

# Town of Cicero

## Comprehensive Plan & Zoning Code Update



### Ideas Wall Summary

**April 18, 2023 - Present**

**DRAFT: June 9, 2023**

On April 18, 2023, the Town of Cicero hosted a Strategic Visioning at the Cicero Volunteer Fire Department for the Town's Comprehensive Plan & Zoning Code Update project. During the Workshop, the Bergmann consultant team introduced the public to the project and proposed process, provided an overview of the basics of comprehensive planning and zoning, and collected and responded to questions and comments. At the end of the Workshop, a Ideas Wall discussion board, available online via Social Pinpoint, was launched and attendees at the Workshop were invited to participate. Following the Workshop, the Ideas Wall was also advertised on the project website. The Ideas Wall is still open for discussions and has received 62 comments so far.

The purpose of the Ideas Wall was to collect public input on the key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that the Town of Cicero faces. Participants were invited write down their thoughts and respond to each other's ideas on a virtual forum. There were six different categories of sticky notes to choose from: Neighborhoods & Residential Development, Parks & Recreation, Transportation & Infrastructure, Waterfront, Governmental Services, and Business & Industrial Development.

An interpretation of the comments on the Ideas Wall is summarized in the following pages, and a full record of the discussions is available in the Appendix.

# Neighborhood & Residential Development

Discussion in this topic area focused on efforts to preserve green space and agricultural land. Some participants expressed interest in development regulations to protect the waterfront and environment, while "fixing" unsustainable growth patterns. Overall, participants voiced concern over unchecked development.

There needs to be more requirements for developments. We can't continue to raze all of the remaining wooded areas and turn every farm field into a new home development. Green spaces need to be taken into consideration for the wild life and health of the community.

**Upvotes: 17 | Downvotes: 0**

Zoning is a total mess. I feel terrible for anyone who purchased a home on the sidestreets off of Route 11, where unrestricted growth for 40 years has impacted quality of life, property values and ability to enjoy their property. I feel awful saying this - But perhaps we should compensate these residents and start over with proper zoning.

**Upvotes: 1 | Downvotes: 0**

At a minimum, do not accept the zoning changes when the developers propose a change from agricultural to residential. Agricultural at least requires a minimum of 1 acre lots (or equivalent under a cluster format). There's too many R10 and R12 developments in the town already.

**Upvotes: 1 | Downvotes: 0**

# Parks & Recreation

In this topic area, participants discussed the importance of protecting undeveloped greenspace, creating more walkable trails and paths, and creating more activities and events for Cicero residents to enjoy. One discussion focused on making roads safer for multi-modal transportation, especially walking and biking.

It would be great to have more community events. I've really enjoyed the summer concerts in Williams Park and would love more events like that, that get the community out together enjoying our amenities.

**Upvotes: 5 | Downvotes: 0**

What are your thoughts on a public food forest with cherries, apples, blueberries, and other edible and low-maintenance vegetables located near the Cicero Public library? I like this idea because this adds variety to the activities in Cicero, doesn't require you to pay to pick like the other orchards in the area, and is an educational benefit for children. It's a charity activity for church groups to donate food to those in need and maybe isn't too expensive for the town but may take a long time

**Upvotes: 7 | Downvotes: 2**

# Transportation & Infrastructure

Discussions in the Transportation & Infrastructure largely focused on improving the safety of Route 31, Route 11, Lakeshore Road. Many participants voiced the desire for Cicero to be more walkable and bikeable by improving bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Other discussions revealed a wide variety of opinions:

- Utility lines should be moved underground
- Discussion whether roundabouts would be beneficial or harmful to the community
- Curbing traffic noise
- Development pattern of future roads

This topic received the most comments and replies.

The intersection at rt 31 and thompson road is dangerous. What about a round about like Bridgeport.

**Upvotes: 4 | Downvotes: 0**

Improving infrastructure by having more bike lanes (especially on rt 11 and Lakeshore). I think e-bikes and e-scooters are going to be a very common way of getting around in the near future. We need ways to support that green initiative.

**Upvotes:5 | Downvotes: 0**

# Waterfront

Conversations in this topic area focused on opening access to the waterfront for public enjoyment. A public lake walk with bike access, and a small lakefront museum would attract many people to Cicero. One discussion highlighted the need for marinas and boat launches, without increasing the level of traffic to the area.

This proposal may already be in the works. Having a public lake walk would attract hundreds of people. The walk should not be dependent on patronizing any business, but would be public, with public parking. Having a small, adjacent park, would be icing on the cake.

**Upvotes: 16 | Downvotes: 0**

Encourage access and development for the public's enjoyment of the waterfront, including marinas and boat launches, as well as businesses like bars/ restaurants on the water.

**Upvotes: 9 | Downvotes: 0**

## Governmental Services

The conversations in the Governmental Services topic area covered the following themes:

- Considerations for naming a Cicero Hamlet
- Encourage development away from Route 11

This topic received the least number of comments and no replies.

I propose that the town pursue naming the area within the town of Cicero that is neither Brewerton nor Bridgeport. Specifically, many of us live in Cicero, but that's the town name. The website Wikipedia lists Cicero hamlet. If that's the name, we should have welcome signs at all entrances. Better yet, devise a new name for Cicero hamlet. Having the same name as the town blurs the distinction between the two.

Upvotes: 1 | Downvotes: 0

## Business & Industrial Development

In the Business & Industrial Development topic area, participants proposed the idea of shifting development away from Route 11, and shifting away from the idea of Route 11 being the "Town Center." Participants also questioned how to attract a diversity of business to the area, and mentioned the importance of taking advantage of commercial areas but installing solar arrays on commercial buildings.

Is there a way to attract businesses other than car washes, banks, and fast food? It would be great to have a few more sit down restaurants and cap the drug stores and smoke shops for now. It would be nice to have other stores as well. Maybe we can get Burlington back?!

Upvotes: 0 | Downvotes: 0

I propose the town develop a plan for a 'town center', a place that emphasizes 'community', with small shops, maybe a restaurant, and move town hall there, off rt 11. This could be a possibility if/when the auto auction company on rt 31 relocates. Include a centerpiece for flag, a small walking park, and parking space. This may be a mini-mall type of structure that attracts people. This could quickly become a focal point for the town, removing images of rt 11 as the town's image.

Upvotes: 0 | Downvotes: 0



# Town of Cicero

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**Ideas Wall Summary**  
**April 18, 2023 - May 18, 2023**

*Appendix*

**DRAFT: June 8, 2023**

Category	Type	Comment		
Transportation & Infrastructure	Comment	I want Cicero to be safer to bike and less car centric.	15	1
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	100% agree. As an avid cyclist, every single road in the town should have a shoulder/bike lane (either on both sides of the road, or a protected bi-directional bike lane on one side of the road) - from rural roads to all of Route 31 and Route 11. Also, eliminate using tar & stone for road surfaces, as it is extremely dangerous to cyclists (and it isn't great for cars either).	6	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	Traffic calming measures like speed limit reduction would reduce crash rates and the environmental impact of driving.	5	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	I want to have dedicated bike lanes protected from car traffic.	7	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	Lots of cars drive on the shoulder of the road to pass turning cars at stoplights. This is illegal but normalized. This happens frequently at the intersection of South Bay Road and Rt. 31. It must end to reduce risk to pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. I would support the installation of a camera at this particular stoplight and others like it.	6	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	Yes! Dedicated bike lanes as well as more sidewalks would help a lot.	6	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	I think we should have more roundabouts and fewer stoplights because roundabouts are more pedestrian friendly.	8	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	I agree the roads around lakeshore, South Bay and Rt 31 are very unsafe for pedestrians, bikers and at times cars. There is too much traffic, far too much illegal passing on right at intersections which is illegal and unsafe for all. This area and traffic flow should be better designed for all to enjoy safely. We have a beautiful natural resource in Oneida Lake area and it should be made safer for people to enjoy	4	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	I would like my daughter to bike to school when she is old enough but the speed limit on south bay road needs to be reduced, roundabouts need to be installed at the intersection of South bay and Thompson and another at South Bay and Route 31, and protected bike lanes down Lakeshore and South Bay need to be built to serve her and children like her.	4	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Comment	We have bedroom communities sprawling off of county roads. Future housing proposals should include the cost of intersecting to nearby developments. Further, the town should mandate how future roads are laid out, not developers, as the town is in a position to determine how traffic should be added to existing traffic patterns. This could reduce the traffic mess of relying almost solely on existing county or state roads, and would build a grid of interlocking streets.	2	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	I will second this idea on the condition that we make this network include sidewalks and protected bike lanes. Building roads should reduce traffic rather than increase it.	2	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	I want to discourage thru traffic in my neighborhood because children play in the roads outside my house. Car accidents are the second leading cause of mortality among children nationally. I'm sorry but I want the town to protect kids from cars and I cannot support this. Thanks for understanding.	0	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Comment	Move the utility lines underground and make businesses attach signs to building structure.	5	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	Underground utility lines are fine but they are more expensive and need to be replaced every 30 years as opposed to every 50 years for overhead lines. They do have the benefit of reducing the risk of a distribution line fault but I haven't seen this be an issue in Cicero even in the deep winter with 28 mph winds. Maybe we should target them in areas where they have the best benefit like the lake area if they haven't been buried already.	2	0



Category	Type	Comment		
Transportation & Infrastructure	Comment	There are so many roads to bike, but they need to be safer. When poeple are passing cars on the shoulder it is scary.	6	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Comment	The intersection at rt 31 and thompson road is dangerous. What about a round about like Bridgeport.	5	5
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	We are over building off south bay and lakeshore area...loosing to many trees... now water backs up on our property.. already a heavy traffic area...	0	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	This is very bad idea these circle Bridgeport and sylvan Beach are a night mare.. driving tralions, boats, commercial vehicles struggle making these...been threw them all different hours...very dangerous...	0	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	I support adding a roundabout to this intersection because cars illegally pass each other on the shoulder all the time to get around people turning left from Rt. 31. The town has put up signs indicating it's a bike route but this pattern of driving makes cycling dangerous. A single lane roundabout will reduce the number of conflict points between cars and cyclists making the town more pedestrian friendly. Thanks for sharing.	1	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	I will concede that we don't build roundabouts very well in this area. They need to have a structure in the center of the roundabout to prevent traffic from travelling over the center. The one in Bridgeport doesn't have a structure and cars can drive over it and execute an illegal left turn. The roundabouts in East Syracuse are pretty dangerous and not pedestrian friendly although are better than intersection and split traffic lanes to make safer for cars. We can make a better roundabout.	1	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	This is already planned. DOT has it scheduled to be complete by December 2024.	1	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Comment	Improving infrastructure by having more bike lanes (especially on rt 11 and Lakeshore). I think e-bikes and e-scooters are going to be a very common way of getting around in the near future. We need ways to support that green initiative.	5	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Comment	Add an exit on Route 81 on Mud Mill Road.	4	2
Transportation & Infrastructure	Comment	We need another major North-South and another East-West road. They need bike lanes, sidewalks and regulations on setbacks/density.	7	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	Thanks. I would support making them toll roads as well. I also prefer protected bike lanes to painted ones.	0	2
Transportation & Infrastructure	Comment	The Interstate 81/Route 31 interchange needs to go.	3	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	Such a loud place. People don't use the sidewalk. People getting off the highway drive impatiently. Too many stoplights and cars stranded in intersections at red lights. Road signs encouraging snowmobile and bike use are ineffective.	0	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	I believe the small business owners around the interchange would challenge this idea, unfortunately. It may take a long time to see it come true.		
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	Adding to my previous comment. Maybe roundabouts would be a good compromise.	0	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Comment	On Route 31 between Route 11 and Lakeshore roads, build something in the middle of Route 31 to eliminate left hand turns. Make the triangle area around the old dunking donuts an opportunity to get to the other side of the road.	0	4

Category	Type	Comment		
Transportation & Infrastructure	Comment	Leaving businesses to add sidewalks on Route 11 when they renovate is ludicrous. We have a mishmash of unmatched sidewalks with major breaks in between. The town or the state needs to step in and fix it.	2	0
Transportation & Infrastructure	Reply	They are installing sidewalks right now.	1	0
Business & Industrial Development	Comment	Do you think we should put solar arrays on more commercial rooftops? Support their development or push developers to integrate plans for solar generators? Parking lots are great opportunities to build solar arrays. In Boulder, CO, they build parking lots with a canopy of solar panels. This provides shade, protection from rain, and generates a lot of electricity. I'd like to see this in Cicero. Thanks.	0	0
Business & Industrial Development	Comment	I propose the town develop a plan for a 'town center', a place that emphasizes 'community', with small shops, maybe a restaurant, and move town hall there, off rt 11. This could be a possibility if/when the auto auction company on rt 31 relocates. Include a centerpiece for flag, a small walking park, and parking space. This may be a mini-mall type of structure that attracts people. This could quickly become a focal point for the town, removing images of rt 11 as the town's image.	0	0
Business & Industrial Development	Comment	We need some more restauants, etc on rt 31. Closer to the high school.	0	0
Business & Industrial Development	Comment	Is there a way to attract businesses other than car washes, banks, and fast food? It would be great to have a few more sit down restaurants and cap the drug stores and smoke shops for now. It would be nice to have other stores as well. Maybe we can get Burlington back?!	0	0
Business & Industrial Development	Comment	Not sure who or why all the Businesses were allowed to start up on Rt11 between Lowes Home Depot and Wegmans. The traffic issued are at least terrible and at best unsafe. Would be curious to know why the Planning Board did not pick up on the Traffic Congestion caused. Policy needs to be enacted to prevent this from happening at another location.	0	0
Neighborhood & Residential Development	Comment	In a separate suggestion, I proposed development of a plan to cause predictable street patterns to evolved in new residential developments. In addition to having predictable street patterns to augment a sense of neighborhood, I propose the town require new developments to include sidewalks. They are now required in business areas, and would be (in my opinion) a big improvement on the appearance and desirability in residential areas.	6	0
Neighborhood & Residential Development	Comment	The waterfront is so important. Borios was such a great palce to watch sunset, listen to music, eat dinner and have cocktail and relaz. I wish we had that opportunity again.	13	0
Neighborhood & Residential Development	Comment	It would be great to have a dog-friendly walking/ biking/ multi-use community trail way in Cicero.	9	0



Category	Type	Comment		
Neighborhood & Residential Development	Comment	Any waterfront multi-family complexes or communities that may institute HOAs should be required to use only green friendly lawn care products to significantly decrease chances of Oneida Lake pollution and decimation of wildlife in the waters.	0	2
Neighborhood & Residential Development	Comment	Zoning is a total mess. I feel terrible for anyone who purchased a home on the sidestreets off of Route 11, where unrestricted growth for 40 years has impacted quality of life, property values and ability to enjoy their property.  I feel awful saying this - But perhaps we should compensate these residents and start over with proper zoning.	1	0
Neighborhood & Residential Development	Comment	There needs to be more requirements for developments. We can't continue to raze all of the remaining wooded areas and turn every farm field into a new home development. Green spaces need to be taken into consideration for the wild life and health of the community.	17	0
Neighborhood & Residential Development	Reply	At a minimum, do not accept the zoning changes when the developers propose a change from agricultural to residential. Agricultural at least requires a minimum of 1 acre lots (or equivalent under a cluster format). There's too many R10 and R12 developments in the town already.	1	0
Neighborhood & Residential Development	Reply	Town Centers is putting Cicero's problems into Brewerton. The dense population of people is the wrong idea. The clustering of people in homes on smaller lots is not the right idea. Homeownership breeds pride and caring. You have an investment in your home. Apartments breed crime and not caring. Noisy race track/no plan/management.	0	1
Neighborhood & Residential Development	Comment	Any waterfront multi-family complexes or communities that may institute HOAs should be required to use only green friendly lawn care products to significantly decrease chances of Oneida Lake pollution and decimation of wildlife in the waters.	5	0
Neighborhood & Residential Development	Comment	With the Micron facility coming, the intersection of Rt.11 and Rt.31 (especially the 81 interchange) is going to only get more unsafe and congested. Work should have started years ago in that area! I am going to start avoiding the whole center of Cicero and I know I am not alone. Infrastructure needs to be ready ahead of development and the town has been very poor at doing that in the almost 70 years I have lived here. Thank you for listening.	1	0
Neighborhood & Residential Development		In regards to the vacant waterfront land on Kathan in Brewerton, please don't turn Brewerton into the solution for the overgrowth of Cicero. Leave green areas green. Residents already cut through my neighborhood (Tagus/Neva) for the sole purpose of making an easier left hand turn onto Bartell Road. And as time keeps going by, it's become increasingly difficult turning left out of the neighborhood. Adding more residential to this area would be chaotic.	1	0
Parks & Recreation	Comment	It would be great to have more community events. I've really enjoyed the summer concerts in Williams Park and would love more events like that, that get the community out together enjoying our amenities.	5	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Parks & Recreation	Comment	What are your thoughts on a public food forest with cherries, apples, blueberries, and other edible and low-maintenance vegetables located near the Cicero Public library? I like this idea because this adds variety to the activities in Cicero, doesn't require you to pay to pick like the other orchards in the area, and is an educational benefit for children. It's a charity activity for church groups to donate food to those in need and maybe isn't too expensive for the town but may take a long time	7	2
Parks & Recreation	Comment	I'd love to see some of the larger, currently undeveloped green real estate acres in the town purchased and turned into forever green areas (before developers do). There are many grants that could be used to protect these areas, while adding trails, gardens, or even elevated walkways to allow inclusive community use. This also can be used to educate people on local plants and animals.	6	2
Parks & Recreation	Comment	As a resident of Lakeshore Road, I've experienced nearly being hit by a car more than I care to tell while I've been out walking/ walking my dog/ biking on the road. While there are some places on the road that may be too narrow to support widening the road for a multi-use walking/biking lane/extended shoulder it seems something needs to be done to keep people on the road safe - especially given the public school and public park that families should be able to safely walk to.	6	0
Parks & Recreation	Reply	I feel you. The shoulder is covered in rocks and dirt in places. The frequent roadkill is also unpleasant. I think we should lower the speed limit here.	1	1
Waterfront	Comment	Encourage access and development for the public's enjoyment of the waterfront, including marinas and boat launches, as well as businesses like bars/restaurants on the water.	9	0
Waterfront	Reply	The potential for community impact with PUBLIC development of the waterfront area is huge. Why has this been ignored for so long? If the town doesn't take action soon it will all be private development and lost to residents forever!	2	0
Waterfront	Reply	I think we need to consider the impact on bringing traffic to that area and plan for it to be bikeable. I think it's a good idea to develop the waterfront but I don't want a bunch of cars clogging the roads so the fire department can't get around and I don't want all of the development money going into roads and parking. I specifically want more places for children to around the water. Thanks.	0	0
Waterfront	Reply	And what about the whole borios scene?	0	0
Waterfront	Comment	This proposal may already be in the works. Having a public lake walk would attract hundreds of people. The walk should not be dependent on patronizing any business, but would be public, with public parking. Having a small, adjacent park, would be icing on the cake.	16	0
Waterfront	Reply	I like waterfront development but I'm not a fan of the public parking because it would increase car traffic on residential roads. We should think of alternate modes of transportation for the sake of the environment, public health, and reducing road maintenance.	0	0
Waterfront	Reply	This is a great idea! Access to bike as well	1	0
Waterfront	Comment	I think a small museum with specimens from Lake Oneida and the Cicero swamp with indoor and outdoor exhibits is worth consideration. I'm imagining something like the salt museum in Onondaga lake park.	1	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Governmental Services	Comment	I propose the town develop a zoning plan that encourages businesses to locate away from rt11. Removing reliance on rt11 for quick business setup should be a major goal in re-imaging Cicero. This might be addressed by constructing the foundations of a business park, possibly north of rt31, that is pedestrian-friendly. Consider providing incentives for selected businesses to move to the new location. I respect the town has tried to make rt11 more attractive, but it isn't happening. Moving away see	2	0
Governmental Services	Comment	I propose that the town pursue naming the area within the town of Cicero that is neither Brewerton nor Bridgeport. Specifically, many of us live in Cicero, but that's the town name. The website Wikipedia lists Cicero hamlet. If that's the name, we should have welcome signs at all entrances. Better yet, devise a new name for Cicero hamlet. Having the same name as the town blurs the distinction between the two.	1	0