



Community Planner Forum

Thursday, June 18, 2020
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting Summary

Attendance:

Chris Bauer, CDTC
Lindsay Buck, Town of Stillwater
Jen Ceponis, CDTC
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Kathy Ember, Planning4Places
John Gillivan, Village of Colonie
Floria Huizinga, Town of Malta
Liz Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa
Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC
Chris O'Neill, CDTC
Jamie O'Neill, Town of Malta

Ryan Riper, Town of Wilton
Leni Schwendinger, International Nighttime
Design Initiative
Joe Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes
Rima Shamieh, CDTC
Steve Strichman, City of Troy
Dalia Szarowicz, Town of East Greenbush
Andrew Tracy, CDTC
Linda von der Heide, Rensselaer County
Karen Woodin, Affiliation Unknown
Adam Yagelski, Town of East Greenbush

1. Welcome and Introductions

This meeting was held via Zoom. Sandy Misiewicz gave an overview of the meeting agenda.

2. Resources to Help Integrate Transportation Demand Management (TDM) into Local Land Use Policy

Rima Shamieh presented resources to help local governments integrate TDM into land use policies. TDM is a suite of programs, services and infrastructure that reduce single occupancy vehicle rates by making travel options like buses, van pooling, carpooling, walking and biking more attractive and affordable. Infrastructure that enables people to travel in ways other than a single occupancy vehicle fall under the rubric of TDM including sidewalks, bike lanes, park and ride lots, bus stops, bike racks and bike lockers. These items can all be required or incorporated into land development in some way through local regulations. Zoning codes can actually provide a structure for developers to create a TDM plan. What can your community do to get started? Several resources were provided including: [Integrating Demand Management into the Local Planning Process: A Desk Manual, Chapter 8](#); [Transportation Demand Management \(TDM\) Plans for Development](#) and [Incorporation of TDM into the Development Review Process](#). The most successful programs are those that treat their TDM plans like living documents with regular updates since they are target based.

3. Municipal Smart City Street Light Conversion & Evolving Technology Guidebook

Jen Ceponis began the presentation with an overview of CDTC's Smart Communities program and why Saratoga Springs applied for funding for the Guidebook project. Leni Schwendinger then reviewed the contents of the Guidebook and the process used to develop it as a resource for the region. Communities interested in converting their street lights to LED can refer to the Guidebook which outlines the basic steps. At a high level, the steps include first determining what the need is and what problem the community is trying to solve. Second, the community should develop an action plan that includes data analysis from pilot projects and case studies.

Finally the community can procure the technology and equipment to install. Technology is continually changing but the Guidebook provides a good overview of what equipment is currently available. The Guidebook is available on CDTC's website at: www.cdtcmpo.org/images/advisorycommittees/smartcomm/CDTC_2020_051820Final_lowres.pdf

4. Traffic Estimation in Development Review

Chris Bauer described CDTC's regional travel demand model and how it is used to estimate future traffic. CDTC uses VISUM software to run the Systematic Traffic Evaluation and Planning (STEP) model. The model includes all federal aid roads and a subset of connector non-federal aid roads to model PM peak hour trips. CDTC can provide communities with background traffic growth rates when reviewing the traffic impacts of development. To request background traffic information, communities need to provide the study area, the future horizon year and any recent traffic counts that may be available. COVID-19 drastically changed regional traffic volumes and current traffic counts may not be available in the development review process. Options to estimate current traffic in light of COVID-19 include using traffic counts up to five years of age, using big data sources to project traffic and developing a rough estimate for use in the review with a memorandum of understanding that the community will revisit this issue later. Communities interested in using the regional travel model for assistance with development review should contact Chris Bauer at CDTC.

5. Rethinking Streets Concepts and Resources

Sandy Misiewicz reviewed how local communities have responded to the pandemic through open street programs. Open streets are being used in communities including Troy, Albany, Ballston Spa, Cohoes and Clifton Park to support outdoor dining and encourage social distancing. Clifton Park shared the Town's ordinance as an example of how to allow for the expansion of bars and restaurants outdoors in parking lots. CDTC will develop an open streets resource webpage for regional use as part of its [COVID-19 Resources](#).

6. Regulating E-Bicycles and E-Scooters Guide

Discussion was postponed for time but the Guide is available on the NYSAMPO Shared Mobility webpage: <https://www.nysmpos.org/sharedmobility>.

7. Planning Updates

- New Visions 2050 – Draft plan is out for public review.
- Community Planning Technical Assistance Program – Changed to a rolling application process.
- State, Regional, Local Updates – Discussion cut for time.

8. Training/Workshops

- Visit the **News & Events** Pages on both the [CDTC](#) and [CDRPC](#) websites for updates, training and workshop opportunities.

9. Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 9, 2020 @ 9:30 AM

Meeting video is available on CDTC's YouTube Channel at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_Z_EQZJAHo.