

# SNAPSHOT OF SUCCESS



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**CHRONIC DISEASE DIRECTORS**  
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## City of Olean, New York Inclusive and Accessible Street Redesign Project

### Public Health Issue

- Thirty percent of the estimated 78,000 residents living in Cattaraugus County, New York have a disability.
- The City of Olean, located in Cattaraugus County, has seen economic downturn in recent years with new development going toward the west end of town.
- Approximately 15,000 vehicles a day use the Route 16 corridor that intersects with North Union Street in the center of the City of Olean.
- The city explored streetscape redesign, including traffic calming measures aimed at increasing commerce, new business, and walkability along 3,600 feet of North Union Street.
- This street redesign was compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and was Department of Transportation approved, *yet residents who experienced physical, hearing, or visual limitations could not cross the street safely.*

### Program Action

- Residents with mobility, hearing, and visual impairments met to discuss the new street design with Directions in Independent Living (DIL), a disability advocacy organization, through the support of NACDD's Disability Inclusion and Healthy Communities grant.
- DIL staff facilitated a meeting with the City of Olean's mayor, city council members, and visually impaired residents of the city to share accessibility and inclusion concerns with decision makers.
- The mayor and city council sought funding for placement of new Pedestrian in Crosswalk (PIC) mechanisms along the 3,600-foot area.
- Solar powered Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon PIC signage, designed for people with mobility, hearing, and visual impairments, were purchased and installed in four locations in the new streetscape.

### Impact

- The streetscape redesign now provides four traffic roundabouts for vehicular traffic, as well as safe and accessible crosswalk signage in four locations.
- These built environment and traffic calming changes helped to revitalize the downtown area through new businesses, commerce, development, and increased pedestrian traffic.
- *All* Olean residents, including people living with mobility, hearing, or visual impairments, can now safely cross the busiest section of the town in all four locations.

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