

Notes from FH Infrastructure Planning Steering Committee

Meeting #3 - May 30, 2025

NEXT Meeting: Sept 11 @ 1 pm at Town Hall

ATTENDING (12):

- Cornell University: Susan Riley, Leslie Schill
- FHIA: Robin Blakely-Armitage, Ari Lavine, Jennifer Loucks, Ruth Mahr, Charlie Trautmann (chair)
- Tompkins County: Fernando de Aragon
- Town of Ithaca: Rod Howe (co-chair), Dave O'Shea, CJ Randall, Joe Slater

CONSULTANT TO ASSIST WITH NEXT STEPS - SOW ELEMENTS:

Note: The Town has an RFQ for consultant almost complete and will send out for review by FHIA in the next few weeks

- ID of all key stakeholders – high level, outreach to them for input on traffic flows, utilities, etc.
- Community Engagement
- Priorities, costs, timeline, graphics and visualization support for future grant writing
- Strategic guidance on how to navigate various potential funding agencies
- Alternatives analysis: what-if analysis for street designs, etc.

FUNDING SOURCES:

Plan is to apply to Park Foundation for early July for Sustainable Ithaca funding in the \$160-200 K range

- **Proposal is due July 7 for this quarterly round**
- Note on CFA: Town has several other priority projects that have been in the works, so it can't include FH in the CFA application this year
- Town would be applicant (Sustainable Ithaca fund) – supports smart growth

- Park is easier to apply for than NYS CFA process, and also easier to carry out
- *Need letters of support- CJ will send Trautmann a template*
- County highway department for other letter of support (need to get this going while Jeff Smith is still there)
- Multimodal transportation will be a focus – FH has diverse travelers (bikes, walkers, cars)
- Fernando suggested that we could peel off stakeholder engagement piece if we didn't get all funds
 - Community could do this itself (and has been)
 - CJ sees this as a key piece – because there are so many stakeholders
- *Charlie asked for Town to let him know what additional info or support FHIA can offer to support the grant writing process*

MISC UPDATES

- *FHIA thanks Town for 25 mph signage everywhere (some newly installed)*
- *Street repairs to be carried out this summer*
 - July 14 milling of JFR, FHD
 - July 21 paving (weather dependent)
 - Scope increased to include 3"-high speed tables, as designed by McFarland-Johnson Engineers (2010)
 - These were built more like speed bumps during the construction that followed
 - CT asked about making these speed tables as recommended in the 2007 Traffic Calming Plan (4-6" high)
 - Leslie noted that fire dept. doesn't like them
 - Joe noted that the Town can't change the design (or add new mid-block humps) without a proper engineering study
 - Joe would also like to look at the condition of FHD between Judd Falls Rd and McIntyre, specifically the retaining structures and roadway conditions
- Will try to include YIELD signs on lower bridge if possible

- Crosswalk at foot of Warren Rd Hill
 - It's a County road and hard to get info from them at the moment, with Jeff Smith retiring soon

BRIDGE INFORMATION

- County owns bridges that are 20+ feet long
- Town maintains wearing course, pedestrian crossings, aesthetics
- Fernando – should have county involved about preservation of trusses
 - Funding from historic standpoint
- TAP transportation alternatives program
 - Lower bridge was done with this funding, before Bridges NY
 - County would apply for TAP (probably)
 - Will depend on the new Highway superintendent and new priorities
 - Gas line crossing at lower bridge – need to check with NYSEG on this

SIDE PATHS

- Charlie noted that 4 feet paths are possible now, without land ownership changes or issues
- Providing a separating buffer strip between streets and side paths in some areas would require moving either the roadway or side path or both.
- Leslie noted we will likely need 5 feet to get state funding and would need to meet DOT standards

Submitted 6-6-2026
C. Trautmann