

# Complete Streets - What We Can Learn from Europe and What They Can Learn from Us

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## Abstract:

Active transportation is critical to a sustainable future for Urban and Rural communities. Work is happening across the globe to address how we make getting to and from buildings more walkable and bikeable. Erik and Nick will share how Clarkson's efforts in their complete streets efforts across NYS. have been informed by international efforts as well as how international partners may be able to learn from us. Thought the comparison of efforts in 4 European and 4 NYS communities, this exploration will enable the audience to learn about the state of the use of human energy as a primary transportation choice.

## Presenter Biography:

**Erik C. Backus** is a Professor of Practice and the Howard E. Lechler Endowed Director of the Construction Engineering Management program at Clarkson University. At Clarkson, Prof. Backus teaches courses and executes research/projects in an array of topics including sustainability, resilience, and life cycle thinking related to infrastructure and building facilities. As a past USGBC local chair, Erik is well-known for leading a team of students and fellow faculty researchers in attaining LEED for Communities Gold certification for the New York Olympic Region, site of the famed 1980 Miracle on Ice in Lake Placid. He is also a retired Lieutenant Colonel, last serving as the Battalion Commander for the 479th Engineer Battalion (US Army Reserve). Dr. Backus is an active member in his local Lutheran Church and works nationally as part of the sustainability focused grassroots effort called Lutherans Restoring Creation.

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