



Onondaga County Legislature

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PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES – JUNE 21, 2023 **TIMOTHY BURTIS, CHAIR**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Knapp, Mr. Garland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Kuhn, Mr. Olson

ALSO ATTENDING: See attached list

Chair Burtis called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. *The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed, and there were no objections to waiving the reading. There were no corrections to the minutes, and the minutes were approved.*

- 1. SYRACUSE/ONONDAGA COUNTY PLANNING AGENCY: Dan Kwasnowski, Director**
 - a. Amending the 2023 County Budget to Accept \$450,000 of Grant Funds From the Federal Highway Administration for the Development of a Safe Streets and Roads for all Program Action Plan and Authorizing the Execution of Grant Agreements to Implement the Intent of the Resolution (\$540,000)**

- Safe Streets 4 All is a new program under USDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 - Focuses on biked projects, speed enforcement and cameras to make streets safer
 - The goal is to have a Vision Zero policy by increasing bike safety for bicycles and pedestrians
 - Vision Zero policy means zero serious injuries or deaths by all bikes, pedestrians, and motorists
- Germany is 5 times safer than USA as far as people being able to bike or walk
- Problem is structural; how the streets are organized and designed
- Create a plan that will show how the streets across the county will improve safety
- The reason to create an action plan is to be eligible for \$30M per year from the Federal government
- County has plans and projects, but they are not all in the same place
- There is equity and systematic requirements on how to create the Plan
- Plan will qualify county for funding and will reach every corner of county including the city
- Goal is to move people around safely
- Department of Planning will create the Plan and work with all DOT/DPW partners
- Large grant will provide resources in order to do projects well
- The county will have a list of projects with action items that can be prioritized by year or by District
 - Create mobility within the city and countryside
- Definitely something people want
 - Empire State Trail shows potential; thousands of people use trail everyday
 - If attractive and safe, people will use

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- What does this look like?
- A walking trail or bike path?
 - Possibly the village of Tully, Fabius, or Apulia
 - There is the Empire State Trail Plan
 - Connecting Burdick St., Newport Rd., Camillus to the Trail with a protective bike lane and walkable path
 - Connect villages to trails and go from there
 - There are big systems like Loop the Lake, Clay, Lysander, Salina
 - Onondaga County has plenty of projects, figure out how it all works together to connect communities

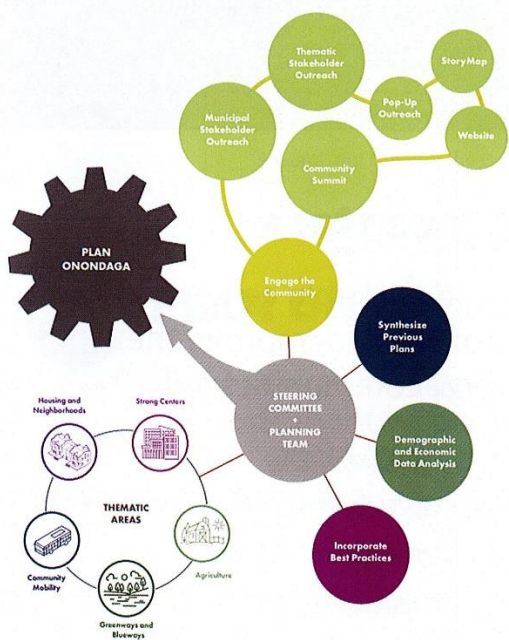
- A lot of bikes in the southern end of county; roads have narrow shoulders
- Route 20 is good; narrow shoulder on Route 91, Route 80
- Biking on town and country roads can be used for recreation and getting people to work
- Need to make bike path to connect bike lanes together in order to get people to an area
 - Distracted driving is a big problem

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Garland, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

b. Adopting the Plan Onondaga County Comprehensive Plan

PLAN ONONDAGA

COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



A countywide comprehensive plan is a tool to help guide communities toward a desired future. It offers a process by which a community can ask and answer questions like “Who are we?”, “Who do we want to be?”, and “How can we accomplish our goals?”

Plan Onondaga establishes a shared set of values, goals and strategies, which can help to channel available resources and development energy in targeted ways toward a vision of future prosperity.

A collective vision for future prosperity means that Onondaga County increases its chances to create jobs, attract and retain a mobile workforce and households with choices, and that local communities become stronger with increasing ability to re-invest in themselves and their future.

“Getting there” requires many partners to work in tandem toward a shared vision. The County will provide space, organization, facilitation and follow through to bring government, business and citizens together to implement Plan Onondaga.

Highlights of Plan Onondaga

Framework for Competitiveness how we’re doing versus our peer counties

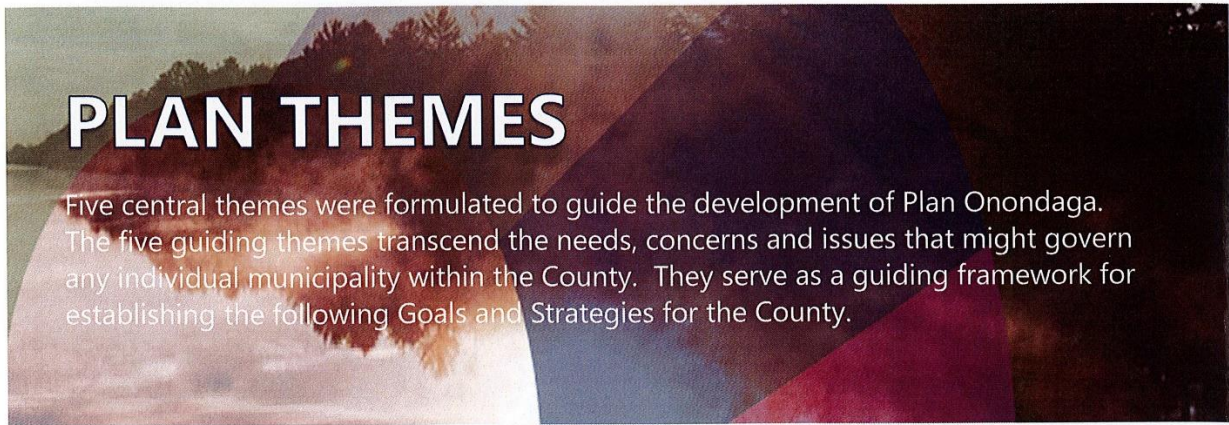
Community Engagement a variety of interactive outreach methods

5 Guiding Themes overarching lenses through which to plan all communities

Theme Intersections how the five themes work together

Online Storymaps visual stories to illustrate the themes

Vision Mapping countywide vision map and 3D illustration



PLAN ON strong centers

Amenity-rich, vibrant, and walkable centers can strengthen the quality of life and improve the economic stability of local communities.

Support + Enhance Existing and New Centers of All Scales

Provide Tools, Resources, and Partnerships for the Development of Strategic New Centers

Incorporate Multi-Modal Options As a Central Element of Centers

Invest in Public Places and Spaces Within Existing and New Centers



PLAN ON greenways + blueways

Providing unique opportunities for recreation, wildlife habitat, and ecological protection.

Formalize Greenway and Blueway System Planning

Continue to Invest in the Development of a Countywide Multi-Use Trail Network

Invest in the Development of a Countywide Blueway System

Preserve Ecological Assets Within Greenways and Blueways





PLAN ON housing + neighborhoods

To retain as well as attract future residents, housing in the county needs to be affordable, efficient, diverse, and attractive.

Expand Housing Choice

Develop Targeted Market-Driven Programs to Support Neighborhood Health

Support and Enhance the County's Housing + Neighborhoods



PLAN ON community mobility

Enhancing mobility means better access and better options to move people throughout the county.

Become a Vision Zero Community

Invest in Transit Corridors

Implement a Connected Network of Bike Lanes, Trails and Multi-Modal Corridors

Prepare for Our Transportation Future



PLAN ON agriculture

Local agriculture is vital to the success of Onondaga County's economy, landscape and food system.

Protect Natural Resources and Scenic Views

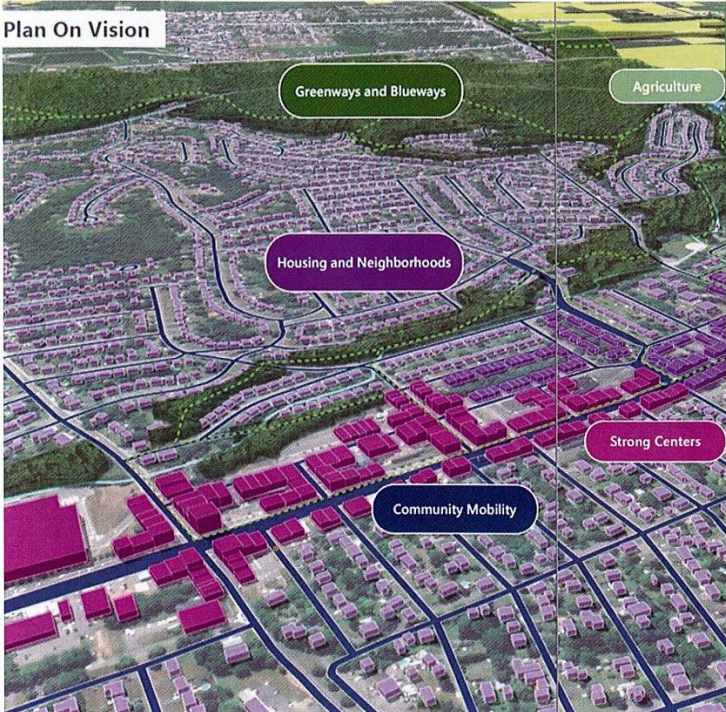
Grow the Agricultural Economy

Provide Food and Support Local Agriculture

Protect Farmland and Rural Landscapes

- Gave four presentations to Town Supervisors, Legislators, City Councilors
 - Turnout was not big, but short notice
- Copy of Plan is online; some things were added
 - Themes remain the same
 - Added strategies in the green area under each heading; shows general direction county would like to go
- Greenways and Blueways:
 - One of the bigger programs; intersects with other themes
 - Connect green character to urbanized area with street trees, lush vegetation, storm water facilities along path that brings people into commercial and mixed use areas
 - Onondaga County is a green county with mostly agriculture with a strong metropolitan center; unique to the area
 - A lot of natural space between suburban and urban areas
- Strong Centers:
 - Biggest challenge; creating Town Centers is not an easy thing to do
 - Need to make sure new development results in Strong Centers

- People all over the country desire Strong Centers, including employers
- Great to have services within walking distance
- Community Mobility:
 - Vision Zero Community
- Housing and Neighborhoods:
 - Getting started on housing study; City completed study utilizing same consultants
 - Consultants doing an amazing job; expect to see same results at county level
 - 9 – 10 month process; starting in July; will see results quickly
 - Will talk about what will be needed for the next phase during budget



Plan On Vision

Plan Onondaga is Intended to:

- ⇒ Synthesize the important planning and development drivers affecting our communities.
- ⇒ Build relationships, capacity and awareness across all sectors.
- ⇒ Inform policymaking, and bridge local needs with state and federal resources.
- ⇒ Provide for and help prioritize public investments that transcend municipal boundaries.
- ⇒ Provide guidance, resources and training necessary to support the collective vision in Plan Onondaga.

Stay Informed

Thank you for your interest in Plan Onondaga. To be kept informed on Plan Onondaga projects and progress, you are encouraged to:

- ◇ Visit plan.ongov.net for plan documents, resources and links, including:
 - ⇒ PLAN ON Thematic Storymap series for a visual presentation of Plan Onondaga
 - ⇒ PLAN ON Municipal Storymap series, to explore projects and mapping by municipality
 - ⇒ Latest news on projects and events.
- ◇ Follow [@PlanOnondaga](https://www.instagram.com/PlanOnondaga) on social media, to learn about engagement opportunities, community planning projects and initiatives.
- ◇ Contact the Onondaga County Department of Planning with any questions, comments or ideas, at countyplanning@ongov.net or **(315)435-2611**.

Follow Plan On!



plan.ongov.net

- Last page of Highlights shows how themes work together

- Darker purple shows Strong Centers off main thoroughfare
 - Enhanced bus routes, sidewalks and bike lanes to keep traffic moving
- Connected to Greenway and Neighborhoods nearby
- When housing is planned, sometimes no vision on what it will be or how community will be served
 - Can create in underutilized commercial districts with mixed use, residential, bigger buildings, and create walkable areas; create center for whole community
- Biggest challenge is going to be making it happen; getting communities to work towards an ideal
- Framework for Competitiveness:
 - Compares Onondaga County to other counties in Upstate NY and other counties in the country
 - Shows how good the county is doing and where coming up short
 - Onondaga County is good at creating Strong Centers; Syracuse is one of the best downtowns in CNY
 - Syracuse has great historical resources; great centers and villages
- Marcellus on an upward trajectory as a result of funding from county through Community Development grants
- Investments in People:
 - Need to do some work with percent of population with high school diploma or less
- Economic Collaboration:
 - Doing well with employment diversity by industry; need work on median household income and jobs per household
- Goal is to dig into communities and figure out what needs to be done; will be ongoing project
- Poverty is a little higher than other Upstate NY counties and national communities
 - A significant problem; need to look at other communities and see what is being done differently

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- The Highlights put together is helpful including the map on the back
- Is Vision Zero just in Community Mobility area?
- Not everything is attached to Strong Centers
 - Need to make those connections and figure out what needs to be done and obtain the resources to do it
- Intel chip plant in Columbus, Ohio; timeline is ahead of Onondaga County
- Has anyone reached out to see how they are doing?
 - Have not reached out directly
 - Met with students at SU who did a study in Columbus, OH, Phoenix, AZ, Boise, ID
 - Looked at whole picture; supply chain, etc.; Onondaga County is in a good position
 - Columbus does great planning and has a great downtown plan; would like to copy in Onondaga County
 - Need to look at other communities to be competitive and learn from each other
 - That was a great question Mr. Knapp!
 - David Bottar, Executive Director of the CNY Regional Planning Board, is very interested in reaching out as well
- In general, what were some of the main questions during your roadshow?
 - How much development is needed?
 - Answer was: What would you like your town to be? If not wanted, county still needs to plan for that
 - Transportation is a big question; how bikeped system works together; need same with vehicular traffic
 - Greensboro Plan is similar to Plan Onondaga, has 1500 acre site without a company going in yet
 - Plan shows 17 or 19 interchanges that need to be upgraded
 - Towns are thinking in right direction; things can happen quicker than thought
 - Need to have a plan and come together on what is needed
 - How are we going to fix the problem and not make it worse?
 - Some problems cannot be functionally fixed
 - Have to look system-wide and find a different strategy
 - There is a slide from a presentation in Denver showing modes of travel for commuters going into Denver
 - Transit stayed the same at 3 or 4%
 - Biking up 9%; walking up 7%; scooters up 1%; rideshare up 1%
 - Driving alone in car down 34% over 10 years
 - If commuting options are put in place, people will choose them

- In Cicero, people are not understanding what transformation means
 - Will need to change a lot; Rt. 81 and Rt. 31 will be a huge change
 - Residents want end result but do not want to be inconvenienced
 - Great to have a Plan to refer to
- Would Township 5 be considered a Strong Center or a stand-alone piece?
 - Original plan was a mixed use, Main Street approach; that is not what it ended up being
 - There is residential, employment, medical facilities and services
 - Currently all horizontal; vertically integrating creates a more human environment rather than automobile environment
- There are too many people to all be driving one car; traffic will be a serious problem
 - Costs keep going up
 - Those that are unemployed or underemployed cannot get children to daycare or get to work due to barriers in transportation
 - There is a lot of movement based on choosing different places; could be newer/more affordable homes, or lifestyle
 - It is important to provide options if it reduces a barrier for them
 - Discretionary income drives economy
 - Mid Atlantic is very good at creating Town Centers and double down on these types of policies and land use
 - Made a difference in creating affordable housing, good place to learn from
- Looking at the map, Oswego and Madison counties are close to Micron site
- There will be significant impacts; has the planning department been working with counterparts in those 2 counties?
- Do not want to work against each other; communication is good
 - Presenting to Regional Planning next week
 - Director of Planning in Madison does a great job
 - People are looking for vibrant communities, especially if working from home
 - One thing that Onondaga County has that they do not is infrastructure; roads, sewer, water
 - Onondaga County is in good shape to accommodate a significant amount of growth
 - Nobody has completely gotten it right yet
- Finance was brought into Planning; talking about needs versus wants
- Most of the time decisions are made first, and then try to figure out how to make it work
 - Onondaga County is fiscally responsible
 - Budget tells how much can be spent
 - Spending Plan tells what to spend on
 - Need to be rational but also have to be able to move forward and live the best life possible
 - That is what the county is going for
 - People know what they love about Onondaga County and what they want to make it better
 - Tried to ask questions from personal experience; did not provide any other information; just asked what is wanted
- The larger plan should be on top, then spending beneath
- Shout out to Mr. Kwasnowski and Team
- Visited every town and village to get to know folks and asked what they want
- Used a bottom up approach instead of top down
 - Communities are able to make the decision on what is desired
- This approach is what makes this Plan successful
- Doing Farmland Protection Plan along with Plan Onondaga and getting day to day stuff done is a huge undertaking
- Congratulations, great job!

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Garland, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



TAMMY BARBER, Deputy Clerk
 Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

DATE: **JUNE 21, 2023**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Dan Kwasnowski	SOCPA
Tim Frateschi	Counsel
Darcie Lesniak	Leg
Jim Bube	
John DeSantis	