

COMPLETE STREETS

Town of Niskayuna, NY

Complete Streets Educational & Technical Workshop Series

- * The Town of Niskayuna applied to CDTC for “Workshop Type A: Complete Streets Basics”
- * Awarded the workshop 10/7/2015
- * Questions:
 - * *How can Complete Streets work in suburbs?*
 - * *What does it mean to our Departments?*
 - * *Can it work for us?*
- * Held Workshop on 5/17/2016



Complete Streets Educational & Technical Workshop Series

* KEY TO SUCCESS

- * Diverse attendance
 - * (DOT, County, CDTC, CDTA, Town Board members, Planning Board members, Zoning Board members, Engineering, Highway, Police, Fire, Conservation Advisory Council, Tree Council, Town of Bethlehem, Town of Glenville, Public)
- * High level discussions & Detail discussions
- * Identification of “Low Hanging Fruit”



Complete Streets Educational & Technical Workshop Series

Summary Document



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

COMPLETE STREETS WORKSHOP



May 17th, 2016



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
COMPLETE STREETS WORKSHOP
MAY 17, 2016
NISKAYUNA TOWN HALL



Workshop objectives:

- Understand the benefits of Complete Streets
- Understand design solutions
- Identify funding opportunities and low-cost solutions
- Explore policy types and local examples

Agenda

- 9:00 Introductions
- Instructors
 - Participants
 - Ice breaker exercise: "A Complete Street is ____"
- 9:30 Module 1: Complete Streets overview
- What are Complete Streets?
 - Why are Complete Streets important?
 - Mobility for all
 - Safety
 - Health
 - Economic development
 - Social equity & opportunity
 - The breadth of Complete Streets
 - Images of Complete Streets in different contexts (rural, suburban, commercial, residential, etc.)
 - Group Exercise: How would Niskayuna benefit from Complete Streets?
- 10:30 Break
- 10:40 Module 2: Performance Measures
- Role of streets
 - What is and what should be measured
- 11:00 Module 3: Design Tools
- Designing for context – how to make it fit
 - Specific design tools
 - Low-cost solutions
 - Design guides & resources
- 12:15 Lunch

IDENTIFIED WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

"Top 3" Near Term Priorities/Next Steps

- Look into developing a policy or resolution (*having one implemented or adopted can help with funding requests and grant applications*)
- Establish a Committee to spearhead Complete Streets and related activities in the Town.
 - o Work to develop a vision and bike/pedestrian priority network.
- Identify near-term priority low-cost/"low-hanging fruit" implementation ideas

Identified "Champions" to involve early in the process to help shepherd implementation

- A Committee of Town Residents (Safe Routes Committee?)
- The Town Public Works Department
- The Planning Department/Town Planner

Key Stakeholders and Officials to keep engaged and updated on progress and activities

- All Town Departments
- Local Business Association/Chamber of Commerce
- Metroplex
- NYSDOT
- Schenectady County Economic Development & Planning Department
- Schenectady County Department of Engineering & Public Works
- CDTA
- CDTC

Preliminary Identified Opportunities/Needs/Solutions:

- Van Antwerp Road – Drainage issues & a 14" (main) water main that needs to be replaced. Potential Asset Management/CS Enhancement Opportunity?
- Consider a trail from Van Antwerp Road to Nott Street East that comes out in close proximity to the Shop Rite Plaza.
- Install sidewalks north along Van Antwerp from where they end just north of the CVS up to Van Antwerp Village Apartments.
- Can double-up on field work by undertaking both ADA Transition Plan requirements and Complete Streets existing conditions analysis/needs/opportunities assessment.
 - o ADA Transition Plans are required for municipalities that have 50 or more employees (seasonal employees/part time employees count). Niskayuna has a current TIP project so it will require following federal aid procedures as outlined in NYSDOT's Procedures for Locally Administered Federal Aid Projects
 - Chapter 13 states: 13.3.3 ADA Transition Plan 28 CFR 35.105 requires "a public entity that employs 50 or more persons" to prepare a ADA Transition Plan identifying noncompliance in pedestrian accessible routes and facilities in the municipal Sponsor's public right-of-way, along with a plan and schedule for corrective action. It is important to note that these employees can be volunteers, such as firefighters. Additionally, even if the entity does have less than 50 employees (see section 13.3.2) it still needs to conduct self-evaluations. Failure to have a Transition Plan may result in federal fund ineligibility.

Next Steps



1. Establish a Complete Streets Committee
(Reinvent the Safe Routes to School Committee)
2. Develop a Policy or Resolution
3. Work on low-cost implementation ideas to keep fire burning and gain support

Complete Streets Committee

- * **Appointed on June 30, 2016**
- * Includes members of the public, Planning and Highway Departments
- * Tasks include
 - * Review subdivisions and site plans to advise Planning Board and Town Board on implementation of Complete Streets best practices
 - * Prepare a Complete Streets Policy for Adoption by Town Board
 - * Update the safe routes to school map and begin working on priority paths for bicycles, pedestrian, and transit
 - * Review Highway projects for implementation of simple “Complete Streets” practices
 - * Work and grants, outreach and education to the public on Complete Streets planning and implementation



Complete Streets Policy



Resolution No. 2017-41

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NISKAYUNA, DULY CALLED AND HELD ON THE 31ST DAY OF JANUARY, 2017, AT THE NISKAYUNA TOWN OFFICE BUILDING, ONE NISKAYUNA CIRCLE IN SAID TOWN, AT 7:00 O'CLOCK PM, THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:

| | | |
|------------|----------------------|--------------|
| HONORABLE: | DENISE MURPHY MCGRAW | COUNCILWOMAN |
| | JOHN DELLA RATTA | COUNCILMAN |
| | WILLIAM D. MCPARTLON | COUNCILMAN |
| | LISA J. WEBER | COUNCILWOMAN |
| | JOE LANDRY | SUPERVISOR |

The meeting was duly called to order by the Supervisor.

A RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

The following resolution was offered by **Councilman Della Ratta** who moved its adoption, and seconded by **Councilwoman Weber**

BE IT ENACTED, by the Town Board of the Town of Niskayuna, as follows:

WHEREAS, "Complete Streets" are defined as roadways that enable safe and convenient access for all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians of all ages and abilities, motorists, movers of commercial goods, and public transportation; and

WHEREAS, streets that support and invite multiple uses and include safe, active and ample space for pedestrians, bicycles, and public transportation, are more conducive to the public life and efficient movement of people than streets designed primarily to move automobiles and trucks; and

WHEREAS, promoting pedestrian, bicycle and public transportation travel as an alternative to the automobile reduces negative environmental impacts, promotes healthy living, and is less costly to the commuter; and

WHEREAS the full integration of all modes of travel in the design of streets and highways will increase the capacity and efficiency of the road network, reduce traffic congestion by improving mobility options, limit greenhouse gas emissions, and improve the general quality of life; and

WHEREAS, many studies show that when roads are better designed for bicycling, walking and transit use, more people choose these options; and

WHEREAS, section 331 of the Highway Law of the State of New York encourages municipalities to consider complete street design features in the planning, design, construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of local transportation projects, and

- * Adopted January 31, 2017
- * Borrowed heavily from the Town of Bethlehem
- * Allows for:
 1. Town Departments must consider Complete Streets in all new construction and reconstruction – accountable to the Town Board if measures cannot be provided
 2. Town encourages County and DOT to take Complete Streets approach to projects within Niskayuna
 3. Balanced enforcements of traffic laws
 4. Allows for Complete Streets review of projects and developments within Niskayuna
 5. Supports promotion of Complete Streets

Recent Successes



- * Added a sidewalk easement to a multi-family housing project
- * Added a multi-use path connection to a single family subdivision
- * Consolidated a bike/ped crossing on a planned unit development proposal
- * Reviewed projects for grant submittal to NYS
- * Working with NCAP on a AARP grant for a bicycle rodeo and bike lane demonstration project