

Brighton-Pittsford Post – “From the Supervisor” column – April 30, 2015 issue
Submitted by Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith

Bike Season’s Back! Ride Safely.

The change of seasons means I can soon put my ancient, trusty Raleigh 3-speed bicycle back on the road and resume biking from home to work. It’s my favorite way to go. And I’m lucky, because I have a relatively safe and efficient route.

Village Mayor Bob Corby and I are working toward increasing the number of safe bike routes for more Pittsford residents. And to provide more walking routes as well. Last year we made a joint application to the Genesee Transportation Council for a grant to do just that. We won the grant and are in the process of work on an Active Transportation Plan. The goal is to improve both walkability and bicycling opportunities in general.

We’re identifying priority routes and destinations as well as major factors, in addition to recreation, that generate trips for which walking or cycling would be practical. In addition to improving walkability and cycling opportunity in general, we want to let bicyclists share the road with motorists more confidently and reduce accidents involving both cyclists and pedestrians. Improving safety is a prime concern.

On that subject, if you’re like me and use a bike, look out for your own safety. In particular:

- **Protect your head.** Choose a helmet that feels snug and centered. It shouldn’t tilt to the front or back. Look for a seal of approval from the CPSC, ASTM, or Snell. Replace your helmet right away if it’s damaged. Damaged helmets don’t absorb shock very well.
- **Stay visible.** Wear light colors if possible and choose a helmet whose color really stands out. Mine is a kind of cross between taxi-cab yellow and fluorescent orange. Pretty ugly – but people can see it. Add reflective tape where you can, and install front and rear lights on your bike. You can even attach extra lights to your helmet or to a backpack.
- **Follow the rules of the road.** Ride on dedicated bike paths, where possible. If you must share the road with traffic, go with the flow of traffic, not against it. Learn hand signals and use them. And obey all traffic lights and road signs.
- **Keep your feet in mind.** Pick shoes that are in good repair and have good traction. Make sure the legs of your pants aren’t too loose or too long.

Please look out for the safety of pedestrians, too. In particular, cyclists and motorists as well need to respect pedestrian crosswalks. There are a number of pedestrian crosswalks in the Village. All are ignored by drivers routinely, and sometimes by cyclists. ***The pedestrian has the right of way at crosswalks!*** It’s the law. Please respect it.

If you have questions or comments related to the Active Transportation Plan or to improving and increasing walking and biking opportunities, please call me at 248-6220 or send a message to bsmith@townofpittsford.org. To stay abreast of Town news, you can sign up for our weekly eNews at www.townofpittsford.org.