

Town of Clifton Park Highway Safety Committee

Annual Report 2010

In 2010, the Town of Clifton Park Highway Safety Committee focused on three general areas of concern, pedestrian/bicycle safety, especially in the area of the high school, mall and the Commons, sign retroreflectivity and highway safety planning for the area of NY 146 and the Clifton Park Center. The committee also reviewed specific concerns that were raised by town citizens including speed control and sign placement on Clifton Park Center Road, Moe Road, Kinns Road and Boyack Road. The committee has established a web page that can be accessed from the town website at www.cliftonpark.org.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CROSSINGS

After significant research and observation, the committee recommended the addition of seven pedestrian crossing signs at intersections throughout the town. As the trail network expands within the town, the committee has encouraged town officials to consider additional signage and road striping to improve interactions between bicyclists, pedestrians and vehicle operators. The additional signs have been ordered by the Town Highway Superintendent and will be installed this spring.

The committee also met with NYSDOT and town officials concerning the lack of pedestrian and bicycle safety measures in the area of NY 146, particularly in the high density commercial areas just west of NY 146. It is likely that a state-town partnership will be necessary to further safety concerns in this area.

The committee also conducted a study of the potential pedestrian and bicycle safety issues in the area of the Clifton Park Commons. The committee remains concerned about the significant safety risks during peak hours when usage by vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists continues to increase. The committee provided potential solutions to some of the concerns. The solutions would require alteration of existing parking schemes, traffic flow, road striping and signage. The committee has recommended that the Town hire a private consultant to further the committee's research and design ideas.

SIGN RETROREFLECTIVITY

The committee crafted a 402 Highway Safety grant which was submitted to the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to address new federal highway sign requirements involving traffic sign retroreflectivity. The grant provided \$14,000 in federal funding to the Town to hire a consultant to design a sign database and computerize the traffic sign inventory in the Town. The database will be compatible with existing Town GIS capability. The Town is currently responsible for the maintenance of over 5000 traffic signs. The project was recently completed and the actual inventory and sign review should be completed in 2011.

LIAISON WITH NYSDOT

The committee has conducted an ongoing dialogue with NYSDOT officials on a wide array of highway safety issues involving NY 146, especially in the areas of Clifton Park Center, Shenendehowa campus, the Rexford Bridge area and NY 146 in the area of Glenridge Road. The committee continues to discuss emerging issues along this critical corridor with DOT officials. The committee remains concerned about the increasing traffic flow, lack of road capacity, pavement quality and the spillage of commuter traffic on to secondary roads such as Boyack and Kinns Road.

SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONCERN REVIEWED in 2010

- Boyack Road stop sign placement and high speeds during peak hours
- Clifton Park Center Road speeding in vicinity of church and new development entrance
- Pedestrian crosswalks and sign deployment at 8 additional intersections in the Town of Clifton Park
- Clifton Park Commons traffic flow and pedestrian concerns
- No Right Turn Signs at intersection of Clifton Park Center and Moe Roads
- Pedestrian and pavement issues on NY146 between Clifton Pak Center and Moe Rd
- Kinns Road, Twilight Drive, Pierce Road intersection increased speed and limited visibility
- Moe Road and Wilshire Drive pedestrian crossing
- Creation of school 30 MPH speed zone on Clifton Park Center Road