

Community Planner Forum

Thursday, September 15, 2021
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



Virtual Meeting Summary

Attendance:

Audrey Burneson, NYSDOT
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam
David Harris, Town of Schodack
Teresa LaSalle, CDTC
Joe Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County
Todd Fabozi, CDRPC
Josh Tocci,
Judy WC,
Steve Iachetta, Albany Airport

Mark Castiglione, CDRPC
Anna Feltham, Town of East Greenbush
Liz Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa
Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC
Rima Shamieh, CDTC
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Chris Bauer, CDTC
Dave Woodin,
Catherine Lawson, SUNY Albany

Welcome and Introductions

Sandy Misiewicz spoke on identifying and hopefully developing some tools and resources to further assist communities in planning for their futures particularly on the topic of the connection between land use and transportation. She mentions that in speaking with some of our regional partners, land use continues to be the topic that comes up. So this is the opportunity to identify new ideas and new projects and programs moving forward that can further that conversation and look at things from an angle that we haven't looked at them in the past.

Agenda & Covid 19 Update

Jen Ceponis gave a brief intro on the agenda, including the New Visions 2050 Implementation and the development of planning tools going forward and the TIP solicitation.

Jen explained that the office is open 5 days a week, staff is working alternating schedules, in the office, 4 days a week. CDTC is still requesting visitors make an appointment in advance and wear a mask when in the office, at all times.

New Visions 2050 Implementation & Planning Tools

New Visions has been adopted for a year, and since the plan was developed, a lot has changed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Jen presented an overview of New Visions 2050 and how the planning and investment principles determine CDTC's programs and philosophy towards transportation planning. CDTC plays a major role in implementing New Visions but the objective of the plan is for everyone from local government officials, to developers, to employers, to law enforcement, to play a part through zoning that encourages transit oriented development, building affordable housing, etc.

CDTC promotes New Visions by training planners, engineers, and even town boards on these principles and strategies that will help guide the region toward developing the transportation network that we need and preserving the quality of life here in the capital region.

Accomplishments since adoption:

- Created a [New Visions web page](#)
- participated in regional virtual events and forums
- launched the [New Visions Virtual Learning Series](#)
- Completed the complete street summer series
- Expanded the Capital Coexist mini grant program
- Initiated six new linkage studies
- Continued the [CDTC/CDRPC Technical Assistance](#)
- Implementing the [Capital Region Trails Plan](#)
- Initiated a bus lane feasibility study
- Expanded our data collection services
- Developing an ongoing trail counting program and trail census
- Developing a Smart Communities Toolbox to assist local governments in implementing new, evolving technologies.

Sandy mentioned: CDTC will start developing its 22-23 Unified Planning Work Program which will continue to implement New Visions. In a different approach to the work plan, CDTC will be issuing a solicitation for projects in the month of October. This will coincide with the traditional timeline for the linkage program, but will include a broader range of planning and transportation studies and initiatives, from small projects to Linkage-type studies, to larger regional initiatives.

Training/ Workshops

To request New Visions Training, email jceponis@cdtcmpo.org or complete a [request form](#).

2020 US Census Updates/CDRPC Updates

Teresa LaSalle from CDTC gave a brief update on the status of the proposed criteria from the US Census Bureau regarding Urban Areas.

- The Census Bureau has read all comments submitted regarding the proposed criteria and they are currently testing out the software program that will be used to delineate the boundaries.
- Urban Area splits or merges can't be tested yet, as the data needed to determine this is not yet available at the 2020 Census geographies.
- The Census Bureau is still on track to release the final criteria by the end of 2021 or in early 2022.

The Census Bureau is considering the following possible changes to the criteria:

- Density Calculations and Identification of Initial Urban Area Cores – They are considering using 3 Tiers of Density rather than just one to define a primary core and a secondary core.
- Inclusion of Group Quarters - Census blocks containing institutional and non-institutional group quarters that are adjacent to census blocks qualifying based on the criteria will NOT be automatically included in the urban area, as originally proposed. They are looking into setting a population or population density threshold for these.
- Impervious Surface – The previous intent was to use the 2016 National Land Cover Dataset to determine impervious surface as an indication of urban land use. The 2019 data has been released, so they will now be using the more recent data.

Mark Castiglione from CDRPC gave an introduction on the 2020 census. The redistricting data population data was released on August 12th as an access database. [CDRPC's website summarizes the data.](#)

Josh Tocci from CDRPC demonstrated the Regional Indicators webpage which is linked from the CDRPC website and can be found at www.CapitalRegionIndicators.org.

CDRPC has also developed a [COVID Economic Recovery Dashboard](#) to assist in tracking recovery efforts and regional changes.

Bus Lane Feasibility Study

Sandy gave a quick overview of the study, which is moving forward with launching a project website and planning demonstration / pop-events in the region. One event is scheduled for October 20th and the public should expect other virtual workshop opportunities. The consultant team is working right now with the project team to sift through all of data to create an interactive map for the project website.

TIP Solicitation Update/Other Updates

The TIP solicitation materials were released to Planning Committee and Policy Board members. A virtual workshop is planned for September 24th.

Project evaluations are expected to be completed in January presented to Planning Committee in February, which will be followed by review and approval of Policy Board in March. After a 60-day public comment period, the TIP will be presented to Policy Board for adoption in June. CDTC has created a 2022-27 TIP webpage that explained program/project eligibility and the application process. There are also links to data and resources that are needed to complete the application.

The CDRPC Planning and Zoning webinar series is [archived on their website](#). The joint [Upstate APA / Planning Federation Conference](#) (October 2021) registration is open. Topics include emerging trends and issues, including:

- marijuana regulation
- accessory dwelling units
- getting planning for EVs
- planning & regulating short-term rentals
- land use case law update

Jen finished by opening up the chat and group discussion.