



Community Planner Forum
Wednesday, September 9, 2020
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting Summary

Attendance:

Susan Barden, City of Saratoga Springs
Audrey Burneson, NYSDOT
Mark Castiglione, CDRPC
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
Martin Conboy, Town of Petersburg
Todd Fabozzi, CDRPC
Steve Iachetta, Albany Airport Authority
Brent Irving, CDTA
Liz Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa
Ken Kovalchik, Town of Guilderland
Sean Maguire, Town of Colonie
Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC

Ryan Riper, Town of Wilton
Joanne Ryan, NYSDOS
John Scavo, Town of Clifton Park
Joe Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes
Jordan Solano-Reed, CDTC
Dalia Szarowicz, Town of East Greenbush
Andrew Tracy, CDTC
Amanda Tucker, City of Saratoga Springs
Jen Viggiani, Town of Clifton Park
Linda von de Heide, Rensselaer County
Monique Wahba, Town of Colonie

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Capital District Atlas

Mark Castiglione, CDRPC introduced the Capital District Atlas and Todd Fabozzi, CDRPC who provided the presentation. In the 1990s, CDRPC developed a regional atlas to serve as a repository for a variety of maps to understand growth and development patterns in the region including changes over time to transportation networks and environmental resources. The 2020 update reflects current data and are available online to local governments and other policy makers interested in learning more about the region. Mapped regional characteristics include development along major highways, greenhouse gas emissions, wetlands and flood zones, demographic data, and transportation system connectivity. Trends include population loss in cities and villages with continued growth in suburbs resulting in a shift of wealth towards suburbs and higher concentrations of poverty in cities. Much of the region's immigration, rental housing, and zero-vehicle households are concentrated in the region's cities. On-going regional development trends show limited sidewalk construction in newly developed suburban areas and disconnected land-use planning. Find the atlas on CDRPC's website at: <https://cdrpc.org/atlas>.

3. New Visions 2050 Land Use Vision Discussion and Next Steps

Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC, provided an update on the New Visions 2050 regional transportation plan, which was adopted by CDTC's Policy Board in September 2020. With respect to land use, New Visions 2050 supports urban investment, concentrated development, smart land-use planning. Components include supporting transit, encouraging walking and bicycling, mixing land-uses, locating housing efficiently, increasing density, and protecting regional quality of life, including open spaces and environmentally sensitive lands. Challenges to regional planning include home rule, ideological priorities, reactive planning, desire for economic development, lack of a regional development plan, and slow incremental development.

What can communities do? They can adopt local plans, policies, and laws. Attendees noted planning challenges including new technologies such as solar farms, denser development and NIMBY mentality, vacant farmland, redevelopment of vacant or substandard properties, boards that need to better understand the long term nature of making changes, adding Electric Vehicle infrastructure to parking standards and the consideration of green space volume not just area in local codes.

How has COVID impacted planning? There is a lack of infrastructure or resources to have in person meetings, human element loss from Planning Board Meeting interactions, increased community interest in innovative planning such as shared streets (outdoor dining project), unknown impacts of prior real estate investments, increased requests for trail and sidewalk connectivity from folks working from home, park and nature preserve use has dramatically increased at the local level, mass transit and interstate travel to/from restricted States reduced travel, transit ridership dropped 50% drop through March and April but is back to about 75% of normal.

How can CDTC assist? Comprehensive planning and GEIS support, model ordinances, parking guidance, transit policies, bike-ped policies, toolkits, safety as it relates to land-use, transportation system technologies. New Visions 2050 is available at www.cdtcmpo.org/nv2050.

4. CDTC Planning Updates

- Linkage Program Fall Solicitation – Expected in October
- Technical Assistance Program – Rolling applications
- Trail Feasibility Study Solicitation – Closed, applications under review
- Complete Streets Workshops – Accepting applications on a rolling basis
- Smart Communities Solicitation – Due October 2nd
- ADA Transition Plans – Rolling applications
- NY 7 Freight Plan – Scope of work in development
- Local Bridge Study – Consultant selection underway
- Bus Lane/Transit Priority Feasibility Study – Scope of work in development

5. Planning Updates

- NYSDOT NY 378 Bridge Study – RFP issued to undertake a Planning and Environmental Linkage study to review replacing the NY378 Bridge

6. Trainings/Workshops

- NY Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association Virtual Conference – September 16 – November 19, 2020
- EV Readiness Workshop, September 16 and 17, 2020
- CDRPC Planning and Zoning Webinar Series - Open Streets Resources and Webinar Recording
- Visit the **News & Events** Pages on both the CDTC and CDRPC websites for additional updates on training and workshop opportunities.

7. Next Meeting – Thursday, December 17, 2020 @ 9:30 AM

Meeting recording available on CDTC's YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/watch?v=HiM7fLcBM9k.