

# 1969 - 2009

## STC Celebrates 40 Years

Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben Counties

New York State

February 2009

### STC Celebrates its 40th Year

Forty years ago, three counties working together created Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board.

Throughout those years, STC formulated plans and instigated and supported projects that influenced the development of the region.

From water quality to economic development, housing needs, land use, highways (including I-86 and I-99), tourism, aviation, youth bureaus, aging services, child care, Census, rail . . . STC was involved in all these areas.

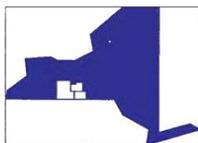
STC was in place for the 1972 flood, working on immediate needs and then coordinating the long term flood recovery program, dealing with almost \$100 million in flood recovery projects.

In cooperation with the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Economic Development Administration, STC worked (and still works) with local government, economic and community development organizations, and human services agencies to bring millions of dollars to the region.

And with updated technology and improved communication, STC continues its work, collaborating with the region's other resources, to find solutions for today's problems and needs.

The celebration for STC's 40th year will be held at the Radisson in Corning on February 26 at 6:00 pm. Details on web site.

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Regional Planning &  
Development Board**



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### Census 2010

The introduction of the American Community Survey (ACS), a project undertaken by the federal government in 2005, will substantially change the way the public views the Census. The ACS will release data more frequently than the Census Long Form; but the data products represent a rolling average and not "a snapshot in time." Due to the nature of the ACS (substantially smaller sample sizes), detailed analysis is required to make accurate comparisons. To facilitate this mathematic analysis, the Census is widely publicizing the Margin of Error with the final ACS data. With the correct use, these new ACS data will bring enhanced long-term accuracy to everyday census data users. If members of the community have questions about the Margin of Error (M.O.E.) or the Census ACS products, please contact Victoria Ehlen, STC Planner.



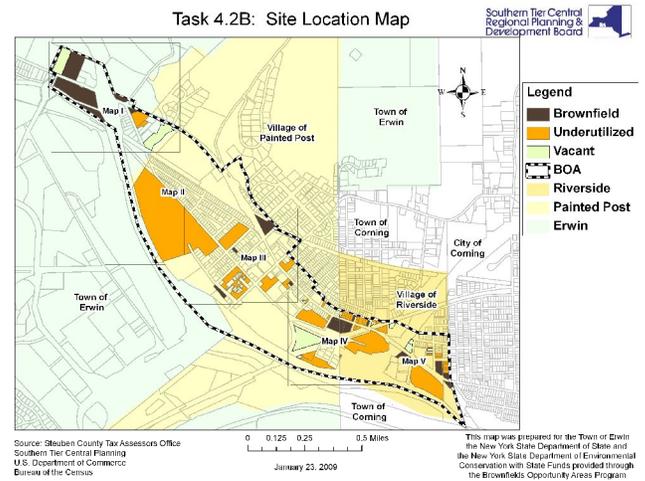
*Because Lake Salubria in Steuben County does not meet water quality standards, the US Environmental Protection Agency required development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study identifying pollution sources and recommending solutions. The draft report (prepared by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation) recommended re-consideration of a sewer line extension as the priority solution. Affordable infrastructure funding is needed to pursue this recommendation.*

## Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Achievements

The Town of Erwin, Village of Painted Post, and Village of Riverside are moving forward with the process of submitting a Nomination to the NYS Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) program. BOA is a state program that helps communities redevelop contaminated and under-utilized sites, bringing new life to dormant land and buildings. STC assisted with Step 1 of the BOA process by developing a Pre-Nomination Study that documents the issues, community vision, and opportunities for revitalization. This involved many meetings and consultation with a variety of community members, from elected officials and municipal employees to landowners. STC documented the history of the area, residents' expectations, and other information in the Pre-Nomination Study. The draft study includes the following recommendations:

1. Continue to support and strengthen relationships with existing businesses within the study area and communities to promote retention and expansion.
2. Provide incentives to the redevelopment of the 45-acre West Water Street property through Empire Zone (EZ) and Certified Shovel Ready (CSR) designation.
3. Undertake a market analysis and appraisals for strategic properties as provided for in Step 2: the Nomination Study.
4. Develop targeted marketing materials to take full advantage of the location and resources of the area as provided for in Step 3 of the Implementation Strategy.
5. Continue to improve community participation efforts including the Steering Committee, Working Group, local officials, and community presentations/workshops.
6. Strengthen working relationships and networking with area agencies including STC, Corning Area Chamber of Commerce, Painted Post Board of Trade, Steuben and Erwin IDA's and Three Rivers Development.
7. Retain and expand current businesses through a Business Retention and Expansion Study.
8. Encourage private investment through a business attraction strategy and identification of experienced developers.
9. Promote a closer relationship with the region's educational and vocational institutions to provide a trained workforce and encourage young people to stay in the area.
10. Coordinate a plan for municipal services including the potential for shared services.

Task 4.2B: Site Location Map



Map showing the parcels that were studied in the BOA Pre-Nomination Report

## Advances in GIS Technology

GIS has been utilized in the Southern Tier since the early 1990's. At that time, GIS was used as a support tool and its primary purpose was for printing maps. The software was very complex and could only be used by people with special GIS training. Today some GIS software is even more complex. It utilizes multi-user data bases stored on several servers, custom programming, specialized applications, and tools to manage and distribute information.

A major goal of the GIS community has been to make this powerful analytical tool available to a broader audience. Today people use, see, and sometimes create GIS data without realizing it is GIS. People use tools like Google or Yahoo maps to find directions for a vacation or business trip. People carry this one step further and have GPS units in their cars to find restaurants, hotels, and other services. Interactive GIS maps were used in the presidential elections, with political analysts showing state-by-state election results and if-then analyses to predict outcomes.

STC has initiated an effort to develop an internet-based system to provide central data storage for locally created and maintained data. A web-based GIS network would make the data readily accessible to many users. Because information would be stored and updated in a central location, this system could reduce data isolation and duplication. It would also create the framework for providing user-friendly applications so that users who lack specialized GIS skills will be able to utilize the technology and access local data. STC is investigating grants and other funding sources to enable completion of this project

## CEDS A Regional Strategic Plan for Economic Development

The current state of the national and local economy calls for a coordinated effort to plan and prioritize projects and actions to stimulate recovery and sustain future growth. STC was able to respond quickly to federal and state requests for infrastructure projects for the stimulus package (that will create jobs and are ready to implement) thanks to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

STC prepares an annual CEDS to coordinate economic development activities and identify regional issues, goals, priorities, and implementation strategies. CEDS qualifies the region for grants through the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), and other funding agencies.

Many projects and activities targeted through the CEDS process in earlier years were successfully implemented or initiated during 2008:

- ◇ Catherine Valley Trail – Montour Falls Main Street to Rt. 14
- ◇ Chemung County Academic and Workforce Center
- ◇ Sullivan Street Siphon for Chemung County Sewer District #2, Elmira
- ◇ Henkle Building renovation, City of Corning (Restore NY funding)
- ◇ Schuyler County Comprehensive Countywide Housing Needs Assessment
- ◇ Schuyler County Countywide Economic Development Strategy
- ◇ Utilization of Corning Inc. fiber optics building by Sitel Inc.
- ◇ Schuyler County Human Services Complex opened in former Jamesway Building, Montour Falls
- ◇ Southport sanitary sewer (ARC grant)
- ◇ Town of Erwin new well/ wastewater upgrades (EDA grant)
- ◇ Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel opened in July
- ◇ Watkins Glen First Street reconstructed (ARC grant)

The 2009 CEDS contains a wealth of information including demographic data, county and regional goals, recommended projects, and priorities for action. Copies are available in CD format and on the STC website.

\* \* \*

## Completion of the I-86 / Route 15 Interchange and Progress on the Route 15 / Future I-99



2008 saw the completion of two regionally significant highway projects that were actively promoted by STC: the I-86 / Route 15 interchange in Painted Post and Route 15 from Lindley to Tioga, PA. When the five-mile section of Route 15 north of Lindley is upgraded, it will complete the New York section of Future Interstate-99 (extending from Painted Post to Cumberland, Maryland).



*Local officials were on hand to celebrate the opening of the Route 15 / I-86 Painted Post interchange. Pictured left to right: Jim Bacalles, Member of Assembly; Peter White, NYSDOT; Randy Kuhl, Member of Congress; Stephen Gee, NYSDOT; George Winner, Senator; Thomas Santulli, Chemung County Executive; Ted Bennett, Chair, I-86 Coalition; Thomas O'Mara, NYS Member of Assembly; Philip Roche, Chair, Steuben County Legislature*

*This report has been funded in part by the following Federal agencies: Appalachian Regional Commission; U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) through Section 604 (b) of the Clean Water Act (administered by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC); NYSDOS/NYSDEC Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program; NYS Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration; NYSEDA; USEPA Chesapeake Bay Program.*

## Schuyler-Steuben Transportation Committee

The Schuyler-Steuben Transportation Committee provides coordination of transportation related activities in Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties. Examples of multi-county cooperation include:

- ◇ Integrated mapping of NYSDOT and county highway projects for the 3-county area
- ◇ Shared purchase of a paint striping truck for Schuyler, Steuben, and Yates Counties
- ◇ Joint snowplow operator training for municipal and county personnel in Steuben and Schuyler Counties
- ◇ Shared Steuben/Schuyler County bid for snow plow and construction equipment
- ◇ Coordinated design and placement of wayfaring signs in Schuyler and Steuben Counties
- ◇ Monitored implementation of Schuyler and Steuben County Transit Plans
- ◇ Shared information relating to the Schuyler-Watkins Glen Transportation Study, which was conducted in conjunction with NYSDOT

The Bicycle Advisory Committee / Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BACPAC) is a three-county subcommittee, whose accomplishments include:

- ◇ Identified locations and installed share-the-road signs in Chemung and Steuben Counties
- ◇ Established urban walking routes and created related mapping
- ◇ Preliminary work to update the Get Active in Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties Map

The Schuyler-Steuben Transportation Committee is facilitated by STC.

## Funding Approved for Seneca Lake Watershed Plan



STC helped to prepare a successful grant application to develop a five-county watershed management plan for the Seneca Lake Watershed. The goal is to pave the way for communities in the Seneca Lake watershed to establish inter-municipal agreements to implement measures that will protect lake water quality.

## Chesapeake Bay Stormwater Retreat



STC staff participated in the invitation-only Chesapeake Bay Regional Partners Stormwater Retreat with stakeholders from local to federal levels throughout the 6-state watershed. Discussions of stormwater science, monitoring, permit processes, and collaboration opportunities provided new information and fresh insights that will enable STC to help keep our region "ahead of the curve."

## 2009 STC Board of Directors (as of February 26, 2009)

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