

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
Complete Streets Committee

A G E N D A

February 26, 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 2, 2024 (January Meeting)
- 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. ShopRita Plaza
 - ii. GE Global Research
 - iii. 2890 River Road / 1430 Balltown Rad / MGC Proposal / CVS homes
 2. 2024 Complete Streets Goals (2024 draft Goals attached)
 3. 2024 Meeting dates and times (proposal 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. St Joseph and River Road Crosswalk (Bill Chapman)
 5. Plum Street Parking regulations update
 6. Complete Streets map updates (Bill Chapman)
 7. Climate Smart Communities Grant - update
- VIII. REPORTS**
- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

NEXT MEETING

March 25, 2024

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**TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE**

**Hybrid In Person (Schaefer Room) / Remote Meeting (Google Meets)
Meeting Minutes February 2, 2024
(January Meeting)**

Members Present: William Chapman, Co-Chairman (virtual)
Karla Duggal
Andrew Millspaugh (virtual)
Catherine Kuzsman
James Lian, Student Representative

Also Present Laura Robertson, Town Planner
Trisha Bergami, Planning Department(virtual)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:30pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Theresa Healy, Jim Levy, Ben O’Shea, Avi Barr and Percy Davis were excused today.

III. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No one for Privilege of the Floor

IV. MINUTES

1. December 12, 2023

Chairman Chapman moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Karla Duggal. All were in favor.

V. OLD BUSINESS

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

Ms. Kuzsman said the plan is to have a meeting in two or three weeks to get together and go over the chapter.

Chairman Chapman said he would like to get some photos added to illustrate some of the problems and some photos of the solutions that they see.

Ms. Kuzsman said they weren’t going to put many pictures in their version, she thinks they should have the whole committee involved to decide which projects they really want to highlight as good examples.

36 2. *Safety on Route 7 – next steps*
37

38 Chairman Chapman stated that the Town applied for a \$4 million dollar TAP grant in December
39 and asked Mr. Robertson to give some details.
40

41 Ms. Robertson said the grant is for design and construction which allows for the engineering to
42 be done in conjunction with the project being built. The targeted area is in front of Bellevue
43 Hospital. Ms. Robertson stated that area was targeted because there have been three fatal
44 accidents here as well as the presence of the maternity hospital and that the closest crosswalks
45 are almost a mile in either direction. There is a lot of focus on aligning the Bellevue Hospital
46 entrance with Hickory Road with hopes that the engineering will show the benefit of adding a
47 stop light there.
48

49 Ms. Robertson said the grant application included three intersections, Algonquin, Hickory and
50 Vrooman for treatments, they are not sure which treatments will work for each intersection. The
51 corridor is also being evaluated for an addition of a median and street trees. The sidewalks are
52 also being evaluated to remove barriers and to add accessibility. They would work with CDTA
53 to upgrade the bus stops. Some Bellevue employees have stated they would be interested in
54 riding the transit service if it wasn't so dangerous to cross Route 7. Ms. Robertson said DOT is
55 willing to pay 75% of our local match in support of this if we get awarded the grant.
56

57 Chairman Chapman asked if the linkage study and the TAP grant work together. Ms. Robertson
58 said they can run concurrently and can help each other but one is focused on studying the entire
59 corridor and the other is focused on a specific set of intersections that has fatalities.
60

61 Ms. Kuzsman and Ms. Duggal asked about the options of two lanes and two bike lanes or doing
62 a road diet. Ms. Robertson said the DOT would look at the numbers with the Town's engineers
63 and decide based on the data which is best for Route 7.
64

65 **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

66 1. Planning Projects

67 i. *2890 River Road – sketch plan application for 3 lot subdivision (map)*

68 Ms. Robertson said after a lot of negotiating the Town will be deeded the land for the path from
69 Seneca Road to River Road Park.
70

71 ii. *GE Global Research (attached)*

72 Ms. Robertson said GE Vernova is adding a new building that is at least 1000 feet back from the
73 road. Ms. Robertson asked if there were any things that Committee would suggest to be added to
74 this area.
75

76 Mr. Millspaugh stated the shack on the bike path is in rough shape, he thought if it is owned by
77 GE, possibly they could improve that.
78

79 2. *Grand Boulevard Bike Lanes – Schenectady County*

80 Chairman Chapman said the County did a public meeting on January 10 and a mailing to
81 residents and asked for input on this. Chairman Chapman said a few options were suggested. He

82 discussed the three that were presented by the County and the fourth that was presented by Art
83 Clayman. Ms. Robertson expressed concern about having the bike lane to the right of the parking
84 lane.

85
86 Ms. Robertson said she will reach out and get copies of the options so the Committee can look at
87 them and send in their opinion in a formal recommendation.

88
89 *3. Request to Schenectady County for sidewalk on Nott Street from Baker to*
90 *Lexington Parkway*

91 Chairman Chapman said they are just asking the County to put the sidewalk in for the four
92 houses in Niskayuna from Baker to Garner. If Schenectady could put in the sidewalk for the five
93 houses from Garner to Lexington that would complete the sidewalk and make a safe connection
94 to move along Nott Street through that area. Chairman Chapman said the City would need to
95 contribute the money for the Schenectady section and the County would need to contribute the
96 money for the Niskayuna section.

97
98 *4. 2024 Complete Streets Goals (2023 Goals attached)*

99 Chairman Chapman went down the list of goals and the Committee discussed the following
100 changes:

- 101 1. Route 7 road safety and traffic calming is important.
- 102 2. Submitting applications for all funding.
- 103 3. Remove - completed (Plum Street).
- 104 4. Grand Boulevard curbs and bike lane Complete Streets will continue to support.
- 105 5. Push button on St. Joseph's is completed, keep Regent and Nott on for goals.
- 106 6. Pedestrian and bike paths to Niskayuna Schools.
- 107 7. Birchwood Land side path
- 108 8. Cornelius Avenue side path
- 109 9. Rosendale Road bike path/or sidewalk
- 110 10. Walk this then decide whether or not to keep it on Clifton Park Road/Nott
111 Street/Crescent Road
- 112 11. Complete missing bike path on Hillside Avenue.
- 113 12. Utility Corridors

114 *Public Education on pedestrian, bicycle and motorist safety:*

- 115 1. Remove write up of Town Survey
- 116 2. Transportation Chapter of Town of Niskayuna 2023 Comp Plan
- 117 3. Demonstration Project
- 118 4. Safety signage on Mohawk Hudson Bike Path
- 119 5. Source Document on Traffic Calming Measures
- 120 6. Additions to the Town's website on information about the Town's Complete Streets
121 Committee

122 Ms. Robertson stated she would bring the updates back to the Committee in February for
123 potential adoption.

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125 *5. 2024 Meeting dates and times (proposal attached)*

126 This will be discussed at the next meeting.

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VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. *Complete Streets Demonstration Projects*
2. *Winnie Road Easement – Letters to owners*
3. *Priority Letter meetings – Schenectady County Manager*
4. *St. Joseph and River Road Crosswalk (Bill Chapman)*
5. *Complete Streets map updates (Bill Chapman)*
6. *Climate Smart Communities Grant - update*

Ms. Robertson said she requested a debriefing so she can find out why they didn't get the grant.

VIII. REPORTS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Chairman Chapman, seconded by Ms. Kuzsman. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 pm.

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 Lane

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**

2024

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

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.