

Resolution No. 2017-41

AT A SPECIAL 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:

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| 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

WHEREAS, the Town of Niskayuna established a Complete Streets Committee on

June 30, 2016 via Resolution 2016-158, to study areas of Town where Complete Streets solutions could be implemented and advise the Town Board or Planning Board as to the best practices for such implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Complete Streets Committee has recommended that this Town Board establish a Complete Streets Policy to guide the actions of the various Niskayuna Boards and Department Staff during their faithful discharge of duties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the intent of the Town of Niskayuna Complete Streets Policy is to give bicyclists, pedestrians, motorists and mass transit equal consideration in the planning and design of all new street construction and street reconstruction undertaken by the Town; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is also the intent of the Town of Niskayuna Complete Streets Policy to recognize that local Town streets with low vehicle volumes and slow travel speeds safely and efficiently accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians. However, principal Town roads that are characterized as having high vehicle volumes and high travel speeds, and are important for bicycle and pedestrian travel to access and connect to destinations in and adjacent to the Town, shall be considered for Complete Streets treatment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby resolves to establish a Complete Streets Policy as follows:

1. The appropriate Town Departments, including the Engineering and Highway Departments, shall consider the safe and efficient accommodation of bicyclists and pedestrians in all new street construction and street reconstruction undertaken by the Town of Niskayuna.
 - In addition, where the need for bicyclist and pedestrian facilities has been established or is defined in Town planning documents, Town Departments shall consider the addition of safe bicyclist and pedestrian facilities in new street construction and street reconstruction undertaken by the Town of Niskayuna. The addition of the bicyclist and pedestrian facilities shall be consistent with the scope of the improvement project, context sensitive to the surrounding environment, and shall not be disproportionate with the cost of the larger project.
 - Bicyclist and pedestrian facilities are defined as improvements that are above and beyond the normal space, surfaces, pavement markings, and signing that would routinely be incorporated into street design and maintenance for the accommodation of bicyclists and pedestrians. These facilities shall include but not be limited to sidewalks, curb cuts and ramps, marked crosswalks, pedestrian actuated signals, paved shoulders, bicycle route signing, bicycle lanes, bicycle parking facilities, and shared use paths.
 - Bicycle and pedestrian facilities may be planned, designed, developed and maintained in accordance with guidelines adopted by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), New York State Department of Transportation

(NYSDOT), and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) or other guidelines approved by the Town of Niskayuna.

- Additionally, the Town may consider the use of traffic calming applications as an alternative to bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Traffic calming applications help to physically or psychologically calm motor vehicle traffic behaviors, thereby aiding in the development of a safe environment for bicycle and pedestrian travel.
 - If a Town Department determines that the inclusion of bicycle and/or pedestrian facilities are unable to be accommodated on a roadway or within Town right-of-way proposed for construction or reconstruction, the appropriate Department Head shall provide said determination in writing, with supporting documentation, to the Town Board for their information during the review of the project.
2. Furthermore, the Town encourages the NYSDOT and Schenectady County to consider a Complete Streets approach when constructing or reconstructing their respective streets within the Town of Niskayuna.
 3. The Town will provide a balanced enforcement of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. This will include enforcement of pedestrian's right-of-way in crosswalks, bicyclists riding with traffic and all modes sharing the road safely.
 4. The Town supports and encourages the Planning and Zoning Board, the Conservation Advisory Council, the Tree Council and the Complete Streets Committee to share ideas between each other and implement Complete Streets solutions to private projects undergoing reviews and approvals whenever possible.
 5. The Town supports the promotion of bicycling and walking for health, fitness, transportation and recreation through events, programs and other educational activities, which benefit residents, students, businesses and visitors of all ages and abilities. These activities can be coordinated with the Complete Streets Committee, other Town Committees and Departments, local bicycle clubs, schools, health organizations and other partners.

UPON ROLL CALL THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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| COUNCILWOMAN MURPHY MCGRAW | VOTING | AYE |
| COUNCILMAN DELLA RATTA | VOTING | AYE |
| COUNCILMAN MCPARTLON | VOTING | AYE |
| COUNCILWOMAN WEBER | VOTING | AYE |
| SUPERVISOR LANDRY | VOTING | AYE |