

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
Complete Streets Committee

A G E N D A

February 26, 2021

2:30 P.M.

VIA REMOTE MEETING SOFTWARE

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
 - 1. Welcome new Committee members Greg Diebold and Elise Corbin
- III. MINUTES**
 - 1. September 24, 2020
 - 2. October 20, 2020
 - 3. December 10, 2020
- IV. PUBLIC CONCERNS**
 - 1. Ben Mastrianni – Wyoming Ave Concerns
 - 2. Fieldstone Drive speed issue
 - 3. Paul Brownsey – Rosendale Road and Old River Road Intersection Improvement
- V. OLD BUSINESS**
- VI. NEW BUSINESS**
 - 1. Priority Project Letters Approval
 - 2. Complete Streets Survey Results (Mr. Levy)
 - 3. Subcommittee for 2021 Demonstration Project
 - 4. Meeting times discussion
- VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - 1. Standard traffic calming measures/requests
 - 2. Complete Streets connections for School Improvements (Chairman Chapman)
 - 3. Complete Streets Accomplishments / Website (Chairman Chapman)
 - 4. Co-op Plaza Updates (Ms. Robertson)
- VIII. REPORTS**
- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

NEXT MEETING

February 26, 2021

***Time TBD**

34 Ms. Robertson stated there are two conceptual projects for the Board to look at today. She shared
35 her screen to show a map of a Shannon Boulevard/Route 7 proposed subdivision and explained
36 the proposed 4 lot subdivision for that area. She noted there is proposed open space very close to
37 the South side of the Lisha Kill. Mr. Strayer stated they should make sure there is enough ROW
38 on Route 7 that is large enough for a future multi-use path, as well as Shannon Boulevard. He
39 felt they should identify corridors for connection and make sure the Town had enough space to
40 do them someday. The Board discussed the possible connections in the area.

41 Mr. Strayer asked about the land conservation zoning cutting through the lots and questioned
42 how that affected the lot sizes and how the split zoning worked. Ms. Robertson stated she thinks
43 the most restrictive zoning regulations may be controlling but it may matter where the house is
44 placed, she will look into it.

45 Mr. Levy stated he would like to see a dedicated connection for the public to the south Lisha Kill
46 nature preserve. He also asked to be clear where the Route 7 property lines are so people
47 understand where the ROW is on their properties.

48 Chairman Chapman asked if they could get the developer to dedicate land to connect to Lisha
49 Kill. He asked if it would be an asphalt pathway or sidewalk that the developer would put in that
50 would connect to the woods behind Shannon Boulevard. Ms. Robertson stated she would think it
51 would work better as a natural trail. Mr. Strayer stated they could put up split rail fencing to
52 delineate the trail. Ms. Healey stated she would like to see bike racks at the trailhead. Mr. Levy
53 stated if the developer doesn't build the trail yet he should put up a sign that says there will be a
54 future trail developed to connect to the Lisha Kill.

55 Ms. Robertson summarized that their recommendations are to make sure there is space in Route
56 7 ROW for a multi-use path someday, make a sidewalk down Shannon Boulevard to the
57 connection to the open space, and make a trail through the open space to the Lisha Kill. Short of
58 a trail being built- put up a sign delineating a future trail. The Committee agreed to these
59 recommendations.

60 The Committee reviewed and discussed the surrounding open spaces and possibility of
61 connections. They agreed the most beneficial connection was to the Lisha Kill but the
62 topography was difficult so they would have to place the trail where it made the most sense to
63 build.

64 Ms. Manzo stated she wanted to make sure that the Town reaches out to the Nature Conservancy
65 to make sure they were in support of a trail leading into the south side of the Lisha Kill, because
66 it could mean a lot of work for them. Ms. Robertson stated she would reach out immediately to
67 see if they would support it.

68 The second Planning Board project was a multi-use apartment building on 2721 Balltown Road.
69 Ms. Robertson stated it was a single parcel on Balltown Road so there may not be any Complete
70 Streets recommendations that are relevant. Chairman Chapman stated kids do walk on Balltown
71 Road and he would like to see some pedestrian accommodations on it someday.

72 Mr. Levy stated if it was apartments it might be nice to connect it into the residential
73 neighborhood so the apartment residents could have a place to walk. They discussed connecting

74 this parcel into the new Amedore subdivision behind the parcel. Mr. Levy stated there should be
75 connection from this area to the Town Park on Aqueduct Road. Ms. Robertson showed the
76 existing trails and how they could eventually be connected. Chairman Chapman said he wanted
77 to support a connection from 2721 Balltown Road into the Amedore Subdivision. The Board
78 agreed on the recommendation.

79 VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

80 1. Complete Streets Event this fall (non-festival)

81 Ms. Healey said she had a realization that the demonstration project will be at the same time that
82 people put out their leaves and she asked which segment of Clifton Park Drive they wanted to
83 put a traffic calming demonstration on. Ms. Robertson stated she thinks it was the south block of
84 Clifton Park from Nott St to help deter cut through traffic.

85 Chairman Chapman stated he thought they might want to consider Regent because it was a
86 connector on their Complete Streets map – and they could do chicanes and sharrows to see if
87 people liked them. Chairman Chapman stated they could work with the Highway Department to
88 see if they could put down hay bales in the form of chicanes and if it works and people like them
89 perhaps they could work on ways to make them permanent. He wanted to work on a section of
90 road where neighbors have complained that there is too much speed on the road and have
91 requested for the Town to do something.

92 Ms. Healey asked how chicanes affected bicycles and asked if bicycles can pass through the
93 chicane rather than go around in the road. Mr. Levy said they can be designed that way but they
94 would have to do some measurements. She stated she would like to do something on Dean but
95 thinks we should avoid it for now because it's a County Road and require a lot of additional
96 approvals. Ms. Robertson stated that is a good idea because the County wants to see that they
97 work before they install anything on their streets.

98 Ms. Healey asked about leaf pick-up and a demonstration project going on at the same time. Ms.
99 Robertson stated perhaps they could schedule it in a window when the guys wouldn't be
100 vacuuming up leaves based on their leaf pick-up zone schedules. Chairman Chapman stated they
101 could leave the project up for a week. Ms. Robertson pulled up the leaf pick-up schedule. Mr.
102 Levy said they should schedule the project right after a first round of leaf pick-up – hoping the
103 yards would stay clean for a few days right after. Based on the schedule they agreed on the week
104 of October 19th or November 9th. Ms. Healey asked who's approval would be needed. Ms.
105 Robertson stated they should make sure the Town Board and Highway Department are okay with
106 everything.

107 Ms. Healey discussed budget and what could be purchased for the event. She stated she would
108 right up a proposal and make a map that could be circulated to everyone. The Board discussed
109 which block on Regent they should do. They agreed on Regent Street from Almeria to Story,
110 with crosswalks on Barcelona. Ms. Manzo agreed to join the subcommittee for the event.

111 Ms. Robertson stated she will bring the project to both the Highway Committee and the
112 EDHPEC Committee. She wanted it to be a joint effort between volunteers and the Town, so no
113 one person was taking on too much work.

114 2. Pedestrian Connection Grant

115 Ms. Robertson thanked the volunteers for doing the St. Davids pedestrian counts and has
116 forwarded them onto the engineers. She noted that her engineer asked if they could do counts on
117 Nott St and she wasn't sure if that was possible. Chairman Chapman stated this is all money that
118 was received from Assemblyman Steck and Ms Robertson stated that was correct, they have
119 used some of the money to repave the multi-use path and they are trying to use the rest for these
120 connections and sidewalks.

121 3. Niskayuna School Improvements

122 Ms. Robertson stated that the Niskayuna School Improvements recommendations had a great
123 subcommittee meeting out by the gazebo and put together a letter to the school which was sent
124 out and acknowledged. She is hopeful the school will fold those recommendations into their
125 design. She stated the Town recognized there are Town impacts to the school upgrades so it's
126 important to pay attention and keep following up with the schools.

127 Chairman Chapman asked if Mr. Levy could talk about the Van Antwerp school connection and
128 asked the Committee if they wanted to count the number of of kids walking to school. Ms.
129 Manzo stated she thought it was a good idea but noted some parents drop their kids off near the
130 school and it would appear like they were walking. Chairman Chapman said counts aren't
131 perfect but some counts are better than no counts. Ms. Manzo said the counts would be higher if
132 there were crosswalks, because parents worry about safely crossing high traffic streets.

133 Chairman Chapman reiterated the importance of improvements and crosswalks to the school and
134 the important of helping kids get safely to schools. He felt counts would be a baseline to start
135 with. He would like to get permission from the schools and work out a schedule from there.

136 Chairman Chapman also wanted to talk about the walk path from Rosendale and Iroquois along
137 Rosendale Road. He has walked the area and has started working on a list of the properties trying
138 to work with the owners of the property and making a list of impediment to the walk path and
139 possible solutions. He thinks this is likely a grant project but wants to show there is a lot of work
140 already put into it, and he wants to see what the impacts to ROW and private property would be
141 for this project and keep it moving forward.

142 VII. REPORTS

143 There were no reports this meeting.

144 VIII. ADJOURNMENT

145 Mr. Strayer made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Ms. Manzo. The meeting was
146 adjourned at 10:09 am.

35 Jaquith the number of interns per committee. Ms. Jaquith stated she would like to start with
36 one and then re-evaluate to see if more are wanted.

37 **2. Planning Board projects**

38 Ms. Robertson discussed with the committee an update of projects that are now in front of the
39 Planning Board. Ms. Robertson began with Mr. Joel Bisaillon's project of Kelts Farm. She
40 displayed the current site plan and explained where the bike path will go through the
41 development. Mr. Levy pointed out that there seems to be missing a curb cut and a continuation
42 of asphalt for the area of the bike path connects with the road. Ms. Robertson understood and
43 asked Mr. Henry to reach out to the developer for confirmation of a curb cut and continued
44 asphalt.

45 Ms. Robertson discussed Mr. Bisaillon's other project on Shannon Blvd and Troy Road. Ms.
46 Robertson stated that this is still in preliminary stages. She noted that Ms. Manzo had requested
47 Ms. Robertson discuss with the developer and the Nature Conservatory on creating a path that
48 will connect to the Lisha Kill. Ms. Robertson stated she has spoken to both and they are
49 supportive and believe and parking area and path extension will help residents to walk these
50 trails.

51 Ms. Robertson displayed a site plan for the CSC to review. She added that the plan is to donate
52 part of the open land to the Town and the Town will then donate it to the nature conservatory.
53 This will allow more residents access to the trails.

54 **VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

55 **1. Complete Streets Event**

56 Ms. Healy provided an update regarding the bike demonstration. Ms. Robertson stated that the
57 highway didn't have time to help with the demonstration on Regent but gave Ms. Robertson
58 authority to try the demonstration. Ms. Robertson stated the Committee will need to place orange
59 safety cones and signs preparing cars to slow down near the demonstration. Ms. Robertson and
60 the Committee went over the logistics of the event. This included design, outreach and Covid-
61 safe practices.

62 Ms. Manzo asked the Committee about where the QR Code signs would be and if residents
63 scanned them where would it take them. Mr. Levy stated it will go to survey monkey to fill out a
64 survey and then they would be directed to the NCSC website. Ms. Healey asked Ms. Robertson
65 to put the demonstration information on the Niskayuna website. Ms. Robertson added that any
66 feedback regarding this traffic calming measure will help.

67 Chairman Chapman suggested sending all data to the Town Board when it is complete. This
68 should include the pedestrian sidewalk at Saint Josephs. Ms. Robertson agreed.

69 Ms. Jaquith stated how impressed she was regarding the data for the crosswalk at Saint Joseph's.
70 She was amazed that even on a rainy day so many people cross River Road near that street. Ms.
71 Manzo suggested putting up a speed detector during the demonstration and to continue with it
72 after the demonstration to give data on how well the chicanes slowed traffic. Ms. Robertson and
73 the rest of the committee agreed that this would help. Ms. Robertson stated she will reach out to
74 the police and see if she can use one of the portable ones.

75 Ms. Healy discussed the time and availability of the committee members to help out on
76 November 7. All members were able to assist in the traffic demonstration. Mr. Levy displayed
77 the interactive QR Code sign that will be displayed at the demonstration.

78 Ms. Healey and Chairman Chapman discussed and finalized the tasks needed. Chairman
79 Chapman confirmed times for volunteering and picking up materials for the demonstration.

80 **VII. REPORTS**

81 There were no reports this meeting.

82 **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

83 Ms. Healey made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Ms. Manzo. The meeting was
84 adjourned at 10:15 am

34 Chairman Chapman stated he included this because during the Regent demonstration some
35 neighbors asked why certain treatments couldn't be tried (for instance stop signs) and he wanted
36 to be able to point them to scientific / peer reviewed types of treatments and where they can be
37 applied and where they should not be applied (ie speed pumps, speed platforms, etc). He also
38 stated the training at CDRPC had some examples from Watervliet of Complete Streets traffic
39 calming treatments that have worked. He would like to help the Planning Board, the Complete
40 Streets Committee, and residents that show sample traffic calming devices, research on them,
41 and examples of where they work.

42 Mr. Levy and Mr. Strayer supported the idea. Mr. Strayer stated it is important to have multiple
43 options at the fingertips of the Planning Board or Town Board. Mr. Levy said a quick go-to
44 resources would be very helpful and could go on the webpage. Chairman Chapman stated the
45 goal would be to look at the strengths and weaknesses of each of these treatments and have the
46 information in one place.

47 Ms. Duggal asked why sometimes the Town put up stop signs, for instance on Rosehill
48 Boulevard. Chairman Chapman stated that sometimes it can be political but having a document
49 explaining each treatment would help everyone with understand stop signs as a "treatment."

50 **2. Lessons Learned from Demonstration Project on Regent Street**

51 Chairman Chapman asked for some positives from the demonstration project. Ms. Manzo stated
52 people are curious about extending the sidewalk farther down Regent Street. She thinks we
53 learned we need to do more outreach to the neighbors ahead of time to get more adjacent buy in.
54 Chairman Chapman stated the Committee learned to involve the fire department and suggested a
55 door to door next time rather than a mail out. He noted residents told him they appreciated that
56 the Town was trying things to try and slow down traffic, he got questions on what the sharrows
57 were, and he learned that chicanes may require a wider road than Regent Street (per emergency
58 vehicles).

59 Ms. Robertson stated that she did talk to an engineering company during the project and she said
60 they do have the ability to model widths and driveways and can plug all that information in to
61 figure out a pattern for the chicanes that includes the requirements for emergency vehicles. She
62 said next time they could reach out to engineering companies and see if they would donate their
63 services for a demonstration project or work on it at a low cost. Chairman Chapman thought that
64 was a great idea.

65 Ms. Robertson stated that she also wanted to remind the Board that their Critical Pedestrian's
66 Grant engineering has been working on a sharrow treatment application document for the
67 Complete Streets committee that would detail application on Orchard Park drive and could be
68 used as a template throughout Town. Chairman Chapman reminded the committee they painted
69 sharrows on Orchard Park and did not receive any complaints.

70 Ms. Duggal stated she is in Swarthmore PA and they have a Complete Streets program, and they
71 have a lot of examples of crosswalks and flashing lights and wide shoulders. Chairman Chapman
72 stated the Town should get some pictures of other Town's treatment.

73 Mr. Levy asked if the Town has the ability to make traffic counts and Ms. Robertson stated yes,
74 they can work the police department on the deployment of those counters. Ms. Levy asked how
75 they deploy the signs that show what speed a car is going. Ms. Robertson stated the Town has
76 been buying more of those, they do make traffic counts, and they do seem to have a temporary
77 traffic calming effect. Mr. Levy said volume and speeds is really good information for the Town
78 to collect.

79 Chairman Chapman asked if the Police Department maintains the data for each road or if it gets
80 wiped clean every time they move the signs. Ms. Robertson stated she thinks it gets stored in the
81 cloud. Chairman Chapman asked if we could get pre-pandemic and post pandemic data to
82 compare. Ms. Manzo said she had requested Regent data before. Ms. Robertson said she would
83 ask the Police. Chairman Chapman stated that would be a good tool to work with the police on
84 future placement of the signs for comparison. Ms. Manzo said they should consider their goals
85 and the time / budget for these kinds of project. Ms. Robertson noted they might be able to use a
86 CDTC/CDRPC technical assistance grant for this. Mr. Levy also noted CDTC grants to help with
87 demonstration projects and stated he will keep an eye out for when it is released. Chairman
88 Chapman stated they should start a subcommittee to start thinking about a demonstration project
89 and writing a grant to help fund it.

90 Ms. Robertson summarized they are going to look at making common practices for committees,
91 board and their website. They have a goal to do a 2021 Demonstration project and will look for a
92 Capital Co-Exist grant to help this year if possible.

93 **3. Procedure or Policy for Town Residents to receive a sidewalk on their block**

94 Chairman Chapman stated Ms Manzo heard interest from residents to extend the sidewalk down
95 Regent. He also knows there is interest for sidewalks in other areas of old Niskayuna. His
96 question was if residents on a street want a sidewalk – how can they go about asking for one. He
97 asked how these kind of sidewalk requests could be funded. Could the Highway funds handle
98 some sidewalks every year or would it have to be a sidewalk district? He stated there is public
99 benefit to sidewalks, especially nearby the schools and would like to outline a process for people
100 to follow.

101 Ms. Robertson stated it is important to build community support and momentum for these
102 projects. She thinks grants would help with Town money spent, and she said a sidewalk district
103 could be a possibility but she has never seen one. Chairman Chapman asked her to look into it to
104 see if sidewalk districts were legal in Niskayuna.

105 Ms. Foti stated the house on the north side of Plum by Hillside Ave is amendable to a sidewalk
106 on her side of the street. Mr. Levy said that sidewalk is critical to the safety of pedestrians
107 because of the heavy and mixed activity in that area. He said it could be a quick hit and win
108 because it's a very small section of sidewalk.

109 Ms. Manzo said it would be helpful to look at priorities and work on small sections with big
110 impacts like that. She thinks the Committee should finish digitizing their map – get community
111 input- identify the priorities – and then pursue grants to connect these corridors. Chairman
112 Chapman said some of their priorities are identified already but it would be good to look at it

113 holistically. Mr. Levy stated he just wants to make sure the list is updated and takes advantage of
114 a situation where a property owner is supportive. Ms. Manzo stated that flexibility is important to
115 keep things moving forward.

116 Chairman Chapman stated he was very supportive of this and asked if the Committee should do
117 pedestrian counts to support trying to get funding for this block of sidewalk. Mr. Levy stated the
118 weather was cold it would be an accurate count right now, but he would keep looking for grants
119 to help this project.

120 Chairman Chapman asked to look at the Priority Project letters to the State, County, Schools and
121 Town in January to edit and resend.

122 **4. Rosendale Road sidewalk**

123 Chairman Chapman stated he a little more work to do on the spreadsheet for property owners and
124 he knew it was being discussed at the Town's highway committee. He noted this is a County
125 Road and will have to be a County project, but identifying people in support is critical to moving
126 it forward.

127 **5. Critical Pedestrian Connection Grant Update / Traffic Count Data**

128 Ms. Robertson thanked the Committee for the counts on Nott St. The engineer has bundled all
129 the information together and sent it to the County. She stated she can send the application to the
130 County to the CS Committee if they are interested in seeing it. She stated the Sharrow treatment
131 document was also coming along and she would share the draft with the Committee when it was
132 ready. Chairman Chapman encourages this to continue to be put forward to the County and asked
133 Ms. Robertson to add the traffic counts to the NCSC accomplishments for 2020.

134 **6. Complete Streets Survey**

135 Chairman Chapman questioned the timeframe for the survey and wanted to revisit the questions
136 quickly. He thinks they should stick with the survey monkey form so that the Complete Streets
137 Committee can move forward with it. Ms. Robertson asked if they should include a question
138 about the demonstration project on Regent and if they wanted a demonstration project in front of
139 their house. She also mentioned she would like to keep the survey open indefinitely and post it to
140 the Complete Streets website.

141 **7. Planning Department Update**

142 Ms. Robertson stated the Kelts plan hasn't changed too much since the Complete Streets
143 Committee looked at it but they are working on the recommendations. The pavement on the
144 Windsor Drive stub is being removed, and right nowt he engineering is being worked on. She
145 will bring back the final engineered drawings. Ms. Robertson stated the Planning Board is
146 working very hard on the CS recommendation to make a connection to the Lisha Kill and it does
147 look like that will work.

148 Ms. Robertson stated there is also a proposal in the Nott St Co-Op Plaza right now for a
149 restaurant. She said it is not tied to the tenant change but the Town is working on concept plan in

150 the area to help add parking and sidewalks and walkability on the Clifton Park, Crescent side of
151 the road. She said it would be helpful to have CS members on any review or task force for those
152 concept plans. Chairman Chapman asked for members of the Committee who were interested in
153 reviewing the Co-op area concept plans and he felt it was important for the Committee to give
154 input. Mr. Levy, Ms. Manzo and Ms. Duggal volunteered.

155 Ms. Manzo asked if the County could improve the sidewalks on the Clifton park side of the
156 plaza. Ms. Robertson stated the project can't go outside the County ROW. Chairman Chapman
157 asked if Metroplex was asked. Ms. Robertson stated she thinks the project might need to get built
158 and gain support from community members – and then Metroplex might be able to add more
159 funding.

160 The Committee agreed the goal was to create community consensus on a good plan for that area,
161 which could then be funded through a variety of different organizations in conjunction with
162 County improvements. They briefly discussed project timelines.

163 Ms. Manzo asked what the results were from the survey from the demonstration project.
164 Chairman Chapman asked if we could write up a report to the Town Board about the
165 accomplishments of the Committee and what was learned on Regent St.

166 Ms. Robertson summarized ideas for accomplishments:

- 167 1. Demonstration project and lessons learned
- 168 2. Input to schools on upgrades
- 169 3. Priority lists for connections
- 170 4. Pedestrian Counts
- 171 5. Input on Planning projects
- 172 6. Niskayuna being used as a good example for working on Complete Streets by
173 CDTC/CDRPC

174 She stated Chairman Chapman can work with her on a draft of this for the January meeting.
175 Chairman Chapman stated he would also like to go backward and list accomplishments from
176 previous years on website as well. He also thought they should include action items from each
177 meeting that are sent out after each meeting to keep themselves on task.

178 **VII. REPORTS**

179 Chairman Chapman stated Ms. Robertson will be sending out an email asking if Board members
180 wished to return to the Committee in 2021 and he hopes they all wish to continue. He wished
181 everyone a happy holiday season.

182 **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

183 Chairman Chapman made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Ms. Healey. The meeting
184 was adjourned at 10:31 am



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

One Niskayuna Circle
Niskayuna, New York 12309-4381

Laura Robertson, AICP
Town Planner

Phone: (518) 386-4530
Fax: (518) 386-4592
lrobertson@niskayuna.org

Schenectady County
Rory Fluman, County Manager
County Office Building
620 State Street, 6th Floor
Schenectady, NY 12305

February 26, 2021

Dear Ms. Fluman,

The Town of Niskayuna appointed a Complete Streets Committee and adopted a Complete Streets Policy to enable safe and convenient access to our streets for all users and support and invite safe, active and ample space for pedestrians, bicycle and public transportation. This in turn promotes healthy living, cost savings, reduces traffic congestion and helps lower greenhouse gas emissions, improving the general quality of life to New York residents.

One of the tasks for the Complete Streets Committee is to work with Schenectady County on Complete Streets initiatives in the Town of Niskayuna. We have been reviewing priorities and have identified the following top three priorities for implementation in Niskayuna.

1. Crosswalk at Nott Street and Regent Street

The Complete Streets Committee identified this as the best location for school aged children and pedestrians to cross Nott Street. Schools and businesses south of Nott Street are a large draw for pedestrians in the northern neighborhoods. Creating a high visibility crosswalk at this location will increase safety and encourage people to cross Nott St in a single spot. The Town is currently pursuing funding this with a grant.

2. Crosswalk at St. Joseph's Drive and River Road

St. Joseph's Drive and River Road is a high traffic pedestrian and bicycle crossing of River Road because St. Joseph's is at the end of a signed on-road bike path "Canalway Trail" that connects to the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail (MHBHT) across River Road. The "Canalway Trail" bike route also connects into the Nott St East bike path and Windsor Estates, so this trail connects a lot of neighborhoods and funnels them to cross at River Road if they are going north. The Town is currently pursuing funding this with a grant.

3. Crosswalks and sidewalks on Rosendale Road to Lisha Kill

Currently a sidewalk goes from Mayfair Road to Rosehill Boulevard along Rosendale Road. It is a heavily used sidewalk and critical pedestrian connection for the Rosendale Estates subdivisions to access schools and churches. The Complete Streets Committee has identified the need for a multi-use path / sidewalk to extend from Rosehill Boulevard to Iroquois Middle and Rosendale Elementary schools. The addition of these sidewalks and crosswalks will encourage safe pedestrian traffic to the schools and reduce the need for vehicle trips on Rosendale Road.

We understand budget constraints, staff time and prior commitments may make these things difficult to implement initially, but our hope is by bringing them to your attention each year we can start a

dialogue about improvements in Niskayuna and communicate with each other when opportunities arise.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns. We would love to talk to you about our priorities whenever you have time. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Yasmine Syed, Town Supervisor

William Chapman, Complete Streets Committee Chairman

CC. Laura Robertson, Town Planner
Town of Niskayuna Complete Streets Committee



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

One Niskayuna Circle
Niskayuna, New York 12309-4381

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Town Planner

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Cosimo Tangorra, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent
Niskayuna Central Schools
1239 Van Antwerp Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309

February 26, 2021

Dear Dr. Tangorra,

The Town of Niskayuna appointed a Complete Streets Committee and adopted a Complete Streets Policy to enable safe and convenient access to our streets for all users and support and invite safe, active and ample space for pedestrians, bicycle and public transportation. This in turn promotes healthy living, cost savings, reduces traffic congestion and helps lower greenhouse gas emissions, improving the general quality of life to New York residents.

One of the tasks for the Complete Streets Committee is to work with the Niskayuna Central School System on Complete Streets initiatives in the Town of Niskayuna. We have been reviewing priorities and have identified the following top three priorities for implementation in Niskayuna.

1. School Zone for Craig Elementary School

The Town of Niskayuna received a grant award from the Capital District Transportation Committee/Capital District Regional Planning Committee (CDTC/CDRPC) for technical assistance to evaluate potential improvements to the walking environment along Balltown Road in the vicinity of the Craig Elementary School. The first and most crucial step for Complete Streets improvements for all modes of traffic in that area is to establish a school zone in front of Craig Elementary School.

2. Crosswalk for Craig Elementary School and Schenectady JCC

The second critical step for Complete Streets identified in the CDTC/CDRPC study is the creation of a crosswalk between Craig Elementary School and the Schenectady JCC. Many Craig Elementary School students attend after school programs at the JCC, there is an overlap in staff and the JCC is the shelter in place site for the school. Aerial photography indicates there was a crosswalk between the two as little as 8 years ago, and the lack of crosswalk there now creates difficulty for these two major pedestrian generators.

3. Paving trails connecting River Road Park to Rosendale & Iroquois schools

Many students and pedestrians who live in the Rosendale Estates subdivisions use rudimentary trails that run through River Road Park to access the neighborhood schools. Paving trails from the two school buildings to the school property line with River Road Park will make them more user friendly and increase their usage. Increased pedestrian/bicycle traffic will decrease vehicular traffic and greenhouse emissions and improve drop off and pick-up times for schools.

We understand budget constraints, staff time and prior commitments may make these things difficult to implement initially, but our hope is by bringing them to your attention each year we can start a dialogue about improvements in Niskayuna and communicate with each other when opportunities arise.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns. We would love to talk to you about our priorities whenever you have time. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Yasmine Syed, Town Supervisor

William Chapman, Complete Streets Committee Chairman

CC. Laura Robertson, Town Planner
Town of Niskayuna Complete Streets Committee



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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lrobertson@niskayuna.org

Mark Pyskaldo, Regional Traffic Engineer
NYSDOT Region 1 Traffic Mobility and Safety
50 Wolf Road
Suite 1S50
Albany, NY 12232

February 26, 2021

Dear Mr. Pyskaldo,

In 2016 the Town of Niskayuna appointed a Complete Streets Committee and adopted a Complete Streets Policy to enable safe and convenient access to our streets for all users and support and invite safe, active and ample space for pedestrians, bicycle and public transportation. This in turn promotes healthy living, cost savings, a reduction in traffic congestion and helps lower greenhouse gas emissions, improving the general quality of life to New York residents.

One of the tasks for the Complete Streets Committee is to work with NYSDOT on Complete Streets initiatives in the Town of Niskayuna. We have been reviewing priorities and have identified the following top three priorities for implementation in Niskayuna.

1. School Zone for Craig Elementary School

The Town of Niskayuna received a grant award from the Capital District Transportation Committee/Capital District Regional Planning Committee (CDTC/CDRPC) for technical assistance to evaluate potential improvements to the walking environment along Balltown Road in the vicinity of the Craig Elementary School. The first and most crucial step for Complete Streets improvements for all modes of traffic in that area is to establish a school zone in front of Craig Elementary School.

2. Crosswalk for Craig Elementary School and Schenectady JCC

The second critical step for Complete Streets identified in the CDTC/CDRPC study is the creation of a crosswalk between Craig Elementary School and the Schenectady JCC. Many Craig Elementary School students attend after school programs at the JCC, there is an overlap in staff and the JCC is the shelter in place site for the school. Aerial photography indicates there was a crosswalk between the two as little as 8 years ago, and the lack of crosswalk there now creates difficulty for these two major pedestrian generators.

3. Pedestrian connection to Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail (MHBHT)

Within the last 2 years the Town finished a Transportation Improvement Project that resulted in a pedestrian connection from Flower Hill to the MHBHT. This allows people to access the trail without having to drive to it. A well placed crosswalk across Route 7 will allow more people on the south side of Route 7 to take advantage of this critical pedestrian connection and increase the benefits of this funding.

We understand budget constraints, staff time and prior commitments may make these things difficult to implement initially, but our hope is by bringing them to your attention each year we can start a dialogue about improvements in Niskayuna and communicate with each other when opportunities arise.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns. We would love to talk to you about our priorities whenever you have time. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Yasmine Syed, Town Supervisor

William Chapman, Complete Streets Committee Chairman

CC. Laura Robertson, Town Planner
Town of Niskayuna Complete Streets Committee



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

One Niskayuna Circle
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Town Board
Town of Niskayuna
1 Niskayuna Circle
Niskayuna, NY 12309

February 26, 2021

Dear Members of the Niskayuna Town Board,

The Town of Niskayuna appointed a Complete Streets Committee and adopted a Complete Streets Policy to enable safe and convenient access to our streets for all users and support and invite safe, active and ample space for pedestrians, bicycle and public transportation. This in turn promotes healthy living, cost savings, reduces traffic congestion and helps lower greenhouse gas emissions, improving the general quality of life to New Your residents.

One of the tasks for the Complete Streets Committee is to work with Town of Niskayuna on Complete Streets initiatives in the Town of Niskayuna. We have been reviewing priorities and have identified the following top three priorities for implementation in Niskayuna.

1. Sidewalk on Plum Street

There is currently a sidewalk on Van Antwerp Road but there is no sidewalk on the block of Plum Street that connects Van Antwerp Road to Hillside Elementary School. This is a heavily traveled pedestrian and vehicle route to the school. The addition of a sidewalk along this section of Plum Street will separate the pedestrian traffic from the vehicular traffic. This will increase safety at a very congested confluence of buses, cars and pedestrians. Additional, the Complete Streets Committee has learned that the most affected property may be willing to work with the Town on this. Because it is a small section of sidewalk, has high safety impacts, and has a property owner willing to work with the Town, this is the Complete Street's Committee's number one priority for 2021.

2. Sidewalk on Cornelius Street

Many elementary school children and families use Cornelius Street when walking to Hillside Elementary School. However, the sidewalk on Cornelius Street currently ends at Ray Street. This requires that people walk in the street where cars and buses are traveling to drop off and pick up children. A sidewalk would make the trip safer by separating pedestrian and vehicular traffic, reduce congestion, encourage more people to walk to the school rather than drive, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

3. Sidewalk on Birchwood to Route 7

There is currently no sidewalk on Birchwood Lane making it difficult for pedestrians and bicycles to safely travel to Birchwood Elementary School. Birchwood is a busy road and walkers need the extra protection on this route to make it safely to the school.

We understand budget constraints, staff time and prior commitments may make these things difficult to implement initially, but our hope is by bringing them to your attention each year we can start a

dialogue about improvements in Niskayuna and communicate with each other when opportunities arise.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns. We would love to talk to you about our priorities whenever you have time. Thank you.

Sincerely,

William Chapman, Complete Streets Committee Chairman

CC. Laura Robertson, Town Planner
Town of Niskayuna Complete Streets Committee