TAKING THE NEXT STEP:

COMPLETE STREETS IN AN ERA OF LIMITED FUNDING

Tri-State Transportation Campaign
Schoharie County, September 19, 2014

Nadine Lemmon
It’s a simple law. Basically, it says:

“We want you to think (differently).”

- Projects that receive state and federal $“must consider” complete streets.
- If it busts your budget, don’t have to build it.
Unfortunately…

Albany and Washington are not holding up their end of the bargain.
MAP-21 slashed dedicated funds for pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure: 30%

Sidewalks and bike lanes now compete with local roads and bridges, both scrambling after a smaller pot of funding.
While...

NYS has the worst record in the nation for pedestrians and bicyclists: 27% road fatalities

YET

NYS only spends a couple pennies on the dollar to protect these vulnerable users

Source: Alliance for Walking and Biking 2012 Benchmarking Report
Tip #1: Be aware of the STIP

(Statewide Transportation Improvement Program)

NYSDOT or your County may be planning to fix a road in your community soon.

Example: Route 86 in ‘daks
The state road is the most important road in our community, but we don’t own it or control it.”

• If there is a clear and specific illustrated plan diagram incorporated into the comprehensive plan, it does not bind the state to rebuild in a certain way, but it does make NYS DOT consider the community’s vision.
Local Funding Options

- Consolidated Local Streets and Highway Program (CHIPS)
- Routine Budgets, Capital Reserve Funds
- Special Improvement Districts
- Discretionary Funds/Bonding
- Impact fees on Developers
- In-Kinds Services

Advantage:
Avoids Federal-Aid Process
CS can be Cheap

- Paint, paint, paint:
  - Narrow lanes
  - Brighter crosswalks
- Better Shoulders
- Timing on Countdown Clocks
- Planters/Landscaping
- Better Signs
- Lower Speed Limits
Getting Prepared for Grants

1) Identify Your Community’s Priority Projects
   --what’s the most fundable project?

2) Get a Plan on Paper & Determine Costs

3) Make the Case

4) Don’t give up—keep trying!!!!
Tip #3

Grant deadlines come up quickly.

The more you can do to prepare your community and your potential grant application, the better your chances.
Elements of a Fundable Project

Does the project:

1. Make key connections
   1. In the community?
   2. In the transpo system?
2. Correct social inequities?
3. Address environmental issues?
4. Reduce vehicle trips taken?
5. Spur economic development?
6. Have widespread support?
Importance of those Plans (that sit on a shelf)

Show how your project fits into local, county, state and federal plans.

Make sure the project is part of a system, not just sidewalks to nowhere.
If plans are being developed, get your project in there:

- Comprehensive Plan
- Bike/Ped Plan
- Regional Plan
- Cleaner Greener
- Regional Economic Development Councils
Tip #4

Writing a grant application is not rocket science.

You don’t have to hire a professional grant writer.
Get Good Visuals

1. Maps
2. Photos
3. Artist’s sketches
Get the Facts

- Crash stats
- Ped/bike generators

Access for:
- For seniors or youth
- Low-income
- Non-drivers

Source: TSTC, 2013

Pedestrian and Bicyclist Collisions in: Onondaga County

From January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2012, there were 1,689 vehicle collisions with pedestrians or bicyclists in Onondaga County. Of these collisions, 1,068 were with pedestrians and 621 were with bicyclists. Twenty-two of these collisions were fatal (18 pedestrian collisions and 4 bicyclist collisions).

The table below shows municipalities with 20 or more pedestrian and bicyclist collisions from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Total Pedestrian and Bicyclist Collisions</th>
<th>Pedestrian-only Collisions</th>
<th>Bicyclist-only Collisions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camillus (Town)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cicero</td>
<td>84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syracuse</td>
<td>1,058</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>376</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spend a Little $, to get Big $

- Get a professional estimate of costs
- Get a professional drawing
- Identify Right-of-Way needs
Warning:

If you underestimate those costs, your community may have to pay for the overruns.

Check out NYSDOT’s Quick Estimator at: www.dot.ny.gov/programs/completestreets
Line up Your Support

• Resolution of Governing Board
• Letters of Support from local NGOs
• Letters of commitment
  • Donation of Property for Right-of-Way Needs
  • Matching funds
  • Donations—of trees, landscaping, benches,
• Community survey to show need & support

Little Falls, NJ: Anonymous donor paid for crosswalks
Tip #5

KEY: show that your community is

1. Motivated
2. Able to follow-through
3. Successful at getting things done
4. Can sustain effort, despite changing leadership
Things that can trip you

Maintenance & Repairs
- Pass a sidewalk law ahead of time

Right of Way
- Can add 2 years to the time line

Budget
- Don’t forget inflation factor!!!

Maybelle’s Rose Bush
- Hold everyone’s hand, for a long time...
Start with a Small Win

Example: Town of Gardiner

- Free Hamlet Study, Conway School of Landscape Design
- $5 K Hudson Valley Greenway Grant
- $10 K NYS Council Arts Planning Grant
- $257 K Fed Transportation Enhancement Program
- $1.06 M ARRA Funds (stimulus)
A Word of Caution

Securing federal transportation dollars is quite an accomplishment.

Building a federal-aid project is an enormous challenge.
Now the Good News

There is money out there...
Where's the Money? Fed Transpo $

KEY: Almost all transportation $ coming out of DC can be spent on bike/ped

• Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
  Dedicated to bike/ped. Solicitation Spring 2014

• Safe Routes to School
  No longer exists, but we’re hoping to bring it back!

• Surface Transportation Program (STP)

• Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

• Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)
Where’s the Money? Other Fed $

- **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)**
  Department of Housing and Urban Development

- **Smart Growth Implementation Assistance**
  Environmental Protection Agency

- **Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program**
  National Park Service
Where’s the Money? State $

At the moment, there are no state transpo $ dedicated to bike/ped

• New York Main Street
  Funding for building renovation and streetscapes (but not complete streets)

• NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
  (Urban Forestry grants, Hudson River Estuary, environmental justice, etc.)

• Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
  NYS Department of State, EPA Funds

• NYSERDA Cleaner Greener Communities Program
  Proposals must be tied to greenhouse gas reduction

• Regional Economic Development Councils
  Proposals must be tied to economic development
**Recent REDC Recipients**

**Albany County Rail Trail** – $1 million NYSERDA Funds will construct 5.5 miles of a proposed 9.3 mile shared-use path along a former rail bed in Albany County.

**Town of Prattsville Main St.** – $807,000 Local Waterfront Revitalization funds for the Town’s community reconstruction plan to restore and revitalize Route 23 (Main Street).

**Nassau County** – $200,000 Parks Rail-to-Trial Program grant for pathways for walking and cycling between the Long Island Sound to the Great South Bay and Jones Beach.

**Glen Cove Waterfront Connector** – $2.5 million Empire State Development (ESD) grant to reconstruct the Waterfront Connector, which incorporates Complete Streets designs for biking and walking and will link to numerous transit modes.

**City of Kingston** – $2.273 million to help support a variety of projects that implement Kingston’s Complete Streets resolution.

**Yonkers Trail** – $160,244 Department of Parks, Planning and Acquisition grant to undertake a feasibility study for the design and construction of a rail-to-trail project.
Where’s the Money? State $

Non-Infrastructure Dollars

• ESD Urban and Community Development Program
  Monies available for planning and feasibility studies tied to economic development

• Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play
  NYS Department of Health

• Governor’s Traffic Safety Program
  Funds police and other organizations on safety-related programs
Where’s the Money? Other $

Remember: Starting with a small grant can help build a track record

Non-Profit Funding

Advocacy Advance
Parks & Trails New York
Bikes Belong Foundation
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Examples of Regional Funding

Hudson River Valley Greenway
Adirondack Rural Health Network
The Foundation Center
An important resource that provides a national database on funding sources, including private foundations.
http://foundationcenter.org

www.grants.gov
For additional information on federal programs
Importance of Education & Advocacy

Educate
Tell elected officials:

1. What you are doing
2. Why you are doing it
3. What are the roadblocks

For those who can…

Advocate
We need more funding!

Source: Postcard Campaign, www.ptny.org
Thank you!!

For more information:

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