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March 28, 2025: At the Village of North Syracuse's March 27 board meeting, SMTC staff presented the draft Grove, Maxwell, Van Mara Study. If you would like to provide additional comments (see links below), please direct them to malexander@smtcmpo.org by April 11. Public comments collected during the 3-27-25 meeting will be incorporated into the drafts once the meeting transcript notes are available from the Village.

Draft TM 1

Draft TM 2

March 28, 2025 by Dianne Kufel in Uncategorized

Agenda: Reg. Board Meeting, Thursday, March 27th, 2025 at 5:29 PM, North Syr. Comm. Ctr., 700 South Bay Rd., North Syracuse

Abstract #021 - General Fund 2025 Download

Board Meeting Info. 03-27-25 Download

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Roll Call

Public Hearing #1 at 5:29 PM: Please take Notice that a public hearing will be held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse on the 27th day of March, 2025 at 5:29 PM to consider the 2025 Funding Request for the Community Development Project in the Village of North Syracuse, and will hear all persons in support of such matters or any objections thereto.

4. Minute Approval - March 13th, 2025

← → ↺

northsyracuse.ny.org/2025/03/march-28-2025-at-the-village-of-north-syracuse-march-27-board-meeting-smtc-staff-presented-the-draft-grove-maxwell-van-mara-study-if-you-would-like-to-provide-additional-comments-see/

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DEPARTMENTS

MAYOR'S OFFICE

VILLAGE TRUSTEES

VILLAGE CLERK/TREASURER

D.P.W. DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS >

CODE ENFORCEMENT >

POLICE >

COURT OFFICE

PARKS & RECREATION >

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PUBLIC SAFETY MEETINGS

LOST DOG?

LICENSED ARBORISTS

March 28, 2025: At the Village of North Syracuse's March 27 board meeting, SMTC staff presented the draft Grove, Maxwell, Van Mara Study. If you would like to provide additional comments (see links below), please direct them to malexander@smtcmpo.org by April 11. Public comments collected during the 3-27-25 meeting will be incorporated into the drafts once the meeting transcript notes are available from the Village.

Home / Updates

Draft TM 1

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March 28, 2025 in Uncategorized

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**Village of North Syracuse**

Northsyracuseny.org

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**Photos** See all photos

Sign up for the Annual Village Wide Garage Sale May 16, 17 & 18, 2025

2nd Model FY 2025/2026

**Village of North Syracuse**

April 8 at 4:24 PM

Just a reminder:

The Village has secured a grant for \$1.5 M to replace/add existing sidewalks on Maxwell Ave. (one side), Gertrude St. (one side), Grove St.(one side/partial), Van Mara Dr. (one side), Church St. (one side/partial), Parkway Dr. (one side/partial), Shaver Ave. (one side/partial), Wells Ave. (to be determined)

**TAP Enhancements**

Village of North Syracuse, NY

Google Earth

35 5 comments 5 shares

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Dkufel@northsyracuseny.org

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Sign up for the Annual Village Wide Garage Sale May 16, 17 & 18, 2025

2nd Model FY 2025/2026

**Village of North Syracuse was live.**

March 27 at 5:31 PM

Village Board Meeting 3/27/25

12 6 comments 1 share

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**Chris DeSimone**

I have 25 years in the DPW. maintaining the streets, plowing, sweeping, picking up brush ect. I have some serious safety concerns with this S-

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### Village of North Syracuse's Post

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**Chris DeSimone**  
I have 25 years in the DPW. maintaining the streets, plowing, sweeping, picking up brush ect. I have some serious safety concerns with this S-Bay Rd crosswalk project and turning multiple streets one way. Traffic is already bad enough trying to get turned around with a snowplow or getting through intersections for anyone, let alone in a commercial vehicle. This change will make it very difficult to maintain the streets for the residents of the village. Please take this into consideration

2w Like Reply 3

**Dan Kirkpatrick**  
Are these graphics available online somewhere that we can see with better quality?  
I'm also concerned about village tax possible increase of what% ? It increased over 11% last year alone!

2w Like Reply

**Village of North Syracuse**  
Dan Kirkpatrick yes I have posted on the website - and on the Village Facebook page ...

2w Like Reply

**Erie Dearie**

Comment as Mike Alexander

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**Dan Kirkpatrick**  
Are these graphics available online somewhere that we can see with better quality?  
I'm also concerned about village tax possible increase of what% ? It increased over 11% last year alone!

2w Like Reply

**Village of North Syracuse**  
Dan Kirkpatrick yes I have posted on the website - and on the Village Facebook page ...

2w Like Reply

**Erie Dearie**  
We can't hear you ...

2w Like Reply

**Stephanie Mills**  
As a resident on Watson, this will make it incredibly hard to get home. You're asking those of us who use North-bound south bay Rd to use route 11- which is already a nightmare and will only get worse with warmer weather approaching.

2w Like Reply Edited

**Erie Dearie**  
Tractor trailer need to stop cutting through these above side streets as well too .

2w Like Reply 2

Comment as Mike Alexander

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**Village of North Syracuse**  
Municipal Government

Page · Government organization

600 South Bay Rd

(315) 458-0900

Dkufel@northsyracuseny.org

Northsyracuseny.org

Not yet rated (1 Review)

**Photos** See all photos

Sign up for the Annual Village Wide Garage Sale  
May 16, 17 & 18, 2025

2nd Model  
FY 2025/2026

March 28, 2025 at 4:48 PM ·

March 28, 2025: At the Village of North Syracuse's March 27 board meeting, SMTC staff presented the draft Grove, Maxwell, Van Mara Study. If you would like to provide additional comments (see links below), please direct them to malexander@smtcmpo.org by April 11. Public comments collected during the 3-27-25 meeting will be incorporated into the drafts once the meeting transcript notes are available from the Village.

Please check out the Village of North Syracuse website as this is posted there as well.  
[www.northsyracuseny.org](http://www.northsyracuseny.org)

Draft TM 1

Draft TM 2

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**Village of North Syracuse**

600 South Bay Rd

(315) 458-0900

Dkufel@northsyracuseny.org

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**Photos** See all photos

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Village Board Meeting 3/27/25

12

6 comments 1 share

Like

Comment

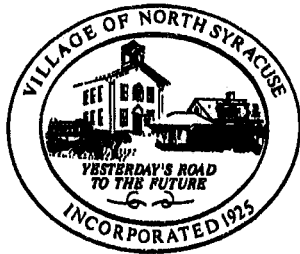
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Maureen Gillen Butterfield  
Chris DeSimone  
Albert Johnson  
Cole Parzych  
Jennifer Nash Sanfilippo

25 years in the DPW, maintaining the streets, plowing, sweeping, brush ect. I have some serious safety concerns with this S- crosswalk project and turning multiple streets one way. Traffic is bad enough trying to get tur...

See more





## **VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE**

### ***Regular Board Meeting***

Thursday, March 27th, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

**North Syracuse Community Center**

600 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY

***Facebook Livestreamed***

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 5:29 P.M. with Mayor Butterfield asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Mayor Butterfield, Deputy Mayor Gustafson, Trustee Bolton, Trustee St. Germain and Trustee Strong.

**Personnel Present:** Clerk/Treasurer D. Kufel, DPW Supt. E. Ware, Police Chief Fieldson, Parks Director T. Burkinshaw, Codes Officer L. Nestell, Engineer A. Franco.

**Personnel Absent:** Atty. R. Germain (Excused), Fire Chief Brennan

The Mayor stated please take notice that Public Hearing #1 held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025 at 5:29 PM to consider the adoption of the **2025 funding request** for the Community Development Project in the Village of North Syracuse. The Village Board will hear all persons in support of such matters, or objections thereto. The Mayor stated the Board has been given the application template, and the 5 year plan has been distributed. This plan encompasses improvements made to the Old School House area at Toll Road Park. The Village would like to install new sidewalks and other improvements to that area. The Mayor requested anyone to speak for or against this project. Village Engineer A. Franco clarified that the project is for calendar year 2026. The Mayor clarified that the Village receives \$50,000.00 each year for Community Development projects. The Mayor stated we already have monies for this years Toll Road project. The Mayor stated there are other projects that the monies could be utilized for, including the ongoing sidewalk project in the Village. Dep. Mayor Gustafson gave some suggestions for building structure improvements, Engineer Franco stated typically those projects are not funding by these grants. Trustee Strong stated improvements to Kennedy pool area also do not qualify. Trustee Strong also stated that these grants require the Village to match 25%. The funding is not 100% free for a project, the Village is still obligated to pay in-kind of approximately \$12,500.00 for the Village. The Mayor asked for anyone else who would like to speak regarding this project. The Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

### **RESOLUTION #055-25**

### **APPROVAL OF REG. BD. MTG. – MARCH 13, 2025**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the March 13, 2025 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: Trustee St. Germain, Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee Bolton and Trustee Strong all voting in favor of the same.

### **RESOLUTION #056-25**

### **GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Trustee Bolton made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #21 in the amount of \$77,955.43, covering voucher #1313 thru #1382. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Bolton and Trustee Strong, all voting in favor of the same.



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**RESOLUTION #057-25**

**BUDGET TRANSFER (S)**

Trustee Strong made a motion to transfer monies in the amount of \$128.74 from A1990.4-Contingency to A3120.479-2023 Safety Day Walmart. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain Trustee Bolton, and Trustee Strong all voting in favor of the same.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING**

The Mayor asked if there were any thoughts on the previously discussed project. No one voiced any further questions or concerns regarding this project.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION #058-25**

**2024 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to extend the pre bid and bid opening meetings for the 2024 Community Development project-Toll Road Improvements from 4/2/2025 and 4/17/2025 respectively, to 4/17 2025 (pre-bid meeting and 5/1/2025 (bid opening). The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain Trustee Bolton, and Trustee Strong all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION #059-25**

**WILLIAMSON PAYROLL MAINT. SVCS. CONTRACT**

Trustee Strong made a motion to approve the Annual Software Support Contract for Williamson Payroll from 4/1/2025 – 5/31/2026. The contract price is \$1104.00 which is an increased of 5% over last year. The contract covers services from 4/1/2025 – 5/31/2026. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain Trustee Bolton, and Trustee Strong all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION #060-25**

**WILLIAMSON PAYROLL ACCOUNTING MAINT. SVCS. CONTRACT**

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve the Annual Software Support Contract for Williamson Payroll from 4/1 2025 – 5/31/2026. The contract price is \$1405.00 which is an increase of 5% over last year. The contract covers services from 4/1/2025 – 5/31/2026. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain Trustee Bolton, and Trustee Strong all voting in favor of the same.



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**RESOLUTION #061-25**

**FURNACE REPLACEMENT AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER**

Trustee Strong made a motion to open dialogue regarding authorizing the Furnace replacement at the Community Center. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson for the purpose of discussion. The Mayor stated that NYS has issued some new regulations stating the Contractors have to be licensed in the State of New York. The Mayor stated four bids were entered, and Chiodo Heating and Air Conditioning was the lowest bidder. The Mayor stated there are two furnaces at the Community Center that are beyond their life cycle. Trustee Strong asked for clarification on the NYS guidelines. Clarification was given by Clerk/Treasurer D. Kufel, and Mayor Butterfield. Trustee Bolton requested clarification regarding the price of the furnace being higher than discussed at a previous Board Meeting. Parks Dir. Burkinshaw stated the previous price was an estimate, and there are NYSEDA incentives available to lower the price that he was considering. Mayor Butterfield stated those incentives expire March 31<sup>st</sup>, so approval tonight would allow the Village to apply for the incentives before they expire. Trustee Bolton questioned two of the bids. Trustee Bolton stated Hometown Heating, with the \$1000.00 NYSEDA rebate, includes a longer warranty on parts and labor. Trustee Strong, and Trustee St. Germain concurred regarding the longer warranties being a better option for the Village, with clarification on what the warranty covers. Much discussion ensued regarding the two year vs. one year warranty, who applies for the rebate, how the bid specs were presented, and the Village obligation to accept the lowest bid. Dep. Mayor Gustafson made the motion to accept Chiodo Heating and Air Conditioning bid for replacement of the furnaces at the Community Center. Trustee Bolton and Trustee Strong voted nay. Trustee St. Germain voted to accept the bid from Chiodo Heating and Air Conditioning. Mayor Butterfield voted in favor of authorizing Chiodo Heating and Air Conditioning to replace the furnaces at the Community Center. The motion was approved.

**PUBLIC HEARING #2 SMTC STUDY**

The Mayor stated please take notice that Public Hearing #2 held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025. The Mayor stated that a presentation of an SMTC (Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Counsel) Study regarding the intersection of South Bay Rd., Grove St., Van Mara Dr., Maxwell Ave. & Watson Rd., and the conceptual plan is to be discussed. The Public is encouraged to participate in this hearing with thoughts and ideas. The Mayor turned the meeting over to Mike Alexander, Senior Transportation Planner for SMTC.

Mike Alexander stated that this hearing is to propose ideas regarding changes being made to the intersection, any input by the public is welcomed. He stressed that any elements being shown tonight regarding the project, may or may not be implemented. He stated the Village contacted them requesting a study of this intersection to mitigate the traffic. He asked the public to recognize that there are pros and cons to a project such as this. He believes they have come up with some ideas to help with mitigation for safety reasons of this area. He stated that two draft reports will be posted on line tomorrow. The public is encouraged to give comments,



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sheets are provided. Transcripts of the public thoughts, ideas and concerns will be shared with them. He presented slides detailing the map of the area, and identified various home-owners of the intersection. Slides also identified the policy committee, and details of what the study is about. He stated that input through meetings was given by Village officials - Fire Chief and Police Chief as well as local officials. He identified the problematic issues with the intersections, which demonstrates the purpose of the study. He further discussed the particulars of each study they performed. A concern was raised by resident regarding access to Watson from Maxwell. Mike stated it would be a "right-in" "right-out" access. The resident had further concerns regarding tractor trailers accessing those streets. Mike stated the limited access those trucks would have to turn left, and showed a diagram depicting raised curbs to prevent prohibited turns. Mike identified specific areas of placement of "speed cushions", a very gradual grade up/down. He stated these cushions were strategically placed in areas that would be beneficial, but would not interfere with any existing driveways. A DPW worker asked if the placement of these cushions would interfere with DPW trucks, emergency vehicles, etc. Mike referred to a study done by the City of Syracuse along with their DPW. They designed three types. They utilize them in specific areas. If anyone is interested in more information, they can find it on the SMTC website. Mike also stated that these cushions are placed in areas close in proximity to street lights.

Mike also identified on the map the sidewalk areas. He further discussed information pertaining to the sidewalks. A resident asked about installing a sidewalk on Malta. She stated that children, people walking animals, bikers utilize that street, with no sidewalks. Mike stated he would like at that area and try to come up with a recommendation.

A resident asked if the property owners would be responsible for maintenance and upgrades to the sidewalks on their property as the "City of Syracuse" requires. The Mayor stated the Village of N. Syracuse is one of the few municipalities that takes care of the sidewalks. An Engineer from CHA (Luke Morenus) identified that they are currently working on a sidewalk project. DPW Sup't Ware also stated that the state came in and repaired the sidewalks, making them ADA compliant. The DPW is tasked with any repairs the sidewalks may need utilizing resident tax dollars, and that the Board would have to vote on changing that.

Discussion continued regarding sidewalks in the Village. A resident asked how they obtain the information regarding what areas have been targeted to have sidewalks installed. Police Chief Fieldson stated that they have noticed an increase in foot traffic along Watson Ave. and that area should be considered for sidewalks. Trustee Strong stated that letters went out to all the residents effected, however Watson was not identified on that notification list. Further discussion continued regarding Watson Ave with one resident stating that because the road is a long stretch, speed is also an issue.

The resident at 148 Grove St. stated at least 3-4 times per year, a vehicle winds up in his front yard because they are going too fast, and are not able to make the turn. His concern is that if the road is made a one-way street, how will vehicles make a turnaround? Another resident stated that's an issue on Van Mara as well. Mike stated he will make note of that as well, as these are all valid concerns. Mike also stated they will be looking at whether or not there is enough space to turn around in these areas. Discussion continued regarding thru traffic on these neighborhood streets. Mike stated that after enough drivers realize that some of these streets enable right turns only, theoretically that should cut down on through traffic. DPW worker C. Desimone emphasized difficulty around plowing roads on streets such as S. Bay, then right turn only onto Grove St. He identified that drivers oftentimes do not obey the traffic signs, and then it becomes an enforcement issue. Mike stated that the design of one-way streets, movement of traffic going one way in and one way out will reduce the traffic considerably on these streets. This in turn will make the streets safer for the community.





Village of North Syracuse  
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Mike stated there are a lot of components that go into the design phase of these type of projects. He stated that if signs were just placed in areas, as in the past, it does not work. He stated, from a design component, they have learned that redesigning a road, and making it hard for drivers to disobey traffic patterns is more advantageous for the safety of the community.

A resident who is one street over from the highway stated they are already dealing with the increased traffic from the construction happening now. She stated there is already

an increase in tractor trailers, cars, pedestrians etc. She stated that it is already almost impossible to make a left turn onto Route 11 in that area.

Trustee Strong asked Mike if he had received a list of concerns from the Deputy Chief of the Fire Dept. that was supposed to be forwarded based on some concerns from the Stake Holder meeting he attended. Mike stated he has not received them, and will follow up.

Discussion continued with multiple residents speaking out regarding the multitude of changes affecting streets not identified in the project as well. Many residents voiced concerns regarding the traffic patterns now, and the effects of the changes. Too many residents talked together to identify. Mike stated that many of these concerns would be better to address at the tables after the meeting. The Mayor interjected to advise the meeting participants to allow Mike to finish his presentation. The Mayor stated to keep in mind that these are ideas presented by SMTCC. The Mayor further stated that we are all aware that these areas identified have been a problem for a long time, that needs to be addressed. The Mayor thanked all of the community members for attending the meeting, and voicing concerns and ideas. The Mayor stated that after the meeting there will be ample time given to further voice concerns and ideas.

Mike showed a map outlining the proposed changes from South Bay reiterating that some of the roads are County/Village. He stated that Van Mara access from S. Bay would be "right turn only". There will not be an ability to go onto Maxwell from S. Bay. He also stressed there is no cut across ability either. Further, Maxwell Ave. will have a right-out ability only onto S. Bay Rd. He also stated that the Fire Dept. voiced concerns regarding access to these roads such as Van Mara in an emergency. Mike stated the curbs allow the trucks the ability to drive over them in an emergency, he identified them as both direction access clearance. Mike stated the concerns have been documented as well. Mike identified on the map the sidewalks are in white. Mike also identified the green lines as an 8 ft. shared use pathway. Mike also stated the map shows an 8 ft. wide shoulder on S. Bay Rd. A resident on Van Mara stated the map shows the shared use pathway is in the middle of her front yard. The resident further identified what appears to be a dead-end path on that end of Van Mara Dr. Mike stated that it is important to have these conversations regarding these issues for exploration of all options. Mike also identified the curbing along both sides of the intersection. He stated the reason for the curbing is to protect anyone accessing these crosswalks/sidewalks from cars that might go around a stopped vehicle.

Mike state the DOT has been involved in meeting with them regarding this project and the planning. The DOT also had concerns regarding these issues, that have been addressed through in-depth discussions.

Mike ended the presentation stating that it is important to be in discussions with everyone to identify and address concerns like: snow removal, emergency access, pedestrian yields, sign placement etc. Mike also identified the visual changes that are proposed for drivers going up/down S. Bay Road. These signs, curbs, flashing lights will allow them to identify the need to slow down a bit when accessing this area.



Village of North Syracuse  
Regular Board Meeting  
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Mike additionally identified the Maxwell/Gertrude access to Route 11. He stated it has been identified as needing "Safety Access improvements". They have proposed changing the directional parking from N/S to S/W and adding additional parking at the business on the corner. This would enable safer access points for these businesses as well. It would also enable safer access when the sidewalks are incorporated along Maxwell Ave. A resident also identified Nestico's, at Route 11 and Watson, parking lot as being an issue. She stated the first ten spots in that parking lot, as well as any trucks needing to back up from the parking lot, back out right onto Route 11. Mike stated he would make note of that concern, and look into that issue as well. Mike identified the VFW parking lot as having two driveways. He noted the green space addition to that area, and stated the proposal is to narrow down those driveways.

Mike further thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting. He reiterated that they would be at the tables, with the diagrams for any additional questions or concerns to be addressed after the meeting.

Final question from a resident stated he would like to know if the Police Chief has bought into enforcing the diligence of obeying these traffic changes. He, as well as other residents identified the disregard for prohibiting turns at Van Mara, and U-turns at Maxwell Ave., etc. The resident wondered aloud if the department has the manpower to enforce adherence. Another resident stated that she is a lifelong resident on Grove St, which is very busy; she stated that this project appears to be different as the Village is not just erecting signs to change the traffic enforcement. She stated there will also be barriers in place to prevent driving over them to ignore the implementation. Mike agreed and stated that the engineering improvements allows for behavioral changes to be made by the drivers. The Police Chief stated that he has been the Chief for two years, but has spent 10 years with the Department. Chief Fieldson further stated that every year there are multiple complaints specifically regarding the intersections of Van Mara and Grove St. Chief Fieldson stated that engineering changes to that area is a win/win. He stated they could sit at that area and write tickets all day long. Since it has been at least a decade long problem, making design changes to that area is something the departments are all backing. Another resident stated that she definitely sees the Police Dept. enforcement has increased, as she has a stop sign on her property, and she appreciates that. She stated she is excited about installing many of these curves as drivers will not be able to fly around them anymore. Mike as well as Trustee Strong stated the information would be available on SMTC website as well as the Village Website. The SMTC website allows for comments, sticky notes etc.

**CITIZENS VOICE:** The Mayor asked if any citizen would like to address the Board for any issues outside of the Public Hearing. No citizens came forward to address the Board.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:** The Mayor stated the Board would abstain from Department Head Reports for this Board Meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Butterfield stated the following:

The Mayor ended the public hearing, reinforcing the table set up for additional interaction regarding this proposed project. The Mayor stated the Board feels that it is very important that the Village do something to address these areas. The Mayor stated that they will look into including Watson in the proposal. The Mayor also stated the Village will look into any additional Grants that may be available to help with the costs. The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting.



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The Public Hearing officially adjourned at 7:00 P.M. The Village Board moved to a budget/work session discussion at 7:10 P.M. The Board collectively agreed on several changes that would create a Model 2, which would replace Model 1.

Trustee Bolton made the motion to adjourn at 9:30 P.M. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton, St. Germain and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel  
Village Clerk-Treasurer

**From:** Michael Alexander  
**To:** [REDACTED]; Gary Butterfield  
**Cc:** Dianne Kufel; Mario Colone  
**Subject:** RE: Follow up to Friday Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 2, 2025 11:57:27 AM

Hello Mayor and Deputy Fire Chief,

Thank you for sending these comments. We will include them in our report.

Please note that these are planning-level concepts that suggest technical feasibility. Many of the details mentioned below would be handled by engineers during the design stage, which this is not. Our drawings are not engineering plans. They are planning-level concepts. We also refer to the City's speed cushion project and reports that are available on the City's website.

<https://www.syr.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Speed-Hump-Pilot-Program>

As noted previously, CHA has modeling software that accounts for clearance needs for fire trucks and plows and can flesh out specific design parameters. To inform CHA on specific community apparatus specs and needs, our report will document the identified concerns and will note any quantifiable clearance needs as brought to our attention by police, fire, and DPW. This will help inform future engineering design plans (if there is a desire to advance the ideas presented at some point in the future).

I hope this is helpful.

-Mike

**From:** Gary Butterfield <[gbutterfield@northsyracusenyny.org](mailto:gbutterfield@northsyracusenyny.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 7:14 PM  
**To:** Michael Alexander <[malexander@smtcmpo.org](mailto:malexander@smtcmpo.org)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Follow up to Friday Meeting

**NOTE: This message came from outside of the organization. Use caution with all attachments and links in this message.**

FYI

The Mayor

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Gary Butterfield <[gbutterfield@northsyracusenyny.org](mailto:gbutterfield@northsyracusenyny.org)>  
**Date:** March 15, 2025 at 4:47:00 PM EDT  
**To:** Jozsef Asztalos <[jasztalos@northsyracusefire.com](mailto:jasztalos@northsyracusefire.com)>

**Subject: Re: Follow up to Friday Meeting**

Joe,

I will see what I can do. These are still a "work in progress ". After input from the public hearing they will finish their work. SMTC provides us the information. I found a "ramp" while driving in Eastwood. I will ask about mountable curbs.

Thanks,  
The Mayor

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 15, 2025, at 3:01 PM, Jozsef Asztalos

<[REDACTED]> wrote:

Mr. Mayor,

Thank you for including the Fire Department in the discussion about the change in traffic patterns in the area of South bay road/grove/watson etc. I apologize for my untimely entrance and exit ... duty called.

I just wanted to reiterate some of the key concerns/points that I initially brought up.

- Regardless of the direction of travel for normal traffic we need to ensure fire vehicles can access both ends of any street because in the event of a major emergency it is an eventuality that emergency vehicles will come in from both sides. This includes having to consider mutual aid departments that come from all surrounding sides of our fire protection district.
- The ladder truck is roughly 50 feet long with a 10 foot long tail swing so when placing anything above bumper height we have to consider if our vehicles will potentially swing out over the curb and hit it.
- We have to ensure the turns in and outs accommodate the the fire truck wheel bases. Too tight of hairpin like turns could be problematic.

I would like to request the following so I can consult with individuals who have a lot of wisdom when it comes to planning , tactics and our vehicles within the department.

- Can we please get electronic copies of the proposal drawings and maps that the engineers had at the meeting.
- Can we please get any information/details of the "mountable curbs" and "speed cushions" so we can do more research. It would be helpful to get locations where they were installed in the city so we could go drive them ourselves and look at them.

I would appreciate this info asap before the public hearing.

Thank you again,  
Joe

--

photo



**Jozsef Asztalos**

Deputy Chief, North Syracuse Fire Department

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [www.northsyracusefire.com](http://www.northsyracusefire.com)

[REDACTED]

109 Chestnut Street, North Syracuse, NY, 13212



**Michael Alexander**

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**From:** Christina Adams [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 7:58 PM  
**To:** Michael Alexander; mayor@northsyracuse.ny.org  
**Cc:** lstgermain@northsyracuse.ny.org; pgustafson@northsyracuse.ny.org;  
jbolton@northsyracuse.ny.org; cstrong@northsyracuse.ny.org  
**Subject:** Concerns Regarding Recent Traffic Update Proposals on Grove, Maxwell, Van Mara, Watson

**NOTE: This message came from outside of the organization. Use caution with all attachments and links in this message.**

Patrick Greenfield & Christina Adams  
[REDACTED]

North Syracuse, NY 13212  
[REDACTED]

April 10, 2025

Village of North Syracuse  
600 South Bay Road  
North Syracuse, NY 13212

**Subject: Concerns Regarding Recent Traffic Update Proposals on Grove, Maxwell, Van Mara, Watson**

Dear Village Officials,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the recent proposed changes to traffic flow on Grove, Maxwell, Van Mara and Watson in North Syracuse. As residents of 205 Sunnybrook Drive, we are particularly concerned that the notifications about this project were only sent to neighbors within 500 feet of the affected streets. The proposed changes will impact the entire neighborhood, and it is essential that all residents be informed, as these adjustments will affect our daily lives.

Additionally, we are worried about how the proposed changes will impact access to our neighborhood, especially for ourselves and our neighbors. The focus of the plan seems to be on just four streets, without considering the larger neighborhood. Specifically, for those of us who use northbound South Bay to enter the development, you are directing us toward Route 11. This road is already heavily congested, particularly during peak traffic hours in the morning and evening. Over the last five years, traffic on Route 11 has become unbearable. We generally try to avoid being on Route 11 as much as possible. *(Please note that the Traffic Volumes and Peak Hour Volume presented in Table 1 of Draft Memorandum #1 may not accurately reflect current traffic conditions. This is because some of the data was collected in 2015 and during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 and 2022, when travel patterns were significantly impacted by reduced travel. As a result, these figures may not provide a true representation of present-day traffic volumes.)*

Moreover, for those of us exiting the development northbound on South Bay to get basic necessities like groceries, meat, or hardware, the same issue arises. *(referenced in memorandum Draft #1 South Bay Road and Route 11 provide access to commercial areas that serve the greater region)* Route 11, particularly between Bear Road and Walmart, is already at a standstill at times, with wait times reaching up to 20 minutes. By directing more traffic to Route 11, you're effectively adding even more congestion, making the wait times and overall experience worse.

Furthermore, the plan overlooks the fact that essentially all of the streets in our neighborhood (Tuller, Sunnybrook, Highland, Boysen, Watson, Maxwell) are utilized as "cut-through" roads. *(referenced in memorandum #2 This technical memo (TM#2) documents planning-level options to eliminate cut-through traffic on Grove Street and Van Mara Drive and reduce the likelihood of cut-through traffic on Gertrude Street, Maxwell Avenue, and Watson Road.)* We have long struggled with excessive traffic, speeding, and even vehicles driving through our yards. If this plan moves forward, it will simply divert traffic to other roads in our neighborhood, exacerbating existing issues. A more effective solution might involve lowering the speed limit to 15 mph and installing speed humps/cushions throughout the entire neighborhood, which could help address the concerns of all residents.

We have lived in North Syracuse for over 23 years. Most of the residents on the corners of the roads in question are relatively new to the area. If they were concerned about the through traffic, they should have considered the neighborhood's characteristics before purchasing their homes. While we haven't previously raised concerns about traffic and safety, we now feel compelled to address the situation as it directly affects us.

Additionally, we would like to address the issue of pedestrian safety. We regularly walk our dog across South Bay Road to Kennedy Park. While we typically only wait a minute or two to cross, we strongly support the installation of a crosswalk at this location, ideally where the existing sidewalk is located. Signage and lighting would also be beneficial for safety. However, we have noticed that many drivers ignore crosswalks and pedestrian signals throughout the village, which remains a serious concern.

*According to Draft Memorandum #1, it is understood that the Village will assume full responsibility for the ownership and maintenance of these new facilities, consequently, the costs for these services will be passed on to the residents of North Syracuse.* We are concerned with the projected costs and lifespan of a roundabout and soft curbing. We would also like to draw attention to the premature wear and tear observed on the newly installed sidewalks along Church and Grove Streets. Despite being recently completed, these sidewalks are already exhibiting signs of damage, likely caused by snow plows. This early degradation raises concerns about the durability of the materials used, especially in areas prone to winter weather conditions. With this in mind, how will the new plan stand up to our winter, snow plows, and emergency vehicles?

In conclusion, we fully support the addition of sidewalks, crosswalks, and speed humps/cushions as they will improve safety and mobility in the area. However, we are not in favor of the proposed roundabout and the installation of soft curbing, as these changes would limit our freedom of movement throughout the area.

We were unable to attend the meeting due to its timing, and we had trouble hearing the broadcast on the Village of North Syracuse's social media platforms because of poor sound quality.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at phone number listed above. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Patrick Greenfield & Christina Adams

## Michael Alexander

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**From:** Michael Alexander  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 3, 2025 8:58 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Improvement Options & Example Concepts Grove, Maxwell, Van Mara Study in North Syracuse additional comments.

Mr. Smith,


Thank you so much for taking the time to review and comment on the draft technical memos. We will include your comments in the final documents and address all substantive comments received in our final technical memos. As a planning-level assessment, the concepts shown illustrate ideas that are deemed technically feasible. Many tweaks and refinements would occur at the design and engineering stages, should the community be interested in implementing any improvements.

I appreciate your time and interest.

Thank you again for submitting your thoughts and comments.

Best, -Mike

Michael D. Alexander, AICP  
Senior Transportation Planner

 **Think Green** - Please consider the environment before you print this email.

Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council  
100 Clinton Square  
126 N. Salina Street, Suite 100  
Syracuse, NY 13202

[malexander@smtcmtpo.org](mailto:malexander@smtcmtpo.org)  
(P) 315-422-5716 x1304  
(F) 315-422-7753

[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 2, 2025 1:11 PM

**To:** Michael Alexander

**Subject:** Improvement Options & Example Concepts Grove, Maxwell, Van Mara Study in North Syracuse additional comments.

**NOTE: This message came from outside of the organization. Use caution with all attachments and links in this message.**

My name is Howard Smith. My family and I have lived in this neighborhood for over 50 years. We have utilized all the streets and intersections in this study.

1. We believe a crosswalk is very much needed for folks to go to and from Kennedy Park and Pool. However southbound traffic on South Bay Road goes from 2 lanes to 1 south of Bear Road Extension. Even though the speed limit is 35 MPH, they race to see who can get there first. By watching other cross walks in the village, even those with flashing lights, drivers just don't understand they are supposed to stop for pedestrians.

2. We believe the Mini-Roundabout at the end of Maxwell Ave is a big mistake. Many big trucks including tractor trailer types enter and exit at this intersection to make deliveries to restaurants, bars and other business's in the area. The curbing and small entry and exits would make it very difficult for these large vehicles. It would also be very difficult for village snow plow trucks to operate during winter months.

3. Our suggestion would be to use the monies for the Mini-Roundabout and curbing on that side and build a elevated crosswalk over South Bay Road. Families would be able to walk or ride bikes safely to the park and pool and the business's on main street.

Thank you.

## Michael Alexander

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**From:** Gary Butterfield <gbutterfield@northsyracusenyny.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2025 11:09 AM  
**To:** Michael Alexander  
**Cc:** Patricia Gustafson  
**Subject:** FW: Heavy traffic on grove st north syracuse

**NOTE: This message came from outside of the organization. Use caution with all attachments and links in this message.**

Mike,  
Good morning. I thought I would forward this email to you since this is one of the streets we are looking at.  
Have a good day,  
Thanks,



*Gary Butterfield*

Mayor  
Village of North Syracuse  
(315) 458-0900 Ext. 123  
Website: [www.northsyracusenyny.org](http://www.northsyracusenyny.org)

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2025 7:59 AM  
**To:** Gary Butterfield <gbutterfield@northsyracusenyny.org>  
**Subject:** Heavy traffic on grove st north syracuse

To whom it may concern

My name is [REDACTED] live on grove st north syracuse the cutest thru traffic is crazy I hear cars fly down road run stop at park on our street it's hard sometimes getting out of driveway because of traffic we bought house on this street because of low traffic might as well live on south bay for the amount of traffic. We pay our taxes and follow rules of living in town of north syracuse very disappointed at the amount of people that can read signs thank you for your time hopefully something can be done to render this issue





# TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT MEETING

## VILLAGE HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2024 1:30 TO 2:30

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### **Attendees**

Michael Alexander, SMTC - Project Manager

Luke Morenus, CHA – Village Engineer

Mario Colone, SMTC – Project Oversight

Joe Asztalos, Deputy Fire Chief (North Syracuse)

Jade Nguyen, SMTC

Ed Ware, Superintendent of Public Works, North Syracuse

Gary Butterfield, Mayor, Village of NS

Chance Fieldson, Police Chief, Village of NS

Diane Kufel, Village Clerk, North Syracuse

Pat Gustafson, Deputy Mayor, Village of NS

### *Meeting Minutes*

Mayor Butterfield asked if we could start the meeting at 1:35 to give time for the fire department representative to arrive.

Before the meeting officially started, the CHA representative said that final designs will be complete in a month or so. He said they are waiting for environmental review and then will get started.

### *Purpose of Study*

Mr. Alexander recapped the goal of the study is to reduce cut-through traffic on two village roads. He introduced SMTC's suggestions for how to use turning restrictions (right-in and a right-in, right-out-only turn) with new road geometry to eliminate cut-through traffic. Ms. Gustafson said a right-in, right-out only was attempted at the end of Maxwell in 1995, but that it didn't work, because changes to the road were not made and that it was only controlled by signage. She said that the neighbors only complained that drivers did not obey the signs – but not about the actual restriction. Everyone agreed there would be support if it worked.

### *Speed Cushion Recommendations*

Mr. Alexander made additional suggestions for the placement of speed cushions, sidewalks, crosswalks (including one raised crosswalk location), and sign removal. He emphasized that emergency vehicles transverse the speed cushions and suggested using designs like those used by the City of Syracuse. Mr. Butterfield asks how raised crosswalks impact plowing. Mr. Alexander answers that it is a gradual taper and should not significantly impact plowing. The DPW asked how challenging this planning process was and Mr. Alexander replied that we managed to get ahead of schedule. Mr. Colone adds that public involvement meetings add several months to the timeline of

the study to coordinate the engagement. Mr. Alexander adds that two tech memos with a menu of options are offered, and it is up to the municipality to decide whether to implement, if interested. Lastly, he suggested the Village create a village-wide speed limit of 25 mph. He noted that implementation is only possible based on an engineer's study and recommendation.

### *Mini-roundabout Intersection Recommendations*

Mr. Alexander explained the rationale for the sidewalk, shared-use path, and bike lane additions. Chief Fieldson asked about the mountable curb. Mr. Alexander explained how they work and that it would be located at Van Mara Drive. He also discussed the mini roundabout. Ms. Gustafson asked if the stop signs would remain. Mr. Alexander said yes, and that we will add them to the map. Mr. Alexander highlights the ornamental pedestrian lights to illuminate the crosswalk. Mr. Alexander discussed the added curb to prevent vehicles from overtaking a vehicle yielding to a pedestrian in the crosswalk – overtaking vehicles could go around the car that is yielding and could strike the pedestrian. There are questions about the geometry of the roundabout intersection corner because of topographic concerns. This is a design consideration that is engineering-level and may require regrading and retaining wall.

### *Feedback*

Deputy Chief Asztalos expressed concern about the need for trucks to come down streets from both directions. He also asked about sign placement and said to place any fixed objects (e.g., signs, poles, etc.) away from areas that the fire truck would use, especially mountable curbs. He said their ladder truck had a 10-foot back swing that makes it easy to strike objects, such as signs, when the truck turns. Mr. Alexander says that SMTC will modify the design to ensure mountable curbs exist at both Grove and Van Mara.\*

*\*In report – note about signs and lights around mountable curb so they aren't in the way of the fire truck's 10- back swing. Also, curbs along S. Bay should become mountable curbs. Pull back to right away for corner north of mountable curb for firetruck access. He expresses this concern because of the landmark or lighting in the center of the min-roundabout. Mr. Morenus said that CHA has software to test turn feasibility. Mr. Alexander mentions the need to keep the large mountable curb area clear from snow.*

Deputy Chief Asztalos suggests an alternate design to narrow Maxwell at S. Bay, to which the mayor, police chief, and Mr. Alexander explain why that suggestion may not achieve their goals of reducing traffic cut-through.

### *Twin Trees Lot Recommendations*

Mr. Alexander said the new design improves access management and safety. One objective is to remove vehicle/vehicle and vehicle/pedestrian conflicts by preventing parked vehicles from backing out onto Maxwell Avenue. The Police Chief and Deputy Fire Chief agreed this was a significant safety issue. The Deputy Chief noted that those parking spaces are used by people who have called in take-out orders. Mr. Alexander said this increases parking turnover and further increases safety concerns.

Grove Street & Van Mara Study  
Municipal Meeting

Mayor Butterfield expresses thanks for the idea because this area is very hazardous and dangerous. Diagonal parking and parallel parking ideas were discussed, but the Police Chief felt these ideas still present safety concerns. It was also noted that the VFW and Twin Trees could not share lots as both were busy at the same time.

*Next Steps*

The 27<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a public hearing. Anyone can speak for or against the plans. Mr. Alexander says he plans for it to be a 15–20-minute presentation followed by public comment. On average there are 6 attendees, but more than a dozen would make it challenging to manage around a table. We can bring a projector. The meeting is also embedded with the board meeting and will start at 5:30. It will be introductions, the official announcement that it's a public hearing, go over abstract and approve minutes, and then the SMTC's presentation, and then they can finish their business regarding their budget announcement. The meeting ended at 2:35.