Title: Increased Walkability in the Hamilton Community

Community Partner: Partnership for Community Development

A research project on pedestrian access in the local community that will provide an experience in economic and community development in a rural area.

Project Description:
The Partnership for Community Development is focusing on improving walkability in Hamilton. This initiative will focus on the village center, but also on the hamlets and rural areas in the surrounding Town of Hamilton. A Fellow will conduct a walkability audit of both the Village and Town of Hamilton, then use the data to determine the most significant gaps in walkability in the municipalities, and the areas that are need of most improvement. The Fellow will also have the opportunity to further research on the benefits of creating a more walkable community in general, and will be able to determine the focus of subsequent research. The PCD is especially interested in learning about opportunities for increasing walkability in rural communities in general, outside of population centers, since most of the Town of Hamilton has this kind of rural character. The PCD is looking for research that can be translated into projects for the PCD and their village and town partners. The PCD will use this data to create a list of potential walkability projects for which they can begin to seek funding. This project will help the PCD continue its work to improve the quality of life in the Hamilton area.

About the Community Partner:
The Partnership for Community Development enhances sustainable economic opportunity and community vitality in the village and town of Hamilton and the surrounding areas. Their programs help existing businesses and farms thrive. They work to attract and support new community-minded businesses and talent to the Hamilton area and to continue to develop an attractive, inviting and commercially viable downtown area. Their mission revolves around preservation and enhancement of the small town, rural character of the Hamilton community, staying authentic to who they are. They work to foster widespread civic involvement in community development initiatives, and they research, solicit, and administer grants and gifts to serve these purposes and leverage the community resources of their partner organizations.

Required Skills:
This project is suitable for a student with an interest in community planning and development who is able to work well independently. The Fellow will gain experience with how planning research can be turned into actionable goals. GIS skills are preferred. In addition to their research, the Fellow will also assist with marketing and/or administrative work for PCD’s other events and projects. The Fellow may also attend meetings of the PCD’s Economic Development Committee, which meets once every other month.

Logistics:
This is a full-time paid research position (35 hours per week) to last approximately 10 weeks, conducted under the joint supervision of the Upstate Institute and the PCD. The Fellow will work under the supervision of PCD’s Executive Director And Economic Development Specialist. Most of the Fellow’s work hours will be spent at PCD’s office at 11 Payne Street in the village of Hamilton, with some site visits throughout the Village and Town. Field School Fellows receive a research stipend of $4500 plus reimbursement for any costs associated with transportation for this project.