

Background: Hamilton is recognized as a charming college town in Upstate New York boasts a quaint historic downtown and a picturesque village green that connects directly to a premier university campus. Renowned for its influx of students, parents, and visitors attending university events and cultural activities, Hamilton seeks to reconstruct the central 5-way intersection in its historic business district. This project presents a unique opportunity to enhance functionality and aesthetics for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles.

Project Focus: Given the intersection’s moderate motorist volume, the focus will be on:

- **Enhancing Pedestrian Experience and Safety:** Prioritize safe and pleasant pedestrian access throughout the downtown area.
- **Preserving Historic Aesthetics:** Maintain and enhance the charming character in line with the historic nature of the Village Center.
- **Increasing Legibility and Safety:** Simplify the intersection to reduce confusion and enhance safety for all users—motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists.
- **Improving Parking and Loading Functionality:** Ensure that businesses have adequate and efficient parking and loading options.

Collaborative Efforts: The Partnership for Community Development (PCD), which includes representatives from the Village, Town, and Colgate University, has been actively engaged with design and engineering consultants to delineate strategies that best meet our community development goals. Given the complexity of the existing street alignments, finding a perfect solution is challenging; however, the plan proposed herein is poised to address our community's needs effectively and comprehensively.

Invitation for Community Input: We highly value community involvement and feedback. We will have posters of the design option on display at the HUB, 8 Lebanon Street for people to drop in and discuss over the next week, May 13-16. Feel free to drop by during business hours or view images on our website at www.hamiltonpcd.org and drop us an email at info@hamiltonpcd.org.

Key Features of the PCD Preferred Plan:

1. Enhancement of Pedestrian Experience:

- **All Pedestrian Signal Phase:** Introducing an option for an 'all pedestrian' phase at the signal to enhance safety and convenience.
- **Expanded Pedestrian Zones:** Enlarging pedestrian crossing zones to reduce congestion and improve accessibility.
- **Increased Sidewalk and Green Space:** Reducing asphalt coverage to expand sidewalks and enhance the Village Green, making pedestrian movement more pleasant and safer.

2. Historic Downtown Aesthetics:

- **Roadway Reduction:** Scaling down roadways to minimize vehicle dominance in core pedestrian areas.
- **Pedestrian-Centric Design Elements:** Utilizing pedestrian pavers in central areas to emphasize foot traffic priority.

- **Enhanced Civic Spaces:** Creating more landscaped sidewalks and spaces equipped with street furniture to encourage community interaction and enjoyment.

3. **Improved Legibility and Functionality:**

- **Simplified Intersection Signals:** Modifying the intersection to function primarily as a standard 4-way, improving understanding and flow.
- **One-Way Lebanon Street:** Designating Lebanon Street as one-way, integrating it into the intersection with its own signal phase to streamline traffic.
- **Emergency Vehicle Priority:** Installing a signal system controllable by the fire department to ensure unimpeded emergency vehicle movement.

4. **Optimized Parking and Loading:**

- **Enhanced Parking on Lebanon Street:** Introducing angled parking and designated loading zones to improve functionality and support local businesses.

Through these strategic enhancements, the PCD plan aims to foster a safer, more engaging, and aesthetically pleasing environment that reflects the historic charm and dynamic community spirit of Hamilton. We look forward to collaborating with community members to refine and promote a solution that works for this unique village.

