

**Community Planner Forum**  
Wednesday, March 17, 2021  
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



**Virtual Meeting Summary**

**Attendance:**

Susan Barden, City of Saratoga Springs  
Chris Bauer, CDTC  
Lindsay Buck, Town of Stillwater  
Audrey Burneson, NYSDOT  
Tina Carton, City of Saratoga Springs  
Peter Comenzo, Town of Rotterdam  
Kristin Diotte, City of Schenectady  
Todd Fabozzi, CDRPC  
Ross Farrell, CDTA  
Steve Feeney, Schenectady County  
David Harris, Town of Schodack  
Jill Henck, CDRPC  
Steve Iachetta, Albany Airport Authority  
Andrew Kreshik, City of Troy  
Andrew Kohouts, Village of Scotia  
Liz Kormos, Village of Ballston Spa  
Teresa LaSalle, CDTC

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  
Steve Strichman, City of Schenectady  
Mark Surdam, Town of Hoosick  
Steve Tommasone, Town of Rotterdam  
Andrew Tracy, CDTC  
Linda von de Heide, Rensselaer County  
Monique Wahba, Town of Colonie  
Mike Williams, CDTA  
Dave Woodin, Town of Waterford  
Adam Yagelski, Town of East Greenbush

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

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

**2. NYSEDA's Clean Energy Communities Leadership Round Presentation**

Jill Henck, CDRPC Senior Planner and Clean Energy Communities Program Outreach Coordinator, presented NYSEDA's Leadership Round Grant Program. The program is offering \$17 million in grants statewide, \$880 thousand per region, in three tiers: 1) Designation Grants in which communities who are not yet designated as a Clean Community complete four high impact actions to become a designated, receiving a \$5 thousand grant; 2) Action Grants in which a community completes certain actions to receive additional grant funding; and 3) Points Grants in which a community receives points for completing high impact actions to receive even more grant funding. High impact actions are more challenging to implement and examples include adopting the NY Stretch Energy Code, implementing LED street lights, implementing clean fleets and conducting clean energy community campaigns. Learn more at: [www.nyserda.ny.gov/All%20Programs/Programs/Clean%20Energy%20Communities](http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All%20Programs/Programs/Clean%20Energy%20Communities)

**3. CDTC Linkage Planning Study Interactive Map**

Sandy Misiewicz and Teresa LaSalle demonstrated an updated version of CDTC's interactive map to view the locations of past and current Linkage Studies. The map links users to additional information including the final report and a project summary. The updated map is available on

CDTC's website at:

<https://cdta.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8a0a40b5792743bfb5cd396a373f4b1d>

#### **4. Smart Communities Guidebook**

Sandy Misiewicz discussed CDTC's Smart Communities Guidebook project. An RFP has been issued for consultant services. The project goals are to define what a smart community is, identify underutilized and evolving technologies for the region, provide case studies from peer communities/regions and provide a toolkit for local governments. Examples of smart community projects include real time snow removal apps and smart parking information. Submissions are due in April.

#### **5. Proposed Criteria Defining Urban Areas Related to the 2020 US Census**

Teresa LaSalle summarized proposed changes by the US Census to the designation of urban areas as issued in the Federal Register. The proposals include increasing the population threshold from 2,500 to 10,000 per census block and adding a residential housing unit threshold of 4,000 per census block. Adoption of housing unit density as a qualification for census blocks is also proposed. Teresa shared a map illustrating potential impacts of the proposed changes on the region based on 2010 Census data. CDTC's defined urban area could shrink. Comments on the proposals are being accepted through May 20<sup>th</sup>. See the Federal Register for more information: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/02/19/2021-03412/urban-areas-for-the-2020-census-proposed-criteria>

#### **6. Development of a Transit Access Toolkit**

Sandy Misiewicz discussed the development of a transit access toolkit. The toolkit will consider demographic data, land use and site design best practices, transit oriented development, density thresholds and other land use related tools to provide guidance to local governments. Thresholds for involving CDTA in development review will also be established. Street design will not be a primary focus of the project at this time.

The group discussed the project and noted possibly reviewing where growth is happening versus where CDTA is providing service, what the density levels are and how flex routes and bike share programs can supplement or replace fixed route transit. The Forum requested a presentation from CDTA on the Flex Route pilot project. There is also interest in incorporating transportation demand management activities into the toolkit to tie in employment centers. CDTC staff will research toolkit materials and provide an update at the next Planner Forum meeting. Forum members will participate in the development of the toolkit.

#### **7. CDTC Planning Updates**

- 2021 Linkage Program Projects – CDTC funded three projects to begin after April 1, 2021: 1) Troy Federal Street Corridor Study; 2) East and North Greenbush Route 4 Corridor Study; 3) Rensselaer Waterfront Access Study.
- Bus Lane Feasibility Study – Five proposals for the project were received and are being reviewed.
- Patroon Creek Trail Plan – CDTC is developing a regional trail plan for the Patroon Creek corridor which is oriented along I-90 between Colonie and the Hudson River.

- Technical Assistance Program for 2021 – The solicitation for 2021 projects is expected to open in April.

## **8. Training/Workshops**

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

## **9. Other Regional, State and Local Planning Updates**

Rima Shamieh noted CDTC will be launching a Ditch the Car Campaign over the summer in place of Bike to Work Day. A webpage is in development that will allow participants to register, track progress and earn virtual badges. Encouraging non-recreational trips is a priority.

CDTC has also reopened its ADA Transition Plan solicitation through April 30<sup>th</sup>. Contact Carrie Ward for more information.

## **10. 2021 Meeting Schedule – Start time: 9:30 AM**

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