

I-787 Livable Corridor Planning Initiative

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Transportation solicited applications for FY 2012 Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) Program grant funds under the final year of SAFETEA-LU. The program supports planning, development and implementation of strategies that integrate transportation, community and system preservation plans and practices. CDTC, in partnership with NYSDOT and the City of Albany, submitted an application and were awarded \$240,000 in TCSP funds for the I-787 Livable Corridor Planning Initiative.

The I-787 Livable Corridor Planning Initiative is an integrated transportation and land use planning effort in the I-787 corridor of the City of Albany, the City of Watervliet, the Village of Menands and the Town of Colonie (from Exit 2 to Exit 9), including its related structures and access roads. This initiative will identify future design concepts for I-787 that support downtown economic development efforts, brownfield redevelopment and improve walking, biking and transit access to the waterfront. Specifically, TCSP funds will be used to (1) identify the short and long term infrastructure needs for I-787 and its related access roads through a structural evaluation; (2) identify opportunities for alternative designs based on those long term needs that would reduce long term infrastructure costs and improve transportation/community compatibility; (3) identify near-term access improvements to support waterfront revitalization and economic development initiatives such as downtown and brownfield redevelopment; and (4) undertake a public involvement effort and visioning exercise.

The \$240,000 in TCSP funds will be matched with \$60,000 in State funds through NYSDOT and \$20,000 in cash from the City of Albany. In addition, CDTC has committed \$100,000 in federal planning funds through the 2012-2014 Unified Planning Work Program to support the project for modeling and other CDTC staff activities.

On August 7th, 2013, CDTC's Planning Committee approved the addition of this project to the 2013-2018 Transportation Improvement Program. Policy Board action is not required. CDTA's Board of Directors will need to authorize a roughly \$300,000 consultant budget before the project can move forward per CDTC's hosting agreement with CDTA. That action is expected at CDTA's September 25th Board Meeting.