

**TAKING THE NEXT STEP:**

**COMPLETE STREETS IN AN ERA OF  
LIMITED FUNDING**

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

Nadine Lemmon

# 2011 NYS Complete Streets Law

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



# Dedicated Funds from Feds: **Down**

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

# 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**



## Tip #2: Big (Perceived) Hurdle:

“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)

GARDINER HAMLET - PEDESTRIAN NETWORK  
TOWN OF GARDINER, NY

MASTER PLAN REPORT  
JUNE 2006

  
**Hudson & Pacific Designs**  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
24 Mynderse St.  
Saugerties, New York 12477  
845.246.1699  
Fax: 845.246.1370  
hudsonpacific1@hvc.rr.com

FUNDED BY :

- GUNK FUNDATION
- THE TOWN OF GARDINER
- NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS



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

# Importance of those Plans (part II)



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.

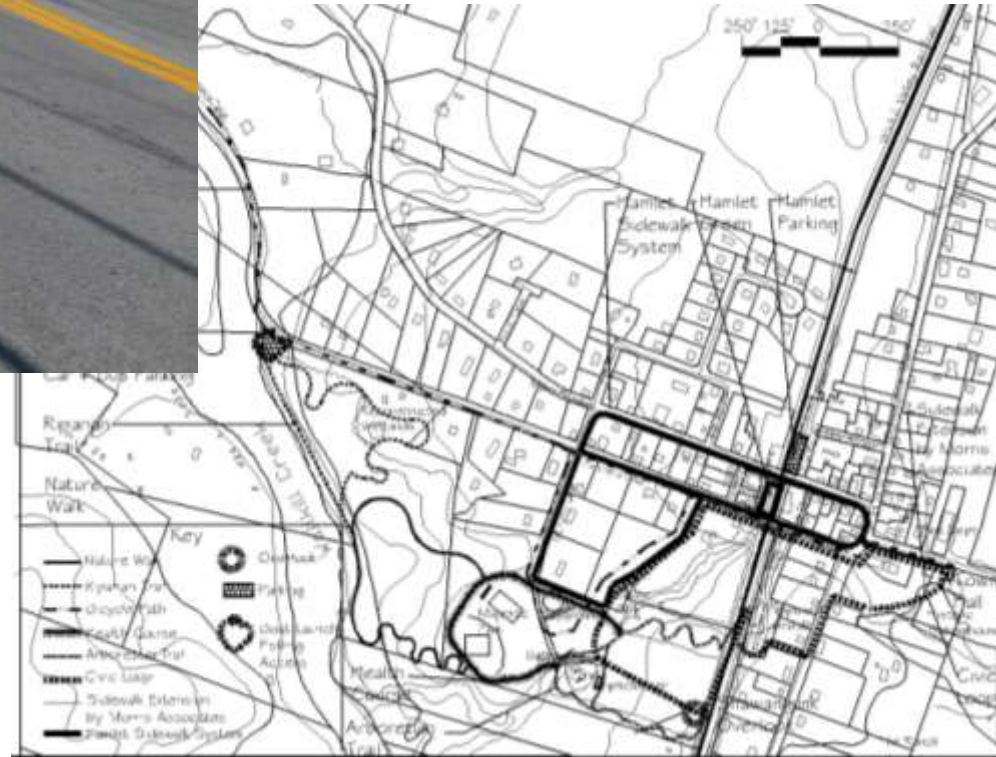




# Get Good Visuals



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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

Municipality	Total Pedestrian and Bicyclist Collisions	Pedestrian-only Collisions	Bicyclist-only Collisions
Camillus (Town)	22	15	7
Cicero	84	52	32
Clay	101	56	45
Dewitt	54	39	15
Geddes	28	21	7
Manlius (Town)	32	18	14
North Syracuse	29	17	12
Onondaga	22	18	4
Salina	93	50	43
Solvay	27	13	14
Syracuse	1,058	682	376

# Spend a Little \$, to get Big \$

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

Attachment H—PROJECT COSTS					
Qty.	Description	Unit	Unit Cost	Cost	
<b>East bound side of Rte. 44/55</b>					
2	Mail boxes to move	EA.	\$500	\$1,000	
2	Utility poles to move	EA.	\$6,500	\$13,000	
	Utility poles guy anchors to relocate	EA.	\$1,200	\$3,600	
	Adjust sewer M.H. height	EA.	\$1,000	\$1,000	
	Remove/Replace street sign	EA.	\$500	\$500	
	Remove & replace asphalt	LF	\$5	\$3,375	
	Install Conc. Sidewalk & Curb	LF	\$50	\$33,750	
	Install Conc. Apron/transition for driveways	EA.	\$2,000	\$10,000	
	Install Conc. Transition for walkways	EA.	\$1,000	\$3,000	
	Install Conc. Subbase for road widening	LF	\$15	\$10,125	
	Install street light w/conc. Base	EA.	\$3,000	\$18,000	
	Install street trees	EA.	\$500	\$2,500	
	Asphalt pavement restoration (Binder)	LF	\$25	\$16,875	
	Seed and mulch	LF	\$6	\$4,050	
	Asphalt walk painting cross Third Street	LF	\$25	\$625	
	Asphalt walk painting Station Square	LF	\$25	\$625	
	Asphalt walk painting Main St. @ Church	LF	\$30	\$900	
	Painting Double yellow line	LF	\$8	\$5,063	
	Painting Fog line	LF	\$5	\$3,375	
	Signal traffic control	Day	\$600	\$12,000	



## 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](http://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!!!

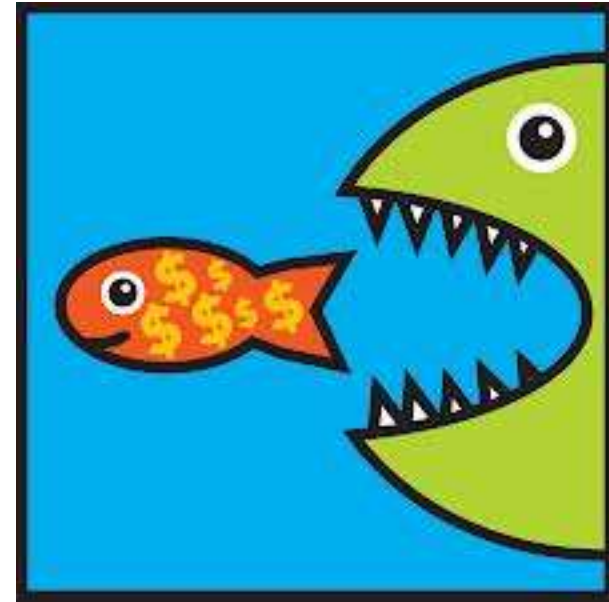
Maybelle's Rose Bush

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.**

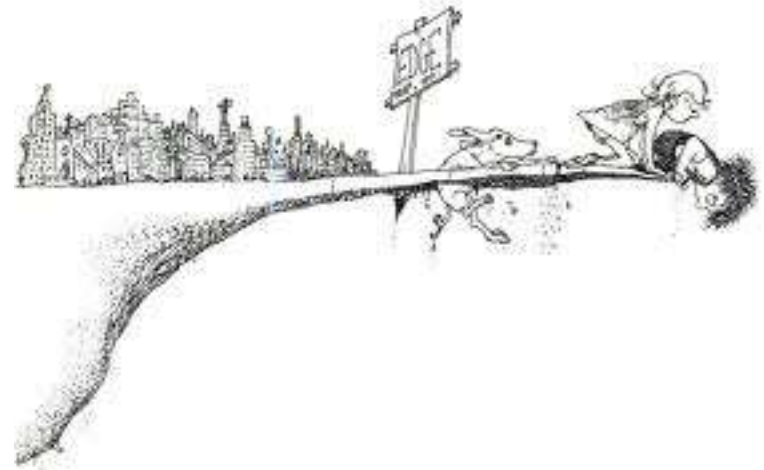
Building a federal-aid project is  
**an enormous challenge.**





# 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



To find a local contractor in your community see the Creating Healthy Place to Live, Work & Play Contractor List & Regional Map:



# 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



# More Info Available Here:

## The Foundation Center

An important resource that provides a national database on funding sources, including private foundations.

<http://foundationcenter.org>



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Strengthening the social sector by advancing knowledge about philanthropy.

## www.grants.gov

For additional information  
on federal programs





# Importance of Education & Advocacy

## Educate

Tell elected officials:

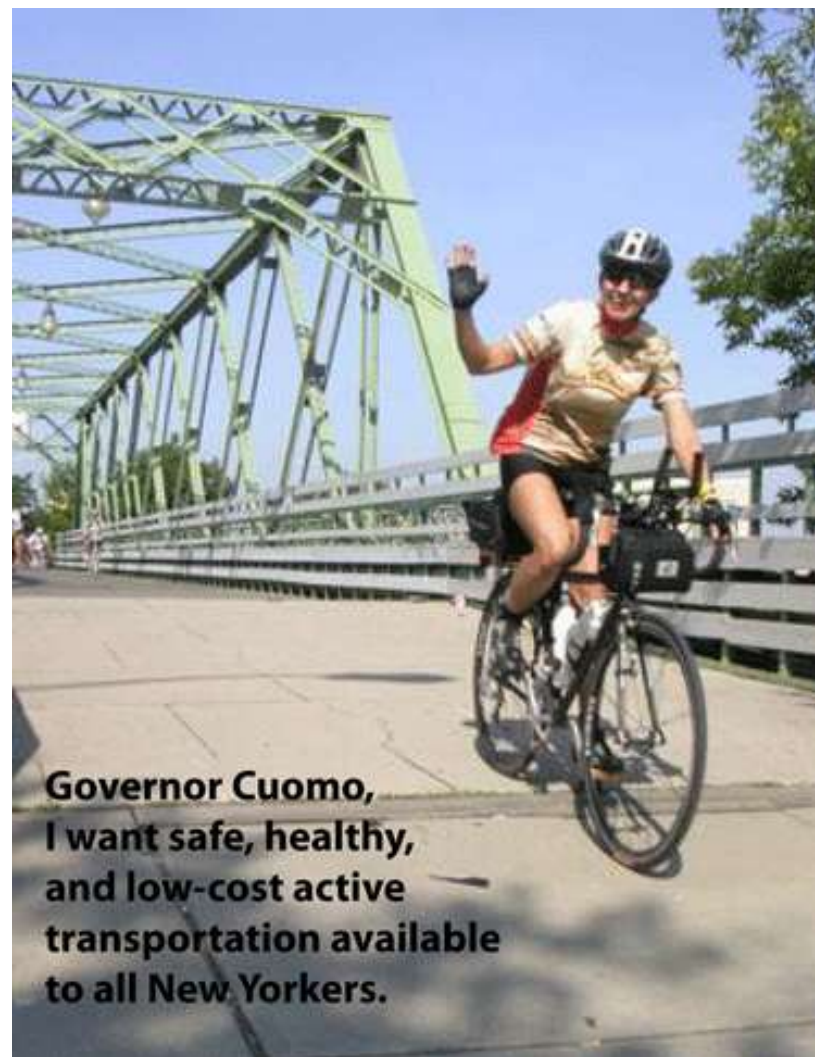
1. What you are doing
2. Why you are doing it
3. What are the roadblocks

For those who can...

## Advocate

We need more funding!

*Source:* Postcard Campaign,  
[www.ptny.org](http://www.ptny.org)



**Governor Cuomo,  
I want safe, healthy,  
and low-cost active  
transportation available  
to all New Yorkers.**

*Thank you!!*

**For more information:**

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