

CDRPC PROGRESS REPORT

Capital District Regional Planning Commission

Serving Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties



Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Commissioners and staff of the Capital District Regional Planning Commission, I am pleased to present the *CDRPC Progress Report*.

As the Planning Commission enters its 41st year, CDRPC continues to provide objective analyses of data, trends, opportunities, and challenges for the Region's economic development and planning communities. The Commission recently completed a study estimating the fiscal impacts of alternative futures for the Region in conjunction with the Capital District Transportation Committee, the Planning Department of the University at Albany, and the Center for Economic Growth. The results should provide a basis for Regional and community dialogues about worthwhile policy options for managing the direction of future Regional growth while achieving sustainable development.

The CDRPC-managed Combined Sewer Overflow project has obtained over \$2.7 million in federal and State funds. Cost allocation and public participation plans have been developed for the six Albany Pool Communities, as well as a draft Scope of Work. These projects demonstrate the practical benefits of collaboration and cooperation that the Planning Commission seeks to promote.

We thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,



Gary Hughes, Chairman
November 15, 2007

Highlights

Fiscal Impact Study & Report

CDRPC was part of a multi-organizational group which conducted a study and prepared a report examining the fiscal impact of different growth scenarios.

Age Cohort Projections

The Regional Planning Commission prepared age cohort projections for all the Region's counties and municipalities in 10-year increments to 2040.

Combined Sewer Overflow Project

Over \$2.6 million in State funds have been obtained for the CDRPC-managed project, which will develop a plan to remediate 92 CSOs on the Hudson River.

Quality Region Initiative

CDRPC is providing technical support for CDTC's Linkage Planning Program, which includes planning grants for Saratoga Springs downtown improvement, the Harriman Campus, and corridor studies for the towns of Bethlehem and Malta.

Water Quality/MS4 Annual Reports

Commission staff are reviewing the MS4 Annual Reports submitted by counties and municipalities under the new EPA Phase II water quality regulations.

Foreign-Trade Zone #121

Capital District Trade Strategies, Inc. has been designated as Zone Administrator for FTZ #121. The Commission submitted an application on behalf of MPM (formerly GE) Silicones to establish a Foreign-Trade Subzone at their Waterford plant.

Economic Impact Modeling

Staff used the latest county, Region, and State RIMS II models to prepare economic impact estimates for a variety of projects.

Mission Statement

The Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) is a regional planning and resource center serving Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady counties. CDRPC provides objective analysis of data, trends, opportunities, and challenges relevant to the Region's economic development and planning communities. CDRPC serves the best interests of the public and private sectors by promoting intergovernmental cooperation; communicating, collaborating, and facilitating regional initiatives; and sharing information and fostering dialogues on solutions to regional problems.

The Quality Region Initiative

CDRPC staff are working with the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC), the area's Metropolitan Planning Organization, on a multi-year Quality Region Initiative, part of CDTC's *New Visions 2030 Plan* update. The Initiative includes a special taskforce and five Working Groups: **Group A** – Effects of Alternative Growth & Development Scenarios, **Group B** – Expressway System Issues & Options, **Group C** – Costs & Benefits of Potential Major Investments, **Group D** – Larger than Regional Policy Concepts, and **Group E** – Concepts for Assisting Local Decision Making in a Regional Context.

CDRPC prepared a report for Working Group A, entitled, *Effects of Alternative Growth and Development Scenarios in the Capital District*. The primary purpose of the Report is to explore the population and land use patterns related to four different future development scenarios in the Region. The Report includes both quantitative and qualitative discussions of the implications of the different scenarios, as well as discussions of historic and future Regional demographic and development trends. In 2006, a collaborative effort involving CDRPC, CDTC, the University at Albany Department of Geography and Planning, and the Center for Economic Growth (which is also providing financial support) was initiated to investigate the fiscal impacts of each of these alternative growth patterns. These efforts have concluded in the publication of a report, *Estimating the Fiscal Impact of Alternative Futures for the Capital Region*.

CDRPC was also the primary author of the paper prepared for Working Group D entitled *Larger than Regional Policy Concepts*. The Report explores issues and policy concepts that, though politically controversial, are too important to ignore. The Report articulates the "home rule" context of New York State planning and development and examines the challenges and problems that emerge from such a context, as well as exploring the potential opportunities, new approaches, or alternative government structures that may be pursued to address the issues identified. The Report also examines examples from other parts of the country to determine if there are lessons to be learned, ideas to be explored, or pitfalls to avoid.

CDRPC staff have been providing technical planning support to the CDTC Linkage Planning Program, which is an innovative program providing technical assistance grants for joint regional-local planning initiatives that link transportation and land use. CDRPC staff have been involved in reviewing consultant applications for linkage planning grants and serving on planning advisory committees established by the recipients of the grants. Direct participation has been provided on several studies, including the Saratoga Springs Downtown Transportation Improvement Plan, Harriman Campus-University at Albany-Fuller Road Transportation Study, Town of Bethlehem Route 9W Corridor Study, and the Town of Malta Route 9 Corridor Study.

Economic Development

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

The Planning Commission has been designated by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) as the Economic Development District for the four-county Capital Region. In that capacity, it has prepared and published a *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Capital Region* which incorporates citizen and community reviews of the strategy and implementation plan. The documents currently included in the *CEDS* are:

- *A Profile of the Capital District*: Comprehensive introduction to the 4-county Capital District.
- *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Capital District*: Commission-approved development strategies and an implementation plan, as well as background information on local economic development programs, services, and resources; and a listing of community resources and services related to education and employment.
- *Application of EDA's New Investment Policy Guidelines*: A listing of local economic development projects that meet the Commission's and EDA's investment policy guidelines.

Technical Assistance for Economic Development

Economic Impact Analysis – The Planning Commission has the latest RIMS II multipliers for New York State, the Capital Region, and its constituent counties. Using these multipliers, the Commission has recently produced economic impact estimates for a number of projects and entities, including the economic impact of the proposed University at Albany East Campus development on the Capital Region, the impact of the NYISO consolidation on Rensselaer County, the economic impact of Skidmore College on Saratoga County, the impact of the College of St. Rose on Albany County and the Region, the economic impact of Whitney M. Young, Jr. Health Services on the Capital Region and New York State, the impact of the proposed Harriman Campus redevelopment on Albany County and New York State, and the economic impact of Union College on Schenectady County.

Foreign-Trade Zone – CDRPC is Grantee of Foreign-Trade Zone 121 serving a 16-county area. The staff provides information and technical assistance to companies looking into the feasibility of using the FTZ program to improve their competitive positions. The Commission recently filed an application on behalf of MPM (formerly GE) Silicones to establish a Foreign-Trade Subzone at their plant in Waterford. The Planning Commission will also be filing a major modification application with the FTZ Board to include new General-Purpose Zone sites in the four Capital Region counties, as well as in Columbia, Greene, Montgomery, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington counties.

Grant Applications – CDRPC staff completed a preapplication on behalf of the Harriman Research and Technology Development Corp. for an EDA public works grant to upgrade Building 7A at the Harriman Campus for use as a technology center and business incubator. The Commission is currently working with the University at Albany College of Nanoscale Science & Engineering and Vistec Corporation to prepare a preapplication for EDA technical assistance funds to study the feasibility of establishing a nanotech manufacturing foundry adjacent to the College.

School Enrollment Projections

Under special service contracts, in the past two years CDRPC has prepared student enrollment projections for the following school districts: Averill Park, Ballston Spa, Berlin, Brunswick, East Greenbush, Schodack, and Shenendehowa Central Schools. Preparation of the projections requires statistical analyses of past enrollment trends, birth rates, and housing activity for each district, as well as an understanding of future Regional and local trends that may impact school age population growth or decline within a district during the next five to ten years.

Water Quality Planning

With funding from the Section 604(b) Water Quality Program of the Federal Clean Water Act, administered by the N.Y.S. Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC), CDRPC has continued to participate in efforts to protect the Region's water resources.

The major focus of CDRPC's water quality efforts during the past few years has been providing technical support to local governments to implement the new "Phase II" water quality regulations. CDRPC is providing ongoing assistance in developing guidance materials that outline procedural and programmatic requirements of the Phase II program. CDRPC also reviews the Annual Reports submitted by each of the communities participating in the program.

Educational outreach activities have included the sponsorship of several training workshops for local planning officials and professionals that are designed to increase their understanding of the permit requirements of the Phase II program. In addition, CDRPC coordinated a Regional billboard advertising campaign with the Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady County Water Quality Committees.

Combined Sewer Overflow Study

CDRPC has undertaken the management responsibility for coordinating and facilitating the preparation of a Phase I Long-Term Control Plan for combined sewer overflows (CSOs) on behalf of the Albany Pool communities (the Albany Water Board; the cities of Cohoes, Rensselaer, Troy, and Watervliet; and the Village of Green Island). There are 92 CSOs in the six communities within the Hudson River Estuary, which runs from the northern juncture of the confluence of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers south to the southern end of Houghtaling Island. Due to the unique collaborative effort by the six communities, CDRPC has secured State grants totaling over \$2.6 million and a federal EPA grant of \$80,000 for the \$5.3 million study.

A consultant team led by Clough Harbour, Malcolm Pirnie, and Camp Dresser and McKee has been selected to prepare the Control Plan. Municipal cooperative agreements outlining the responsibilities of the participating communities have been executed by the governing boards of each of the Albany Pool communities. The Cost Allocation and Public Participation Plans have been prepared and submitted for review and approval by the DEC. The full Scope of Work document has also been prepared and submitted to DEC for review and approval.

Population & Household Projections

CDRPC has prepared age cohort projections for the Region's 79 municipalities and four counties in 10-year increments to the year 2040. The baby boomer generation (persons born between 1946 and 1964) will continue to have a significant impact on each age cohort they enter. In 2000, the 55-75 age cohort held 124,910 persons or 15.7% of the Region's population. In 2020, when that cohort consists primarily of Boomers, it will number about 194,752 or 23.0% of the population, an increase of 69,842 persons or 55.9%. While baby boomers are expected to continue as a significant factor in the future, the younger generations, their children and grandchildren, will also influence the range of public and private goods and services necessary in the future.

2010 Census

CDRPC participated in a 2010 Census Demonstration Pilot program with the N.Y.S. Dept. of Economic Development to assess the availability, quality, and coverage of existing local housing and address data sets. The primary objective of the Study was to identify data gaps that may exist and community capacity needs to respond effectively to the Census Bureau's 2010 Census address review program. Though most communities maintain some data sets, there is no consistency in the manner in which the records are maintained. Forty-one percent of the communities maintained computerized records, 45% written records, and 8% do not maintain records (6% did not respond). There were also inconsistencies in the comprehensiveness of the data maintained, with 57% of the communities stating they maintained a complete record of building permits, certificates of occupancy, and demolition permits, while the remaining communities indicated that they only maintain partial records. CDRPC is continuing its efforts to enhance the capacity of the municipalities to participate in the critical work leading to the actual Census in 2010.

Geographic Information System

CDRPC has continued to maintain, enhance, and utilize its Regional GIS. New data sets have been acquired and customized. Data and technical support have been provided to the Region's counties, numerous municipalities, consultants, and citizens. In addition, a number of maps have been created for CDRPC projects and presentations and for special projects for outside agencies.

Under a special services contract with the Capital District Transportation Authority, CDRPC has provided GIS services for the development of CDTA's Regional Transit Development Plan (TDP) initiative. As part of this effort, CDRPC developed a GIS-based "Transit Propensity Index," which indicates locations throughout the Region that have the optimal demographic and land use characteristics to support transit ridership. CDRPC has also created a series of bus route maps for various TDP reports and public meetings, a Transit Zones Rate Map for Access Transit, and a series of maps for the Midtown Albany Transit study.

Homeless Management Information System

CDRPC continues to provide ongoing technical support and data analyses for the Regional Homeless Management Information System under the leadership of CARES, Inc. In addition, the Planning Commission has provided staff assistance and support to the executive committees responsible for the preparation of each county's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness and for other workforce housing partnership initiatives.

Speaker's Bureau

CDRPC continues to provide guest speakers at a variety of functions on a wide range of topics of Regional interest. Specifically, a number of presentations were made to various groups on alternative growth patterns and development scenarios, smart growth initiatives and opportunities, water quality and watershed protection measures, and demographic and economic analyses. In addition, CDRPC staff have served on a number of panels and participated in a number of forums on issues of Regional interest. Staff members have also been asked to provide insight to the local print and video media to discuss demographic, planning, and development issues.

Annual Local Government Planning & Zoning Workshops have been held at Hudson Valley Community College. Over 150 persons attended each of these workshops, which included introductory and advanced sessions on important planning and zoning issues.

Data Services & Assistance

Affiliate Data Center – As the State-designated Affiliate Data Center for demographic and economic statistics, CDRPC provides one-stop data services to local governments, organizations, businesses, and individuals throughout the Region. CDRPC continues to update its web site to provide users with convenient access to its extensive data sets. User-friendly tables and GIS maps for time series data are regularly prepared and posted to the web site. For the past two years, CDRPC has hosted over 207,000 visitors to its web site per year, a 34.7% increase over the previous two years. In addition, CDRPC responded to over 2,000 direct contact requests.

Regional Data News – CDRPC publishes the bi-monthly newsletter, *Capital District Data*, which is distributed to over 350 government officials and private subscribers and posted on the Commission's web site. Statistical data featured in *Capital District Data* include population estimates and projections, employment sector data, existing home sales and residential building permit issuances, municipal real property tax and equalization rates, municipal and school district financial data, public school district information, IRS migration data, the consumer price index, and monthly employment and unemployment estimates.

Capital District Juvenile Secure Detention Facility



In 2006, the CDYCI Board lost one of its founding members. **Jayne Regan Harris**, CDRPC Commissioner from Rensselaer County and President of CDYCI's Board, passed away on December 2, 2006. She will long be remembered not only as one of the facility's strongest advocates but also as one of the "architects" involved in the design of the Facility.

Capital District Youth Center, Inc. – 2007 Board Members

Albany County

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Elizabeth Martin
Lucille McKnight

Rensselaer County

Stan Brownell
Michael Slawson, *Treasurer*

Saratoga County

Fred Acunto, *President*
Paul Viscusi

Schenectady County

David Vincent, *Vice President*
{Vacant}

Rocco A. Ferraro, *Chief Administrator*

Detention Facility Usage

Albany	3,995	51.2%
Rensselaer	707	9.1%
Saratoga	454	5.8%
Schenectady	1,215	15.6%
Columbia	137	1.8%
Greene	85	1.1%
Oneida	922	11.8%
Others	288	3.7%
Total Bed Days	7,803	100.1%

The Capital District Youth Center, Inc., a public benefit corporation created by CDRPC in 1997, is responsible for overseeing the Region's Juvenile Secure Detention Facility. Facility operation is contracted to Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth. For 2005, the 24-bed facility had an average occupancy of 86.5%, while in 2006 (see table) the occupancy rate increased to 89.1%.

CDRPC/CDYCI Contact Information

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CDRPC 2005 Financial Summary

Total Audited Fund Balance	
January 1, 2005	\$ 147,072.42
2005 Revenue	
Albany County	\$ 84,663.00
Rensselaer County	43,842.00
Saratoga County	57,666.00
Schenectady County	<u>42,123.00</u>
Total County Contributions	\$ 228,294.00
State Aid	-
Federal Aid	212,798.79
Other	<u>79,427.08</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 520,519.87
2005 Expense	
Staff Salaries	\$ 294,542.46
Equipment	5,472.19
Contractual	100,208.17
Employee Benefits	<u>111,849.14</u>
Total Expense	\$ 512,071.96
2005 Revenue Less Expense	\$ 8,447.91
Fund Balance January 1, 2006	
Unrestricted Fund Balance	<u>\$ 155,520.33</u>
Total (audited)	\$ 155,520.33

CDRPC 2006 Financial Summary

Total Audited Fund Balance	
January 1, 2006	\$ 155,520.33
2006 Revenue	
Albany County	\$ 84,663.00
Rensselaer County	43,842.00
Saratoga County	57,666.00
Schenectady County	<u>42,123.00</u>
Total County Contributions	\$ 228,294.00
State Aid	24,947.76
Federal Aid	228,562.46
Other	<u>111,302.94</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 593,107.16
2006 Expense	
Staff Salaries	\$ 314,620.08
Equipment	4,852.63
Contractual	104,180.31
Employee Benefits	<u>116,745.27</u>
Total Expense	\$ 540,398.29
2006 Revenue Less Expense	\$ 52,708.87
Fund Balance January 1, 2007	
Unrestricted Fund Balance	<u>\$ 208,229.20</u>
Total (audited)	\$ 208,229.20

CDRPC Staff

Rocco A. Ferraro, AICP, *Executive Director*
 David Lang Wardle, AICP, *Director of Information Services*
 Todd M. Fabozzi, *Program Manager/GIS Specialist*

Leif C. Engstrom, AICP, *Program Manager*
 Deborah A. Shannon, *Assistant Planner*
 Donna M. Reinhart, *Office Manager*



Left to Right: David Wardle, Deb Shannon, Todd Fabozzi, Rocky Ferraro, Leif Engstrom, & Donna Reinhart

2007 Capital District Regional Planning Commission

Albany



Betty J. Barnette



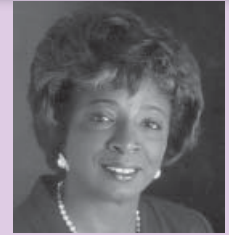
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FTZ #121

Capital District Regional Planning Commission

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