



## Policy Memo: The Policy Wish List

Beyond our more detailed policy memos, we've created a wish list of policies, programs, projects, & partnerships that better encompass the goals of the Syracuse Urbanism Collective.

### Wish List:

- Community Outreach
  - We can collaborate with public officials and government entities to develop, gain support for, and implement plans relating to our goal of building access to human-centered, walkable, vibrant communities and spaces for all.
  - We can be a consistent point of contact for community outreach on projects, programs, policies, and issues relating to housing, development, transportation, public spaces, urban planning, and other topics related to urbanism.
- Housing, Development, & Land Use
  - Facilitate the creation of housing Co-ops ([See our policy memo](#))
  - Zoning Updates ([See our policy memo](#))
  - Eliminate Parking Minimums ([See our policy memo](#))
  - Appraisal Gap Guarantee ([See our policy memo](#))
  - Streamlined Permitting ([See our policy memo](#))
  - Expand tenants' rights.
  - Raise awareness about land bank programs and make both the process and financing more accessible.
  - Publicly fund and support construction of accessory dwelling units.
  - Reimagine the downtown parking lots into higher and better uses.
  - Coordinate housing and development policy with transit access and transit plans.
  - Promote local ownership of housing stock and create limitations for out-of-town investors to hold onto vacant properties. A land value tax is one possible method, among others.
  - Allow for single-stair buildings in the building code.
  - Create a website where people can find and apply for all available affordable housing rentals and homes for purchase.
  - Create standard pre-approved housing designs, especially for accessory dwelling units, single-family homes, and small multifamily / mixed-use buildings.
  - Foster the development of multigenerational housing and other cohousing options.
  - Set aside vacant land in community land trusts and in the land bank, especially before land prices rise even more.
  - Explore options to raise tax revenue or a substitute for some tax revenue from some typically-exempt nonprofit entities.



- Safe & Convenient Transportation

- Vision Zero

- Reduced Speed Limit & Traffic Enforcement ([See our policy memo](#))
    - Ensure repaved and restriped roads are brought up to the latest design standards and bicycle/pedestrian/transit plans.
    - Ensure that the Vision Zero Coordinator has meaningful oversight and authority over street and sidewalk designs and schedules for repaving, restriping, and reconstruction.
    - Implement Vision Zero design solutions where any intersection and/or street in which a traffic death has occurred must be meaningfully redesigned.

- Public Transit

- Better Bus Stops ([See our policy memo](#))
    - Free Bus Rides for Qualifying Riders ([See our policy memo](#))
    - Improve legibility of bus maps and routes.
    - More accurate and convenient live bus tracking and expected arrival.
    - Reduce traffic on bus routes, using tools such as bus lanes, busways, adjusted signal timing, and broader signal priority.
    - Advertise tap to pay on the sides of buses to make people aware of how easy it is now to ride the bus.
    - Coordinate transit policy with housing density and activity density.
    - Ensure that the implementation of bus rapid transit and a redesigned bus network enables people across as broad an area as possible to conveniently live car-free 24/7, to and from all routine destinations (not just home and work), if they choose or find themselves in a position where they need to rely on public transit.

- Cycling

- Provide safe cycling routes between each adjacent neighborhood & town.
    - Complete the Onondaga Lake trail's southeast quadrant with a safe biking and walking route between Syracuse & Liverpool.
    - Sharrows should not be considered as legitimate bicycle infrastructure.
    - All painted bike lanes situated next to parallel parking should have a buffer between parked cars and the bike lane to prevent cyclists from being hit by opening car doors.
    - Bike lanes and trails physically separated from the street by a barrier or grade change are preferable to lanes only demarcated by paint.
    - Add the ability to report bike lane parking violations to Cityline or another simple platform with a low barrier to entry.
    - Provide leading bicycle interval crossing signals at all signalized intersections with bike lanes.



---

- Fully implement the city's bicycle plan with upgraded streetscape designs to better match the goals of Vision Zero.
- Provide safe cycling routes to schools.
- Differentiate between types of bike infrastructure on the city's map at [syr.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Bicycle-Infrastructure](http://syr.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Bicycle-Infrastructure).
- Prioritize creating safe cycling routes on busy streets between neighborhoods where no convenient or practical alternate route exists on a slower, lower-traffic neighborhood street.
  - Walking
    - Expand pedestrian space with pedestrian-only zones, widened sidewalks where applicable, and an expanded accessible sidewalk / crosswalk network where adequate infrastructure is currently lacking.
    - Provide leading pedestrian interval crossing signals.
- Public Space & Street Redesigns
  - Redesign and reconstruct West Street.
  - Redesign and reconstruct Clinton Square.
  - Complete the Onondaga Creekwalk along the creek across the full length of the city and with improved pedestrian & cycling connections to adjacent neighborhoods.
  - Pedestrianize Walton Street
- Make it easier for people to activate public spaces.
  - Create an easier and more transparent process to host block parties.
  - Create an easier and more transparent process for busking.
  - Establish a process to help make some community streets projects permanent.
  - Work to help neighborhoods strengthen neighborhood identity with unique public spaces, flags, branding, community-building, public space elements, etc., established through grassroots-led efforts.
- Local Businesses in Neighborhoods
  - Create retail and business incubators in every neighborhood.
  - Create a small business registry and awareness program.
- Food Access
  - Mobile Produce Markets ([See our policy memo](#))
- Regional Planning
  - Preserve rural lands (natural lands, working lands, and park space) and establish urban growth boundaries.
  - Provide master street plans and subdivision ordinance across the region to create street network connectivity.
- Maintenance
  - Better maintain pedestrian pathways.



**Syracuse Urbanism Collective**

08-25-2025

[contact@syracuseurbanism.org](mailto:contact@syracuseurbanism.org)

SyracuseUrbanism.org

---

- Expand snow removal to sidewalks connecting between neighborhoods with few alternate routes.
- Expand snow removal to bike lanes.
- Urban Canopy & Plantings
  - Increase awareness of the free tree program and its details.
  - Plant more street trees.
  - Revisit code enforcement rules surrounding “well maintained” lawns to avoid punishing native plantings & non traditional lawns.
  - Implement the city's Urban Forest Master Plan.
- Governance
  - Create a culture of innovation and reinvention in government, integrated into job descriptions (especially roles with decision-making power), and assessed as part of job performance. Focusing primarily on system maintenance without a critical look at what isn't working or what can be done better prevents improved results for constituents and the governing body.