

2009 In Review

Planning and Zoning Conference

The 8th Annual Fall Planning and Zoning Conference was held over two days. On the evening of November 17th, NYS Department of State presented a four-hour program at SUNY Fredonia with 55 people in attendance. On November 18th, NYS Department of State presented the same four-hour program at the Southern Tier West Center for Regional Excellence with a full house.

E-Government Program

Through its own web-server, Southern Tier West creates and hosts websites for participating municipalities. Assistance is provided to municipalities that do not have websites in order to achieve a usable presence on the Internet. Southern Tier West completed the creation of websites for the Villages of Brocton, Celoron, East Randolph, Gowanda, and Randolph; and the Towns of Carroll, Ellery, Kiantone, New Albion, Randolph, and Villenova. This program was initiated through ARC funding and is now continued through financial assistance from NYS Archives and CAP memberships.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Southern Tier West unveiled a new version of its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which incorporated pertinent maps and data from the Southern Tier West Region Statistical Abstract and streamlined the format. The CEDS is a strategic plan for economic development for the three-county region.

"This annual strategy document provides a guide for economic development activity for Southern Tier West, its member counties, its municipalities, development agencies, the private sector, and the Seneca Nation of Indians, representing as it does the cumulative priority economic development plans of all of these entities." – Joseph Eade, Cattaraugus County

Water Quality Program

GPS Data collection of water/wastewater infrastructure was completed for the Towns of Kiantone, Belfast, Ripley, and the Village of Sinclairville as part of Southern Tier West's Water Quality Program funded by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Energy Alternatives Program

Two major conferences on wind energy development were held on October 21st and 22nd covering several areas of concern with wind energy development in the region. Both conferences were tailored to municipal officials and largely focused on land use controls for wind energy development. However, the conferences were open to landowners with land leasing concerns also discussed.

Census Partner

The 2010 Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) allowed designated participants, following Census Bureau guidelines, to review and suggest modifications to the boundaries for block groups, census tracts, census county divisions, and census designated places for reporting data in the 2010 Census. Utilizing GIS software, Southern Tier West provided recommendations to the US Census Bureau on behalf of Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties. For the promotion of the 2010 Census, Southern Tier West received funding for materials through the US Census Bureau's Partnership Support Program. In order to target specific populations, Southern Tier West identified several other partners in the region to help disseminate materials and publicize the Census.

"Regional Planning Boards across the board are crucial partners and proponents for the decennial Census. Their knowledge and expertise about the local area prove to be invaluable to us when ramping up operations throughout the years leading up to the actual Census. We often turn to them for advice and assistance during the various stages of the Census." – Lindsay M. Petrillose, Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau

Appalachian Regional Commission Funding

Southern Tier West was instrumental in obtaining \$530,796 in ARC funding, leveraging an additional \$2,356,813. Five projects were funded including: Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies/Jamestown Community College, Environmental Education Initiative/Friendship Cuba Development Corporation, Green Building Laboratory/Alfred State College, Wastewater Treatment Facilities Improvements/Village of Cuba, and Asset Management Program/Southern Tier West.

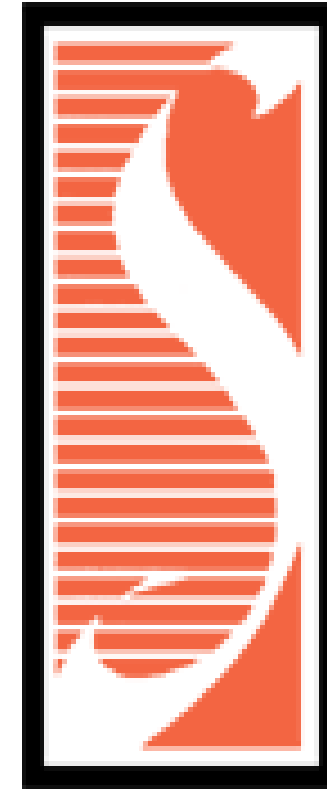
Economic Development Administration Funding

Southern Tier West assisted Chautauqua County in securing a grant for \$1,335,000 from the Economic Development Administration for the Progress Drive Improvements project with a total cost of \$ 2,670,000. The project, sponsored by the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency, included the reconstruction of 1.2 miles of Progress Drive between Middle and Werle Roads in the Towns of Dunkirk and Sheridan. Three major benefits of the project include: 1) access to former industrial sites (brownfields), 2) providing Nestle-Purina room to expand their facility, and 3) a connection to the proposed Millennium Parkway which upon completion will provide improved truck flow and access from State Route 60 to the Middle Road/Progress Drive industrial corridor.

SOUTHERN TIER WEST

REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Partnership for Development
Serving Allegany, Cattaraugus, & Chautauqua Counties



2009 ANNUAL REPORT

40 Years of Service

"Southern Tier West provides important assistance to Western New York communities with training for municipal officials, regional planning and as a "go to" resource for those who are interested in making their communities a better place to live. Southern Tier West's commitment to improving regional transportation, telecommunication and utility infrastructure has been critical in bringing state and federal dollars into our region. TVGA Consultants is proud to be Southern Tier West's first corporate sponsor and a long-time participant in the Annual Local Government Conferences, the Annual Planning Conferences and other events coordinated by Southern Tier West." – Dave McCoy, TVGA Consultants



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Message from New Director

Richard Zink



As the Board and Staff of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board look back at 2009, it is easy to see the progress that the Board has made in many of our key program areas.

The past year has seen significant strides forward in the areas of telecommunications, GIS and transportation. Through our partnerships with Allegany County, ACCORD Corporation, and Southern Tier Wireless, a wireless broadband project that will affect over 13 municipalities was started. This project has the potential to change the way business is conducted within our region and is a starting point for our continued efforts to make broadband available across our entire region.

With the completion of the Southern Tier West Regional Transportation Strategy, the region has a clearer picture of its transportation priorities. This strategy enables Southern Tier West and its partners to address the issues that transcend borders with respect to transportation. The creation of this strategy allows us to better advocate for the projects that will make a definitive difference within our region.

Over the past year, the technology available to our local governments using geographic information systems has been significantly enhanced. Southern Tier West has engaged in an Asset Management Program with several municipalities and has used this as an opportunity to upgrade our GIS hardware and software. These upgrades have positioned Southern Tier West to better partner with the counties in our region and pass onto our 130 municipalities updated datasets and technological capabilities.

Several of our other programs have continued to deliver needed support across our region. The local government Community Assistance Program held several training sessions that better prepared our municipal officials to perform their jobs. Our records retention program once again helped to provide a means for municipalities to organize their various and vast amount of records. The relationship that Southern Tier West has with our federal partners (ARC and EDA) has once again brought substantial resources into the region, providing funds to address infrastructure, education, community planning and economic development needs across the region.

A few programs were reinvented in 2009, taking the first steps in a process that will lead to new partnerships and an ability to solve new issues across our region in the areas of energy, storm-water management and educational training collaboration.

As Southern Tier West continues to move forward, we must take the large leaps to make this a better region in all the areas that we work, ever mindful of the baby steps that reassure us we are moving in the right direction.

2009 Operating Funds

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES: JANUARY 1, 2009 - DECEMBER 31, 2009

Revenue Sources

Federal & State Grants	\$748,591
Allegany, Cattaraugus, & Chautauqua Counties	74,630
Other Local Share	105,362
TOTAL REVENUE	\$928,583

Program Expenditures

Payroll, Leave, and Fringe Benefits	\$476,352
Program Operations	452,231
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$928,583

2009 In Review

Broadband Inventory Study

ECC Technologies completed the Southern Tier West Broadband Inventory Study, funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Economic Development Administration. A comprehensive assessment of existing technology and communication infrastructures and systems across the Southern Tier West Region, the Broadband Inventory Study report also included a telecommunications database resource and a geographic information systems (GIS) mapping program.

Community GIS

Two Community GIS Members, the Town and Village of Allegany, purchased a sub-foot GPS Unit through a shared agreement. As part of their Community GIS membership, Southern Tier West worked with the municipalities to configure the unit and now processes all GPS data collected by them and is available online. Their data is loaded into Southern Tier West's ArcSDE Geodatabase in the same manner as any data collected with Southern Tier West GPS Units.

"STW has been instrumental in implementing our new GIS Program. STW's accessibility and expertise of Community GIS have allowed the Town to efficiently and effectively manage its assets and infrastructure. The maps produced by STW have proven to be an invaluable tool for presentations and funding opportunities." – Rodney F. Gleason, Town of Allegany Highway, Water & Sewer Superintendent

Asset Management Program

Through the Asset Management Program funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission, Southern Tier West was able to upgrade to sub-foot GPS units and standardize municipal infrastructure data that is collected and stored. Southern Tier West worked with EMA, Inc. to design an Enterprise GIS system and implement several hardware and software upgrades. All GPS data that is collected by Southern Tier West is housed in an ArcSDE Geodatabase and served out using ArcGIS Server via the Internet. A new Community GIS Viewer was launched using ArcGIS Server. The new format and layout of the viewer is more conducive to future tool development as part of future activities of the Asset Management Program.

Regional Transportation Strategy

Southern Tier West completed its first Regional Transportation Strategy in partnership with the NYS Department of Transportation; Allegany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties; Seneca Nation of Indians; as well as several municipal official associations and non-profit organizations throughout the region. This strategic plan focuses on the areas of economic development, safety, security, increased accessibility of mobility options, environmental stewardship, enhanced connectivity between different modes of transportation, preservation of the existing transportation systems as well as promoting consistency and coordination of transportation improvements at the state and local levels.

US Route 219 Corridor Analysis

The US Route 219 Corridor Development Impact & Safety Analysis was published, which provided support for continued investment in the upgrade of US Route 219 from a two lane to a four lane limited access highway between Springville, New York and the Pennsylvania border. Information provided included a traffic analysis, a safety analysis, a land use analysis, and an economic impact analysis.

"This study is a critical piece of our ongoing regional advocacy to spur state and federal investment in completion of US Route 219 as a four lane highway to the Pennsylvania State line." – Crystal Abers, Cattaraugus County Legislator

Transload Facility and Business Park Study

Southern Tier West published the Truck-Rail Freight Transload Facility and Business Park Feasibility Study, which evaluated a number of proposed locations for the construction of a transload facility and business park. The study recommended the optimal location, documented the feasibility of a transload facility, and suggested a phased approach to construction involving an initial transload facility and subsequently a business park and more advanced freight transfer operations.

"These two studies represent an important step in the ongoing process of reinvigorating the Southern Tier Extension and Buffalo rail lines. STERA, the railroad authority, will use these studies to build a phased freight transfer facility and business park at the Olean railroad yard. This long term initiative will improve transportation access, lower transportation costs, and catalyze business development in the southern tier of New York and northern tier of Pennsylvania. Southern Tier West also hopes that the work done in the site identification phase of the feasibility study will lead to business development activities at the other sites considered in the study." – John Margeson, Allegany County Administrator

Records Management Program

Fifteen municipalities received assistance through the Records Management Program funded through NYS Archives for Court Records Inventory and Website Creation. This now totals 293 participants in cooperative records grant projects since 1991.

Local Government Conference

The 16th Local Government Conference held on May 6, 2009 at Houghton College was very successful, with a total of 350 local officials attending. The event hosted 27 exhibitors in the campus lounge, and 39 speakers from 29 agencies (including 10 NYS departments) that presented 43 programs including sessions on Wind Energy, Crisis Prevention & the Media, Planning & Zoning Case Law, SEQR, Local Law Process, Project Funding, Water/Wastewater and Code Enforcement Updates.