

ATTACHMENT A

Preliminary Review: Progress on Action Items

This is a preliminary review of progress on initiating the action items identified in the 2015 Comprehensive Plan.

The 2015 Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan identified 28 action items that the County would initiate within two years of adoption of the plan. This progress report lists the action items and briefly describes progress as of March 2019:

The Economy

- Create implementation plans for agricultural tourism and heritage tourism, two of the focus areas in the 2020 Strategic Tourism Plan.

COMPLETE. The *2020 Tompkins County Agricultural Tourism Implementation Plan* was adopted by the Strategic Tourism Planning Board on September 21, 2016. The *Tompkins County Heritage Tourism Implementation Plan* was adopted by the Strategic Tourism Planning Board on February 17, 2016.
- Develop an Energy Focus Areas Strategy to provide for the energy needs of growing businesses while prioritizing renewable energy solutions and addressing energy concerns in key geographical areas of the County.

COMPLETE. The *Tompkins County Energy Focus Area Study* was completed on March 13, 2017.
- Seek increased funding to reimburse employers for on-the-job training that enhances employees' skills and increases their wages.

INITIATED AND UNDERWAY. The Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the County Workforce Investment Board and the One-Stop Center to receive regular funding from the NYS Department of Labor to offer On-the-Job Training grants to businesses and organizations in our community.

Housing

- Update the *Tompkins County Affordable Housing Needs Assessment* and engage the broader housing community in revising the *Tompkins County Housing Strategy*.

COMPLETE. The *Tompkins County 2016 Housing Needs Assessment* was completed in late 2016. The *Tompkins County Housing Strategy: A Place for All of Us* was endorsed by the Legislature on July 6, 2017.
- Better define the housing needs of client populations served by County human services agencies.

COMPLETE. The Ithaca/Tompkins County Continuum of Care developed the Coordinated Assessment Team with a “no wrong door approach” where participating agencies implement a standardized assessment tool to identify vulnerabilities and assist in placing consumers in the right housing options. There is a single waiting list and a regular review to meet the needs of people remaining on the waiting list.
- Assist municipalities in developing strategies to help homebuyers compare and evaluate the energy efficiency of existing housing.

COMPLETE. The Tompkins County Planning Department and Cornell Cooperative Extension supported a team of local governments (Towns of Danby, Caroline, Ithaca and Ulysses, and the City of Ithaca) that received grant funding from NYSERDA to prepare the *Tompkins Residential Energy Score Program and Implementation Plan*. Work on the project continues with NYSERDA’s Home Energy Rating Pilot, which includes the Pearl Home Certification being offered in Tompkins County and elsewhere.

Transportation

- Identify the most critical elements of the County-owned highway infrastructure network for use in prioritizing investment of County funds.
INITIATED AND UNDERWAY. The County Highway Department regularly assesses highway infrastructure to prioritize spending.
- Conduct a study to identify electric vehicle charging station development needs and opportunities.
COMPLETE. The Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council received grant funding from NYSERDA and completed the *Tompkins County Plug-in Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan* in June 2017.
- Investigate additional park and ride locations and other ways to provide better, safer access to existing transit routes in suburban and rural areas.
COMPLETE. A review was conducted by the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council. Opportunities for implementing improvements continue to be explored.

Natural Resources

- Monitor development activity within the Natural Features Focus Areas and Agricultural Resource Focus Areas and share that information with municipalities.
INITIATED AND UNDERWAY. The Department of Planning and Sustainability, in conjunction with the Department of Assessment, has developed a methodology for annual tracking of development. Only one year of data (2017) has been developed; as future years are added that information will be shared with municipalities.
- Identify Purchase of Development Rights priority projects for implementation in the Agricultural Resource Focus Areas.
COMPLETE. Using the priorities of the State's Purchase of Development Rights program, farms identified for focused outreach were actively farmed properties with the highest quality soils and greatest development pressure.
- Develop a conservation funding strategy that accurately captures need for key conservation acquisitions.
COMPLETE. The Tompkins County Legislature established the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project in 2017. The program is administered by the Department of Planning and Sustainability. A review is underway of this program and other similar County funding programs to assess their effectiveness in meeting the County's priorities.
- Build on the recommendations in the Finger Lakes Trail Corridor Protection Plan to identify specific areas and tools to improve connectivity between Natural Features Focus Areas.
COMPLETE. The *Tompkins County Habitat Connectivity Strategy* was completed in May 2018.

Water Resources

- Contribute to the work of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to assess and improve water quality in the southern end of Cayuga Lake.

INITIATED AND UNDERWAY. The Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership, a committee of the Tompkins County Water Resources Council, has been working with NYSDEC to track development of the total maximum daily load (TMDL) program for Cayuga Lake. NYSDEC has yet to release the draft TMDL.

- Develop an integrated green infrastructure program that combines existing efforts to identify and protect the quality of stream corridors, wetlands, and aquifers.

COMPLETE. The Tompkins County Legislature established the Natural Infrastructure Capital Project in 2017. The program is administered by the Department of Planning and Sustainability.

- Complete the NYSDOT Relocation and Site Redevelopment Feasibility Study.

COMPLETE. The *NYSDOT Maintenance Facility Relocation & Redevelopment Feasibility Study* was completed in August 2016.

- Support the Water Resources Council in its work to update delineation of wetland resources in the County.

COMPLETE. The County provided funding to the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network and other support for the completion of the *Wetland Mapping for Tompkins County, New York* report and maps, which were completed in January 2016.

Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- By the end of 2015, finalize the Tompkins County Energy Roadmap to determine the most effective and efficient means of meeting the community's long-term energy and greenhouse gas emissions goals and begin implementation.

COMPLETE. The Legislature accepted the *Tompkins County Energy Roadmap: Evaluating Our Energy Resources* on April 19, 2016.

- Conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory for both the community and County government using 2014 data.

COMPLETE. The *2014 Tompkins County Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Use Inventory* and the *2014 Tompkins County Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Use Inventory* were both completed in September 2016.

- Work with municipalities to develop tools to encourage widespread deployment of renewable energy systems.

COMPLETE. The Department of Planning and Sustainability completed *Tools to Promote and Regulate the Deployment of Renewable Energy Systems: Recommendations for Municipalities in Tompkins County* in June 2017.

Climate Adaptation

- Assess the vulnerability of the County government's critical facilities to the impacts of climate change.

INITIATED AND UNDERWAY. In early 2019, the County received notice that it had been awarded a grant from the NYS Department of State to create and implement community recovery and resiliency plans to address climate change risks. This project will include a countywide risk assessment of critical infrastructure and important County buildings.

- Prepare a community disaster recovery plan to prepare the community to take the actions, including those that build economic resilience, required to bounce back from a disaster should it occur.

INITIATED AND UNDERWAY. In early 2019, the County received notice that it had been awarded a grant from the NYS Department of State to create and implement community recovery and resiliency plans to address climate change risks. This project will include a continuity of operations plan training for local businesses.

- Conduct an inventory of pipeline stream crossings in the County and identify those of highest priority in order to advance measures to reduce risk to human health and the environment.

COMPLETE. The *Tompkins County Inventory of Erosion Hazards at Pipeline Crossings* was completed in December 2016.

Healthy Communities

- Develop a healthy communities strategy as a collaborative effort of County departments.

INITIATED AND UNDERWAY. In discussions among County departments, it was determined the most effective approach to this project was for the Department of Planning and Sustainability to provide planning support, as needed, to other County departments as they work on developing health-related plans.

- Establish a formal role for the County in trail development.

COMPLETE. In 2015, the Planning, Energy and Economic Development Committee agreed the Planning Department should support development of a countywide trail system with a particular focus on regional multi-use trails involving multiple municipalities. The Department's role includes supporting efforts to secure trail corridors, provide trail access, and obtain funding to build trails.

- Prepare and share a sidewalk inventory with municipalities.

NOT INITIATED. Upon review, it was determined the existing sidewalk inventory is essentially complete and already available to municipalities.

Development Patterns

- Work with municipalities to identify potential infill or redevelopment sites within Development Focus Areas.

INITIATED AND UNDERWAY. The Department of Planning and Sustainability has initiated a contract with a consultant to assist in its infill analysis and efforts to nurture compatible infill development within Tompkins County communities.

- Provide technical assistance to municipalities to establish land use policies and regulations that support development within Development Focus Areas.

INITIATED AND UNDERWAY. The Department of Planning and Sustainability has reinvigorated its efforts to provide staff assistance to communities interested in taking actions in support of the County's planning policies.