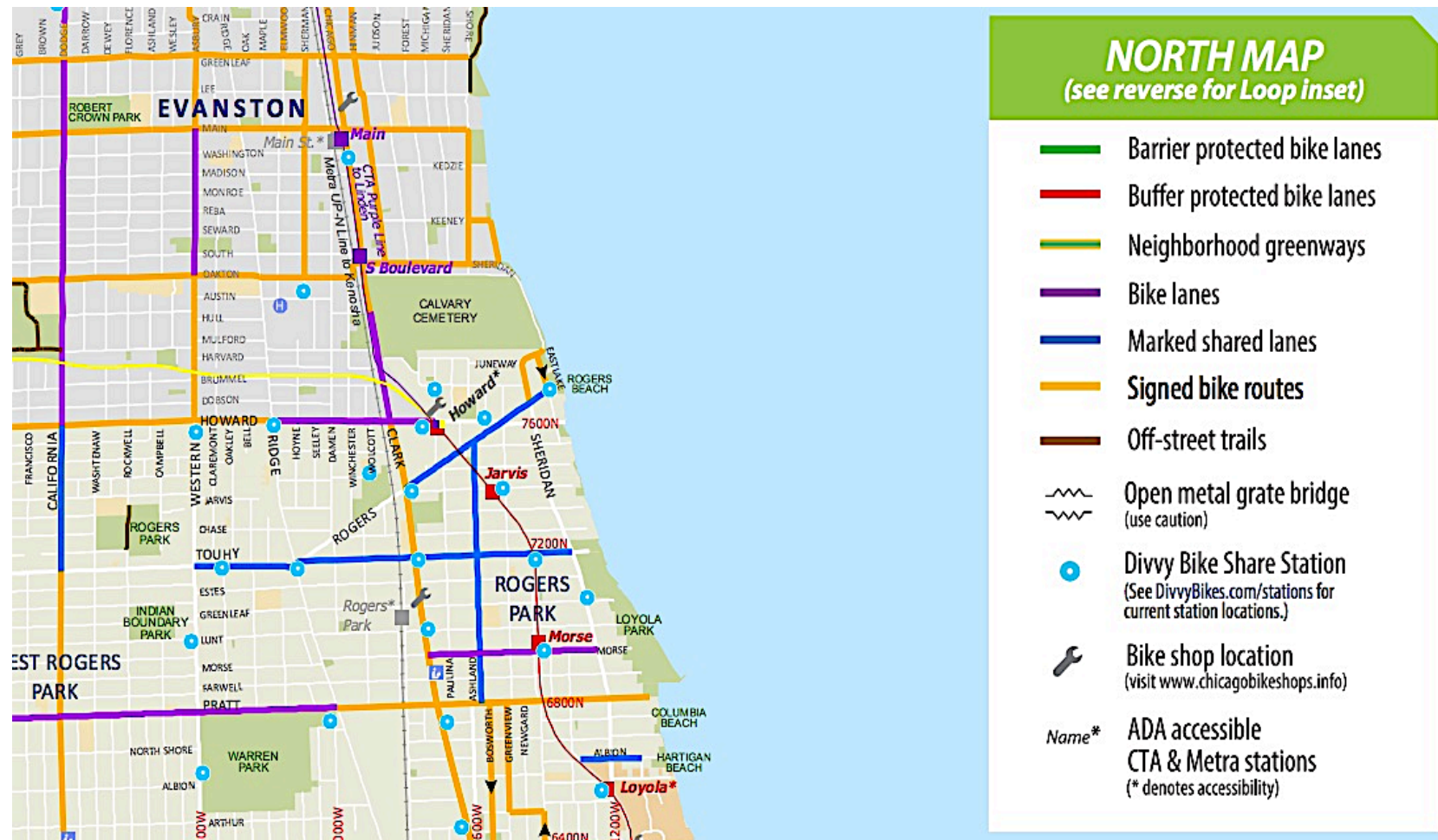
How can you pick the best route?



Chicago – 7 kinds of routes - confusing

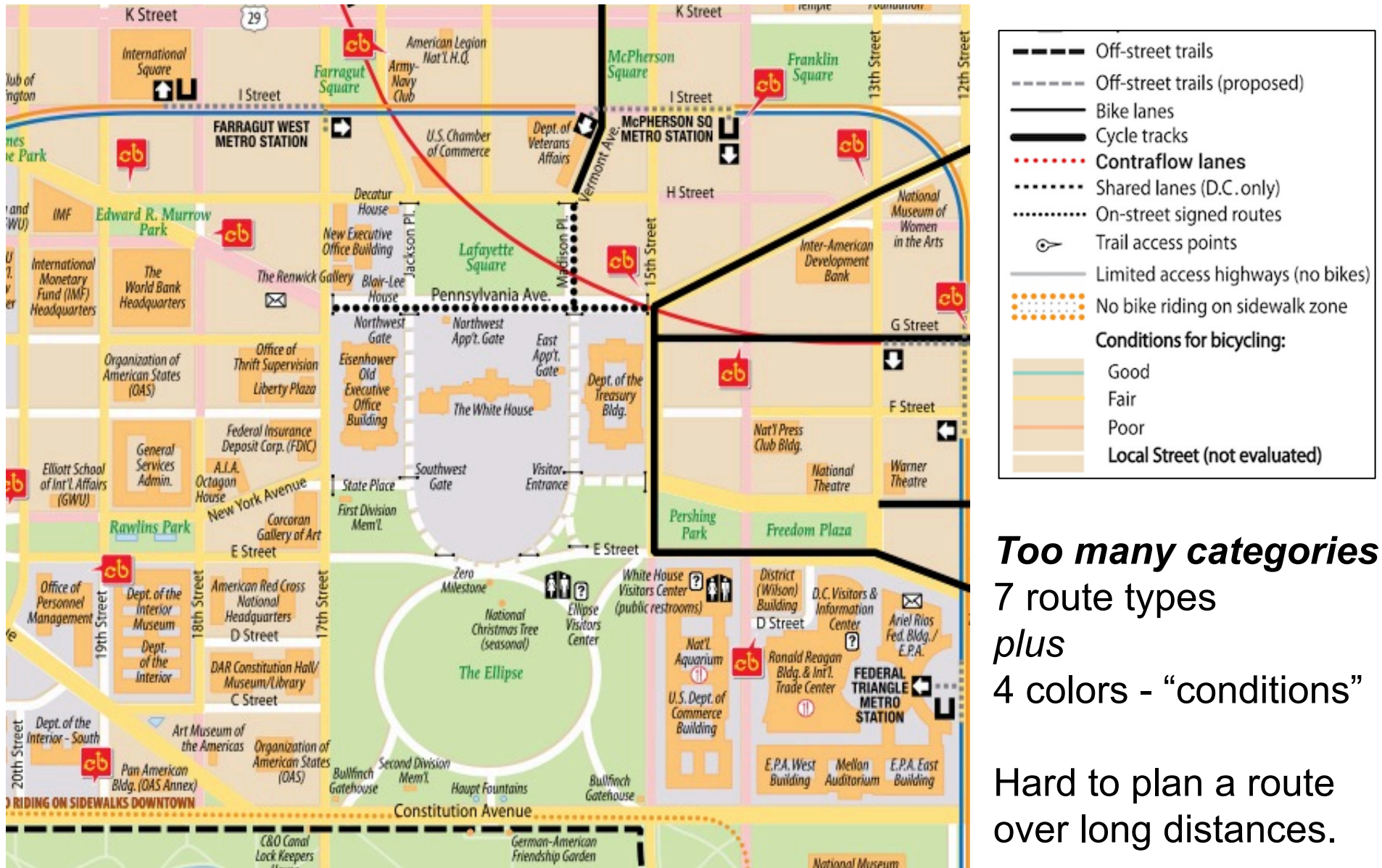
<https://chicagocompletestreets.org/streets/bikeways/>

- **Two** kinds of “protected” bike lanes – *do I really care?*
- “Neighborhood greenways” – *techie term, not defined.*
- “Signed bike route” – *says nothing about infrastructure.*



Washington D.C. Confusing map key

https://ddot.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddot/page_content/attachments/BikeMap_2018_UPDATED%206118%28sidewalk%29%201.pdf



Too many categories

7 route types

plus

4 colors - “conditions”

*Hard to plan a route
over long distances.*

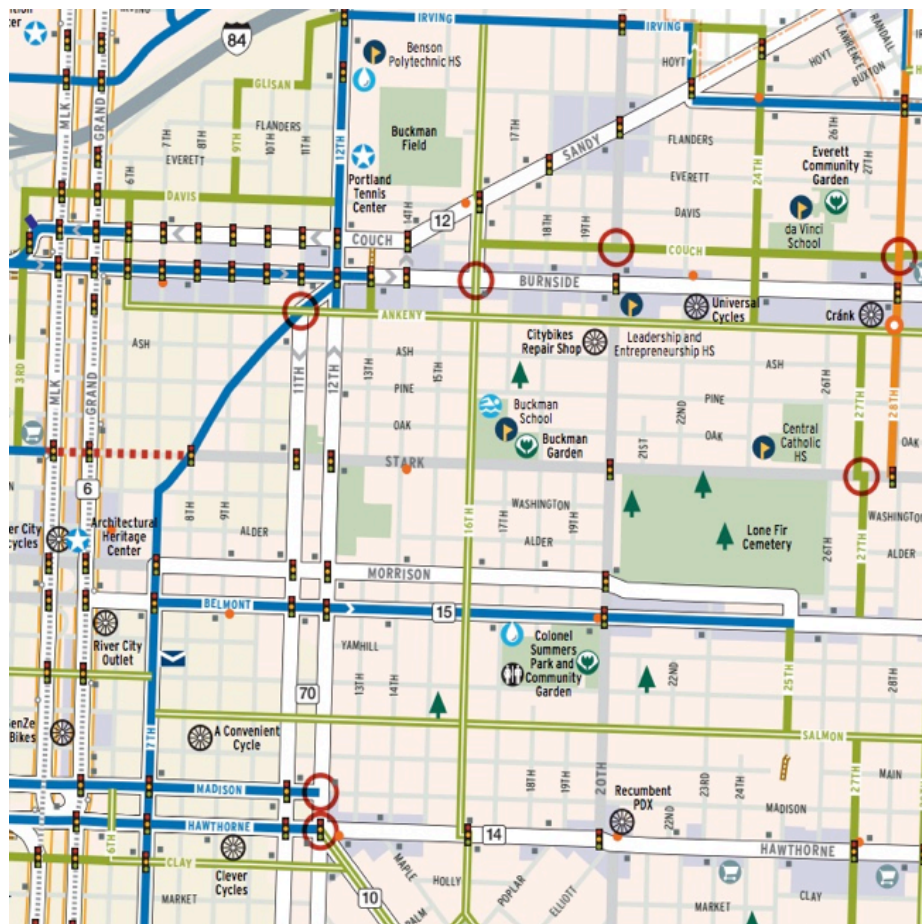
Portland Oregon – 10 kinds of routes

<https://pdx.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b51534aa6e1f4dd4ad4d83c4a084d9a6>

Too much information

Not self-explanatory












Complex, fine-grain distinctions



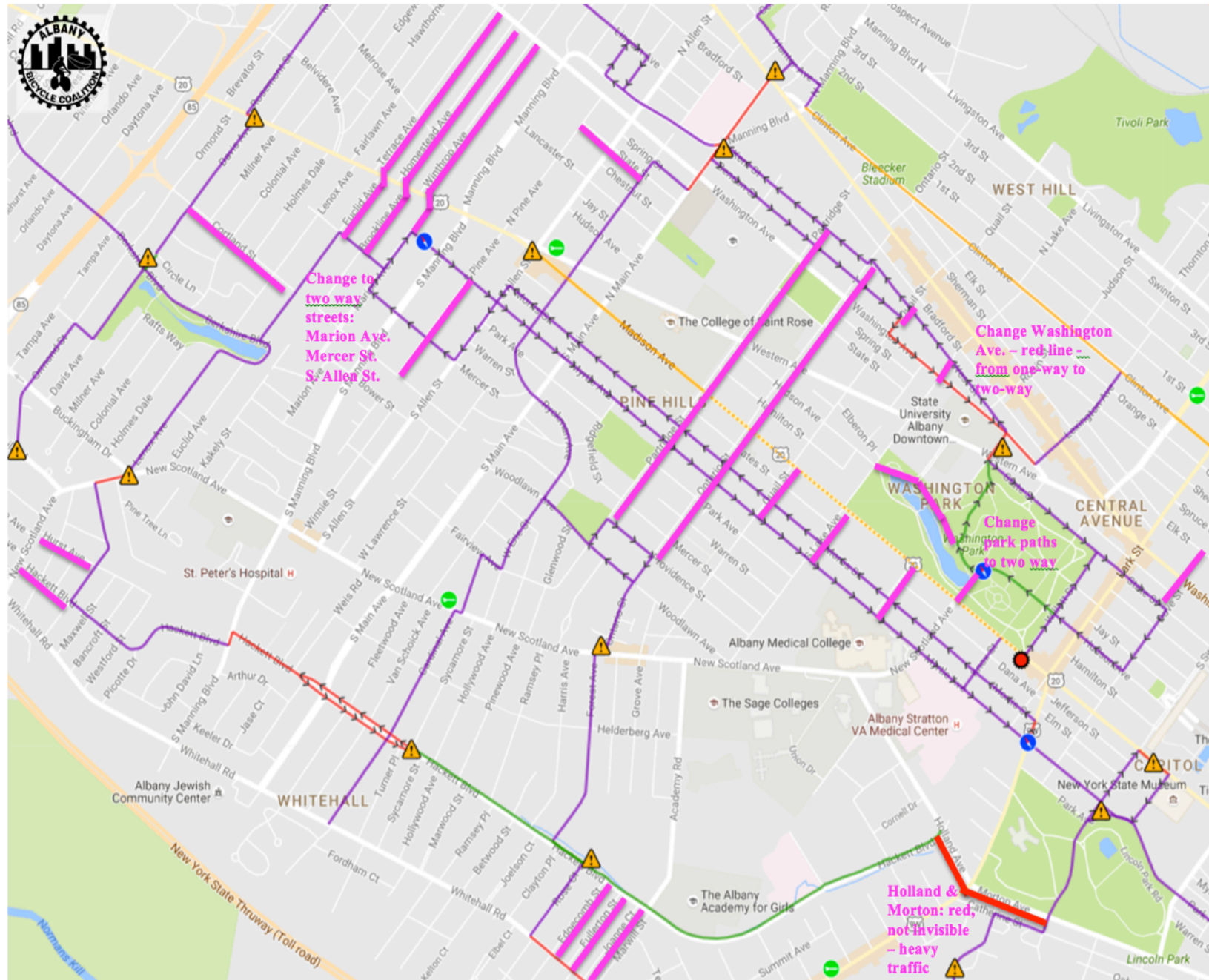
LEGEND	
	Multi-use Path closed to motor vehicles <i>Camino para peatones y ciclistas prohibidos los vehículos de motor</i>
	Multi-use Path (unpaved) <i>Camino para peatones y ciclistas (sin pavimentar)</i>
	Sidewalk Connection go slowly, yield to pedestrians <i>Conexión en la acera: avance despacio y ceda el paso a peatones.</i>
	Neighborhood Greenways pavement markings and directional signs on lower traffic streets to guide cyclists <i>Calles con bajo nivel de tráfico y pavimento pintado con marcas y señales direccionales para guiar a los ciclistas</i>
	Shared Roadway on lower traffic &/or lower speed street <i>Calzada compartida en calle con poco tráfico y/o baja velocidad</i>
	Shared Roadway / Difficult Connection lower traffic street with sight distance limitations and higher speeds <i>Calzada compartida / Conexión difícil calle de menor tráfico con limitaciones de visibilidad de distancia y velocidades más altas</i>
	Shared Roadway with Wider Outside Lane on moderate and higher traffic street <i>Calzada compartida con carril exterior más ancho en calle con tráfico moderado o de mayor tráfico</i>
	Bike Lane: Protected, Buffered or lower traffic street <i>Carril para bicicletas: protegido, con separaciones o en calle con poco tráfico</i>
	Bike Lane or wide shoulder, on higher traffic streets <i>Carril para bicicletas o arcén ancho, en calles de mayor tráfico</i>
	Difficult Connection in areas with higher speeds and/or volumes, combined with narrow lane widths or other problems for cyclists <i>Conexión difícil en áreas de velocidades más altas y/o mayor tráfico, combinado con carriles estrechos u otros problemas para los ciclistas</i>

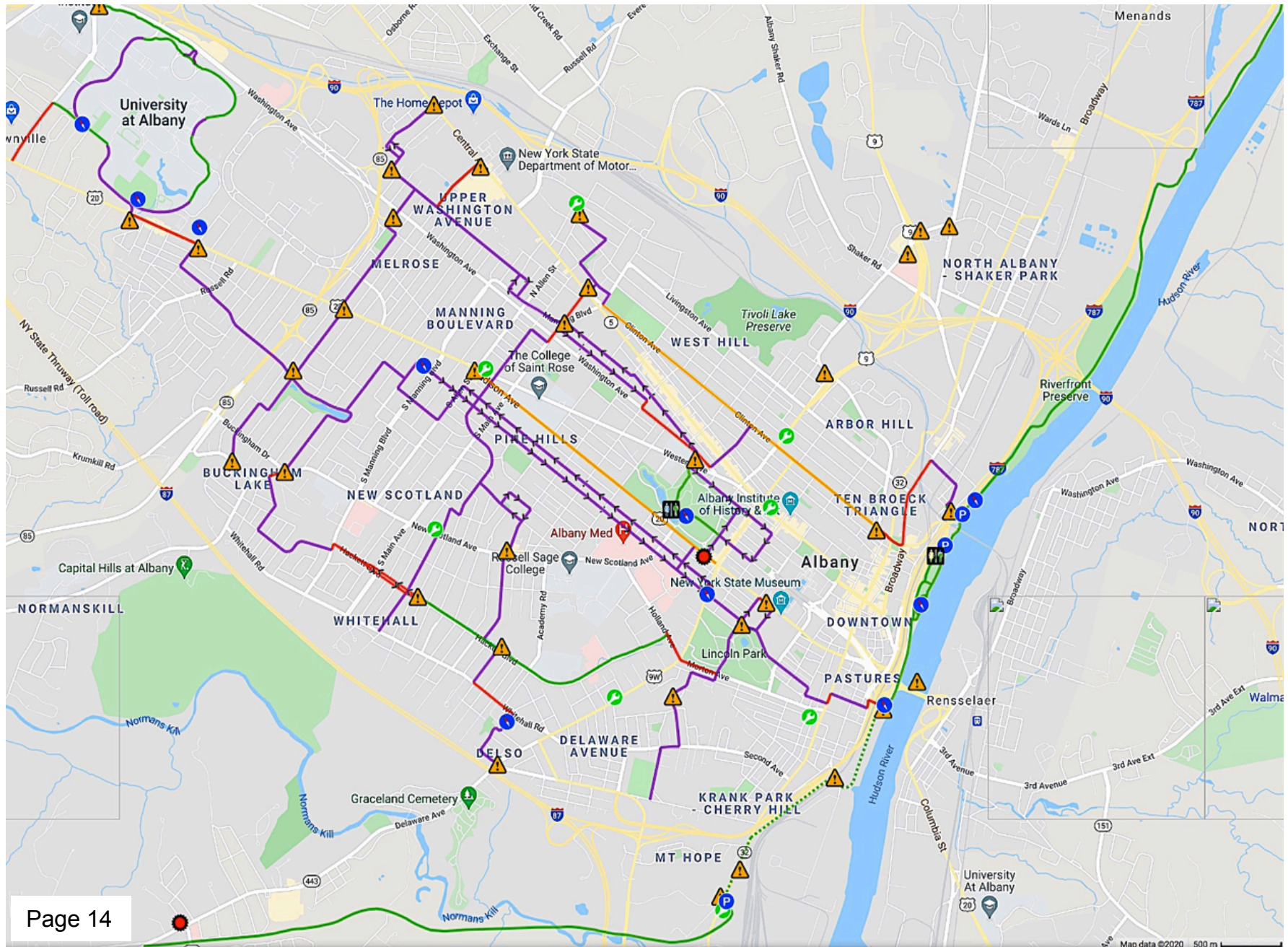
Lessons Learned from Other Maps

- **Limit the number of routes in the network**
 - ◆ Don't try to show every useful street
 - ◆ Avoid clutter and visual overload
- **Types of routes – keep to a minimum**
 - ◆ Five distinct, non-overlapping types
 - ◆ Relevant to bicycling safety
 - ◆ Easy to understand and memorize
- **Use intuitive color codes where possible**
 - ◆ Green = safest (multi-use paths)
 - ◆ Red = heavy traffic
 - ◆ Purple = shared roads
(like NYC and Philadelphia)
 - ◆ Orange = bike lanes
(process of elimination)
- **Use major arteries only where necessary**
to make connections.
- **Use only a few icons.** Include pop-up text with information for that location.

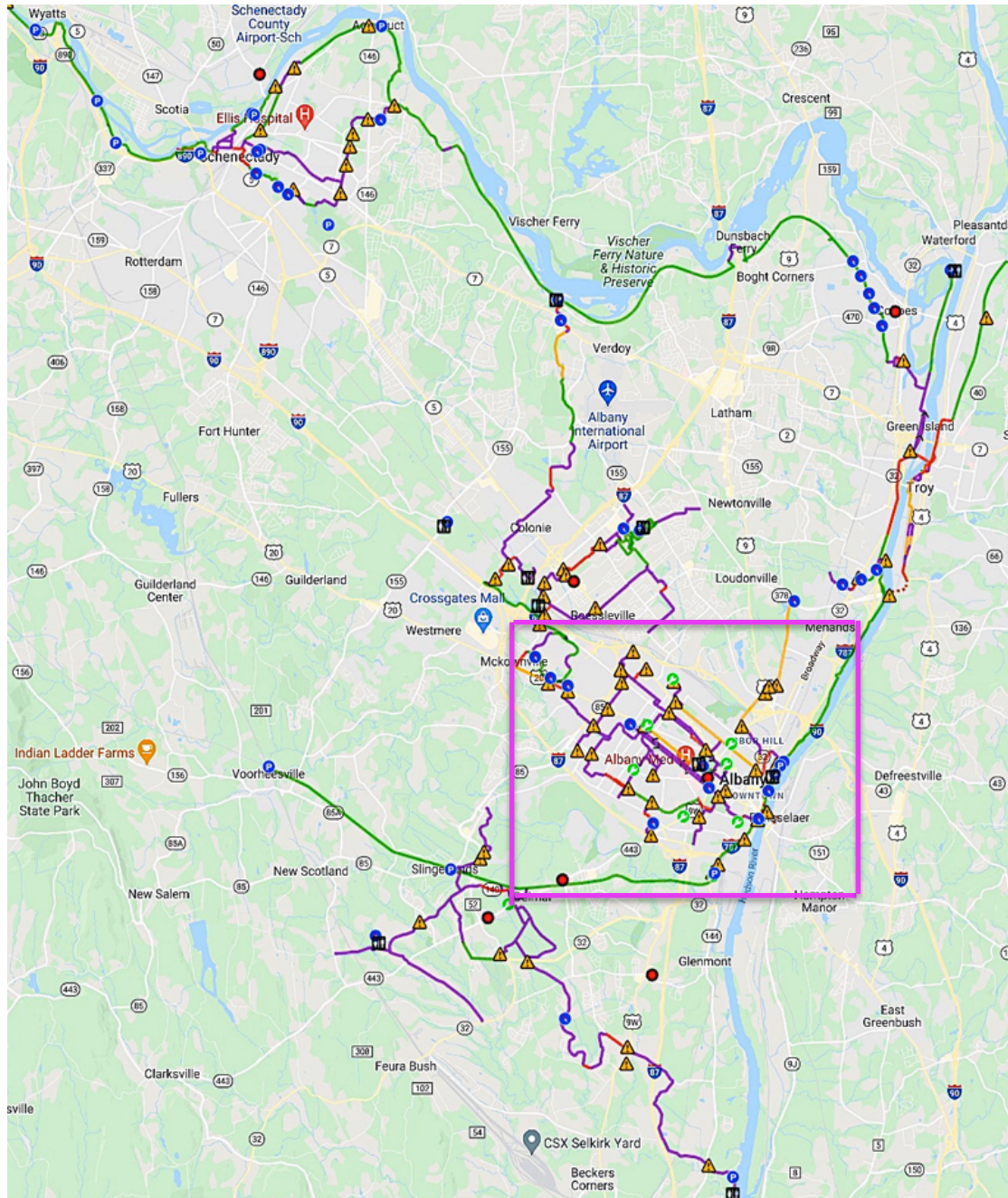
- ☒ Routes – Shared Road
 -  Light Traffic Street
 -  Heavy Traffic Street
- ☒ Routes – Bike Lanes/Paths
 -  On-Street Bike Lane
 -  Bike Pedestrian Path Or Protected Bike Lane
 -  Sidewalk: walk bikes if pedestrians are present, or where required by local laws.
-  Caution Notice
-  Bike Shop
-  Bicycle Repair Station – Self-Service
-  Route Information
-  Parking
-  Restrooms (may not be open all seasons)

PROBLEM: unexpected long detours - can't jump off-and-on our network.
SOLUTION: added strategic streets without colors; keeps map uncluttered.





CapitalNYBikeMap - Dec. 2020



Purple square: original map, Nov. 2016 – March 2019

2019 - Albany Bicycle Coalition added new routes in Troy, Delmar, Colonie & Niskayuna.

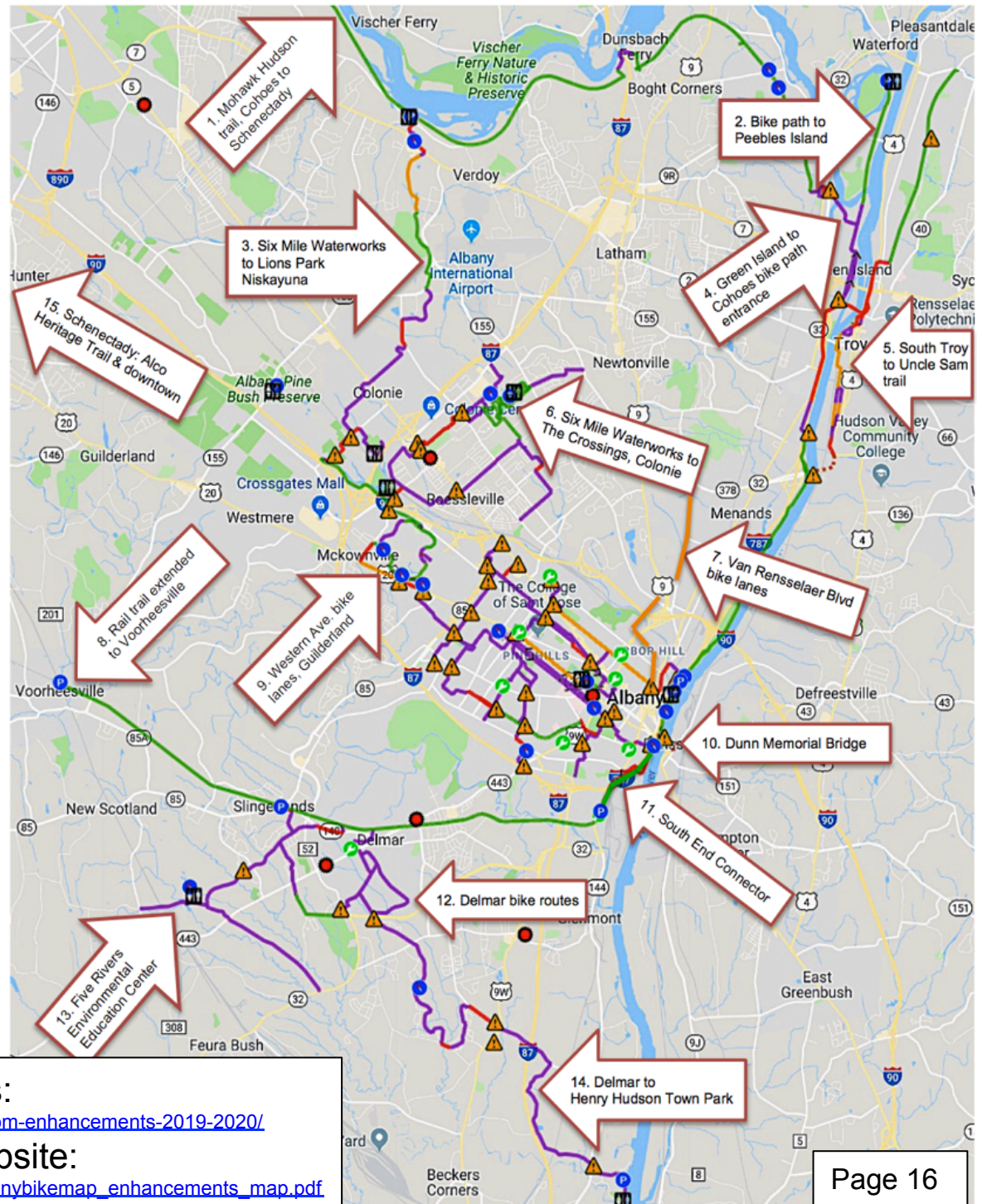
New infrastructure, 2019-20: ACHHRT done; Madison Ave. bike lanes; Troy bike lanes; South End Connector; Northern Blvd bike lanes.

Sep. 2020 – *renamed* to CapitalNYBikeMap.com

Aug – Oct 2020: added first routes in Schenectady and vicinity, based on research by Cycle Schenectady.

2019-2020: 15 new major routes

- Any point on the network can be reached from any other point.
- No isolated islands; everything is connected.



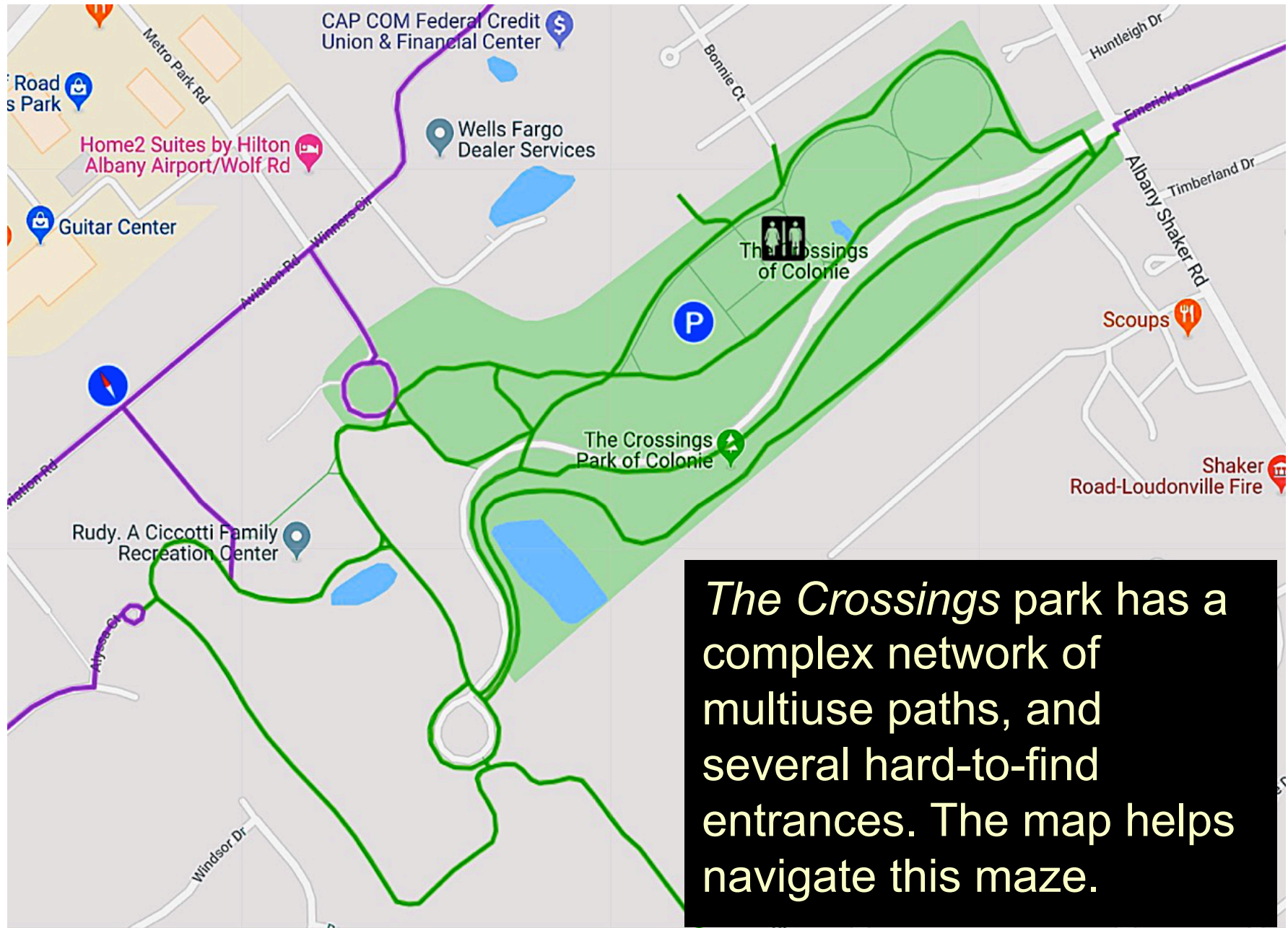
Text descriptions:

<https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/resources/capitalnybikemap-com-enhancements-2019-2020/>

This map, on our website:

https://albanybicyclecoalition.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/capitalnybikemap_enhancements_map.pdf

The Crossings of Colonie – *detail example*



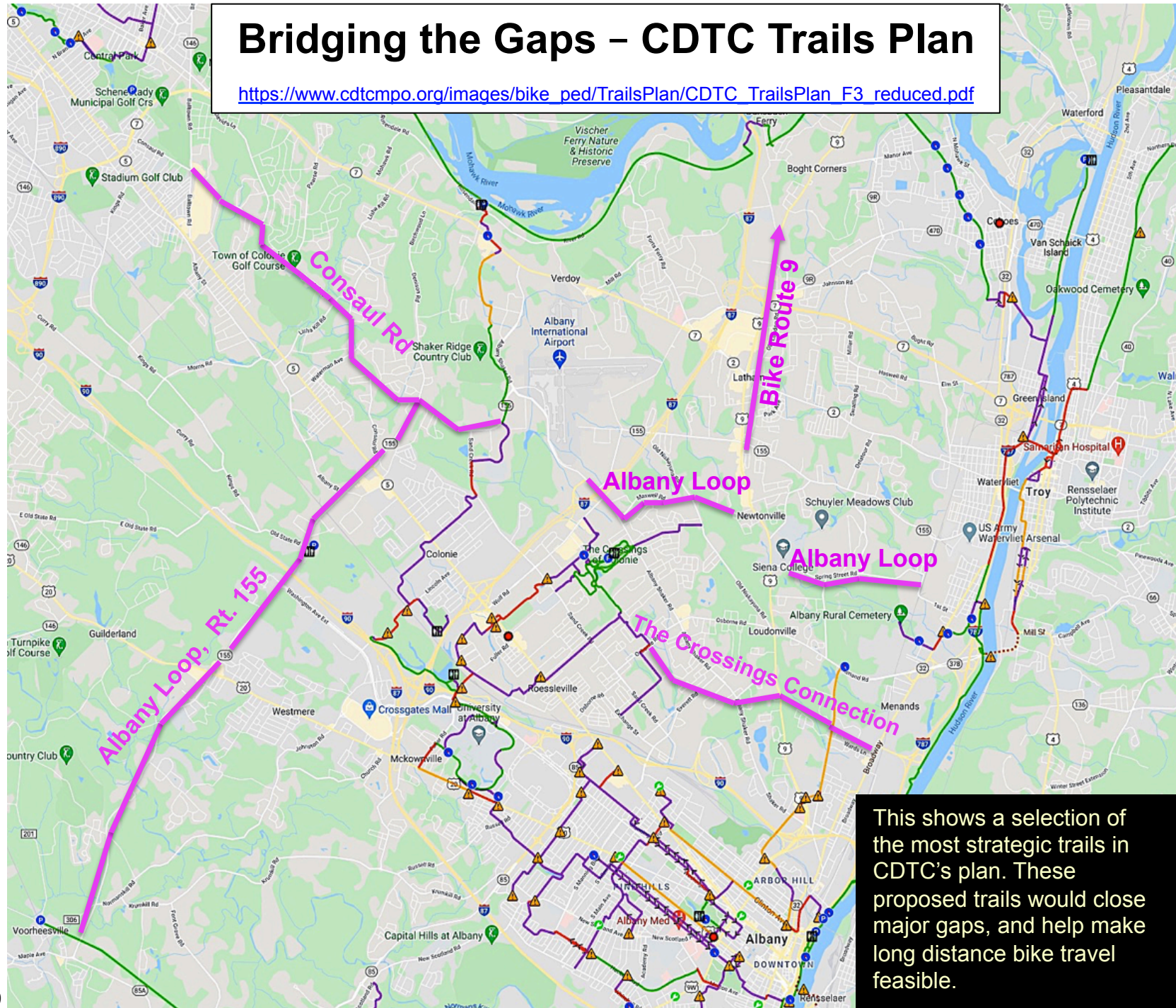
Coming up in 2021

We welcome your tips re: new bike infrastructure, and filling gaps in map coverage: albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com

- **Route 787 Cohoes - Multi-use path recently completed**
To do: confirm extent of coverage, explore east-west connections.
- **Albany Riverview Center / Broadway – connection across I-787 to MHBHT**
Construction almost complete as of 12/1/2020.
- **Troy downtown riverfront path** – expecting completion in 2021
- **Schenectady** – continue researching new routes with Cycle Schenectady
- **Watervliet multi-use path, in progress**
Completed 4th St. to south of Arsenal. Northbound, waiting for construction to start.
- **Albany County Rail Trail – new entrance at Kenwood Ave. & Cherry Ave.**
Construction looked 80% complete at end of 11/2020
- **UAlbany / State Campus multiuse path connector**
Construction looks complete, but still blocked off.
- **Loudonville to Mohawk River:** needs more research to find bike-friendly routes.

Bridging the Gaps – CDTC Trails Plan

https://www.cdtcmpo.org/images/bike_ped/TrailsPlan/CDTC_TrailsPlan_F3_reduced.pdf



This shows a selection of the most strategic trails in CDTC's plan. These proposed trails would close major gaps, and help make long distance bike travel feasible.

How to Link to CapitalNYBikeMap

Direct link to the map:

<https://capitalnybikemap.com/>

Map overview, and introduction to urban biking in the Capital

Region: https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/albany_bike_map/

(Also contains this presentation in PDF format, under “Designing the Map”)

We welcome you to link to our web pages – especially if you are involved with tourism, the environment, community or business development, or any bike-related business.

- A unique resource for visitors, tourists, newcomers, bike commuters.
- Helps implement your own business’s mission and attract new customers.
- Free!

Further questions? Write to:

albanybicyclecoalition@yahoo.com

