



# CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL PROFILE

## City of Mechanicville



**Trail Description:** The City of Mechanicville was profoundly shaped by the development of the Battles of Saratoga in 1777, Old Champlain Canal in 1823, and the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad in 1835. By 1900, the City had become a transitional area for the regional interchange of commerce. Today the Old Champlain Canal is buried under the City's street infrastructure and no longer visible. The Mechanicville trail section will generally follow the path of the Old Canal beginning at the end of the Town of Halfmoon trail in the southern end near the Saratoga County Sewer Plant and ending at the northern edge of the City near Mulberry Street and Best Avenue. Once the trail crosses over to Main Street, it will continue along the existing sidewalk network through the downtown to where the street connects with Rt 4/32 again at the Saratoga Avenue/North Central Avenue/North Main Street intersection. Mechanicville is a designated Lakes to Locks Passage *Waypoint Community* where visitors are encouraged to take advantage of this entirely walkable downtown commercial district.



**Empire State Trail:** State Bike Route 9 along Route 4 will continue as an on-road bicycle route and be marked and signed as the official route for the Empire State Trail. At the intersection of Route 4/32 and South Main Street, South Main Street will become the Empire State Trail until the intersection with 4/32 in the north section of the City. The road will be marked and signed as required.

**Hudson River/Champlain Canal Access Points:** Mechanicville City Dock which has free public docking, kayak launch, access to water, power, pump out facility, restrooms, and gathering space with seating and picnic tables.

**Public Facilities:** Champlain (Barge) Canal and Lock 3; XO Tower along the CSX rail line, new home for the Mechanicville-Stillwater Area Chamber of Commerce; and City Dock.

**Public Events:** Canadian Pacific Holiday Train; Annual Family Day in the Park; Mechanicville Library Farmers Market.

### Connector Trails:

**State Bike Route 9:** On-road signed route along Route 4, a nationally-designated All American Road.

**Zim Smith Trail:** This 10.2-mile paved and stone dust trail runs along the former rail bed of the D & H North South Railroad corridor from Ballston Spa to Coons Crossing Road in Halfmoon. It serves as the primary trail north-south multi-use trail spine through Saratoga County. The 3-mile segment from Coons Crossing Road to the intersection with the Champlain Canalway Trail in Mechanicville is planned for construction in 2019.

### Local Planning Support:

- City of Mechanicville Comprehensive Plan (2000)
- City of Mechanicville Downtown Revitalization Plan (2006)
- Downtown Revitalization Grant Project (2009)
- Central Avenue Corridor Linkage Study (2009)
- City of Mechanicville Waterfront and Downtown Revitalization Plan (2009)
- City of Mechanicville Revitalization Initiative (2012)

**Implementation Strategy:** This section of the CCT is under development and will require a formal agreement between the City of Mechanicville and the Town of Stillwater. Along Main Street the trail will need signage and a designated bike lane or shared lane markings for bicyclists. Plans for striping on Main Street are already underway to improve the flow of traffic.



*City Dock Boathouse*



*Train in Historic Railroad District*



*City Dock*

Trail Sections:

SOUTH MAIN STREET TO NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE (M-1)

**Description:** The trail begins at the Sewer Plant at the southern end of Mechanicville and crosses at Rt 4/32 to South Main Street continuing north on North Main Street to the City Dock which will serve as the official trailhead in Mechanicville. The trail continues north on North Maine Street to the intersection of Route 4/32 (North Central Avenue). A pedestrian crosswalk, signage and a method for slowing and/or stopping traffic safely will be required. Once the trail crosses over to South Main Street, it will continue along the existing sidewalk network through the downtown to where the street connects with Rt 4/32 again at the Saratoga Avenue/North Central Avenue/North Main Street intersection. The Main Street trail will need signage and a designated bike lane or shared lane for bicyclists. Plans are being implemented for road striping on Main Street to improve the flow of traffic.

**Parking and Signage:** There is no existing wayfinding signage in Mechanicville for the Champlain Canalway Trail. The Empire State Trail will be marked along Route 4. The Zim Smith Trail will also require wayfinding signage in 2019.

**Status:** Funding for on-road bicycle improvements and signage along Route 4/32 will be provided by the Empire State Trail.

NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE TO MULBERRY STREET (M-2)

**Description:** The trail crosses to the north side of the street at the intersection and turns west to continue along North Central Avenue to Saratoga Avenue dropping down to an existing pedestrian pathway down to Mulberry Street. It then follows Mulberry Street north up to Stillwater Street where it will make the connection to the existing Stillwater trail segment.

**Parking and Signage:** A trailhead with parking is being established at the intersection of Rt 67/Mulberry Street and Campbell Road.

**Status:** Funding for the design and construction of this segment will be provided by the EST. Construction is anticipated in 2020.



Champlain Canal Lock 3



XO Historic Chamber of Commerce Building

# Champlain Canalway Trail 2019 Action Plan

City of Mechanicville

