

**Somers Energy & Environment Committee**

# Complete Streets

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**Assessing Community Needs for Sidewalks and  
Bike Lanes**

# Introduction

The Somers Energy & Environment Committee has developed a Somers Sustainability Plan (SSP) that will ultimately will:

- Preserve and conserve the many natural resources
- Reduce the dependence on oil for the generation of heat and power
- Identify alternatives to oil and coal through the use of renewable energy sources
- Provide a future environment free of pollutants in the air, land and water
- Improve the standard the living as it relates to our coexistence with our environment

The SSP consists of various projects. One of the projects is called Complete Streets.

## Complete Streets

For decades, the fields of transportation planning and design focused on moving able-bodied adults in automobiles, creating a system that provides reasonably good mobility and convenience for millions of Americans. However, the needs of travelers outside that group, including younger or older people, those with disabilities, and those who travel by transit, bicycle, or foot, have been routinely overlooked. Neighborhoods lack safe places to walk or bicycle, and access to key community resources such as parks, shops, grocery stores, and schools is now dependent on access to an automobile. Thousands of people are injured or killed while walking or bicycling every year, in part due to the inhospitable built environment.

The Complete Streets movement aims to develop integrated, connected networks of streets that are safe and accessible for all people, regardless of age, ability, income, ethnicity, or chosen mode of travel. Complete Streets makes active transportation such as walking and bicycling convenient; provide increased access to local transit, commerce, and educational institutions; and allow greater choice in traveling so that transportation doesn't drain a family's piggy bank.

## Project Summary

In order to implement some forms of Complete Street, this project will focus on determining the placement of sidewalks and bike lanes that will be supported by the community. In theory, implementing sidewalks and bike lanes will create a safer environment for all pedestrians and bicyclists. But, in reality, not everyone will support nor believe the installation of sidewalks and bike lanes are needed. Therefore, this project is to ascertain what community support will bear and where the placement of sidewalks and bike lanes are crucial. This is a team project so that every student can provide their contributions in meeting the requirements of this project.

## Project Scope

This project will consist of determining the community support for the proposed construction of sidewalks and bike lanes that will connect the following sites:

- Somers Reis Park
- Somers Primrose Elementary School
- Somers High School
- Somers Intermediate School
- Somers Middle School
- Somerstown Shopping Center

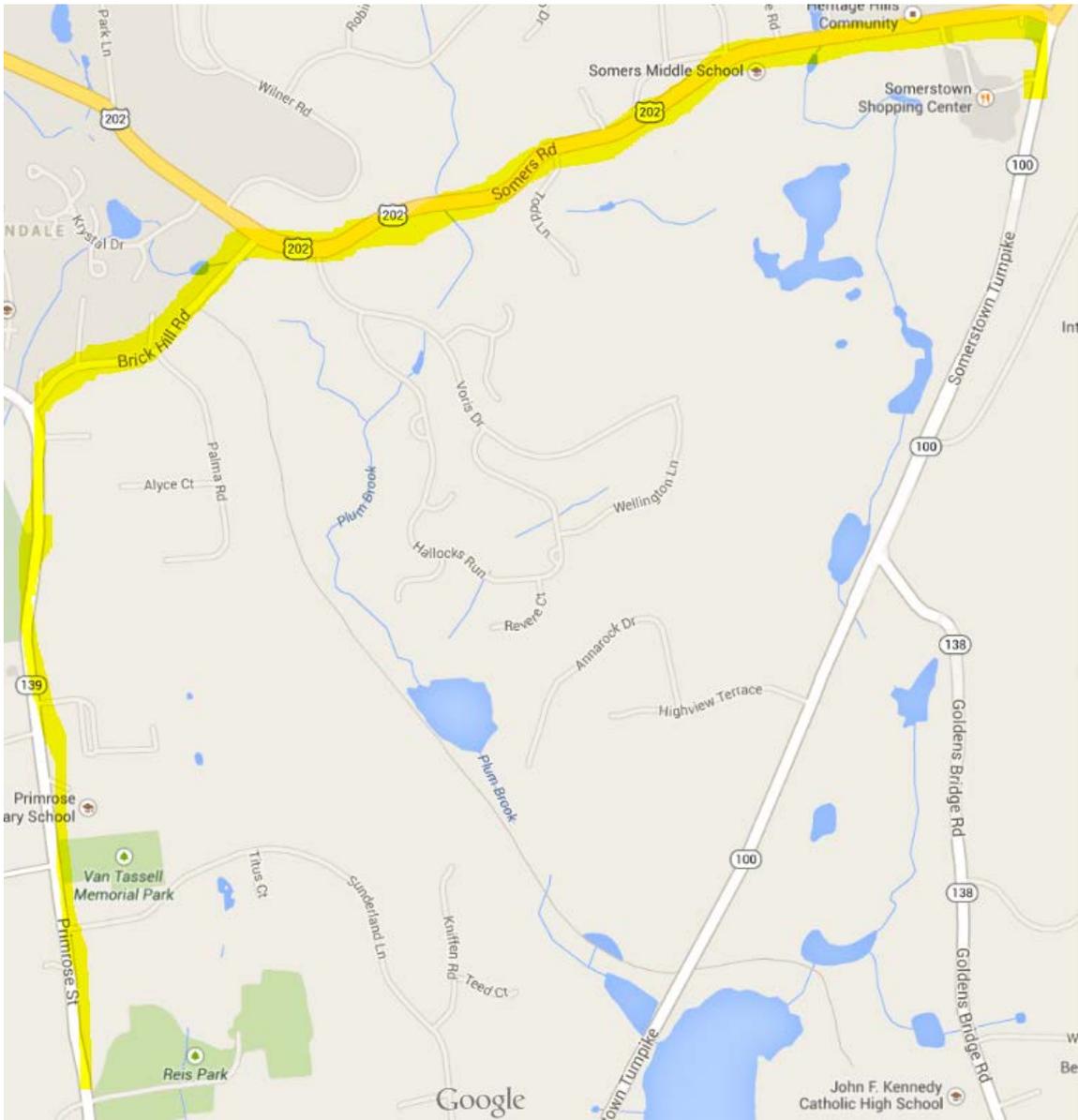


Diagram 1: Proposed construction of sidewalks and bike lanes. Highlighted in yellow reflects the connections of sites from Reis Park to Somerstown Shopping Center

This is approximately 3 miles of sidewalks and bike lanes.