

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

**A G E N D A**

**May 19, 2023**

**2:30 P.M.**

**Remote Meeting**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**
- IV. MINUTES**
  1. April 28, 2023
- V. OLD BUSINESS**
  1. Planning Board Referrals - Updates
  2. Transportation Chapter of Comprehensive Plan – Meeting in July
  3. Route 7 Safety and Traffic Calming Measures
- VI. NEW BUSINESS**
  1. Grant Writer Assistance – Climate Smart Grants (Hillside & Birchwood Safe Routes to School)
- VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
  1. Grant Updates – Crosswalks at St Josephs and Upper Union
  2. Plum St Sidewalk Progress Report
  3. Spring Complete Streets Demonstration Projects
  4. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) - updates
  5. Pedestrian Connections to School Campuses
  6. Winnie Road Easement – Audrey Cox
- VIII. REPORTS**
  1. Committee Member Reports
- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING**

June 30, 2023 at 2:30 pm (Remote)

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**TOWN OF NISKAYUNA  
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE**

**Remote Meeting via Google Meets  
Meeting Minutes  
April 28, 2023**

15 **Members Present:** William Chapman, Chairman  
16 Karla Duggal  
17 Catherine Kuzsman  
18 Theresa Healy  
19 Andrew Millspaugh  
20 Ben O’Shea

21 **Also Present:** Laura Robertson, Planner  
22 Ian Munger, Niskayuna PD

23 **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

25 **II. ROLL CALL**

26 Mr. Levy and Ms. Corbin were excused today.

27 **III. MINUTES**

28 The minutes from the 3/31 meeting were discussed. Hearing no corrections or comments  
29 regarding the minutes, Chairman Chapman moved for adoption of the minutes. Seconded by Mr.  
30 Millspaugh. Upon voting the minutes were approved unanimously.

31 **IV. PUBLIC CONCERNS**

32 Ms. Jessica Krokowski of Van Antwerp Rd stated that her house is between two sharp curves on  
33 Van Antwerp Rd and she does not feel as if her children are able to safely walk or ride their  
34 bikes on that street. Ms. Krokowski said that there is no shoulder for walking however many  
35 people still walk there. This is especially dangerous during the winter as walkers are forced into  
36 the road if there is snow on the ground. Increased walkability would not only add safety but  
connect the area with other neighborhoods.

Chairman Chapman said Van Antwerp is a County road which would therefore need County  
representatives to push any projects forward.

Mr. Ben Mastrianni asked Chairman Chapman if he had any information regarding an issue he  
had. Chairman Chapman said he was planning on getting back to Mr. Mastianni’s email and ran  
through a few projects that the Committee had been looking at recently. Mr. Mastianni stated he

37 has expressed concerns specifically regarding Lexington Pkwy in the past and had doubts that  
38 they would come to fruition.

39 Ms. Robertson read an online comment from Ms. Mesbahi that stated her interest in Town  
40 sidewalks and the easement between Grand Blvd/Van Antwerp Road to Hillside Elementary  
41 School. She wanted to see this easement become more open and accessible to everyone. Ms.  
42 Robertson stated that the Complete Streets had been discussing with the school district to  
43 implement a paved path through Hillside to this easement, and it will continue to be an issue of  
44 importance for the Committee.

45 Chairman Chapman asked Mr. Munger if it was possible to get a brief written rundown of each  
46 of the fatal accidents that have occurred in recent months on Route 7 in order to better express  
47 the urgency of safety strategies to State and County partners. Mr. Munger said he could not fully  
48 answer that at this time, but agreed with the speed concerns of Route 7. Mr. Munger stated that  
49 police enforcement was high in that area so the problem would not be solved solely by increased  
50 police presence. Mr. Munger also mentioned that the fatal accidents he had seen all had different  
51 reasons for occurring, meaning there was not one prominent commonality between them.

## 52 **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### 53 1. 2023 Goals (adopted 3/31/23)

54 Ms. Robertson confirmed with Chairman Chapman that the approved goals could be sent  
55 forward to higher bodies such as the Town Board.

### 56 2. Priority Letters (adopted 3/31/2023)

57 Chairman Chapman asked if the priority letters had been converted to letterhead form and  
58 whether the Town Supervisor had been able to look at them. Ms. Robertson had converted them  
59 to letterhead but had to double check with the Supervisor with how they should go forward.

## 60 **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### 61 **1. Planning Board Referrals**

62 Ms. Robertson told the Committee that the projects they had discussed in previous meetings  
63 were still ongoing and she did not have any substantive updates at this time. Chairman Chapman  
64 asked if the Planning Board was receptive to a previous CSC recommendation for the Mohawk  
65 Club regarding a bike path that curved around the tee box and connected to Rowe Rd. Ms.  
66 Robertson said that she did mention it to the Board who were discussing a multitude of options  
67 with the Town Designated Engineer.

68 Chairman Chapman asked about red flags he had seen at the 4 houses on Balltown Rd near the  
69 CVS and wondered if there were any plans for them. Ms. Robertson said the Zoning Board of  
70 Appeals previously denied an application to develop those lots for townhomes The applicant  
71 sued the Town over the decision and the judge decided in the applicant's favor, however the  
72 Town is appealing the decision. Ms. Robertson said that given the pending status of the project  
73 she did not believe the houses were able to be demolished and was unsure what the flags were  
74 for.

75 **2. Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan- draft RFP**

76 Ms. Robertson stated that the Complete Streets updated map and priority plan were aspects that  
77 were desired in the Plan. The CDRPC study on north Balltown Rd is another item that should be  
78 reviewed and put into the Plan.

79 Ms. Robertson said that the RFP could not go out in its current form and that she believed many  
80 of the items currently included could be handled by the CSC.

81 Chairman Chapman stated that the Committee should read both the RFP as well as Chapter 7 of  
82 the Comprehensive Plan to decide where the Committee can best be of use.

83 **3. Route 7 Safety and Traffic Calming Measures**

84 Chairman Chapman stated that the 2023 deadline for applying for the Safe Streets for All grant is  
85 July 10. Given that Route 7 is a State road Niskayuna could not submit the grant without the  
86 State's approval.

87 Mr. O'Shea mentioned that as it needs to be the State who applies for the grant there may not be  
88 anything more the Committee can do at this time besides push State representatives to continue  
89 to go forward with this.

90 Ms. Kuzsman's concern was that if the State was only analyzing the issues on Route 7 based on  
91 car crash data they may be ignoring pedestrian and bicycle concerns. Ms. Kuzsman and Mr.  
92 O'Shea agreed that the State likely would not pursue SS4A for Route 7, and therefore other  
93 funding options should be explored.

94 Ms. Robertson mentioned that the County may be a better applicant for grant opportunities than  
95 the Town as the County can demonstrate benefits that would be spread across multiple  
96 communities.

97 Chairman Chapman stated he had talked with multiple County representatives regarding this  
98 project all seemed at least relatively open to helping.

99 Ms. Kuzsman asked whether CDTC would be an eligible applicant if other options fell through.  
100 Ms. Robertson said that CDTC could help with the planning side of the project but would not be  
101 able to apply for construction funds.

102 Mr. O'Shea asked about the crosswalk at Nott St and Regent St as the Nott St corridor is next in  
103 line for CSC priorities after Route 7. Ms. Robertson said the County had declined the Town's  
104 request for a crosswalk there because they wanted to see if the recently installed crosswalk at  
105 Clifton Park Rd and Nott St would work for the Town's needs.

106 Mr. O'Shea stated that Nott St and Van Antwerp Rd were the two other streets that needed  
107 attention. Nott St connects to Schenectady and is on a bus line. The traffic circle by GE to Union  
108 St via Van Antwerp Rd is also an important corridor to look at pedestrian and bicycle upgrades.

109 Chairman Chapman asked if Rosendale Rd. would be a higher priority than Van Antwerp Rd as  
110 all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders would be moving to Iroquois Middle School in the coming years.

111 **II. DISCUSSIONS**

112 1. Grant Updates – Crosswalks at St Josephs and Upper Union

113 Ms. Robertson stated that construction at Upper Union would commence as soon as next week.  
114 St. Joseph's updates would begin within a few weeks as well and she had already placed the  
115 signs at the current parking lot stating that it could no longer be in use.

116 Chairman Chapman suggested collaborating with the City of Schenectady to work on a sidewalk  
117 from Baker Ave to Lexington Pkwy.

118 2. Plum St Sidewalk Progress Report

119 Ms. Robertson said she expected to have an estimate on the cost for a concrete sidewalk soon.  
120 Mr. O'Shea asked if that cost could be used to signify the current costs of sidewalks for other  
121 parts of town. Ms. Robertson said she believed it could but mentioned that costs were continuing  
122 to rise, especially in regards to construction. Ms. Robertson said a bid from last year had the  
123 lowest sidewalk price that went from Baker Ave. to the Town line was roughly \$93,000.

124 Ms. Robertson said that last year the bids for the Plum St sidewalk were too high, even for an  
125 asphalt side path and she believed the same may be true this year, but if the price was close  
126 enough the Town may be able to bridge the gap and get that sidewalk in. Ms. Robertson  
127 emphasized that the Town is setting aside money for these projects but the costs continue to  
128 escalate beyond budget.

129 3. Spring Complete Streets Demonstration Projects

130 Chairman Chapman discussed the previous plans for a temporary bike lane on Lexington Pkwy  
131 between Clifton Park Rd and Regent St and asked if that would still be the best option for a  
132 project.

133 Ms. Krokowski stated that she used to live on Lexington and thought this was a great idea as  
134 bikes need their own designated space on that street.

135 Chairman Chapman told Mr. O'Shea that he believed Mr. Levy had a mockup of the project and  
136 could ask for that to review.

137 Chairman Chapman recommended going door to door down that stretch to inform residents of  
138 the project and gage their interest.

139 Ms. Healy and Ms. Kuzsman agreed that this was a good project that should be moved forward  
140 with.

- 141 4. Safe Streets for All preparation for 2023  
142 5. Pedestrian Connections to School Campuses

143 Chairman Chapman said he had spoken with the Superintendent of Niskayuna Schools who was  
144 in support of increased citations for vehicles driving around stopped school busses, and the  
145 Superintendent had appeared at the last Town Board meeting in support of this effort.

146 Chairman Chapman stated that pushing safe walkability to schools, included pushing for safe  
147 infrastructure, should be a continuing focus of this committee.

148                   6. Winne Road Easement- Audrey Cox

149 Chairman Chapman said that if an easement were agreed to between the Town and the property  
150 owner to allow a path connecting to the bike trail through that private property the connectivity  
151 between the bike trail and surrounding neighborhoods would be increased greatly.

152 Ms. Robertson said she did not have any updates regarding this project.

153           **III.    REPORTS**

154 Ms. Robertson said the next meeting was May 19<sup>th</sup>.

155           **IV.    ADJOURNMENT**

156 Ms Healey moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. O'Shea. The meeting adjourned at  
157 4:00pm.