

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
Complete Streets Committee

A G E N D A

May 27, 2022

2:30 P.M.

IN THE TOWN BOARD ROOM

Hybrid Attendance Available

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. MINUTES

1. April 29, 2022

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. NEW BUSINESS

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Lexington Parkway Demonstration Project
2. High School Survey Questions
3. Clifton Park / Crescent Ave upgrades
4. Planning Projects Update
 - i. Winnie Road Easement
5. 2022 Priority Letters

VII. REPORTS

1. Committee Member Reports

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING

June 24, 2022

At 2:30 pm

**TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE
Hybrid Meeting
Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2022**

Members Present:

William Chapman, Chairman
Jim Levy
Karla Duggal
Andrew Millspaugh
Paulina Manzo
Theresa Healy
Dart Strayer
Elise Corbin

Also Present:

Laura Robertson, Planner

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Kuzman was absent/excused.

III. MINUTES**a. March 25, 2022**

The minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC CONCERNS

Mr. Matthew Lean of Brittany Place stated his appreciation for the Complete Streets and for attending the School Board Meeting trying to advocate for safer walkable and biking streets. He asked for more information regarding the crosswalk proposed on River Road. His concern is the road being so busy and the potential for many children crossing to go to Blatnick Park. He added that he would love some bike and pedestrian safety seminars that will help inform residents about safely walking and biking on roadways.

Ms. Audrey Cox of Winne Road requested the gate at the dead end of Winne repaired and the access to the bike path from Valerie Drive be created so that residents would not have to cross Route 7. She stated she has spoken to the former administration that seemed sympathetic to the issue but hasn't heard anything else since.

Ms. Robertson stated that the new administration is aware of the situation and referred to Ms. Robertson for guidance. Ms. Robertson stated she is looking into seeing if there is an existing easement and what the Town might be able to accomplish.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business today.

46
47 **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

48 No new business today.

49
50 **VII. DISCUSSIONS**

51 **1. Planning Projects Update**

52 Ms. Robertson gave an update on the Nott Street project and the plans for Crescent Road in
53 particular. She stated that plans were submitted and approved by the Planning Board but the
54 project was not funded. Chairman Chapman suggested reaching out to Metroplex and CDTC to
55 see if they could help with funding.

56
57 Ms. Robertson stated that the project proposed for Balltown Road and Van Antwerp was denied.
58 It is in litigation now but no plans to build sidewalk will happen if the applicant loses the lawsuit.
59 Ms. Robertson updated the committee on River's Ledge and the proposed sidewalks for
60 Aqueduct Road. It will be done was construction is close to completion.

61
62 **2. 2022 Priority Letters**

63 Ms. Robertson displayed the goals for the priority letters for 2022 this included both priorities for
64 the School District and the Town. The Committee discussed the priorities. Ms. Manzo
65 questioned why the committee would ask to lower the speed limit at Craig Elementary but not at
66 the High School that are on the same strip of road. The committee discussed viable options to
67 create safer routes for the High School. The Committee discussed adding additional data
68 regarding the crosswalk at the High School. Mr. Levy stated that they have sufficient data for
69 Craig Elementary but need to acquire more for the High School. Chairman Chapman stated that
70 Ms. Corbin has been working on this information. He suggested a possible sidewalk extension
71 from the Sunoco station to Rankin Road as a viable option.

72
73 Chairman Chapman and the Committee discussed possible multi-use paths at Rosendale
74 Elementary.

75
76 The Committee discussed Troy Schenectady Road and potential for a crosswalk at Route 7 and
77 Bellevue Hospital, the restriping of the road and restriping the crosswalk at St. David's.

78
79 The Committee discussed the improvements to Grand Blvd and the potential crosswalk at Regent
80 and Nott Street and St. Joseph and River Road.

81
82 The Committee discussed the following items for their priority letters:

83
84 **Niskayuna Central School District**

85 **Proposed 2022 priorities**

- 86 a. **Establish 20 mph school zones on Balltown Road near Craig Elementary School and**
87 **near the Niskayuna High School.** Finalize letter to NYSDOT that would be signed by both
88 the Niskayuna Town Supervisor and the Superintendent of Niskayuna School District making
89 this request.

- b. **Complete Street inclusion in Niskayuna Schools Bonding project.** In order to reduce additional car trips generated by the project, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help with the bus driver shortage, the School should provide for pedestrian and bicycle amenities at each school during its upgrades. Specifically:
- a. Paving an asphalt trail from Rosendale Road through Rosendale School to the property line with River Road Park (connection to Town trails and Hempstead Road).
 - b. Extend the asphalt path that lies in front of the bleachers at the the football field at Niskayuna High School over to the school property line where it connects with a walk path leading in from Garden Drive.
 - c. Provide a short asphalt path from paths next to the baseball practice field in Northeast Corner of High School Property up to the school property line where it joins a Town maintained walk path coming in from Orchard Park Drive (Steven Evans Walkway)
 - d. Add additional bike racks to all school facilities
- c. Examine feasibility of a **crosswalk on Balltown Road at Craig Elementary School** entrance that would also extend to Jewish Community Center driveway and **sidewalk** on the west side of Balltown Road by the High school (Crescent to Rankin).

New York State

Proposed 2022 priorities

- a. **Establish 20 mph school zones on Balltown Road near Craig Elementary School and near the Niskayuna High School.**
- b. Examine feasibility of a **crosswalk on Balltown Road at Craig Elementary School** entrance that would also extend to Jewish Community Center driveway and **sidewalk** on the west side of Balltown Road by the High school (Crescent to Rankin).
- c. **Crosswalks on Route 7.**
 - a. Provide a crosswalk on Route 7 next to Bellevue Hospital that would connect to Hickory Road that has an existing Bus Stop. This crosswalk would be located along a 1.5 mile stretch of Route 7 between St. David's Lane and Pearse Road where there is no controlled crosswalk for pedestrians or bikers to cross Rt 7. This crosswalk would serve employees and patients of Bellevue Hospital, in particular many people who must use bus service to access the hospital.
 - b. A crosswalk on Route 7 that would allow Niskayuna residents on South side of Troy Road to access the Mohawk Hudson Bike Trail (MHBT) by using the Flower Hill connection off of Merlin Drive and Flower Hill. Crosswalk might cross RT 7 from Douglas Court to Pinecrest Drive

Schenectady County

Proposed 2022 priorities

- a. **Install sidewalks on both sides of Grand Boulevard** from Town line up to Van Antwerp Road and install a painted bike lane on both sides of Grand Boulevard.
- b. **Crosswalk at Nott Street and Regent Street**

- c. **Crosswalk at St Joseph's Drive and River Road** which would connect residents to the Empire State Trail (formally Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail) at River Road
- d. **Rosendale Road connections** that will allow parents and students who reside on either the north side or the south side of Rosendale Road to walk or bike to Iroquois Middle School, Rosendale Elementary School and the Lishakill Nature Preserve.
 - a. Side path on Rosendale Road from Rosehill Blvd to Lishakill Nature Preserve
 - b. Sidewalk on Rosendale Road from Upper Union Street to Mayfair Drive.

Town of Niskayuna

Proposed 2022 priorities

- a. **School Connections**: 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 school property line at 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).
- b. **Cornelius Ave**: Asphalt Side path on Cornelius Avenue from Ray Street to Hillside Elementary. This will provide a safe route to Hillside Elementary School.
- c. **Birchwood Lane**: Sidewalk or asphalt side path on Birchwood Lane from Troy Schenectady Road to Birchwood Elementary. This will provide a safe route to Birchwood Elementary School.

Chairman Chapman made a motion to accept the following priorities for the Town, School, County and State. Ms. Manzo seconded the motion. The Committee approved the 2022 Priority Letters unanimously.

1. Demonstration Project

Chairman Chapman discussed the possible bike lane project on Lexington Ave. He reviewed the possible process for accomplishing this project and asked the committee for input and help. Mr. Levy stated the original markup that was sent to the Police and Fire Departments. They discussed if any changes would be needed. Ms. Robertson stated the Police and Fire do not have any major concerns except that no physical barriers should be constructed. The Highway was concerned the travel lane was too small and Ms. Robertson suggested going with 11 feet travel land and only a 1 foot barrier. The Committee agreed on using duck tape for the demo would be the best for this project. Chairman Chapman, Mr. Levy and Mr. Millspaugh volunteered to help create the bike lane for the demo project.

Chairman Chapman and Ms. Corbin discussed creating a survey for High School students regarding safe walking/biking to school.

The Committee discussed ways to possibly get the School to add more safe access for pedestrians and bikers. Ms. Manzo asked how to discuss possible extra work done at the site while the construction companies are there working. Mr. Levy suggested going through Ms. Robertson and see if she could request a quote from the School.

1. REPORTS

175 No reports discussed today.

176

177 **2. ADJOURNMENT**

178 With no further business, Chairman Chapman made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by

179 Mr. Levy. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

DRAFT

Town of Niskayuna, NY

Demonstration Project

Bike Lane Concept

Lexington Boulevard :

2 blocks in length
Clifton Park Rd. to Regent St.

- Two ~12' vehicular travel lanes
- Two ~6' bike lanes
- 4 bike lane symbols (1 ea. block/lane)
- 4 sharrows (1 end of each bike lane)
- 4 temporary bollards at bike lane entry
- 2 "New Traffic Pattern" signs



Sharrows at exit of bike lane

Traffic Pattern Change Sign
(By Town)

Bike Lane Tape
(For 2 blocks)

Bike Symbol Paint
(1 per block each direction
4 total)

Sharrows at exit of bike lane

Traffic Pattern Change Sign
(By Town)



6' Bike Lane

12' Vehicular Travel Lane

Niskayuna, NY Demonstration Project Bike Lane Concept





Niskayuna, NY Demonstration Project Bike Lane Concept

