

Program Overview

CDTC's Linkage Program provides integrated land use and transportation planning assistance to communities within the four counties of Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Saratoga*. The Program implements the planning principles of CDTC's *New Visions 2040* regional transportation plan which states that the region's quality of life, mobility and economic vitality are dependent upon improved local land use planning and on better integration of land use and transportation decisions.

Linkage Program strategies seek to:

- Create a connected and integrated multi-modal transportation network
- Support urban revitalization and redevelopment of existing commercial/residential areas
- Enhance and develop activity centers and town centers
- Enhance and develop transit corridors and transit supportive built environments
- Encourage a greater mix and intensity of land uses in municipal centers
- Develop bicycle and pedestrian-friendly community and site design standards
- Reduce driveway conflicts through access management



Completed Study: Delaware Avenue Complete Streets, Bethlehem, NY (2017)

Eligible Project Sponsors

Eligible sponsors include towns, cities, villages and counties within CDTC's planning area of Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Saratoga* Counties. Inter-municipal applications are encouraged.

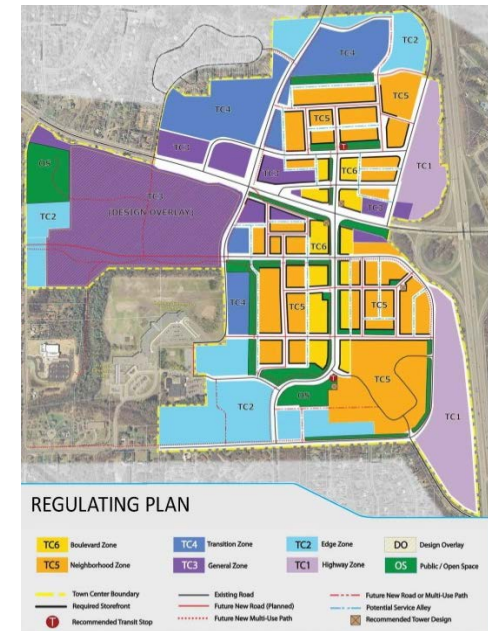
Other sponsors may include State agencies or non-governmental entities such as not-for-profits and public authorities with a letter of support from the municipality or municipalities in which the study is located.

Eligible Initiatives

Eligible initiatives must be directly related to transportation, consistent with the Linkage Program strategies and directly related to an existing local plan. Proposals must also fit into one of the following categories:

- Implementation activities related to completed Linkage Program plans or other completed local planning work (i.e. Comprehensive Plans, Waterfront Revitalization Plans, etc.)
- Updates of Linkage Program plans completed before 2010.
- New plans, particularly in communities that have not participated in the Linkage Program before, with priority given to:
 - complete streets guidelines/feasibility studies
 - strategic zoning code changes and/or site design guidelines
 - official mapping
 - bicycle/pedestrian planning
 - transportation planning activities (i.e. operational and safety studies)

*Except the Town of Moreau and the Village of South Glens Falls.



Completed Study: Clifton Park Town Center Form Based Development Code (2015)

Available Assistance

CDTC is proposing to fund no more than three Linkage Program projects in 2020. A maximum of \$175,000 in federal planning funds have been reserved for consultant led efforts with additional funds reserved for CDTC staff technical assistance.

The maximum total study cost including a required 25% cash match is \$95,000 (75% federal funds/25% local cash). In-kind service cannot be used to meet the local cash match requirement but must be documented. There is no minimum total study cost and federal funds are capped.

CDTC is currently soliciting for 2020 Linkage Program planning projects. The submission deadline is December 13, 2019. Visit <https://www.cdtcmpo.org/programs/linkage> for more information.

Examples of Funded Studies

CDTC has funded 89 integrated transportation and land use planning studies since 2000 with sponsors representing 40 separate urban, suburban and rural municipalities, counties, not-for-profit groups and other public entities. Examples of completed Linkage Program planning initiatives include:

- **City of Albany Waterfront Bikeway Connection Feasibility Study** (\$70,000 consultant effort): Developed a preferred trail route option in the South End of Albany to connect the Albany County Rail Trail and the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail.
- **Town of Schodack Town Center Form Based Zoning** (\$45,000 consultant effort): Developed a new form-based zoning code to allow and encourage predictable types of redevelopment outlined in the Town Center Plan along 9/20 between exits 10 and 11 on I-90.
- **Town of Malta Route 9 Feasibility Study** (\$40,000 consultant effort): Evaluated the feasibility of redesigning Route 9 from its current highway style configuration to a complete street in the Town Center with a focus on the section from Cramer Road to Knabner Road.
- **City of Schenectady Gateway Plaza Implementation Plan** (\$70,000 consultant effort): Developed a conceptual re-design and expansion plan for Liberty Park at the corner of Washington Avenue and State Street and the area immediately surrounding it, including traffic configuration and landscaping plans.

What is the Capital District Transportation Committee?

The Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga* and Schenectady Counties. Every metropolitan area in the United States with a population of more than 50,000 must have a designated MPO in order to qualify for Federal transportation funding. The function of the MPO is to provide a forum for state and local officials to discuss transportation issues and to develop an overall transportation plan for the region. The regional transportation plan for the Capital District is *New Visions 2040*.

For more information on the Linkage Program, visit CDTC's web site at <https://www.cdtcmpo.org/programs/linkage> or contact

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**Except the Town of Moreau and the Village of South Glens Falls.*

The Community and Transportation Linkage Planning Program

2020 Project Solicitation



A land use/transportation planning assistance program offered by the Capital District Transportation Committee



October 2019