

Making Inroads to a Better, Healthier Newburgh

Orange County Health Department



With a goal of creating a safer, healthier Newburgh, Orange County Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) has worked with representatives from the City to ensure roads are inclusive of proper sidewalks, bike lanes, and crosswalks.

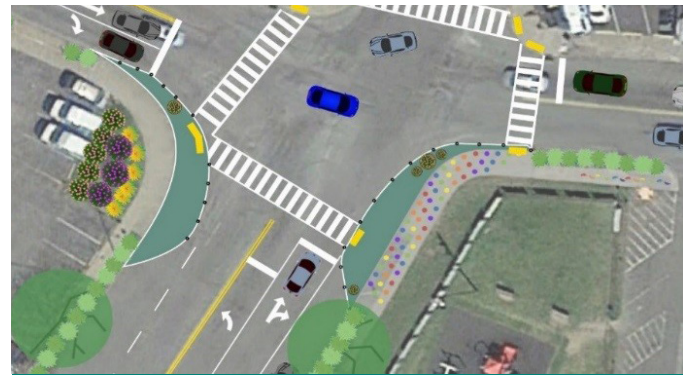
An Opportunity in the Making

Despite being a natural transportation hub that offers remarkable views, historic architecture, and a vibrant cultural blend, the city of Newburgh lacks safe, accessible infrastructure for its 28,000 residents, of whom nearly 4,000 have no access to a vehicle and more than 13% live with a disability.

With proximity to the recreation center, the Center for Independent Living, the city pool and skateboarding park, a grocer, and residential housing developments, Lake Street is a heavily trafficked road. Data provided by The New York State Department of Transportation indicate that the portion of Lake Street that intersects Washington Terrace has an average daily traffic volume of 13,375 vehicles. While clearly a popular transportation choice for motor vehicles, its faded crosswalk and wide lanes make Lake Street an uninviting corridor for bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit users. As a right-of-way connecting residents—including individuals with a disability and school aged-children—to crucial services, Lake Street should accommodate all modes of transportation, especially for those who are most vulnerable.

Grant funding from CHSC, along with funding from Orange County and AARP, enabled the city to complete a “tactical urbanism” project at the intersection of Lake Street and Washington Terrace. This approach to neighborhood building uses short-term, low-cost, and scalable interventions to demonstrate walking- and biking-friendly infrastructure. In hope of catalyzing

long-term change, a right-turn lane was closed to accommodate a painted bump-out, shrinking the crossing distance from four to two lanes. Bollards were installed along the bump-outs to encourage slower vehicle speeds and bring pedestrians into



Aerial view of planned improvements

motorists’ sight-lines.

Tactile warning domes providing a distinctive surface pattern were installed on both sides of the freshly painted, highly visible crosswalk to alert people with vision impairments of their approach to street crossings and hazardous drop-offs. Residents were invited to assist in painting a polka-dot themed art installation along the sidewalk in front of the city recreation center. The colorful display reminds motorists to slow down at this popular intersection, used by many children attending various recreation programs nearby.



Lake Street after implementation of Complete Streets infrastructure

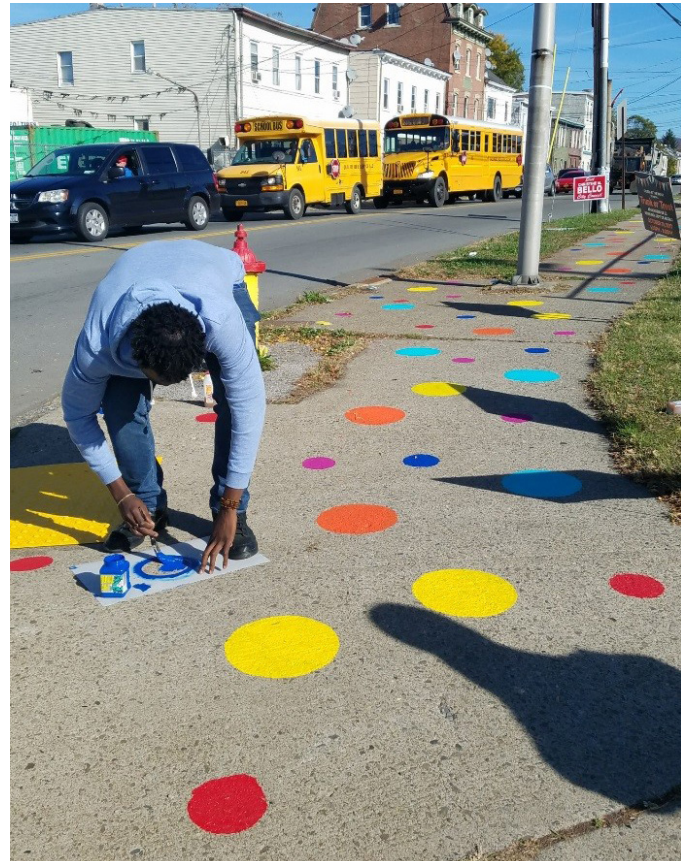
From Danger to Delight

These enhancements make the road more inviting for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists while improving safety. The momentum from the work done in Newburgh has resulted in similar projects being planned at different intersections throughout the county.

Although temporary, the project has significantly increased awareness about the importance and relevance of Complete Streets in Newburgh, and across Orange County. The infrastructure enhancements have increased residents' connection to recreational opportunities, improved access to multiple modes of transportation for all ages and abilities, and facilitated healthy lifestyles. Newburgh hopes to make these changes permanent.



Final design facing west



Resident painting polka dots on sidewalk in front of the City Recreation Center



to learn more...

visit: orangecountygov.com

email: Jessica Ridgeway at jridgeway@orangecountygov.com



Creating Healthy Schools and Communities

The places where we live, learn, work, and play all contribute to our ability to become and stay healthy. Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC), a five-year (2015-2020) New York State Department of Health-funded initiative, is helping build stronger, healthier communities.