

Complete Streets in Schoharie County

How Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and
Play has worked with local communities in regards
to Complete Streets

Creating Healthy Places Grant

- Grant focused on increasing access of places to be active through policy and projects and creation of or improvements to playgrounds and trails as well as increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Complete Streets work subcontracted to Schoharie County Planning and Development
- Grant funded policy work completely
- Grant reimbursed communities up to \$4,000 for project
- Each community had to match the funding in cash, in-kind, or other grants (not state or federal)
- Goal to implement policies in 7 communities in 5 years.

Policy... ho hum

- Subcontract with Schoharie County Planning and Development
- Hired LaBerge Group from Albany to assist communities with creating Complete Street Policy for the community
- Held meetings with interested community members
- Looked at current policies, plans and zoning regulations in place
- Listened to the directions, plans for the future
- Asked about population, services available
- Created a policy to reflect the community

Cobleskill

- Had Dan Burden come and do a walkability audit in the community with interested residents and others and present a workshop on Complete Streets
- Also had Randall Arendt come discuss Planning and mixed use areas to look to incorporating more mixed use into the communities
- Project was high visibility crosswalks
- Reactivation of the Corridor Planning Team



Sharon Springs

- Sharon Springs wanted crosswalks in the lower (old) Village on Route 10
- Project was benches and planters to beautify the community and promote walking
- Main project was the restoration of Chalybeate Park area
- Result of work being done with the grant, Sharon Springs was awarded Safe Routes to School funding



Schoharie



- Schoharie was still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee when they were working with the grant
- Policy work with LaBerge – much of this work was trying to replace copies of plans, policies and regulations that had been lost in the flood.
- Benches placed on private lands and legal paperwork was filed to get approval for this prior to placement

Blenheim

- Blenheim had a great rebuilding plan and committee that was the incentive for working with them
- Community was already invested in rebuilding and rebranding itself
- Idea of a townwide arboretum with signage to promote walking and traveling through the community

Middleburgh

- Middleburgh has been awarded many grants for their main street
- Had several great ideas for projects until a student was hit and injured by the elementary school
- Changed focus to safety for students and others
- Brought NYS DOT into the discussion on plans after purchasing a radar speed sign



Jefferson and Richmondville

- Policy meetings to be held soon
- Have met with community leaders to hear about concerns and some ideas for projects
- Richmondville is focusing on area around school with some traffic calming and monitoring devise
- Jefferson has a great community Green that is being eroded due to cars parking further and further onto the Green
- Speeds increasing in this area and the restaurants, community store, post office are all around Green and walkable resources

Lessons Learned

- Educate the local citizens about Complete Streets
- Invite NYS DOT, County Highway, Town or Village Highway to the table as resources **early**
- **Diversify** who is involved with you to get the best representation for the community (church groups, civic groups, school, seniors, preschool, fire department)
- **Take your time** in choosing a project
- **Listen** to the needs of the community
- Brainstorm the area of the community to start work
- Brainstorm ideas of what may work in each community