

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Environment Committee

Meeting of February 19, 2025, 12:30-2:00 pm

Virtual meeting on Zoom.

Attending: Barbara Boyle, Jennifer Gilday, Timothy Gonzalez, Angela Gupta, Tiffany Friedman, Gary Kaczmarczyk, Clifford Knee, Maggie Li, Christopher Martin, Christopher Percival, Giacinto Piacquadio, Sian Piret, Mona Ramonetti, Christopher Sellers, Ana Topolovec, John True, Frederick Walter, and Thomas Wilson.

1. The meeting was called to order by co-chairs Sellers and Ramonetti and invited participants to introduce themselves.
2. Minutes from the meeting of January 15, 2025 were considered. Piret moved that the minutes be approved as submitted, Gonzalez seconded. Without objection the motion was approved.
3. Co-chair Sellers introduced guests Christopher Martin, Associate Vice President for Campus Planning Design and Construction (CPDC) and Ana Topolovec, Director of Capital Planning, Architecture, and Grants Management at CPDC, to talk about the scope of current studies and any other initiatives to address the safety of roadways, bike paths, and pedestrian crossings. Martin and Topolovec's presentation is appended to these minutes.
 - a. Topolovec: Department of Transportation grant has been received to do feasibility study and status of transportation safety on and around campus. Federal grant \$1 million, State match \$250,000 for a total of \$1.25 million.
 - b. Program is named "Safe Streets For All" (SS4A) with a goal of zero deaths and zero events in our community. Order of safety priorities are 1) pedestrians, 2) cyclists, and 3) vehicles.
 - c. Assess safety on campus and also how people get to campus.
 - d. Forming steering committee, preparing a Request for Quotation for an outside consultant to measure existing conditions and look at opportunities for making campus safer.
 - e. Expect to have a consultant on board by the end of September. Have a year to complete the feasibility study, after which we would submit proposals to fund actual improvements.
 - f. First focus is the campus itself: east, west, and R&D Park; but also looking at 25A, Nicholls Rd., and Stony Brook Rd. south to Nesconset Highway.
 - g. Martin: areas being examined on campus in advance of formal study: 10 major intersections. Are crossings in the right locations? Add or enhance notification lighting. Have ability to do one or two now, will look at more crossings as the formal study gets underway.

Questions:

- h. Wilson: Who are the members of steering committee? Is there any shared governance participation? Topolovec: current steering committee includes Enterprise Risk Management, CPDC, Mobility and Parking Services, Environmental Health and Safety, and Government Relations. Do want to get students, faculty, and community involved in subcommittees. Sellers: it would be good for the process to involve shared governance. Wilson: going to the Senate Exec early in the process would give them an opportunity to recommend appropriate Senate representatives. Sellers: this is right in our committee charge and something we have been working on for years so we would be a good resources.

- i. Percival: Current improvements greatly appreciated. How do you imagine proceeding for bikes? Topolovec: Looking at University, concentric circles, going for most immediate results and then moving outward as funding permits. Percival: pedestrian crossings make sense but so do enhancements to bike safety. It may be more cost efficient to enhance use of back roads rather than try to add bike lanes to Nicholls Rd. or 25A. Topolovec: Steve Englebright proposed a bike lane for 25A about 10 years ago. That did not move forward but this and alternatives are being examined as well as input from community groups. There are also proposals to put a bike and bus lane on Nicholls Rd. from 25A to Patchogue. We have not dismissed anything and are early in the process.
- j. Sellers: we have a working group on bike safety that can contribute. Topolovec: we will be happy to get their input.
- k. Gilday: very dangerous to walk on Christian Avenue and Quaker Path, students walk both roads wearing all black. Is there a way to educate, give out reflector jackets? Knee: this is something that could be added to new student orientation. Topolovec: there was a program to give out reflector jackets several years ago, perhaps it should be resurrected. Walter: wearing all black after dark is a problem on campus with pedestrians, scooter riders, and cyclists.
- l. Wilson: this committee has worked on bicycle safety for some time and has recently issued a report on the gantlet required to get from west campus through east campus to Daniel Webster Drive, the terminus of town bike paths. If you are starting close in and moving outward, this would be low hanging fruit to address this before moving outward to add bike paths to Nicholls Rd. or 25A. Topolovec: primary focus of this is on pedestrian safety but we will address as many issues as we can. Wilson: I believe we have previously sent the report but can send it again. Martin: please do. [ed. note: November 2024 report "Regarding Pedestrian and Bicycle Accesses to Stony Brook University from the East" was emailed to Martin and Topolovec on Friday 2/21/2025].
- m. True: the pipe dream would be to expand the LIRR overpass at Nicholls Rd and connect it to the Setauket Greenway path. Is there any chance or discussion of that? Topolovec: previous University President had proposed a fully ADA compliant overpass pedestrian bridge over Nicholls Rd. at the Main Campus Entry over to the north entry of East Campus. Would be similar to the Rt. 24 overpass at Hofstra University. Part of the challenge to justify that is related to why people aren't using the existing underpass at HSC. Gilday: people may not know about the underpass. Topolovec: was used by buses in the past but exhaust was problematic, so bollards were placed and the underpass as converted to pedestrian and bicycles only. True: as is, the location is not inviting. It is better than it used to be but there are construction materials in the area. The connections beyond the immediate HSC are not clear.
- n. Ramonetti: important to remind community members of the rules of the road. Cars do not yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. Signage and education are important. Topolovec: education is critical. Speed limit of 45mph on Nicholls Rd is not enforced. One foreign student from Britain was hit on Nicholls Rd. because they looked the wrong way.
- o. Walter: I wrote the original version of the bike report 10 years ago. You can use the Nicholls Rd. underpass but then the choices are through the loading dock or through the parking lot to a road with no shoulders. Addressing this would seem to be low hanging fruit in that the whole area is all on-campus. Additionally it may make sense to have bike dismount zones in parts of central campus. I don't know if anyone has been seriously injured but people have certainly been hit. Topolovik: rollerblading is not permitted or not encouraged on campus, the same argument could be made for bikes and scooters in certain areas.

- p. Sellers: the government grant focused on pedestrians, our committee have been focused on bikes to move people out of cars. How much of this \$1/25 million could be used for action on low-hanging fruit as opposed to study? Topolovec: the \$1.25 million for for a feasibility study but can directly result in up to \$13 million in proposals for action. Martin: we do have some ADA grant and other funds that can start the process of action now, but the \$1.25 million is to do a comprehensive evaluation.
- q. Sellers: thank you so much for the presentation and information and we hope we can continue the conversation.

4. Plastics Use on-campus.

- a. Associated [google doc](#)
- b. Gilday: SBU Eats uses reusable containers. Students do not have to clean these containers, they just have to drop them off. If a student doesn't return them they are charged \$5. Percival: what students do this? Gilday: those on the meal plans.
- c. For folks using dining halls. SUNY plans to get rid of all single use items by August of 2027.
- d. Wilson: What is the current situation in the dining halls? Gilday: A lot of plastics and single use items are still used in dining halls. Recyclable items are not actually being recycled. Gonzalez: in my experience some plates are reusable but utensils are not. Friedman: there are some places with metal utensils, east side and west side dining. True: there are starting to be biodegradable plastic utensils, might be a possibility in the future. Wilson: biodegradable utensils are only useful if they are composted, if they go in a landfill they will persist for decades.
- e. Sellers: should we form a working group? Should we get an expert from the dining hall administration? Kaczmarczyk: I will look for someone from aux services to present to committee. Gilday: I would be happy to be part of a working group.

5. Significance of changes at federal level for SBU and this committee's charge.

- a. Sellers: What will/should Earth Day 2025 look like? Should we as a committee make a place in what is ahead?
- b. Wilson: at the recent University Senate meeting there was real determination expressed that Stony Brook and the State are not going to roll over: we will continue our leadership in climate and sustainability. Reality has a way of fact checking ideology. There will likely be multiple such situations in the coming months and years. This committee and the University needs to stand up, continue to advocate, and take advantage of those reality checks as they occur. When the pendulum swings back we will have to repair what has been damaged and then rebuild. Sellers: we are in a very difficult time where many are indifferent to facts. Walter: the speed of destruction in Washington is unprecedented. I am not quite sure what the solution is.
- c. Sellers: Earth Day should be a moment. Gilday: there is a whole week of events for Earth Week and will be made a priority on campus. Sellers: getting people out en masse to take action may be helpful. Timothy: action would be important. John: are there connections to Newsday and News12 to report? Gilday: we have connections on campus. Wilson: I believe there are plans for

a March for Science this spring. Walter: until this gets visceral, education and engagement is about all we can do.

6. Ashley Schiff preservation update.

- a. Wilson: apologies for no recent progress. Will send out update to committee and FASP that was promised at the last meeting later today. Fred Walter, is there anything from Interim President McCormick regarding why the SUNY Trustees resolution was so different from the SBC resolution in that it names the Preserve but does not mention protection? Walter: Senate Exec has not met with the President but I will make sure this is on the agenda for the next meeting.

Follow Ups and status reports from other groups.

7. Limits to Growth.

- a. Discussion regarding notification of tree clearing for new dorms. Friedman: President met with the Union and said there was no expansion going on, then trees were cleared for a new dormitory. True: at the Senate meeting the President admitted that policy was not followed in the case of the new dorms. Clearing for the new engineering building has reportedly been delayed.
- b. Wilson: The link to CPDC's project page is <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/facilities/projects/index.php>
Jonathan Sanders asked question at last Senate meeting and got the President to admit that policy may not have been followed in case of new dorms. I find that explanation unsatisfying because it has happened so often in the past that the trees get cut and then you find out about it. Perhaps it is time to push a little bit to implement a policy that clearing or construction must be described in advance on CPDC website and Senate UEC and Senate Exec notified.
- c. Walter: Senate Exec was told some time ago about Seawolf Village. CAPRA got a presentation on new construction on February 11, 2025. It is available on the Senate website at: [Facilities Planning 2025.pdf](#) Seawolf Village in progress, will not be ready for September. Next new building is in the R&D park, then the engineering building slated for Spring 2026.

8. Socially responsible investing initiative.

- a. Ramonetti: not going forward for now, may be revisited in the future.

9. Composting update.

- a. No report.

10. Bike Paths report update

- a. Percival: has the report made any headway in the Senate? Who will send the report to Martin and Topolovec? Wilson: I will send. Percival: should we present to the Senate? Walter: UEC should present to the Senate once per year, this could be part of that. Ramonetti: who does presentation? Walter: Chairs and potentially other committee members, speak to Senate President.

11. Sustainability.

- a. No report.

12. New business:

- a. True: any consideration of noise pollution from air handlers? Freidman: light pollution has been discussed but not noise pollution. Kaczmarczyk: Chemistry building has been upgraded to address fume needs. Building is now undergoing major renovation which may improve noise. Noise surveys in the past have found sound levels within noise ordinance limits.
- b. East Recharge Basin /Lake Briana: Wilson: still intend to install new level meter this year.
- c. Wilson: we have a new President at SBU, Andrea Goldsmith, and engineer from Princeton, will take office August 1.

13. Next meeting: March 12, Wednesday, at 12:30-2 pm.

14. Motion to adjourn from Freidman, passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Wilson

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

UEC – Road Crosswalks Update

February 19, 2025



AGENDA

- Grant Received Overview
- Campus and Community Maps
- Current Study Progress Status

CURRENT GRANT RECEIVED OVERVIEW

- Safe Streets for All - Action Plan
- SS4A Grant award by US Department of Transportation (US DOT) in the amount of \$1M
- SUNY Match is \$250K
- Scope of work:
 - To perform a study of existing street crosswalk conditions on the campus and in the immediate community.
 - Review solution options to address concerns and provide feasibility to perform corrective actions.
- Outcome is to submit to the US DOT for additional funding in executing corrective actions.

GRANT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

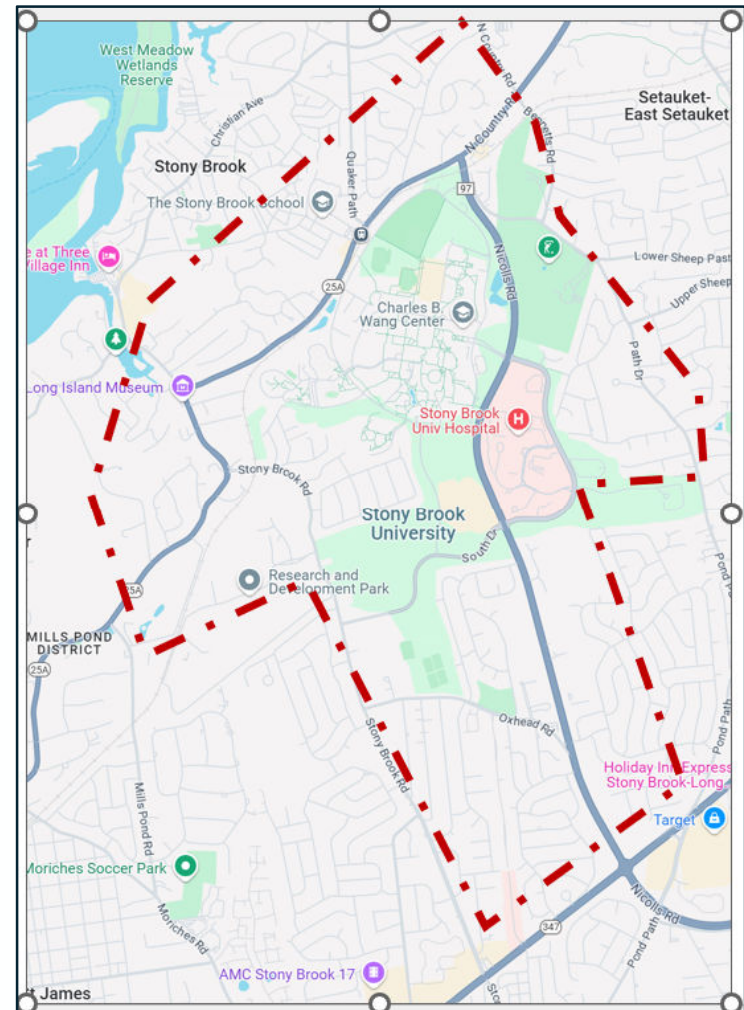
SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A)
DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM
Quarterly Performance Progress Report

Action Plan Project Milestones			
Milestone	Baseline Date (Grant Agreement)	Latest Amended Date (If applicable)	Actual/Expected Date
Planned Draft Action Plan Completion Date:	09/30/2025	09/30/2025	09/30/2025
Planned Action Plan Completion Date:	06/30/2026	06/30/2026	06/30/2026
Planned Action Plan Adoption Date:	10/01/2026	10/01/2026	10/01/2026
Planned SS4A Final Report Submission Date:	12/31/2026	12/31/2026	12/31/2026

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY MAP



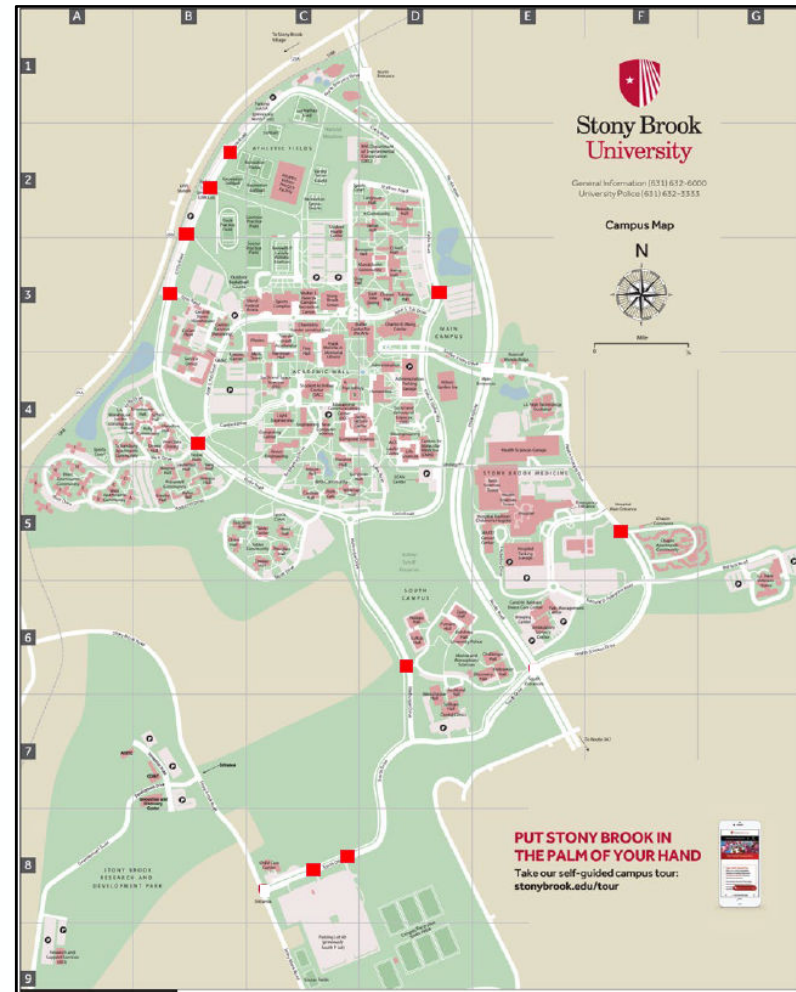
Campus and Community areas within line to be studied



CAMPUS MAP



Existing locations to be included in the study

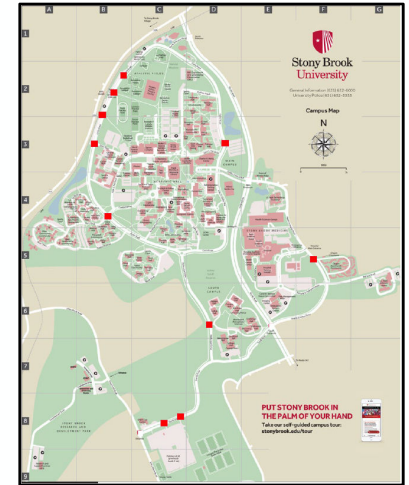


CURRENT STUDY PROGRESS STATUS

- University Steering Committee members have been identified.
- A draft Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for consultant services has been completed and under review for issuance.
- A Subcommittee will be created to include various teams from both the University and the surrounding Community.
- Government Relations will be our liaison with the community.

CURRENT CROSSWALK ASSESSMENTS IN PROGRESS FOR ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE

1. Marburger Drive - Crosswalk Intersection and Bus Stop
2. Engineering Drive - Two Crosswalk Intersections and Bus Stop / Adjacent to Stairs
3. South Parking Lot – Two Crosswalk Intersections and Bus Stop
4. Wang Center – Two Crosswalk Intersections
5. Long Island Railroad – Four Crosswalk Intersections
6. Nobel Hall Circle Road - Intersection and Two Bus Stops
7. Chapin Apartments – Two Crosswalks Intersections



QUESTIONS?