

**TOWN OF NISKAYUNA**  
**Complete Streets Committee**

**A G E N D A**

**April 29, 2022**

**2:30 P.M.**

**IN THE TOWN BOARD ROOM**

**Hybrid Attendance Available**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. MINUTES
  1. March 25, 2022
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- V. NEW BUSINESS
- VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS
  1. Planning Projects Update
  2. 2022 Priority Letters
- VII. REPORTS
  1. Committee Member Reports
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**NEXT MEETING**

**May 27, 2022**

**At 2:30 pm**

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**TOWN OF NISKAYUNA  
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE  
Hybrid Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
March 25, 2022**

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**Members Present:** William Chapman, Chairman  
Jim Levy  
Karla Duggal  
Andrew Millspaugh  
Catherine Kuzman  
Tess Healey

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**Also Present:** Laura Robertson, Planner

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

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**II. ROLL CALL**

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Mr. Strayer, Ms. Corbin and Ms. Manzo were absent/excused today.

22

**III. MINUTES**

23

**a. January 28, 2022**

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The minutes were approved unanimously.

26

**IV. PUBLIC CONCERNS**

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No public concerns today.

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**V. OLD BUSINESS**

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No old business today.

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**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

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**1. 2022 Goals Adoption**

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Chairman Chapman read the 2022 goals. Mr. Levy asked Ms. Robertson the status of several of the listed projects. Ms. Robertson stated the Nott Street/Regent crossing is on hold. She stated that the County wants to see the results of their crosswalks that are being done in front of the CO-OP. Mr. Levy asked if plans have been decided regarding Clifton Park/Crescent. Ms. Robertson stated that she had hoped to tie this work with the County project but stated that money has not been allocated for Crescent/Clifton Park. The Committee discussed possible ways to get this project completed. Chairman Chapman discussed having a meeting with the Supervisor to discuss design and possible funding.

44 Ms. Kuzman asked out of the list, were any of the projects pending financing. Ms. Robertson  
45 stated that Plum Street sidewalk is bonded. She stated the Complete Streets tries to highlight  
46 areas of need for better pedestrian and bicyclist access and then recommends these areas to the  
47 Town Board.

48  
49 The Chairman Chapman discussed that at this time, no projects projected for 2022 are pending  
50 funding.

51  
52 The Committee adopted the 2022 goals unanimously.

## 53 **VII. DISCUSSIONS**

### 54 **1. School Improvements Update**

55  
56 Ms. Robertson stated she had a meeting with the School to discuss the upcoming improvement  
57 project. She stated that unfortunately, most of the recommendations on ways to improve  
58 walkability and bike-ability to the schools were not incorporated, but some of this was because  
59 the scope of the projects, especially for the elementary schools, was vastly reduced. The  
60 Committee voiced their frustration regarding this. They discussed ways to advocate for more  
61 Complete Streets access to the schools. Ms. Healey discussed attending another Town Board  
62 meeting with a written statement to read to the Board advocating for more spending on creating  
63 safe pathways for walking or biking to school. Mr. Levy discussed a recent article regarding the  
64 continued shortage of bus drivers and Towns focusing on creating more walkability to counter  
65 act the shortage. He discussed highlighting this issue to the school to keep this as a priority. He  
66 voiced his disappointment with the lack of work projected for the elementary schools. Chairman  
67 Chapman added that the school seems very vehicle focused.

### 68 **2. Demonstration Project 2022**

69  
70 The Committee discussed possibilities for the demonstration project. They discussed the  
71 possibility of a bike lane demonstration for Lexington Parkway. Chairman Chapman suggested  
72 tying in a bike rodeo to the project. Mr. Levy suggested having it on the culmination of the demo  
73 project on the last day. He noted it would be a lot for the committee but thought it could be a  
74 possible to have both the bike lanes and a bike rodeo. Ms. Robertson stated that Mr. Levy has  
75 done a good amount of prep work on this. She stated she has discussed the project with Police,  
76 Fire and Highway Departments. The Police and Fire expressed concerns regarding the materials  
77 (tires) used at the last demonstration. The Highway expressed concern regarding traffic and  
78 pedestrians using the bike lane. Mr. Levy suggested making it wide enough to make it a multi-  
79 purpose lane. Ms. Robertson stated she would do more research regarding this. The Committee  
80 discussed other possible projects including a possible bike lane on Grand Blvd.

### 81 **3. Priority Letters 2022**

82  
83 The Committee discussed the top priorities for 2022. They discussed possible traffic light cross  
84 walks on route 7 and where the best place would be to propose one. They discussed multiple  
85 locations but it was suggested that a crosswalk near a bus stop would be most beneficial. It was  
86 suggested that the Bellevue Hospital might be an area to consider. Ms. Healey suggested a

87 possible collaboration with the Hospital to possibly finance the crosswalk that might benefit their  
88 employees.  
89

90 The Committee decided to change the list of priorities to:

- 91 1. 20 speed limit @ Craig Elementary
  - 92 2. Crosswalks on route 7
  - 93 3. Crosswalk from Craig Elementary to JCC
- 94

95 Chairman Chapman stated he had spoken to the County and asked if Grand Blvd. sidewalks are  
96 still in their plan. He stated that it is. He stated he would like to keep the River Road cross walk  
97 on the priorities. Ms. Robertson agreed. She stated the County has never said no, but they might  
98 need to continue keeping it in the discussion.  
99

100 **4. Earth Day April 22 / Arbor Day (Niskayuna) April 23**

101 Ms. Robertson stated the Committee is welcome to be involved but the focus needs to be tree  
102 related. As street trees are known to be traffic calming – she felt a presentation on street trees  
103 would be very appropriate.  
104

105 **5. REPORTS**

- 106 • **1. Times Union article highlighting dangerous pedestrian and bicycle areas in**  
107 **Capital Region (Millspaugh)**

108 No updates to report today.

- 109 • **2. Utility Corridor Update (Kuzman)**

110 Ms. Kuzman stated she has looked into the Hudson Valley River Greenway which assisted the  
111 Albany Electric Trail. She stated that she will look into who is responsible for maintenance and  
112 insurance.  
113

114 **6. ADJOURNMENT**

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



# TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

One Niskayuna Circle  
Niskayuna, New York 12309-4381

**Laura Robertson**  
Town Planner

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Niskayuna Central Schools

2022

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, 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 these trails will make them more user friendly and increase their usage. Increased pedestrian traffic will decrease greenhouse emissions.

Sincerely,



# TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

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One Niskayuna Circle  
Niskayuna, New York 12309-4381

**Laura Robertson**  
Town Planner

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Schenectady County  
Rory Fluman, County Manager

Dear

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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 the side walk to extend to Iroquois and Rosendale Road 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.



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Town Planner

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Mark Pyskaldo, Regional Traffic Engineer  
NYSDOT Region 1 Traffic Mobility and Safety

2022

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.

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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.



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Town of Niskayuna

2022

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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.

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 for families and reduce the confusion and separate pedestrians from vehicles. Providing a safe sidewalk all the way to Hillside Elementary School will encourage more people to walk to the school rather than drive. This will reduce the traffic congestion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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 through road and walkers need the extra protection on this route to make it to the school.

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.