

Ulster County Planning Board

Statutory Responsibilities

Comprehensive Plan Implementation

Ulster County Transportation Council

Community Outreach & Education

Program Administration & Technical Assistance

2010 Annual Report



Michael P. Hein, County Executive

Adopted March 2, 2011

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Overview

Ulster County Planning Board's membership and responsibilities are contained within the Ulster County Charter and associated Administrative Code. The Charter embodied many changes to the statutory responsibilities of the Board, including referral of subdivisions for review as well as providing for review of actions beyond the traditional 500 foot authority. These changes granted the Board review of nearly all discretionary land use decisions within the county. The Charter also called for the Board to review and comment on the County's Capital Program.

The Charter also created a Department of Planning to support the Board. The Department was also given new roles in economic development, review of capital projects, and coordination with other departments apart from the Board.

The major efforts for 2010 of the Board and that of the Department were focused on the economy, comprehensive planning, and transportation planning, the latter as the host agency for the Ulster County Transportation Council.

The Department's restructuring in 2009, with the appointment of a Deputy Director for Economic Development, provided a distinct advantage to focus on the economy. The Deputy Director works directly with the Executive's office and local boards and businesses. Throughout the year the Deputy Director played a key role of knitting economic development efforts together and securing funding to fill financing gaps of both new and existing businesses.

The economic focus was further reinforced with

the Deputy Director being given the responsibility to oversee the efforts of the Tourism Department. Under this guidance, the Tourism Department is now more attuned to the overall needs of tourism related businesses in the county. Members of the industry now play greater roles in advising Tourism and the redesigned website offers easier access to tourism businesses. The change has also resulted in a higher profile of tourism as an economic driver for the county that has been influential in budget decisions.

Overall, the "hands-on" approach of the Deputy Director has created collaborative working relationships throughout the economic development community and has allowed both elected officials and planning boards to better understand the needs of businesses.

The Department also engaged in the implementation of the adopted elements of the County's Comprehensive Plan including efforts on housing, open space and transportation.

The Department provided substantial support for major programmatic initiatives for the Housing Consortium and the Continuum of Care (COC). The COC work resulted in funding for special needs housing of over \$1.0 million for the first time. Other housing efforts relate to the Community Development Block Grant Program that is funding housing rehabilitation efforts throughout the county, including farmworker housing.

Work on the Department's Main Street Program continued in high gear with outreach to main streets in Phoenicia, Pine Hill, and Shokan. The Department substantially completed its work on the Regional Main Street Tool Box and case studies in Milton and Port Ewen. The program and the resulting "toolbox" has proven very effective in getting main street businesses to

think and act strategically and work more cohesively .

The Department, working with municipal officials completed a substantial portion of its outreach to develop priority growth area mapping. Establishing Priority Growth areas is key to the implementation of both the County

Proactive Planning

Planning is, by its nature, a proactive endeavor. Proactive planning also refers to is a collaborative and inclusive process that brings a diverse group of participants to the table to support innovative and community-driven outcomes. The Planning Department regularly engages stakeholders in the following proactive ways:

- **Stakeholder outreach:** on community issues including housing, transportation, Main Streets, economic development, open space protection, trails development, historic preservation, and tourism
- **Preliminary Review Conferences:** frequently meet with developers and property owners to discuss ways to streamline site plan review and review processes; receive excellent feedback on the success of this approach
- **Technical assistance:** for community members, local organizations, municipal officials, project developers, legislative and executive branches
- **Participation on local and regional planning initiatives and organizational boards:** Hudson River Valley Greenway, Ulster County Tourism Advisory Board, Central Catskills Collaborative, New York State Historic Preservation Plan Advisory Committee, Rural Ulster Preservation Company, Family of Woodstock, Town of Esopus Library, Mid-Hudson Pattern for Progress

Ulster Tomorrow—Economic Development Plan and the Open Space Plan.

The Board continued to implement a “gateway agency” process for its referrals that brings together applicants and approving agencies as soon as practical in the design stage of a project so that issues can be outlined and solutions explored. The practice has proven successful for many communities and outreach continues to get others to participate.

The Board provided training opportunities for its members and for other municipal planning and zoning board members. These included special topic seminars and orientation of board members. The Department continued its efforts with UCDC to provide training related to economic development.

Comprehensive Plan Implementation

The Ulster County Open Space Plan (2007) and The Ulster Tomorrow Sustainable Economic Development Plan (2007), and the Priority Strategies to Support Housing Growth, established specific action items for the Department that were pursued during 2010.

Under Ulster Tomorrow, the Department expanded its efforts on its Main Streets Program and development of priority growth areas. The Department also assisted in purchase of development rights working with the towns of Rochester and Gardiner, and the Open Space Institute to purchase the development rights on a farm in each of these communities. Contracts were also signed to implement a Waterfront Plan

for the full 37-mile length of waterfront within the county.

Work continued on the Greenway Compact grant to reach out to municipalities on mapping their priority growth areas.

During the year several opportunities arose to provide assistance in the development of historic and cultural facilities within the county. The Department provides technical assistance and capacity building expertise to community based organizations and agencies. This work implements the Open Space Plan as well as forming a critical part of the overall economic development strategy for the county. This included work with the County Clerk to open the Persen House in uptown Kingston and developing a strategy for its continued operation, and work with the Town of Saugerties on the future of Opus 40, a National Registered-listed site. In addition, the Department supported efforts to conduct a design charrette for the King's Inn property in Kingston assisted a funding request for the the Old Dutch Church, and led a strategic planning session for the Reher's Bakery building. The effort is led by the Deputy Director for planning who has considerable expertise in locally based planning for historic and cultural properties and activities.

Success in these initiatives requires cooperation and coordination with multiple partners and agencies. The Department's expertise and investment in technology is also critical.

Main Streets

In 2010, the Department expanded efforts of its Main Street Program completing its "toolbox", that was supported by the Department of State's Quality Communities grant



and beginning work on main streets in Pine Hill, Phoenicia, and Shokan. The toolbox is designed to provide an online template for main street groups to initiate strategic planning activities. The Department is working with a consultant, the Catskill Center, and SUNY Ulster using the Angel Learning Network at the college to further this effort. Once developed, the template offers the opportunity to outreach main street efforts throughout the SUNY system. This effort is funded in part by the Catskill Watershed Corporation. The collaboration fits well with the Ulster County Planning Board's mission of a holistic regional approach. Main Streets are the

Creating Vibrant Main Streets

Components of successful strategies include:

Creating a Destination Magnet:

Land uses can work together can support an area's "competitive advantage."

Identifying the Right Retail Mix: Concentrating and balancing uses can create a "critical mass" of activities.

Supporting a Healthy Residential Mix:

Broader ranges of housing types increase the vitality of Main Streets.

Using Incentives and Incubators:

Incentives can encourage a variety of creative and small businesses to grow.

Creating an Attractive Setting:

Design, scale and quality of buildings and streetscapes are key features of successful commercial districts.

Building Placement and Features:

Building orientation has a significant impact on how people use the street.

Street Design and "Wayfinding":

Pedestrian orientation, shared parking, traffic management, and coordinated signage are necessary to maximize foot traffic.

Connections to Surrounding Areas:

Providing opportunities and better access for people to utilize the recreational, commercial, transportation, civic and residential uses is critical to the success of commercial districts.

Visit the [Toolbox](#) to find out more.

jewels on the necklaces of the byways that circle our beautiful rivers and valleys.

Greenway Compact—Priority Growth

Areas

The Department continued its work on mapping and analysis of priority growth areas of the county. The objective of this project is promote a Smart Growth approach for our communities to provide for more dense, “walkable” commercial centers, with quality design and development that serves the dual purpose of supporting vitality in the center while protecting our valuable open space resources that surround them. The Department was awarded a \$49,000 grant to aid in the initial development of these areas as a means to achieve a Greenway Compact .

Waterfront Planning

In 2008, the Department proposed an Ulster County Waterfront Communities Plan that was awarded by the Department of State (DOS). This award of a \$100,000 has been in continual contract negotiations in part do to the budget difficulties at the state. Contracts were finally signed in November of 2010. And work was begun on RFP for consultant assistance.

The waterfront plan will provide visualization exercises with our Hudson River waterfront communities to identify the communities’ shared vision for quality growth in its commercial centers and protection of its scenic and natural resources as well. This project will involve large stakeholder meetings and the use of state-of-the-art methods of creating three-dimensional visualizations of the communities in order to identify goals and support ways to achieve them with planning tools. This is envisioned as a multi-phase project, with this first phase achieving consensus among our communities for a regional

waterfront vision. The project will build on the efforts of the priority growth areas under the Greenway Compact Grant

Regional Planning Initiative

In Spring of 2010 US HUD issued a Notice of Funding Availability for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. The goal of the HUD program, in concert with US EPA and US DOT, was to implement the Livable Communities Act of 2009, which calls for promoting Smart Growth with improved access to housing, transportation and jobs —particularly for under-served communities.

From late June to late August 2010, the Department took the lead to assemble a regional planning team that included the planning departments of Dutchess and Orange counties and numerous non-profit agencies. The grant proposal was based on a regional consortium that came to be called the *"Mid-Hudson Valley Regional Planning Partnership."* The Partnership was comprised of 22 organizations, including county planning offices, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the three cities of Kingston, Newburgh and Poughkeepsie, Pattern for Progress, the Housing Consortia of our three counties, and entities representing state and local government and non-profit organizations with environmental, agricultural, economic, educational, housing and community development missions. The grant proposal was for \$2.9 million that leveraged \$6.45 million from other sources over a three year time frame.

The grant opportunity was highly competitive and ultimately over 100 metropolitan regions across the United States applied. Although we were not funded (only one award was made in New York State), the effort reflects the ability to mount a regional effort and the readiness of all of the county planning departments to work

collaboratively and creatively to meet the planning challenges associated with the region. We expect to continue these efforts with our Mid-Hudson counterparts in future rounds of Federal and New York State regional planning grant opportunities.

Tourism

In 2010, the Deputy Director for the Planning Department assumed guidance responsibilities for the Tourism Department. Tourism began to be managed more directly as a economic development tool with new ad placements and industry representatives integrated into the decision-making process. The result has been a highly successful tourist season for properties throughout the county. Work continued on the tourism website, Ulster County Alive www.ulstercountyalive.com, to make it easier to reach individual properties while maintaining the Ulster Alive brand. During 2010 work was also begun in conjunction with the Department of the Environment on creating a recreation map for the county to become part of the annual travel guide.

Housing Development

The Department continued the support for the Ulster County Housing Consortium during the year, including the preparation of a Continuum of Care (COC) funding application. Funding of over one-million dollars was announced for the COC at the end of the year. The Housing Consortium also focused on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) beginning to tease out policy and strategic decision-making from the numbers generated.

Both the COC application and the Needs Assessment implement recommendations of housing element of the comprehensive plan.



Program Administration & Technical Assistance

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) is a highly competitive federal funding source administered by NYS Office of Community Renewal. The County has been extremely successful in utilizing this funding source with funding received in 9 of the 12 years applications were submitted, as well as special funding for flood victim assistance in 2005.

The Department is responsible for managing many aspects of the County's CDBG Program including contracts, reporting, program compliance and applications for funding. Significant staff resources are needed to coordinate grant applications, schedule hearings, monitor program delivery, file the necessary reports, and work with program delivery entities and county agencies.

Early in the year, the Department coordinated the submittal of two new applications, one for additional farm worker housing rehabilitation and the second for single family owner-occupied housing rehabilitation. Unfortunately, the County's 2010 applications were not funded.

The Department continues to work with RUPCO and Cornell on the completion of existing grants that provide funding for home ownership and rehabilitation of farmworker housing. At the request of Ulster County, the home ownership program was extended by the NYS Office of Community Renewal (OCR). This was done due to the difficulty in getting new loans approved for homebuyers in the current economic conditions. The Department also worked with Cornell to amend funding guidelines in the farmworker housing grant to fit farmers rehabilitation needs as the project moved along. The Department hopes to complete both grants by the Summer of 2011.



Before and after housing rehabilitation

Agricultural Farmland Protection Board

The Department provides support for the Ulster County Agricultural Protection Board (AFPB) that includes review of local farmland protection plans and management of the annual additions to state certified agricultural districts.

Local Farmland Protection Plans

The towns of Marbletown, New Paltz and Shawangunk have developed community based Agricultural Protection Plans. During 2010 Department Staff reviewed the Marbletown Plan and provided recommendations which were adopted by the AFPB allowing the plan to be certified by the state.

State Certified Agricultural Districts—Annual Additions

The annual addition program offers an opportunity to add farms to a state certified agricultural district prior to its eight (8) year anniversary date. Ulster County's window of opportunity for additions to Agricultural Districts runs from March 1st to the 30th. The Department works closely with the AFPB to ensure farmers are aware of the opportunity and to review the farms submitted and to assist the AFPB in making its recommendations to the County Legislature. The 2010 Annual Addition Program resulted in the Legislature adding 11 parcels, totaling 562 acres, to existing Agriculture Districts that were later certified by the NYS Agricultural Commissioner. Planning staff coordinates the mapping and reports to the Legislature working with staff from Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Staff also coordinates with Information Services and Real Property Tax Service to implement the required Ag. District mapping and maintain a real time tracking system for parcels in Agricultural Districts.

Farmland Protection Program

Ulster County's adoption of a Farmland Protection Plan establishes the eligibility of the Agricultural Farmland Protection Board to apply for monies to purchase the development rights (PDR) from willing farmers. The program requires a 25% local match.

The lack of County dollars to meet this match has forced the program to find other funding sources. Scenic Hudson and the Open Space Institute have helped fund several of the projects. The Board has managed this program for the Legislature since 2002.

During 2010 the Department assisted the towns of Gardiner and Rochester, and the Open Space Institute to complete the acquisition of the Development rights to the Kiernan farm and Domino farm in each community. Department staff also support the AFPB required endorsement of these farms for funding.

The Department wishes to acknowledge the critical role communities and non-profit partners play in PDR Program, as well as the assistance from Cornell Cooperative Extension. Most importantly, is the willingness of individual farmers to participate in the program.

Water Quality Planning

Staff continues to participate in sub-basin water quality efforts and serves on the project advisory committees of Lower Esopus Watershed Partnership and the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program. The staff's participation brings a broader understanding of the land use issues associated with watershed management.

The issue of water quality also came to a head during the last quarter of this year when NYC DEP initiated the the operation of the Ashokan Reservoir release channel to control turbidity for its water supply. The Department worked with

several county departments and the Executive's office to frame the issues and begin the discussion that ultimately led to the decision by the County Executive to file a notice of intent to sue under the Clean Water Act for pollution caused by these releases. These efforts will continue into 2011 as the County works to structure a solution that includes flood mitigation and low flow releases that protect the environment of the lower Esopus and the quality of life of the communities along it.



Turbidity in lower Esopus - DEP releases

Economic Development

The Department's completely restructured economic development effort includes a Deputy Director position that reports directly to the County Executive but is anchored to the Planning Department. The position has enabled both a highly targeted efforts to create jobs by working with individual companies to meet their locational and funding needs as well as strategic positioning of the county for additional development. In addition the structure has allowed approvals at multiple levels to proceed rapidly.

The Department continued to implement the recommendations of Ulster Tomorrow—A Sustainable Economic Development Plan for Ulster County with efforts in job retention and expansion, development of shovel ready sites, growth area delineation, tourism outreach, understanding arts and cultural businesses, and main streets.

Strategic Planning

The Department worked with the Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC) and the Hudson Valley AgriBusiness Development Corporation to update the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Through a collaborative working arrangement the HVRC and HVADC the existing CEDS was updated to include a regional agribusiness development component.

Job Retention and Expansion

The Department continued to work with the Ulster County Development Corporation's Business Development Team to craft implement the business retention plan that identified and prioritized strategic employers for retention calls by the Development Corporation. In addition, Department worked on problem-solving for multiple Ulster County businesses to retain jobs in the community. These efforts include finding needed funding to close gaps or induce

companies to relocate, working with local officials to garner needed planning approvals in a timely fashion and integrating work force needs, including skills and transportation, with company needs. This type of direct business counseling allowed success to be achieved for Gillette Creamery in its relocation from Ellenville to Gardiner and for Amthor International, relocated from Orange County to Gardiner. Canal Street Cutlery in Ellenville received needed help with its funding as did Solar Tech Renewables and Farm to Table for their Tech City locations. The Department also worked with Kedem Winery in Marlborough to address its funding and infrastructure needs although to date no decision on expansion has been made. Numerous other firms were received assistance as varied as finding lines of credit, establishing social network sites or obtaining needed state approvals.

Shovel Ready Site Development

Ulster County Planning Department staff worked on the both Tech City and the Winston Farm shovel ready development projects throughout 2010.

Winston Farm continued to occupy the Department's efforts to secure a means to fund the development of a DGEIS for this site. The Department worked with all of the parties to



View of Winston Farm Technology Park



Detail view of Valley

explore funding and organizational options to move the site forward in the process.

Saugerties is also the site of a second GEIS, being done for the Kings Highway Corridor. This work is nearly complete as is the construction of the water and sewer lines along the corridor.

The Department aided Town of Ulster and Tech City towards the acceptance of a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) based on the concept plan for the east campus. The Department also continued efforts to find the necessary funding to implement improvements to the transportation system around the Tech City site and for on-site improvements as well. We anticipate that continued cooperative efforts should result in an approved GEIS and zoning changes in 2011.

Throughout the year Department staff devoted time to develop a strategy and find the funding to gain site plan approval for additional shovel ready sites. At the close of the year a small technical assistance grant was awarded to begin this process and efforts to finding additional funding from the IDA and perhaps Central Hudson were renewed.

Solar Energy and High-Tech Manufacturing

Ulster County provides a portion of the operating funds for the Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC). The Department works directly with TSEC to develop the solar cluster in Ulster County. This year the Department assisted in the expansion of Precision Flow Technologies that needed funding and space for its rapidly expanding business and as a result a lease was signed with Tech City. Solar Tech Renewables, a new Ulster County firm was also added to the cluster that again resulted in a lease at Tech City.

PRIVATE SECTOR SOLAR LEADS MANAGEMENT	TSEC	UCDC	County
Marketing Ulster County for Solar	X	X	X
Solar Industry Trends Research	X	X	
Obtaining Leads	X	X	X
Evaluating Leads- Technology and Manuf. Capability	X		
Evaluating Lead- Due Diligence/Financials		X	
Site Selection Assistance		X	X
Site Development/Planning			X
ESD Application Submission		X	
NYSERDA Application Submission	X	X	
State Application Tracking and Support		X	X
Workforce Development Issues			X
B2B Connections	X	X	
Coordinating Federal Funding for Solar	X		
Reviewing Financing/Incentives Options		X	

Doing Business in Ulster County

The Department played a major role in helping businesses that want to do business with Ulster County. They can now use the Ulster County website that has been redesigned so that vendors can determine whether there are any services or products being sought by the county that they can provide. In addition, the County Executive has directed all county departments to buy locally wherever and whenever possible so long as procurement laws are complied with. This includes an effort to provide department with lists of professional services vendors located in Ulster County. Furthermore, the County undertook an educational campaign, meeting with chambers of commerce and business associations around the state to educate businesses on how to do business with Ulster County.

The Department working with various agencies assisted in the development and launch of a new website ulsterbizhelp.com with a toll free 855BIZ-HELP phone number. The site provides information on financing, small business planning, workforce, and site selection using the expertise of the various involved agencies.



Statutory Responsibilities

General Municipal Law 239m - Referrals

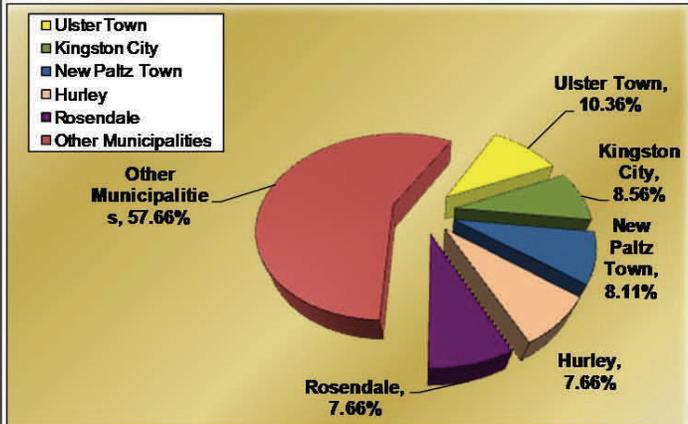
Zoning referrals are a statutory responsibility of the Planning Board under Section 239-m of the General Municipal Law. In addition to our statutory responsibility, the Board believes these are an important technical assistance tool that provides an exchange of ideas and techniques that promote public safety, preserve highway capacity as well as open space, protect water supplies, and foster economic development.

The number of submittals to the Board in 2010 was 222 slightly below the number received in 2009.

Referrals Submitted to the Ulster County Planning Board in 2010, Sorted by Municipality

MUNICIPALITIES	COUNT	PERCENTAGE	RANKING
Denning	0	0.00%	21
Ellenville	2	0.90%	19
Esopus	11	4.95%	9
Gardiner	16	7.21%	6
Hardenburgh	0	0.00%	21
Hurley	17	7.66%	4
Kingston City	19	8.56%	2
Kingston Town	0	0.00%	21
Lloyd	7	3.15%	15
Marbletown	8	3.60%	14
Marlborough	16	7.21%	6
New Paltz Town	18	8.11%	3
New Paltz Village	4	1.80%	17
Olive	2	0.90%	19
Plattekill	9	4.05%	13
Rochester	10	4.50%	10
Rosendale	17	7.66%	4
Saugerties Town	10	4.50%	10
Saugerties Village	7	3.15%	15
Shandaken	0	0.00%	21
Shawangunk	4	1.80%	17
Ulster Town	23	10.36%	1
Wawarsing	12	5.41%	8
Woodstock	10	4.50%	10
TOTALS	222	100.00%	---

Top 5 Municipalities Compared to All Other Municipalities to Submit a Referral in 2010



The continued sluggish referral numbers suggest that the economic recovery as yet to impact the development of either commercial space or housing.

The Board continued to work with municipalities to enter into agreements in accordance with the Referral Guide so as to allow for many projects to avoid submittal. At the end of 2010 eleven of the twenty-four municipalities in communities have at least one of their boards participating in the exception agreement.

Community Outreach & Education

Community Consultations

The Board conducts an extensive program of community assistance and public outreach. This includes seminars on important timely issues, publications of technical assistance guides and board policies, extensive website presence, and presentations to local boards and neighborhood groups. All help to keep communities informed and address their concerns.

During 2010 staff worked with nearly every community. In addition, board members met with their colleagues to encourage participation in the Referral Agreement.

The Board also increased its efforts to act as a Gateway for project approvals by bringing together approving agencies from the state and county to meet early with applicants to discuss issues associated with the project prior to the development of detailed plans. The outcome has been very positive with everyone indicating the process works well in getting a better understanding and reducing redesign costs while improving the outcome of projects. The process

was used by the Lloyd, Kingston, New Paltz , and Plattekill

Publications/Presentations

During the course of the year, the Department produced several presentations that were related to its main street, housing, and transportation efforts.

Seminars

The Department conducts ongoing training seminars for members of the Board and other local officials. This year the Department conducted seminars on the use of flexible zoning provisions and Generic Environmental Impact Statements as a means to streamline review procedures, and a introduction to the Main Street Toolbox. In addition, staff also presented additional training with the Ulster County Development Corporation on basics of economic development and understanding tax rateables.

Increasingly, staff has been involved in presentations at regional and statewide conferences. Appearances this year included the Hudson River Historic Towns on regional planning; the Catskill Watershed Coalition on Main Streets, and the New York Association of Towns also on Main Streets.

Data Requests

The Ulster County Planning Board receives a significant number of data requests annually. These requests come from county agencies, local governments, project developers and the general public. Requests include census materials, flood information, environmental data and the like. The Board is a member of the Census Bureau State Data Center Affiliate Program. As a member we receive Census related materials free of charge, have access to embargoed data, and may request technical assistance from the Census

Bureau. All members of the staff participate in information requests based on program knowledge.

Agencies Boards and Commissions

The technical expertise of the staff is highly sought after by many agency boards and commissions. Staff serves on the Boards of the Ulster County Development Corporation, Environmental Management Council, Agricultural Farmland Protection Board, Upper Esopus Creek Advisory Council, Ashokan Basin Process Planning Committee, and the Central Catskills Collaborative to name a few.

In addition, the Board and the Director has encouraged staff to volunteer in the community. Service on local boards serves as a means to orient the staff to community organizations, hone their communication and participation skills, as well as broaden the understanding of policies and programs of the Board.

The Department also interfaces with numerous non-profit and professional organizations. In 2010 staff interactions included the Climate Action Network, Greenway, Hudson Valley Smart Growth Alliance, Catskill Center, Patterns for Progress, and the Hudson Valley Regional Council .

Ulster County Transportation Council

The Department is the host agency for the Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC), a Metropolitan Planning Organization formed in 2003 as a result of the 2000 Census urbanized



designation for the greater Kingston area.

UCTC represents a major effort by the Department to meet the transportation planning needs of Ulster County. The Department has two full time transportation planning positions devoted to the work of the Council. In addition, the Director also devotes approximately 20 percent of his time to transportation planning. Clerical staff and the land use planner also perform transportation planning functions for UCTC. Having the Department act as host agency greatly improves the capabilities of UCTC by firmly establishing the fundamental link between land use and transportation. The Board utilizes its transportation expertise in recommendations on local land use referrals as well as participation in capital programming for the County. Economic development activities benefit from the relationship and UCTC enjoys greatly expanded participation thanks to the Department's community relationships.

UCTC had a highly successful 2010 continuing its ambitious work program. Work continued on areas within the county that experience transportation problems.

Highlights of the Departments' efforts to support UCTC include:

- Convened regularly scheduled Technical and Policy Committee meetings;
- Convened TIP Subcommittee meetings to update the TIP and completed 2015 as required by federal and adopted a TIP Update 2011-1;
- Facilitated the TIP amendment process;
- Organized and facilitated the mail balloting process on several occasions;

- Assisted UCAT with onsite transit planning and reporting tasks;
- Convened the Transit Advisory Committee and selected a consultant for a City/County Transit Development Plan having issued the RFP;
- Completed analysis of the I-587/Albany Avenue Intersection including a three day design charette that resulted in a consensus of a modern roundabout as a preferred intersection improvement alternative;
- Completed and adopted a 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan in conformance with federal requirements.;
- Collected and analyzed traffic count data for 62 locations throughout Ulster County and prepared an annual traffic count report in support of the Traffic Monitoring Program;
- Maintained and updated the UCTC's web site and developed project pages to keep the public apprised of specific projects and activities;
- Prepared and submitted reports to NYSDOT, FHWA and FTA as required;
- Worked closely with Ulster County transit operators and TMA staff to program FTA Section 5307 TMA funds.

Ongoing Studies: UCTC also continued its ongoing functions, completing its fifth year of traffic counts that revisited the area of the County along the Route 209 Corridor. The counts were done at a time of the economic downturn and many count stations saw reductions in overall volume. The Park and Ride Lot Capacity Analysis was again done this year with congestion continuing at several lots. UCTC continued its recommendation for expansion of the lot at the Kingston at the roundabout.

Program Management: UCTC continued its management efforts of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Council adopted a completely updated TIP in in September of of 2010. The TIP is a multi-year (2011-2015) program of federal and state funded transportation improvements in Ulster County. UCTC allocates the available funding for this capital program. In addition, UCTC facilitates the distribution of transit monies (5307) within the County to UCAT, CitiBus and Adirondack Trailways. These activities were coordinated with MPOs in Dutchess and Orange Counties as required.

The Council's success is the result of the organizational capabilities of its staff and the dedication of its members. Local officials and technical representatives from agencies continue to give enormous amounts of time and effort to Council activities. The Department, as host agency, recognizes how valuable and important this is to the collaborative decision-making process.



I-587 Preferred Option

Planning Board Membership

The Ulster County Planning Board membership is established by the Charter. All of the municipalities within the county are given representation. Members serve a four year term and appointment of alternates is provided for. Communities make recommendations to the Legislature who is responsible for each appointment.

Any discussion of the Board and its ability to understand local as well as regional issues requires the understanding of the broad outreach afforded the Board due to its membership structure. Nearly all members of the County Planning Board serve on a local board or commission. Most bring specific expertise to the table related to the planning process including engineers and architects. The combination of local knowledge with the county-wide focus of the Board has served the county and the communities well over the years.

Members of the County Planning Board are required under General Municipal Law to receive four hours of training per year. Ulster County Legislature Resolution number 101 of 2007 provides for approved training activities and reporting of member training in the annual report. The training status of the Board is included in this annual report. All active board members met their training requirements.

2010 Board Members

Officers

Plattekill—Thomas Wilkin – Chair
New Paltz—Ruth Elwell – Vice Chair
Shawangunk—Mark Watkins – Secretary

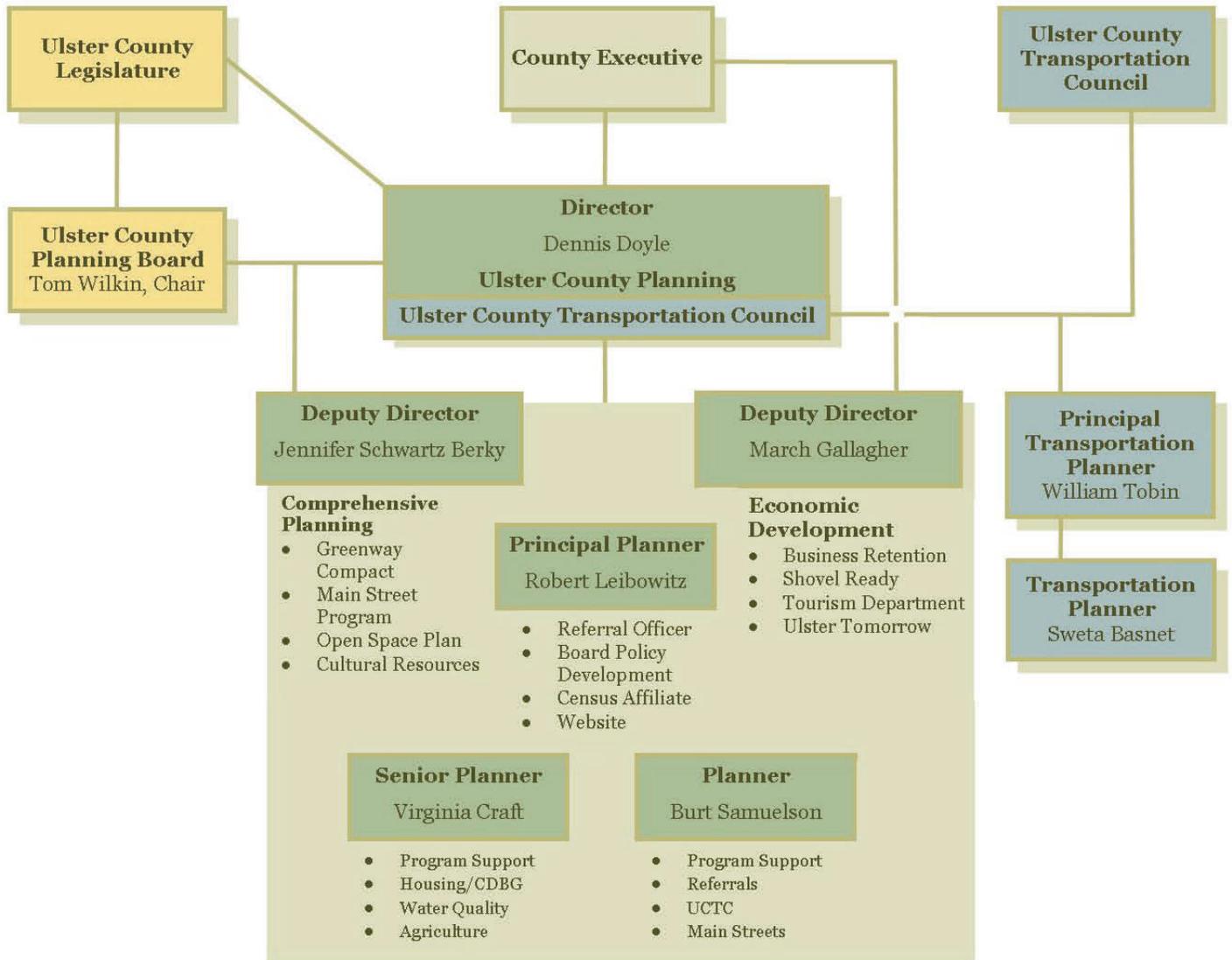
Members

Ellenville – Anthony Zlatkin
Esopus - Roxanne Pecora
Gardiner – Nadine Lemmon/Joe Katz
Hurley - Paul Hakim
Kingston(c) - Stephen Finkle
Kingston(c) – Robert Kinnin
Kingston - John Konior
Lloyd – Tim Marion
Marbletown - Todd Natale
Marborough - Lisa Biggin
New Paltz – Toni Hokanson
Olive – Helene Grant
Rochester – Michael Baden
Rosendale - Fred Greitzer
Saugerties – Jeremy Kane
Saugerties – Suzanne Frederick
Shandaken - Keith Holmquist
Ulster - Renno Budziak
Wawarsing - Georgine Matichuk
Woodstock - Anita Yuran

2010 UCPB Member Training Credits			
Municipality	Members	Total Hrs	Credit for
		2010	2011
Denning	Vacant	xxx	xxx
Esopus	Roxanne Pecora	15.00	11.00
	Charles Wesley	0.00	
Gardiner	Nadine Lemmon	0.75	0.00
	Joe Katz	1.75	0.00
Hardenburgh	Vacant	xxx	xxx
Hurley	Paul Hakim	5.75	1.75
	Karl Brueckner	0.25	
Kingston	John Konior	6.25	2.25
Lloyd	Tim Marion	1.75	0.00
Marbletown	Todd Natale	11.50	7.50
Marlborough	Lisa Biggin	9.00	5.00
	Steve Osborn	3.00	
New Paltz (town)	Toni Hokanson	23.25	19.25
	Mike Calimano	4.25	0.25
Olive	Helene Grant	7.50	3.50
Plattekill	Tom Wilkin	42.50	38.50
	Rich Gorres	12.25	8.25
Rochester	Michael Baden	10.75	6.75
	Leon Smith	5.25	1.25
Rosendale	Fred Greitzer	4.00	
	Jeanne Walsh	0.50	
Saugerties (town)	Jeremy Kane	3.00	
	Vernon Benjamin	0.50	
Shandaken	Keith Holmquist	7.75	3.75
	Barbara Redfield	1.00	
Shawangunk	Mark Watkins	31.25	27.25
	Roger Rascoe	1.00	
Ulster	Renno Budziak	25.25	21.25
	Scott Ricketson	0.00	
Wawarsing	Georgine Matichuk	0.50	
	John Constable	6.75	2.75
Woodstock	Anita Yuran	9.25	5.25
	Robert Young	0.00	
Ellenville	Anthony Zlatkin	1.50	
New Paltz (v)	Ruth Elwell	12.25	8.25
	Maurice Weitman	3.25	
Saugerties (v)	Suzanne Frederick	2.00	
Kingston (city)	Robert Kinnin	1.75	
	Valerie Dwyer	2.00	
	Steve Finkle	14.00	10.00
	Suzanne Cahill	8.25	4.25

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Ulster County Planning Department Organizational Chart and Work Program—2010



Contact

Ulster County Planning Board

244 Fair Street Kingston, NY 12401

Tele: 845.340.3340

Fax: 845.340.3429

Email: Planning@co.ulster.ny.us

Website:

<http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/planning/>

Staff

Dennis Doyle, Director

Jennifer Schwartz Berky, Deputy Director

March Gallagher, Deputy Director

Robert Leibowitz, Principal Planner

Virginia Craft, Senior Planner

Burt Samuelson, Planner

Bill Tobin, Principal Transportation Planner

Sweta Basnet, Transportation Planner

Marianne Davis – Administrative Assistant