

Community Planner Forum
Thursday, December 17, 2020
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



Virtual Meeting Summary

Attendance:

Susan Barden, City of Saratoga Springs
Mike Burns, Town of Glenville
Jen Ceponis, CDTC
Teresa LaSalle, CDTC
Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC
Joanne Ryan, NYSDOS
Rima Shamieh, CDTC

Jordan Solano-Reed, CDTC
Jen Viggiani, Town of Clifton Park
Linda von de Heide, Rensselaer County
Monique Wahba, Town of Colonie
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Adam Yagelski, Town of East Greenbush

1. Welcome and Introductions

Sandy Misiewicz welcomed participants to the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

2. Transportation Data to Support Community Planning Presentation

Teresa LaSalle presented transportation data resources to support community planning available through CDTC and regional partners. Teresa reviewed CDTC's Geographic Information System on-road bicycle infrastructure, off-road trail, signalized intersection and sidewalk inventories. CDTC also collects surface pavement condition data through its Highway Condition Inventory via windshield survey for non-state federal aid roadways and non-federal aid roadways in Albany County and the City of Albany through annual contracts. CDTC also developed a traffic signal inventory for signalized intersections.

CDTC has several online interactive maps for public use on CDTC's website. Teresa demonstrated the interactive Transportation Improvement Program project location map and provided information on the interactive Linkage Program planning project map and priority network maps for bicycle, pedestrian, transit, intelligent transportation system and freight transportation systems. Teresa also highlighted several external transportation data resources including the NYS GIS Data Clearinghouse, the NYSDOT Accident Location Information System (crash data), Roadway Inventory System (road characteristic data), Traffic Data Viewer (traffic volume data), functional classification and National Highway System viewer and the NYSDOT construction projects in your neighborhood interactive map.

3. Draft CDTC Public Participation Plan

Jen Ceponis presented the draft CDTC Public Participation Plan available for public review. One of the goals of New Visions 2050 is to expand CDTC's public participation tools to reach more people, particularly those that have traditionally been excluded or limited from participating in the transportation planning process. New to the plan is the creating connections toolkit which provides a number of strategies for innovative public participation and outreach such as a meeting in the box, demonstration projects, online tools, Google voice, etc. The plan also outlines CDTC public participation requirements for federally required products such as New Visions and the Transportation Improvement Program. It also describes CDTC's ongoing

participation opportunities such as the newsletter, social media, website, workshops and training. Measuring progress with public participation is critical to the plan and CDTC commits to reviewing the quality of the engagement processes on all projects and programs, particularly with respect to equity. Comments on the draft plan are due on January 18th and a virtual forum will be held on January 5th. The video will be available on CDTC's YouTube Channel.

4. Planning During COVID-19: Hoosick-Hillside Study

Rima Shamieh discussed the City of Troy Hoosick-Hillside Study recommendations and the approach to public participation during the pandemic. Funded through CDTC's Linkage Planning Program, the study area includes lower Hoosick Street, the area near the Hudson River and the neighborhoods to the north and south of Hoosick Street. The purpose is to improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, traffic calm and improve safety on Hoosick Street and activate the space under the Hoosick Street bridge. Key recommendations include installing a median on Hoosick Street between 6th and 10th streets, reducing travel lanes to two in each direction, restricting some left turn access onto Hoosick Street and adding pedestrian crossings with refuges. The area under the bridge would be redesigned to include parklets, synthetic turf fields, a skate park, climbing structures and other features to activate the space. Finally, 6th Street would be redesigned as a complete street with a bike lane and a cycle track in certain sections.

Public participation was going to be challenging for this project given the demographics in the study area and was designed to rely on direct in-person engagement in the neighborhoods. Pre-COVID, resident and business owner meetings were held along with a stakeholder meetings in-person with a community survey. Notification required door to door flyers and posters in local businesses. Providing childcare at in-person meetings was beneficial with attendance. Post-COVID, the in-person approach was scrapped and shifted to virtual engagement options. A pre-recorded, 17 minute video presentation was created to share the plan recommendations so community members could watch on their own time. Feedback on the ideas was provided through an online survey. Public notice was given through a direct mail postcard to study area addresses, study area posters and social media, email blasts and a press release. The video was generated from Zoom and posted on YouTube. This approach resulted in over 500 unique visits to the video and 58 survey responses.

5. Planning and Equity Webinars

Rima Shamieh shared information on several planning and equity webinars that were sponsored by the New York Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association. The topics were Understanding Systemic Racism in the Planning Field (<https://youtu.be/PI2Blm2fN4Q>), How to be an Anti-Racism Planner (<https://youtu.be/KcyR1g5puV0>) and Planning While Black: A Young Professional's Panel (<https://youtu.be/lfH1TL101PA>). These videos are highly recommended for professional planners to watch and AICP credits are available.

6. Regional, State and Local Planning Updates

- Linkage Program Solicitation – solicitation deadline was December 16th. Four applications for funding were submitted.
- Technical Assistance Program – CDTC/CDRPC will accept applications through the end of December. The solicitation for 2021 projects will likely begin in April.
- Complete Streets Workshops – The next solicitation will be issued in late 2021.
- Smart Communities Solicitation – The solicitation for projects remains open through March 31, 2021.

- ADA Transition Plans – Funding remains available for one small local government project. Contact Carrie Ward at CDTC for more information.
- Capital Coexist 2.0 – Solicitation issued today with expanded eligibility to any safety education project, not just bicycle and pedestrian projects. Proposals are due January 29, 2021.

7. Training/Workshops

- [CDRPC Planning and Zoning Webinar Series](#) – Ongoing
- [New Visions Learning Webinar Series](#) - Ongoing
- Visit the **News & Events** Pages on both the [CDTC](#) and [CDRPC](#) websites for additional updates on training and workshops.

8. 2021 Meeting Schedule – Start time: 9:30 AM

- Wednesday, March 17, 2021
- Thursday, June 10, 2021
- Wednesday, September 15, 2021
- Thursday, December 16, 2021