

Council Members Smith, Calsolaro, Conti, Fahey, Golby, Konev, O'Brien, Igoe, Herring, Freeman, Bailey,

Resolution to support re-establishment of the Livingston Avenue Bridge Walkway

Whereas, a vision of the City of Albany's *Albany 2030 Comprehensive Plan* is that Albany's neighborhoods and centers are connected to each other and to the rest of the region by an extensive, efficient, and safe network of complete streets, mass transit, bikeways, trails, and sidewalks and;

Whereas, downtown Albany is a vibrant mix of business, residential, educational, arts, cultural, and entertainment uses connected to the Hudson River and;

Whereas, a goal of the Albany 2030 Comprehensive Plan, and the Albany Bicycle Master Plan is to work with local, county and state jurisdictions, to enhance walking and bicycling opportunities; and

Whereas, studies have shown that multi-use trails are economically beneficial; and

Whereas, Trails tap into growing tourism markets, support vibrant communities, promote healthy physical activity, reduce pollution, and help address global climate change; and

Whereas, as part of New York State's High Speed Rail Initiative, the Livingston Avenue Bridge will be reconstructed in 2018; and

Whereas, the Livingston Avenue Railroad Bridge has been identified as an "early-win" for a safe and accessible river crossing in dozens of regional, statewide, County and City plans and countless studies; and

Whereas, the Livingston Avenue Bridge could serve as a connection to a growing network of statewide multi-use trails, including the New York State Canalway Trail, the Albany County Rail Trail, and the proposed Rensselaer County Trail; and

Whereas, The State of New York and Albany County have shown, through various initiatives, support for Trails both in principle and financially; and

Whereas, interest in outdoor recreational opportunities, including walking, and bicycling, is on the rise among Albany City residents and visitors; and

Whereas, Trails in the City of Albany enhance the quality of life for our citizens, increase tourist activity in the County and provide alternative transportation routes for non-motorized vehicles; and

Whereas, trail activities are enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities, and are an important part of the City of Albany's outdoor recreation resources; and

Whereas, it is very likely that there will only be one opportunity to ensure that the walkway is installed while design and construction are ongoing and the funding, political will, and public sentiment are aligned;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved: That the Albany Common Council urges the re-establishment of the Livingston Avenue Bridge walkway at such time that the bridge is replaced.