

Moving Forward in New York State: Selected Strategies

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- Findings from 2001 Great Lakes Commission Report: *Linking Brownfields Redevelopment and Greenfields Protection for Sustainable Development*
- Recommendations from Multiple Reports by New York Agencies and Organizations
- ■ **Build on Progress to Date in Upstate New York**

Moving Forward in New York State: Selected Strategies

Are NOT:

- Silver bullet: complete list of everything to address all upstate issues
- Defined in high level of detail
- Endorsed by the Roundtable Steering Committee

Are:

- Starting point for regional update dialogue
- Framework for today's discussion
- Helpful format to get YOUR feedback

1. Enhance state agency coordination for state-funded projects

- Ensure more efficient expenditure of state funds.
- Ensure consideration of alternatives where mandated activities are in conflict with state goals or with local land-use plans.
- Promote and ensure state consistency with comprehensive plans.

2. Encourage and fund the development of local comprehensive plans

- States can provide a strong incentive for comprehensive plan development by offering planning grants to local governments that develop plans that reflect state planning goals.
- State incentives for comprehensive plan development should allow for flexibility based on the community's assessments of its own needs.

3. Integrate green and blueways in community planning and growth strategies

- Trails, greenways, and blueways have ecological and social benefits.
 - Physical activity
 - Ecological corridors
- Integration leverages individual benefits

4. Investigate the expansion of user and impact fees

- Impact fees are designed to offset a portion of infrastructure and public service costs.
- A percentage of impact fees could go to fund greenfields protection and/or urban revitalization projects.

5. Increase local capacity to inventory wildlife habitat, cultural and historic resources

- Inventory and characterize wildlife habitat acreage
- Inventory cultural and historic resources for undeveloped lands
- Develop mitigation/protection measures.

6. Improve accessibility to state information for business location decisions

- State incentives for business location/retention important for jobs/economy
- Business decisions based on multiple factors, including location, labor availability and local environment.
- Improved access to information will empower decisions that build on upstate NY assets

7. Increase local funding for farmland protection

- Comprehensive programs include tax relief; agricultural conservation easements (e.g., purchase of development rights) and marketing strategies.
- Increased funding to local governments can enhance New York's program, and facilitate improved coordination with state and federal programs

8. Make risk of development a priority eligibility criteria for acquisition programs

- Many acquisition programs focus on ecological value, recreational value or agricultural productivity
- Including lands at high risk for development cuts across all programs
- Broadens benefits of acquisition efforts

9. Enable local authority to use real estate transfer fees to fund conservation

- Real estate transfer fees discourage land speculation
- Fees (or portion thereof) can be targeted for specific purposes
- Fees would provide needed local funding source for conservation

10. Fund linkages between farms, farmers' markets and restaurants

- Shifting development and consumer patterns
- Economic chasm between local producers and consumers
- Large market segment willing to pay for local/quality products
- Need to reconnect farmers with local markets

11. Designate historic districts and expand historic tax credit

- Many older buildings and neighborhoods are historic, but don't meet stringent criteria
- Inherent historic value can be catalyst for revitalization
- Relaxing criteria is important first step

12. Provide tax incentives for brownfields that are local redevelopment priority

- Great Lakes States brownfields programs:
 - Liability protection for non responsible parties
 - Financial assistance
 - Risk-based cleanup standards
- Build on Progress in New York: extend incentives for sites that are part of local redevelopment plan

13. Capacity-building workshops for economically challenged neighborhoods

- Residents are a local resource
- Impoverished neighborhoods don't know how to get involved
- Workshops can inform residents about opportunities and empower productive engagement in revitalization

14. Develop/disseminate community development guidebooks

- Complements community workshops
- Help residents understand process and how to get involved *productively*.
- Can be distributed at other local events, such as planning meetings.

15. Promote small-scale infill development

- Infill is getting more popular, but small scale can be costlier or more cumbersome
- Expedited permits and fee incentives can help
- Other incentives should be considered

16. Adopt flexible, local zoning regulations and design guidelines

- Post-war zoning and building codes separate uses
- They also separate people, leading to a host of problems associated with sprawl
- Flexible zoning, building and design ordinances can promote smart growth
- Example: performance-based zoning

17. Sponsor design competitions for redevelopment/smart growth

- Design competitions and charrettes engage community members as part of design team
- Community support is built into the process, rather than afterthought
- More choices for redevelopment designs that support smart growth objectives

18. Encourage green technology to reduce fossil fuel use

- IPCC is more than 90% certain that human activities are causing climate change
- Fossil fuel combustion is the #1 driver
- “Green” or “clean” technology offers promise
- Programs and incentives need to keep pace with change

Moving Forward in New York State: Selected Strategies: Feedback time!

- Does this strategy link conservation, development and redevelopment issues in upstate New York?
- If implemented, will this strategy enhance collaboration between state agencies and municipalities?