

40 Years 2009

Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board

A Message from the Chair Thomas Santulli

As many of you know, I am an advocate of sharing resources and talent in order to provide high quality service in a cost effective way.

Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board (STC) embodies this shared services concept. STC provides services to three counties, spreading costs over a large geographic area and many programs. This is a way to work efficiently and to provide a clearinghouse of information that all three counties can share.

Thanks to the Board of STC for collaborating on such a worthwhile venture. Their work and their support for the mission and goals of STC make the organization possible. In tough economic times, this cooperation is more valuable than ever.

Congratulations to all who contributed to 40 successful years!



Among the elected officials attending the 40th annual meeting were the second Chair of the STC Board, John Flory of Chemung County (1972-74 and 1978-80); Thomas Gifford, outgoing STC Chair; and Vern Robinson, Supervisor, Town of Ashland.

ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Director's Report Marcia D. Weber

STC celebrated **40 years** of service to the Southern Tier in 2009.

At our annual meeting in February, we were joined by friends and colleagues, including former board and staff members, to recognize the accomplishments of so many people who worked with and for STC over four decades.

Kevin McLaughlin, Regional Director of Empire State Development, presented a proclamation from Governor David Paterson lauding STC for many noteworthy achievements over the 40 years.

The guest speaker was Randy Simpson of Schweitzer Aircraft, who described the products and technology of a successful company contributing to the economy of the Southern Tier.

Adding up 40 years of benefits, we discovered that STC has brought \$38.5 million to the region through the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) alone. Another \$70.4 million of local, state, and federal funds and in-kind donations have matched these ARC dollars.

STC is also the local arm of the Economic Development Administration, which has funded job-creating projects including the Vulcraft Steel plant in Chemung, the Erwin Industrial Park water supply, and the South Yards project in Hornell.

As a fitting project for the 40th year, a \$1.45 million Economic Development Administration grant was awarded to provide water, sewer, and road infrastructure for industry along I-86, including a CVS distribution center. The project, made possible because of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, is expected to create additional jobs and private investment in the region.

Water quality, economic development, technology, housing needs surveys, land use planning, highways (including I-86 and I-99), tourism, aviation, flood mitigation, child care, Census, rail . . . STC has been involved in all these areas and more for 40 consequential years. We have the expertise, enthusiasm, and energy for another 40!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Funding Recommendations



STC recommended three economic development project applications to the Appalachian Regional Commission totaling \$315,000. The requested funds will leverage more than \$2 million in additional federal, state, and local money.

Center at Horseheads Industrial Access Road and Sewer Improvements

Sponsor: Chemung County Industrial Development Agency

ARC: \$150,000 Total: \$1,990,043

Airport Corporate Park Water and Sewer

Sponsor: Chemung County Industrial Development Agency

ARC: \$150,000 Total: \$459,935

Burdett/Odessa Commercial District Improvement Program

Sponsor: Schuyler County Partnership for Economic Development

ARC: \$15,000 Total: \$30,000

STC Hosts Manufacturing Session

The Rochester Institute of Technology's Center of Integrated Manufacturing Studies (CIMS) met with area stakeholders to discuss a new program to help strengthen the competitiveness of manufacturing in the Southern Tier of New York. Hosted by STC, the session brought together economic development specialists, government leaders, educators, and manufacturing representatives from Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties. CIMS will provide local companies with direct services in the areas of applied technology, workforce training, and customized assessments to improve efficiency of manufacturing processes. The statewide program is supported by a grant from the US Department of Commerce.

Infrastructure Project Supports Distribution Center

The Chemung County Industrial Development Agency was awarded a \$1.45 million grant from the Economic Development Administration to provide water, sewer, and road infrastructure to serve industrial land including the new CVS Pharmacy distribution center.

Proximity to Interstate 86 was a major factor in CVS Pharmacy's decision to build the 750,000 square foot distribution center, which is expected to create more than 500 jobs. Senior Vice President of Logistics, Ron Link, said, "This is an ideal location to support the hundreds of CVS Pharmacy stores in the region. We are excited to be joining the Chemung County community." As an official Economic Development District, STC provided technical assistance and coordination for the project application process.



CVS Pharmacy Distribution Center under construction in the Town of Chemung.

Brownfield Opportunity Area

A common vision for redevelopment of the Erwin/Riverside/Painted Post area has emerged from the Brownfield Opportunity Area Pre-Nomination Study. STC conducted extensive site research and economic analysis, which provide a solid foundation for redeveloping under-utilized sites and bringing new life to the community. The study provides site-specific information directly to potential developers, and it gives municipalities a framework for updating comprehensive plans and drafting recommended zone changes.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

In 2009, STC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was instrumental in quickly identifying projects ready to be funded with stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This gave the region a head start in accessing federal funds.

Each year STC develops the CEDS to coordinate economic development activities on a regional basis and to qualify the region for major development grants through the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The 2010 CEDS contains a wealth of information including demographic data, issues and trends facing the region, county and regional goals and priorities, and a plan of action. A copy of the strategy is available in CD format or can be viewed on the STC website.

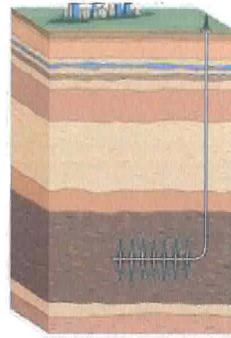
Economic development project priorities targeted by CEDS in earlier years that were successfully implemented or initiated during 2009 included:

- B&H Railroad Infrastructure Project – ARC grant approved
- B&H Railroad Tourism and Economic Development Study – ARC grant approved, project underway
- Catharine Valley Trail – New section opened in Watkins Glen
- City of Corning Klugo Building Restore NY – Project completed
- CVS Pharmacy Distribution Center – \$1.45 million EDA grant approved for infrastructure
- DeMet's Candy Company in Big Flats – Opened in May with 100 full time jobs created
- Millennium Natural Gas Pipeline – Began commercial operation
- P&C Plaza in the Town of Erwin – Tenant identified
- Revitalization of Clemens Square in Elmira – ARC grant approved
- Schuyler County Housing Needs Assessment 2007-2020 – Completed
- South Yards II Site Improvement in Hornell – Construction initiated
- Southeast Steuben County I-86/I-99 Corridor Economic Development Blueprint – Completed
- Town of Erwin New Well/ Wastewater Treatment Upgrades – EDA project completed
- Town of Pulteney Infrastructure Project – Project completed

Telecommunications

STC, partnering with Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board, received an Appalachian Regional Commission grant to develop a 14-county telecommunications business plan. This will form the basis for an application for a fiber backbone linking currently underserved areas in the two regions and connecting to the Southern Tier West region as well. The plan, to be completed in 2010, will build upon STC's previous work identifying existing infrastructure and needs.

Marcellus Shale Impacts



STC supports local efforts to prepare for the impacts that natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale will have on the region. STC supported local government and expressed commitment to economic development and concern about environmental protection in comments about the NYS Supplemental Generic

Environmental Impact Statement on new techniques for extracting this resource. STC will continue to host discussions about these issues and post relevant information on the STC website.

Southeast Steuben River Vision Project

The network of river-related trails, launch sites, and amenities in Corning (City and Town), Erwin, Painted Post, Riverside, and South Corning is being reviewed for gaps through a



The River Vision team visited points of interest and potential trail locations along the Chemung River.

River Vision Project. The "River Vision" will dovetail with the Chemung County "Chemung River Comprehensive Master Plan" and help to expand the systems of land and water trails in the region. STC procured funding through the NYS Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and is providing staff support for this project.

TRANSPORTATION

Route 15 / Interstate 99



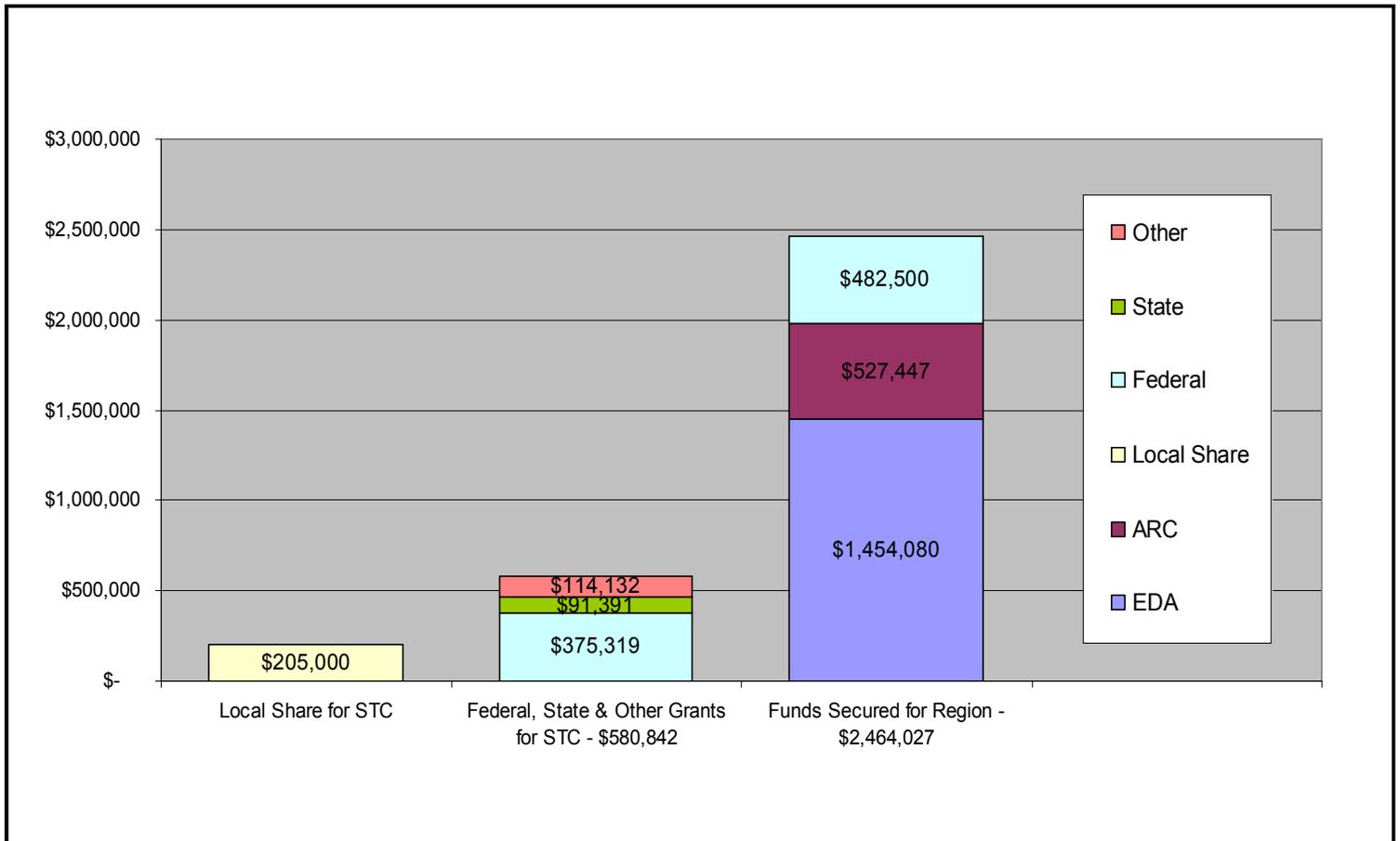
Local leaders and citizens attended the ground breaking ceremony in September for a new section of Route 15 south of Corning. The \$45.4 million project will relocate a five-mile stretch from Watson Creek Road in Lindley to the Presho interchange, making the road safer and more efficient and contributing to economic growth. Completion of the project will create a final link to an 80-mile stretch of future Interstate Highway 99 from Williamsport, Pennsylvania to Corning. STC assisted with an application for federal funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which contributed \$16 million toward the project.

NYS DOT Eco-Logical Approach to Transportation



“There is a lot of natural resource information out there, but there are some critical pieces missing that federal and state highway departments need. STC is working to fill those gaps,” said Jennifer Fais, STC Principal Planner. STC staff is identifying land protection organizations, such as land trusts and conservancies, as well as local open space protection programs that could work with the NYS Department of Transportation (NSYDOT) to maintain mitigation projects outside highway rights-of-way. This work is part of a larger project in partnership with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, Federal Highway Administration, and NYS DOT.

2009 County Local Share Leveraged \$3,044,869 for STC Region



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Village of Addison Comprehensive Plan

Village of Addison, NY
Comprehensive Plan
Adopted – December 14, 2009



The first Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Addison recommends strategies for stabilizing the Village's economy and improving the quality of life for residents. STC provided top-notch data collection and analysis to help the Planning Board identify opportunities and address challenges. The Plan provides recommendations for improving historic Main Street, traffic flow, and housing stock, while taking into consideration the flood hazards. It will enable the Village to pursue economic development grants.

Southeast Steuben Planning Assistance – A Shared Service

In these tough economic times, southeast Steuben County communities benefit from the efficiencies of contracting for the planning services they need without the cost of additional municipal staff. STC assisted the Villages of Addison, Painted Post, and Riverside as well as the Towns of Campbell, Caton, and Corning with updating zoning and subdivision laws, comprehensive planning, project review, and grants writing.

Funding Awarded for Susquehanna Chemung Action Plan

STC was awarded water quality planning funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to develop an "ecosystem based management" plan for the Susquehanna and Chemung Basins in New York. The proposed plan will integrate social, economic, and environmental issues to develop a priority agenda of the actions needed to manage natural resources in a manner that supports human needs and social goals. This two-year project will be implemented in conjunction with Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board.

Regional Leadership Conference

More than 450 local government officials and community leaders participated in a day of training and sharing at the 13th annual STC Regional Leadership Conference. Topics covered by the twenty eight class sessions included: smart growth, local planning and zoning, community wind power, Freedom of Information Law (FOIL), stormwater management practices, grant and project management, green building guidelines, GIS for transportation, and financial resources. Participants also took advantage of a trade show to learn about products and services that can benefit municipal governments.

Mark your calendar:
The 2010
STC Regional Leadership Conference
will be Thursday, April 15 at
Corning Community College

HUMAN SERVICES

STC and its county and regional human services committees reviewed four projects for fiscal year 2010 Appalachian Regional Commission funding. The requests total \$262,266 and would leverage an additional \$349,154. The three projects recommended by the committee for funding are:

- The Bridges – training specifically geared to women displaced from the workforce.
- Bridge to Employment – intensive training for adults with disabilities, enabling them to move to community based employment.
- EcoSMART Project – a community demonstration of renewable energy systems that will support a high school curriculum with science and technology workforce readiness training.

In addition, the human services committees engaged in discussions and plans to promote cost savings and efficiencies in service provision to the region.

WATER RESOURCES / FLOOD ASSISTANCE

Floodproofing Training

Floodproofing involves making changes to a building that will reduce or prevent future flood damage to the structure and/or its contents. To promote floodproofing of existing flood-prone development, Chemung County and STC developed a training course and educational materials about floodproofing techniques. The course will be offered locally in 2010. Information sheets developed by STC are available on the website. This project was funded by a hazard mitigation grant written by STC.

Flood Mitigation

STC continues to provide technical assistance with a variety of actions that reduce the region's vulnerability to flood damage. Information about a wide range of topics (flood safety, flood warnings, floodplain management, hazard mitigation planning, etc.) is now available on the updated STC website. Of particular value are the Floodplain Management Fact Sheets, which have been described as "Cliff Notes for floodplain management." They present the requirements and recommendations for floodplain development in a concise and clear format that can be referenced by building officials and shared with those proposing development projects in the floodplain.

Tenth Annual River Float



STC and Friends of the Chemung River Watershed organized the Annual River Float to focus media attention on local rivers as natural and recreational resources.

Paddlers launched from Tollbridge Park in the Town of Ashland and landed at the new White Wagon Launch Site in the Town of Chemung. Local and state dignitaries attended the White Wagon site dedication to pledge support for the Chemung Basin River Trail as a cooperative venture.

Rural Stormwater



"Slow It Down, Spread It Out, Soak It In" is the motto of the Rural Stormwater Coalition of Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben Counties. STC has helped the group by:

- Developing the "Building a Rural Driveway" brochure, loaded with tips for rural landowners faced with steep slopes or drainage concerns.
- Creating the pamphlet, "Rainwater: A Resource for Homeowners," that suggests ways to manage water on a home site.
- Developing information-packed stormwater pages for the website.

Seneca Lake Plan



Funding for development of a Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan has been secured from the NYS Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. STC will work with Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, Finger Lakes Institute, and Hobart and William Smith Colleges on this three year project.



STC staff installed rain barrels at home to "walk the talk" about stormwater management.

DATA AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Funding Awarded for Mapping Data Network

STC was awarded a Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund grant to create a web-based GIS data-sharing network that will house current authoritative data about the Southern Tier Central Region.

STC Website

The STC website has a new look and a wealth of new content. In addition to providing information about the agency – the Board, staff, committees, services, program areas, projects, newsletters, etc. – the website is also a source of information about issues that impact the region, such as flood hazards, energy, stormwater management, the 2010 Census, and map information. It provides current information about funding opportunities and upcoming events. Documents include: local laws, local plans, the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, regional and county economic profiles, educational materials, and much more.

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Visit the STC Website at: www.stcplanning.org
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Computer Assistance

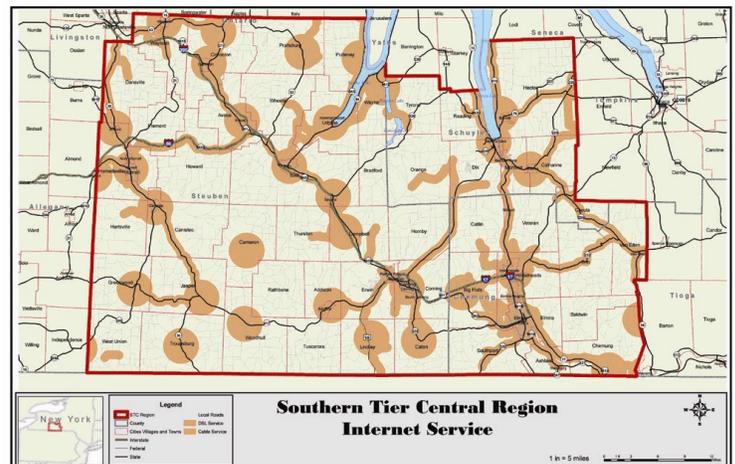


For the past 20 years, STC has provided technology assistance to local governments, enabling them to meet ever-changing computer needs for managing assets and running day-to-day operations. Assistance includes keeping hardware and software up to date even when old applications are necessary to comply with state financial reporting needs. STC also provides guidance in selecting new processes for achieving goals as effectively and efficiently as possible under tight budget constraints. For example, critical Town of Prattsburgh data were migrated from old computers running Windows 3.11, which had no simple data transfer method, to newly acquired computers running current applications. Federal funding enables local agencies to contract for high quality computer technical assistance at affordable rates.

Geographic Information System (GIS) Assistance

STC continues to provide technical assistance with digital map-based data to support STC projects, municipalities, and County Departments. This assistance included the following:

- STC assisted Chemung County with a telecommunications grant application by providing mapping and analysis of served, unserved, and underserved areas for high speed internet access. This process included mapping of anchor customer locations (municipal buildings, emergency services, schools, and businesses), current and proposed fiber locations, and existing towers and other infrastructure.
- STC developed a digital map of culverts along Schuyler County highways. This is a significant improvement over the road map with hand-drawn culvert locations that the Highway Department had been using. The new map is linked to a database of culvert locations, characteristics, inspection reports, and other information. This assistance is now being provided to other county and municipal highway departments.



STC's GIS staff provided maps incorporating data about existing broadband on behalf of its three counties to the NYS Office of Technology for inclusion in a statewide map for future planning and funding.

STC Staff

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Executive Director

David Bubniak
GIS Specialist

Susan Cratsley
Executive Assistant

Victoria Ehlen
Planner

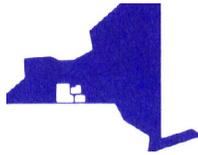
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The report has also been funded in part by Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties.

2009 Board of Directors

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Chemung County Executive

Vice Chair, Philip Roche
Chair, Steuben County Legislature

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Steuben County Administrator

Theodore Bennett
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Mark Ryckman
Manager, City of Corning

G. Thomas Tranter, Jr.
Industrial Representative

Scott Van Etten
Steuben County Legislator

**left during the year*