

**Brighton-Pittsford Post** – “From the Supervisor” column – December 31, 2015 issue  
**Submitted by Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith**

### **Town/Village Active Transportation Plan**

Village Mayor Bob Corby and I were greatly encouraged by the turnout of more than 40 Pittsford residents on December 10 to the first community meeting for our Active Transportation Plan. This is a collaboration between the Village and Town governments to improve walkability and bike access in Pittsford and to improve safety for both. The Genesee Transportation Council is funding the project.

Work on the Active Transportation Plan is proceeding in parallel with our current undertaking to update the Town’s Comprehensive Plan. The timing is good, because the two plans complement one another. If we’re going to maintain the quality of life we enjoy in Pittsford, we need to improve opportunities for human-powered – not just motorized – transportation. In planning for roads and streets we need to consider not just what’s necessary for cars, but what’s necessary and desirable for pedestrians and cyclists, too.

We begin from a position of strength. Pittsford has a good network of options for walking and biking, both for commuting and recreation. Even the clustering of residential density in the Town lends itself to creating a more complete pedestrian network that can help to tie every neighborhood into the core of the community. So we don’t need to start from scratch. Among our goals are to bridge gaps in the existing system, to identify opportunities for improvements and to fix problematic areas that impede pedestrian and biking activity.

The factors we’re looking at, in both the Active Transportation and Comprehensive Plans, are things that together will determine what the future will be like in our community: its economy, its quality of life, maintaining and increasing real estate values by assuring that we continue to be a place where people want to live.

It’s easy to take for granted all of the community amenities and infrastructure that contribute to the fine quality of life in Pittsford. It’s important to remember that these things didn’t come about by accident. They are the result of initiatives in the past, similar to what we’re doing right now, that have planned and built the community we have today.

Planning like this is fiscally prudent as well. Increasingly, the best and sometimes the only way to leverage grants for improvements is to have in place a pre-existing community-adopted strategic plan that focuses on the larger goals that we seek to achieve.

As part of the current effort, on December 12 the citizen committees for the Comprehensive Plan and the Active Transportation Plan got together for a bus tour around Pittsford. It gave us a close look at examples of design and infrastructure that contribute to quality of life. It also provided some lessons in what to avoid.

There will be additional public meetings for the Comprehensive Plan and the Active Transportation Plan. Your advice and ideas are central to both. I hope you will be able to attend. In the meantime, you may contact me any time – on this or any other issue – at [bsmith@townofpittsford.org](mailto:bsmith@townofpittsford.org) or by phone at 248-6220.

Since this is my last column for 2015, I’d like to wish a very happy New Year to you all!