

CAPITAL STREETS | LETTER OF SUPPORT

Regarding the City of Cohoes' RAISE Proposal for the Saratoga Street Project (2-15-23)

To whom it may concern:

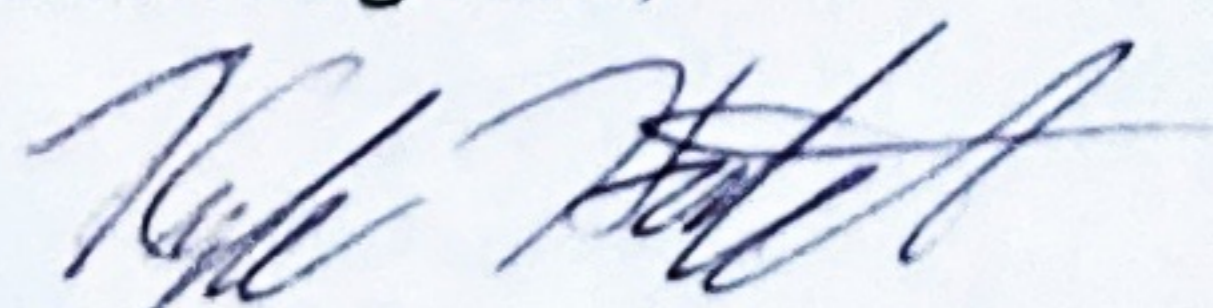
We write in support of Cohoes' proposal to upgrade infrastructure and accessibility along Saratoga Street through the Department of Transportation's RAISE grant. Capital Streets supported the City's successful proposal to begin to reimagine this vital, complex, and heavily trafficked thoroughfare to be accessible to all Cohoes residents, regardless of their preferred mode of transportation or ability. We will continue to enthusiastically support the City as it finalizes that critical work.

Cohoes faces interesting challenges for Complete Streets. The 2020 American Community Survey found that over 89% of workers living in Cohoes travel by personal vehicle, and over 74% do so alone. Public transit and walking account for less than 5% of commuter behavior, and bicycling accounts for none of it. Over 88% of Cohoes residents work outside of the city itself.¹ Without access to a comprehensive network of alternatives, a shift to more sustainable and healthy modes of transportation is not likely to occur. This makes the planning and implementation of complete street initiatives a top priority for our organization and for municipalities that want to provide more transportation options to their residents.

The City of Cohoes has demonstrated an admirable and long-standing commitment to creating a modern and accessible city. In 2017, the Common Council passed legislation formally committing the city to Complete Streets policies and procedures.² Many municipalities across the country have passed similar legislation, but they often lack the will to fully implement it. Cohoes is a notable exception to this trend. It exemplifies a municipality that has faithfully incorporated Complete Streets design concepts and procedures into its work, which is all the more impressive given how relatively little pressure it has had to do so.

Capital Streets advocates for an accessible and sustainable transportation network in the Capital Region. Cohoes' role as a crossroads of the Empire State Trail and its relationship to surrounding cities makes it a particularly urgent priority. We are extraordinarily grateful that the city is enthusiastically up to the task of creating a more robust active transportation network through complete streets projects. **Capital Streets fully supports this initiative.**

Best regards,



Kyle Hatch, Managing Officer

¹ <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=commute&g=1600000US3616749&tid=ACSST5Y2020.S0804&moe=false>

² <https://ecode360.com/8476030>

