

Caroga News Flash

Community Meeting Highlights

August 5, 2025

<https://TownOfCaroga.com> contains all issues of the *Caroga News Flash*.

Caroga Arts proposes to specify and deliver the Town's 2011 plan to reconfigure the 595' section of West Caroga Lake East Shore Road and Bath Avenue through Sherman's Park to enhance community safety and pedestrian-friendly access, at no cost to the Town or taxpayers.

This special public meeting at Sherman's Dance Hall began at 7:30 PM. Caroga Arts Founder and Artistic & Executive Director Kyle Price led the forum. More than 80 people attended. In addition to Kyle Price, the presentation featured former Caroga resident and Fulton County Sheriff Richard Giardino, retired business executive and CAC Board Vice Chair Chris Simon, former building inspector and CAC Board Member Don Cropsey, and Environmental Design Partnership (EDP) Managing Partner Travis Mitchell. Input also came from the Caroga Arts Board, Nick Stoner Trailers Snowmobile Club, Town officials, local business owners, and local residents.



WHERE IS CAROGA NOW?

1



ARE WE READY TO PULL TOGETHER?

2

3



HOW CAN CAROGA DELIVER SAFER ACCESS FOR ALL?

Can Caroga plan and deliver collaborative community anchor infrastructure projects that align with and move forward the Mohawk Valley REDC's shared economic vision and high-impact strategic priorities?

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Kyle Price shared key information about the proposed road project at Sherman's Park.



Enhancing Safety & Access at Sherman's Park

West Caroga Lake East Shore Road Reconfiguration

August 2025

Why We're Here

- We are here to share with all of you our proposal to reconfigure a 595-foot section of road adjacent to Sherman's Park
- Background of Sherman's and Caroga Arts
- This is not a major road overhaul—but a modest change with a major impact on pedestrian safety and overall traffic flow and is in concert with the Town of Caroga Comprehensive Master Plan.

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Existing Safety Issues

- Current road runs directly adjacent to Sherman's, with little to no buffer between pedestrians and passing vehicles.
- This creates a significant safety hazard, especially during events as well as preparation for events when foot traffic is high.
- First phase of the Sherman's Park redevelopment will be the construction of the amphitheater. Within the next couple of years, the number of children and adults that will be walking in this area is expected to increase dramatically.
- Furthermore, during the winter months, snow plowing pushes snow up against the Sherman's Main Building causing additional wear and tear on the building.



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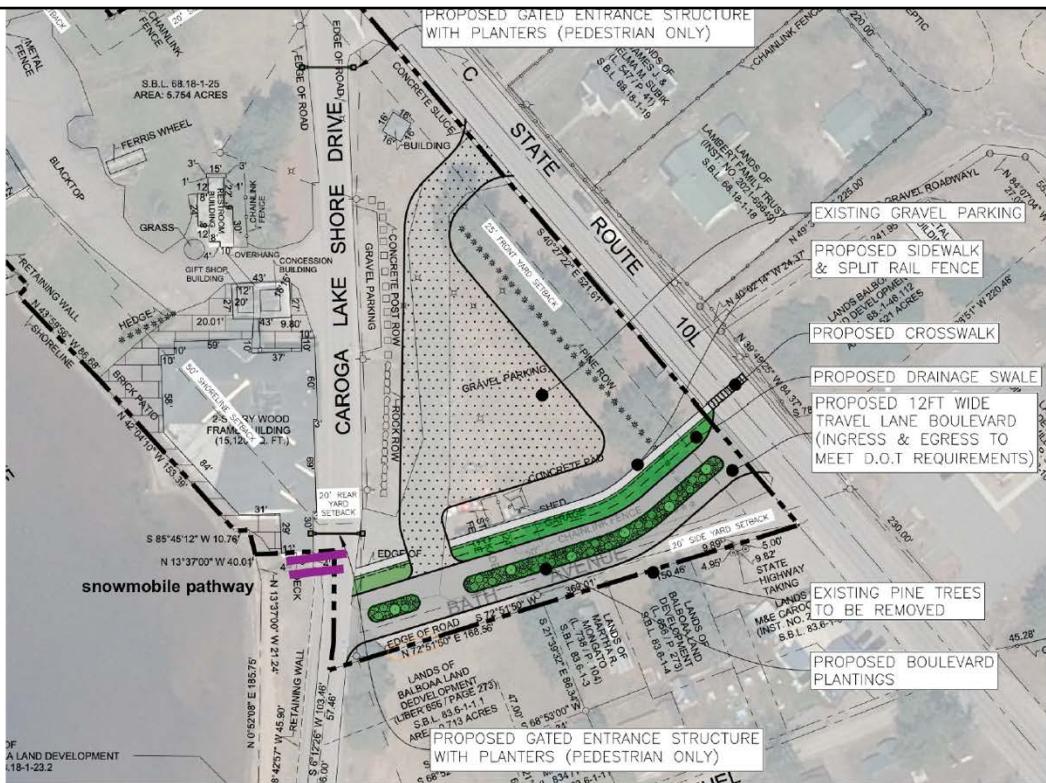


More Than One Problem

- The intersection with NYS Route 29A/10 is currently at a sharp 45-degree angle, which limits visibility and increases the likelihood of accidents.
- This is of concern to both the NYS Department of Transportation and the Fulton County Sheriff's Department.
- Traffic on the remaining open segment of E. Shore Road is too fast, increasing danger for pedestrians and nearby residents.
- Cars and trucks using this road as a convenient "cut-through" has been a point of discussion and concern for many years by the residents of the E. Shore Road and puts children and adults in danger when they cross the street to access the lake.

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Our Proposal - Caroga Arts to provide Easement

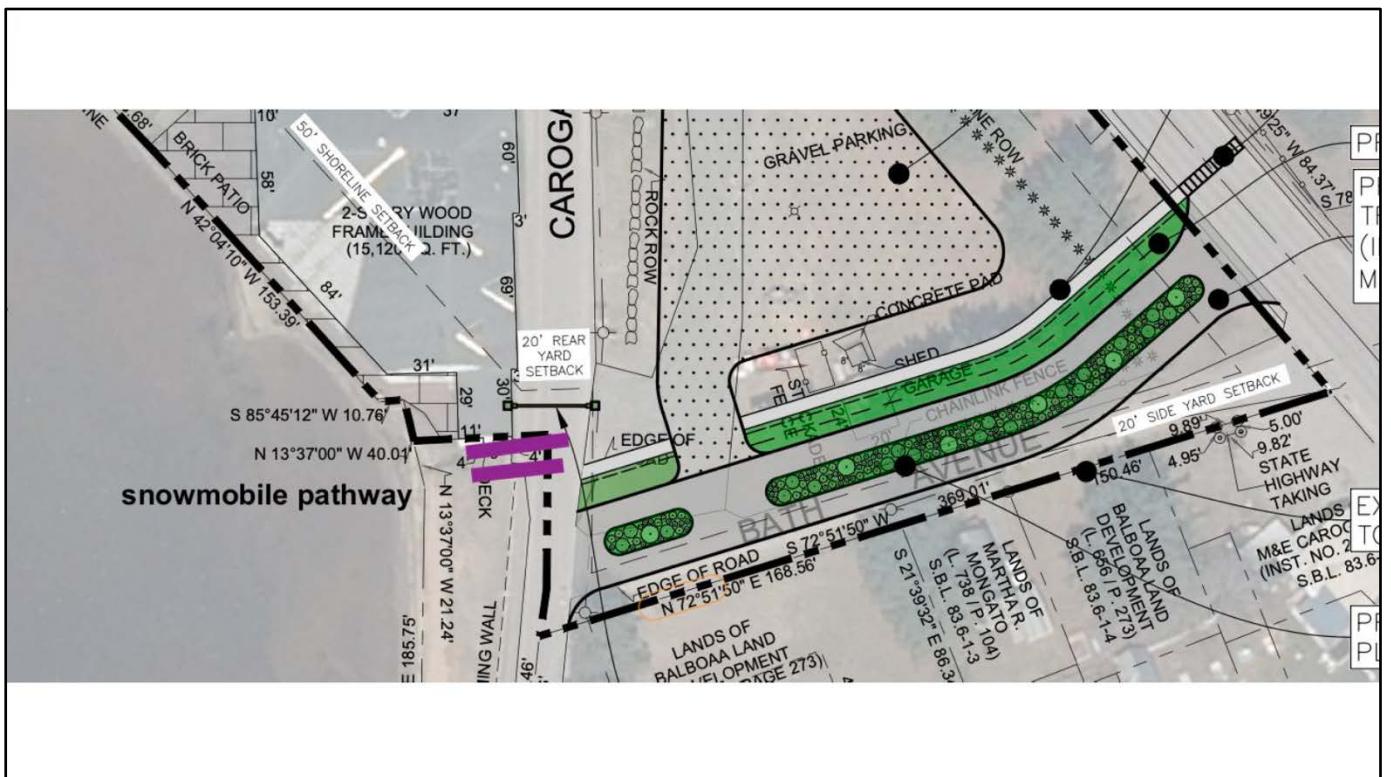
- Reconfigure the 595-foot section of road that lies entirely on property owned by the Caroga Arts Collective by creating a new boulevard.
- This boulevard would incorporate the existing Bath Ave. as well as a new section of road to be provided by CAC on their existing parking lot
 - The existing Bath Ave. lane will be one-way from the E. Shore Road to a safe and more conventional 90-degree intersection at NYS Route 29A/10.
 - The new lane will be one-way in the other direction.
 - These lanes would merge onto the existing E. Shore Road.

Our Proposal - Snowmobile Access

- In addition to allowing for an easement on CAC property for the northern lane of the new boulevard, CAC will work with the Nick Stoner Trailers, snowmobile club, to construct an access point from Caroga Lake onto the Sherman's parking lot to allow snowmobilers safe access from the lake.
- Currently, the snowmobile access is unsafe as it crosses the existing road next to Sherman's dance hall which blinds the view of the snowmobiler attempting to cross

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Safety and Community Benefits

- Pedestrian safety: Reduced risk of vehicle-pedestrian accidents during events (CLMF, Car Show, Tree Lighting, Trunk r' Treat, Winter Carnival, etc.)
- Traffic calming: Naturally creating slower speeds without speed bumps or other infrastructure.
- Improved traffic flow: A safer, more intuitive highway intersection.
- Enhanced community space: Freed-up space adjacent to the venue can be used for safe gathering, ADA access, outdoor programming, or beautification.

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Safety and Community Benefits

- Attractive landscaping: This new boulevard will be landscaped with trees and plants to be aesthetically pleasing.
- Vehicle access: The new layout will preserve access for all vehicles, including emergency services.
- Snowmobile Safety: Lake access for the Nick Stoner Trailers members will improve safety for the snowmobilers.
- Easier snowplowing: Boulevard design allows for easier snow plowing in winter months.

What Makes This Easy

- Short & Manageable Project: Only 595 feet of roadway involved.
- Professionally Designed: CAC has employed Environmental Design Partnership, LLP, a civil engineering firm based in Clifton Park, NY, with representative Travis Mitchell to design the reconfiguration.
- Town Leadership Design Input: We have had the Town Supervisor and the Highway Superintendent onsite for meetings and implemented comments on the design with their suggestions.
- No Land Acquisition Required: Caroga Arts Collective owns the property to be reconfigured.

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Alignment with Town Goals and Master Plan

- From the Town's Master Plan:
 - *“Abandon the section of E. Shore Road along Sherman's Park shown below and have traffic directed onto Bath Avenue. Bath Avenue would be reconfigured into a “T” intersection with NYS Route 29A/10.”*

Who is Going to Pay for This?

- Grant Opportunities: Project could qualify for local or state grants aimed at safety or small infrastructure improvements.
- Caroga Arts Collective will utilize its fundraising infrastructure and capability to raise money to fund the construction.

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New York State Highway Law

- Caroga Arts has hired legal counsel to understand the requirements for reconfiguring the road.
- Under New York State's Highway Law, there are several methods to terminate a public highway including discontinuance and abandonment.
- When only the terminus of a town road is being discontinued, the Town Highway Superintendent can discontinue up to 1,000 feet of road without Town Board approval under Section 207 of the Highway Law.
- This proposal is to abandon only 595 feet of E. Shore Rd. and therefore is under the jurisdiction of the Highway Superintendent.
- Caroga Arts will work to find a mutually agreeable solution amongst the community members, Town Board and Town Highway Superintendent.

Community Feedback & Support

- A smart, responsible, and locally driven solution to an ongoing safety concern that will help prevent any tragic accidents.
- We have received more than **175** signatures from concerned citizens.
- In addition to numerous residents, both the Department of Transportation and the Sheriff's Department are in favor of this proposal to reconfigure the 595 feet of road.

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Let's Take This Step

- Caroga Arts to provide Easement & Snowmobile Access: CAC's willingness to provide an easement for the widening of Bath Ave. into a boulevard, as well as its proposal to provide lake access to the snowmobilers continues to show CAC's commitment to being a strong community partner.
- With feedback from Town Board and support/sign-off from the Town Highway Superintendent, we can move forward with design, planning, and identifying funding partners.
- We're asking for your support to reconfigure this small but crucial stretch of road for the good of the entire community.
- Please show your support by signing our petition.



CLICK HERE TO JOIN MORE THAN 175 OTHER LOCAL SUPPORTERS:

<https://form.jotform.com/243226598684167> .

**Thank you for
supporting CAC's
proposal to enhance
the safety and
access to Sherman's
Park!**

Q&A



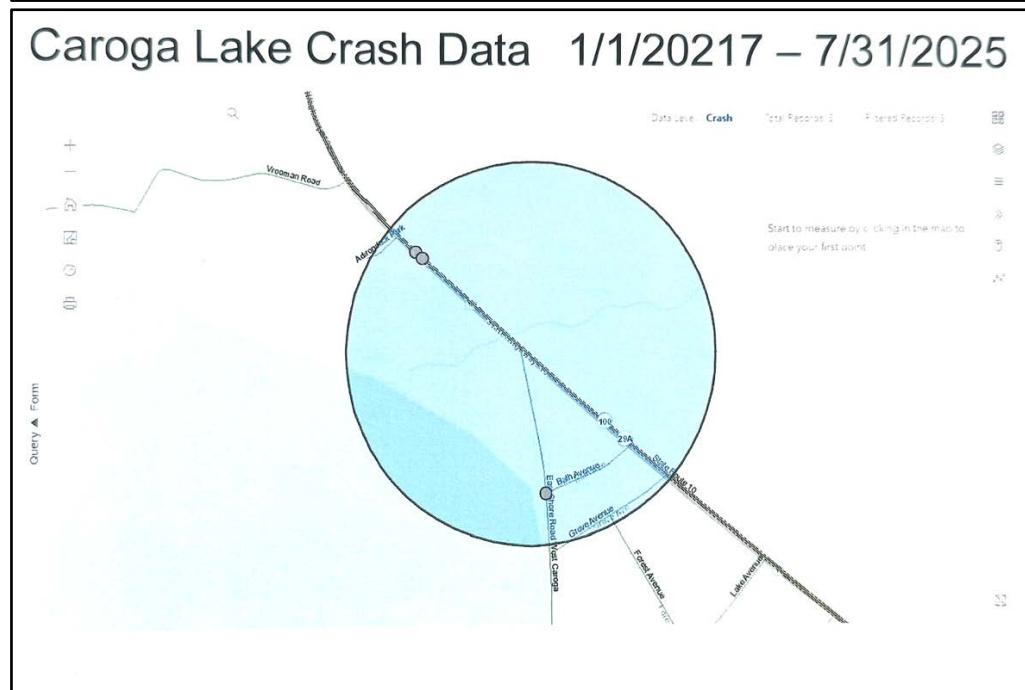
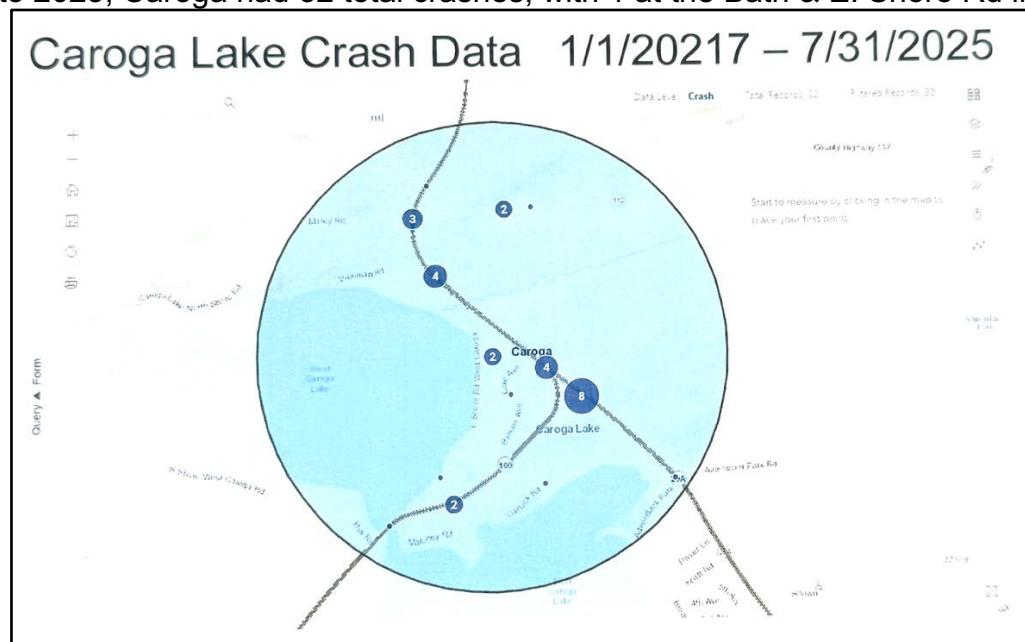
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BE SAFE

Sheriff Giardino said, "We're 100% supportive of what the DOT provides here." By way of history, he noted that most police calls concern hazards of golf carts and ATVs on Caroga roads. In addition, about 4 years ago, many callers asked for help with safety on East Shore Road. After investigating, he sent a letter to the Town stating, "For pedestrian safety, the Sheriff authorizes placing stop signs on feeders to East Shore Road, with the purpose to slow traffic." He added, "**I agree that DOT prefers roads to T and not feed at acute angles, which is less safe.**"

From 2017 to 2025, Caroga had 32 total crashes, with 1 at the Bath & E. Shore Rd intersection.



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PLAN

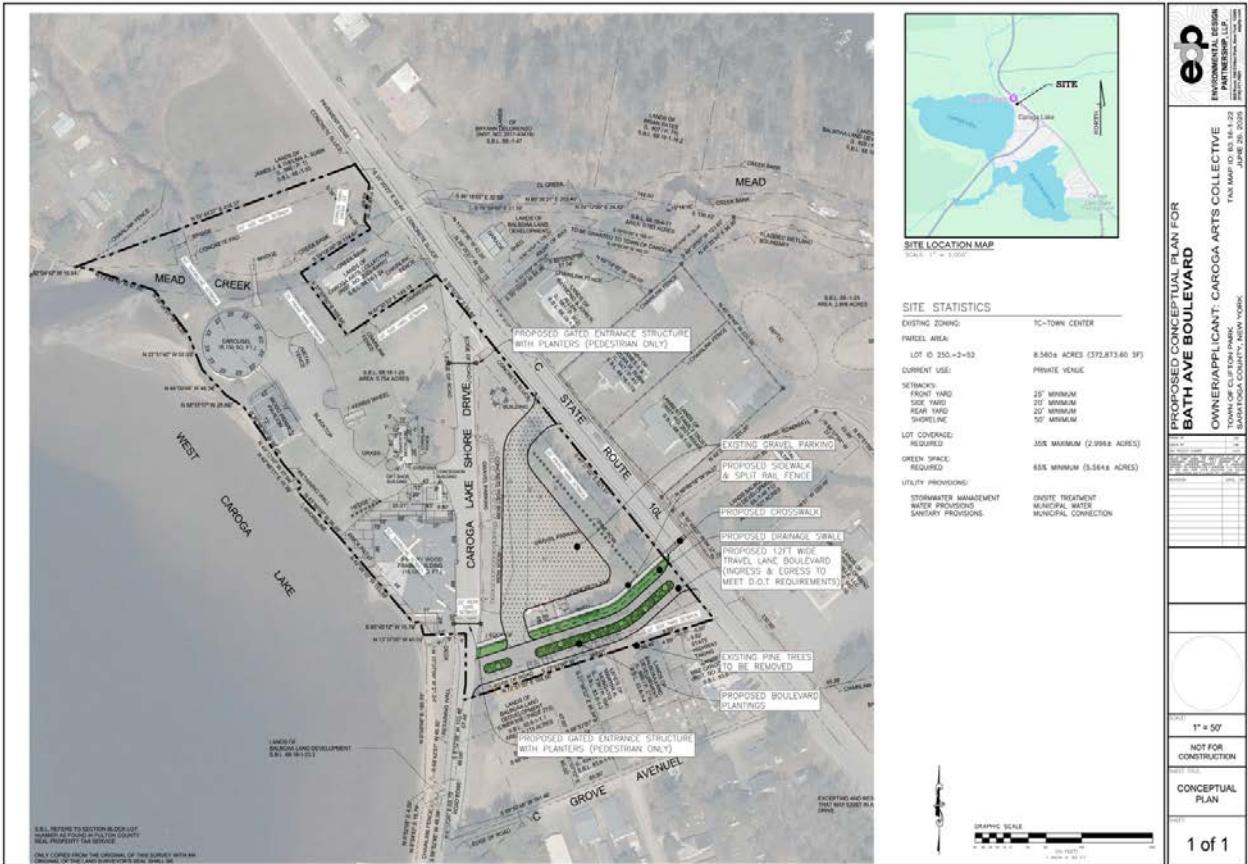
Mr. Cropsey called attention to plans. According to New York State, the comprehensive plan creates a blueprint for the community's future development and preservation. Often referred to as the "master plan," it forms the foundation on which communities are built. A good plan guides not only the town's physical and economic development; it also addresses social, environmental, and regional issues. By Town Law, the plan informs the Town Board on policies, infrastructure, development, and zoning law. It avoids willy-nilly decisions and ensures thoughtful development. Caroga's current *Comprehensive Plan* features the development of Town Center with Sherman's Park as the community's central anchor and gathering place. To provide for better traffic flow and pedestrian safety, the 2011 *Town of Caroga Comprehensive Plan* provides on page 5:

"Important elements of Town Center would be to make...key road improvements:

(1) Abandon the section of [E.] Shore Road along the former Sherman's property shown below and have traffic directed onto Bath Avenue. Bath Avenue would be reconfigured into a "T" intersection with NYS Route 29A/10."

The proposed road project aligns with the 2011 *Town of Caroga Comprehensive Plan*.

Travis Mitchell, P.E. with his team at EDP, put together the following Conceptual Plan:



This conceptual plan was reviewed by DOT and advances best practice designs for safety.

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Mr. Mitchell focused on the common-sense features to slow traffic and improve safety:

- Eliminate the acute angle at the intersection of East Shore Road and State Route 10,
- Realign Bath Avenue as the main boulevard between State Route 10 and East Shore, and
- Eliminate the current blind-spot for snowmobilers crossing over East Shore Road.
- The project does not solve 100% of issues in town or here, but makes notable improvements.
- It also includes added benefits of Caroga Arts donating road use easements to expand Bath Avenue and to reconfigure the 595' section of road that lies entirely on Caroga Arts' property.

John DonVito, of the Nick Stoner Trailers Snowmobile Club, emphasized that this plan also helps snowmobile safety coming off of West Caroga Lake into the parking lot.

- Discontinuing the East Shore Road section along the Sherman's building eliminates the blind spot with high-speed traffic from the left as riders cross from the lake to the parking lot.
- Having that snowmobile right-of-way access will reduce risks of T-bone accidents, and that is especially important for visitors and newcomers to Caroga who do not know our area well.

Chris Simon elaborated collaborative inputs, enhanced safety, and community benefits.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY: *Complete street plans and designs consider the safe, convenient access and mobility of all roadway users of all ages and abilities.* By implementing plans, we proactively reduce risks of vehicle-pedestrian accidents, especially during busy events such as the Caroga Lake Music Festival, Car Show, Tree Lighting, Trunk R' Treat, Winter Carnival, and so on.

TRAFFIC CALMING: Designs naturally slow speeds with no speed bumps or other infrastructure.

IMPROVED TRAFFIC FLOW: The new road provides a safer, more intuitive highway intersection.

ENHANCED COMMUNITY SPACE: Freed-up space adjacent to the Sherman's Park venue can be used for safe gatherings, ADA access, outdoor programming, and beautification in Town Center.

ATTRACTIVE LANDSCAPING: The new roadway will be landscaped with low-growing trees, bushes, and plants to enhance an aesthetically pleasing Town Center for the community.

VEHICLE ACCESS: The new layout will preserve vehicle access, including emergency services.

YEAR-ROUND SAFETY: Lake access for Nick Stoner Trailers will improve safety for snowmobilers.

EASIER SNOW PLOWING: As discussed in advance with Caroga's Highway Superintendent, the new roadway design will allow for easier snow plowing in winter months.

Kyle Price addressed, “WHAT MAKES THIS EASY?”

- Travis Mitchell, PE and his engineering team at Environmental Design Partnership, LLP drew on their extensive Caroga experience and professionally designed the road reconfiguration.
- The *Town of Caroga Comprehensive Plan* established this basic road design 14 years ago.
- Caroga Arts has talked with Town officials to get feedback and input, and current designs implement their valuable comments and suggestions.
- Caroga Arts owns the land to be reconfigured for road easement use, so no land acquisition is required. Plus, only 595 feet of roadway is involved, so project delivery is manageable.

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DELIVER

Kyle Price answered, “**WHO IS GOING TO PAY FOR THIS?**”

- The project could qualify for grants aimed at safety or small infrastructure improvements.
- Caroga Arts will raise money for construction via its fundraising infrastructure and capability.
- **Caroga Arts will take on funding the project, with no cost to the Town or taxpayers.**

Don Cropsey summarized “**NEW YORK STATE HIGHWAY LAW.**”

- Caroga Arts hired legal counsel to understand requirements for road reconfiguration.
- NYS Highway Law provides several methods to alter, abandon, or discontinue a Town road.
- When less than 1,000 feet of a town road terminus is discontinued, Highway Superintendent can order discontinuance without Town Board approval under Highway Law § 207.
- Given 595 feet of E. Shore Road is <1,000', it is under Highway Superintendent jurisdiction.
- Highway Law § 207 requires that owners on both sides (i.e., Caroga Arts) present a written petition to the Highway Superintendent formally to request the discontinuance.

SUMMARY

- Kyle Price noted that Caroga Arts has received feedback and input, but in terms of the New York State Highway Law, we have yet to submit a finalized written request. We need to go through the whole process, but wanted to have this session before we start going that route.
- In doing so, Caroga Arts will work to find a mutually agreeable solution among community members, Town Board members, and the Town Highway Superintendent.
- Before August 5, Caroga Arts has received more than 175 signatures from concerned citizens for this smart, responsible, and locally-driven solution to an ongoing safety concern that will help prevent tragic accidents. In addition to numerous residents, both the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Sheriff's Department are in favor of the safety features in this proposal to reconfigure the 595' section of East Shore Road and Bath Avenue.
- Caroga Arts' willingness to provide an easement to widen Bath Avenue into a boulevard as well as its proposal to provide lake access to snowmobilers continues to show CAC's commitments to being a strong community partner.
- With feedback from the Town Board and support / sign-off from the Town Highway Superintendent, we can move forward with design, planning, and identifying funding partners.
- Let's take this step.
- **CLICK HERE TO JOIN MORE THAN 175 OTHER LOCAL SUPPORTERS:**
<https://form.jotform.com/243226598684167>

Thank you for supporting CAC's proposal to enhance the safety and access to Sherman's Park!



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Public Questions & Answers

Who will have access, and can we still walk that stretch?

Kyle Price said, "Pedestrians will still have full access. The plan eliminates cars on the last 595 feet of E. Shore Road. Pedestrians on foot and people on bicycles will continue to have access. Caroga Arts' master plan also includes a future boardwalk along the lake and a playground near Mead Creek with public community access...The vision is for the Caroga Arts Campus to be fully integrated with the community, so everyone can interact, gather, and enjoy freely and safely."

How will the road be closed?

The aim is to invite pedestrians but prevent cars, such as with planters. Ongoing work with EDP and DOT will look at temporary/permanent signs and barricades to do it as safely as possible.

Where will overflow parking happen?

Sherman's Park is an 1800-person venue, as was the case for the 2022 Bacon Brothers concert. At that event, cars were parked in the main lot, the beach lot, and behind the post office. Caroga Arts has land lease agreements with Balboaa Land Development for parking in those areas. The detailed parking proposals were included in Site Plan Reviews with the Caroga Planning Board.

How will the Bath Avenue changes impact safety at the Post Office parking lot?

Some expressed concerns about changes to the status quo, the road alignments, and safety near the Post Office. Sheriff's Office data show that Caroga's 32 accidents in the past 9 years included 8 at the Route 10 and 29A intersection, 4 at the Dollar General intersection, and 1 at the Bath-East Shore Post Office intersection (see above, p. 12). Caroga Arts acknowledged the importance of the issues, and the team will continue to work together to implement a roadway design that improves safety and reduces accident risks. At this stage, plans can be refined and specified to fully address the issues. Ultimately, the design—proposed in the *Comprehensive Plan* and further specified for implementation and delivery by Caroga Arts in collaboration with EDP, DOT, and the Town—will improve the Bath Ave intersection with the Post Office. That "T" line of sight is clear with good visibility in all directions for everyone moving within Town Center.

Are you taking ownership of the current road?

The land is already on the Sherman's parcel deed. Caroga Arts owns the land, and there has been an easement for the road use. That's why discontinuance under the law requires sign-off, but the Sherman's Parcel has always stretched from West Caroga Lake through the parking lot.

What will the parking entrance and exit points be?

As shown on the EDP design, the Route 10 entrance / exit will remain. Plus, new connections will be built with the reconfigured Bath Boulevard. Cars will not exit events into pedestrian areas.

Does the plan include a DOT traffic safety study?

Yes. That will happen after agreements and sign off about the proposed design. Travis Mitchell confirmed that based on the agreed-upon conceptual design, DOT will review and do a traffic safety study before construction. At this point in August 2025, DOT has already looked at this conceptually and is aware of it. As the design progresses, they will take a closer look at the plan. They will weigh in and do the studies and work with us on ongoing implementation details.

What is the timeframe?

Right now, we are focusing on this public review, and then we will bring it to the Town in writing. We'll see what the time frame is for that. With approval, Caroga Arts will be moving as soon as possible. We aim to deliver this with the amphitheater and will move within 12 to 24 months.

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Where will all the snow go in the winter?

For the past five years, Caroga Arts has with cooperation of the Town plowed snow in the winter expressly so snowmobilers and others can park their cars and trailers near the trail. If this road change happens, that can continue, and adjustments can be made as needed to do what works best. Mostly solutions will be easier, and the tree line will change. Highway Superintendent Roy Stock weighed in on what will be the most feasible for Town snow plowing. As far as Bath Ave goes, there will be 12' wide lanes, and their radii are all plow-friendly. Plus, there is greenspace on either side to push snow into. We made it as plow-friendly as we can.

What if the Comprehensive Plan changes?

Questions were raised about the revisions underway with the *Town of Caroga Comprehensive Plan*. The Comprehensive Plan Committee's monthly meetings are the last Thursday at 6:00 PM, and everyone is encouraged to come. For more information, see the website (Caroga.Town link): <https://carogacomprehensiveplan.wordpress.com>.

If safety is your concern, what are you doing in the meantime to address that?

Kyle Price answered, "We had been temporarily closing the road during events, but the Town recently removed that safety option for the rest of the summer. It is something we are continuing to discuss. It depends on the scope of the event. Is it outdoor or indoor? How many people? We run kids' programs here every morning, and there are a bunch of kids running back and forth. We are having another special kids' concert next week, and so what we're doing right now is being as conscious and sensitive to doing our best to make it work. I cannot tell you it is a perfect solution. Consistent with the *Comprehensive Plan*, the current proposed road reconfiguration is the best solution for all people living on this road and for all of us gathering at Sherman's Park."

Rick Ruby added, "During events, we have trained people staffed and wearing vests directing traffic. Caroga Arts' community has a sincere commitment to safety. We have more than 175 volunteers that are part of this family. All the parking is addressed, and we have security here. We are doing everything we can not to have any accidents. We need to add the road change."

If this is not approved, what is your solution then?

Kyle Price responded, "We would have to go back to the drawing board and the bigger picture. To date, we have focused on the *Comprehensive Plan* being the solution that guides Town of Caroga policies and decisions. Plus, this plan and design is all within Sherman's Park property, and it is within our rights as property owners to create a safe pedestrian experience. That's our focus right now. Our focus is on making Sherman's Park as safe as possible for all. That's why we're having this meeting right now, because we need community support and we need leadership support to make sure we are efficiently making this as safe as possible for everyone."

Why did Caroga Arts talk with the Highway Superintendent?

Questions were raised and accusations made about why the public meeting did not happen before Caroga Arts started conversations with the Highway Superintendent.

Kyle Price expressed gratitude for input and respectfully responded, "There has been no decision by the Town Highway Superintendent, and Caroga Arts has not formally submitted the written request to the Town at this point. That's why we're here right now. You are entitled to feel how you feel, but we wanted to have this gathering for us to feel like we've had input and are ready to come to the Town. We don't want to come with nothing. We want to make sure that we

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have researched it with our lawyer. We want to make sure that we've hired an engineer to design it and think through opportunities. We want to make sure that we've had conversations with Town Board members, with the Town Highway Superintendent, with DOT, and so on, so that we are coming to you all with the most informed and best perspective that we can bring to also save you time and energy. We aim to open a discussion like this focused on bringing our design to the level where it can be integrated quickly, rather than something where we all are starting from scratch. We aim to be respectful to everyone and make sure that we have a high-level discussion about this topic."

(applause from the crowd)

How does Caroga Arts collaborate with the community and Volunteer Fire Company?

Randy Snyder added a "shout out" about concert safety and so forth. "The Fire Department has been awesome in helping to protect the roads and the people and all of that. There was community togetherness. It was really awesome. The real focus was safety. We all support that."

(applause from the crowd)

What is the nature of the agreement about parking?

Rick Ruby responded, "The lease for parking is ongoing with Bob Abdella of Balboaa Land Development. He is so supportive. He was going to be here tonight, but he called me because something came up. He said, 'Please, you know exactly how I feel. Tell everyone there.' When we have an event, it sometimes requires people to cross Route 10 for parking. We've come so far from where this organization was. And we all remember what Sherman's looked like 10 to 12 years ago, compared to where it is now. The community is making it happen. Volunteers are helping to make sure visitors get safely across Route 10, and so much more. We're all trying to do it in the best interests of the public and the whole community. That's our primary motivation."

Kyle Price, "We continue to talk with Bob Abdella. We want to make sure we have all the permissions. For all of the events we have, we also call the Sheriff's Department about it. We make sure EMS is involved. We worked with the Planning Board too to get approval for the Site Plan. We had a 20-page parking plan I can send you, if you like. We're also trying to look to the future. We're looking at a cross-walk across Route 10. Those details are things we will continue to iron out. We have a proposal. We will keep talking with Travis Mitchell and DOT. We're feeling good about the design we have. It fits with the Town of Caroga Comprehensive Plan as well."

Where can we read more about the Comprehensive Plan?

A local person said, "We need to get that out there! Our Town is dead without Caroga Arts!"

To read more about the *Town of Caroga Comprehensive Plan*, see the link from Caroga.Town:

<https://carogacomprehensiveplan.wordpress.com>

Additional information is also available at: https://townofcaroga.com/comprehensive_plan/

Caroga has a distinctive 50-year history of resident-led comprehensive planning.

Kyle Price read names to get perspective on who in the community has worked on planning.

The current *Town of Caroga Comprehensive Plan* was adopted in 2011 by the Town Board:

- Jim Selmser, Val Scribner, Tony Russitano, Ralph Palcovic, and Bob Sullivan.

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Planning Board members who led the redevelopment of that 2011 *Comprehensive Plan* were:

- Scott Horton, Steve Putman, Michael Voght, Sharla Wager, Robert Miller, Greta Frasier, Mary Johnson, John Fenzl, and Tor Shekerjian.

That work was based on the 2002 *Plan* led by the following Comprehensive Plan Committee:

- George Abdella, Carol Barker, John Blackmon, Doreen Ford, Ed Jutras, George Lake, William Fielding, Donna Goldman, Gay Lefebvre, Frank Malagisi, Inger McDaniel, Jim McLelland, Barbara McMartin, Elizabeth Mowrey, Alec Reid, Douglas Smith, Robert Sullivan, and Eric White.

The original 1978 *Town of Caroga Land Use Plan* was developed with a grant in collaboration with the Fulton County Planning Department and the Caroga Planning Board:

- Robert Kane, George Curtin, Richard Lorence, Gordon Croucher, Fritz Ann Dillon, Harry MacIntosh, and Jesse Lake Jr.

In 2024, the current Town Board (Ralph Palcovic, Barbara DeLuca, Jack Glenn, Matt Cooper, and Rick Sturgess) appointed another Comprehensive Plan Committee to redevelop the *Plan*:

- Chair Chris Foss, Vice-Chair Rachel Simonds, Secretary Anita Long, Doug Purcell, Jeremy Manning, James Hale, and Dave Cummings. In 2025, Kim Walker was added. Barb DeLuca also serves as the Town Board Liaison to the Committee.

Consistent with the 2011 *Town of Caroga Comprehensive Plan*, Caroga Arts now aims to deliver a key Town Center road reconfiguration at no charge to the Town or taxpayers.

Have you thought about a bridge over Route 10?

An audience member asked, "Have you guys thought about an archway or bridge over top of the highway? I know if you go to South of the Border, like when we go there, my kids love to stop at South of the Border and walk across that bridge!"

Kyle Price replied, "I'm a dreamer. So we can talk about archways. We haven't planned that here. There are probably logistic issues, with trucks going through and so on."

Do you have a budget for what this is going to cost for fund raising purposes?

Kyle Price responded, "We've talked budgets. We definitely have one. We've budgeted on the higher end for a road that is a big deal but not a huge stretch of land. So, we have budgeted within our Comprehensive Fundraising and Master Plan. I think it's a \$400,000.00 budget. We'll see how that looks as we move to the next step. We'll get even more fine-tuned when we have valuations and quotes and such. We've prepped it within our materials. We're trying to put it in connection with the amphitheater when it goes up, so that it's within the same time frame."

Do people know about all the local community support for Caroga Arts?

A resident stated, "I'm in my 10th season here on East Shore Road. My real concern is safety. I can say that concerns you brought up are real concerns from people here. I think that your plan will cut at least half of it. When I bought my place, Sherman's looked like South of the Border! People wondered if it should get bulldozed. We all see all the work put into this place, and it looks awesome! I hope the future continues to bless you guys and the whole community!"

(crowd applause)

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Thank you!

Caroga Arts Board Member Kim Hart added, “Thank you for having this informational meeting, and thank you everybody for coming! We’re just trying to pass along information about what we think and feel makes sense after all the work that has been done as the team. My family owns a business, and we’ve been residents here for many years. The most important role that we have taken on has been as grandparents. We have six grandchildren. There is nothing that brings us more joy and them more joy than coming to Caroga. This atmosphere that we are creating through all the work—not only Caroga Arts, but all the whole community and all the volunteers and artists and projects—is calling back the yesteryear with a simpler time. But we’re not a city where we want to do bridges over the road, but really just a simpler life. This Park that is being created is a safe place to bring six grandchildren. I have to say that just yesterday I was traveling with three of them to the library, and I literally saved my granddaughter’s life when we tried to cross the road to get to the library. They’re so excited to get to the program. We have put in so much effort and donated so much money to create these programs for the children and for the future of Caroga. They’re going to come. We have to be smart. We have to be prepared. I don’t want to simplify it, but it’s a strip of road. Can we work together to do it? I can’t even imagine if something happens to a child out here on this road. A child who is excited to go to that carousel, or to all the kids’ programs that we’ve developed, and not just the music programs but also with all the reptiles coming here and different things for children. We can’t take that risk. Thank you.”

Kyle Price added, “We’ll be here answering questions privately as well. Find me. I appreciate everyone being here, and I look forward to talking with you and being in touch. Thank you.”

Want to share your input?

You are invited to do the 2025 Community Survey by clicking here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6YKGPTZ>

You can join more than 175 other local Caroga Arts supporters here:

<https://form.jotform.com/243226598684167>

Thank you for supporting CAC’s proposal to enhance the safety and access to Sherman’s Park!

