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- Today's session is being recorded

Webinar Guidelines

- Please designate one person at the computer
- Adobe Features you will use today:
  - Chat Box
  - Polls
Evaluations

Nursing Contact Hours, CME and CHES credits are available

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- New York State Department of Health
- University at Albany, School of Public Health, Center for Public Health Continuing Education

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Objectives

- Describe different federal, state, and local new and existing funding sources.
- Describe how to identify low-cost solutions to advance complete streets policies and projects.
- Explain the costs and benefits of funding larger infrastructure projects.
Today's Speakers

Nadine Lemmon, Ph.D, NY & Federal Policy Coordinator, Tri-State Transportation Campaign

Kristin Bennett, AICP, Consultant, Milwaukee Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator

TAKING THE NEXT STEP:
COMPLETE STREETS IN AN ERA OF LIMITED FUNDING

Tri-State Transportation Campaign
November 6, 2014

2011 NYS Complete Streets Law

It's a simple law. Basically, it says:

“We want you to think (differently).”

- Projects that receive state and federal $ “must consider” complete streets.
- If it busts your budget, don’t have to build it.
Unfortunately…

Albany and Washington are not holding up their end of the bargain

Dedicated Funds from Feds: Down

The Federal Transportation Law (MAP-21) slashed dedicated funds for pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure: 30%

Sidewalks and bike lanes now compete with local roads and bridges, both scrambling after a smaller pot of funding

While…

NYS has the worst record in the nation for pedestrians and bicyclists: 27% road fatalities

YET

NYS only spends a couple pennies on the dollar to protect these vulnerable users

Source: Alliance for Walking and Biking 2012 Benchmarking Report
Tip #1: Be aware of the STIP
(Statewide Transportation Improvement Program)

NYSDOT or your County may be planning to fix a road in your community soon.

Example:
Route 86 in the Adirondacks

Tip #2: Big (Perceived) Hurdle:

“The state road is the most important road in our community, but we don’t own it or control it.”

If there is a clear and specific illustrated plan diagram incorporated into the comprehensive plan, it does not bind the state to rebuild in a certain way, but it does make NYS DOT consider the community’s vision.

Complete Streets can be Cheap

- Paint, paint, paint:
  - Narrow lanes
  - Brighter crosswalks
- Better Shoulders
- Timing on Countdown Clocks
- Planters/Landscaping
- Better Signs
- Lower Speed Limits
Getting Prepared for Grants

1) Identify Your Community’s Priority Projects
   --what’s the most fundable project?

2) Get a Plan on Paper & Determine Costs

3) Make the Case

4) Don’t give up—keep trying!!!!

Tip #3

Grant deadlines come up quickly.

The more you can do to prepare your community and your potential grant application, the better your chances.

Elements of a Fundable Project

Does the project:

1. Make key connections
   1. In the community?
   2. In the transport system?

2. Correct social inequities?

3. Address environmental issues?

4. Reduce vehicle trips taken?

5. Spur economic development?

6. Have widespread support?
Importance of those Plans (that sit on a shelf)

Show how your project fits into local, county, state and federal plans.

Make sure the project is part of a system, not just sidewalks to nowhere

Importance of those Plans (part II)

If plans are being developed, get your project in there:

- Comprehensive Plan
- Bike/Ped Plan
- Regional Plan
- Cleaner Greener
- Regional Economic Development Councils

Tip #4

Writing a grant application is not rocket science.

You don’t have to hire a professional grant writer.
Get Good Visuals

1. Maps
2. Photos
3. Artist's sketches

Get the Facts

- Crash stats
- Ped/bike generators
- Access for:
  - For seniors or youth
  - Low-income
  - Non-drivers

Source: TSTC, 2013

Spend a Little $, to get Big $

- Get a professional estimate of costs
- Get a professional drawing
- Identify Right-of-Way needs
Warning:

If you underestimate those costs, your community may have to pay for the overruns.

Check out NYSDOT’s Quick Estimator at: www.dot.ny.gov/programs/completestreets

Line up Your Support

- Resolution of Governing Board
- Letters of Support from local non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Letters of commitment
  - Donation of Property for Right-of-Way Needs
  - Matching funds
  - Donations—of trees, landscaping, benches,
- Community survey to show need & support

Tip #5

KEY: show that your community is

1. Motivated
2. Able to follow-through
3. Successful at getting things done
4. Can sustain effort, despite changing leadership
Start with a Small Win

Example: Town of Gardiner

- Free  Hamlet Study, Conway School of Landscape Design
- $5K  Hudson Valley Greenway Grant
- $10K  NYS Council Arts Planning Grant
- $257K  Fed Transportation Enhancement Program
- $1.06M  ARRA Funds (stimulus)

Costs/Benefits of Larger Projects

Securing federal transportation dollars is quite an accomplishment.

Building a federal-aid project is an enormous challenge.
Now the Good News

There is money out there...

Local Funding Options

- Consolidated Local Streets and Highway Program (CHIPS)
- Routine Budgets, Capital Reserve Funds
- Special Improvement Districts
- Discretionary Funds/Bonding
- Impact fees on Developers
- In-Kinds Services

**Advantage:**
Avoids Federal-Aid Process

Where’s the State Money?

At the moment, there are no state transpo $ dedicated to bike/ped

- **New York Main Street**
  Funding for building renovation and streetscapes (but not complete streets)

- **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation**
  (Urban Forestry grants, Hudson River Estuary, environmental justice, etc.)

- **Local Waterfront Revitalization Program**
  NYS Department of State, EPA Funds

- **NYSERDA Cleaner Greener Communities Program**
  Proposals must be tied to greenhouse gas reduction

- **Regional Economic Development Councils**
  Proposals must be tied to economic development
Recent REDC Recipients

**Albany County Rail Trail** – $1 million NYSERDA Funds will construct 5.5 miles of a proposed 9.3 mile shared-use path along a former rail bed in Albany County.

**Town of Prattsville Main St.** – $807,000 Local Waterfront Revitalization funds for the Town’s community reconstruction plan to restore and revitalize Route 23 (Main Street).

**Nassau County** – $200,000 Parks Rail-to-Trial Program grant for pathways for walking and cycling between the Long Island Sound to the Great South Bay and Jones Beach.

**Glen Cove Waterfront Connector** – $2.5 million Empire State Development (ESD) grant to reconstruct the Waterfront Connector, which incorporates Complete Streets designs for biking and walking and will link to numerous transit modes.

**City of Kingston** – $2.273 million to help support a variety of projects that implement Kingston’s Complete Streets resolution.

**Yonkers Trail** – $160,244 Department of Parks, Planning and Acquisition grant to undertake a feasibility study for the design and construction of a rail-to-trail project.

Where’s the Other State Money?

**Non-Infrastructure Dollars**

- **ESD Urban and Community Development Program**
  Monies available for planning and feasibility studies tied to economic development

- **Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play**
  NYS Department of Health

- **Governor’s Traffic Safety Program**
  Funds police and other organizations on safety-related programs

Where’s the Other Money?

**Remember:** Starting with a small grant can help build a track record

**Non-Profit Funding**

- Advocacy Advance
- Parks & Trails New York
- Bikes Belong Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

**Examples of Regional Funding**

- Hudson River Valley Greenway
- Adirondack Rural Health Network
More Info Available Here:

The Foundation Center
An important resource that provides a national database on funding sources, including private foundations.
http://foundationcenter.org

www.grants.gov
For additional information on federal programs

Importance of Education & Advocacy

Educate
Tell elected officials:
1. What you are doing
2. Why you are doing it
3. What are the roadblocks

For those who can…

Advocate
We need more funding!
Source: Postcard Campaign, www.ptny.org

New York State – Web Links

- NYS DOT: Complete Streets Webpage
  https://www.dot.ny.gov/programs/completestreets
- NYS Department of State
  http://www.dos.ny.gov
- NYS DOT Regional Bike/Ped Coordinators
  https://www.dot.ny.gov/display/programs/bicycle/contact
- NYS Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
  http://nysmpos.org/wordpress/
Other – Web Links

- Saratoga Springs CS Checklist

- Site Plan Review Checklist for Planning Boards

- Webinar: When Main St. is a State Highway
  - [http://communitybuilders.net/webinars/when-main-street-is-a-state-highway/](http://communitybuilders.net/webinars/when-main-street-is-a-state-highway/)

For more information:

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FUNDING COMPLETE STREETS

Kristin Bennett, AICP
**Federal Funding – Other Options**

- Surface Transportation Program (STP) umbrella
  - Urban, Small Urban, and Rural categories
  - TAP - Transportation Alternatives Program
  - CMAQ - Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality

- National Highway System (NHS)
- Bridge Replacement and Rehab (HBRR)
- Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
  - Data driven
  - State Strategic Highway Safety Plans

**“Transportation Alternatives” Program**

Consolidation of several fed funding programs:
- Transportation Enhancements (TE)
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
- Recreation Trails Program (RTP)

- Must have a public agency sponsor

- Eligible types of projects
  - Bicycle and pedestrian improvements
  - Safe routes for non-drivers

  [Link to definitions](http://trade.railstotrails.org/10_defintions)

**Federal Funding – Other Options**

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – HUD $
  - Support lower income, senior citizen populations per Census
  - Can be used as local match for fed transportation $

- 402 Highway Safety funds (not for construction)

- TIGER – Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery
  - Discretionary / competitive
  - Capital $ - shovel ready
  - Planning $ - partnerships
**Federal Funding – Other Options**

- **Rivers, Trails and Conservation Program (NPS)**
  - Technical assistance
  - Rail to trail / river corridor master planning

- **Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (EPA)**
  - Tech assistance for large, small and rural communities
  - Available tools – Complete Streets, Econ Development, Bike Share Planning, etc.

- **Transit Enhancements (via FTA Formula Funds)**
  - 1% of "formula funds" to transit systems
  - Variety of improvements – ADA accessibility, ped and bike access

- **Jobs Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) / New Freedoms (FTA)**
  - Access to jobs for low income, welfare recipients, disabled persons

**Projects and Possible Funding Sources**

- **Sidewalk, crossing improvements construction for school and transit routes – SRTS, TAP (TE), CDBG, JARC, FTA**

- **Transit Enhancements**
  - Bicycle mapping (hard copy, interactive) – CMAQ, TAP

- **Multi-use trail construction – TAP, CMAQ; CDBG in certain areas (per Census)**

- **SRTS Planning – TAP, CDBG**

**Non-Traditional Use of Funds**

- **Trail reconstruction projects (4) – Colorado**
  - 4 sections of 4 different trails – all in lower income areas
  - Failing pavement, drainage issues, ADA deficiencies
  - Transit access; trails served as sidewalk in two locations

- **$800,000 of CDBG funds to reconstruct trails**
  - Designed in-house
  - CDBG approval process – faster than fed transportation programs
  - Added automated trail count equipment
  - Projects scoped in June 2011; construction finished by January 2012
Example Project – Mixing Funds

Sidewalk construction, ADA and transit access improvements plus new bike lanes in a lower income area
- Awarded TE funds (now called TAP)
- Local match for pedestrian parts of project provided through federal CDBG funds – project located in low-income neighborhoods
- Bicycle elements of project matched with local funds (not CDBG eligible)

Create Partnerships to Streamline

- Missing sidewalk on transit routes
  - 80 miles of “desire lines” identified along busy arterial streets
  - $120,000+ per mile
  - FHWA funding = lots of hoops to go through to spend fed trans $}

Create Partnerships to Streamline

Solution - Public Works partnered with Transit
- Public Works staff developed TAP applications but Transit was prime Project Sponsor
- City provided 20% match
- Funds awarded to Transit – funds “colored” FTA, not as FHWA
- Transit staff handled grant admin, project management
- Fewer hoops as FTA $ = faster implementation
Example Project – Public/Private

- Rochester Art Walk Streetscape Improvements
  - Local street reconstruction project for University Avenue
  - Community-initiated effort to develop arts-oriented streetscape
  - City funding street modifications
  - Coupled with federal TE grant to fund more crossings, landscaping, and artistic transit stops
  - Private dollars helped with more arts elements, programming

Challenges of Federal Funding

- Federal programs often have minimum budgets – may not work well for smaller projects
- Complex project delivery – staff capacity, expertise
- Can be onerous to spend – lengthy project delivery
- Local match hurdle; now less flexibility match options
- Administration of funds varies state to state
  - States/regions may set more restrictive policies
- States may not support desired design approaches

Challenges of Federal Funding

- Active Transportation funding often a political target – “not in the federal interest”
- States can “flex” funds to other transportation projects
- Inertia of how transportation has been vs. where going
- Active transportation difficult to model; include in funding priority discussions with parity
- More focus on cost-benefit, “performance measures”, and replace-in-kind projects
Lessons to be Learned

- Fed $ can significantly leverage local resources
- Weigh value of "federalizing" projects
- Expect ups & downs with fed programs, process
- Utilize transportation professionals’ expertise
- Funding prioritization/allocations – does your region prioritize Complete Streets projects / elements?
- Assess how money is spent now, project development procedures to find opportunities

Federal Funding – Web Links

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  - Urban, Small Urban, and Rural categories
- TAP - Transportation Alternatives Program
  - [http://trade.railstotrails.org/index](http://trade.railstotrails.org/index)
- CMAQ - Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality

Federal Funding – Web Links

- National Highway System (NHS)
- Bridge Replacement and Rehab (HBRR)
  - [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/hbrrp.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/hbrrp.cfm)
- Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
  - [http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip](http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip)
Federal Funding – Web Links

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

- **402 Highway Safety funds**

- **TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery)**
  - [http://www.dot.gov/tiger](http://www.dot.gov/tiger)

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Federal Funding – Web Links

- **Rivers, Trails and Conservation Program (NPS)**
  - [http://www.nps.gov/orgs/ntca/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/orgs/ntca/index.htm)

- **Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (EPA)**
  - [http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia.htm](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia.htm)

- **Transit Enhancements (via FTA Formula Funds)**

- **Jobs Access/Reverse Commute (JARC via FTA)**

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- 20 years experience
- Acquired $30+ million for dozens of projects
- Complete Streets Instructor, ADA for Public ROW Instructor
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Manager for City of Milwaukee
- Former Active Transportation Manager – Colorado Springs, CO
- Former MPO “TIP” funding manager
Thank You

Questions