

Schenectady-Amsterdam Roadmeet – August 6, 2022

Welcome to the 2022 Schenectady-Amsterdam Roadmeet! The meet will begin with lunch at Jumpin' Jack's Drive-In (5 Schonowee Avenue, Scotia, NY 12302) before heading out on a tour featuring the sights around Schenectady and Amsterdam, including old and/or interesting signs, road construction, and canal sites both historic and modern.



Image from Google Maps (2022)



Leg 0: To the Park and Ride

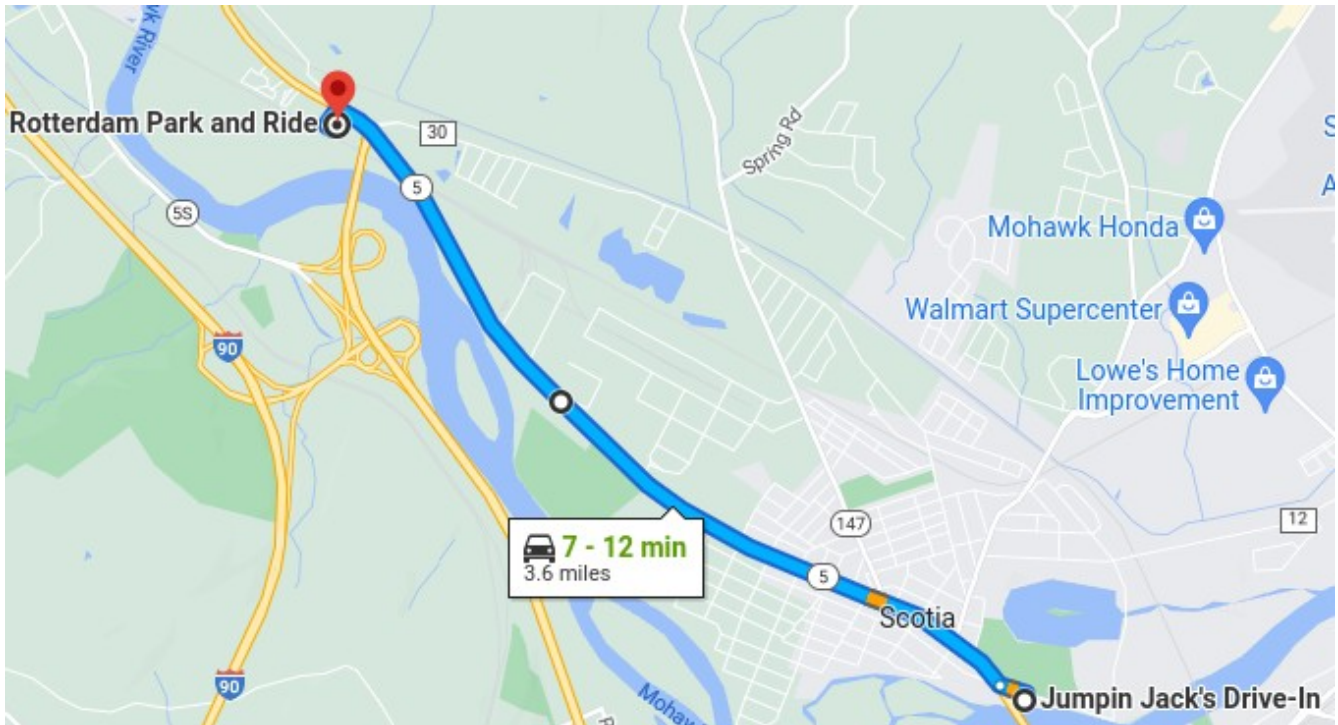


Image from Google Maps (2022)

From Jumpin' Jack's, turn left onto Schonowee Avenue and then right at the light onto NY 5 west. Continue for 3.4 miles through downtown Scotia, then turn left onto Van Buren Lane and then left into the Park and Ride. We will then group into cars for the tour.

Leg 1: To NY 103 and Lock 9 via I-890 and Schenectady

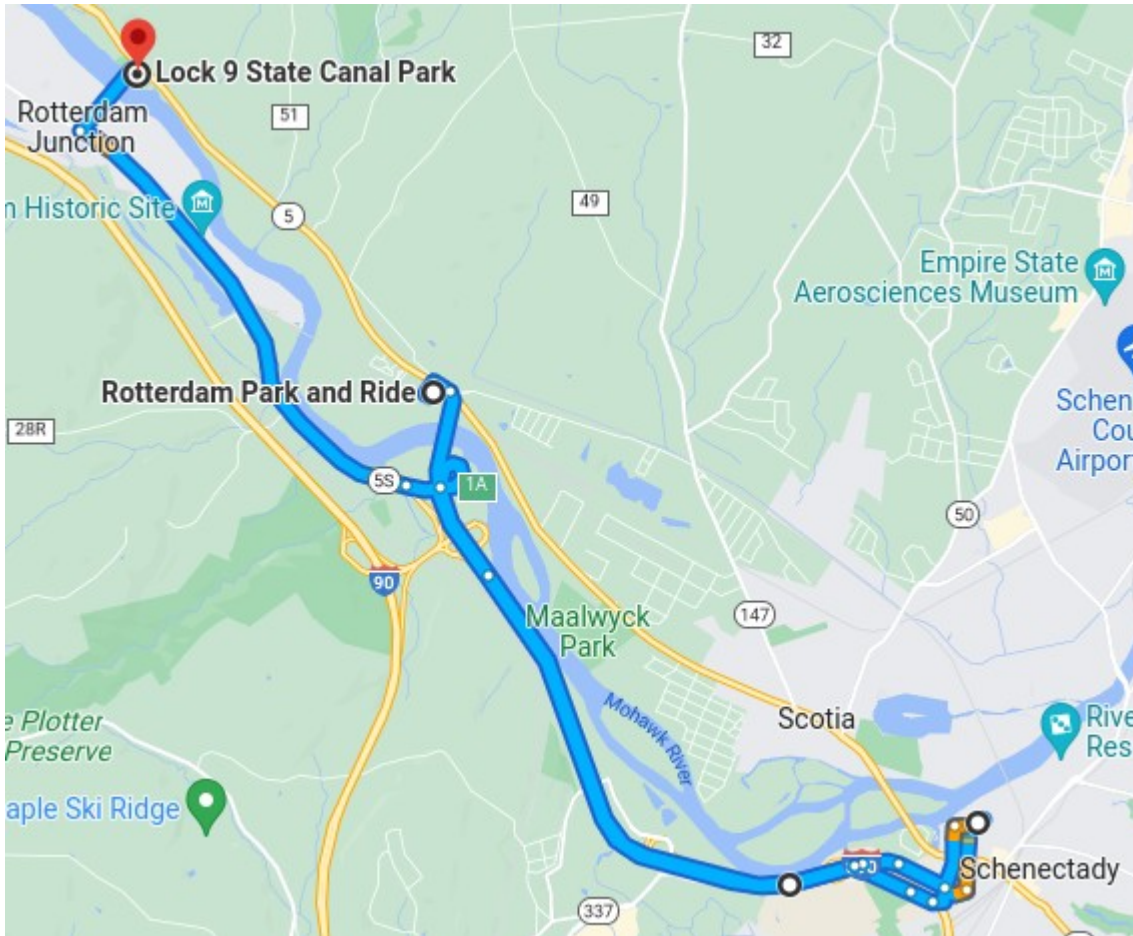


Image from Google Maps (2022)

From the Park and Ride, turn right onto Van Buren Lane, right onto NY 5 east, and then right onto NY 890 east (erroneously signed as I-890 east). Continue onto I-890 east. This part of I-890 is under rehabilitation to improve the roadway surface. New signage has also been installed.

Get off at exit 4 and head into the GE circle interchange. This interchange was reconfigured in 2016 to improve safety by removing the inner circle and realigning the ramps.

Take the ramp for Washington Avenue and continue straight past NY 5 into the historic Stockade neighborhood. Note the signage for the Empire State Trail, which follows local streets through this section of Schenectady. Turn right onto Front Street, and turn around at the traffic circle. Turn left onto Church Street. Immediately after Union Street, note the old sign for NY 5 on the right.

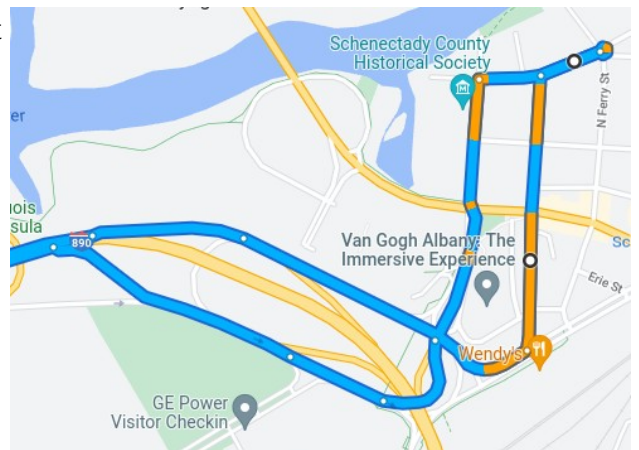


Image from Google Maps (2022)

Continue down Church Street past NY 5. Church Street here was recently reconfigured as part of the redevelopment of the area. Turn right onto Erie Boulevard, and then continue into the circle. Take I-890 west and get off at exit 1A for NY 5S west. Right after on your right, observe the Plotter Kill aqueduct, which originally carried the Erie Canal. Continue down NY 5S to Rotterdam Junction, then turn right onto NY 103 north. After the bridge over the Mohawk River/Erie Canal, turn right onto the driveway into the park at Lock 9. This is our first stop, to view the bridge and the lock.



Leg 2: Out to Amsterdam

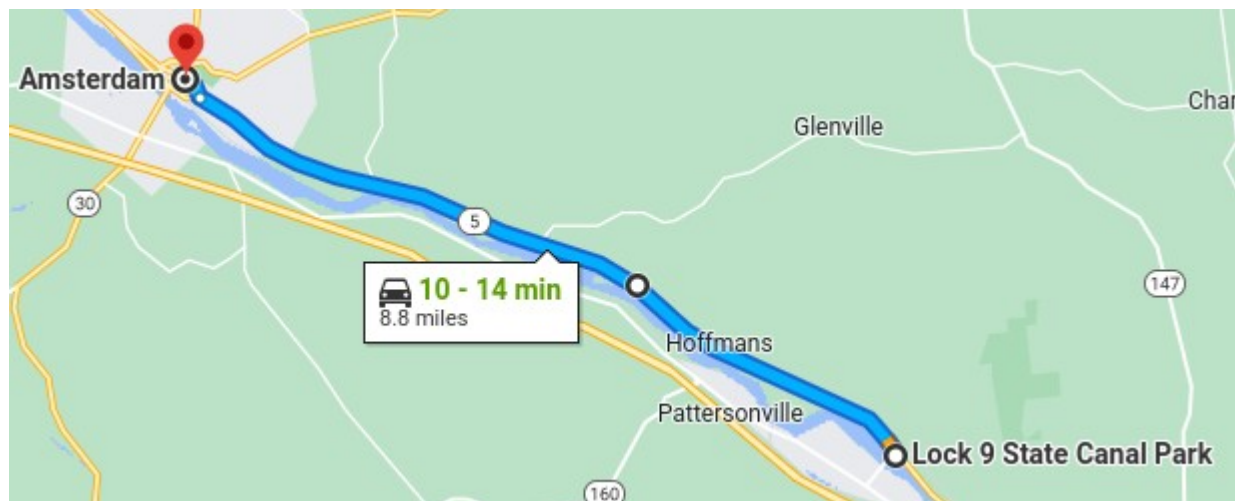


Image from Google Maps (2022)

Turn right out of the park and left onto NY 5 west. As we travel down NY 5, we'll pass by Lock 10 on the left. In Amsterdam, also on the left, there is a copy of the Statue of Liberty across the road from a temple. We'll end up driving through a recently reconfigured stretch of road as part of the project to make the westbound lanes two-way, in preparation for closing the eastbound lanes to traffic to improve access to the waterfront.

Turn left into the parking lot at the plaza at the United Presbyterian Church (just before the intersection with NY 30 north and NY 67 east) and park on the left along the road. This is our second stop, where we will get out and observe the construction. The intersections we passed through were reconfigured to square them off and facilitate two-way travel, with Schuyler Street cut off. A couple blocks to the west, construction has just begun on the roundabout at the Market Street/Columbus Square intersection.

Leg 3: Around Amsterdam to the Pedestrian Bridge

Turn left back onto NY 5 west. Continue through downtown Amsterdam. We'll clinch the westbound alignment of NY 5. At the end of the divided highway, turn right onto Caroline Street. At the end of the road, turn right onto Phillips Street, and then at the end of Phillips Street, turn left onto Northampton Road. At Van Dyke Avenue, note the odd sign directing traffic to NY 30 north, and turn right onto Van Dyke. At the end of Van Dyke, turn right onto NY 30 south (Market Street) and continue on NY 30 across the river. NY 30 becomes a short freeway to NY 5S. Take the ramp for NY 5S and continue straight onto P.S. Street. At the end of P.S. Street, look left and note the low speed limit – 15 mph! We'll avoid that (and a couple stop signs) by turning right onto Destafano Place. Turn left onto Upper Minaville Street, and then left onto Grieme Avenue.

Grieme Avenue becomes Perkins Street. Turn right onto Dewitt Street as we descend towards the river. We'll pass

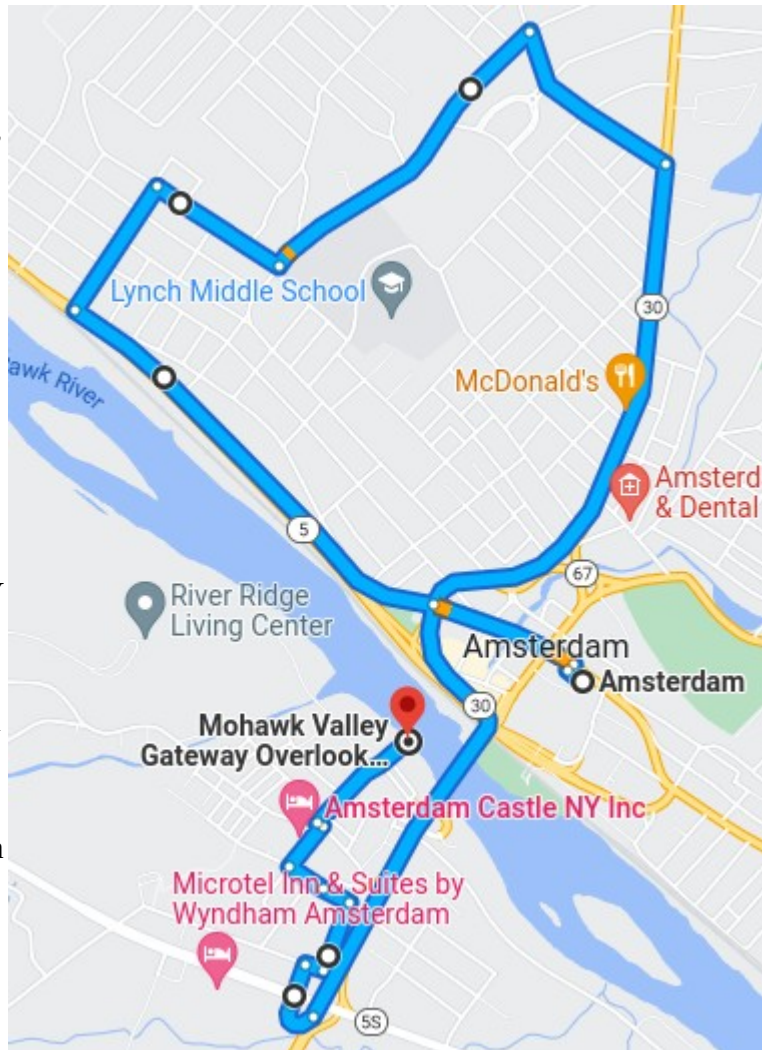


Image from Google Maps (2022)

by the Amsterdam Castle (left). Turn left onto Florida Avenue, and then an immediate right onto Bridge Street. At the end of the road, turn into the parking lot for the Mohawk Gateway Overlook Pedestrian Bridge.

The bridge opened in 2016 and provides pedestrian access between the north and south sides of the city view Riverlink Park. We'll walk across the bridge into the park, which has restrooms for anyone who needs a comfort break. This stop is also an excellent opportunity to take the meet photo.



Image from Jim Teresco

Leg 4: Ice cream at Schoharie Creek



Image from Google Maps (2022)

Head back down Bridge Street and get another view of Amsterdam Castle (straight ahead). Turn right onto Florida Avenue. After a curve, follow the right leg of a Y intersection onto Broadway (the street signs are gone, so follow the sign for River Ridge; if you miss the turn, it's three lefts after the overpass onto NY 5S) and go up the hill. We'll go straight at the stop sign, and when you see the "area speed limit 30" sign we'll have left Amsterdam for Florida – the Town of Florida, that is. At the end of the road, turn right onto NY 5S west.

We'll follow NY 5S for 3.4 miles. Close to the end of our journey, we'll cross over Schoharie Creek on a truss bridge, with another truss bridge on the left. These bridges have history. The bridge on the left is the original alignment of NY 5S, with the current bridge originally carrying a railroad. When the Thruway bridge over Schoharie Creek collapsed, the railroad bridge was quickly converted to carry NY 5S, with the NY 5S bridge carrying the Thruway traffic. After the Thruway bridge was rebuilt, the original configuration was restored, with the railroad bridge later being used for the Erie Canal Trail (now part of the Empire State Trail). In recent years, traffic on the two bridges was swapped.

After the bridge, turn left into Karen's Produce and Ice Cream. We'll take a quick ice cream break before resuming the tour.

Leg 5: A short hop to Schoharie Crossing

Turn right onto NY 5S east and cross back over Schoharie Creek. Follow the sign for Fort Hunter and turn left (and left again) onto Main Street. Turn left onto Railroad Street and then park in the parking area for Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site on the right. We'll stop here and take a look at the truss bridges and the remains of the aqueduct that carried the Erie Canal over Schoharie Creek.

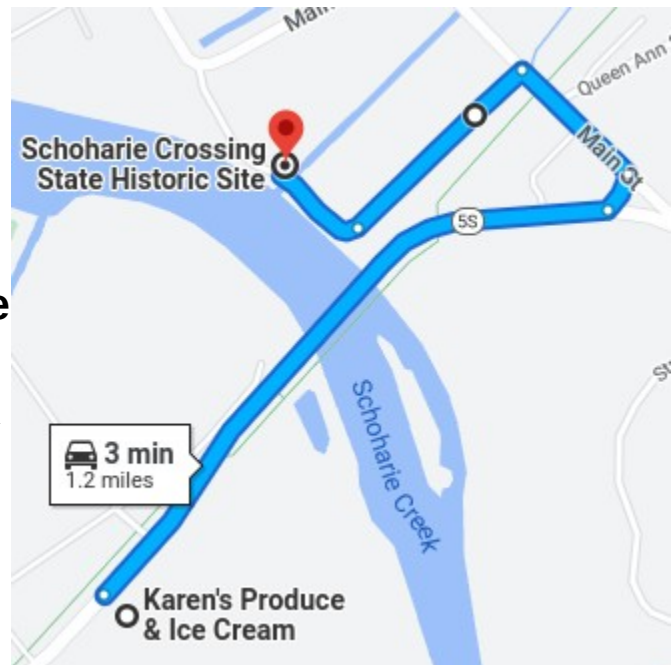


Image from Google Maps (2022)

Leg 6: Old signs and Lock 11



Image from Google Maps (2022)



Turn right out of the parking lot and continue straight onto Main Street. Cross back over the Mohawk River and Erie Canal at Lock 12. At the intersection with Mohawk Street, note the old destination signage. Turn right onto Mohawk Street. At the divided highway, turn right onto NY 5 east. We'll pass through the village of Fort Johnson and then back into Amsterdam. Turn right at Evelyn Street into Lock 11. After crossing the railroad track, there are parking areas on both the right (paved) and left (not paved). We'll stop here and observe the truss structure at Lock 11. The truss doesn't carry traffic – instead it is used for a movable dam that regulates water on the Mohawk River.

Leg 7: Back to the Park and Ride

Exit Lock 11 and turn right onto NY 5 east. We'll now clinch the eastbound alignment through downtown Amsterdam. We'll leave Amsterdam and head back into Schenectady County, once again passing Lock 10. Once we get to Van Buren Lane, turn right and then left back to the Park and Ride. This concludes the tour.

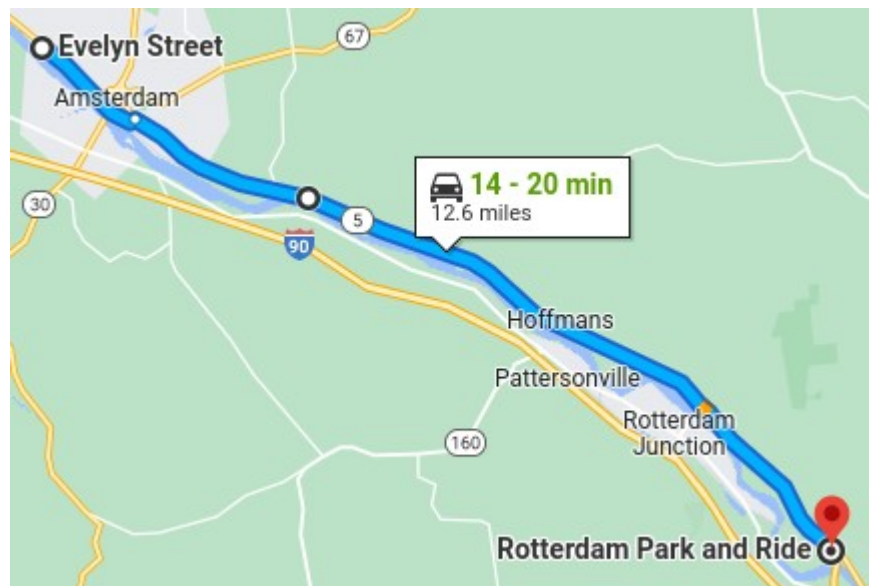


Image from Google Maps (2022)