



Onondaga County
Planning Federation
est. 1947

29th Annual Planning Symposium

March 2, 2017

PRESENTERS

KEYNOTE PRESENTER

Edward M. Riley



Edward M. Riley has 40 years of experience in design, construction, real estate development and hotel operations. In August of 2014, Mr. Riley resigned from Pyramid Hotel Group as their Sr. Vice President for Design, Construction and Real Estate to focus on the Hotel Syracuse rehabilitation. Prior to joining Pyramid, Mr. Riley was Vice President of Resort Development at Intrawest Placemaking in Reno/Tahoe. Mr. Riley was also Director of Development for Marriott Resorts in Hawaii, involved in several properties with budgets totaling 1.1 billion dollars. As a founding partner in Waterford Development, Mr. Riley was an owner/partner in Marriott Courtyard and Springhill Suites properties in Northern New Jersey and Philadelphia areas. He also was Architect of record and co-developer of several historic restoration projects in Armory Square area of downtown Syracuse, securing the historic rehabilitation tax credits for Bentley-Settle, Piper-Phillips, the McArthur, Worth & Cooney buildings. In 2014, Mr. Riley formed Hotel Syracuse Restoration LLC. The focus was the restoration and renovation of the 92 year old Hotel Syracuse, which opened in August of 2016 as the Marriott Syracuse Downtown. Mr. Riley attended architectural school at Onondaga Community College and Syracuse University, is a licensed Architect in New York State, and actively maintains his registration.

BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTERS

Nadine C. Bell

Session: *Sign Regulation*

Ms. Bell graduated early from the State University of New York at Geneseo College with a B.A. in Sociology and a minor in Environmental Studies in 1998. At SUNY Geneseo, she was a member of Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honor Society. Ms. Bell received her Juris Doctor from the University at Buffalo Law School in 2002. While in Law School, Ms. Bell won first place in the Intramural ABA Mediation Advocacy Competition, allowing her to participate in the program's Regional Competition. Ms. Bell also served as Publications Editor and Book Review Editor for the Buffalo Environmental Law Journal. In addition to New York State, she is admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the U.S. District Court for the Middle and Eastern Districts in Pennsylvania and the Northern District of New York.

After practicing law for a private firm in Pennsylvania, Ms. Bell joined Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC in 2007 and is a partner in the firm. A member of the municipal law practice group at the firm, her practice focuses on the areas of municipal law, land use and zoning, with emphasis in regulatory interpretation and compliance, legislation, code litigation and environmental law. Ms. Bell also has experience representing municipal and private clients in a variety of commercial and residential zoning and land development issues. In this capacity, Ms. Bell has had the privilege and opportunity to represent such entities as wireless communication companies, nonprofit organizations, school districts, and municipal town, village and city zoning and planning boards; as well as serving as special counsel for a governing county body.

Ms. Bell is a member of the New York State Bar Association, Onondaga County Bar Association, Madison County Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Ms. Bell also held the office of Secretary of the Lancaster Bar Association. In addition to her professional interests, Ms. Bell is active in many community organizations. She has participated as a Junior Achievement volunteer and served as a Board of Director for the American Red Cross of the Susquehanna Valley and as Chairwoman of the organization's Public Support Committee. In her capacity as Chairwoman of the Public Support Committee, she was also on the Executive Committee for the Red Cross. Currently, Ms. Bell is on the Board of Directors for BRIDGES, Madison County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc.; the Board of Trustees for Oneida Healthcare; and the Board of Directors for the Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society.

David Bimber

Session: *Overview of the SEQR Process*

Dave Bimber is the Regional Permit Administrator for Region 7 of the NYS DEC. Dave has worked in the Division of Environmental Permits since 1988. He manages the Syracuse and Cortland offices of the Region 7 Division of Environmental Permits and provides guidance to Division of Environmental Permits staff in the review of applications and determinations relating to permit application review, permit issuance and denial. He also manages environmental reviews of major projects within Region 7.

Patricia Burke

Sessions: *Site Plan Review, Planning and Zoning: An Introduction, and Hot Button Land Uses*

Patricia Burke is a local government specialist with the New York State Department of State. Prior to her service at the Department of State, she worked at the New York State Office of Real Property Services. Ms. Burke holds a master's degree in Regional Planning from the State University of New York at Albany, with an environmental concentration that studied wind turbine planning considerations, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from St. John Fisher College in Rochester. Prior to her public service, she was an editor for a national legal publishing firm.

Chris Carrick

Session: *Save Money and Improve the Environment with the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program*

Chris Carrick directs the Energy Management Program for the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, a public agency that serves Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego counties. Chris helps communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the preparation of energy and climate protection plans and the implementation of clean energy projects and public engagement programs like Solarize CNY. Chris received his Master's degree in Community Development from the University of California-Davis and was a Fulbright scholar as a doctoral student in City and Regional Planning at Cornell University. He has over twenty years of planning experience and has worked in British Columbia, California, Maine and New York.

Mario Colone

Session: Municipal Transportation Planning: Projects, Tools, and Opportunities

Transportation Council (SMTC) and has been with the agency since 2001. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Mr. Colone manages the area's federal transportation capital program, develops/manages multimodal projects and oversees various aspects of the metropolitan transportation planning process. Mario is also a member of the Accessible Transportation Advisory Council formed by, and housed under the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority to discuss and identify potential recommended actions for the public transit system's paratransit service.

James D'Agostino

Session: Municipal Transportation Planning: Projects, Tools, and Opportunities

James D'Agostino has been a staff member at the SMTC since 2000 and became its director in March of 2007. As director, Mr. D'Agostino is responsible for administering the agency's annual planning program, ensuring adherence to federal and state requirements, and managing the agency's central staff. He has extensive experience in land use planning, transportation planning, computer modeling, and GIS. He has worked with city, county, and regional governments in New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania, from both the public and private sector perspectives.

Christopher Eastman

Sessions: Site Plan Review, Planning and Zoning: An Introduction, and Sign Regulation

Christopher Eastman is manager of the Local Government Training program at the New York Department of State. He received a master's degree in regional planning from the State University of New York at Albany in 2002. The focus of his study included site-value taxation, an alternative approach to property taxation in which land is taxed at a rate greater than the buildings on it in infill areas to provide incentive for development. In addition to having been both a city planner and a county planner, Mr. Eastman has worked for the Preservation League of New York State and, on his own, restoring old windows.

Timothy A. Frateschi

Session: Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning

Mr. Frateschi is a member of the Frateschi, Schiano & Germano, PLLC law firm.

Mr. Frateschi was trained as a corporate attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC. He was a long-time Member in the Law Firm of Harris Beach PLLC where he practiced in the Public Finance & Economic Development Practice Group. He represents governmental, quasi-governmental agencies and Industrial Development Agencies in all aspects of municipal and economic development law.

Mr. Frateschi is also the Attorney for the Town of Manlius where he represents the Town in all areas of general municipal law, which has included State Environmental Quality Review Act review, municipal bonding, labor and employment, collective bargaining agreements, creating special districts, and negotiating tax certiorari cases. Mr. Frateschi knows all sides of the municipal table, being the Chairman of the Planning Board in the Town of Salina for nearly a decade and representing developers in front of Boards. Other municipal clients include the Town of Lysander, Town of Salina, Town of Elbridge, Town of Fabius, City of Rome and the Village of Fabius.

Before resuming his private practice in 2015, Mr. Frateschi served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office. This experience has provided significant and effective trial experience that he can use in all areas of his legal practice.

From 1997-1999, Mr. Frateschi served Governor George E. Pataki as the Regional Director for the Empire State Development Corporation, where he oversaw all state related economic development activities within Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego Counties. From 1992-1997, Mr. Frateschi was chief of staff for State Senator John A. DeFrancisco.

Mark E. Frechette

Session: The I-81 Viaduct Project

Mark began working with the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) in 1985 as a Construction Inspector in the North Country. He steadily moved up the ranks in the organization, becoming a Highway Designer and then a Bridge Designer responsible for multiple highway and bridge designs. When he became a licensed engineer he was promoted to Project Management Supervisor where he supervised 100's of projects and 40 project managers in a program in excess of \$500 million. Mark has held the Director of Planning positions for both the North Country and Central New York. He manages the day to day operations of Planning, Program Management, Project Development and Project Management. He is responsible for the development and execution of the Regions Capital Program to improve pavements, bridges, culverts, safety and other multimodal transportation activities.

Mark became the Acting Regional Director in the North Country in July 2009. He was responsible for leading the successful delivery of the Interstate 781 (Fort Drum Connector) which was the largest transportation project ever built in the Region since the early 1960s when the Interstate was built. The new Interstate was open to traffic in late 2013. He managed multiple extreme weather events like Hurricane Irene and Sandy, major bridge hit emergencies and serious motor vehicle accidents. Mark returned to Central New York in March of 2014 to become the Project Director for the I-81/I-690 Interchange Project and resume his role as the Director of Planning and Program Management in Central New York.

Jean Gleisner

Session: Land and Water Resource Conservation - Issues and Strategies

Ms. Gleisner, MSLA, works with communities across Central New York through consultation, public outreach and visioning in the development of written and illustrative urban and rural comprehensive plans, community development and master planning; and implementation of local sustainable land use regulatory tools. In addition to developing community planning and conceptual design work, she has been responsible for conceiving, multiple-source funding, and managing \$1.2 million in CNY planning and re-development projects since 2009, including multiple building rehabilitation projects, and the Pulaski Performing Arts Center Rehabilitation in Pulaski Village Historic District. Her recent planning work has included development of the North Syracuse Complete Streets and Re-Greening Plan, Town of Skaneateles Open Space Plan, and the 2016 CNY Regional Recreation & Heritage Plan.

Samuel Gordon

Session: Case Study: Elevating Erie

Samuel Gordon is the Director of Planning and Zoning for the Town of DeWitt (pop. approx. 25,000). Sam is responsible for the management of the development process within the Town, implementation of the Town's Comprehensive Plan, and coordination of Town Sustainability initiatives. Sam has over 15 years of experience in the Planning and Sustainability fields and has managed and/or provided consulting expertise on a variety of projects from greenway planning, energy conservation and renewable energy deployment, to neighborhood revitalization and alternative mobility projects. Sam developed and oversees Moving DeWitt, to improve the bicycle and pedestrian environment within the Town; and in 2015 launched Elevating Erie, an initiative to close the gap in the Erie Canalway Trail system within Central New York. Sam received a Fellowship in 2005 to work with the Center for Environmental Studies in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, which was selected as the European Green Capital for 2012.

Owen Kerney

Sessions: ReZone Syracuse and Case Study: Elevating Erie

Owen Kerney currently serves as an Assistant Director in the Syracuse – Onondaga County Planning Agency. He leads the City's Planning Division, which focuses on urban planning and design, historic preservation, public art, and sustainability initiatives to promote and enhance the livability and prosperity of the City of Syracuse. Owen develops and manages planning and capital projects for the City including the City's Comprehensive Plan 2040, the ReZone Syracuse project, the Elevating Erie initiative, brownfield programs, and multiple State and Federal grant projects. He lives in Syracuse with his wife Melanie and their three children.

Heather A. Lamendola

Session: ReZone Syracuse

Ms. Lamendola holds a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from the University of Buffalo, and currently serves as Assistant Director of the Onondaga-County Planning Agency, where she has served as the City of Syracuse Zoning Administrator since 2008. Prior to that Heather worked as a Senior Urban Planner in the City's Department of Community Development, where she managed several planning projects, was involved with the drafting of the City's Consolidated Plan and the administration of the Federal funds to implement the goals of the Community Development Block Grant and other grants, and was staff to both the Syracuse Landmark Preservation Board and the City's Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today planning effort. Heather has also previously worked at Stantec (formerly the Sear Brown Group) in Rochester, NY as a Transportation Planner, and at the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council in Buffalo supporting a range of transportation projects.

John R. Langey

Session: Hot Button Land Uses

Mr. Langey joined Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC in 1990 and is a partner in the firm. He graduated cum laude from SUNY Potsdam (1987) and is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Buffalo School of Law (1990). Mr. Langey was admitted to the New York State and Federal District Court Bars in 1990. He is a multiyear member of the Publication Best Lawyers in America and has been voted an "AV" lawyer on Martindale-Hubbell's Attorney Rating System.

Mr. Langey has extensive experience in municipal, environmental and labor and employment law. As a partner and co-chair of the firm's Municipal and Land Use Law Practice Groups, he works with towns, villages, cities and counties on a wide variety of legal issues, including zoning, agreements, finance and subdivision review. He has formed and provides legal advice on over one-hundred special districts, including water, sewer, lighting and drainage districts. Mr. Langey has represented both municipalities and private individuals in Article 78 litigation as well. His experience includes the defense and prosecution of tax certiorari proceedings in State Supreme Court. He holds a certificate in State and Local Government Law from the University of Buffalo School of Law. Mr. Langey is a co-author of Major Land Use Laws in New York (NBI) and has lectured to numerous municipal boards and college students on the issues of SEQR, Land Use and Municipal Law. He is a frequent lecturer for the Onondaga County Planning Federation.

Mr. Langey's environmental practice ranges from the representation of local business interests to large corporate clients on a litany of areas including Superfund, hazardous waste litigation, above and underground storage tanks, SEQR and permitting. He is a co-author of a number of environmental seminars and provides in-house training and seminars to local boards and businesses on issues and procedures of the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

Mr. Langey represents the firm's private and public employment clients on a number of labor related matters. He serves as labor and employment counsel for a number of public and private entities and offers advice on all employment law issues including discipline, wage and hours, employment and other matters routinely faced by employers. Mr. Langey has practiced before the PERB and the NLRB on issues of union organization, grievances and arbitration. Much of his practice is advisory in nature, guiding clients through the maze of federal and state statute regulations in the field of Labor Law, as well as advice and litigation in the area of collective bargaining. Mr. Langey is also active in the firm's employment litigation practice, and has extensive experience in employment termination and discrimination claims.

Victoria McGarril

Session: Municipal Transportation Planning: Projects, Tools, and Opportunities

Victoria McGarril, Energetics Sustainable Transportation Solutions Assistant Project Coordinator, joined Energetics July 2016. Ms. McGarril assists in research and coordination for a variety of transportation projects, including support on the development of educational resources, outreach efforts, and research of existing best practices in the transportation sector. She has experience in the non-profit sector working alongside planners and architects at a community design center as an Office and Events coordinator. Her education in Sustainable Energy Management provides a strong knowledge in a broad range of energy systems.

William Nechamen

Session: Floodplain Basics: Development Requirements, Maps and Insurance

Bill Nechamen is the State Floodplain Management Coordinator for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), a position he has held since 1996. He is also the past chair of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), a professional association representing 15,000 members dedicated to reducing the current and future losses, costs and human suffering caused by floods while protecting the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains. He was a founding member and the first Chair of the New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (NYSFSMA) and currently serves that organization as a volunteer Executive Director. Prior to 1996, Bill spent ten years as New York State's water conservation and water demand management coordinator for the NYSDEC. Prior to his time at NYSDEC, he was water policy analyst for the New York State Senate Research Service. Bill has an MS in geography from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, and lives in Schenectady, New York well outside of the special flood hazard area.

Zachary Odell

Session: Land and Water Resource Conservation - Issues and Strategies

Zachary Odell has worked in the field of conservation over the past 15 years; currently employed by the Finger Lakes Land Trust since 2013 as the Director of Land Protection. This position focuses on working with private individuals, municipalities, state and federal partners, and other conservation groups on protecting natural resources through land acquisition and conservation easements. Additionally, Zack is involved in conservation planning, strengthening partnerships, and educational community outreach. Zack holds a Bachelor's in Science, a Master's in Science, and is a certified biology and earth science teacher.

Bryan Roy

Session: Municipal Transportation Planning: Projects, Tools, and Opportunities

Bryan Roy, PMP, Energetics Sustainable Transportation Solutions Commercial Sector Team Lead and Principal Engineer, is an engineer (BSME/MSME) and certified Project Management Professional with 10 years of research and engineering experience in the renewable energy field with a focus on advanced transportation technologies. He currently manages several projects throughout New York State to demonstrate and quantify the benefits of advanced transportation technologies and is experienced in carrying out fleet assessments for municipalities across the U.S. to quantify the expected benefits of implementing alternative fuels or advanced transportation technologies. He has led and contributed to several technical and feasibility assessments, technology demonstrations, and outreach projects encompassing advanced propulsion solutions such as electrification, hybrids, energy efficiency, and compressed natural gas.

Joe Sisko

Session: Case Study: Elevating Erie

Joe Sisko is the founding partner of LOCUS, a hybrid consultancy that uses design and storytelling to build support for ideas that have a positive social, cultural or ecological impact. LOCUS helps cities and organizations stand out and facilitate change by visually explaining their ideas with clarity and style. Previously, he was the Assistant Director of UPSTATE: at the Syracuse University School of Architecture where he initiated and managed public space, master planning and research projects from concept through public engagement and into implementation.

Elizabeth Tracy

Session: Overview of the SEQR Process

Elizabeth Tracy has worked at the NYS DEC in the Division of Environmental Permits since 1998. She is currently a Deputy Regional Permit Administrator supervising Environmental Analysts covering projects in Oswego, Cayuga, Madison and Onondaga Counties.

Meghan Vitale

Session: Municipal Transportation Planning: Projects, Tools, and Opportunities

Meghan Vitale joined the SMTTC in 2007 and is currently the agency's principal transportation planner. Meghan earned her undergraduate degree in civil engineering and also holds a Master's degree in urban planning and policy. Her work at SMTTC has included land use-transportation studies, corridor studies, the Long Range Transportation Plan, and numerous public involvement and outreach activities. Prior to joining the SMTTC, Meghan worked in the private sector as a transportation planner and traffic engineer.