

**City of Olean  
North Union Streetscape Design  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. What is the project area?**

The study area includes North Union Street between State Street (NY Route 417) and Main Street. Stormwater improvements are being considered in the section between the Olean Mall entrance and State Street.

**2. Why are we doing this project?**

The project is being advanced to address a federal mandate to update the City's combined stormwater system. Seeing that portions of the sidewalk and roadway will be excavated for the stormwater improvements, the City recognized an opportunity to redesign the roadway as a "Complete Street" to better serve all users of the street. The stormwater improvements will make North Union a "Green Street" by reducing stormwater inflow and infiltration, implementing on site storage techniques and disconnecting storm water inlets from sanitary lines. The transformation of North Union will create a vibrant environment along the entire corridor with increased safety for all users. Enhancements to the business district such as landscaping, street furniture, lighting and signage will contribute to increased vitality and revenue.

**3. Where is the money coming from to fund this project?**

The project is funded by New York State, with the City of Olean providing a 10% match.

**4. How are the designs being developed?**

The design team (Hatch Mott MacDonald, Architectural Resources and Highland Planning) conducted stakeholder interviews and held a public meeting (12/17/12) with over 70 participants. A meeting summary is posted on the [project web site](#). Focus group meetings were held in mid-January to receive specific feedback from Olean's business, transportation operators and other users of North Union Street. All of the comments have been and will continue to be documented and considered by the City and the project team. A second public meeting will be held February 13, 2013.

**5. How will North Union Street function if there are fewer lanes for traffic to use?**

There are currently 10,000-12,000 vehicles per day using North Union Street, of which 5-7% are heavy trucks. All design options developed will accommodate these volumes with similar if not better function and efficiency than the current design. In addition to the normal cars and trucks, the design team is incorporating design features to accommodate Dresser Rand's extra large shipment vehicles (up to 250' long and 25' wide).

**6. Are roundabouts going to be part of the design?**

Roundabouts are a design feature that is being evaluated. The safety, efficiency, environmental benefits and cost effectiveness of roundabouts make them a desirable intersection control device. As stated above, roadway design features will be analyzed to verify that they work for current traffic volumes and patterns.

**7. Olean is proud of our wide street and visitors always mention how they love it. Will the designs take away from the beautiful views and wide street?**

The beautiful vistas from the street and extraordinary mountainous scenery will be integrated into each design option. In general, the width of the street will remain the same; but the amount of space (width) allocated to pedestrians, bicyclists, parking, landscaping and cars will be modified.

**8. How will snow removal be affected by the designs?**

All designs will consider maintenance requirements such as snow removal. The City's highway department will review proposed designs to verify that street maintenance can be accomplished with the use of existing equipment.

**9. How will emergency vehicles be affected by the designs?**

The City's emergency services staff will review proposed designs to verify that all designs will accommodate emergency response vehicles such as ambulance and fire trucks.

**10. How will Dresser Rand's "mega-trucks" be affected by the designs?**

The design team is working with Dresser Rand to understand the dimensions and requirements of the oversize trucks that use Wayne Street and North Union Street. All designs will be vetted with Dresser Rand to see if there are any conflicts.

**11. How will the construction costs of the North Union Street improvements be funded?**

At this time no construction funds have been identified. However, likely sources include the Western NY Regional Development funds administered by Empire State Development, grants from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)/US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for stormwater improvements, and New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding for highway improvements. Most of these funding sources require a local match of 20% or more.