



Street improvements coming to Hudson Falls

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HUDSON FALLS -- Thanks to a state Department of Transportation grant, both sides of Maple Street will soon be ungraded to what officials hope will be a new look for Hudson Falls.

The project is being funded by a \$256,800 state DOT grant, said Chris Round, senior planner with Chazen Companies' Glens Falls office.

Round said Chazen assisted with the grant application and project design, which will see new 4-foot sidewalks on both sides of Maple Street, beginning near state Route 4 and ending at the Feeder Canal.

Village Trustee Kathy Varney said the southern side will have ornamental trees and between eight and 10 pedestrian lightposts as well.

"We chose Maple Street because of safety - for the Maple Street School; because it's a state route with a decent amount of traffic; and because it's a main entrance into the village," Varney said.

Round said the current construction on Maple Street to replace the dated water system is unrelated to the project. He estimated an expense of less than \$30,000 for the village to complete the Maple Street project, with a two- to three-week construction period.

"The goal is to be finished before school starts," he said.

Varney said that since Maple Street runs into Route 4, the village will soon have a large continuous stretch of an updated and more aesthetically pleasing roadway.

"We thought it would be a great continuation of the Route 4 project," she said.

The \$16.8 million state Route 4 reconstruction is also state DOT project. Currently in progress, the project has already seen the repair of a collapsed stone wall on River Street in Hudson Falls. When completed, the Route 4 project will see the reconstruction of the Route 4 corridor in Fort Edward and Hudson Falls.

Varney said the Maple Street project and the Route 4 project will translate into a new and improved look for Hudson Falls.

"The improvements will upgrade the overall appearance of the neighborhoods on Maple Street, and for Hudson Falls in general," she said.

Varney, who is also project coordinator for Warren-Washington County Healthy Heart Program, said she also hopes the finished project will encourage kids to become more active.

"We're replacing partial sidewalks with complete sidewalks on both sides of the street. It's going to be safer for kids walking to school - which is something we'd really like to see," she said.