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Fact Sheet: Bolstering Daily School Attendance Through Transportation Document

[Fact-Sheet-Bolstering-Daily-School-Attendance-Through-Transportation.pdf](#) (229.08 KB)

This fact sheet was jointly developed by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to bolster daily school attendance through transportation. The fact sheet, published on September 3, 2024, includes promising strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism by increasing students' access to safe, accessible, reliable transportation to and from school.

Pedestrian killed by a car at the intersection of Front Street and Bevier Street

By [WBNG Staff](#)

Published: Sep. 9, 2024 at 11:03 PM EDT | Updated: 10 hours ago

DICKINSON (WBNG) -- A fatal car accident killed a pedestrian at the intersection of Front Street and Bevier Street in the Town of Dickinson according to the Broome County Sheriff's Office.

According to Broome County Dispatch, the call came in at 9:30 p.m.

The area near the intersection will be closed to traffic from Front Street North of Prospect Street to the traffic circle at Front Street I-81 N on ramp.

The investigation is ongoing and no other information has been released at this time.

This is a developing story. Stay with 12 News for more information if it becomes available.



ENDICOTT MAN CHARGED IN FATAL HIT-AND-RUN NEAR OTSININGO PARK



Bob Joseph | Published: September 10, 2024

Photo: Hemera

A Binghamton man died after he was struck by a vehicle near the entrance to Otsiningo Park in the town of Dickinson.

Authorities said 43-year-old Jamel Smalls was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to the Broome County Sheriff's Office, Smalls was hit at the intersection of Front and Bevier streets around 9:30 p.m. Monday.

Investigators said Smalls was in the crosswalk of Front Street when he was struck by the vehicle that was believed to have been driven by 21-year-old Christian Rogler of Endicott.

The vehicle did not stop after the pedestrian was hit. The suspect vehicle eventually was found in the town of Maine.

Rogler also was located and detained. He was taken to the sheriff's office in the town of Dickinson. Authorities said he displayed signs of impairment and possessed methamphetamine when he was taken into custody.

Rogler was charged with felony counts of vehicular manslaughter and leaving the scene of a fatal motor vehicle accident. He also was charged with driving while impaired by drugs and criminal possession of a controlled substance.

Rogler was arraigned and order held at Broome County Jail.

Investigators said Rogler left the scene of the incident even though his vehicle had sustained significant damage. They said he acknowledged striking a pedestrian.

Two Owego hiking paths now connected by future Eagle Scout's bridge

Plans for the bridge began two years ago



By [Daniel Curren](#)

Published: Sep. 9, 2024 at 4:36 PM EDT | Updated: 16 hours ago

OWEGO (WBNG) -- Two hiking trails in Owego that have been split by the 2006 and 2011 floods are now reconnected, thanks to a bridge built by a future Eagle Scout.

Luke Saunders of Boy Scout Troop 30 in Newark Valley has been in the scouts for as long as he can remember. He said the Brick Pond Wetland Preserve area has always been a spot he has wanted to improve.

"Ever since I started scouts, I've always wanted to do a project at this place," Luke said. "It's like a nice local place and there's not many places like this around this area."

Luke's father and troop scoutmaster, Joe Saunders, said the area holds a personal significance to the family. That's why Joe planted the idea of an Eagle Scout project at the Brick Pond Wetland Preserve for his son.

"We've gone here as a family for a long time, it's just down the road," Joe said. "We enjoyed picking berries out here and there's lots of wildlife."

Luke said the project has been on his mind for two years. He created two bridges across the waterway and added stone to the ground to prevent flooding. The community in Owego said they enjoyed the new hiking path.

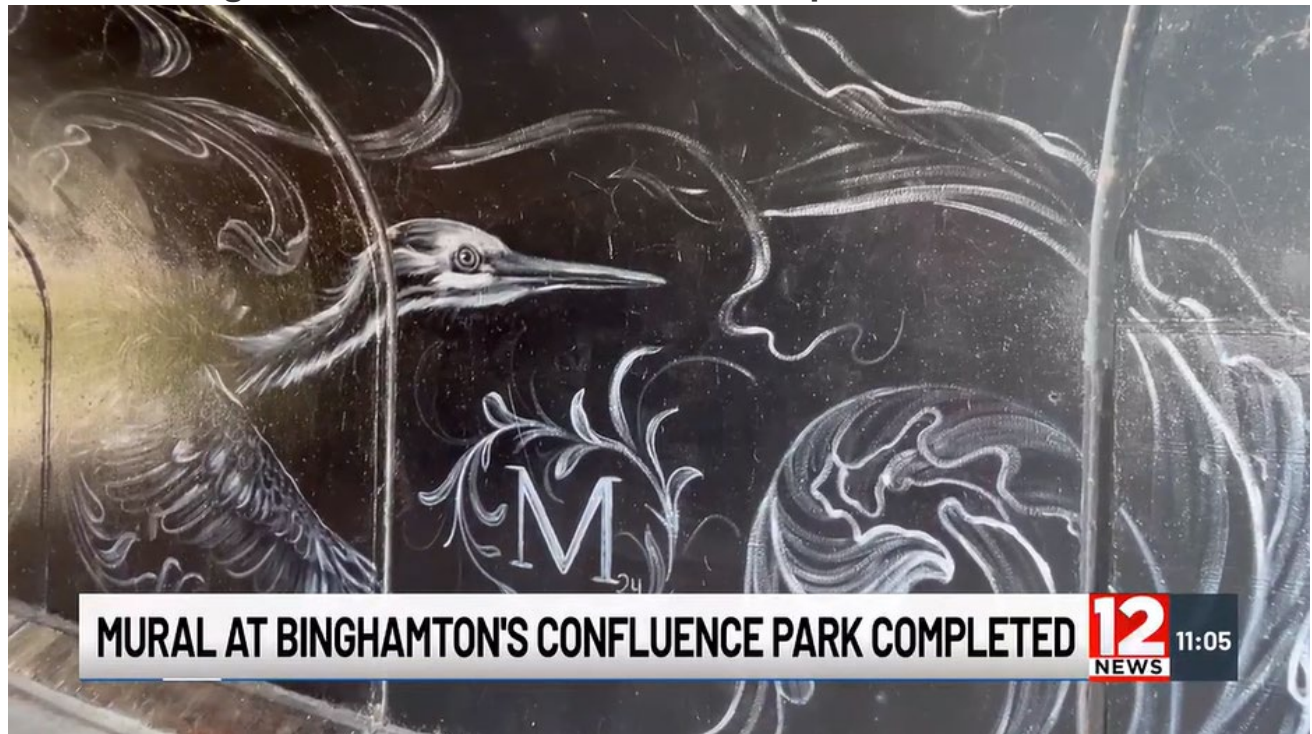
"He's a very focused individual," Joe said about Luke. "Once he gets going on something, he goes above and beyond. He has CAT software and built some examples of what the bridge would look like so he could kind of do presentations of it."

Luke said the project would not have been possible without the support of the community and his troop, who helped him through long workdays.

“I worked on it for three days during those two weeks. Two-nine-hour days and one-three-hour day,” Luke said. “I pretty much would just get up early in the morning, quickly eat lunch and then go down and meet all the people and tell them what we were going to do to help them plan it.”

Luke is set to become an Eagle Scout now that the project is complete.

Mural at Binghamton's Confluence Park Completed



By [WBNG Staff](#)

Published: Sep. 21, 2024 at 4:43 PM EDT

BINGHAMTON (WBNG) -- Earlier this year, Binghamton University graduate Caitlyn Davey started her capstone project mural in the Chenango River Promenade of Binghamton's Confluence Park.

The project started as a community bulletin board accompanied by a mural. The focus of the project was to help students make an impact in the community.

Davey began [working on the mural](#) in May. Now, it's finally completed. She worked alongside Oneonta-based artist James Mcilroy.

Mcilroy explained that the mural was created freehandedly. It used photo references and focused on the various animals that inhabit the Susquehanna River.

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JOHNSON CITY STILL WAITING FOR PLANNED BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY PARK



Bob Joseph | Published: September 24, 2024

Photo: Bob Joseph/WNBF News

Construction has yet to start for a Binghamton University green space project in Johnson City that was expected to be completed two years ago.

The university announced plans in early 2021 to develop a "Village Park" on two acres of land between its Health Sciences Campus on Corliss Avenue and Main Street.

President Harvey Stenger told WNBF News the project would provide a "convenient, attractive and safe connection" between the university's buildings and Johnson City's downtown business district.

Plans for the green space project called for the demolition of several buildings on Lewis Street, Willow Street, Main Street and Jennison Avenue.

The Binghamton University Foundation acquired most of the properties targeted for the park over the last four years. But the owner of an 11-unit apartment building at 26 Lewis Street has not sold his property.

Property records indicate the three-story structure is owned by Ta Realty Properties LLC of Johnson City. The owner could not be reached for comment but a person familiar with the situation said the man "was not interested in selling it."

Mayor Martin Meaney said "there's one parcel left and I'm sure that's probably the main reason for no movement on the development of the green space" envisioned by Stenger.

The mayor said "it's unfortunate but I'm sure once they do - hopefully - acquire that property that they're going to move rather quickly" to proceed with the project.



A Binghamton University rendering of the park planned in Johnson City to connect the Health Sciences Campus with the downtown business district. (Image: Nicholas Corcoran.)

Meaney said when Johnson City was developing renovation plans for a neighboring park, the village worked in conjunction with the university's landscape architects so the projects would "work well together."

A Binghamton University representative did not respond to a request for information on the delayed green space initiative, including an estimate of the project's cost.



This one is for the ladies and you may want to hold onto your hats and watch out for those cars. After all, the person behind the wheel may not be paying attention to you, so you better be paying attention to them.

There was a [study](#) done recently and it was a an eye-opener for the ladies of New York State. It had to do with the most risky states for female pedestrians. And guess what? New York has landed a spot in the top 10!

This study went through the numbers from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) from 2017 to 2021. According to this [data](#), Alaska takes the crown as the most dangerous state for female pedestrians. Out of 63 pedestrian deaths, 30 were women – that's almost half of the total casualties.

Coming in a close second place was Rhode Island, where 26 out of 60 pedestrian fatalities were women – that is over 43% of the total. Vermont and Massachusetts also rank high on the list, with 42.42% and 40.34% of female pedestrian fatalities respectively.

And where does New York stand? Well, the Empire State isn't too far behind – landing in sixth place. Over 37% of all pedestrian fatalities in New York were females. That's 485 out of a total of 1310, showing that our sidewalks and streets aren't necessarily the safest place for women to be on foot.

Overall, this shows how dangerous it can be for female pedestrians in different states. Finally, this one is for the fellas, if you are walking side by side with your favorite female, may sure that you're on the outside. It's the least you can do.



Vestal Police Department Releases E-Bike Safety Guide



(WBNG)

By [Daniel Curren](#)

Published: Sep. 30, 2024 at 6:08 PM EDT

VESTAL (WBNG) -- According to the Vestal Police Department, a reported 1,158 car crashes occurred in the town in 2023.

Most happened on the Vestal Parkway.

Now, as a way to try and decrease these accidents, the department released a [safety guide](#) for those using electric bikes or scooters. The Police Department said these have become more common in the town.

The department said that E-bikes or scooters should never be operated on the Vestal Parkway, State Route 26 or State Route 201.

This is because the high-traffic areas create a risk for all using the roads. They also said these vehicles don't require a license and cannot be operated on roadways by individuals under 16 years of age.

Additionally, they cannot be operated on any streets with a speed limit exceeding 30 miles per hour, unless they have designated bike lanes.

These unlicensed vehicles cannot travel any faster than 20 to 25 miles per hour depending on the class of the bike or scooter. All riders are recommended to wear a helmet, but they are required for riders between the ages of 16 to 17.

Anyone riding E-bikes or scooters is required to obey the same traffic laws as all motorists.

Riders on the Vestal Rail Trail are not permitted to operate electric-assisted vehicles and must travel at 10 miles per hour or less.



Binghamton's Prospect Street to get new sidewalks

By [Matthew Benninger](#)

Published: Oct. 7, 2024 at 11:31 AM EDT

BINGHAMTON (WBNG) -- Work is now underway for new sidewalks on Prospect Street in Binghamton.

Crews began installing the new sidewalks on the south side of Prospect Street on Monday morning. The new sidewalks will stretch between Mygatt Street and Holland Street.

The new sidewalks will replace the old asphalt walkway near Spring Forest Cemetery and the stretch of old concrete sidewalk in disrepair further west.

"This critical infrastructure work will upgrade aging, crumbling sidewalks to make a key First Ward Corridor more accessible for residents and safer for kids walking to and from school," said Binghamton Mayor Jared Kraham in a news release. "It's the latest example of how we're investing in neighborhoods across Binghamton to make them safer and better for the people who live here."

The project costs \$242,000 and is paid for by the city with Consolidated Local Street & Highway Improvement Program grant funding.

Boland's Excavating & Topsoil Inc., of Conklin, is leading the construction.



PAVING TO START FOR JC'S LESTER AVENUE BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION JOB



Bob Joseph | Published: October 8, 2024

Photo: Bob Joseph/WNBF News

A major bridge rehabilitation project in Johnson City is nearing completion.

Paving work on the Lester Avenue span near the village hall is expected to begin late next week.



Work continued on the Lester Avenue bridge project on October 8, 2024. (Photo: Bob Joseph/WNBF News)

Thomas Anderson of Vector Construction, the project contractor, said paving operations will be weather-dependent.

Anderson said the bridge should reopen to vehicular and pedestrian traffic by the end of the month.

The Lester Avenue span, which goes over Norfolk Southern Railway tracks, is a major north-south route between CFJ Boulevard and Main Street. It's been closed for more than six months for the replacement of the bridge deck and sidewalks.

FLASHBACK: Curbs and bridge joints on the Lester Avenue bridge were in disrepair on March 29, 2024. (Photo: Bob Joseph/WNBF News)

In addition to the planned paving, some concrete remains to be poured for the \$2.5 million project.

Although the bridge should reopen to traffic in about three weeks, a couple of things will be missing.

Anderson said two poles for lighting at the center of the span won't be delivered right away because of a "fabrication delay." They may not be installed until January.

There will be lighting installed on both ends of the bridge.



City of Binghamton - Government
2 hours ago · 🌐

October 8, 2024



A portion of the Binghamton River Walk between Water Street and Cheri A. Lindsey Memorial Park will be closed for rehabilitation of the flood levee starting this week. The work is expected to be complete in the spring, when the trail will fully reopen.

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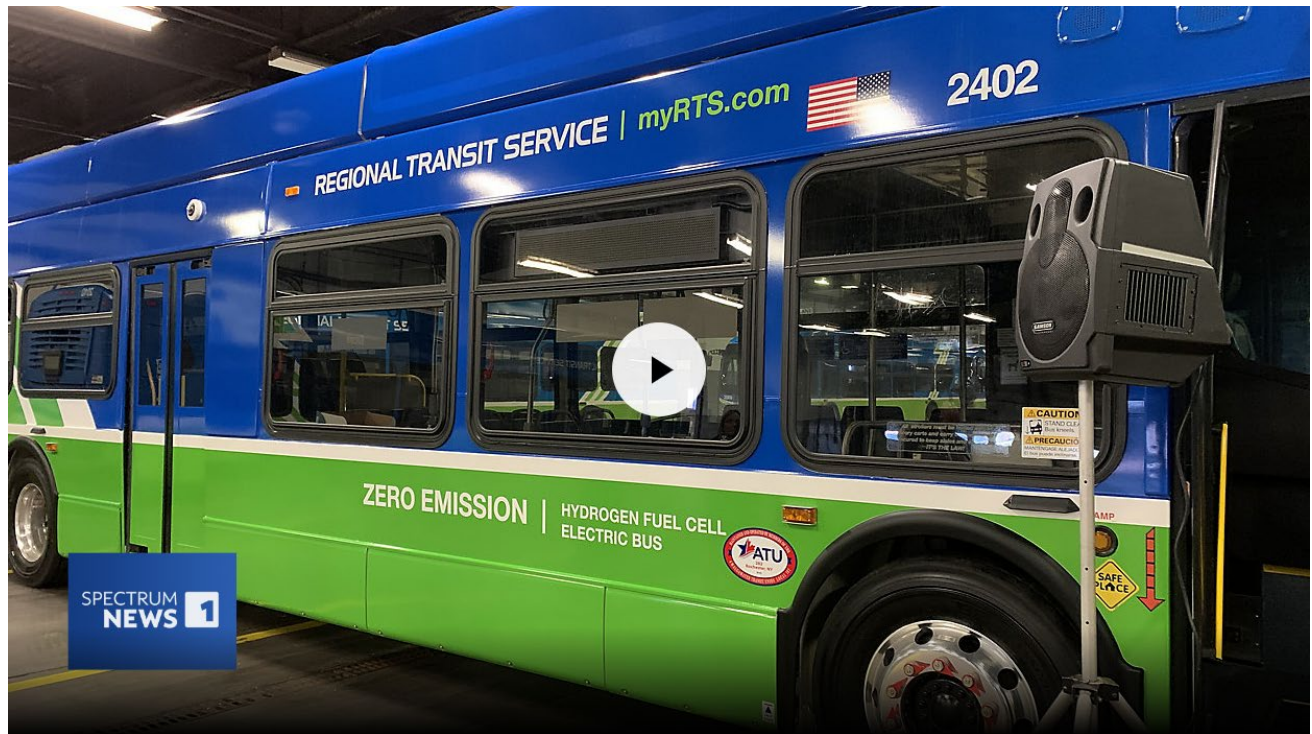
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Rochester's Regional Transit Service is rolling out the first hydrogen fuel cell electric buses in New York state (Spectrum News 1)

COMMUNITY NEWS

First Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Buses in New York State Roll Out in Rochester

BY [WENDY WRIGHT](#) ROCHESTER

PUBLISHED 7:08 PM ET OCT. 15, 2024

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — The state of New York is one step closer to meeting its climate goals thanks to the rolling out of two hydrogen fuel cell electric buses in Rochester.

What You Need To Know

- **Rochester's Regional Transit Service is rolling out the first hydrogen fuel cell electric buses in New York state**
- **It's part of a \$285 million transition to a completely zero-emission operation**
- **Thanks to the fuel cell technology, in cold weather these buses can travel up to 325 miles and refuel in just over 10 minutes**

"Today we are celebrating the addition of the first hydrogen fuel cell electric buses to our fleet," said Rochester Regional Transit Service CEO Miguel Velazquez. "And these are not

only the first ones in our fleet. These are the first one of any public transit system in New York state."

Rochester's Regional Transit Service already has a fleet of electric buses, but two hydrogen fuel cell electric buses take its fleet to a whole new level.

"We have secured \$35.1 million in federal grants, helping us find what is estimated, what's going to be a \$285 million transition to a completely zero emission operation," said Velazquez.

It's part of the long-term plan to building cleaner, more sustainable communities.

"This truly is an historic announcement," said New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez, who was on hand to talk about the significance of the buses. "We're literally raising the bar on replacing traditional vehicles with cutting-edge technology. Right now, Rochester is getting ready to roll out more hydrogen fuel cell busses in on-demand services, on-demand vehicles. Not only are they meeting the needs of the people, but they're doing it in a way that customers are asking for."

Thanks to the fuel cell technology, in cold weather these buses can travel up to 325 miles and refuel in just over 10 minutes.

"In the case of a hydrogen fuel bus, you have a hydrogen fuel cell that then charges a smaller battery on that bus," Velazquez said. "So, once you fuel that bus with hydrogen fuel cell turns that hydrogen into electricity, that electricity charges the battery continuously throughout the day, giving the electricity for the bus all day long."

RTS says the rider will experience a more quiet, smoother and healthier bus ride.

"There's no emissions whatsoever," Velazquez said. "So obviously with a diesel bus, there could be instances where you have that smell of diesel. You won't get that on this bus. It's a very smooth ride, obviously. Very quiet. So, it's something that I think our customers will enjoy very much."

"This is about living in healthier neighborhoods, healthier communities, regardless of where you live within the greater Rochester area. You've got service. And by working together, we're creating a future where sustainability is central to everyone's daily life, and our communities truly are resilient and able to withstand whatever Mother Nature puts forward," said Dominguez, who adds, "I truly believe that what's happening in this region is a national model, that other chains that the authorities will not only follow across the nation but emulate."
