

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
Complete Streets Committee

A G E N D A

March 25, 2022

2:30 P.M.

IN THE TOWN BOARD ROOM

Hybrid Attendance Available

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. MINUTES
 1. January 28, 2022
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 1. 2022 Goals Adoption
- VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 1. School Improvements Update
 2. Demonstration Project 2022
 3. Priority Letters 2022
 4. Earth Day April 22 / Arbor Day (Niskayuna) April 23
- VII. REPORTS
 1. Times Union article highlighting dangerous pedestrian and bicycle areas in Capital Region (Millspaugh)
 2. Utility Corridor Update (Kuszman)
 3. Planning Department Updates
 - i. Plum St Sidewalk
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING

April 29, 2022

At 2:30 pm

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3 **TOWN OF NISKAYUNA**
4 **COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE**
5 **Hybrid Meeting**
6 **Meeting Minutes**
7 **January 28, 2021**

8 **Members Present:** William Chapman, Chairman
9 Jim Levy
10 Paulina Manzo
11 Karla Duggal
12 Andrew Millspaugh
13 Catherine Kuzman
14 Elise Corbin, Student Committee Member

15 **Also Present:** Laura Robertson, Planner

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17 **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

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20 **II. ROLL CALL**

21 Ms. Healy and Mr. Strayer were absent/excused today.

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23 **III. MINUTES**

24
25 **December 10, 2021**

26 The minutes were approved unanimously.

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28 **IV. PUBLIC CONCERNS**

29 No public concerns today.

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31 **V. OLD BUSINESS**

32 No old business today.

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34 **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

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36 **1. 2022 Goals**

37 Chairman Chapman reviewed the 2021 goals that were accomplished including the priority
38 letters to the School and the sidewalk on Plum Street. Ms. Manzo discussed narrowing the list
39 down and creating subcommittees on projects that members are interested in pursuing. Ms.
40 Robertson suggested narrowing the list into goals specific areas. She gave an example of
41 “infrastructure” with then a list of possible projects. Ms. Manzo suggested have a point person
42 for specific goals with the timeline to revisit each goal every 3-6 months to see if progress is
43 being made. Mr. Levy agreed with this approach. Ms. Kuzman agreed and suggested on one
44 category to be Capitol Projects. This way the residents can have a clearer understanding of the
45 list.

46 Ms. Robertson displayed an example of the goals agenda for the Tree Council. She suggested
47 this could be a good template for the committee. She suggested this could be a good template for
48 the committee. Chairman Chapman agreed to revisiting and redrafting the 2022 goals into
49 categories.

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51 **VII. DISCUSSIONS**

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53 **1. Question 14 Summary – Community Survey (attached)**

54 Ms. Duggal summarized the results from the community survey. She detailed areas in which
55 residents were most concerned. Ms. Duggal stated that the biggest response was for more
56 pedestrian and bicycle routes, including bike paths, sharrows and wider shoulders on existing
57 roads.

58 Ms. Manzo asked if this summary has been presented to the Town Board yet. Chairman
59 Chapman stated no.

60 The Committee discussed the residents request for quicker snow removal from the sidewalks
61 after a storm. Ms. Robertson commented that the Highway Department will usually take care of
62 the streets and then return a few days later to do the sidewalks. Ms. Robertson reminded the
63 committee that it is the responsibility of the homeowner to clear the sidewalks in front of their
64 home.

65 **2. Complete Streets Map (attached)**

66 Ms. Corbin discussed her google map project in which she highlighted established safe routes
67 and upcoming safe routes for travel for pedestrians and cyclists. Ms. Robertson displayed the
68 map as Ms. Corbin discussed the project. Ms. Robertson discussed that this is a useful tool to put
69 on the Complete Streets website and could possibly reach a different population in Niskayuna
70 that is not being reached.

71 **3. Powerline Trails Research (attached)**

72 Ms. Robertson displayed the map of trails surrounding the powerlines. The committee looked at
73 possible routes that could connect with the Mohawk Hudson Bike Route. They discussed the
74 rails to trails partnership that could be a possibility for Niskayuna to partner with the utility
75 company. Chairman Chapman stated he would like to explore how towns have utilized these
76 paths and what regulatory procedures need to be made.

77 Ms. Kuzman suggested a subcommittee that could focus on working on this project. The
78 committee agreed. Mr. Levy cautioned the group that it will take a lot of political will for this to
79 be accomplished and the process is quite lengthy. Ms. Robertson suggested the committee put
80 these trails on the map to get an understanding of where they are and which ones are most useful.

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82 **4. REPORTS**

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84 **1. Comments to Metroplex (attached)**

85 Chairman Chapman stated the committee send their priority letter to Metroplex and is waiting for
86 comments from the group.

87 **2. Planning Department Updates**

88 Ms. Robertson stated she believes that the County project at Nott Street should begin within this
89 year. She will keep the committee updated as soon as she knows more. Ms. Manzo asked if the

90 Town could request for continuity with Nott Street East including utility poles and lighting. Ms.
91 Robertson stated that once the Town receives plans the committee can have a clearer idea of the
92 ornamental changes.

93

94 Ms. Robertson discussed the former project at 1346 Balltown. She stated as of now, it will not
95 proceed due to a denial from the ZBA.

96

97 Ms. Robertson stated the projects submitted to the County will not be decided until mid-spring.
98 This includes the Grand Blvd sidewalk renovation.

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100 **5. ADJOURNMENT**

101 With no further business, Chairman Chapman made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by
102 Ms. Manzo. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

DRAFT

2022 Goals for Niskayuna Complete Streets Committee

Infrastructure

1. **Plum Street Sidewalk** - Complete **Plum Street sidewalk** from Van Antwerp Road to sidewalk at end of Hillside Elementary School parking lot. Funds to do this work is planned as part of bonding by the Town.
2. **Grand Boulevard** - Support planning by Schenectady County to construct **sidewalks on both sides of Grand Boulevard** up to Van Antwerp Road and to include a **painted bike lane** on each side of Grand Boulevard.
3. **Push Button Crosswalks on Nott Street and River Road** - 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) and push button crosswalk be added to River Road (county road) at St Joseph's Drive.
4. **Pedestrian and bike paths added to Niskayuna Schools** – Continue meetings with Niskayuna School District officials to ensure that pedestrian and bike path improvements 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 would be funded as part of recently approved bonding resolutions by district taxpayers.
5. **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.
6. **Cornelius Avenue Side path** - Work on possible funding sources and prepare preliminary plan for side path on West side of 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.
7. **Rosendale Road side path and 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
8. **Complete missing side 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

9. **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.

Public Education on pedestrian, bicycle, and motorist safety

1. **Write up results of Town Survey** – Write up results of Complete Streets Committee survey of Town residents on walkability and bike ability issues that was conducted in Feb-March of 2021.
2. **Conduct Demonstration Project in 2022**– Plan and conduct a demonstration project in 2022 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 link of the Mohawk Hudson Bike Path in Schenectady County
4. Offer recommendations on **Update of Transportation Chapter of Town of Niskayuna 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.
5. **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.
6. **Make additions to the Town’s website on information about the Town Complete Streets Committee**

(Last revised 2/23/2023 WRC)

Complete Streets Committee Members,

In April of 2021 Niskayuna Town Supervisor Yasmine Syed and the Chair of Complete Streets Committee sent out letters to Schenectady County Manager Rory Fluman, New York State Department of Transportation Region 1 Traffic Mobility and Safety, Niskayuna Superintendent of Schools Cosmo Tangora, and the Niskayuna Town Board which outlined 3 priority areas for each entity that the Complete Streets Committee would like to see implemented in Niskayuna (see attached PDF with a copy of the 2021 letters). We need to review these letters to see if we wish to make changes in the priorities for each jurisdiction for our 2022 priority letters.

I have listed the items we asked for in our 2021 priority letters, and added one or two suggestions to ask for in our 2022 priority letters. If you have an idea, please let me know. We can review the 2022 priority items for each jurisdiction at our March 4 or our March 25 meeting.

Niskayuna Central School District

2021 priorities

- a. 20 mph school zone on Balltown Road near Craig Elementary School, letter to NYSDOT signed by Town and School Supt making this request
- b. Crosswalk on Balltown Road at Craig Elementary School entrance,
- c. Paving an asphalt trail from Rosendale Elementary School and Iroquois Middle School that would extend to property line of River Road Park, where it would connect to an asphalt walk path in River Road Park that would ultimately connect to Hempstead Road

Proposed 2022 priorities

- d. 20 mph school zone on Balltown Road near Craig Elementary School, letter to NYSDOT signed by Town and School Supt making this request
- e. Niskayuna School District will incorporate input provided by Complete Streets Committee on pedestrian/bike paths at each School Campus as part of bonded road, parking and pedestrian path improvements at school campuses. In particular, paving an asphalt trail from Rosendale Elementary School (which would also connect to Iroquois Middle School) that would extend to property line of River Road Park, where it would connect to an asphalt walk path in River Road Park that would ultimately connect to Hempstead Road
- f. Work with School District and Town of Niskayuna on feasibility of a Crosswalk on Balltown Road at Craig Elementary School entrance.

New York State

2021 priorities

- a. 20 mph school zone for Craig Elementary on Balltown Road
- b. Crosswalk on Balltown Road at Craig Elementary School entrance that would also extend to Jewish Community Center driveway
- c. A crosswalk on Route 7 that would allow Niskayuna residents on South side of Troy Road to access the Mohawk Hudson Bike Path by using the Flower Hill connection on Merlin Drive and Flower Hill

Proposed 2022 priorities

- d. 20 mph school zone for Craig Elementary on Balltown Road
- e. Crosswalk on Balltown Road at Craig Elementary School entrance that would also extend to Jewish Community Center driveway
- f. A crosswalk on Route 7 that would allow Niskayuna residents on South side of Troy Road to access the Mohawk Hudson Bike street Path by using the Flower Hill connection on Merlin Drive and Flower Hill

Schenectady County

2021 priorities

- a. Crosswalk at Nott Street and Regent Street
- b. Crosswalk at St Joseph's Drive and River Road which would connect residents to MHBT at a busy River Road location
- c. Side path on Rosendale Road from Rose Hill BLVD to Lishakill Nature Preserve; sidewalk on Rosendale Road from Upper Union Street to Mayfair Drive

Proposed 2022 priorities

- d. Follow through on grant opportunity for sidewalks on both sides of Grand Boulevard from Town line up to Van Antwerp Road and then a painted bike lane on both sides of Grand Boulevard
- e. Crosswalk at Nott Street (County Road) and Regent Street
- f. Crosswalk at St Joseph's Drive and River Road (county road) which would connect residents to MHBT at a busy River Road location
- g. Side path on Rosendale Road from Rose Hill BLVD to Lishakill Nature Preserve; sidewalk on Rosendale Road from Upper Union Street to Mayfair Drive

Town of Niskayuna

2021 priorities

- a. Sidewalk on Plum Street from Van Antwerp Road to Hillside Elementary School parking lot (this item we believe is included in bonding by the Town in 2022)
- b. Side path on Cornelius Avenue from Ray Street to Hillside Elementary
- c. Sidewalk or side path on Birchwood Lane from Troy Road to Birchwood Elementary

Proposed 2022 priorities

- d. Side path on West side of Cornelius Avenue from Story Avenue to Hillside Elementary
- e. Sidewalk or side path on Birchwood Lane from Troy Road to Birchwood Elementary
- f. Construct asphalt path on Hempstead Road entrance to River Road Park up to the asphalt loop in River Road Park, and repave asphalt path from River Road park to the property line to Rosendale Elementary School (these asphalt links would allow pedestrians and bikers to travel on an asphalt path from Hempstead Road to Rosendale Elementary and Iroquois Middle School). The School District plans to send all 7th and 8th grade students in the district to Iroquois Middle School