

Village of Hamburg Healthy Neighborhood Corridor

Attachment C.1 Project Description

Background and Existing Conditions

The Village has made an aggressive and impressive effort over the last decade to create a pedestrian and bike friendly community that is often used as a model for New York communities. Route 62 in the Village, which includes both Main Street and Buffalo Street, was reconstructed in the last decade and the Village worked with NYSDOT officials to incorporate multiple traffic calming measures including traffic roundabouts, corner bumpouts and road narrowing. All of the improvements were successful in calming traffic, improving community aesthetics and advancing economic development, especially in the downtown commercial corridor.

In 2012, the Village Board adopted an updated Comprehensive Plan and one of the key themes throughout the document was to enhance the pedestrian experience in the Village by improving pedestrian access, safety and comfort as evidenced by the following plan statements and recommendations:

- *The Village boasts a relatively well-connected system of sidewalks. However, there are areas throughout the village where sidewalk improvements are warranted to either address poor conditions and maintenance or to meet today's codes for ADA accessibility.*
- *The Village needs to examine opportunities to enhance its current sidewalk system and fill in any existing gaps.*
- *The Village of Hamburg's public realm and private development create a welcoming pedestrian experience and promote traditional neighborhood design.*
- *Accommodate all modes of transportation (walking, biking, driving, transit,) comfortably within the right-of-way and ensure that vehicular access does not dominate the design considerations.*
- *Utilize a combination of physical design and public policy (e.g. enforcement) to create a comfortable pedestrian environments and encourage safe vehicular speeds throughout the village.*
- *Expand multi-modal access and safety throughout the Village.*

To build upon the successes and momentum of the Route 62 reconstruction project, which primarily impacted Village commercial areas, and to implement the Comprehensive Plan recommendations, the Village would like to begin addressing pedestrian safety and the quality of its pedestrian infrastructure within residential neighborhoods. This spring the Village Board met with the Village Administrator and Special Projects Coordinator to prioritize which neighborhood streets should be selected for improvements. Based on an overall plan to improve neighborhood connections throughout the Village (Figure 5- known as the Hub & Spoke Project or Fitness Trails) developed by the Special Projects Coordinator, the Board decided to focus on sidewalks near schools and other community facilities. The Village Board created the Economic Development Committee and Trails Task Force to obtain citizen input.

As part of the neighborhood pedestrian plan the Village wanted to achieve the following objectives:

1. Increase the width of sidewalks from the current inadequate 4 ft. width or less to an ADA compliant 5 ft. width;
2. Improve the safety of crossing intersections, especially near schools;
3. Improve and promote the health of our residents and our schoolchildren in particular;
4. Focus on school area sidewalks.

Village of Hamburg Healthy Neighborhood Corridor

As shown in Figure 2 the first objective is an issue not only for handicapped individuals, but for any resident or student using residential sidewalks. Google Maps' Street View of residential streets in Figure 2 reinforces and illustrates the problem of narrow residential sidewalks. In short, two people cannot walk side by side on the sidewalks as one must use the planting strip to walk on. This is amplified when there are groups of people, as demonstrated by the picture of the Youth Center day care group (middle picture) where kids need to walk on front lawns.

The second objective is a real issue especially near the Hamburg High School and Middle School campuses on Legion Drive. Hamburg High School is on the south side of Legion Drive while Hamburg Middle School, and fields shared by both schools, are on the north side. During the school year, and even in the summer, the crosswalk between the two schools is used heavily by students and younger children. Legion Drive is a busy street with more than 9,000 vehicles using it daily.

Similarly the intersection near the elementary school on Union is also used frequently and could benefit from improvements.

Improving the community's health is the third objective. This objective has multiple meanings including increasing exercise by offering options to walk or bike, reducing carbon emissions by walking instead of driving, and reducing pedestrian/vehicle accidents by improving pedestrian safety.

Location (Figure 1)

The project is located in a residential neighborhood bounded by Legion Drive to the north, Buffalo Street (Route 62) to the east, Main Street (Route 62) to the south and Lake Street (Route 75) to the west. The neighborhood includes the High School, Middle School, one of the school district's elementary schools, the Community Center, the Youth Center and Tree Grove Park. Most of the homes are single family residential structures.

Project Description (Figures 3)

The Village of Hamburg TAP Project consists of:

1) *Installation of approximately one mile of 5' concrete sidewalk from the Hamburg High School/Middle School campus area to the Downtown core* (see red line on Figure 3); Removal of the existing sidewalk, installation of new sidewalk and installation of handicapped ramps at all corners. The sidewalks will be installed on one side of the road (west – for north/south streets; north - for east/west streets).

2) *Construction of traffic calming bump outs at the school intersections* (see Figure 3): Installation of curbing, decorative sidewalk and drainage modifications. Nine bump outs will be installed: 1) Two full bumpouts at Legion; 2) One large one near the Elementary school that counts as two in the; 3) 6 small bump puts (only on one corner – does not wrap around) and count as 3 in the budget; for a total of 7 in the budget.

3) *Installation of Pedestrian Beacon Signals*: New pedestrian beacon signals will be installed at the approaches to the school intersections (2 on Legion, 2 on Union, 1 on Center).

4.) *Crosswalks at all intersections*

5.) *Improved lighting at school intersections*: Installation of six decorative, pedestrian scaled light standards at the bumpout locations to increase lighting levels and enhance the travel experience.

Village of Hamburg Healthy Neighborhood Corridor

6.) *Implementation of Five E's* – In addition to Engineering included in the construction project, the project will implement the four other E's of Encouragement, Education, Enforcement and Evaluation. The Village will work with the Hamburg School District to offer the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Curriculum focused on walking near traffic, crossing streets, crossing intersections, parking lot safety, and school bus safety. Bicycle rodeo demonstrations will be held at schools also.

The Village will team with the school districts to promote the program by placing ads in local newspapers encouraging SRTS practices; putting SRTS information on school and City websites; Encouraging the local newspaper to publish articles on SRTS; promoting Bike and Walk to School Days. Enforcement activities will also be implemented in school districts by the Police Department including enforcement of speed limits, stopping at intersections and monitoring driver activity periodically.

Project Feasibility

The Village has evaluated several issues regarding feasibility and readiness for the project including:

Property Ownership

The entire project will be constructed within the public right of way as shown in Figure 4. No private property will be involved. To complement Figure 4 the following tables provides the ROW details:

| Street | ROW | Roadway | Planting Strips | | New Sidewalks | |
|----------|-----|---------|-----------------|---|---------------|---|
| Division | 50 | 30 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Hawkins | 52 | 26 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 5 |
| Union | 56 | 36 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Center | 50 | 30 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |

Legion and Prospect can use public property for any sidewalk expansion without impacting trees or private property. Village staff walked the entire ROW and determined the new sidewalk width expansions will be accommodated toward the street which will involve the removal of an estimated four trees on Center Street.

Community Involvement

The Comprehensive Plan included two public meetings, multiple meetings with a steering committee and meetings with stakeholders. As noted above, the Comprehensive Plan, in numerous sections, recommends improvements to the Village's pedestrian network and infrastructure. The Economic Development Committee and Trails Task Force were created to obtain citizen input.

Environmental Issues

As the project is proposed in a densely developed area there are no environmental issues. In addition, there are no historic landmarks or districts in the vicinity of the project with the exception of the Hamburg Downtown District where there are no improvements proposed. The Erie County Real Property online mapping service was also reviewed and no wetlands or sensitive environmental areas are within the project area.

Coordination with Other Agencies

The Village will coordinate the project with NYS DOT and the Hamburg Central School District.