

The New York and New Jersey Greenways

9/11/21 Larchmont, NY to Avenel, NJ ...



It was a Sunday. It was also the 20th anniversary for the WTC Collapse, a fact I had to be reminded of as it might have changed my plans in moving through that area. Being a Sunday, there was some question as to where the ferry would be leaving from, the World Financial Center or Pier 11. Online factoids suggested Pier 11, closer to Brooklyn, but as I had decided to travel down the Hudson, I would be riding past the Financial Center so would check there first. So, through the Bronx and out

to the Hudson I went. Finding the Hudson Greenway took some trial and error, finally locating a long switchbacked ramp issuing out to and paralleling Route 9A. I would check the map periodically to see my progress. I wasn't sure what the Ferry terminal would look like so wanted to be sure I would not miss it in all the bustle that is NYC. The World Financial Center Ferry was indeed running to Paulus Hook, my connection through New Jersey. Still early in the afternoon, I felt confident I would reach my overnight early. I was wrong. Bayonne, State Island, and Elizabeth were still to come. Two bridges later, I made it to Elizabeth. It was 7:00; darkness was approaching, and my phone was reaching zero (totally forgot that I had a portable recharger). I still had about 8 miles to pedal and therefore called it quits. I put Uber on my phone and ordered a ride (XL car to fit the bike). The end of a 13-hour day.

9/12/21 Avenel to Princeton ...



Mostly straightforward. Flooding complicated the route and frustrated my attempt to ride the D & R Canal Towpath trail. Somerset County had been particularly hard hit. The D & R Canal Towpath is a 36 mile trail from New Brunswick, NJ to Trenton, NJ and as the first part crosses through Somerset County, I found massive erosion and tree-fall at the very beginning. At road crossings, I would check its condition and finally worked up the courage to enter.

Normally, I could see the trail would be a superlative piece of infrastructure. The storms had left it passable although it needed walking in some places. Once on it, I proceeded at a good pace and so found my way to Princeton and my next overnight, a Warm Showers Host. Many thanks go to them for an excellent meal at a local Indian Restaurant where my taste for Mango Lassi's was well satisfied.

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