

August 31, 2015

City Council

---

Proceedings by Authority

State of New York  
City of Jamestown           ss:  
City Council Chambers

A public hearing of the City Council of the City of Jamestown, New York was held on Monday, August 31, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present:     Council Members, Brent Sheldon, Tony Dolce, Marie Carrubba, Maria Jones, Tom Nelson, Kim Ecklund, George Spitale

Members Absent:

Others Present:       Director of Financial Services/City Clerk James N. Olson, Director of Public Works Jeff Lehman, Deputy Fire Chief Chet Harvey, Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Harry Snellings, Director of Development Vince DeJoy, Principal Planner Bill Rice

City Council President Gregory Rabb called the Public Hearing to order and asked Director of Financial Services/City Clerk James N. Olson to read the public notice.

Notice is hereby given that the Jamestown City Council will hold a Public Hearing regarding a proposal by the New York State Department of Transportation to change the street alignment on the West Third Street Bridge from its current alignment to one that provides two (2) - 11' drive lanes, an 8' center turn lane, and two (2) - 8' shoulder bicycle lanes.

The hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 31, 2015, in the City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Municipal Building, 200 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Jamestown, New York.

All persons wishing to comment on this matter are invited to speak at this time.

Comments may also be submitted in writing to: Jamestown City Council, Municipal Building, 200 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Jamestown, New York 14701. All written comments must be received by 4:00 p.m., August 31, 2015.

Gregory P. Rabb  
City Council President

Publication Date: August 21, 2015

August 31, 2015

President Rabb: Before I call on Jeff Lehman to introduce our representative from the DOT, I was going to invite my colleagues to go down on the floor for the presentation if you so desire and then we can come back to hear comments.

Mr. Lehman: For those of you that don't know me, I'm Jeff Lehman Public Works Director for the City and with me I have Paul Gavin with the DOT. About a year ago, we asked the state to take a look at the potential to modify the West Third corridor from where Fourth Street comes into Third and just past Hallock Street down by Lind's Funeral Home. We've been working with Paul and his folks for the past couple months. I think we've come up with a plan that we both feel comfortable with. It meets all the City's requirements. The plan, and I think most of you had a chance to look at it, basically allows for 2 11' drive lanes, a 10' turn lane so that when we get down to the West end, we can make the left hand turn onto Porter and Hall and also provide 8' bike lanes on both sides of the street.

Mr. Gavin: Thank you Jeff. My name is Paul Gavin. I'm with the New York State Department of Transportation and as Jeff said we've been working for over a year on coming up with a striping plan to allow better pedestrian and bicycle access on the bridge as it reflects the City's needs. We feel that this plan is definitely a good starting point. It still allows for 11' travel lanes which you have right now. It also gives you 8' bike lanes and a center turn lane is 10' wide with a double yellow stripe. The double yellow stripe is so that cars don't go on there, they are not supposed to cross the double line. We feel this will calm traffic and make for a better street plan. I'm basically here to take any questions or comments. We've enjoyed working with the City and thank you for your patience in working with us. It's been more difficult than we thought to come up with this plan because we didn't want to take out the parking and we really wanted the flow the City wanted.

President Rabb: As we take questions as this is on the record, can you come up to the microphone? Give your name, residential address and then ask the question please?

Mr. Joy: I'm Vince Joy, 110 Valleyview Avenue, Jamestown. I just wanted to clarify; you said that it's an 8' lane on the bridge and then when they get to the turning lanes up near the ends of the bridge, then it will go to 10'?

Mr. Gavin: Right. There are some narrowing in spots and there are some widening in spots. It's depicted up here.

Mr. Lehman: The bike lanes, Vince, actually go from 8' to 7'.

Mr. Joy: Right, but you referenced the narrower double yellow lane in the center of the bridge.

Mr. Gavin: Right on the bridge it's 8' and out here where you are going to have the vehicles turn, it goes to 10' to allow the vehicle to move in there and be comfortable making the turn.

Mr. Joy: Thank you.

Ms. Carrubba: Marie Carrubba, 19 Widrig Avenue, City Council. Will the left turn lane be a center lane at Hall and Third or where is it going to end? Will it go all the way to Hallock because that area right now has a right turn lane at Hall and Third which is a problem for vehicles going straight that get stuck behind. I'm looking at Hall right past the plaza. Hall Avenue, does that have left turn center lane too?

Mr. Lehman: It has a left turn.

Ms. Carrubba: Right now, it's marked straight through and a right turn and I'm asking if it's being changed to a left turn lane from the center which allows traffic to keep going through straight on the right.

Mr. Lehman: Yes.

Ms. Carrubba: Thank you that's much better. If you live down that direction, it's horrible.

Mr. Rabb: Please remember to state your name and residential address. Is this a question or a comment?

Mr. Holler: It's a question. My name is Jim Holler 2089 Camp Street, Jamestown, New York. I also own the building at 800 West Third Street which is right at the end of this proposal here and I run a business there, Trinity Guitars. I have a unique perspective because I use the bridge to drive on, I use it as a pedestrian every day and I'm a frequent bike commuter across the bridge as well so I have a lot of experience. My question is very similar to the last one. What are we specifically going to do with the intersection of Third Street and West Hall? I've almost gotten hit a couple of times on my bike there and a couple weeks ago I almost got hit by a car there. What happens is that the traffic is coming up the bridge and if there's a left-hand turn car there, they'll zip around the right hand side and go straight through there. I'm just concerned; I see the drawings, I think it's great. I think everything is great about this except for that one spot. What are we going to do there?

Mr. Gavin: You will have a dedicated left turn lane there and you will have the straight and right now as well. Somebody explained it to me in the pre-meeting that that does happen, that the cars move out.

Mr. Holler: What my concern is that they're going to come along here and they're going to go over the bike lane to make this right turn if there's someone sitting in the lane; which they shouldn't be, but for a left hand turn; particularly in the winter because you can't see the road markings in the winter.

Mr. Gavin: We considered that in drawing this up and this seemed to be the best way to stop with that dedicated left turn lane right and center dedicated lane as well with the bikes moving to the outside. Hopefully there's not somebody in that outside lane.

Mr. Lehman: There shouldn't be anybody standing there.

August 31, 2015

Mr. Gavin: There shouldn't be, but you have a left turn lane. That should be through traffic.

Mr. Holler: I guess where I'm heading is is the traffic light going to change along with this and would they have a left turn green light there as opposed to just a green light or if we'll have a mad rush.

Mr. Gavin: Right now, we can take that back that you're suggesting a dedicated light to turn. Right now, the plan is not to change.

Mr. Holler: That would be, I think important because that's also a really highly used school crossing for kids coming down the hill from school.

Mr. Gavin: We designed it that way. We'll take back that comment.

Mr. Holler: Well I own the business right here. I own this building right here and I'm walking across the street all the time and I commute across the bridge on the bike. Thank you.

President Rabb: Any other questions? Thank you. I would like my colleagues to go back. At this point I would welcome comments from anyone who would like to address the issue before the public hearing. If you would step up to the microphone, state your name and residential address.

Mr. Kenyon: Bob Kenyon, 37 Hazeltine Avenue. I had two comments and one I had mentioned to Jeff, was on the east end of the bridge, the way you have your lines, there is no turn lane into this parking lot where there are some businesses. That's on the east end of the bridge. The other and I wanted to comment on the center lane; I do know you have 8' and it goes out to 10'. Living here and seeing people drive, I just thought yellow diagonal lines through that 8' area would also help keep people either not passing or deciding to make a left hand turn and drive the whole length of the bridge before they make a left hand turn. Those were my two comments.

President Rabb: Thank you. If someone else would like to comment, please step up to the microphone and again state your name and residential address please.

Ms. Schmidtfrerick-Miller: I'm Lisa Schmidtfrerick Miller. I reside at 2373 Erickson Road in Ashville, New York. I'm here on behalf of the Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services. We've been working hard on complete streets issues throughout the county, Jamestown included. I just want to first of all thank you for doing this work and making the effort to make this area safer for all users. I spoke with some of the folks at Covenant Manor today who are really, really happy about this project. They would like to see wider sidewalks. I hope that's something that we can consider down the road, maybe the next time there's work being done on this bridge, but they will appreciate having that buffer between the sidewalk and traffic with the bike lane. That's it. Thank you.

August 31, 2015

President Rabb: Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to address the issue before us this evening?

Mr. Cress: Jim Cress, 119 Hall Avenue, long-term resident. Thank you. I think this is a great idea, obviously living on Hall Avenue. I'm also a bike rider so I will take advantage of this, but I also want to second the comment about having a turn signal at that light at Hall Avenue and Third. With the Farm Fresh plaza, that is a very busy intersection. You also have Lincoln School as well as a lot of traffic that uses that intersection to go further up to Persell School because that is the way to get people further up. In the mornings, that intersection can be extremely busy, people making a lot of left hand turns as they go across the bridge there. I would second the consideration of adding a turn signal to make a left hand turn.

President Rabb: Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to address the issue before us this evening?

Mr. Lindquist: Yes. Greg Lindquist, 21 LaSalle Avenue, Jamestown. I'm here representing Jamestown Renaissance Corporation and I have a couple of brief comments to make about this project. First and foremost, beginning in 2006 with the adoption of the City of Jamestown Urban Design Plan and then again restated in the 2008 City of Jamestown Traffic and Streetscape Enhancement Plan and most recently with the Active Transportation Plan for the City, recommendations have been made for improvements from traffic calming to bike lanes to conversion of one way streets back to two way. Improvements that will help make our community roadways safer for all users. On June 23<sup>rd</sup> Council fully adopted a complete streets policy which is made part of Chapter 252 of the City of Jamestown code. This lane configuration project, though relatively small represents a great step forward to realizing the letter and the intent of Jamestown's complete streets policy. Because this project takes place on a bridge that is maintained by New York State Department of Transportation, it required that the City initiate a request that New York State could review and act upon. Our thanks go to DPW Director Jeff Lehman for his initiative in submitting this request and the DOT for their policy and their continued interest in creating an environment that is safe for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. For these reasons, the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation fully supports the proposed conversion of the West Third Street Bridge from 4 vehicle lanes to 2 vehicle lanes, 2 bicycle lanes and a center turn lane. It is our hope that the solidarity and spirit of cooperation exhibited here tonight between all stakeholders and users of roads and bridges and sidewalks in Jamestown and across Chautauqua County will become the norm when planning for maintenance and reconstruction projects that are reviewed and acted upon. Thank you.

President Rabb: Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to address the issue this evening?

Mr. Horner: Terry Horner, resident of 1249 Newland Avenue in the City. I'm here to support all the efforts and to agree with all the speakers that have spoken. Thank you to the City, the State and our local representatives. I appreciate it. Thank you.

August 31, 2015

Mr. Rabb: Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to address the issue before the hearing this evening. I believe Mr. Olson, there was some correspondence on the matter addressed to the City?

Mr. Olson: Yes there were 19 letters sent in favor of it. I will enter them into the record.

Mr. Rabb: Okay. There were 19 communications in favor of the proposal and as Mr. Olson said they will be incorporated into the record for tonight's public hearing.

The following correspondence was received by the City Clerk's office in regards to the public hearing.

I am an avid bike rider and would LOVE to see the West Third Street Bridge alignment happen. It makes for a more convenient and safe ride knowing you have your own lane out of traffic and makes more drivers aware that many of us are now commuting to work and cycling is becoming more and more popular in our area.

Andrew Gustafson  
70 Adams Street  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
Received via email

I wholeheartedly endorse the concept of restriping the 3<sup>rd</sup> St. bridge to provide 2 traffic lanes, a turning lane and bike lanes. With increasing tourism and the Riverwalk traffic trying to connect to the boatlanding, this seems to make a lot of sense, in terms of traffic calming and Complete Streets (providing better access to all users of the bridge). In addition, there was an article in the Post-Journal this morning (8/25/15) stating that this very concept in restriping is going to be used as a trial on Route 60 in Dunkirk (North of Vinyard Dr.), prior to resurfacing the road. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Vince Joy  
Creating Healthy Places—CCHN  
Received via email

I support the proposed changes to 3<sup>rd</sup> St. bridge. Safety and accessibility should always be paramount!!

John Gallagher  
Received via email

As a longtime resident of the westside of Jamestown and frequent (daily) traveler of the bridge, I believe that this issue of improving traffic flow and safety of motorists, pedestrians and cyclists on the Third Street Bridge is important to many of us. It is a no-cost complete streets project that will improve safety for all users of this roadway by calming traffic, defining space for cyclists and providing a buffer between the narrow sidewalk and the motor vehicle lanes. Those sidewalks are heavily used by seniors, people with disabilities and children.

August 31, 2015

Debbie Basile  
76 Royal Avenue  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
Received via email

Dear Mr. James Olson, Mayor Teresi and City Officials:

As a lifelong area resident, educator and youth programs director, I wish to support the proposed modification to the Third Street Bridge to reduce the number of automobile lanes, and increase both pedestrian and bicycle accommodations.

I lived for a long time on the western end of Third Street, at the corner of Stewart Avenue, and witnessed vehicles speeding out of town. Let's slow down the traffic, enhance safety, and promote more physical activity along this potentially beautiful entrance into Jamestown.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jon O'Brian  
YMCA Camp Director  
JCC Professor of History

Jamestown City Clerk:

My office is at the east end of the Third St. Bridge so we see the activity every day and as a result believe defining a space for cyclists on this span is a great idea. With two thru lanes it is currently an opportunity for motorists to pass which causes increased speed usually on the right lane which is closest to the sidewalk. To avoid the afore mentioned traffic the pedestrians and the cyclists share the sidewalk which is obviously a safety issue. It also helps to encourage exercise and green initiatives.

You don't get the opportunity to do projects with this many benefits at almost no cost very often. I am definitely in favor of this.

Rhoe B. Henderson III, CPCU  
552 West Third St.  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
Received via email

Dear Council members:

Re: Public Hearing for street alignment on the West Third Street Bridge

I wish to express my enthusiastic support of the Proposal regarding the New York State Department of Transportation to change the street alignment on the West Third Street Bridge from its current alignment to one that provides two (2) – 11' drive lanes, and 8' center turn lane, and two (2) – 8 shoulder bicycle lanes.

August 31, 2015

This would reduce the vehicle lanes in each direction to one lane, and add bike lanes and a painted median lane. I feel this would be a great step towards improving the safety and visual appeal of the City of Jamestown. I think it's a great, low to no cost way to make the bridge and the areas on either side safer for everyone.

I think this street realignment would make a positive change for everyone in the City . this has great potential to get people in our community more physically active and I fully support the proposal to change the street alignment on the West third Street Bridge.

Sincerely,  
Susan Stafford  
935 Newland Avenue  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
Received via U.S. mail

Hi, I would like to lend my support for improving safety and accessibility by improving traffic flow on the Third St Bridge. As a previous home care nurse, I knew many people who lived downtown. I often saw people in wheelchairs, electric mobility devices and walkers who were elderly and/or disabled. The grocery store across the bridge was often the only place that they could shop. Anything that you can do to improve the safety for these people is appreciated.

Thank you for your efforts.  
Shari Grice RN  
Received via email

I am very much in favor of instituting two bike lanes( traveling east and west) and establishing single driving lanes both east and west. This is very NEEDED. Something that is SAFER for both cyclists and motorists.

Thank you.  
Steve Nystrom  
93 Beech Street  
Jamestown, NY  
Received via email

Good Afternoon,

I am writing this in support of the "Road Diet" on the 3rd Street Bridge. As an avid cyclist, I am excited to see the positive steps the city of Jamestown is taking to improve cycling in the city. I don't think that I am alone when I say that I would be more apt to ride my bike downtown if it were safer. I think that what the city will see is an "if you build it, they will come" situation. As the cycling infrastructure improves in the city, more cyclists will be willing to ride around town for business and pleasure.

Thank you for your time.

August 31, 2015

Sincerely,

Amy Pearson  
112 Westminster Dr.  
Jamestown, NY 14701

As an avid cyclist and supporter of a sustainable healthy community for everyone in Jamestown, I urge you to support the proposed traffic changes to the 3rd street bridge. This will help protect pedestrians and cyclists and support various efforts already underway to encourage healthier lifestyle choices in Jamestown.

Thank you for your efforts on this project.

Willow Fodor  
311 Crossman St  
Jamestown, NY  
347.495.1536

Dear Mayor Teresi, DPW Director Mr. Lehman, and City Council Members,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed re-alignment of the Third Street Bridge to two travel lanes, a center median/turn lane, and a 2 bicycle lanes.

I have an office at 21 E. Third Street in Jamestown, and frequently drive and occasionally ride a bicycle across that bridge. I have observed vehicles attempting to pass on the right, cyclists using the sidewalk because there is no other space except for the travel lanes, motorized wheelchairs in the travel lanes because the sidewalks are narrow, and have noticed that drivers, myself included, tend to speed up over this wide expanse of pavement. Each of these behaviors presents a safety risk that will be greatly reduced with the proposed alignment changes.

The Third Street Bridge is an important gateway to the downtown area, and the proposed realignment is a great step toward calming traffic and improving the appearance of this gateway.

I applaud the City for making the effort to incorporate these important Complete Streets changes into NYSDOT's existing construction/maintenance project. I encourage you to continue to plan and seek out future opportunities to implement the City's Complete Streets ordinance for a safer, more walkable and bikeable future for Jamestown's residents and visitors.

Sincerely,  
LisaSchmidtfrerick-Miller

Hello,

I am strongly in favor of the bike lane addition to the Third Street Bridge. Thank you for making this happen. I'd like to see further initiative by the City of Jamestown to create safer streets, bike lanes and attention to consideration of bicyclists. It is unfortunate that two of my peers suffered serious injuries on the streets within Jamestown's borders. I hope we can continue to focus on

August 31, 2015

creating a safer environment for all, particularly safer streets for those of us that choose to ride our bicycle to work and/or pleasure.

Perhaps a larger median in the middle, or a wider sidewalk would be a more advantageous and safer option, instead of a turn lane, except at the end of the bridge.

Sincerely,

Patty Lindquist

[gpilindquist@stny.rr.com](mailto:gpilindquist@stny.rr.com) (716) 488-1616

Received via email

Hello,

I am writing as an active resident of Chautauqua County. I am a runner and a cyclist, and the Third Street Bridge is often a route that I travel by foot, bicycle, and car.

I am also writing as the Project Coordinator for Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work, and Play in Chautauqua County. I, along with many community partners, advocate for Complete Street implementation in Jamestown and Chautauqua County.

The proposed realignment would offer safer conditions for all users. By offering safe conditions, we encourage active lifestyles; active lifestyles = a healthier City and County!

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed realignment to the Third Street Bridge. I am most definitely in favor of decreasing the number of vehicle lanes to two, adding a turning lane and two bicycle lanes.

Most Sincerely,

Shelly Wells

Received via email

To Jamestown Mayor Teresi and City Council Members,

I support the re-design of the above bridge that incorporates 2 bike lanes. We need MANY more bicycle lanes in our town to promote this green, health-conscious mode of transportation and \*make it safer\* for bicyclists and motorists.

Also, safer streets for bicyclists will mean more people cycling into town generating more revenue for downtown merchants.

Thank you.

Mary Laumer

Received via email

August 31, 2015

I would like to express my support of changing the Third Street Bridge by adding a bike lane and providing room for those who walk and ride across the bridge. It would be much safer community if the bike lane was added.

We need to encourage outdoor activity to promote healthy living by walking or biking to places in our city that will result in greater use of the downtown area.

*Cheryl Van Riper*

Accounting Manager



Shults Corporate Office

181 E. Fairmount Ave

Lakewood, NY 14750

Received via email

We at Hollyloft Ski and Bike and the 250+ members of our bicycle group, Team Hollyloft would like to express our support for the proposed bike lanes on Third St. Bridge. Any improvements we can make for the safety of all cyclists and pedestrians in Jamestown are for the common good of all residents and visitors. Please make Jamestown bicycle friendly and pass this proposal.

Thank you, Les Johnson, owner, Hollyloft

Received via email

Dear Jamestown City Council Members, Mayor Teresi, and Mr. Jeff Lehman:

On behalf of the Chautauqua County Health Network (CCHN), I would like to express our support for the New York State Department of Transportation proposed redesign of traffic lanes on the Third Street Bridge to change the vehicle traffic design pattern from four lanes to two, with the addition of a turning lane and two bicycle lanes. This would be an excellent example of putting the City's Complete Streets ordinance into action.

As a rural health network designated by the New York State Department of Health, comprised of four hospital organizations, physicians, and more than 50 local health and community based agencies, CCHN is dedicated to strengthening the local health and wellness delivery system. Your proposal aligns perfectly with the Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work, and Play (CHP) initiative in which we are both engaged by making infrastructure changes that would increase the safety as well as the volume of walkers, bikers, and wheel chairs across the bridge.

CHP is a five year initiative funded by the NYS department of Health designed to create policy, systems, and environmental changes to make it easier for residents to be physically active and eat healthier foods. Relative to this proposal, CCHN has worked closely with the City of Jamestown, Jamestown Renaissance Corporation, Jamestown Public Schools, various businesses, not-for-profits, the faith community, and residents on a variety of objectives related to improving the built environment and promoting more frequent use of the streets by pedestrians and bicyclists. Some of our accomplishments include passage of the Complete Streets ordinance, development of the Bicycle Pedestrian Plan, and formation of the Safe Routes to School partnership.

August 31, 2015

The Third Street bridge project is an improvement concept that has resonated positively at each meeting or public discussion where it has been presented. It is perceived as a “win-win” for the City in terms of safety, traffic flow, and aesthetics. As part of the City’s 2012 Bicycle Pedestrian Plan, realigning traffic to calm the flow into the City would establish a safer, quicker, and more convenient multi-modal link between the residential and commercial areas of the City’s Westside and downtown Jamestown that will encourage more walking, biking, and rolling. These are outcomes that CCHNN wholeheartedly supports.

Sincerely,  
Ann Morse Abdella  
Executive Director  
Received via U.S. Mail

August 27, 2015

Dear City of Jamestown Council Members, Mayor Teresi, and DPW Director Mr. Jeff Lehman,

The Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services wishes to express our support for the proposed re-alignment of the Third Street Bridge to two 11’ vehicle travel lanes, a 10-foot turning lane, and two 7’ bicycle lanes.

The current configuration of travel lanes on the Bridge encourages some drivers to speed up to pass other vehicles on the bridge before the road returns to a single lane in each direction. Pedestrians, many of whom are elderly, disabled, or children, find themselves on narrow sidewalks in close proximity to speeding vehicles and bicyclists are forced to either use a travel lane or to use the sidewalk, further putting pedestrians at risk.

Road diets such as what the City is proposing for the Third Street Bridge have been shown to reduce rear-end collisions and sideswipe crashes by slowing vehicle speeds. Road diets also decrease by 70 percent the frequency of people driving more than 5 mph over the speed limit. (Highway Safety Information System (August 2010), Evaluation of Lane Reduction “Road Diet” Measures on Crashes, <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/10053/10053.pdf>)

The proposed alignment will provide dedicated space for all users of the roadway, calm traffic, and improve appearance of this important connection between downtown Jamestown and the businesses and residential neighborhoods of the west side of Jamestown. We congratulate the City of Jamestown on this important application of the City’s 2012 Complete Streets Ordinance to make City streets safer for all users.

Sincerely,  
Christine Schuyler, BSN, RN, MHA  
Received via U.S. Mail

August 31, 2015



*Chautauqua County*

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 Harrison St., Suite 300 • Jamestown, New York 14701

Phone (716) 661-8900 • Fax (716) 664-4515 •  
www.planningchautauqua.com

August 31, 2015

ATTN: CITY CLERK

CITY OF JAMESTOWN CITY HALL

200 E. THIRD STREET,

JAMESTOWN, NY 14701

**RE: Third Street Bridge Improvements – Letter of Support**

Dear Mayor Teresi, City of Jamestown Council Members, and DPW Director Mr. Jeff Lehman

The Chautauqua County Department of Planning & Economic Development wishes to express our support for the proposed re-alignment of the Third Street Bridge to two 11' vehicle travel lanes, a 10- foot turning lane, and two 7' bicycle lanes.

The current configuration of travel lanes on the Bridge encourages some drivers to speed up to pass other vehicles on the bridge before the road returns to a single lane in each direction. Pedestrians, many of whom are elderly, disabled, or children, find themselves on narrow sidewalks in close proximity to speeding vehicles, and bicyclists are forced to either use a travel lane or to use the sidewalk, further putting pedestrians at risk. Without question, the current configuration is a hazard.

"Road diets," such as what the City is proposing for the Third Street Bridge, have demonstrated a reduction in rear-end collisions and sideswipe crashes by slowing vehicle speeds. Road diets also decrease, by approximately 70 percent, the frequency of people driving more than 5 mph over the speed limit. (Highway Safety Information System (August 2010), Evaluation of Lane Reduction "Road Diet" Measures on Crashes, <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/10053/10053.pdf>)

The proposed alignment is consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan (*Chautauqua 2020*), and the recently passed Complete Streets Policy (Chautauqua County Resolution No. 122-15). The proposed alignment will provide dedicated space for all users of the roadway, calm traffic, and improve appearance of this important connection between downtown Jamestown, the business district, and the residential neighborhoods of the west side of Jamestown. We congratulate the City of Jamestown on this important application of the City's 2012 Complete Streets Ordinance to make City streets safer for all users.

Respectfully,

August 31, 2015

Mark Geise, Deputy Director of Planning  
Chautauqua County Department of Planning & Economic Development

City Council President Rabb asked three times if anyone wished to speak for or against the proposed bridge realignment.

There being no one, the public hearing was adjourned.

James N. Olson  
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk