



UPGRADE AND MAINTAIN COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

Why is this a Priority Area?

The quality of a community's infrastructure sends a message. A low level of maintenance conveys to residents and visitors that basic and necessary services are being neglected. This can indicate a community does not value a high quality-of-life for its residents. Infrastructure that is maintained and regularly upgraded, however, shows that the community is well-cared for. Below are actions that will help Fredonia and Pomfret improve and upgrade important community infrastructure and services. Below, please find several important actions Fredonia and Pomfret want to take to improve community infrastructure and services.

Action Item

1 Pursue Targeted Water Line Repairs, Upgrades and Expansions

Community members, steering committee members and key stakeholders all recognize the need and importance of improving water infrastructure in the Village and Town.

Several repairs and upgrades are underway in Fredonia and Pomfret, but more attention must be given to expanding and repairing areas with known challenges. This effort will likely require collaboration - not only between Fredonia and Pomfret, but also with other adjacent municipalities including the City of Dunkirk.

2 Improve and Invest in Broadband Infrastructure

Technology infrastructure is an important piece of municipal government and have been discussed during comprehensive plan meetings with the project steering committee. Both communities will look into existing resources and grant programs to invest in 5G fiberoptic cable. Existing funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 should be considered for future broadband infrastructure projects. This project may apply more widely to the Town of Pomfret.

3 Develop Standards and Guidelines for Alternative Energy Sources

Alternative energy sources are becoming increasingly utilized in our communities. Solar energy sites, in particular, have been implemented in many communities across New York State. The Town of Pomfret has a permitting process for solar infrastructure, but both municipalities should consider any needed regulations for various alternative energy sources. This project is more applicable to the Village since they currently do not have regulations for alternative energy sources.

Who?

- Village Board - Village of Fredonia should lead
- Town Board
- City of Dunkirk
- N. Chautauqua County Water District

When?

- Short-Term
- 1-3 Years to identify high-priority areas for repair and/or expansion and pursue funding

Resources?

- Village and Town Budgets
- ARPA Funds
- WIIA & IMG Grants

Cost?

- Cost will be dependent on a variety of factors including: potential new water lines, connections to existing water districts, repairs to existing infrastructure, etc.

- Town Board - Town of Pomfret should lead
- Village Board
- Village and Town Departments of Public Works

- Medium-Term
- 3-5 years
- This timeline could be abbreviated to utilize ARPA funding

- Town and Village Budgets
- NTIA Grant
- NYS ConnectALL Initiative

- Cost may vary based on areas in need of broadband infrastructure
- US DOT estimates \$27,000 per mile for laying 5G cable

- Village Board
- Town Board
- Chautauqua County Planning

- Short-Term
- 1-3 years

- Town and Village Budgets
- CFA

- \$15,000-\$25,000

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Action Item

4 Consider a Sewer Rent Program for the Village

Sewer rent programs have been implemented successfully in many communities in New York State, including several Villages. A sewer rent program is a schedule of annual charges that are established and imposed by the Village for maintenance, repairing, replacing and purchasing equipment and materials for the Village sewer system.

These charges typically are in the form of utility fees that are separate from taxes in order to capture fees from non-profit properties as well. Sewer rent programs can spread the cost of infrastructure repairs and improvements across all system users and can be particularly useful for older sanitary systems common to most Villages in New York State.

5 Identify Areas in the Village to Locate EV Charging Stations

As electric vehicles continue to increase in popularity and usage, communities will need to consider parking and charging locations. The Village has a few existing EV charging spaces for, but should consider adding EV locations at all municipal surface lots.

6 Pursue Repairs and Upgrades to the Fredonia Reservoir

The Village has carried out an engineering report for the reservoir and have determined that structural improvements are necessary to ensure the future of the reservoir and water supply. Potential improvements could address existing piping, spillways and the reservoir's dam.

7 Update and Improve Property Maintenance Regulations and Practices

Communities such as Pomfret and Fredonia have a plethora of older buildings and structures, many of which predate World War 2. Property maintenance, including appropriate enforcement, is an important process for any community but can be particularly helpful for communities with older properties and properties in disrepair. Both Pomfret and Fredonia should take a measured approach to updating and improving their existing property maintenance regulations and practices to help improve the performance of existing properties.

8 Develop Public Realm Standards

The public realm includes all public space in a community ranging from parks and facilities to streets and sidewalks. The design and maintenance of these public realm components send a message to residents and visitors that public space is valued and its appearance, function, condition and maintenance will be prioritized. The Village and Town should both consider landscaping, screening, street trees, sidewalk and amenities as important features for public spaces.

Who?

- Village Board - This action item is specific to the Village
- Village DPW

When?

- Long-Term
- 5-10 Years
- Short-Term - Speak with Villages with similar programs and identify how to implement pay structure

Resources?

- Village Budget
- Existing Sewer Rent Programs - Village of Fairport, Village of Larchmont, Village of Ardsley

Cost?

- Costs will mostly be staff hours and human costs

- Village Board - This action item is specific to the Village

- Short-Term
- 1-3 Years

- Village Budget
- NYSERDA
- Charge NY

- Installation costs range from \$2,000-\$5,000 per charging port

- Village Board - This action item is specific to the Village
- Village DPW

- Short-Term
- 1-3 Years

- Village Budget
- ARPA Funds
- WIIA & IMG Grants

- Costs will depend on findings of engineering reports

- Village and Town Board - Village of Fredonia should lead
- Village and Town Code Enforcement

- Medium-Term
- 3-5 Years

- Village and Town Budgets
- NYS 2020 Property Maintenance Code

- Costs may largely be staff hours and human costs
- Costs to rewrite property maintenance chapters: \$10,000-\$20,000

- Village Board - This action item is specific to the Village
- Village Board

- Long-Term
- 5-10 Years

- Village Budget

- \$25,000-\$35,000

EMPHASIZE THE VILLAGE DOWNTOWN AND MAIN STREET

Why is this a Priority Area?

Fredonia and Pomfret have determined the Village's downtown and Main Street to be an important priority area for the comprehensive plan. Fredonia and its Main Street represent a compact traditional Village downtown with a built environment that naturally caters to pedestrians. Shopping and restaurants are an important component to a vibrant downtown area and these businesses are more successful when a community values and pays heed to streetscape and design features. Actions for this priority will ensure that the Village downtown can improve deficiencies while also protecting the character and built environment that is important to the Village downtown.

Action Item

9 Establish a Mixed Use District in the Village Center

Many traditional Village downtowns in New York State already include a mix of land uses - blending ground floor commercial shopfronts with residential and office space on upper floors. Establishing a mixed use district that includes the compact Village downtown district would ensure that future development is afforded similar flexibility in mixing land uses for a single site or property. A mixed use district should encourage and permit vertical mixed use - multi-story buildings with a mixing of uses across the building floors - and horizontal mixed use - multiple structures or buildings on a single site that have varying land uses.

10 Develop Design Standards for Fredonia's Downtown and Main Street

Encouraging high quality design for redevelopment and new development in the Village downtown is important to ensuring that existing character and Village fabric remain intact.

Design standards can require a high level of design certainty for developers regarding building placement, building orientation (ie requiring a building's entrance face the street), landscaping and screening, building setbacks, parking location (rear yard parking preferred for a walkable downtown) and other important design features.

11 Enforce and Implement Complete Streets Program

The Village has an adopted Complete Streets policy in its Village Code that was adopted in 2014. This policy encourages transportation projects and improvements to include facilities and amenities that will enhance the safety, access and comfort of all users - including pedestrians and bicyclists. The policy includes a provision for reviewing the performance and success of the Complete Streets Policy from time to time. The Village should review the policy with the Department of Public Works and the Village Planning Board to determine its success or the need for adjustments to better implement complete streets facilities on local Village streets.

Who?

- Village Planning Board - Project is specific to the Village
- Village Board

When?

- Short-Term
- 1-3 Years
- This project should accompany a larger update to the Village Zoning Code

Resources?

- Village Budget
- CFA - Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Grant

Cost?

- Cost included as part of larger update to Zoning Code
- \$50,000-\$60,000 - Village Zoning Code Update

- Village Planning Board - Project is specific to the Village
- Village Board

- Short-Term
- 1-3 Years
- This project should accompany a larger update to the Village Zoning Code

- Village Budget
- CFA - Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Grant

- Cost included as part of larger update to Zoning Code
- \$50,000-\$60,000 - Village Zoning Code Update

- Village Board - Project is specific to the Village
- Village Planning Board

- Short-Term
- 1-3 Years

- Village Staff Hours and Village Budget

- Costs will mostly be staff hours and human costs to review and ensure Complete Streets policy is enforced

EMPHASIZE THE VILLAGE DOWNTOWN AND MAIN STREET

Action Item

12 Pursue Streetscape Improvements in Village Downtown

The relationship between the public and private realms is an important one to focus on for any downtown district. Public space - such as sidewalk, streets and crosswalks - should be well-integrated into a community's private realm - private businesses, shopfronts, etc. Streetscape features can help to improve the interface between public and private space. These features can include street trees, landscaping, and outdoor seating areas. Additionally, streetscape features should be implemented to provide a safer and more comfortable environment for vulnerable users - pedestrians and bicyclists. This could include high-visibility crosswalks, bicycle facilities and bicycle parking, on-street parking and the reduction or narrowing of vehicle travel lanes.

13 Develop Additional Bicycle Facilities and Bicycle Parking

The Village of Fredonia is fortunate to have bicycle lanes along Main Street in the Village downtown. Providing dedicated space to bicyclists can help improve safety for all users, including motorists. Fredonia should consider additional bicycle facilities on other Village streets, particularly local streets with less vehicle traffic that connect to Main Street including Day Street, White Street and Center Street. Additional facilities could include bike lanes, sharrows, share the road signage, etc.

Bike lanes and boulevards are helpful facilities, but they become less meaningful without available bicycle parking locations. There are few existing locations for secure bicycle parking in the Village. Fredonia should include provisions for bicycle parking in the code that require new and future developments provide bicycle parking.

14 Consider a Facade Improvement Program

Building facades and storefronts are among the first things that passersby notice in a community's downtown. Providing business and property owners with incentives to improve their facades to reflect a desired aesthetic for downtown and Main Street. Incentives could include deferred assessment increases or possible grant funding to cover or offset project costs.

Who?

- Village Board - This action item is specific to the Village
- Village DPW
- Village Planning Board

When?

- Medium-Term
- 3-5 Years
- Streetscape improvements should be ongoing maintenance projects in the Village

Resources?

- Village Budget
- CHIPS
- TAP
- NYS HCR
- CFA - Streetscape Enhancement Grant

Cost?

- Cost dependent on improvements to be sought
- A complete downtown streetscape master plan could cost between \$50,000-\$75,000

- Village Board - This action item is specific to the Village
- Village DPW
- Village Planning Board

- Medium-Term
- 3-5 Years
- Improvements or expansion to existing bicycle facilities should occur alongside other streetscape improvements or scheduled roadway improvements

- Village Budget
- CHIPS
- Surface Transportation Block Grant
- TAP

- Cost dependent on improvements to be sought
- Bike Lanes - \$5,000-\$50,000 per mile depending on roadway condition
- Bicycle parking - \$250-\$500 per rack

- Village Board - This action item is specific to the Village
- Village Planning Board

- Long-Term
- 5-10 Years

- Village Budget
- CDBG - HUD
- CDBG - NYS OHR

- Cost included as part of larger update to Zoning Code
- \$50,000-\$60,000 - Village Zoning Code Update

EMPHASIZE THE VILLAGE DOWNTOWN AND MAIN STREET

Action Item

15 Consider Zoning Updates to Establish a Historic District or Historic Preservation Guidelines

The Village has a number of historically significant sites and buildings in its downtown. Many of these are included in the historic Fredonia Commons District, which is on the National Registry of Historic Places. Other historic buildings, properties and homes are located near Fredonia's downtown or along significant Village corridors. The Village should pursue additional historic guidelines or standards to further protect and enhance these historic structures.

16 Apply to Become a Tree City

Trees are an important, but often neglected, ingredient to any downtown. Street trees provide needed enclosure to downtown streets and provide shelter and shade to pedestrians. Fredonia has several tree-lined streets in the downtown district, including Main Street. The Village should consider applying to become a Tree City to better protect and expand their public trees.

The Tree City USA program provides municipalities with a necessary framework to expand and manage all public trees. There are certain standards that a municipality needs to meet to qualify as a Tree City including establishing a tree board, adopting a tree care ordinance, establishing a community forestry program and holding an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Who?

- Village Board - This action item is specific to the Village
- Village Planning Board
- Village Code Enforcement

When?

- Short-Term
- 1-3 Years
- This project should accompany a larger update to the Village Zoning Code

Resources?

- Village Budget
- CFA - Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Grant

Cost?

- Cost included as part of larger update to Zoning Code
- \$50,000-\$60,000 - Village Zoning Code Update

- Village Board - This action item is specific to the Village
- Village Planning Board

- Medium-Term
- 3-5 Years

- Village Staff Hours and Village Budget
- NYS DEC
- Contact and speak with existing Tree Cities - Village of East Aurora, Village of Ellicottville

- Cost will largely include Village Staff hours to put together an application, establish a Tree Board and research and adopt a tree care ordinance

IMPROVE COORDINATION, COOPERATION & COLLABORATION

Why is this a Priority Area?

The Village of Fredonia and the Town of Pomfret decided to develop a comprehensive plan that worked for the betterment of both communities. This has helped to strengthen and improve the working relationship between the Town and Village. This planning process helped show Town and Village stakeholders and decision-makers the importance of further coordination, cooperation and collaboration with other municipalities, Chautauqua County, State agencies and other local and regional organizations and institutions. Below, please find several important actions Fredonia and Pomfret want to take to improve coordination, cooperation & collaboration.

Action Item

17 Develop a Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Some communities establish capital improvement programs (CIP) to strategically plan and program projects and improvements within their annual budgets. CIPs can be incredibly helpful in decision-making, particularly in the wake of a comprehensive plan that includes a litany of high-priority projects. Both Fredonia and Pomfret will want to prioritize different actions - which will vary in cost and other important factors - from this plan. Additionally, while many of these actions should be pursued collaboratively, some of them will be specific to either the Village or Town. For these reasons, it is recommended that Fredonia and Pomfret each develop their own individual CIP to help program and budget for future actions in the coming years.

18 Continue to Work With SUNY Fredonia to Develop Programming and Activities that Engage Student Population and Community Members

The presence of the university in the Village provides many benefits to Fredonia. However, many community members have professed the need to work with the university to provide additional events and programming that further integrates the student population within the Village. These events and programs should have wide appeal that will help to better knit the community together with SUNY Fredonia students, faculty and staff. While this project will likely result in many ideas and suggestions that are located in the Village, both the Town of Pomfret and the Village of Fredonia should complete this action item together to best connect both communities to the student population.