

Brighton-Pittsford Post – “From the Supervisor” column – April 14, 2016 issue
Submitted by Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith

Online Survey for Pittsford’s Active Transportation Plan

The Town’s online survey to solicit your views and advice for our Active Transportation Plan will close on April 15. We’ve publicized it for the past two months, but as this column will appear a day or so before the deadline, I encourage those of you who haven’t yet participated in the survey to use this last chance do so. Results of the survey will inform the Town Board more fully about current use of walkways and bike paths in Pittsford. We’ll get a better understanding of potential improvements that you regard as the most important. So please visit the Town website at www.townofpittsford.org, take the survey and let us know what you think.

A joint project of the Town and the Village, funded by a grant from the Genesee Transportation council, the Active Transportation Plan is intended to create a better pedestrian and bicycle-friendly network in Pittsford. It’s meant to increase safety and to make it easier to get around under your own power. We have in place a good network for walking and biking. We seek to make it better still. To do so, we’re assessing priority routes and destinations. We’re looking at those factors, including recreation, but not limited to it, that generate trips on foot or by bicycle, or that can help to make them practical.

Not all roads are for cars alone. Many streets can be made more practical and safer for use by pedestrians and cyclists as well. Where possible, they should be. Through the Active Transportation Plan we seek to apply that principle, to help pedestrians and cyclists get around Pittsford with more confidence and in greater safety.

Looking out the window of Town Hall as I write this, it’s snowing. Yet it won’t be long before I can resume with one of my little pleasures, breaking out my ancient 3-speed Raleigh bicycle to get back and forth to work.

Especially now that the weather is about to bring out more pedestrians and cyclists, we should all make an effort to be aware of them when we’re behind the wheel. That includes looking out for motorcyclists, too.

Cyclists, please look out for your own safety. It’s worth repeating these guidelines that I shared with you last season:

- **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.** Where possible, ride on dedicated bike paths. 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.** Wear shoes with good traction and in good repair. Make sure the legs of your pants aren't too loose or too long.

Please remember that both cyclists and motorists must respect pedestrian crosswalks. There are a number of them in our Village. All are ignored routinely by drivers. *The pedestrian has the right of way at crosswalks!* It's the law. Please respect it.

If you have questions or comments about the Active Transportation Plan please contact me by phone at 248-6220 or by email at bsmith@townofpittsford.org.