

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
Complete Streets Committee

A G E N D A

March 25, 2024

3:00 P.M.

Schaefer Room, Town Hall & Hybrid Google Meets

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **ROLL CALL**
- III. **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**
- IV. **MINUTES**
 1. February 26, 2024
- V. **OLD BUSINESS**
 1. Draft Comprehensive Plan Chapter “Mobility and Transportation” (Duggal/Kuzsman)
 2. Safety on Route 7 – Linkage Study Update
 3. Grand Boulevard Bike Lanes – Schenectady County
 4. Request to Schenectady County for sidewalk on Nott Street from Baker to Lexington Parkway
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
 1. Planning Projects Updates
 - i. 3900 State Street
 - ii. 3905 State Street
 2. 2024 Complete Streets Goals – Van Antwerp addition?
 3. 2024 Meeting dates and times – Final attached
- VII. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 1. Complete Streets Demonstration Projects
 2. Winnie Road Easement – Letter to owners
 3. Priority Letter meetings – Schenectady County Manager Rory Fluman / DOT
 4. Complete Streets map updates (Bill Chapman)
 5. Climate Smart Communities Grant - update
- VIII. **REPORTS**
- IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

NEXT MEETING

April 22, 2024

3pm in the Schaefer Room

**TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE**

**Hybrid In Person (Schaefer Room) / Remote Meeting (Google Meets)
Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2024**

Members Present: William Chapman, Co-Chairman (virtual)
Theresa Healy
Karla Duggal
Jim Levy
Andrew Millsbaugh (virtual)
Catherine Kuzsman
Erin Cassidy-Dorian

Also Present Clark Henry, Assistant Town Planner
Trisha Bergami, Planning Department

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Ben O’Shea, James Lian, Avi Barr and Percy Davis were excused today.

III. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Ms. Miller of 16 Crimson Oak Court wrote a letter that was shared in reference to the accident on February 2nd in their neighborhood as well as the increased speed of drivers and reckless driving behaviors.

Ms. Friedman of 2200 Van Antwerp Road said she is voicing her support of Ms. Miller and agrees with her statements. Ms. Friedman also stated it is getting increasingly more dangerous to walk from their neighborhood to the CO OP and Town Hall.

Mr. Hornick of 16 Crimson Oak Court said he is in agreement with Ms. Miller and feels that something needs to be done. He said it is not safe for the children to walk to Craig or Van Antwerp.

Ms. Zahnleuter of Crimson Oak Court said she agrees with the letter from Ms. Miller and the comments that have been made. She is a frequent walker and feels there has been a change in use of Van Antwerp Road and the circle and feels it is being used as a thoroughfare and it is absolutely unsafe for pedestrians to be on the shoulder of the road or crossing the circle to the bike path.

38 Chairman Chapman thanked Ms. Miller for writing the letter also for sending it to the Supervisor
39 and town and county officials. He said the Police Department is looking into the area of Van
40 Antwerp Road off the circle.

41 **IV. MINUTES**

42 1. February 2, 2024

43 Chairman Chapman had 1 correction, stating the start time of the meeting should be 3:00.

44 Chairman Chapman moved to accept the minutes with the correction, seconded by Catherine
45 Kuzsman. All were in favor.

46 **V. OLD BUSINESS**

47 1. Draft Comprehensive Plan Chapter “Mobility and Transportation”
48 (Duggal/Kuzsman)

49 Ms. Kuzsman said they have been meeting pretty regularly to discuss the progress on the chapter
50 on Transportation. She said Karla and Bill are working on the safety and connectivity section.

51 Ms. Kuzsman said she is going to send what they have to the group for feedback to see if they
52 are moving in the right direction.

53 2. Safety on Route 7 – Linkage Study Update

54 Mr. Levy said two things are going on, the Town applied for a grant to get physical
55 improvements made to Route 7 and the Town applied to the Transportation Council for a linkage
56 study. Linkage studies are where they go out and do a planning and engineering assessment of a
57 corridor looking at things like speed and crash data and how it relates to other roads of similar
58 nature, then they come back with recommendations. Consultants do those on behalf of the Town
59 and with the Town.

60 Chairman Chapman said the linkage study will look at the entire Route 7.

61 Mr. Levy said he verified that the Niskayuna Route 7 submission to the Transportation Council
62 made it into the draft UPWP, so that study should be going forward.

63 3. Grand Boulevard Bike Lanes – Schenectady County

64 Chairman Chapman said the Grand Boulevard residents came to a meeting on February 10 at
65 Iroquois Middle School and had a chance to look at several options that were being proposed by
66 the County. The County plans on repaving Grand Blvd and striping the road. Chairman
67 Chapman said they have several options they are looking at. Chairman Chapman asked if
68 anyone had input on any of the options.

69 Ms. Healey said if she was cycling, she would prefer to have the bike lane all the way over to the
70 side and then a buffer. She said she feels the option with the lane down the middle might be
71 confusing having to watch both directions.

72 4. Request to Schenectady County for sidewalk on Nott Street from Baker to 4.
73 Lexington Parkway

74 Chairman Chapman said the Town has been requesting the County to finish the three-block
75 stretch of sidewalk because it is an unsafe situation for people to be walking in the road at the
76 crest of the hill. Chairman Chapman said the County asked for us to submit the design
77 documents which we did. A few weeks ago, Paul Sheldon, Director of County Public Works,

78 reached out to the Town Supervisor to see if the Town Board was still supportive of getting this
79 project done, they will be moving forward to get this completed. Chairman Chapman said the
80 County will cover the section in Niskayuna and the City will cover the remaining segments
81 located in the city.

82 VI. NEW BUSINESS

83 1. Planning Projects

84 i. ShopRite Plaza

85 Chairman Chapman said they plan on providing input on where some crosswalks should go that
86 would be helpful to pedestrians.

87 ii. GE Global Research

88 Chairman Chapman said there is a building near the bike path that needs some improving.

89 iii. 2890 River Road/ 1430 Balltown Road/ MGC Proposal/ CVS homes

90 Chairman Chapman said the homes on Balltown Road have been taken down and he believes the
91 developer will possibly be back with a new plan.

92 2. 2024 Complete Streets Goals (2023 Goals attached)

93 There was discussion on the list of goals, the order of the items as well as the addition and
94 removal of items. Chairman Chapman said this will carry over to next meeting. There was
95 discussion to add Van Antwerp Road to the list. Chairman Chapman said Ms. Healy moved to
96 add Van Antwerp Road to the list of goals, it was seconded by Mr. Millspaugh all were in favor.

97 3. 2024 Meeting dates and times (proposal attached)

98 Chairman Chapman said he would like to move to accept the meeting date schedule for 2024,
99 seconded by Ms. Healy all were in favor.

100 VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

101 1. Complete Streets Demonstration Projects

102 Chairman Chapman suggested doing a bike loop and having a few members at each crosswalk to
103 demonstrate the push button system and answer questions or maybe have a bike tune up day at a
104 local bike shop willing to do minor tune ups and maybe have a hat give away.

105 Mr. Millspaugh said he thinks it sounds like a decent idea and he agrees it is a decent loop.

106 2. Winnie Road Easement – Letters to owners

107 Chairman Chapman said they will continue to work on this.

108 3. Priority Letter meetings – Schenectady County Manager Rory Fluman / DOT

109 Chairman Chapman said they will be sending out priority letters and setting up a meeting with
110 County Manager, Rory Fluman.

111 4. St. Joseph and River Road Crosswalk (Bill Chapman)

112 Chairman Chapman said everyone should try the crosswalk out and observe motorist generally
113 stopping.

114 5. Complete Streets map updates (Bill Chapman)

115 6. Climate Smart Communities Grant - update

116 VIII. REPORTS

117

118 **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

119 Motion to adjourn by Chairman Chapman, seconded by Mr. Levy. All were in favor. The
120 meeting was adjourned at 4:18 pm.

DRAFT

2024 Goals for Niskayuna Complete Streets Committee

(Adopted X/X/2024)

Infrastructure

- 1. Route 7 Road Safety and Traffic Calming Measures.** Route 7 in Niskayuna (also known as Troy Schenectady Road) has had 4 traffic fatalities in the last 12 month period (as of February 2023). The Complete Streets Committee will continue to provide support recommendations to Town and County officials who are requesting that the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) implement road safety and traffic calming measures on State Route 7 in Niskayuna.
- 2. Submit Grant applications**
The Complete Streets Committee will encourage and provide support for Town and County officials to prepare grant applications in 2024 under this funding program that will address one or more road safety projects in Niskayuna.
- 3. Grand Boulevard Curbs and Bike Lane** - Support planning by Schenectady County to install new curbing **on both sides of Grand Boulevard** from Nott Street up to Van Antwerp Road and to include a **painted bike lane** on each side of Grand Boulevard along this route.
- 4. Push Button Crosswalk on Nott Street and on River Road Street** - Continue to support the Town Complete Streets Committee recommendation to Schenectady County that a **push button crosswalk** be added to the intersection of **Regent Street and Nott Street** (county road).
- 5. Pedestrian and bike paths added to Niskayuna Schools** – Continue meetings with Niskayuna School District officials to ensure that pedestrian and bike path improvements that have been recommended by the Complete Streets Committee are included in planned improvements at each the eight school campuses in the school district. These school campus improvements could be funded as part of approved bonding resolutions in 2021 by school district taxpayers or by new bonding resolutions that may be put before school district taxpayers for approval.
- 6. Birchwood Lane Side path or Sidewalk -and Push Button Crosswalk** at entrance to Birchwood Elementary. Work on possible funding sources and prepare preliminary plan for side path or sidewalk on Birchwood Lane from Route 7 to the Town Line with the Town of Colonie that will serve students and parents who wish to walk from nearby neighborhoods to Birchwood Elementary School. Support installation of push button crosswalk on Birchwood Land

at entrance to Birchwood Elementary School. Students and parents walking to Birchwood Elementary would have a safe walk path along Birchwood Lane.

7. **Cornelius Avenue Side path** - Work on possible funding sources and prepare preliminary plan for side path or concrete sidewalk along Cornelius Avenue between Story Avenue and Hillside Elementary School. Students and parents walking to Hillside Elementary would be out of the roadway used by cars and buses.
8. **Rosendale Road Bike-path and/or sidewalk construction** - Work on feasibility and possible funding sources for an asphalt side path on Rosendale Road from Rosehill BLVD to Lishakill Nature Preserve and concrete sidewalk on Rosendale Road from Upper Union to Mayfair Drive. Side path would enable pedestrians and bicyclists to safely reach Rosendale Elementary and Iroquois Middle School and the Lishakill Nature Preserve using Rosendale Road
9. **Clifton Park Road/Nott Street/Crescent Road intersection** – Support going forward with design improvements at the intersection of Clifton Park Road and Nott Street and the intersection of Clifton Park Road and Crescent Road that will allow for safer and more orderly auto traffic movement, pedestrian movement, and car parking at these intersections. The Complete Street Committee has forwarded recommendations to the Town.
10. **Complete missing bike path segments on Hillside Avenue** between Providence Avenue and Banker Avenue. This will provide a safer pedestrian and bike route to the Town Pool and Community Center and a closer connecting link to the Mohawk Hudson Bike Path. Encourage Town Officials to send a request to National Grid, the US Army Reserve Center, and apartment complexes on Hillside Avenue to complete segments of the bike path that lie along the frontage of their property adjacent to Hillside Avenue.
11. **Use of Utility Corridors for additional bike and pedestrian access** – Continue to investigate the feasibility of bike and pedestrian trails that would lie under power line corridors in the Town of Niskayuna. Even an agreement between the Town and Utility Corridor operators that would allow residents to use existing dirt trails would be a useful as a recreational resource and a way to add further connectivity to the existing town wide bike and pedestrian path system.

Public Education on pedestrian, bicycle, and motorist safety

1. **Update Transportation Chapter of Town of Niskayuna 2023 Comprehensive Plan** – The Complete Streets Committee will offer recommendations to the 2023 Town Comprehensive Plan Committee designed to strengthen access and safety of pedestrian, bicycle, bus, and automobile movement in the Town.

2. **Conduct Demonstration Project in 2024** – Plan and conduct a demonstration project in 2024 that addresses one or more aspects of safe pedestrian, bike, or automobile movement.
3. **Safety signage on Mohawk Hudson Bike Path** – continue to offer recommendations and support to current efforts by Metroplex Development Authority and Schenectady County to add additional safety and directional signage on the Mohawk Hudson Bike Path (MHBT) in Schenectady County
4. **Maintain Source Document on Traffic Calming Measures** – The Committee will continue to add to and maintain a source document of traffic calming measures. Examples include photos of traffic calming measures used in neighboring communities.
5. **Make additions to the Town’s website on information about the Town Complete Streets Committee**

Town of Niskayuna

Complete Streets Committee

2024 Meeting Schedule

February	2*	*Rescheduled January Meeting
February	26	
March	25	
April	22	
May	20	
June	17	
July	29	
August	19	
September	30	
October	28	
December	9*	<i>Combined Nov/Dec meeting</i>

Meetings are held on Mondays at 3:00 p.m. in the Schaefer Room unless otherwise noted. Dates and times are subject to change.

2024

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8/T	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22/T	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5/T	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19/T	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4/T	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18/T	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1/T	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15/T	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29/T	30				

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13/T	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27/T	28	29	30	31	

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10/T	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24/T	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8/T	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22/T	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5/T	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19/T	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2/T	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16/T	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30/T					

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14/T	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28/T	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11/T	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25/T	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9/T	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23/T	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- Planning
- Zoning
- CAC
- TB Agenda
- Town Board
- EDHPEC
- Tree
- NCSC
- Comp Plan
- HOLIDAYS