



Onondaga County
Planning Federation
est. 1947

33rd Annual Planning Symposium

March 10, 2022 • Marriott Syracuse Downtown
SESSIONS

- A. Planning and Zoning: An Introduction (Please note this session will run through the 9:25-10:40 & 11:00-12:15 session periods.)**
Patricia Burke, Land Use Training Specialist, New York State Department of State
Paula Gilbert, Local Government Specialist, New York State Department of State
The most elementary of the Training Unit's course offerings, Planning and Zoning: An Introduction is designed for new members of both planning boards and zoning boards of appeals. The course provides a basic overview of the functions of planning boards and zoning boards of appeals and the land use tools they work with, the role of the comprehensive plan, procedures for holding meetings and hearings, and the enforcement of the boards' decisions.
- B. Plan On: Strong Centers**
Sam Gordon, AICP, Senior Project Manager, EDR
Peter Fairweather, Principal, Fairweather Consulting
Amenity-rich, vibrant, and walkable centers can strengthen the quality of life and improve the economic stability of local communities.
This session will focus on the Strong Centers theme for **Plan Onondaga**. Onondaga County's economic health is dependent on the strength of its employment and cultural centers. In today's global economy, where skilled workers are essential for success, having strong centers is critical to competitiveness. Strong centers are vibrant places that draw people in because they contain a diverse mix of lifestyle options, employment opportunities, and cultural amenities. This session will provide information on the locations of strong centers within the County as well as strategies and approaches for strengthening those centers through program resources, land use regulation, and infrastructure investments.
- C. Plan On: Greenways + Blueways**
Dan Kwasnowski, AICP, Director, Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency
Jane Rice, JD, AICP, Principal of the Planning Division, EDR
Sarah Krisch, AICP, Senior Planner, EDR
Providing unique opportunities for recreation, wildlife habitats, and economic activity, the natural resources within Onondaga County must be protected, conserved, and restored.
This session will focus on the Greenways and Blueways theme for **Plan Onondaga**. Greenways and blueways are corridors of open space that incorporate diverse natural, cultural, and scenic features. They can provide opportunities for recreation and enjoyment, for environmental protection and ecological diversity, or both. This session will identify where there is potential for the establishment of greenway and blueway systems within the County, examples of ongoing partnerships and programs that have established protections for the County's open space networks, and strategies for continuing to grow and strengthen the County's open space network.
- D. Plan On: Housing + Neighborhoods**
Sam Gordon, AICP, Senior Project Manager, EDR
Alys Mann, Principal, Alys Mann Consulting
To retain as well as attract future residents, housing within the county needs to be affordable, efficient, diverse, and attractive.
This session will focus on the Housing and Neighborhoods theme for **Plan Onondaga**. Understanding current neighborhood conditions and housing market trends, in addition to hearing from people who live in the County, can create an understanding of what is working well and what is not working in the community. This can inform policymakers about the best ways to move forward to maintain, create, and support safe and healthy housing and neighborhoods of all types. Healthy neighborhoods contribute to the overall well-being of county residents and make the county a desirable place to live. This session will provide an overview of specific housing market segments across the county and provide recommended programs and strategies for maintaining and improving the overall strength of the County's housing stock and neighborhoods.

E. Plan On: Agriculture

Megan Costa, Assistant Director for County Planning Services, Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency

Erica Tauzer, Project Manager, EDR

Supporting and protecting local agriculture is vital to the future success of Onondaga County's economy, landscape, and food system.

This session will focus on the agriculture theme for **Plan Onondaga**, as well as the *Onondaga County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan*, now in development. The session will provide a snapshot of our local agricultural landscape and economy, priority agricultural lands and emerging demographic and market trends affecting the next generation of agriculture on Onondaga County. The new municipal "Farm-Friendly Toolbox" will also be introduced, along with more opportunities to support and enhance the important agricultural offerings from our Onondaga County farmers and farm-based businesses.

F. Comprehensive Planning

Patricia Burke, Land Use Training Specialist, New York State Department of State

Paula Gilbert, Local Government Specialist, New York State Department of State

This session will include a discussion of the practical and legal benefits of adopting a comprehensive plan. Included are the importance of involving the public in the development of the plan—early on; strategies for compiling essential data to set the direction of the plan; plan contents; and steps leading to the adoption of a comprehensive plan. There will be a review of the comprehensive plan statutes as well.

G. Plan On: Community Mobility

Sam Gordon, AICP, Senior Project Manager, EDR

Andrew M. Maxwell, MPA, Senior Program Manager & Innovation Strategist, C&S Companies

Enhancing mobility means better access and better options to move people throughout the County.

This session will focus on the Community Mobility theme for **Plan Onondaga**. Although cars are the most common way that people travel from place to place in the County, our mobility landscape includes public transportation, walking, bicycling, car and van sharing, micro-mobility, electric vehicles, and infrastructure, as well as planning for a future with autonomous vehicles. Participants will develop an understanding of what the challenges and opportunities are for the County to continue to improve mobility options. The session will provide some recommendations and strategies for improving mobility across the County.

H. SEQRA Topics: Using the SEQRA Short Form and Segmentation

Diane Carlton, AICP, Emeritus, Regional Director for Public Affairs and Education, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and Adjunct Professor in Environmental Sustainability, SUNY Oneonta

Segmentation, the failure to review a project in its entirety under SEQRA, is sometimes attempted by developers. Segmentation is not legal; thus, boards need to be aware of how to prevent segmentation of a project. With the recent changes to SEQRA, many projects can now be reviewed using the SEQRA short form. We'll learn how to recognize whether a project is a Type II or Unlisted Action and then use the short form to review those Unlisted actions that are subject to SEQRA. We'll talk about Segmentation, and review a hypothetical project in the Onondaga County area where segmentation was proposed.

Closing Plenary Session: Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning

Timothy A. Frateschi, Esq., Member, Baldwin, Sutphen & Frateschi, PLLC

This session will summarize recent cases pertaining to land use and explore the implications of these cases on land use regulation at the local level.