



Town of Bethlehem Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

TO: John Clarkson, Supervisor
Town Board Members

FROM: Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

RE: **Delaware Avenue Complete Streets Feasibility Study Draft Report**

DATE: December 5, 2017

The Town of Bethlehem Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (Committee) has been actively involved with the study since prior to the grant application being submitted, and is pleased to support the full road diet option as outlined in the Delaware Avenue Complete Streets Feasibility Study Draft Report. The project will implement elements of the Town's Complete Streets Policy, adopted by the Town Board in August 2009, such as encouraging NYSDOT to consider a Complete Streets approach when constructing or reconstructing their respective roadways and incorporating all transportation modes in the design of streets and highways, which will increase the capacity and efficiency of the road network and reduce traffic congestion by improving mobility options. The project will implement elements of the Town's Comprehensive Plan such as improving walkability within the Hamlets and encourage traffic calming measures along roadways that traverse through Hamlets. The project will also implement elements of the Town's Sustainable Bethlehem Program by addressing bicycle mobility on Delaware Avenue through the use of shared lane markings and bicycle signage.

Delaware Avenue (NYS Route 443) serves as a main commercial corridor and commuter route for the Town and experiences increased traffic volumes and congestion during AM/PM peak hours. As noted in Chapter 2 of the report this section of Delaware Avenue experiences higher than average crash rates as compared to similar roadways. Implementation of the full road diet option would allow the installation of a dedicated center turn lane, which would improve the safety of vehicles exiting side streets and businesses and vehicles exiting Delaware Avenue. Additionally, implementation of the full road diet option would also allow the installation of marked crosswalks, raised pedestrian refuge islands and rectangular rapid flashing beacons. The Committee finds that by adding these traffic safety enhancements it will make this section of Delaware Avenue safer for vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Delaware Avenue is located on the Town of Bethlehem Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network. The Priority Network was developed by the Committee and serves as the vision for bicycle and pedestrian travel in Bethlehem. The Town Board adopted the Priority Network in November 2010 with the recognition that it could be used by the NYSDOT at the time design improvements are planned along State roadways within the Town. This section of Delaware Avenue is also listed on CDTC's Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network and is an important element in the regional bicycle network as it connects the Town of Bethlehem with destinations in the city of Albany. As mentioned on page 91 of the draft report if the Town Board supports the full road diet option the Board should adopt a Resolution in support of the project, which would then be sent to NYSDOT and signify the Town's interest in pursuing a road diet as part of DOT's pavement preservation project list.

The Committee thanks you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ken Kovalchik, AICP – Senior Planner for:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Members

Ann Mullaly	Henry Peyrebrune	Oliver Holmes	Paul Winkeller
Mark Wahl	Erin Svare	Steve LeBoyer	Scott Lewendon
Kristin Ackerman	Fred Schrock	Laura DiBetta	