

January 2023

Town of West Seneca Environmental Commission
1250 Union Road
West Seneca, NY 14224
Attention: Cynn timer Gaasch, Chair

Re: Bikeability of West Seneca

Ms. Gaasch,

I am Chris Holmes, founder of West Seneca Bikes, and active community member advocating for a more bikeable West Seneca. I attended a meeting on November 1, 2022 with Justin Booth and Kevin Heffernan, both of GoBike Buffalo and Danielle Bagley and Tracy Skalski of the West Seneca Environmental Commission (WSEC), and we discussed the bikeability of West Seneca, potential funding opportunities available, and the recent paving of Center Road.

A few takeaways from that meeting that should be addressed by the WSEC and the Town government:

It is best practices for a Town to assess the status of the comprehensive plan after 5 years in order to determine if goals have been met and to make adjustments to meet new realities with metrics for evaluating progress in achieving desired outcomes. The West Seneca website shows that the last comprehensive plan was last updated in 2016. West Seneca Bikes would like to see any assessments of the 2016 Plan if they have been completed, especially as they pertain to Transportation.

The 2016 plan also indicates a priority policy area to *Develop a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan*. West Seneca Bikes would like to support this effort, and see it acted on in the coming year. We believe this should be a priority for the Town and the Environmental Commission.

There are multiple funding opportunities available for the town to utilize. Monies have been allocated through Assemblyman Pat Burke's office to assist in creation of an Active Mobility Plan. This funding would allow information to be collected from town to create an active plan around walking, biking and access to transit. **The West Seneca Environmental Commission and Town Officials should follow up with Pat Burke's office regarding this funding.**

Additionally, the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) has funding available to assist municipalities with design of corridors as long as the roadway is on their regional [Bike Master Plan](#). There are many roadways in West Seneca that are identified as 'priority corridors' for bicycling, including Center Road. This pool of funding will allow GoBike Buffalo to consult West Seneca on the different options around bikeability on those identified corridors. **The West Seneca Environmental Commission and Town Officials should follow up with GBNRTC regarding this funding.**

Center Road is identified on the bike master plan as a priority corridor and the recent re-pavement should have included bike lanes. A few questions arose during our meeting:

- Why didn't this project follow the bike master plan?
- Was there funding to include bike lanes on this project?
- There are signs that label Center Road as a 'bike route'. If it is a route, why not add the reflective stripe to create awareness for vehicles?

Bike lanes and education will help create a safer and more active place for West Seneca residents and are proven to enhance economic development. Please consider the above recommendations and I look forward to your answers to my questions.

Respectfully,

Chris Holmes, West Seneca Bikes