

V. NEXT STEPS

A. Follow-Up Plans

- 1) Complete the concurrent efforts of updating the Town's Zoning Regulations and map. Out of date zoning and subdivision statutes often hinder a community from achieving its vision for the future. These statutes are the regulatory tools that put into practice the vision set forth in the comprehensive plan. Ensure that the Zoning Law is in-line with the goals set forth in this plan.
- 2) Establish a committee to develop a town wide greenway, trails, multi-modal plan, with coordinated designation and signage for points of interest. Integrate the Phoenicia River Walk plan.
- 3) Consult with the Ulster County Planning Boards – Transportation Strategies for Quality Communities Primer.
- 4) Develop an Infrastructure/Utilities Improvement Plan
- 5) Develop a Communications Infrastructure Plan.
- 6) Evaluate the need for a community facility.
- 7) Periodic updates to this Comprehensive Plan to stay current with the needs and desires of the Town of Shandaken. The point at which revisions to the Plan should be made can vary greatly with the time needed to implement recommended action plans and with the degree and speed at which changes in the Town take place. It is recommended that, at a minimum, this plan be reviewed at 5-year intervals, to determine if revisions need to be made.

B. Priorities

The following recommended actions should be given the highest priority for implementation:

- 1) Amendments/revisions to the Zoning Law, land use regulations, site and development guidelines.
- 2) Develop Hamlet boundaries.
- 3) Develop and implement a Communications Infrastructure Plan.
- 4) Work with FEMA and other agencies for flood control.
- 5) Identify and designate critical environmental areas.
- 6) Establish/work with existing Chambers of Commerce.
- 7) Map desired growth areas, identify potential development parcels and desired types of developments.
- 8) Develop incentives to attract desired development types.
- 9) Develop a professional brochure, promoting the Town.
- 10) Develop and implement a Comprehensive Utility Plan.
- 11) Organize and promote events in the Hamlets.
- 12) Develop the Catskill Interpretive Center.
- 13) Develop design standards for certain sign types to promote unity.
- 14) Identify needed road and safety improvements.
- 15) Develop a regional roundtable to work on the critical environmental vs. development issues.

C. Funding Opportunities

New York State and U.S. Departments of Transportation – Federal and State Transportation Funding Programs are available to local governments. Contact

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NYS DOT Regional Office for more information or contact Federal Department of Transportation. Programs include: Surface Transportation Program (STP); Transportation Enhancements Programs (TEP); CHIPS and Multi-Modal monies; congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ); Highway Bridge Repair and Replacement (HBRR); Railroad/Highway At-Grade Crossing Program; Recreation Trails Program (RTP); Transportation and Community System Preservation Pilot Program (TCSP); State Dedicated Fund (SDF)

Federal Surface Transportation Act (TEA-21, ISTEA) – Every five or six-years a Federal Transportation Act is enacted to allocate multi-modal transportation funds to the states for a wide variety of transportation purposes. Funds are also available for related enhancements such as scenic easements, conservation of abandoned railways to trails, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, removal of outdoor advertising, archaeological planning, scenic byways, and landscape beautification, including restoration of native species in disturbed habitats.

Federal Aid Highway Program – Bicycle and pedestrian projects are broadly eligible for funding from most of the major Federal Aid highway, transit safety and other programs. Municipal leaders and citizens should request funds and provide input during the project development process.

Stormwater and Flooding – Stormwater, wastewater and floodplain management efforts can present opportunities for trail and walkway development. US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, NYSDEC and NYCDEP are points of contact.

Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC) – Recently formed, UCTC is a Metropolitan Planning Organization that allocates federal transportation funds to projects. These funds can be used for planning, roadway and most bike and pedestrian projects.

County and Local Government Funding – County and local government budgets and their ability to access a wide range of federal and state funding programs and local tax bases can provide for funding transportation and community enhancement projects and programs.

Empire Opportunity Fund – EOF provides financial assistance to infrastructure or capital facilities related to the development of industrial facilities, business parks and incubators; the development of downtown and rural area projects that increase the availability of commercial and retail activity; the development of tourism destinations that contribute to the development of a recreational, historic, cultural or conventional facility that is likely to attract a significant number of visitors from outside the region.

Main Street New York Downtown Development Initiative Program – The fund provides for capital facility and infrastructure projects located in Central Business District or commercial area that are available to the general public, will result in a benefit to the general public and will improve the viability of downtown commercial area.

The New York State Clean Water/Clean Air Bond – Environmental Conservation Law Article 56 – Project eligibility should be evaluated under different Bond Act funds, including the Safe Drinking Water Fund (Title 2), The Clean Water Fund (Title 3), and the Municipal Environmental Restoration Project Fund (Title 5)

The New York State Environmental Protection Fund – Environmental Conservation Law Article 54, provides assistance for part, recreation and historic preservation projects. Funding for the implementation of Local Waterfront funding for the

implementation of Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs is also available through this program.

Quality Communities and Waterfront Revitalization – The New York State Department of State (NYSDOS) has a number of programs supporting quality communities that could be utilized throughout the County.

The Federal “Superfund” – Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) – This fund provides the federal government with funds to implement short-term “removal” actions, or longer term remedial investigation and remediation of hazardous waste sites listed on the National Priorities List (NPL). The NYSDEC must request that a site be listed on the NPL.

Federal Environmental Response and Spill Compensation Fund – Navigation Law Article 12 – This fund is available to states to implement investigation and clean up of petroleum discharges and removal of underground storage tanks. The fund is also available to compensate injured parties, including municipalities that have lost revenue as a result of the discharge of petroleum.

Clean Water State Revolving fund for Water Pollution Control – Financing is available to respond to non-point source pollution projects. Non-point source refers to water pollution from diffuse sources that are not directly related to a piped discharge. Examples include remediation of contamination from leaking underground storage tanks or collection and treatment of road runoff, and water body restoration such as stream bank stabilization, drainage erosion and sediment control.

Industrial Finance Program – Provides low interest loans to private businesses for environmental improvement capital projects, including Brownfields site remediation and solid waste management.

The State Revolving Fund Program – This is one of the largest environmental infrastructure financing programs in the nation. Three primary loans are available through EFD: Bond-Funded Loans, Financial Hardship Loans, (including interest-free long-term), and Interest-Free Short-Term (up to two years).

Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – This program provides funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for activities that support housing, public facilities, or economic development. CDBG funds can be used as grants, loans, loan guarantees, and technical assistance activities. The funds are managed by New York State Governor’s Office of Small Cities.

Section 108 Federal Loan Guarantees – Another HUD program that has the same objectives as the CDBG Program but funds are repayable loans rather than grants.

New York/New Jersey Trail Conference – Arranges for the maintenance, mapping and some construction and acquisition efforts attendant to trail systems in the mountains and could help with similar projects in the Catskills and Hudson Valley.

NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Watershed Program – Watershed Program funds are available for planned and approved trail projects. DEP may also participate in trails projects that include land acquisition elements.

New York State Empire State Development Corporation (EDC) – Program grants and loans are available as incentives to attract commercial development and may be applicable to Brownfields development.

U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration – Grants are available to assist economic development projects.

New York State Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants Program – The NYSDEC has a grant program under its Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants Program. The Program provides grants for up to fifty percent (50%) of the cost of eligible nonpoint source water pollution assessment, planning and abatement projects.

Utility Companies – They often allow trail uses on their rights of way, similar to the DEP approach.

Safety Education Programs: The NYS Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee and the NYS Department of Health’s Bureau of Injury Prevention both operate funding programs supporting safety education.

Private Foundation Grants – The environmental Grantmaker’s Association, 1290 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 3450 New York, New York 10104 compiles a listing of hundreds of potential foundations and trusts which may provide funding assistance to creative environmental/economic development initiatives.

Greenway Communities Grant program – Provides natural and cultural resource protection regional planning, economic development, heritage and environmentally education, promotion of access to the Hudson River.

Greenway Conservancy – Provides funding for trail related projects.

Land and Water Conservation Fund – Federal monies allocated to the States by the Department of the Interior for land acquisition and development of outdoor recreation.

State Revolving Loan Fund – Provides low-interest loans to municipalities to construct and expand sewage treatment facilities. Continuation of the state revolving loan fund depends on reauthorization of the Clean Water Act with grants to states to capitalize the loan fund.

Bikes Belong Coalition – www.bikesbelong.org

Powerbar’s Direct Impact on Rivers and Trails (DIRT) – www.powerbar.com

Gifts and Donations – A direct way for individuals and businesses to contribute directly to the conservation of open space through donations of land or easements.

Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) – Awards low-interest loans and grants to communities and businesses within the watershed in order to promote the economic vitality of the watershed region.