



## TRANSIT NORTH FOCUS GROUP

Notes from April 27, 2015 Session  
Lockport Town Hall

Attendance – in addition to those listed on the attached sign-in sheet, the following attended the Focus Group session: Town of Lockport Supervisor Marc Smith, Rocco Surace from the Niagara USA Chamber and City of Lockport Mayor Anne McCaffrey.

Town of Lockport Supervisor Marc Smith welcomed all attendees and provided background information regarding Transit North. City of Lockport Mayor Anne McCaffrey noted that Transit North has been a very collaborative effort to date.

Town of Lockport Planning Board Chair Dick Forsey stated that the Town's use of the new **Design Guidelines** has been successful. Bill Stamp noted that the reduction of traffic to one-way on the section of State Road, from South Transit Street to W. High Street, has negatively impacted his property. Scott Shulock applauded the uniform look that South Transit Road is gaining; he stressed the need for Transit Road to have a **unique design**.

Marc Smith emphasized that a uniform community identity does not take a lot – but that the community needs to work together to accomplish it. Ron Mielke inquired regarding future plans for cross-road signage for Transit North, which Mr. Smith stated was not currently being anticipated.

Other suggestions for amenities along Transit Road included the following:

- **pedestrian lighting**, particularly along the section of Transit Road north of Robinson Road in the vicinity of the power transmission line right of way
- Increasing the amount of Transit Road frontage having **covered ditches** by 500' yearly
- Utilizing **billboard** space on Transit Road to announce/promote Transit North
- Encourage **business/NYS DOT collaboration** in improving ditch areas/cost share for excavation and pipe to upgrade ditches/drainage
- Lower the **speed limit** to 45 MPH the entire length of South Transit Road

Marc Smith pointed to the Town of Lockport's success in utilizing in-person contacts with **retailers and developers** through participation in ICSC (International Council of Shopping Centers) events and Constant Contact electronic newsletters. Mark Crocker

emphasized the need to keep local disposable incomes within Niagara County. Mr. Smith stated that the former Walmart building will likely be subdivided to accommodate more than one retailer.

Mayor Anne McCaffrey noted that Town of Clarence families have already accounted for more inbound and outbound vehicular traffic on Transit Road as a result of home hockey games for Clarence hockey teams at the new **Cornerstone Ice Arena**. She cited the City's cultural offerings complementing the Towns' retail offerings.

Town of Pendleton Planning Board member Joe Kania explained how the **Town of Pendleton** is becoming more business-friendly as well as encouraging multi-family housing. Rocco Surace inquired whether there are other examples of unique, successful communities that Transit North can pattern itself after; he noted the availability of locally grown produce and wineries as significant assets. Eric Tudor inquired whether there are properly zoned sites on Transit Road for a hotel.

County Legislator Rick Updegrove applauded the City of Lockport's provision of spaces for **artisan groups** to flourish, such as Market Street Art Gallery. He also complimented the City's Cornerstone Ice Arena as a stimulus for attracting outside money into Lockport.

Mayor McCaffrey pointed to **Harrison Place** as a positive economic asset, after having been an underperforming site for a number of years. Brian Smith stated that Harrison Place's Building 3 has been drawing a lot of interest lately.

Next Steps: Attendees expressed a desire for more frequent meetings, 2 or 3 times per year. Local officials agreed to review the comments submitted and to develop a list of Action Items and a related strategy.

Prepared by:  
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