

Town of Clifton Park
Highway Safety Committee

One Town Hall Plaza | Clifton Park, New York 12065 | (518) 371-6054 | FAX: (518) 371-1136

July 24, 2025

Minutes

1. Introduction

a. Attendance

Present

Al Karoly

Dave Woodin

John Scavo

Jim Allen

Phil Clark

Tony George

Bob O'Connell

Eric Ophardt

Tom Werner

MD Haque (video)

Absent

Dahn Bull

Lenny Casper

Jeff Labarge

- b. Minutes: The minutes for June were accepted as drafted. Motion by Ophardt, 2nd by George. Voice vote to accept.

2. Old Business

a. NYSDOT's Safety Improvement Projects for NY 146 and US 9

- On schedule with a June 2026 anticipated completion date. Total cost of \$9.1M. Night work has begun, starting at 8 PM daily with the work moving in a westerly direction.

b. NYSDOT Referrals

● Traffic Studies and Other Requests

1. Pierce Rd. & Usher Road Intersection - Nothing further re: review of this intersection.
2. Jonesville Fire Station signal removal - Submitted in July request to remove the fire signal.
3. Shen Campus entrance on NY 146 – July request to repair the EB microwave detector.
4. NY 146 & Bruno Road – Signal Study should be complete this summer.
5. NTOR Sign at Exit 8 Southbound Off-Ramp - Provide a supplementary sign off the shoulder.

c. Okte School Speed Limit Beacons

● Three issues remain with these flashing school beacons:

1. Beacons flash until 8 PM instead of 6 PM
2. Lower westbound beacon is non-operative
3. Vegetation is about to overtake the lower westbound beacon – Needs trimming

d. CRTIC Updates [Vision Zero Safety Action Plan](#) & “In Motion Plan Vision Statement, Goals, and Objectives”.

- The former is nearing completion and outlines transportation needs for the next 25 years
- The latter is still under review re: public comment

- e. Speed Limit Request to reduce the speed limit on Clifton Park Center Road near South Shen Campus entrance.
 - Nothing for now. Next month, we expect to review collected speed data and Woodin's analysis of existing school zone signing.
- f. Driveway striping at Community Care Physicians & Clifton Park Center Mall.
 - Scavo reached out to Columbia Development to make them aware of the situation. However, no work done yet. As for the mall, patchwork of the potholes in the mall is underway.
- g. Guiderail leaning on Bruno Road
 - Bull was absent, so he could not report on the issue, but Tom Werner provided some photos showing the guiderails in their current state of disrepair. It had been referred to the Highway Department after the June meeting.
- h. Establishing an Advisory Speed for curve on Thunderbird Drive.
 - The Town Board passed a resolution on July 21st for the STOP sign. No information yet as to the status of ball banking the curve before establishing an advisory speed.
- i. Seniors Transportation Advisory Committee
 - O'Connell reported that census data is showing a growing percentage of elderly residents (20.7%) in Saratoga County. By 2030, Malta will be 27% 65 years or older. Clifton Park (20%) and Halfmoon (19%). Care Links data in '23/'24 showed 400 requests for rides went unfulfilled due to a shortage of volunteer drivers. Enhanced coordination of various senior transportation providers is being explored including use of a Mobility Manager as well as use a software package for scheduling, routing, dispatching, etc. The Senior Transportation Committee will be hosting a demonstration of TranWare. The Committee has also made a recommendation to Phil Barrett to explore the need for a mobility manager. Such a position is eligible for 80% Federal Reimbursement.
- j. Plank Road at Kinns Road - Shoulder used for right turns
 - Werner asked about this intersection again and was told that it will be replaced by a roundabout in the future. In the interim, there is a need to look at possible signing alternatives.
- k. CRTC Capital Region Transportation Council (CRTC) offered to provide several transportation planning and data collection services at no cost to communities and regional partners.
 - The services include:
 1. Data Collection Services: On Demand Trail Counts & On Demand Traffic Counts – Town will request trail counts for VanPatten Drive.
 2. Technical Assistance: Congested corridor field visits to review traffic operations, data analysis and mapping, recreational trail planning, neighborhood planning, public involvement support, etc.
- l. Boyack Road – Jonathan Drive Intersection Sight Distance Issue
 - Scavo reported that several vehicles have been spotted parked at night, but not in the day. The State Police had an unregistered vehicle removed. Security will continue to monitor and see if vehicles continue to park there at night. Scavo suggested that the problem will likely continue unless a recommendation is made to restrict parking for several hundred feet north of Jonathan Drive. The overgrown bush has been cut back somewhat, but it might need further trimming.

3. New Business

- a. CP & HM Planning Board Actions
 - The following are before the Halfmoon Planning Board:
 1. Exit 8 Golf Center Expansion
 2. Mixed Use project on Route US 9 southwest of Walmart
 3. Route 146 Marketplace development is moving forward since there is a new developer.
 - The following are before the Clifton Park Planning Board:
 1. 24 Roberts Lane has recently received their CO
 2. Exit 10 Business Park under review by NYSDOT
- b. Van Patten Drive – Review of existing speed conditions for recommendations to the Town Board for safety improvements and measures if warranted.
 - Speed trailers and speed counts will provide the necessary information to evaluate. Issues include:
 1. Speed Reduction. Stop signs are not recommended for speed control.
 2. Crosswalks at Greensboro and LaCosta and Van Patten Drive Intersections
 3. RRFB's at each Crosswalk (possible solution)
- c. Traffic Analysis Summary for 287 Ushers Road Business Park
 - Traffic generated by these types of warehouses usually do not generate as much traffic as anticipated. This was the site of the old Wright Tool Company. The warehouses will be servicing more drive-in smaller trucks rather than larger tractor trailers. Karoly noted that the parking lot probably has more parking than necessary. Usher Road is a State highway (a 900 reference route) and NYSDOT is reviewing the study and will determine what traffic improvements to Usher Road will be needed.
- d. Tanner Road - "Right to Farm" supplemental panel on a Cattle Warning sign. Is this ever allowed?
 - Woodin stated that the Right to Farm sign is a non-traffic control device and falls into a category of miscellaneous non-traffic signs that are allowed on highways, but must not be combined with a regulatory, warning or guide sign on the same sign assembly. The sign can remain, but it needs to be relocated to a separate sign post and the sign should not obstruct any legitimate traffic control sign.
- e. Possible removal of the ALL WAY supplemental panel from the Stop Ahead warning signs at the intersection of Main Street and Long Kill Road in Jonesville.
 - A Regulatory sign (ALL WAY) cannot be combined with a warning sign (STOP AHEAD). The ALL WAY panels are already present at the STOP signs. The motorist does not need to be forewarn of how many legs of the intersection are required to stop until at the intersection. The Highway Department will be requested to remove the ALL WAY panels from the warning signs.
- f. Clearing/trimming vegetation to address serious sight distance restrictions
 - Discussed the need for the following locations:
 1. Wall Street entrance to rear alley of Hannaford Store. Problem resolved around August 1st.
 2. Phragmites along ROW on North side of Kinns Road / Plank Road intersection. WB Kinns motorists approaching to make left turn to SB Plank have restricted view of on-coming EB Kinns vehicles. County trims annually, but they are limited as to intruding into wetlands.

3. Shrubs and plantings in median of Clifton Country Road partially screen visibility for SB motorists making left turn into mall entrance near Regal Cinema. Referred to Highway Department.
 4. Tony George added the intersection at the corner near 35 Greensboro to the list to be reviewed by the Highway Department.
- f. Status of Synergy Tech Park project to address EB Kinns Road approach to US 9
- This is a State & County issue, not the Town. The right turn lane is expected to be constructed next Spring. Perhaps this can be studied as part of the Kinns Road Corridor Study. The Kick-off meeting for the study was held earlier in the day with Creighton Manning the consultant. Tom Werner is the stakeholder representative for Halfmoon. There has been significant increase in traffic and trucks in this corridor. One potential issue is that the current open drainage swales will hamper widening and the inclusion of bike lanes.
- g. Preliminary Engineering for the Sitterly Road project (PIN 1763.21).
- Federal authorization to proceed with phases 1 – 4 of design was granted. There still are no funds for final design or construction. Looking at an October 2026 (earliest) start – most likely 2027. The project cost is \$4.3 M.
- h. Bass Pro Opening Date
- Opening Date is set for July 30. There will be a lot of off-duty police officers from all over the Capital District hired to assist in the control of traffic for that day. There was discussion about the non-conforming signs and markings used in designating accessible parking for the handicapped. The signs include the Bass Pro Logo and the markings do not coincide with MUTCD approved markings.
- i. Southbury Road Traffic Counts
- The counts will be available for the August meeting.
- j. Other Issues
- The Scavo explained how the Town Website has a link to sign up for advisory notices. This allows the public to choose subjects that they would like to be notified about when new information is posted on the Town website.

Adjournment at 7:43 PM

Next Meeting – August 28, 2025 @ 6:00 PM