



COMMUNITY PLANNER FORUM

Date: 12/21/2023

Start Time: 9:30 am

End Time: 10:13 am

Facilitator: Rima Shamieh

Study/Project/Task: 1.61 Transportation Council Operations

Attendance

Name	Title	Affiliation
Linda von der Heide	Principal Planner	Rensselaer County Planning Dept
Peter Comenzo	Senior Planner	Town of Rotterdam
Liz Kormos	Trustee	Village of Ballston Spa
Mark Castiglione	Executive Director	CDRPC
John Scavo	Director	Town of Clifton Park
Sean Maguire	Director, Planning & Economic Development	Town of Colonie
Todd Fabozzi	Director of Sustainability	CDRPC
Ellen McNulty-Ryan	Mayor	Village of Green Island
Ryan Ripper	Director of Planning & Engineering	Town of Wilton
Celeste Roeller Harp	Transportation Analyst	NYS DOT Region 1
Kim Lambert	Community Development and Planning Specialist	Saratoga County
Alexandria Carver	Director of Development	City of Schenectady
Chris Bauer	Director of Transportation Planning	Transportation Council
Rebecca O'Dell	GIS and Data Analyst	Transportation Council

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Introductions

Rima started the meeting with welcome and introductions. In person attendees introduced themselves and online participants' names and affiliations were read for all to hear. Guidelines on the operations of the Transportation Council hybrid meetings were also detailed.

2. CDRPC Planning Updates

a. Regional Broadband Planning, Mark Castiglione (CDRPC)

Mark Castiglione gave a presentation on an upcoming Regional Broadband planning feasibility study for the capital region. The study will explore the creation of an Open Access Network (OAN) broadband network that could provide a competitive advantage for broadband in the region and spur economic development. OAN broadband networks are fiber optic networks that are installed and owned by the community and available to all viable entities. CDRPC received a grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission to create a plan that identifies the costs, timeline, partners, business plan, and overall feasibility of an OAN network in the region. If feasible, funding to implement the network may be available through the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program. For more information on the project please see the meeting presentation.

b. Sustainability Updates, Todd Fabozzi (CDRPC)

Todd discussed the latest on multiple sustainability programs managed by CDRPC including the Clean Energy Communities Program, Climate Smart Communities Program, and the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The latest round of the Clean Energy Communities Program has increased the funding levels and added more High Impact actions that communities can take to improve sustainability and reach goals. They are continuing their support of the Climate Smart Communities Program and CDRPC staff is still available to provide support for greenhouse gas inventories and other sustainability efforts. Finally, CDRPC has been working with local stakeholders to develop a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program. The PCAP will identify various strategies to reduce emissions in different sectors and those strategies will be used to guide future investments in emissions reductions through the CPRG implementation grants. Implementation grants will be between \$2 million and \$500 million and be used to fund projects consistent with the emissions reduction strategies outlined in the PCAP. Communities should reach out to CDRPC if they think they have an idea for a project that could qualify for this grant opportunity.

c. 2020 Census, Mark Castiglione (CDRPC), and Rima Shamieh (Transportation Council)

Mark noted that CDRPC was working on a new population projection modeling tool. Rima noted that there are three (3) minor adjustments proposed to the 2020 Census Urban Area Boundary. These adjustments have not been finalized by FHWA but could have small impacts to federal aid eligibility, availability of federal funding, and roadway classification. For more information on the 2020 Census please contact the Transportation Council.

3. Transportation Council Planning Updates

a. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Status Update, Rima Shamieh (Transportation Council)

The next Transportation Council Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) will be called "In Motion: The Plan to 2050." The MTP story map can be viewed [here](#). The Transportation Council is preparing to announce the launch of the MTP process, and the story map will go live at that time. For more information on the MTP update please contact the Transportation Council.

b. 2024-25 Unified Planning Work Program, Rima Shamieh (Transportation Council)

The Transportation Council is in the process of updating its Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Staff are currently reviewing projects submitted during the application process. A list of proposed projects will be presented to the Planning Committee in January 2024. In February the Planning Committee will review and act to approve the 2025 UPWP, with final adoption by the Policy Board in March 2024. For more information on the UPWP update please contact the Transportation Council.

c. Bridge NY, Jacob Beeman (Transportation Council)

The Transportation Council released a call for projects for the 2023 Bridge NY Program on December 7, 2024. The Bridge NY Program provides funding assistance to local governments for projects that rehabilitate and replace bridges, particularly projects that address poor structural conditions, mitigate weight restrictions or detours, facilitate economic development, increase economic competitiveness, improve resiliency and/or reduce the risk of flooding. **Applications are due by 5:00 pm on January 12, 2024.** For more information on the 2023 Bridge NY program visit <https://www.capitalmpo.org/transportation-plans/transportation-improvement-program/2023-bridge-ny> or contact the Transportation Council.

d. New Policy Development Updates, Rima Shamieh (Transportation Council)

The Transportation Council is in the process of updating the Complete Streets Policy and the Equity Policy. For more information on these policy updates please contact the Transportation Council.

e. Planning Study Status, Rima Shamieh (Transportation Council)

- i. Transportation Council projects are summarized in the Project Summary Table, included with the meeting agenda.
- ii. There are several state and regional planning initiatives currently underway including the New York Statewide Transportation Plan (<https://nystransportationmasterplan.com/>), New York Active Transportation Plan (<https://nysdotwalkbikeplan.com/>), CDTA Transit Development Plan (TDP, <https://www.cdtatdp.com/>), and the Carbon Reduction Plan (NYSDEC). Mark Castiglione noted that the [NYS Master Plan for the Aging](#) is also currently being updated.

f. Transportation Council / CDRPC Technical Assistance Program, Rima Shamieh (Transportation Council)

Reminder that the Transportation Council and CDRPC are accepting proposals on a rolling basis for the Technical Assistance Program. If your community is interested in applying, you must

contact CDRPC and Transportation Council to discuss your request. Send an email to techassist@CDRPC.org or call 518-458-2161 and provide your name, phone number and a time convenient for representatives to call you.

4. Upcoming Training & Workshops, Rima Shamieh (Transportation Council)

The NYS LTAP Center Cornell Local Roads Training Program Spring workshops open for registration on January 1, 2024 (<https://cals.cornell.edu/nysltap-local-roads/training-events/workshops>). The NY Planning Federation has recorded webinars available upon request and will post upcoming webinars on its website, <https://nypf.org/>. Additionally, the [Saratoga County Planning and Zoning Conference](#) will be held on January 31, 2024. For more information on training and education opportunities please visit the News & Events Pages on the [Transportation Council](#) and [CDRPC](#) websites.

5. 2024 Meeting Schedule, Rima Shamieh (Transportation Council)

The Planners Forum will meet on the following dates in 2024:

- March 21, 2024
- June 20, 2024
- September 19, 2024
- December 19, 2024

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 am



CAPITAL REGION
**Transportation
Council**

Community Planner Forum

DECEMBER 21, 2023

P L A N N I N G T H E W A Y W E M O V E



WELCOME

Please type your name, title, and what organization or municipality you are representing today into the chat.



Hybrid Meeting Guidelines


- Mute your microphone
- You can choose to use just the phone function
- You can choose to turn your camera off if you want
- Use Zoom's chat function or "raise hand" if you have a question during the presentation
- The Transportation Council is no longer recording Planner Forum meetings



AGENDA

Agenda



2. CDRPC Planning Updates
 3. Transportation Council Planning Updates
 4. Upcoming Trainings & Workshops
 5. Other Regional, State, and Local Planning Updates
 6. 2023-24 Meeting Schedule
2024: March 21, June 20, September 19, December 19
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CDRPC Planning Updates

1. Regional Broadband Planning

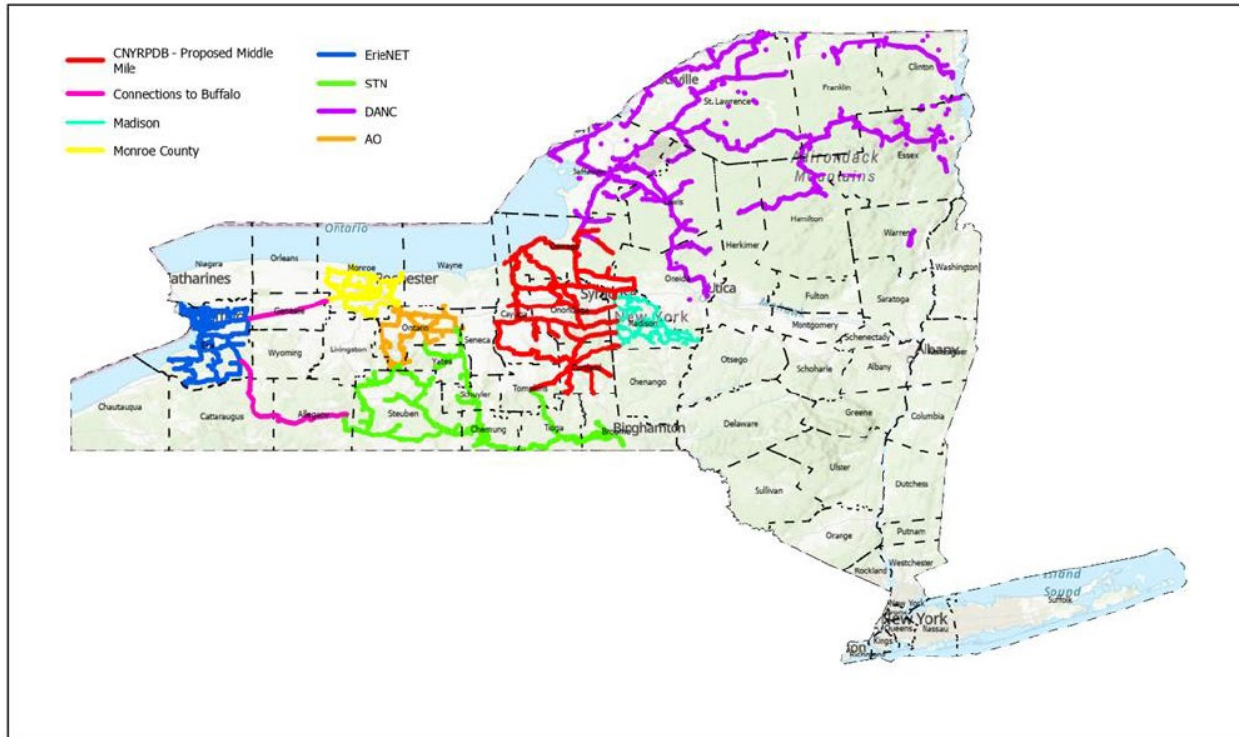
The Objective

- The core objective is to explore the creation of an Open Access Network (OAN) that establishes a competitive advantage for the Capital Region
- Cost avoidance for municipalities and large anchor institutions
- OAM's create a globally competitive advantage for the communities they serve, spurring economic development
- A foundation that enables cost control and encourages public and private investment throughout the region

Why Consider an Open Access Model?

- Open Access Fiber is installed and owned by the community and available to all viable entities
- Improves operations and efficiency of municipal programs as well as serves as a foundation for future investment
- An excellent start point for the development of PPP
- A foundation to establish Broadband Competition for the community
- Foundation for future investments such as fiber to the home (FTTH), 5G wireless, Small Cell, Smart Cities etc.

Open Access Networks



Complete Assessment, Identify Strategy, Create Business Plan, Manage Expectations

- The Plan identifies all aspects of the proposed OAM including
 - Fiber Routing and timeframes
 - Costs to build and operate
 - Potential partners and their contributions
 - Governance options, LDCs, IDAs, Direct ownership by County/Region
 - Operations and Maintenance programs
 - Create Comprehensive Business Plan
- The process and subsequent messaging to the community is critical to success
 - Be clear (what you are doing and what you are not doing)
 - Be consistent
 - Unified support going forward



Questions?

CDRPC Planning Updates

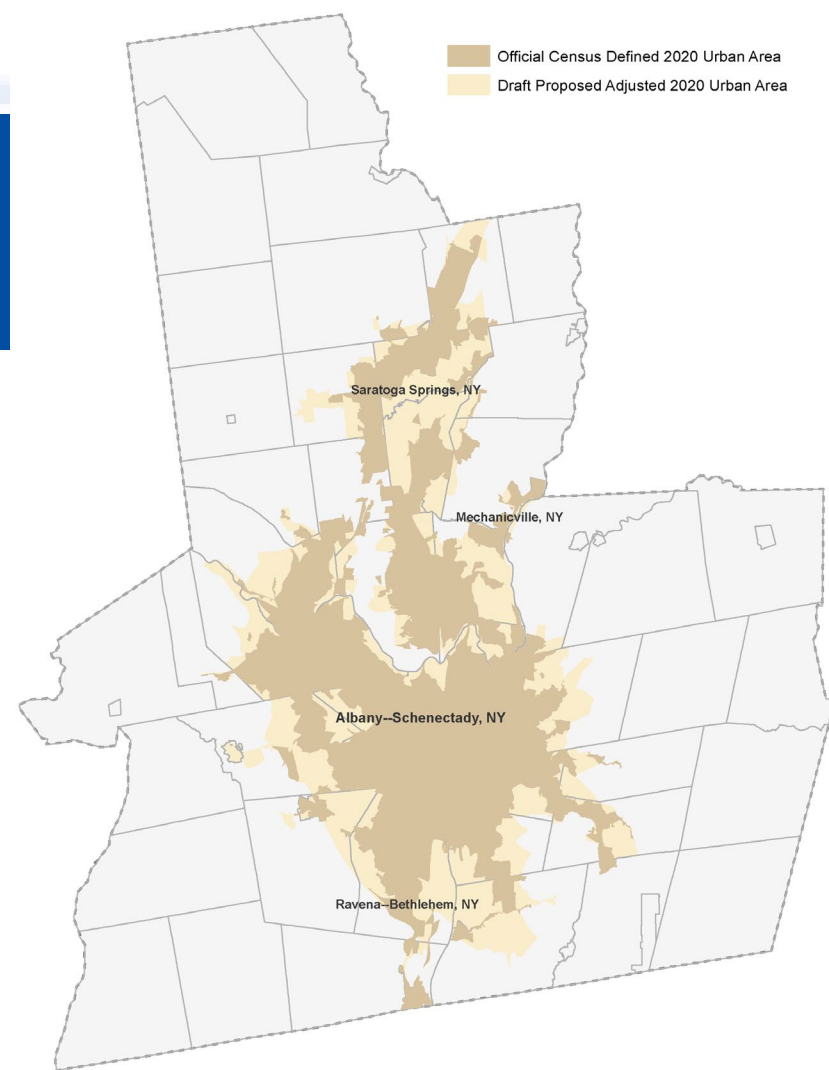
2. Sustainability Updates

3. 2020 Census Results Status

- Urban Area Boundary update (Transportation Council)

2020 Census Urban Area Boundary

- 3 very minor adjustments proposed
 - Albany-Schenectady
 - 146/Miller/Waite Road – fill a gap
 - Ravena-Bethlehem
 - Fill gap at county line
 - Fill gaps related to drawing errors between 2010 and 2020 boundary

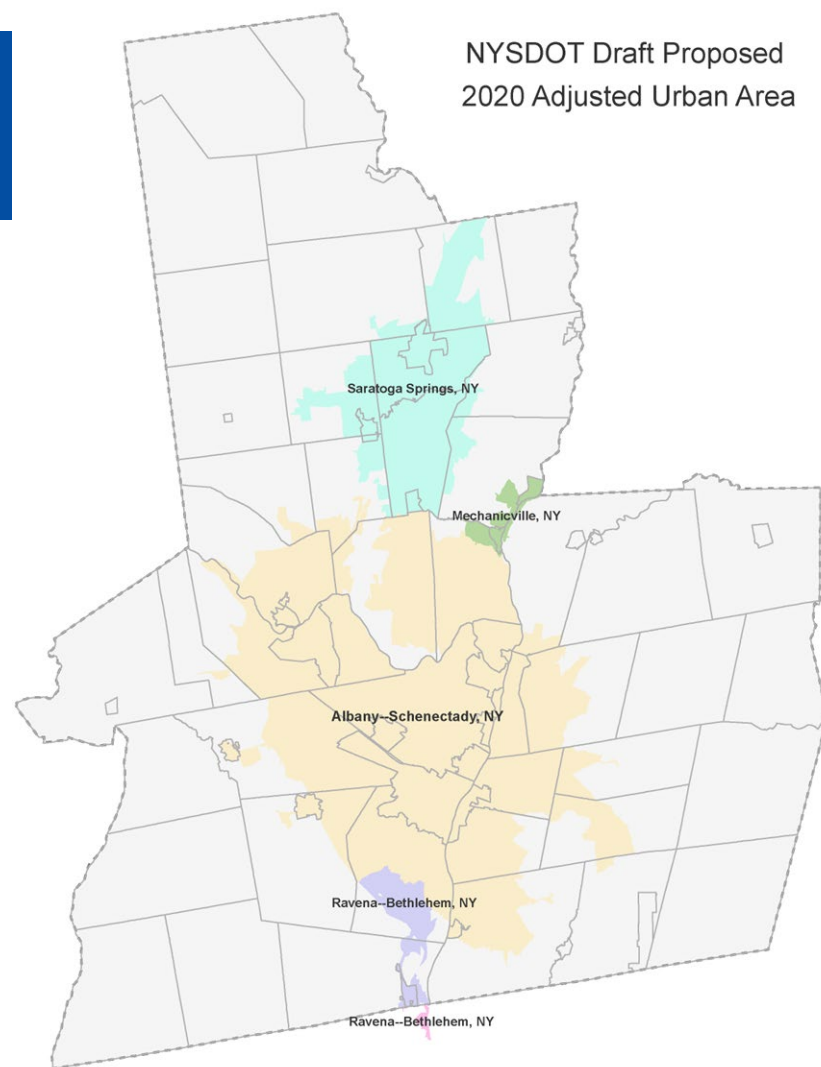


Draft 2020 Adjusted Urban Area Boundary

What could this impact?

- Federal aid eligibility
- Potential funding availability
- Roadway classification

NYSDOT Draft Proposed
2020 Adjusted Urban Area





IN MOTION

THE PLAN TO 2050

Updated StoryMap: [Capital Region, NY \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)



Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP update)

- Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan update - ADOPTED
- Congestion Management Plan update – ADOPTED
- Safe Streets for All
- Driver Mode Shift Survey

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP update)

- **Phase 1:** Data Collection (April 2023 – December 2023)
- **Phase 2:** Inform (December 2023 – June 2024)
- **Phase 3:** Imagine (January 2024 – September 2024)
- **Phase 4:** Decision-Making (October 2024 – March 2025)
- **Phase 5:** Review & Adopt (April 2025 – September 2025)

1 DATA COLLECTION

Collect and compile key data and information about regional growth trends, land use, transportation and mobility, demographics, safety, and other topics in order to identify deficiencies and opportunities.



2 INFORM

Inform the public and stakeholders of the purpose of the MTP, timeline, and major milestones, and how they can get involved and stay informed as the planning process progresses.



3 IMAGINE

Define the future of transportation in the Capital Region. Identify the MTP purpose, the core values and community visions for the future.



4 DECISION-MAKING


Identify specific opportunities for the public and stakeholders to provide input at key decision-making points that will affect the development of plan materials.



5 REVIEW & ADOPT

Allow the public to review and provide input on the draft version of the final plan.

2024-25 Unified Planning Work Program

- ~~October 6, 2023: Call for projects released~~
- ~~October 18, 2023: Sponsor workshop~~
- ~~December 1, 2023: Applications due~~
-  December 2023: Transportation Council staff evaluates and prioritizes projects/studies
- January 3, 2024: Transportation Council staff shares list of proposed projects and funding recommendations with Transportation Council's Planning Committee
- February 7, 2024: Planning Committee reviews and approves Draft 2024-2025 UPWP; opens 25-day public review
- March 7, 2024: Transportation Council Policy Board reviews and adopts 2024-2025 UPWP

BridgeNY Call for Projects

Applications are due on Friday, January 12, 2024 at 5 p.m.



2023 Bridge NY Program

County	County Target (Federal Funds)
Albany	\$2.870M
Rensselaer	\$7.860M
Saratoga	\$3.810M
Schenectady	\$1.730M
Total	\$16.270M

Funding in this table represents 100% of the BRIDGE NY funds allocated. As noted, Region 1 does NOT have any reserve to help round out project budgets. Of the projects to receive funding, somewhere between 60-75% need to be Off-System.

The application can be found at:

<https://form.jotform.com/233243763620149>

New Policy Development Updates

1. Complete Streets Policy

Purpose: to achieve the region's long-range vision for fair and equitable investments among modes and programs, and to serve all users equitably, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit vehicles and riders, freight, and personal vehicle drivers and riders.

2. Equity Policy Development

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) has increased emphasis on equity in the transportation planning process
- Federal discretionary programs in the BIL have reinforced this priority by adding equity as a foundational program principle or as a project selection criterion
- The Biden Administration and Federal Highway Administration have made reconnecting communities and ensuring the inclusion of historically and economically disadvantaged groups in the planning, project selection and design process a priority
- A draft policy will be presented to Planning Committee and Policy Board for approval

The background of the slide is a dense, light gray pattern of thin lines and small circles, resembling a stylized map or a network diagram. The lines form a complex web of connections, with some larger circles acting as nodes or hubs. The overall effect is a textured, grid-like background.

OTHER REGIONAL, STATE, OR LOCAL PLANNING UPDATES

State / Regional Planning Initiatives

- New York Statewide Transportation Plan: <https://nystransportationmasterplan.com/>
- New York Active Transportation Plan: <https://nysdotwalkbikeplan.com/>
- CDTA Transit Development Plan (TDP): <https://www.cdta-tdp.com/>
- Carbon Reduction Plan (NYSDEC) : TBA

(see attached table)

- 378 Bridge PEL Study
- Reimagine 787 Study

NAME AND LOCAL SPONSOR	CONSULTANT OR STAFF, PROJECT COST, TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL CONTACT	FUNDING APPROVAL DATE	STATUS	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE	PROJECT WEBSITE LINK
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COMMUNITY PLANNING SUPPORT

1. Route 4 Corridor Study: Inter-Municipal Update Town of East Greenbush	M.J. Engineering and Land Surveying \$90,000 Chris Bauer	Policy Board Approved 3/4/21	The consultant team continues to develop the draft project report. The consultant team is preparing for the next and final round of public outreach, to be held in January 2024.	February 2024	https://nyroute4study.com
2. Town of Brunswick Hoosick Road Corridor Study Town of Brunswick	Creighton Manning Engineering \$99,000 Andrew Tracy	Policy Board Approved 3/3/22	Consultant team is preparing the Draft Corridor report. Draft concepts were presented to Study Advisory Committee on Oct. 10th. Project website live at https://hoosickroadstudy.com/	December 2023	https://hoosickroadstudy.com/
3. Sand Creek Road Complete Street Feasibility Study Village of Colonie	MJ Engineering and Land Surveying \$65,000 Jacob Beeman	Policy Board Approved 3/3/22	The draft complete streets plan was submitted to the project team on October 30, 2023. Comments were provided to the consultant on November 10, 2023. Study advisory committee meeting #4 is scheduled for November 28th to discuss the draft plan.	December 2023	https://www.sandcreekcompletestreets.com/
4. City of Schenectady Albany & Crane Streets Linkage Study City of Schenectady	PLACE Alliance \$90,000 Jen Ceponis	Policy Board Approved 3/3/22	The Draft Existing Conditions Report and Complete Streets Concepts have been made available to the public. The project team met with stakeholders, including first responders and transportation providers in the study area, to discuss recommendations. The consultant is drafting the final report.	January 2024	https://www.craig-main-connection.com/albany-crane-streets.html
5. All Access Complete Streets Feasibility Study Village of Voorheesville	TBD \$55,000 Rima Shamieh	Policy Board Approved 3/2/23	Received three consultant submissions to the REI. Submissions are currently under review by the evaluation committee, which will meet in late November.	November 2024	TBD
6. Broadway Flood Resilient Multi-Modal Corridor Study Albany County	Highland Planning \$115,000 Jen Ceponis	Policy Board Approved 3/2/23	A project kick-off meeting was held and the project team is compiling and collecting data and information for the Existing Conditions Assessment. SAC Meeting #1 and a site visit will be scheduled for early 2024.	November 2024	TBD
7. Castleton Complete Streets & Connections Plan Village of Castleton-on-Hudson	Verity Engineering \$75,000 Chaim Simon	Policy Board Approved 3/2/23	Project kickoff meeting was held. Existing conditions are being gathered and project website is being developed. First SAC meeting is scheduled.	November 2024	TBD
8. Central Avenue West Corridor Study Town of Colonie	TBD \$150,000 Andrew Tracy	Policy Board Approved 3/2/23	Draft scope of work reviewed by Town, final scope of work is being prepared. Draft EJ, EM and LEP maps prepared.	November 2024	TBD
9. Curry Road & Guilderland Avenue Multi-Modal Study Town of Rotterdam	TBD \$90,000 Carrie Ward	Policy Board Approved 3/2/23	Expressions of Interest are under review.	November 2024	TBD
10. Milton Town Center Plan Update Town of Milton	TBD \$100,000 Jacob Beeman	Policy Board Approved 3/2/23	Consultant selection meeting was held on November 8, 2023. Consultant team lead by Labella Associates was selected for the project. Agreement has been sent to consultant for final signatures.	November 2024	TBD

NAME AND LOCAL SPONSOR	CONSULTANT OR STAFF, PROJECT COST, TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL CONTACT	FUNDING APPROVAL DATE	STATUS	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE	PROJECT WEBSITE LINK
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COMMUNITY PLANNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

1. Depot Square Intersection Redesign & Intersection Improvement Pilot	\$20,420 Jen Ceponis	Policy Board Approved Technical Assistance Program 3/2/2023	A demonstration project was conducted Oct. 27 - Nov. 6. Staff is preparing the final technical memorandum summarizing potential improvements, survey responses, and current traffic/infrastructure conditions.	March 2024	N/A
2. Saratoga Truck Traffic Study	\$9,547 Chris Bauer	Policy Board Approved Technical Assistance Program 3/2/2023	Data collection, including traffic volume, vehicle class, and turning movement counts, has been completed. A project kickoff meeting was held on November 2, 2023. Data analysis and mapping are underway.	March 2024	N/A

ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL PLANNING INITIATIVES

1. MTP Update Transportation Council - Regional	Transportation Council Staff \$100,000 Jen Ceponis	Included in the 2023-2024 UPWP	The Transportation Council worked with CDRPC to create a Regional Trends StoryMap highlighting key data points summarizing existing conditions. A consultant was selected to develop a brand, logo, and tagline. Staff has drafted a MTP Public Participation Plan and is coordinating public outreach and engagement efforts in conjunction with other regional and statewide planning efforts.	Adopted September 3, 2020 Anticipated adoption of next MTP: September 2025	https://www.cdrmpo.org/nv2050
2. NY 378 Bridge Transportation Scoping/PEL Study NYSDDT	WSP \$400,000 Susan Olsen, NYSDOT Andrew Tracy	TIP Project AG05/R344: NY 378 Troy Menands Bridge Study	Final public meeting was held at 6:00pm on October 26th in-person at HVCC and online via Zoom. Final report and recommended concept alignments were presented. Next steps: Draft Project Scoping Report (PSR) and PEL close-out by end of year. Post PEL activities include more detailed development of concept plans and coordination with 787 PEL team.	December 2023	https://www.dot.ny.gov/troymenandsbridge
3. Regional Truck Parking Study	Gannett Fleming \$137,750 Chris Bauer	Planning Committee Approved 4/7/21	The draft final report was delivered by the consultant team and is currently being reviewed internally. Next steps will include SAC and public review, and then development of the final deliverables.	December 2023	TBD
4. ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan for Pedestrian Infrastructure	Village of Ballston Spa Town of Guilderland City of Troy Carrie Ward	Planning Committee Approved 11/2/2022	The consultant presented to the Ballston Spa - established advisory committee. About 130 people completed a public survey requesting input on prioritization factors. The consultant presented to Troy's advisory committee and released a survey collecting public input on prioritization factors. Drafting of these two plans is underway. The Guilderland advisory group met in early December.	December 2023	N/A
5. Hoosick Asset Management Plan Town of Hoosick	Stantec \$33,000 Teresa LaSalle	Policy Board Approved 3/3/22	The consultant team is working on a draft Report.	March 2024	N/A
6. Design-Engineering Feasibility and Planning Study for Reimagining the I-787 Corridor NYSDDT	Parsons \$5,000,000 Greg Wichser, NYSDOT Kelley Kircher, NYSDOT Chris Bauer Jen Ceponis	TIP Project AG09 Reimagining the I-787 Corridor Planning Study	The first series of public meetings kicked off in June. Survey responses have begun to come in and the consultant has started work on some preliminary concepts. Mapping of various environmental, cultural and historic resources is underway. Stakeholder engagement remains ongoing with neighborhood associations, business groups, and Transportation Council advisory committees. The consultant team is actively coordinating with Transportation Council staff on the development of the base and future year travel demand model and other traffic simulations.	March 2026	https://webapps.dot.ny.gov/reimagining-i-787a

NAME AND LOCAL SPONSOR	CONSULTANT OR STAFF, PROJECT COST, TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL CONTACT	FUNDING APPROVAL DATE	STATUS	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE	PROJECT WEBSITE LINK
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ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL PLANNING INITIATIVES (continued)

7. On-Demand Motor Vehicle, Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Services	NDS (National Data & Surveying Services) Up to \$160,000 Teresa LaSalle	Included in the 2022-2023 UPWP	Vehicular and bicycle and pedestrian counts continue to be undertaken to support Transportation Council planning studies and projects.	18 month contract with an optional one year extension.	N/A
8. Regional Signal Timing Program	TBD \$100,000 Andrew Tracy	included in the 2022-2023 UPWP	Optimized timings implemented on West Ave in Saratoga Springs, in evaluation period. Draft timing plans developed for State and Erie in Schenectady; meeting held 11/16 to discuss, with field implementation to follow. New Scotland Ave data collection is complete, and Synchro modeling is in process.	March 2024	N/A
9. Vision Zero Action Plan Supported by Cities of Albany, Cohoes, Saratoga Springs, and Troy; Village of Green Island; NYSDOT	TBD \$1,288,000 Carrie Ward	Included in the 2023-2024 UPWP	A request for proposals was released in September and proposals are under review by the funding partners.	April 2025	N/A

Reminder: Transportation Council/CDRPC Technical Assistance Program

Accepting proposals on a rolling basis.

How to Apply:

If your community is interested in applying, you must contact CDRPC and Transportation Council to discuss your request.

Send an email to techassist@CDRPC.org or call 518-458-2161 and provide your name, phone number and a time convenient for representatives to call you.

Upcoming Trainings & Workshops

1. NYS LTAP Center – [Cornell Local Roads Training Program](#)
2. [NY Planning Federation Trainings](#)
3. Visit the News & Events Pages on the [Transportation Council](#) and CDRPC websites for additional updates on training and workshops.

2024 Meeting Schedule

2024 Meeting Schedule: March 21, June 20, September 19, December 19

THANK YOU!



Jen Ceponis Director of Regional Planning

Sign up for E-News: <http://eepurl.com/ivx946>

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