

Walkability

Hinsdale & Cuba NY: July 6th, 2010 - Cornell Cooperative Extension's Southern Tier Wellness Partnership (STWP) is currently in the process of helping municipalities in Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties build the infrastructure needed to develop streets that invite physical activity. This is year two of the grant period and we have chosen Hinsdale in Cattaraugus County and Cuba in Allegany County as our sites! The Initiative will focus on helping Hinsdale and Cuba's Municipality pass a "Complete Streets" policy which asks transportation planners and engineers to consistently design and alter the rights-of-way with all users in mind (including bicycle, pedestrian and persons with disabilities). The policy will focus on all new construction, reconstruction, and maintenance projects.

To "Kick off" the Initiative, The Southern Tier Wellness Partnership, hosted a Complete Streets Training and Walkability Assessments on June 24th in Hinsdale and the 25th in Cuba. The training was held to engage community members, stake holders, elected officials, law enforcement and non-profit organizations to help expand their knowledge on how to create and design the community to be safe and accessible for pedestrians, bicyclists, wheelchair users and transit users. The training ended with a "Walkabout" in the community, targeting the high traffic areas. In Hinsdale, the Main St. and Flanigan Hill Rd intersections, along with Gile Hollow Rd. were among some of the areas visited in Hinsdale. In Cuba, we visited State Highway #305 and East/West Main Street, Maple St and State Highway #305 near McDonalds, as well as several other intersections on State Highway #305, and #446. Recommendations were made by the New York State Department of Transportation Bike and Pedestrian Specialist, and the Trainers Justin Booth from Green Options Buffalo and Joshua Poppel, from Atla Engineering in Albany, NY. These recommendations will be published in a report and will be given to the Southern Tier Wellness Partnership to be used to help this initiative.

Upon Completion of the report, the Southern Tier Wellness Partnership will bring the recommendations to the Town of Hinsdale, the Village of Cuba and the community members involved with the project and will decide what the next steps to building a Pedestrian Friendly Community will be.

For more information on the Complete Streets Program in Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties please visit www.southerntierwellnesspartnership.org.