



Completing the Street for a Walkable, Bikeable Community

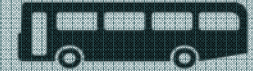
The Development, Adoption and Implementation of the Saratoga Springs Complete Streets Policy

Local Government Planning & Zoning Workshop
Hudson Valley Community College
October 4, 2012

Presented By:

Jaclyn Hakes, AICP, Director Planning Services, MJ Engineering

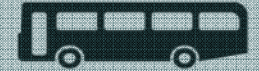




Discussion Points

1. Introduction to Complete Streets (CS)
2. Shared Access Saratoga
3. Policy Components
4. Keys to Adoption
5. After the Adoption
6. Lessons Learned

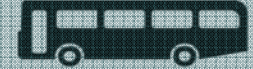




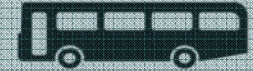
Providing safe options is important for this generation and future generations.



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Brief Introduction to Complete Streets



What are Complete Streets?

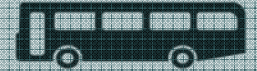
Streets that provide safe, comfortable, and convenient access for users of all abilities including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders.



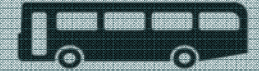
NATIONAL
COMPLETE STREETS
COALITION

let's complete america's streets

Sidewalks – Signage – Crosswalks – Bus Stops – Bike Lanes



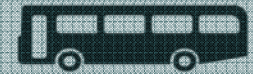
Governor Cuomo's
signing of the NYS
Complete Streets law
in August 2011.



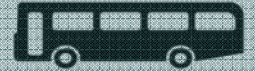
We are all
pedestrians at
some point.



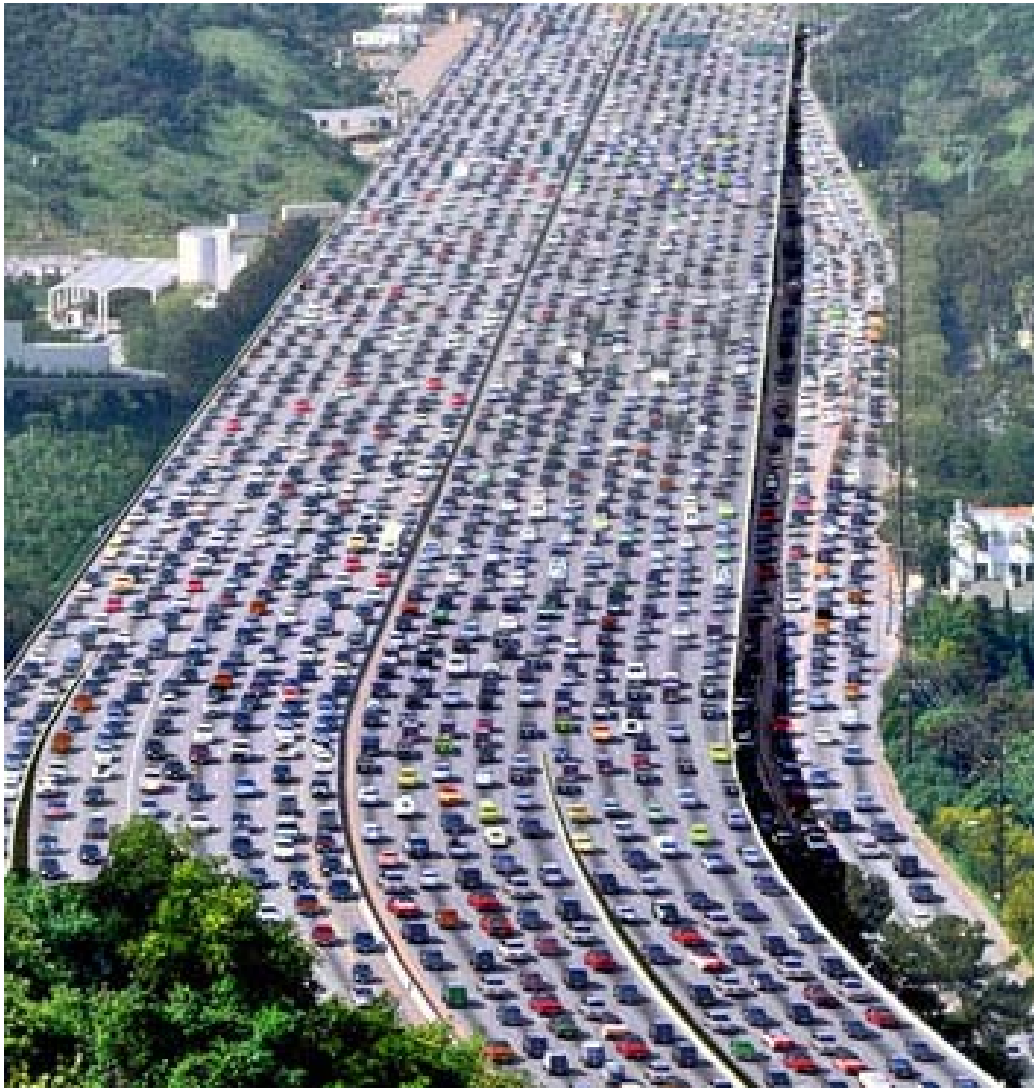
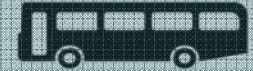
Complete
Streets are for
all of us.



Sharing the
road is not a
new concept.



At one point in history, sharing the road was common.



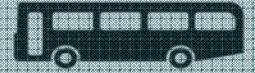
A culture shift
emphasizing the car
changed it all.



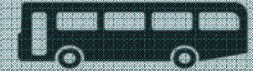
Current trends are examining ways to re-introduce multiple modes of transport.



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Shared Access Saratoga



Shared Access Saratoga

1. Broad Representation
2. 20 stakeholder groups
3. 8 monthly meetings
4. Working Groups





Like Minded Groups Considered for Involvement

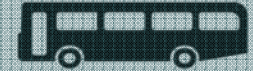
- ✓ City Hall Staff
- ✓ Elected Officials
- ✓ Citizen Groups /Activists
- ✓ Professional Planners & Developers
- ✓ Senior Groups
- ✓ Safe Routes to School Advocates
- ✓ Economic Development Groups
- ✓ Public Health
- ✓ College
- ✓ Transportation/Transit Authorities
- ✓ School District



Shared Access Saratoga - Participants

- ✓ City of Saratoga Springs Police
- ✓ City of Saratoga Springs Public Safety
- ✓ City of Saratoga Springs Planning
- ✓ City of Saratoga Springs Engineering
- ✓ Safe Routes to School
- ✓ Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ Downtown Special Assessment District
- ✓ County Supervisor
- ✓ Cool Cities
- ✓ Local Developer
- ✓ Sustainable Saratoga
- ✓ Local Planning & Design Professional
- ✓ Saratoga Healthy Transportation Network
- ✓ Saratoga Hospital
- ✓ AARP
- ✓ Sustainable Skidmore
- ✓ Capital District Transportation Authority
- ✓ Tri- State Transportation Campaign
- ✓ Citizens and Neighborhood Associations





Shared Access Saratoga - Priorities

- Complete Streets Policy
- Safe Routes to School
- Map Hot Spots

INPUT on LAWS and the PROCESS:

- Need for an ordinance at the ^{local} state-level for Complete Streets.
- Educate public of ability to provide input at the planning board.
- Need for multi-pronged approach, working with the homeowner, developer and public.

- Need to coordinate between side and main streets. (A closed loop, centralized system.)
- Need to identify priority areas and safety hot spots, and identify a plan to improve them.
- Need to develop bike infrastructure and a share-a-bike program, especially between the city & Skidmore.



Shared Access Saratoga - Successes

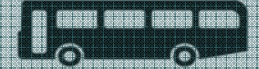
1. Created and/or Strengthened Partnerships
2. Applied for and received Grant funding
3. Initiated a “Sharrows” proposal
4. Completed a Mapping of two CDBG areas
5. Drafted a Complete Streets Policy



Source: Ohio State University



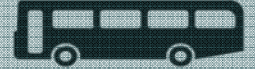
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Components of the Saratoga Springs Policy

Adopted May 1, 2012

(By Unanimous Vote of the City Council)

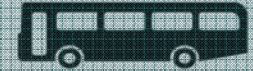


Adopted!!

What is ~~Proposed~~ in Saratoga Springs?

City of Saratoga Springs Complete Streets Vision

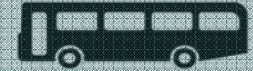
With the signing of the Complete Streets Law by Governor Cuomo, statewide attention is being given to the complete streets programs, which improve the safety, health and vibrancy of New York State communities. The City of Saratoga Springs Complete Streets Policy will **encourage the development of a complete streets network** throughout the City to create a more balanced transportation system. The Complete Streets Policy shall be consistent with and assist in achieving the goals and recommendations set forth in the City's Comprehensive Plan and other policy documents. The Policy shall ensure that new and updated **public and private projects** are planned, designed, maintained and operated to **enable safe, comfortable and convenient travel** to the greatest extent possible **for users of all abilities** including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders.



Objectives & Guiding Principles

1. Encourage Collaboration among City Departments
2. Incorporate Locally Sensitive Best Practices
3. Increase Awareness Through Education
4. Reinforce Collaboration with other Partners





Rationale for Complete Streets

1. Health
2. Safety
3. Environment
4. Economic Vitality
5. Fiscal Impact





Immediate Action Items

1. Establish Shared Access Advisory Board
2. Develop **Complete Streets Checklist**
3. Make Information Accessible on City's Website
4. Recommend Improvements to Existing City Policies



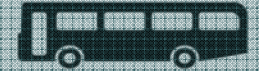


Short Term Action Items (Two Year Plan)

5. Cooperate with School District on Safe Routes to School
6. Incorporate into Routine Street Maintenance and Improvements
7. Promote an Educational Program
8. Seek Grant Opportunities

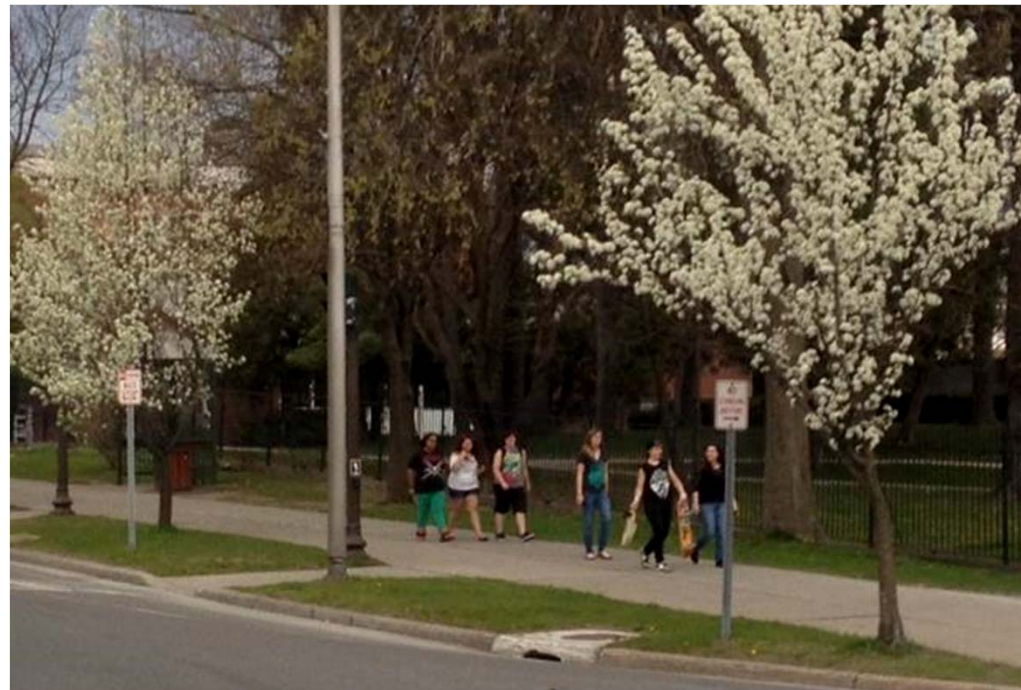


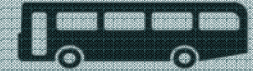
Source: Alliance for Walking & Biking



Mid Term Action Items (Four Year Plan)

9. Review Policy to Assess Success
10. Conduct Comprehensive Audit
11. Identify Dedicated Funding Mechanism





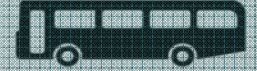
Long Term Action Item (Six Year Plan)

12. Complete a Bicycle, Pedestrian and Public Transit Plan





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Keys to Adoption



Keys to Adoption

- Solid Foundation through Shared Access Saratoga
- Continuous Dialogue with Elected Officials & City Staff
- Transparent Process
 - ✓ Shared Access Saratoga
 - ✓ Public Hearings and Presentation to City Council
- Get the Word Out
- A little luck!



Getting the Word Out

- Use of Digital Media
 - ✓ Facebook page
 - ✓ Websites and blogs
 - ✓ On-line petition
 - ✓ Email blasts

- Press Kit distributed
 - ✓ Draft press release
 - ✓ Draft letter of support
 - ✓ Flyer

Support Shared Access in Saratoga Springs - Support a Complete Streets Policy



Sharing the roads is not a new concept!

Help Saratoga Springs take the next step to promote shared access –
support a **Complete Streets Policy**!

A Complete Streets Policy:

- Encourages road design for users of **all ages** and **all abilities**
- Promotes **safety** for pedestrians, cyclists, drivers and transit riders
- Enhances **quality of life**
- Sustains a more **vibrant economy**
- Improves community and environmental **health**

To learn more and support the policy, join us at a presentation to the City Council on
Tuesday, April 17th at 6:15pm at City Hall.

For a copy of the proposed Complete Streets Policy, visit the City of Saratoga Springs website at
www.saratoga-springs.org.

To show your support visit the Shared Access Saratoga Facebook page at
<http://www.facebook.com#!/pages/Shared-Access-Saratoga/188835114473119> and click
"Like" OR sign the on-line petition at [http://www.change.org/petitions/saratoga-springs-
complete-streets-now](http://www.change.org/petitions/saratoga-springs-complete-streets-now)



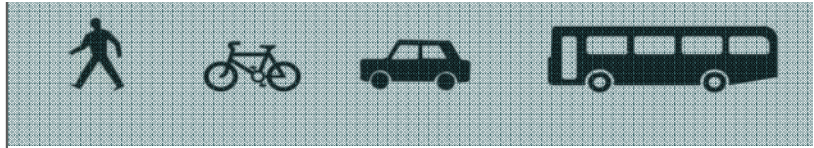
Sharing the Road: Complete Streets Strengthen Saratoga's World Class Appeal

Written by Daniel Schechtman

font size | Print

Rate this item (0 votes)

SARATOGA SPRINGS – Dozens of private citizens and local civic groups are urging the Saratoga Springs City Council to adopt a new Complete Streets policy, a proposal that encourages multi-modal transportation and shared access for automobiles, cyclists and pedestrians in the city of Saratoga Springs.



Dozens show up at Saratoga Springs City Council meeting to support Complete Streets initiative

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

By LUCIAN McCARTY, lmccarty@saratogian.com, [Twitter.com/SaratogianCDesk](https://twitter.com/SaratogianCDesk)

SARATOGA SPRINGS — More than 65 people jammed, shoulder-to-shoulder, into the City Council chamber Tuesday night to support the city's adoption of a Complete Streets policy.

The proposed Complete Streets policy would encourage integration of pedestrian, bicycle and other transportation upgrades in the city. If approved, it will also create an advisory committee that would review the city's zoning codes and other ordinances that could better-promote shared access to roadways.

"Passing this policy is really the easy part," said Tobin Alexandra-Young of Shared Access Saratoga. "Change across the country is the hard part."

Alexandra-Young gave a brief presentation on the benefits of the Complete Streets policy, which would encourage integration of pedestrian, bicycle and other transportation upgrades in the city. If approved, it will also create an advisory committee that would review the city's zoning codes and other ordinances that could better-promote shared access to roadways.

Shared Access Saratoga is a collection of dozens of groups interested in enacting Complete Streets. At the meeting, representatives from the AARP, Saratoga Healthy Transportation Network, Saratoga Regional YMCA, the Vital Aging Network and Skidmore College spoke in support of the policy.

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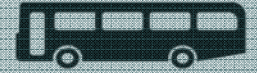
"Over half of the 65-plus population doesn't drive," said a representative from the AARP, who said passing a Complete Streets policy would be a big step for the city.

"...AARP, Saratoga Healthy Transportation Network, Saratoga Regional YMCA, Vital Aging Network and Skidmore College spoke in support of the policy."

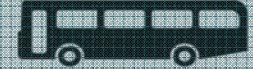
The Saratogian (saratogian.com), Serving the Saratoga Springs, N.Y. region
News
Saratoga Springs adopts Complete Streets policy
Thursday, May 3, 2012
By LUCIAN McCARTY, lmccarty@saratogian.com, [Twitter.com/SaratogianCDesk](https://twitter.com/SaratogianCDesk)
SARATOGA SPRINGS — To a round of applause, the City Council adopted a Complete Streets policy Tuesday night. The policy encourages integration of pedestrian, bicycle and handicap accessibility into new transportation projects in the city. It will also create an advisory committee that would review the city's zoning codes and other ordinances to better promote shared access to roadways.
There was no presentation Tuesday night, but in the days leading up to the meeting, representatives from the Vital Aging Network and Skidmore College spoke in support of the policy.
On April 17, Complete Streets supporters spoke at the City Council meeting. During that meeting, representatives from the Vital Aging Network and Skidmore College spoke in support of the policy.
The council passed the policy by a unanimous vote at a meeting Tuesday night, which was attended by dozens of city residents.
The policy will be integrated into the city's codes and regulations to create a more accessible city.
The advisory committee will meet at the first City Council meeting.



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After the Adoption

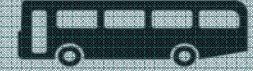


After the Adoption

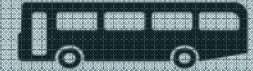
- The City Council created the Shared Access Advisory Committee in June 2012.
 - ✓ 7 diverse members appointed
 - ✓ City received grant for Intern to assist with Advisory Committee
 - ✓ Monthly meeting schedule established
 - ✓ Developing a Complete Streets Checklist
 - ✓ Providing support to City/School District Safe Routes to School Application
 - ✓ Funding for Educational Workshop – Adirondack Rural Health Network

- A shift is occurring...
 - ✓ Current transportation improvement projects incorporating Complete Streets elements

- Much more work to do!



Lessons Learned



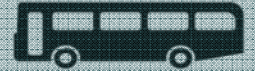
Lessons Learned

- Have Patience!

- Get the 'right' people to the table
 - ✓ Identify Common Goal & End Result
 - ✓ Respect everyone's time

- Have a neutral table
 - ✓ Builds trust and mutual respect

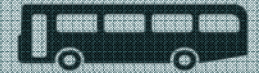
- Continuous relationships with partners and elected officials
 - ✓ Know your audience



Lessons Learned

- Get the word out
 - ✓ Establish a clear, consistent message
- Persistence
 - ✓ Changing opinion versus a change of people
 - ✓ Change in culture and attitude takes time





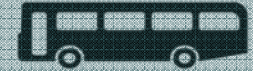
To Learn More

- City of Saratoga Springs Website: www.saratoga-springs.org
- News Articles:
 - <http://www.saratogian.com/articles/2012/05/03/news/doc4fa1e747acdb0298497481.txt>
 - <http://www.saratogian.com/articles/2012/04/18/news/doc4f8f711ad8c68132639786.txt>





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Thank You



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