

Community and Transportation Linkage Planning Program



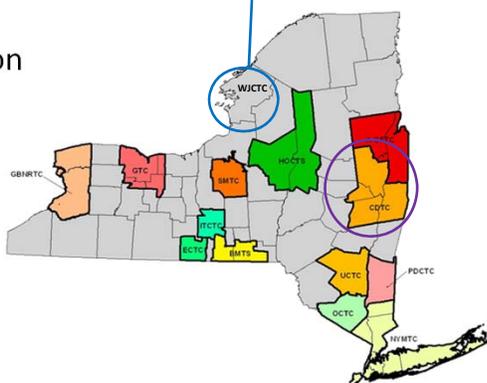
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Capital District Transportation Committee
Senior Transportation Planner II

October 16, 2015



What is an MPO?

- Urban Areas of 50,000+
- Forum for cooperative multi-modal transportation decision making
- Federal transportation funding for planning and capital projects

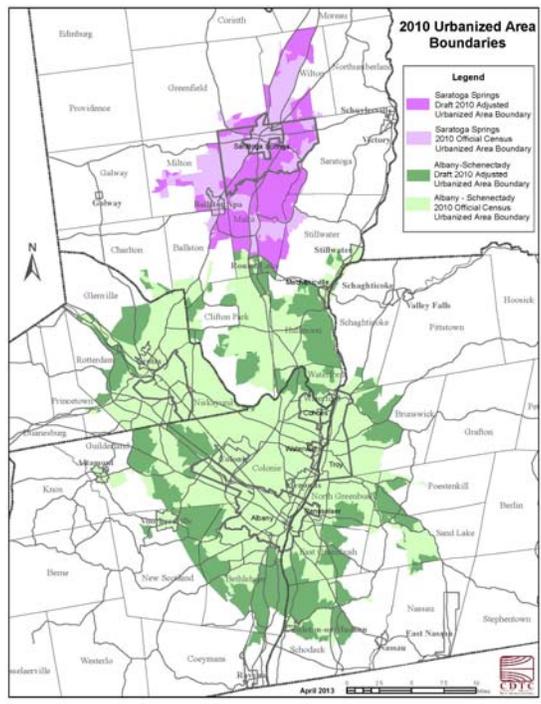


www.cdtcmpo.org

CDTC Represents

- 2 Urban Areas
- 825,000+
- 76 Municipalities

- Policy Board includes 21 permanent members
 - Elected officials wear “two hats” – local and regional perspectives

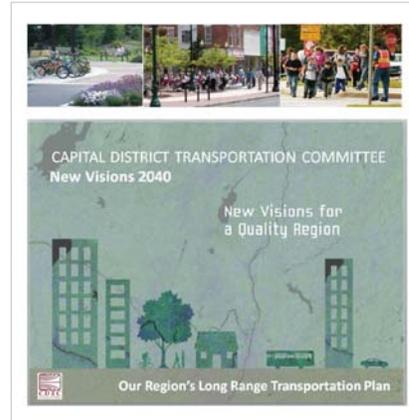


MPO Responsibilities

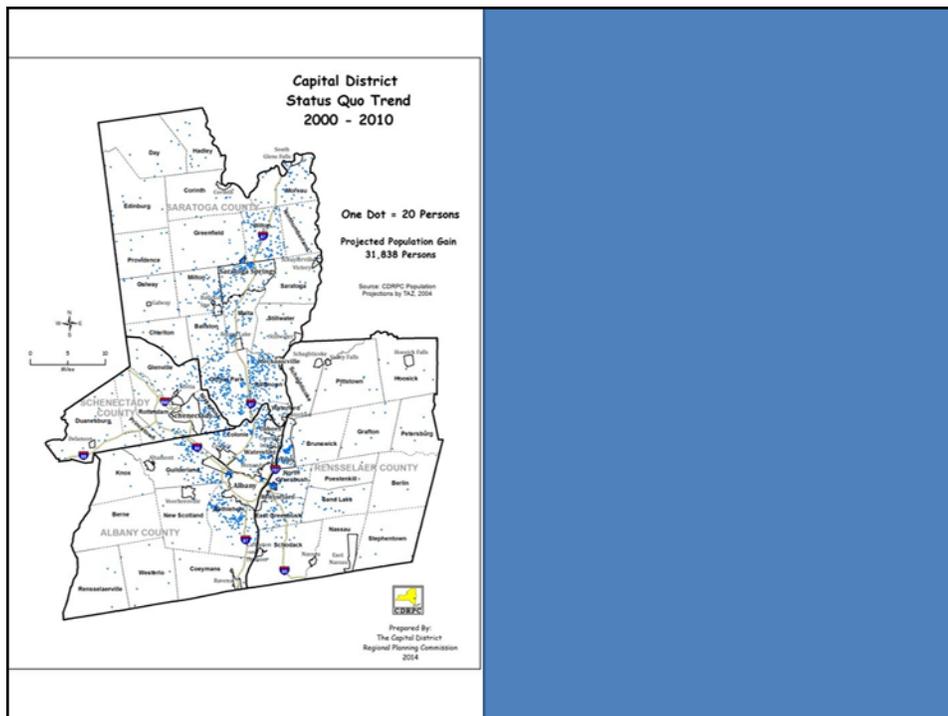
- Cooperatively develop, update and approve:
 - Regional (Metropolitan) Transportation Plan
 - Guides transportation decision making and activities
 - Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
 - 2 year work program containing all MPO activities and task budgets
 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - Five year capital program of projects

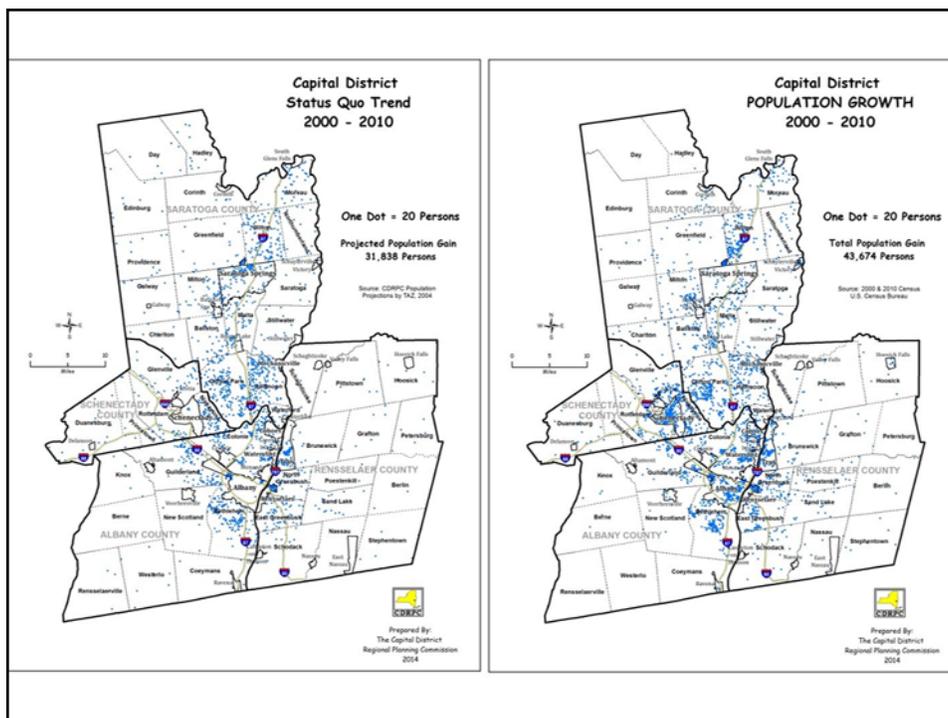
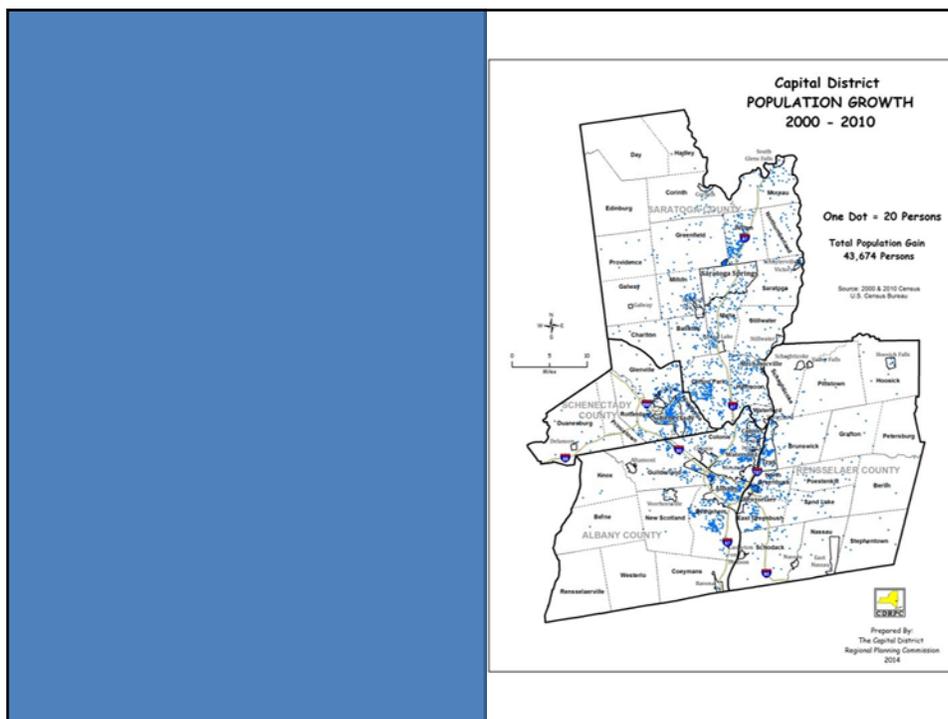
New Visions 2040

- Regional Transportation Plan (1997)
 - Shared vision
 - 20 year horizon
 - Multi-modal
- Update Adopted in September 2015
- 12 Planning and Investment Principles



www.cdtnewvisions.com





Transportation Investments Will Support

- **Quality Region**
- Economic Development
- Regional Equity
- Complete Streets
- Bicycle and Pedestrian
- Transit
- Infrastructure
- Safety and Security
- Travel Reliability
- Freight
- Environmental Stewardship
- Technology

Invest in a Quality Region



- Plan and build for all modes of transportation
- Support healthy communities
- Encourage concentrated development patterns and smart economic growth
- **Link transportation and land use planning**
- Protect sensitive environmental resources

The MPO Planning Challenge

- How can CDTC implement the regional plan when:
 - No control over land use or development
 - Can't directly implement capital projects
 - Preservation first state policies
 - Funding uncertainty
- Rely on cooperation, collaboration and public desires



NY 5 BusPlus, Albany

Linkage Program (2000)

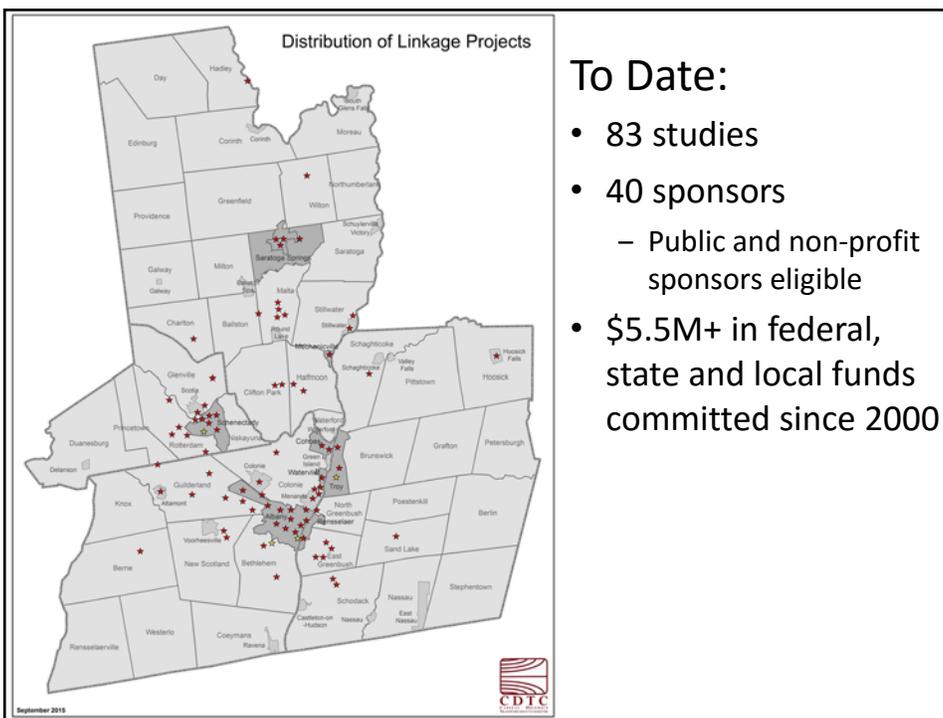
- Locally initiated planning that integrates land use and transportation
 - Conceptual
 - Pre-NEPA
- Requires local coordination with regional strategies
- Major component of CDTC's public involvement activities

www.cdtcmpo.org/linkage.htm



Core Linkage Program Strategies

- Urban Revitalization/ Redevelopment
- Street Connectivity
- Activity Center/Town Centers
- Transit Supportive Corridors/Built Environments
- Mixed Uses
- Multi-Modal Transportation Network/Complete Streets
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Connectivity



To Date:

- 83 studies
- 40 sponsors
 - Public and non-profit sponsors eligible
- \$5.5M+ in federal, state and local funds committed since 2000

Linkage Program Overview

- Annual solicitation
 - ~\$300,000 in planning funds
 - Consultant and staff technical assistance
 - November 2015 Solicitation
- Requires 25% local cash match...local buy in
- \$90,000 max consultant effort cost
 - CDTC staff administers consultant contract

Eligible Projects

- The proposed initiative must:
 - Have a clear and direct connection to transportation issues
 - Be consistent with the Linkage Program and New Visions 2040 principles
- Inter-municipal initiatives are encouraged
- Municipal wide initiatives are limited
- Funds are capped
- Program is currently focused on implementation initiatives

Three Tiers of Eligibility

1. Feasibility studies in corridors with a funding commitment for a capital project in the next two to three years
 - Commitment must be demonstrated
 - Timing leads to better coordination
2. The following project types
 - Feasibility studies with no capital project commitment
 - Strategic zoning code changes/zoning code overlays
 - Site design standards or guidelines
 - Official mapping
 - **Complete streets guidelines**
3. Other types of planning work

Public Involvement

- Study advisory committee
 - NYSDOT, County, CDRPC, CDTA
 - Legitimizes the planning process
 - Communication, coordination and collaboration is fostered
- 2 workshops at minimum
- Websites, social media and other outreach tools
- Public feedback often indicates public support for New Visions principles



Route 470 Corridor Study (2002)

- 1st step toward redevelopment in the City
- Identified opportunities for:
 - corridor improvements
 - economic development
 - resource preservation
- Demonstration sites used to identify
 - land use
 - zoning
 - design guidelines
 - transportation improvements



Led to Zoning Update (2006)

Zoning on the Islands Updated:

- Promote mixed use
- Removed industrial from most waterfront areas



City of Cohoes, Van Schick Island Zoning Map

Residential	Park/Recreation
Commercial/Retail	Industrial
Mixed Use	Waterfront Mixed Use

Led to New Investment

- 220 new apartment units
- Direct water access to Mohawk River
- Access to Bike Path
- Adjacent to Peebles Island State Park



East Greenbush Route 4 Corridor Study (2006)

- Support the Town's Land Use Vision through a corridor improvement plan
 - Commercial avenue in the north
 - Neighborhood avenue in the south
 - Transition at the Couse Corners gateway area
- Provide the framework for conceptual transportation improvements and management actions



East Greenbush Route 4 Corridor Study

- US 4 / NY 151 Intersection faced:
 - Traffic delays (LOS E)
 - Safety issues
 - Lacked bicycle and pedestrian features
- Development interest



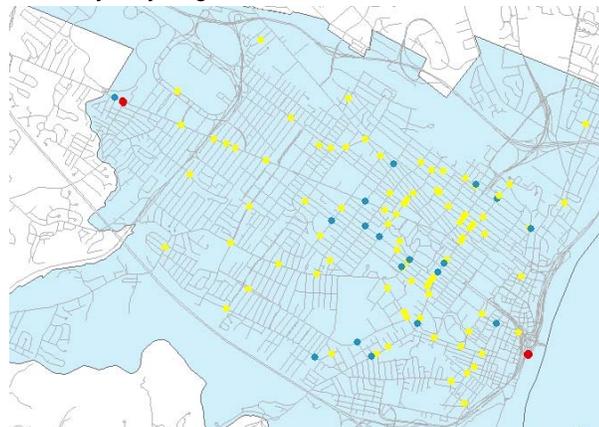
Implementation

- US 4 and NY 151 roundabout constructed (state funded)
- East Greenbush Site Design Guidelines (2014)



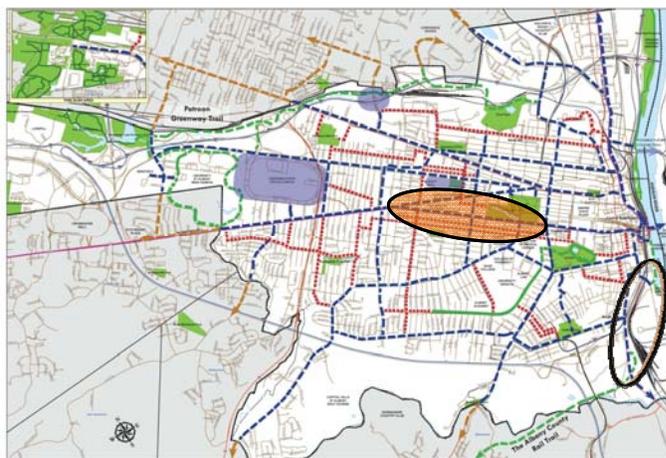
Albany Bicycle Master Plan (2009)

Albany Bicycling Related Crashes 2006-2008

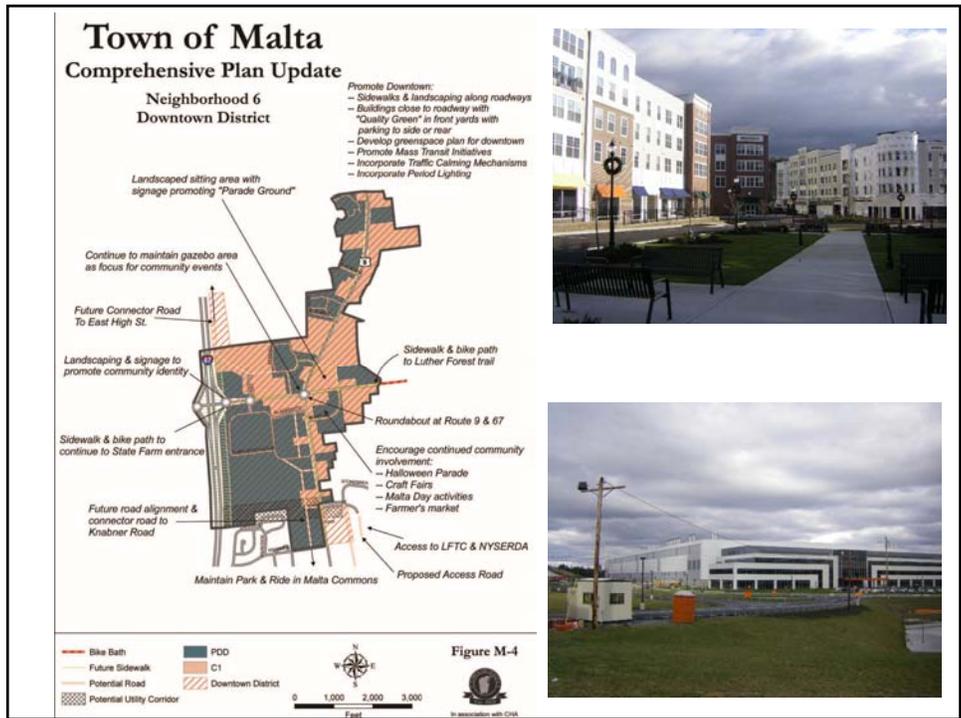
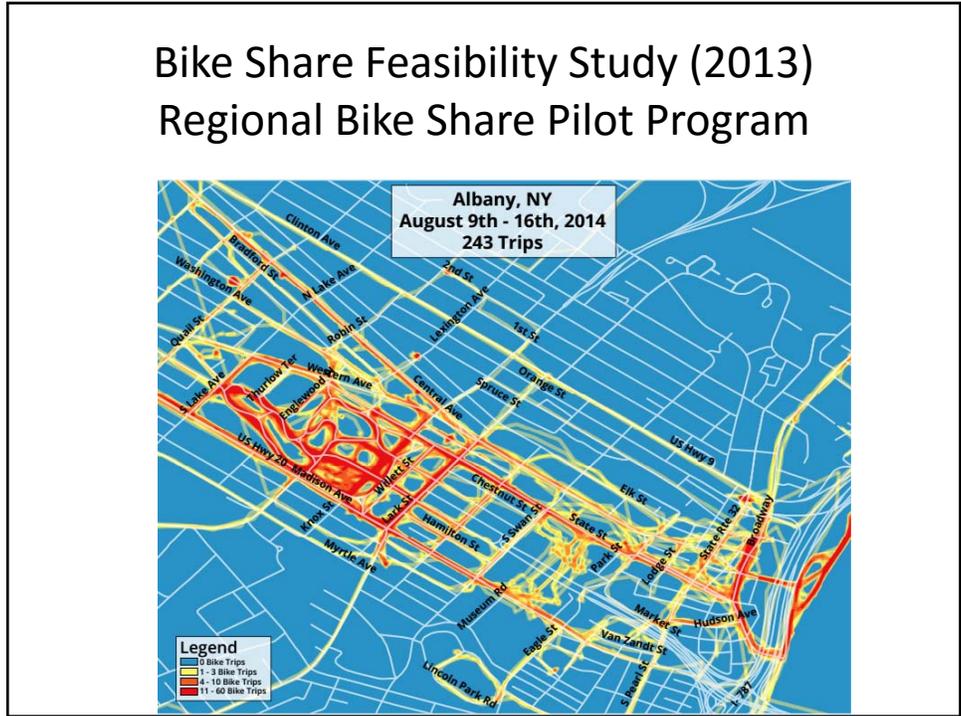


115 Bicycle Crashes:
2 Fatal (50% of county total)
95 Injury (43% of county total)
18 Property Damage/NR

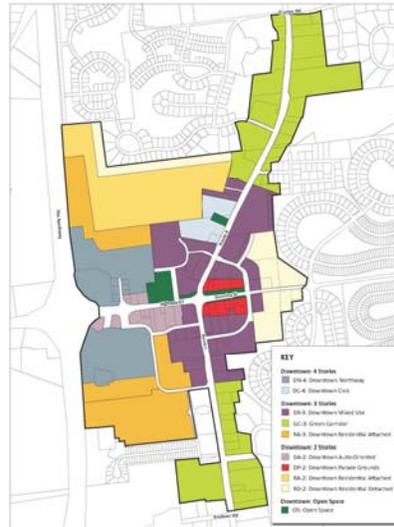
Albany Bicycle Master Plan



Bike Share Feasibility Study (2013) Regional Bike Share Pilot Program



Malta Form Based Code (2013)



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DISTRICTS | Sec. 2.6. DX-3: Downtown Mixed Use

2.6. DX-3: Downtown Mixed Use
 The DX-3 District is intended to accommodate a mix of compatible uses in a variety of building types in a pedestrian-friendly and walkable environment where buildings do not exceed 3 stories in height.




A. Permitted Building Types

■ Mixed Use Shopfront	■ Apartment
■ Traditional Shopfront	■ Townhouse
■ Single-Story Shopfront	■ Cottage Court
■ General Building	■ Detached House
■ Civic Building	

B. Maximum Building Heights

3 stories	Mixed Use Shopfront, General Building, Apartment, Townhouse, Civic Building
2 stories	Traditional Shopfront, Cottage Court, Detached House
1 story	Single-Story Shopfront

© 2015, All Rights Reserved. Form Based Code Downtown Mixed Use February 4, 2015

- **Form Based Code**
 - Clifton Park
 - Schodack (overlay)
- **Zoning Suggestions**
 - Bethlehem
 - Guilderland
 - Albany



REGULATING PLAN

TC6 Boulevard Zone	TC4 Transition Zone	TC2 Edge Zone	DO Design Overlay
TC5 Neighborhood Zone	TC3 General Zone	TC1 Highway Zone	OS Public / Open Space

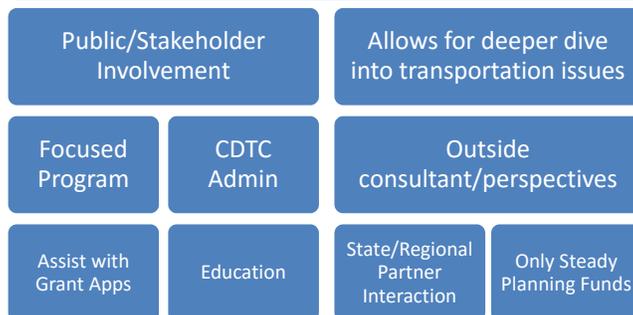
- - - Town Center Boundary
 - - - Existing Road
 - - - Future New Road (Planned)
 - - - Future New Road or Multi-Use Path
 - - - Potential Service Alley
 - - - Future New Multi-Use Path
 - - - Recommended Tower Design
 - - - Recommended Transit Stop

2015 Linkage Sponsor Survey

17 of 40 sponsors responded

- Albany
- Altamont
- Bethlehem
- Charlton
- Clifton Park
- Cohoes
- Colonie (Town)
- Colonie (Village)
- Guilderland
- Halfmoon
- Malta
- Mechanicville
- Menands
- Rensselaer County
- Saratoga Springs
- Wilton
- Unknown

What Would You Say are the Benefits of the Linkage Program to Your Community?



What Would You Say are the Weaknesses of the Linkage Program to Your Community?

Funding Limitations (capital projects)

Leadership Changes

Consultant Changes

NYSDOT

Regulatory Burden

Linkage Program Products

- Provide a guide for development and developers
- Reference materials/background information for Boards
- Used to apply for grants for capital projects and additional planning work
- Used to discuss potential capital improvements related to transportation infrastructure not owned by the community (such as with NYSDOT)

What types of initiatives would you like to see the Linkage Program emphasize or encourage?

- Bike & Pedestrian corridor studies
- Trail planning, perhaps educational
- Sidewalk/ADA plans
- Complete Streets education and projects
- Upgrades to existing intersections and smart signal technology
- Plans/studies that assist with community transportation planning/modeling efforts
- Downtown parking studies
- More regional projects or projects that can be duplicated across municipalities
- Smart growth resolutions
- Assistance in comprehensive plan development

Thank You!

For more information, visit

www.cdtcmpo.org

or contact

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