

Program Overview

The Community and Transportation Linkage Planning Program (referred to as the Linkage Program) was developed by CDTC in the year 2000 to support local land use and transportation planning initiatives. The Program is designed to fulfill the adopted principles and strategies in the *New Visions 2030* regional transportation plan and assists local communities by making funds available for local planning activities.

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be public entities within CDTC's planning area: Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Saratoga County (with the exception of the Town of Moreau). Preferred applicants are units of local government (town, city, village) and counties. State agencies are also eligible applicants. Non-governmental entities such as not-for-profits and public authorities are eligible if the application includes a letter of support from the municipality or municipalities in which the study is focused.

Eligible Initiatives

New for 2010-2011, the eligible initiatives have been expanded to include implementation activities for Linkage studies or similar planning work such as strategic zoning code changes, zoning code overlays, the development or revision of design standards, operational modeling, assistance with SEQRA documentation toward the adoption of Linkage Program

plans, etc. The assistance must be tied directly to the original scope and recommendations of the relevant planning study. Town-wide initiatives are not eligible.

Eligible planning studies include those that are related to the following Linkage Program strategies:

- Support urban revitalization and redevelopment of existing commercial/residential areas;
- Improve street connectivity and reduce driveway conflicts through access management;
- Enhance and develop activity centers and town centers;
- Enhance and develop transit corridors and transit supportive built environments;
- Encourage a greater mix and intensity of land uses;
- Develop bicycle and pedestrian-friendly design standards;
- Create an integrated multi-modal transportation network.

Available Assistance

CDTC has reserved \$200,000 of its federal planning funds for consultant activities and \$100,000 for staff technical assistance (capped at \$10,000 per study) for all study types.

For planning studies, the minimum and maximum total study costs are \$30,000 and \$100,000, respectively, for consultant efforts.

For implementation activities there is no minimum and \$50,000 is the maximum total study cost for consultant efforts.

For both types of initiatives, federal funds comprise 75% of the total study cost with 25% from a required local cash match. In certain instances, exceptions for larger or smaller consultant efforts may be made.

Project Solicitation

The deadline for the 2010-2011 Linkage Program solicitation is November 20, 2009. For solicitation information or additional Linkage Program information, visit CDTC's website at www.cdtcmpo.org/linkage.htm.

Study Selection

The Linkage Program study selection process is competitive and will involve two steps:

- 1) CDTC staff will review the scope of work for each submission and will work with the sponsor to confirm the estimated budget based on CDTC experience with Linkage Program studies.
- 2) Submissions will be evaluated based on six evaluation criteria. One of the mandatory criteria is how the goals of the effort are consistent with *New Visions 2030* principles as reflected in the Linkage Program strategies.

Examples of Funded Studies

CDTC has funded 61 transportation/land use planning studies since 2000 with sponsors representing 37 separate urban, suburban and rural municipalities, counties, not-for-profit groups and other public entities.

Examples of funded studies that best exemplify the Linkage Program strategies include:

- Schenectady Transit Oriented Development, Mixed Use Catalyst Project Study - \$103,500
(<http://www.cdtcmpo.org/linkage/studies/162006910.pdf>)
- Guilderland/Princetown Land Use and Transportation Study for Route 20 - \$32,000
(www.cdtcmpo.org/linkage/studies/112006019.pdf)
- Village of Colonie Streetscape Guidelines & Architectural Design Standards - \$25,000
(www.cdtcmpo.org/linkage/studies/112003012.pdf)
- Clifton Park/Halfmoon Exit 9 Land Use and Transportation Plan - \$65,000
(www.cdtcmpo.org/linkage/studies/152007611.pdf)

What is the Capital District Transportation Committee?

The Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties. Every metropolitan area in the United States with a population of more than 50,000 must have a designated MPO in order to qualify for Federal transportation funding. The function of the MPO is to provide a forum for state and local officials to discuss transportation issues and to develop an overall transportation plan for the region. The regional transportation plan for the Capital District is *New Visions 2030*.

For more information on the Linkage Program, please visit CDTC's web site at www.cdtcmpo.org/linkage.htm

or contact

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New Visions 2030

The Community and Transportation Linkage Planning Program



A land use/transportation planning assistance program offered by the Capital District Transportation Committee

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