

Complete Streets Committee – Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2015 @ 10:00 a.m. in the Youth, Parks, & Rec Conf. Room

Attendees:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Dan Blamowski	Erie County
Katie Burd	Village of Kenmore
David Stinner	USitek – Resident
Jim Jones	Technical Support - Town Engineer
Peter de Pagter	Handlebars Cycle Co.
Chris Bushover	Handlebars Cycle Co.
Greg Szewczyk	NYSDOT
Lt. Nicholas Bado	Town Police Department
Kathleen Johnson	Village of Kenmore
Jim Hartz	Town Planning and Development

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

There were no additions or deletions made to the previous meeting minutes. The Town will have a webpage dedicated to the Complete Streets Effort in the near future that will contain all of the committee's work so the public can see the committee's progress.

2. UB Study – Bicycle Master Plan – Key Points Summary:

Copies of the University at Buffalo's Bicycle Master Plan were distributed to the members for review. Jim Hartz went over some of the key points in the study for the Committee to consider including the American Community Survey data showing that the percentage of those in Town currently commuting to work is currently well below 1%. The electronic report itself is too large (89MB) to email, but the Town will make it available through the website.

Part of the UB study analyzed where existing employment, shopping, and educational facilities were located and identified areas where there are gaps in accessible bicycle infrastructure. Several of the larger problem areas were identified and they created a prioritized list of projects for the Town to consider in the future. Sheridan Drive was the main route where they identified a lack of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

There are several areas of the UB study that do not align with the City of Buffalo's Bike Plan. Delaware Road is not identified as one of the paths to get bike lanes in Buffalo.

Also, crash data was analyzed that showed 14 crashes from 2011-2013 involving bicyclists and vehicles. Most were along the Sheridan Drive corridor.

A public survey was given during the UB study that gathered 113 responses. The results showed that most people would bike more frequently if proper bicycle facilities were installed in Town. Kathleen Johnson mentioned that the sample size was very small. Jim Jones mentioned that the survey was done through the Town and the UB websites.

It was noted that there are several areas of the report that need more exploration, including the sidewalk network and maintenance policy. And there was also no local road network identified in the UB report, where the Town may want to identify a “safer” bicycle network that includes local streets.

3. Draft Complete Streets Policy:

A draft complete streets policy was distributed to members for review. Jim Hartz asked that members take some time to look it over and to forward any comments or suggestions to his attention for any edits. The goal is to have a policy ready for public review in the near future.

The staff will continue to work on potential design guidelines to include with the policy document. Once the document is put together, a SEQRA review will take place to analyze the effects of implementation.

Public outreach will begin in January and progress throughout the process of developing the policy and moving it to local adoption.

Chris Bushover from Handlebars asked if there are any marketing materials that he can distribute as a retailer to his customers about the proposed policy. A simple link to what the driver responsibilities are in NYS can help a lot. It’s about raising awareness of the rules and regulations regarding bicycle and pedestrian regulations.

There may be some opportunities to raise awareness through the Youth programs in Town and through the School District. We can look at putting together some informational material to push out into the community.

Katie Burd discussed the possibility of including a class through the Community Education Program. Greg Szewczyk from DOT mentioned that some Safe Route to Schools funding can pay for adding some curriculum in the schools about pedestrian safety. Katie Burd mentioned that there is a Bike Rodeo that is held annually at Lindbergh School that would be a good opportunity to discuss safety issues.

There are a few advocacy groups in the area that meet on a monthly basis that could also help get the word out.

4. Project Updates:

- a. Niagara Falls Blvd. – The Study between the Town of Amherst and Tonawanda will be moving forward into 2016. A scope of work has been established and preliminary work has begun. The GBNRTC may be including the project in their next work plan. In January, the NFTA will present the tier 3 analysis of the Buffalo to Amherst Study to the Town Board.

- b. Kenmore Avenue – The County will be completing this section of the roadway in the Spring. A total reconstruction of the Englewood and Kenmore intersection will take place in June. HAWK signals will be installed at the bike path in the Spring at Kenmore Avenue and Sheridan Drive.
- c. Woodcrest Avenue – A request was made by a resident to look at restricting traffic along Woodcrest to a one-way direction. That issue will be looked at through the Public Safety Committee. It was mentioned that the current road configuration on Woodcrest is not conducive for pedestrian travel.
- d. Elmwood Avenue – The project is currently under design by DiDonato Engineers and nobody has seen the design yet. There has been a scope change to the project and that will be discussed soon at the Village.
- e. Rails to Trails – The Town is talking with Erie County about installing a high visibility x-walk with flashing beacons at Brighton Road. It looks like the project will be completed in the Spring with a ribbon-cutting planned for around Memorial Day.
- f. Parker Blvd. – There has been a cost estimate prepared for the Parker Blvd. re-design, but there are no design plans in motion yet. There may be some CDBG or CHIPS funding that could be available to make those changes. The CHIPS funding requires that the roadway be brought up to ADA compliance.

5. Webpage Design and Public Outreach in 2016:

The Town will draft a webpage and circulate it to the members before the next meeting for review and comments.

The next meeting for the complete streets committee will be held on **January 19th at 10:00 a.m.** in the same location.