2019 COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE
PUBLIC OUTREACH TO DATE

The County Planning Department, in cooperation with the County Planning Board, has completed significant public outreach to date. This outreach – summarized as follows – was focused on:

- Use of coUrbanize social media tool and related digital and in person outreach.
- A public hearing on a first draft of the proposed Update, held Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at the County Emergency Management Center in Goshen.
- An open comment period on the first draft of the proposed Update, as available online and at the offices of the Planning Department. That comment period closed Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

These comments have been reviewed by staff, with the County Planning Board, and when relevant have been incorporated into the Final Draft Plan Update provided to the Legislature for review and adoption.

coUrbanize –
To help determine the focus of this new Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Department led public outreach to gauge what issues were most important to County residents. Outreach included discussions with the Orange County Planning Board, three public meetings held throughout the County, press releases, and an outreach project facilitated by coUrbanize. The last-mentioned outreach technique was especially helpful in reaching a wide audience because it was based on an interactive website where people were able to respond to questions posed on the site. The site was linked to outdoor signs the Department installed throughout the County, each of which posed a question and asked pedestrians to text their answer to a specific phone number; these questions asked, “Why do you ride public transit?” and “What housing options does your community need?” among others. Those answers would also be posted on the website automatically. All answers were pinned to a map on the coUrbanize site. In total, this generated 425 comments from 64 users, and 199 responses from County Planning.

Outreach has continued for this process by way of a Facebook page created specifically for this project. Although public engagement on this page has been very sparse, it offers another way for ongoing community outreach, and another way for the public to contact us with other concerns.

CoUrbanize users typically commented around a few major themes:
- Traffic issues around the Harriman/Monroe area and Newburgh area, but transportation related projects such as increased ferry service, better commuter train service, and train
connections to Stewart Airport were also brought up frequently. Better/more convenient public transportation and a county-wide bus network were big topics of conversation.

- The desire for more trail connections to the Heritage Trail, particularly North-South connections, and the creation of a county-wide trail network.

- Nonmotorized transportation in general was commented on frequently, with people wanting more opportunities for biking/walking and a focus on pedestrian safety and sidewalks.

- Open space protection and preserving the character of the County were common topics.

- There was a big discussion on economic development in towns and villages across the County, but revitalization in Newburgh and Port Jervis were popular.

- Arts and culture were a hot topic, with many areas interested in more museums and performing arts/concert venues.

The coUrbanize users focused so strongly on the transportation and transit concerns that the County determined there was an immediate need for a Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan to address the existing concerns and the needs of future users of the transportation network. Some of these issues are addressed within this Plan, while others can be addressed through separate processes, by other agencies, or in future Plan updates.

Public Hearing 12/11/18 -

Summary of hearing including attendance is attached here.

Other Public Comments –

Three (3) written public comments were received by the Department prior to closing of comment period, January 2, 2019. Two (2) comments were from individuals offering a range of general and specific suggestions. The third set of comments was made on behalf of a set of committees of the Orange County Citizens Foundation. All comments are on file with the Department, and all comments were reviewed and used towards final edits to the Final Draft Plan Update provided to the Legislature.
Orange County Planning Board
Public Hearing Summary
County Comprehensive Plan Update
December 11, 2018
Orange County Emergency Services Center

Planning Board Members in Attendance: E. McClung, M.J. Guinchard, J. Wolfe, C. Best
Staff in Attendance: D. Church, J. Richmond, M. Tennermann, E. Russell
Attendees: Colleen Collins, ZBA Village of Chester; Melissa Martens, Minisink Democratic Committee; Scott Martens; Chris Miele, CC4HV; Elinor Hart, BG CAC/OCLT; Jocelyn Figueroa, TOW Democratic Committee; Sandra Rothenberger; Debra Corr, CC4 HV; Marilyn Hayden; John Tracy, Greenwood Lake Planning Board; Victoria Dunne; Christine Little, Warwick Planning Board; George Smith, Town of Minisink Planning Board; Virginia Scott, Cornwall; Andrea Hart

Elaine McClung, Chair of the Orange County Planning Board welcomed everyone and introduced members of the Board and staff from Orange County Planning Department. This is a public hearing for Orange County Comprehensive Plan updates. Planning Department staff will give a summary of the plan and then attendees will be able to comment. There will be a three minute time limit and if time allows, they will be able to comment again. Julie Richmond explained that by County Charter, the plan is required to be updated every five years. This update was started about a year and a half ago and what unfolded was an update to the core document and one additional chapter on transportation. We currently have a core document and supplemental chapters for Open Space, Water Master Plan, Greenway Compact, Agriculture and Farmland Protection and Economic Development Strategy. For the core document we looked at updates to the Priority Growth Areas. We gathered information for the update through Co-urbanize, which is an online community engagement platform. It was a way to keep community members involved. They could add comments and questions online and responses would be posted. Co-urbanize also developed signs with questions and people were able to text their responses. We received a lot of comments and it became apparent that transportation was a key issue. Megan Tennermann explained the Priority Growth Area map, which shows where development should and shouldn’t be, leaving sufficient areas for agriculture and open space, while recognizing that growth is going to occur. They are looking at the areas as they exist and looking at whether that is still appropriate and realistic. They are proposing some areas be removed and other areas expanded. It is good to reevaluate these areas every few years since changes happen.

The purpose of the public hearing is to get comments on these two plans. They are available for review on the Orange County website, at the Orange County Planning Department and at Goshen Library. We are making arrangements with Catskill Ramapo Library System to have it circulated. The draft documents were finished in early November. They were presented to the Planning Board for initial review, edits and comments. After tonight, depending on comments and any edits that are required, it will undergo SEQRA review process and will be presented to the County Executive and County Legislature for approval. We will still be accepting written comments on this plan through January 2, 2019. These are policy documents. In the future, we can work toward implementing these policies. Additional chapters in the future could include Infrastructure, Housing, Sustainability and Resiliency.

Comments from public:

Scott Martens, Orange County resident – Over the last year he has been out in the public conducting my own sort of polling. People are worried about future of Orange County and how the planning is being done here. There is not enough emphasis on the character that they came here for and stay here for – aspects like morality, agriculture. Hundreds of people telling me this. Where are we going to go? More industrial county like Rockland and Westchester? We need an increased emphasis on cultural resources. Each town needs to adopt cultural manifest laws. They should have official comment or say in planning. Encourage the County to have the County Historian be able to comment officially on projects. We are in a historic County and need to preserve that. He expressed concerns about the gas fracking and gas infrastructures in the County and what’s going to happen with Danskanmer. It’s important to the
future of Orange County. We do have an agricultural heritage here and with these developments, people are not going to want to come here if this continues.

Chris Miele, CC4HV – I travelled around New York State on a political campaign with a friend. There is a lot to like in this document. There is an error on page 31 of Transportation Chapter. The interchange is not funded privately. It is funded by taxpayers. She is concerned about housing in Goshen. They recently got rid of their affordable housing act. The County needs to give some guidance. There should be some conceptual ideas for them. We are not doing good cost benefit analysis on projects coming in. Potential real estate and traffic are not enough. Transportation and housing are not realistic. Where is the work force coming from? This needs to be included. There is no participation of the towns in what’s going on next to them. The County needs to be a little proactive.

Debbie Corr, CC4HV - She is concerned about protecting farms. It’s all about the money, not the quality of life. With Legoland coming in, increasing traffic on holiday weekends and damaging the ability of people to enjoy life here. Now the amusement park is coming in here. It was not thoroughly investigated. We were totally ignored. People have trouble getting to her farm because of traffic and accidents along the congested highway. Private funding is a lie. It’s 40 million dollars of tax money to build bridge. We have to pay higher taxes and eventually we are all going to leave unable to afford to live here. They build warehouses by trading off good farmland. How much teeth do you have? Do you have any strength to fight this? Dave Church explained that the County does not have planning and zoning authority. Projects are referred to the department for comments. The municipalities can supersede these recommendations with a majority plus one vote and then file an explanation in writing. All County capital investments must be in accordance with the plan. Investments in sewer, water or transportation must be in accordance with what this plan recommends. It’s a guidance document and essential in getting grants.

Virginia Scott, Cornwall – She lived in Orange County her entire life. We can’t live without water. The IDA wants flexible zoning to attract businesses. They want to get these businesses in at all costs. They brought Legoland into Goshen and there’s a water deficit. It’s not insular. Water flows. We see what’s going on in Newburgh. We are talking about run off into our bodies. Black sediment is coming up from her well. There’s a poultry plant, Orange County Sewer Plant Dist. 1, and salt in our fresh water. There are a lot of great things in this plan. The County government is attracting businesses and they disregard that the water makes this area beautiful. Flex zoning lets them bring these businesses. I have watched a lot of land go, a lot of farms go and the traffic is horrible. We need better planning. Talking to people about transportation, they are having problems getting to the city. Thank you for having this meeting. I’m concerned about the timing since it is going to Legislature in January and we are just hearing about it.

Sandra Rothenberger – I am concerned about the cultural aspects of all towns. I have asked about a cultural tour of Goshen since it is full of history. Sad to see Legoland was approved. There are Indian artifacts on that land. The Indians from Port Jervis had a burial ground on that land during the French Indian War. They did find artifacts there, but not enough to stop them. Cultural things are being bulldozed over by development. Neelytown Road is going to be a trucking hub. 10,000 trucks travel Route 84 a day and 10,000 trucks travel Route 87 a day. They are going to clog the roads. One accident on 84 took me five hours to get home. One accident closes the road immediately.

Christine Little – Warwick Planning Board – concerned County is sorely lacking in public transportation. It is a detriment to citizens from all socioeconomic levels. She told a story of meeting two young men in Newburgh two years ago. As an employee of Legoland, she was promoting employment. They said they have no way to get there. As you develop the county’s comprehensive plan, please remember that phrase “we have no way to get there”. She wants everyone to be able to stay, live and thrive in Orange County. Please make it a priority to give them a way to get there. A complete copy of her comment is attached.

Sandra Rothenberger – Residents should have a say in how their communities are developed. These big developments come in and residents just have to take what is before them. There is no affordable housing in Goshen and there is only one senior center with a long waiting list. There is a need to develop senior housing. Orange County has an unemployment rate of 3% which is below the national level. When you hire minimum wage people to fill these jobs,
they pull the whole economy down. Warehouses will pay minimum wage and amusement park will pay minimum wage. We need good paying jobs. We need to develop towns in a way to have professional jobs. If you have a professional base, all the other aspects come into place.

Debbie Corr – According to federal guidelines, our unemployment is at 0%. We don’t need these jobs. Amusement parks were prohibited in Goshen. I am just wondering how this happened. I didn’t move here to be near the biggest Legoland. They came to agreement with Orange County Partnership wanting to build here and make millions and millions of dollars. Air quality is a concern with all the particulate matter from all the extra traffic. This contributes to health concerns with Alzheimers and birth defects. We are allowing this to happen. We are turning into Cuomo’s toilet. He dumps anything he can into Orange County. Now they want to have a million square foot warehouse to close to the parks. This is prime farmland.

Victoria Dunne, Wawayanda – I read the Town of Wawayanda Comprehensive Plan. It seems like everything is already planned. Does the County play a role in this plan?

No. One of the supplemental chapters, Economic Development Strategy was approved three years ago. The County actually created a new department of Economic Development. The water in our neighborhood is an absolute nightmare. I can’t imagine what Legoland is going to do to Goshen.

Susan Metzger, former chair of Orange County Planning Board - sent written comment - I am sorry that I have a conflict tomorrow evening and can’t present my comments personally. I strongly support the Comp plan. The transportation plan is very good and the recommendations strong and timely. The county should take a leadership roll in support of transit hubs to better connect our residents. Thank you for your work.

Susan Metzger

The Orange County Partnership is welcome to comment on this plan like any other organization. They haven’t at this point weighed in on this. They are no longer funded in any way by the County.

The next step towards approval of the Plan is going before the Rules Committee. Then the Legislature will hold a public hearing. It will then be presented to the full Legislature for final approval. January is the goal, but it may go into February with all the meetings that are required. With there being no other comments, Elaine McClung thanked everyone for their attendance and all the comments. She also encouraged attendees to submit any other comments in writing by January 2, 2019. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

*Written comments received from:
Christine Little – December 11, 2018, attached
Sandra M. Rothenberger - January 2, 2019, attached
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Good evening.

Tonight, I speak as a taxpayer of the Town of Warwick and Orange County. I also speak as a mother of two college age children, a former school nurse who cared for thousands of Orange County’s adolescents and their families, a volunteer for veteran organizations, an active community member, and employee of LEGOLAND New York Resort.

Our county is sorely lacking in public transportation. It is a detriment to citizens from all socioeconomic levels.
- Senior citizens needing to get to a doctor appointment.
- High school students trying to get their first part time job.
- Young professionals commuting.
- Employers struggling to fill roles.

I would like to share one story with you that gets to the heart of the matter.

Two summers ago, my colleague and I were working at our LEGOLAND New York Resort booth during the Newburgh Illuminated festival. A group of young men glanced at our table, hesitated for a moment, then continued to walk past. I called over to them and asked them to come back and learn about future roles in the park.

They were skeptical at best. One young man said, “You will never hire us. Nobody ever hires us.” We engaged in conversation and I learned about the many attempts they had made to find employment, without any success. It was soul crushing. I assured them that if they were willing to work hard, take the training that we can offer them seriously, and love being part of our team, they would find a multitude of roles in our park that would get their foot in the door and from there, learn and grow with many opportunities.

Their faces softened and smiles began to replace scowls. They had hope and it was visible...

Until one of them said, “We have no way to get there.”

As you develop the county’s comprehensive plan, please remember that phrase. “We have no way to get there.”

I want our senior citizens and veterans, my former students, my future colleagues, our fellow tax payers, and my precious children to be able to stay, live and thrive in Orange County. Please make it a priority to give them a way to get there.

Christine Little
51 Four Corners Rd
Warwick, NY 10990
Sandra M. Rothenberger  
349 Sarah Wells Trail  
Goshen, NY 10924  
January 2, 2019

Elaine McClung, Chairperson  
Orange County Planning Board  
124 Main Street  
Goshen, NY 10924

RE: Revision of Orange County Comprehensive Plan

Dear Chairperson Elaine McClung

When the Orange County Legislature Chairperson L. Stephen Brescia introduced updating of the Comprehensive Plan of our county this past summer, he stated that Orange County is an agricultural county but is becoming to be known as the county of warehouses/trucking. He said our image must change, and the legislature was asked to make suggestions as to how our county could attract sustainable businesses. Develop our agricultural assets, bring in technological businesses, entice research facilities, and invite advanced educational facilities to locate here. These types of business attract an educated workforce, pay good wages vs. minimum wage and create many support jobs. We need true controlled economic development/growth that benefits the area and does not put a strain on municipal services or our social programs.

L. Stephen Brescia and Orange County Partnership Maureen Hallahan have presented and are supporting building the Medline 1.2 million sq. ft. warehouse in Montgomery. Montgomery and Hamptonburgh will be destroyed. I have attached my reply to the SEQRA hearing for your review.

So why the double-speak from our legislature? Why does the Orange County Partnership and the legislature work together to build inappropriate businesses and destroy our agricultural land by building on every piece of green space they can find? Why can’t empty properties and bankrupt warehouses be refurbished for these businesses eliminating another footprint to our land? OCP offers generous PILOT programs to multibillion-dollar corporations whose only concern is increasing their bottom line. Their business activity will destroy our towns and villages and increase taxes to a point of unbearable burden for the residents. See attached article: New York ranks No. 1 in losing residents to other states.

When are supervisors and mayors going to work for the people? Goshen supervisor Doug Bloomfield changed the air-tight Comprehensive Plan to allow Legoland to build. Legoland was granted variances to the zoning laws and violations were ignored by the town board and building inspector. Doug Bloomfield stated
he had the power to use “home rule.” This law needs to be eliminated since supervisors and mayors are using it to their advantage to the detriment of the town residents.

In your public hearing it was stated that the comprehensive plan was only a guideline to the towns in Orange County. This must change but the legislature will never agree to it being anymore than a guideline. What can be done? The Orange County comprehensive plan should be used for the town and villages that do not have one. And those that do have a comprehensive plan as Goshen, should have to hold a referendum vote of the residents to change it.

I know that your board has a daunting job but if any of the above narrative could be included in the revised Comprehensive Plan it would be appreciated.

If you have any questions or need to contact me, please do not hesitate to call.

Thank you,

Sandra M. Rothenberger
845-325-9748
rothenbrgersandra23@gmail.com
December 19, 2018

TO: Town of Montgomery Planning Board
RE: Medline Warehouse Scooping Session

This past spring, I attended a legislative meeting where the revision of the Orange County Comprehensive Plan was being discussed. L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman of the Legislature stated that the image of Orange County was one of warehouses and trucking. Since we are an agricultural county the legislature agreed that our image had to change by attracting professional business that would develop our economic base at a controlled pace and preserve the quality of life in Orange County.

There are approximately 100,200 acres of agricultural designated lands in Orange County. How many acres of agricultural land will be lost to Medline’s big warehouse? 
**Require** Medline to give back to the community in agricultural activities for the lost of that land.

**Require** Medline to do an *Agricultural Assessment* by the *Orange County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board*. What lands in the surrounding areas have already been designated as agricultural? Does Medline and the town planning board have other plans if these lands are so designated and cannot be built on?

Artifacts should be preserved as they cannot be replaced.

**Require** Medline to contact the *NYS Archeological Association* and have them perform an *archeological dig* of at least 18 inches to determine if artifacts are found on Medline’s property. Such as Native American villages, historical churches and homes, graveyards or military encampments. What would Medline’s mitigation be if found to contain artifacts.

**African Cemetery**

The African cemetery on Rt. 416 is being used as a truck turnaround. Why hasn’t the town stopped the desecration of these gravesites.

**Require** Medline to state how they will prevent their trucks from using the cemetery as a turnaround.

**Genealogical records** preserve our heritage.

**Require** Medline to contact the *Orange County Genealogical Society, Orange County Historian* and the *Montgomery Historian* to study if the land has any genealogical/historical significance and should not be disturbed. What would Medline’s mitigation plans be if this is historical land.
Thomas Bull Memorial Park, golf courses, horse facilities and animal farms are in the area. **Require** Medline to contact the Orange County Parks and Recreation to do an analysis of how the truck traffic and immense size of the building will affect the value and income to these recreational facilities. What will Medline’s mitigation be if the activity of their facility will have a negative effect on the income and attendance of these parks and farms.

Medline’s building will be built on top of an aquifer.  
**Require** Medline to hire a hydrogeologist to evaluate the effects of this large building on the soil and on top of an aquifer. Is building on an aquifer allowed? Contact the Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District as developing this property may conflict with their laws. How will building on the aquifer affect the water supply of the town and private wells?

Wallkill River

The river floods the area frequently. This year the area received a record 74 inches of rain.  
**Require** Medline to contact and receive permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as they mentioned building a 30-foot-high wall to stop flooding.  
**Require** Medline to contact the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance to obtain the records of the Wallkill River flooding over the last 5 years and how hurricanes increased the flooding. How will Medline mitigate the constant flooding of the Wallkill River on the adjacent road and lands?  
**Require** Medline to contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to evaluate the water runoff from the roof, parking lot and regraded soil and surrounding area into the Wallkill River. Does the runoff pose a threat of pollution to the soil and Wallkill river? If the roads are flooded and emergency personnel cannot access the plant site how is Medline going to mitigate these circumstances.

Cornell University

**Require** Medline to contact Cornell University Cooperative Extension as their goal is to support living in rural Orange County. They have invaluable information about the agriculture, nature (plants) and wildlife in the county. How is Medline going to mitigate disturbing the natural setting and protecting the wildlife in the area?

SPDES/SWAPP

Legoland listed SWAPP plans in their DBIS. Neither Legoland’s building contractor or engineer designed a stormwater runoff plan and their silt runoff polluted the Otterkill Creek and destroyed the biodiversity of the area. The DEC has fined them and cited them over a dozen times to no avail. The town of Goshen did not require
that Legoland post a bond for damages. Who will require that Medline abides by their agreement to incorporate the SWAPP in the construction phase?

**Require** Medline to install retention ponds before construction.

**Require** Medline to post a substantial bond to correct any damage they cause from silt runoff into the Wallkill River?

### Wetlands

**Require** Medline to honor the 100’ ft buffer for wetlands and property lines?

### Traffic

Many intersections will need to be reconstructed to allow for the truck traffic from their facility and 90 degree turns.

**Require** Medline to pay for any road reconstruction and have DOT approvals before they start construction.

**Require** Medline to hire an independent qualified traffic expert to conduct a traffic study lasting more than 3 days.

**Require** Medline to post a separate bond for damage to the road infrastructure. If the roads, especially side roads and bridges have a maximum weight capacity, will the trucks be required to use major roads only. What is the weight capacity for Neelytown Road? How will truck traffic be prevented from using local roads? Truck traffic come from any direction not just the one road Medline proposes to use.

**Require** Medline to provide a count of how many trucks will be coming into and leaving the plant site.

**How** will Medline mitigate the flooding that occurs often under the I-84 bridge?

**How** will Medline mitigate major traffic jams on I-84 that takes hours to clear?

Ten thousand trucks travel I-84 per day.

### Noise

**Require** Medline to do a cumulative study of the noise their plant produces, the truck engines and the backup beepers. Anything above 65 decibels is not acceptable by the DEC. Does the town have a noise ordinance? Does it state the hours that noise is acceptable? Medline states that their incoming/outgoing trucks will be at night.

### Pollution—Particle Matter and Ozone

The last air-quality test by the DEC in the Newburgh-Poughkeepsie area was done in 2008.

**Require** Medline to do a current particle matter test.

**Require** Medline to supply records of the number of days Orange County issued warnings for high ozone levels this past summer, 2018. Measure the effects of the diesel pollution from the trucks on the surrounding towns. What will be the readings of particle matter from single occupancy vehicles (SOV) for the 600
workers? Will these levels violate the allowable levels? How will Medline mitigate the problem if the levels are too high?
The article, Health and Environmental Effects of Particulate Matter, published by the DEC is attached. It lists the Health Effects, Environmental Effects and Environmental Damage that occurs when high levels of particulate matter occur. Please read the irreversible effect of PM. Please read the article. Will Medline’s trucks be repaired/serviced on site? Will there be fuel stored on the property?
**Require** Medline to address containment procedures in the event of a fuel spill or oil spill.

**Jobs**
Medline quoted they will have 600 workers. Is this number tied to the PILOT they will be receiving? Will there be claw back of their PILOT if they do not meet their quota?

**Quality of Jobs**
Orange County’s poverty rate is 52.9 percent of the population. See attached article Hunger in the Hudson Valley.
**Require** Medline to state the number of part-time jobs will be of the 600 people workforce. What kind of wages do they pay and is it a living wage? See the attached article, 30 cities adding jobs nobody wants.

**Automation of Medline warehouses**
Medline has installed automation/robots to 1/3 of their plant in Middletown. Will they really hire 600 workers? Automation is of no economic benefit to the town or surrounding areas.
**Require** Medline to state how much of their new warehouse will be automated.

**Workforce**
Unemployment in Orange County is so low that it is considered zero. Every business has a Help Wanted sign. The Resorts Casino in Sullivan County cannot find enough workers. They offered free shuttle buses from various towns and paid training. They are still short of a full workforce. Where will Medline get 300 additional employees that own a car to drive to work since there is no public transportation? New Yorkers are fleeing the state. From 2011-2016 according to the Marist College of Economic Research 28,000 households moved out of the Hudson Valley. See attached article, Marist report says families moving out of Hudson Valley.
School Taxes
Legoland promised 1 million dollars to the Goshen school district so they scheduled a 30-million-dollar renovation project. This year they received $47,000 from Legoland. If an outside entity donates money to a school district, NYS school aid is decreased by that amount. Goshen school district was the only school in Orange County to have their state aid reduced by $47,000 this year. Goshen’s school budget for 2018-2019 is $71 million dollars. Legoland’s offer of 1M will not alleviate the increase of school tax bills of the residents.

Economic Benefit
Require Medline to hire an independent reputable company to do a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of the economic benefit not only to Montgomery but all the surrounding towns. Do not accept a balance sheet/prospectus from Medline’s accounting firm as Legoland submitted.

Support Services
Require Medline to pay all costs for support services as fire, police, ambulance services, school crossing guards, traffic control, fuel spills, damage to roads and houses due to fire or explosions and the cost to clean up a major accident scene. Include pay rate, supplies and equipment costs. Does the fire department have the necessary equipment to fight a fire in a 1.3 million sq. ft. warehouse? Charge Medline a substantial fine if their truck is involved in an accident that requires the road to be closed for some time.

Suggested Interested Parties:

Orange County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board
NYS Archeological Association
Orange County Genealogical Society
Orange County Historian
Montgomery Historian
Orange County Parks & Recreation
Jim Brooks, Thomas Bull Memorial Park
Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wallkill River Watershed Alliance
Moodna Creek Intermunicipal Council
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Cornell University Cooperative Extension
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
NYS Department of Transportation
Montgomery Fire and Ambulance Department
Montgomery Police Department
Kathy Pitts, Windfall Farm
Hamptonburgh Town Board

Thank you.

Debra B. Corr
Sandra M. Rothenberger
Concerned Citizens for the Hudson Valley
P.O. Box 414
Goshen, NY 10924
Particulate Matter (PM) Pollution

Health and Environmental Effects of Particulate Matter (PM)

Health Effects

The size of particles is directly linked to their potential for causing health problems. Small particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter pose the greatest problems, because they can get deep into your lungs, and some may even get into your bloodstream. Exposure to such particles can affect both your lungs and your heart. Numerous scientific studies have linked particle pollution exposure to a variety of problems, including:

- premature death in people with heart or lung disease
- nonfatal heart attacks
- irregular heartbeat
- aggravated asthma
- decreased lung function
- increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing or difficulty breathing.

People with heart or lung diseases, children, and older adults are the most likely to be affected by particle pollution exposure.

- AirNow can help you monitor air quality near you, and protect yourself and your family from elevated PM levels.

Environmental Effects

Visibility impairment
Fine particles (PM) are the main cause of reduced visibility (haze) in parts of the United States, including many of our treasured national parks and wilderness areas. Learn more about visibility and haze

**Environmental damage**

Particles can be carried over long distances by wind and then settle on ground or water. Depending on their chemical composition, the effects of this settling may include:

- making lakes and streams acidic
- changing the nutrient balance in coastal waters and large river basins
- depleting the nutrients in soil
- damaging sensitive forests and farm crops
- affecting the diversity of ecosystems
- contributing to acid rain effects.

**Materials damage**

PM can stain and damage stone and other materials, including culturally important objects such as statues and monuments. Some of these effects are related to acid rain effects on materials.
Hunger in the Hudson Valley

The federal poverty level for a family of four, the most commonly used example, is an income of $24,600 a year. The level is adjusted by $4,320 for each person in larger or smaller families. The following are the poverty levels in the mid-Hudson and the levels of participation in programs that are based in part on them. The state is included for comparison.

New York state

Population*: 19,697,457 People below poverty level*: 15.5% People receiving food stamps**: 9.2%
Public school students receiving free/reduced-price lunches***: 52.9% **Orange County

Population*: 376,242 People below poverty level*: 12.6% People receiving food stamps**: 9.1%
Public school students receiving free/reduced-price lunches***: 36.8% **Ulster County

Population*: 180,505 People below poverty level*: 13.0% People receiving food stamps**: 7.0%
Public students receiving free/reduced-price lunches***: 45.4% **Sullivan County

Population*: 75,818 People below poverty level*: 17.1% People receiving food stamps**: 13.7%
Public school students receiving free/reduced price lunches***: 57.9%

30 cities adding jobs nobody wants

Getting paid to do what you love every day is a dream relatively few Americans are able to realize. Many of us manage to be content with our work, especially when receiving livable wages. Of course, there is also plenty of unenjoyable work -- at low wages -- that still needs to be done.

At one time in the United States, being employed was enough to stay out of poverty. From jobs programs implemented during President Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty" in the 1960s to work subsidies and incentives introduced during President Bill Clinton's welfare reform programs in the 1990s, the labor market has long been viewed as an anti-poverty vehicle.
However, in many parts of the country adding jobs, being employed is no longer enough to alleviate financial challenges. There were 7.6 million Americans in the labor force living in poverty in 2016. That level of in-work poverty has fluctuated over the years, but it remains roughly at the same level reported a decade ago.

The economy has added millions of jobs since the recession ended, but many of these jobs are not the same as those that were lost. Without looking at wages or in-work poverty statistics, strong employment growth does not tell the whole story.

Nationwide, retail trade and the accommodation and food services industry added over one million jobs over the past three years, accounting for 21.7% of total employment growth. In all but two of the cities on this list, these relatively low-paying industries accounted for a larger share of jobs added. But individuals working in these industries are among the most likely to earn poverty wages.

“If a job doesn’t pay enough to get you out of poverty, it’s not a desirable job,” said Marty Kohli, chief regional economist with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

To find the cities adding mostly low-wage jobs, 24/7 Wall St. reviewed three-year employment level changes in the relatively low-paying industries of retail trade and food and accommodation, as well as the percentage of the labor force living in poverty in U.S. metropolitan statistical areas.

To be considered, a metro area’s retail trade and accommodation and food services industry employment growth between 2014 and 2017 needed to exceed the national average employment growth for those industries. Individuals working in these industries are among the most likely to earn poverty wages. Out of the nearly 100 MSAs that met this criteria, the 30 listed have the highest labor force poverty rates (the share of an area's labor force earning below poverty level incomes). Data was obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Click or swipe through to see the full list.
Comprehensive Plan

Water Master Plan
- Your data from the Water Master Plan of 2010 is 9 years old and the information is out of date. A new study needs to be done.
- The water technical report is from 2009 and is 10 years old. A new technical report needs to be done.
- Maintaining our water sources from pollution must be a priority. Examples: Newburgh's water was contaminated from the foam used at Stewart National Guard. The Wallkill River is contaminated with cancer causing toxins from OC landfill located in Goshen. Legoland in Goshen has destroyed the threatened endangered Otterkill Creek and Purgatory Swamp with silt runoff since May 2018. Some of these problems have no solution.
- Residents should have priority to the available water in drought situations vs. new mega businesses.

The Greenway Compact
- The size and type of any project must fit the size of the town and not overwhelm its area, or resources and preserve the quality of life. Legoland's Amusement Park is not a good fit for Goshen. Medline's 1.2 million sq. ft. warehouse is not a good fit for Montgomery or Hamptonburgh.
- Once a site plan is approved there should be laws that the project cannot change without a new SEQRA.
- A multimodal transportation network must fit the town's capabilities to accommodate new transportation methods.
- Utilizing infill and redevelopment. There is a glut of warehouses for sale.
- Conserving natural land and encouraging wildlife corridors. Legoland clear-cut 100 acres in one week. They cut down a massive 300-year-old Sycamore tree. They caused a silt runoff problem polluting the Otterkill Creek that their engineer says has no solution. And they displaced 100 acres of wildlife, and many did not survive the destruction of their habitat.
- Affordable housing options. Goshen supervisor Bloomfield passed a law to get rid of affordable housing.
- Environmental Quality and Sustainability must be a priority.
- Economic Prosperity results from sustainable controlled growth. Not mega projects.
- Community Quality of Life. All towns and villages in OC must make this a priority. The town boards must know it's their responsibility to keep this in place for the residents.
- Median income. Businesses offering minimum wage jobs will not be a benefit but an economic disaster. Legoland offering 1,000 minimum wage and part-time jobs. Amy's warehouse offering 700 minimum wage jobs. Medline offering 600 minimum wage and part time jobs.
- Orange County unemployment rate of 3.2% is considered as full employment. Where are all the workers coming from to fill these jobs?

Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan
- In 2015 the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan was approved by the County Legislature and NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. There are eight priority projects.
• Why aren't they being implemented and considered as a requisite for new building projects?
• Where is the development of agricultural centers and indoor markets?
• Why isn't Cornell Cooperative University a main player in our agriculture and farmland plans?
• Why aren't horse farms considered as economic development?
• Why aren't the dairy farms given the help to repurpose their land into sustainable crops instead of having to sell their land?
• Many of the dairy farms are historical and archeological landmarks that must be preserved. Once bulldozed that landmark is gone forever.

See attached article: Growing number of local dairy farms shutting down.
From the New York Business Journal:

New York ranks No. 1 in losing residents to other states

May 25, 2018, 6:06pm EDT

New York is top in the U.S. in terms of its residents leaving for other states.

In 2015, New York had a population of 19.5 million. By 2016 (the latest year available), it shrank to about 19.3 million, resulting in a net drop of 186,000 people.

This trend has been the case for awhile, as census data shows more New York citizens have been moving out of the state since around 2011. This exodus from New York is due to many factors, the top ones cited by experts being recent tax hikes, high cost of living, a poor jobs climate, and unideal weather.

According to recent data, New York state tops the charts in terms of outmigration from the state, and is followed by Illinois, California, New Jersey and Connecticut. All five of these states have negative net migration rates.

While more New Yorkers are leaving the state each year, the question must be asked of where they are going. The top five states that New York migrants head to are Florida, New Jersey, California, Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

In comparison, the top five largest in-migration states are, in order, Florida, Texas, Arizona, North Carolina, and Georgia.

Southern and Western states are faring much better in terms of population growth than their northern neighbors. Also according to the data, those leaving the top out-migration states such as New York and Illinois are heading to these five states and a few others after they leave.

Since the recession in the mid-2000s, migration to Sunbelt states rapidly picked up as these states in the South and West have more opportunities for employment as well as more affordable housing than counterparts in the north and east, according to experts cited in U.S. News and World Report.

States with high unemployment, higher costs of living, and colder climates cannot compete with these regions of the country — and it shows in migration rates.

In terms of percentages, New York ties with New Jersey at minus-0.9 percent in terms of net migration. It is closely followed by Connecticut, with minus-1 percent net migration, and Illinois and North Dakota tied for third with a minus-1.1 percent change in migration.

Looking at New York City specifically, the area with the largest percentage of residents lost to other states came from the zip code 10075, in the Upper East Side, which faced a 9.3 percent decrease in its population from 2015 to 2016. The area with the most population growth in the county, however, is in Far Rockaway, Queens.

In addition to counties that make up New York City, other counties in the state that account for much of the population decline are Erie, Rockland and Suffolk counties.

New York’s population decline is due to many factors, differing per family. In an interview with the New York Daily News, the Empire Center's E.J. McMahon cited his reasoning for the departure from the state: "The stories continue to be a lack of economic opportunity upstate ... and downstate it's just cost."

Heather Hartel
Correspondent
New York Business Journal
Growing number of local dairy farms shutting down

By Judy Rife
Times Herald-Record
Posted Dec 25, 2018 at 7:22 PM
Updated Dec 25, 2018 at 7:22 PM

Seven of Orange County's remaining 40 dairy farmers have quietly sold their herds and stopped producing milk in recent months, beginning an exodus from a storied industry that they predict will continue into the new year and beyond.

"Everybody who's milking cows is in trouble now," said Mike Hosking, a third-generation dairy farmer in Mount Hope who sold his herd in October. "For the past four years, we've been getting paid the same amount for our milk as we got paid 20 years ago, and it's finally taking its toll."

Hosking, whose barn was destroyed in a fire in 2014, said he never would have rebuilt it - and depleted his savings when insurance fell short - had he known the business would get this bad.

"I would have gone out then," Hosking said.

The dairy industry in much of the country has been in free fall, a result of increasing supply and decreasing demand. Americans simply don't drink as much milk as they used to, and producers of still-popular butter, cheese, ice cream and yogurt have only been able to absorb so much of the surplus.

Processors, as a result, have canceled purchase contracts with little notice, forcing dairy farmers to scramble to find new buyers for their milk or go out of business.

Six of Sullivan County's 18 dairy farmers lost their contracts in May and then had them extended temporarily. Now two plans to build small creameries to process niche products are being advanced to create a more stable market for their milk.

In Orange County, the farmers had contracts, but that security alone couldn't overcome a combination of other personal and financial pressures.
"I guess you could say my son and I – he’s past 60 and I’m past 80 - more or less decided to retire," said Wisner Buckbee Sr., co-owner of the 500-acre Wisner Farms in Warwick. "Everybody is losing money and going out. I think all the dairies in the county will be gone within five years."

Bill Hoekstra of Montgomery, who sold his remaining 55 cows in September for half what they were worth four years ago, said the "totally unbalanced financial equation" finally did him in.

"Nobody's happy about going out like this," Hoekstra said. "But how long can you keep rolling a rock uphill only to have it roll back over you? When your dairy agent tells you he doesn't think milk prices are going to get any better?"

Winnie Gros of Pine Bush said she and her husband, Jake, were squeezed financially, too: "We can handle the ups and downs – you expect them in farming – but when you’re down for so long and there's no up in sight, you can't survive."

The other closing dairies are James Ballard in Campbell Hall, Dean Vellenga in Westtown and George Constable in Unionville.

"I think by spring a few more will be gone," said Rachel Moody, the equine/livestock educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County. "Besides milk prices, the weather this year has kicked them when they were down."

This season's constant rain cut yields of hay and corn for many farmers, adding the unanticipated expense of buying silage to feed their herds to their bills. Hosking said, for example, a tractor-trailer load of hay cost upwards of $8,000 and would only last his 100-plus cows about 45 days.

The farms, collectively, represent more than 2,500 acres of fields and pastures that their owners intend to keep in active use in the short term to preserve the agricultural assessments that lower property taxes.

"We’ve got a lot of tillable acres and we’re going to have to make a lot of changes," Buckbee said.

He and other farmers think hay could be a viable cash crop since, as Hoekstra pointed out,
there are probably as many horses as cows in the county today.

"We did well enough with hay this year that we were able to sell some, but there’s no guarantee that will be the case next year," Gros said. "We’ve made no decisions. It’s all still too new."

The farmers also held their heifers back from auction to grow on for two years and then sell at the peak of their value – when they are about to produce their first calves, their udders have descended and their potential as milk cows can be assessed.

Hosking, who kept about 40 calves, said he may keep his hand in the business by raising and selling breeding stock, since most of his prize Holsteins with their choice pedigrees sold "pretty well" to breeders throughout the Northeast.

"I guess I should think about retiring, but I’ve been doing this all my life – it’s all I’ve ever wanted to do – and I think I still have some good years in me," said the 60-something Hosking.

But demand for cows, like the milk they produce, has fallen along with prices, robbing farmers of a source of equity that they used to be able to borrow against.

"What this is, for all of us, really, is a step into the great unknown," Hoekstra said.

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Traffic Comprehensive Plan

Orange County Airport
- Orange County Airport is a small business/recreation/aviation center airport and does not need its own exit from I-84. Cargo planes can utilize Stewart Airport where the road infrastructure is in place.
- Adding an exit will increase truck traffic and be beneficial only to the large warehouses while destroying the towns of Montgomery and Hamptonburgh.
- What priority is a new exit from I-84 on the DOT list of projects?
- Reconstruction of the Harriman Tolls was on the list for 12 years.
- A comprehensive traffic study and a certified Planner should evaluate the area if adding an exit is feasible and analyze if there is any economic benefit to the surrounding towns.
- What happened to preserving our quality of life and the agricultural farms and lands as stated in the comprehensive plan under the Greenway Compact and the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan?

Workforce Commute to New York City
- People who commute to NYC for work consider the drive a tradeoff to live in Orange County for the natural, open space and the quality of life. Do a survey and don't assume every commuter wants an I-84 on/off ramp in their backyard.
- A multimodal transportation system that is sized to the towns should be encouraged.

Air Quality
- The air quality in Orange County is already bad. Do you know how many times in the summer the DEC issued alerts about high ozone levels and to stay indoors?
- Trucks, buses and idling traffic are the worst polluters.
- Big business with large truck fleets should be located on the outside perimeter of small towns to alleviate health problems.

Route 17: Gateway to Development
- Legoland does not have permission from the DOT to build their bridge.
- Does the DOT allow bridges/interchanges for 1 business?
- How can Legoland open in 2020 when they just started construction at the end of 2018.
- Legoland's site plans include moving the Heritage Trail to accommodate bridge supports.
- The heritage trail sits on a secure railroad bed. Where will it be moved to?
- To move the Heritage Trail Legoland needs permission from the Department of Parks and Recreation.
- Exit 125 should not be closed to accommodate one business.
- Will egress/ingress traffic on 17M and Harriman Drive be required to use Legoland's traffic circle?
- Not all 3,000 to 5,000 cars/day are going to use Legoland's bridge. The local roads will be impacted greatly and cause slow/stopped traffic. Do a comprehensive traffic study on Rt. 17M and Rt. 207 in Goshen and the exit in Chester for current traffic for an additional 1,500 cars per day.
• Rt. 17 cannot handle current traffic volumes today especially in the summer months. Legoland is a seasonal amusement park only operating in the summer months. A bridge is not going to solve this problem. There will be adverse congestion.

• Legoland is not paying for the bridge. They received a 20-year PILOT worth 36M dollars and another 26M dollars for construction costs.

• The NYSDOT Scoping/PEL study is anticipated to start in 2019 and it could be 2021 before its completed. How long will it take for DOT to construct a bridge for Legoland?

• In Legoland’s FEIS they stated at a Public Hearing that their bridge, additional lanes on Rt. 17, installing left hand turning lanes and traffic lights at many intersections within the Goshen area would be complete before they will open their amusement park. The Scoping/PEL study will not be done until 2021.

• What is the realistic time frame for construction by the DOT on Rt. 17?

Truck Freight

• The majority of shipments by truck freight passing through these facilities (large warehouses) have origins and destinations outside Orange County.

• Why is Orange County giving large PILOTS to multibillion-dollar companies to locate in Orange County?

• This is not good economic development when it destroys the small towns and villages in the area.

• This is not good economic development when the small towns and villages must accommodate these mega warehouses and concentrated warehouse complexes.

• The best example of an industrial park with a volume of truck traffic that works is Chester.

• Orange County must copy the footprint of Chester as it has the least amount of negative impact on the town and village.

• Truck Freight companies and mega warehouses should be located near Stewart Airport. The I-84 and I-87 provide the road infrastructure and they have access to Stewart Airport cargo shipping.
Transit Comments from coUrbanize Site

The 32 comments that follow sound a few common themes; need for more/improved transit options to New York City; need for more intramunicipal transit; need for more intra-county transit, connecting more disparate areas of the County; need for more scheduled and regular transit options; connections to major employment and educational centers within the County; multimodal connections, including nonmotorized connections.

1. Connecting public transportation networks via multiple modes (e.g., trains to buses) would make life easier for our region's commuters, visitors, and intra-region travelers. Creating a connector from the Salisbury Mills station to Beacon via the Newburgh waterfront/ferry could open new possibilities for access to the regular train service on the east side of the Hudson. —Bill Braine, 6/1/17

2. Connecting rail to the airport via new track would be a huge boost to the airport and local economy. —Led Klosky, 7/19/17 (response to #1)

3. We should lobby hard for an extension of the rail line from Salisbury Mills to Stewart with a new station at Stewart. More robust transit connections will really help the airport to function more efficiently and we haven't had any upgrades to rail service in the county in many years. —Led Klosky, 7/19/17

4. Orange County would benefit by having a long term plan that would make towns and villages walk and bikeable, with access to quality public transportation. This would mean fewer cars on the road and greater access to amenities for all age groups. —coUrbanizer via Text, 10/4/17, in response to “What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community?”

5. In a similar vein to other comments, while a single seat train ride to Stewart Airport is probably the best long term goal, a bus connection between the Salisbury Mills train station and the Airport, perhaps looping near Storm King Art Center, would open up further transportation connections and opportunities to attract visitors. —Mark Taylor, 9/29/17, in response to the on-site transportation infrastructure question. He and I went back and forth a couple times about a larger intra-County transit plan, nothing really to add to this.


7. I take Public Transportation because it affords me the ability to be more productive, sharper at work, ease of frustration on the road and the ability to meet great people with the same experience. —coUrbanizer via Text, 9/22/17, in response to “Why do you ride public transit – and what could make your ride better?”

8. I ride coach use because it is economical and convenient. Communications could be improved significantly. —coUrbanizer via Text, 9/22/17, same question as #8.

9. When a train is running late, providing an estimate of the arrival time would be far more helpful than updates on how late it currently is. That way riders will know if they have
time for a bathroom break or to grab a coffee.—coUrbanizer via Text, 9/22/17, same question as #8.

10. Our ride on the Port Jervis Line, would be much better if you add an earlier train between the 2:40 PM and 4:08PM out of Hoboken. Add a train at 3:30PM, we would not have to wait so dreadfully long and riders will come back to ride the train from going to ride the commuter bus.—coUrbanizer via Text, 9/22/17, same question as #8.

11. Trains more frequent.—coUrbanizer via Text, 9/15/17, in response to “Why do you ride public transit?” I’m assuming they meant that trains should be more frequent on the Port Jervis Line; my request for clarification has gone unanswered.

12. I ride public transit because it's inexpensive, environmentally friendly and I don't have to drive! I would love to see the Newburgh Beacon ferry operate on weekends and all day long! - Patti Devine—coUrbanizer via Text, 9/14/17, same question as #8.

13. I take the Salisbury Mills train 5 days per week. In thinking about changes which would help me out. I live close enough to walk to the train but am too afraid as the road way is extremely dangerous. A side walk to Washingtonville would be amazing. If not how about a dedicated bike lane? —coUrbanizer via Text, 9/14/17, same question as #8. I responded, telling the texter about the Washingtonville Placemaking Committee.

14. Trains that go to grand central station. Middletown takes you to NJ... my husband literally travels 3 hours to work and 3 hours back.—Meiki Love, 8/28/17, “Transportation & transit idea”. She and I went back and forth a few times about previous iterations of this idea, talked about the tunnel under the Hudson that Christie killed in 2011.

15. The ferry to metro north needs an extra shift during the day to allow all day service. Also weekend service is a must. A light rail or bus rapid transit should be built from Stewart Airport straight down Broadway to meet the Ferry. Do NOT bypass Newburgh and build this to Salisbury Mills. More and more convenient bus and bus rapid transit should connect Newburgh n-s and e-w to allow residents to shop and dine and attend school without a car.—Stuart Sachs, 8/14/17, “Transportation & transit idea”

16. More mass transit more electric cars—Marlena Lange, 8/9/17, “Transportation & transit idea”. No details other than that.

17. I feel blessed to have the option of taking a train or bus to commute into my job in Manhattan. I also appreciate the local town offering our senior citizens free shuttles. But I would like to see Orange County develop a green intra-county transit system. Wouldn’t it be great to be able to take a steam train from Harriman to Middletown? Or something green and clean. Less cars and highways, more mass transit and bike lanes.—Janice Anunziata, 8/7/17, “Transportation & transit idea”.

18. A rail siding and yard in Harriman so freight train will not encumber on commuter traffic and adding to crappy delay. Sending the best option for a yard and siding north is foolish. Transit Village in place of the yard and siding will destroy the area with traffic.—Matthew Higgins, 8/6/17, “Transportation & transit idea”. I have been reluctant to engage this commenter, as he’s a bit aggressive, but this is at least a specific idea.
19. a public bus system to link us with all parts of our County—Sue Anne Vogelsberg, 7/29/17, “Transportation & transit idea”

20. The County has a few main transportation arteries, the Quikway, the Thruway, Routes 17 and 84, running through it. Development along those corridors with accompanying public transportation linking all County residents to those businesses would be terrific!—Sue Anne Vogelsberg, 7/29/17, “Jobs & economy idea”

21. Pedestrian Services and safety by adding Sidewalks on public roads and Traffic signals to permit pedestrian crossing. Road Widening to add turning lanes. Street lights. Park and Ride Lots to enhance mass-transit use.—Gedalye Szegedin, 7/28/17, “What transportation projects do we need?”

22. There needs to be a coherent plan for getting users of the bus system parked and safely to the bus stop at this complex intersection. There are a lot of dangerous, unsignalized crossings at this intersection every day as people try to get to the bus heading southbound on the route 32.—Led Klosky, 7/20/17, This is pinned on the map to the bus stop at 5 Corners in Vails Gate; the specific intersection is the traffic light on Route 32S (toward Cornwall) at the back entrance of the Hannaford supermarket. A couple responses clarified a parking question.

23. County wide bus transportation!—Sue Anne Vogelsberg, 6/16/17. I followed up with a “where do you see this need?”

24. as i understand it now--certain communities, Middletown, KJ, Newburgh have bus service--open it up County wide--how many parents struggle to get their kids to jobs at the Commons or the Malls--even factoring in the air pollution from car exhaust--using public transport would be environmentally friendly!—Sue Anne Vogelsberg, 6/19/17, following up to my response to #23.

25. City need to collaborate with more private investors in area of transportation. Public transportation is an essential part of mega city and city should come up with best public transport vision.. The time is now.—Tunde Ayegboyin, 8/12/17, as a follow-up comment to a discussion about jobs and economic growth.

26. Better public transportation system with affordable rates, especially for seniors, students, and low income families connecting all of Orange County.—Carina Blom, 6/2/17

27. Everything!!! We have 1 taxi cab company. Buses do come into my village but on a very limited schedule. Walden had a shot at getting the train here & they blew it! It wasn't presented in a pittance enough light! So many young people are commuting to NYC to work. They have to travel to catch the train. Parking is a disaster at the station in Beacon. Just not enough. Having the train would improve SO much in a community! People would want to live here because of the train. We also need serious road repairs! And traffic flow studies. With Rt52 & Rt208 going thru this village, traffic at certain times of the day is a disaster! We also have bridges that need repair! The Hill Ave bridge has been closed for FIVE years!—Lynn Thompson, 6/2/17.
28. Newburgh needs rail service to NYC—*Paul Justino, 6/1/17. Think I went to high school with this guy.*

29. Cornwall Rising: The Town of Cornwall is exploring placemaking and street improvements to optimize value of our traditional, walkable Main Street and Hudson Street commercial corridor. County support for this and related projects, especially in extending transit for locals and visitors, would help tie the region’s assets together.—*Bill Braine, 6/1/17*

30. A bus run similar to Coach USA that would take county students to SUNY Orange. Several runs a day. This would reduce the parking demand at the school, emissions, and students costs. Like to trolley system, but connected to SUNY Orange.—*Kathleen Mazza, 5/31/17*

31. Any free or low cost public transportation that runs a scheduled route. Most of them are good workers cannot drive in the area and need this Transportation but don't have it in areas like Pine Island. I'm sure there's other areas too that are lacking. The present dial-a-bus is difficult to get a hold of and takes very long time sometimes and wait up to two hours. A bus that ran a half hours or even the hours from certain locations would make life easier for many people. I also know Greenwood Lake would benefit from having services also.—*Danielle Barbour, 5/27/17*
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<td>Edward Goodell</td>
<td>Aug 07, 2017, 04:30 PM</td>
<td>41.35058</td>
<td>-74.1823</td>
<td>Favorite recreation spot / Activity idea Parks &amp; recreation</td>
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<td>Julie Richmond</td>
<td>May 19, 2017, 03:35 PM</td>
<td>41.39622</td>
<td>-74.3231</td>
<td>What's great about Orange County Love the Heritage Trail. Would love to have more safe places to run.</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>Burton Thelander</td>
<td>May 26, 2017, 08:39 AM</td>
<td>41.44581</td>
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<td>Could be better What's great about Orange County</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Bill Braine</td>
<td>Jun 01, 2017, 11:14 AM</td>
<td>41.42807</td>
<td>-74.0637</td>
<td>Great! What's great about Orange County</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Kate Ahmadi</td>
<td>May 25, 2017, 03:23 PM</td>
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<td>Bill Braine</td>
<td>Jun 01, 2017, 11:04 AM</td>
<td>41.43655</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Led Klosky</td>
<td>Jul 19, 2017, 11:59 PM</td>
<td>41.43655</td>
<td>-74.1019</td>
<td>Could be better Re: What's great about Orange County</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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</table>
We should lobby hard for an extension of the rail line from Salisbury Mills to Stewart with a new station at Stewart. More robust transit connections will really help the airport to function more efficiently and we haven’t had any upgrades to rail service in the county in many years.

Get water back in the canal! We had lots of people visiting to make rides on the canal boat when there was water.

Any free or low cost public transportation that runs a scheduled route. Most of them are good workers cannot drive in the area and need this Transportation but don’t have it in areas like Pine Island. I’m sure there’s other areas too that are lacking. The present dial-a-bus is difficult to get a hold of and takes very long time sometimes and wait up to two hours. A bus that ran and a half hours or even the hours from certain locations would make life easier for many people. I also know Greenwood Lake would benefit from having services also.

Glenmere Lake is a gem of biodiversity and fun for paddling. Lots of birds, dragonflies, bats, snakes (I’ve only seen small ones, luckily!), turtles, frogs, and other wildlife. The Village Park also has trails but I haven’t walked them. It’s great to have this area open to the public.

Goosepond State Parkland is great but I’d also like to see open space funds/efforts be expanded to connect this park to other protected lands (Schunnemunk and Harriman) for a greenway corridor in the protection of our natural resources as well as for recreational uses.

Love the Heritage Trail. Would be even better if it connected more towns and villages in Orange County and beyond! Thanks, Tom

Welcome! Feel free to post as many ideas and questions as you like. How can we plan to make Orange County even better?

More Art! We need real Art museums. We also need a centrally located ice skating rink open to public and competition.

Would love the rail trail developed that runs through Washingtonville and Blooming Grove….. Would be instrumental for continuing the rebirth Washingtonville is undergoing.

I would like to see more museums in the area and safe activities for kids. I would like to see those put in two places that already exist as to not cut down any of our existing forest or farmland. Repurposing an older building would be ideal.
I would suggest, in particular, a major art museum be developed in an existing, unused commercial building in one of the malls. It could house permanent and visiting exhibitions of classic, modern, and contemporary art. The museum could also have a café/restaurant and gift shops. The Greater Middletown area is rife with properties that would be suitable. Rehabilitate the ‘Old Railroad Trail’ between Pine Bush and Bullville with the eventual intent to be connecting to the Sarah Wells Trail now being extended to Middletown. A county wide trail could be a draw for day trippers as well as an asset to the local communities along it.

Liz Geyer  
May 31, 2017, 01:36 PM  
41.39251 -74.3486

What’s missing

Christopher Welch  
May 31, 2017, 02:49 PM  
41.59842 -74.3002

An art and natural history museum. Centrally locating it in downtown Middletown would geographically make the most sense as this would centralize access for the rest of the county including school districts who would be able to leverage that venue as part of their curriculum.

Christopher Welch  
May 31, 2017, 02:55 PM  
41.44176 -74.418

Could be better

A bus run similar to Coach USA that would take county students to SUNY Orange. Several runs a day. This would reduce the parking demand at the school, emissions, and students costs. Like to trolley system, but connected to SUNY Orange.

Kathleen Mazza  
May 31, 2017, 03:21 PM  
41.44028 -74.4265

What’s great about Orange County

Great job at land preservation! Kathleen Mazza  
May 31, 2017, 03:23 PM  
41.39883 -74.0283

What’s missing

Thanks for commenting, Bill! The County certainly supports you and the Town in these placemaking efforts. We are certainly looking into transit needs, intra- and intermunicipal needs as well as regional. Thanks for your input, Bill! Storm King is a wonderful facility, and we agree that we should be doing as much as possible to capture more tourist spending.

Megan Tennermann  
Jun 06, 2017, 09:55 AM  
41.43543 -74.0338

Could be better

Better public transportation system with affordable rates, especially for seniors, students, and low income families connecting all of Orange County. Love the scenic views and historic landmarks. I hope the County continues with open space preservation efforts due to obvious benefits in natural areas, parks, farmland, trails, water access, etc.

Carina Blon  
Jun 02, 2017, 11:08 PM  
41.43747 -74.4264

Could be better

There needs to be a coherent plan for getting users of the bus system parked and safely to the bus stop at this complex intersection. There are a lot of dangerous, unsignalized crossings at this intersection every day as people try to get to the bus heading southbound on the route 32.

Led Klosky  
Jul 20, 2017, 12:10 AM  
41.45437 -74.0575

Could be better

a public bus system to link us with all parts of our County

sue anne vogelsberg  
Jul 29, 2017, 08:19 PM  
41.39251 -74.3486

Could be better

Transportation & transit
I ride public transit because it's inexpensive, environmentally friendly and I don't have to drive! I would love to see the Newburgh Beacon ferry operate on weekends and all day long! - Patti Devine

The Old Erie trail is one block from us. Yet people are driving all the way to Chester or Goshen to use the more developed Heritage Trail that is paved. We have walked virtually every foot of this trail between Cornwall and Chester. If the bridges could be fixed really could be for alternative transportation. It is a beautiful resource right in our backyards & would like people to find it & would like to see it either paved or maintained so not pooled in wet weather. - Dena Wolf

Sidewalks on South Street extension, Galloway, etc. I believe that you are referring to the trail that crosses Rt 94 near Riley Rd in New Windsor, runs past Cornwall HS and through Salisbury Mills, Washingtonville, Blooming Grove, and then connects with the Orange Heritage Trail near Greycourts, east of Chester. It would be a fantastic addition to Orange County if parts or all of this trail could be developed. Also, very near the New Windsor end of this trail there is an unused rail line that runs to the Hudson R waterfront in Newburgh, just north of Quassaic Creek. - Phil Fernsten

Schunnemunk Mountain State Park is, so far, an undeveloped park but still growing, and becoming increasingly popular and better serviced. Please continue Governor Patakis initiatives to keep SCHUNNEMONK park forever green. And protect Mountain Lodge Park from high-density housing. It already is stressed for water (no new wells allowed) and yet KJ is seen in the area. Please protect Mountain Lodge Park by creating a green zone across the entire area from the SCHUNNEMONK park to mountain lodge park. - Janice Annunziata

Thanks for commenting, Wayne! So those are recreational trips? Would the canal also be open to canoeing and kayaking? - Megan Tennermann

History and art are always good for everyone. - Danielle Barbour

A major Performance venue with state of the art facilities for dance, music, drama, film is needed in western/central Orange County. Ideal locations are available on Route 6 between Middletown and Port Jervis. - Samuel Bergsohn

More informative signage for any and all landmarks in the county would be really cool!! - Liz Geyer
We have many spread out museums and nature trails throughout the county but none provide a centralized focused on natural history or art history for the region. For a start you could create a collection of local artists in various medium dating back to Native art. The same for history including prehistoric species and local history. An interactive exhibit about early Natives including findings of the Dutchess Quarry Cave Site and artifacts from the various settlements throughout the region such as the Minsi Mistucky Native American Village in Warwick NY would surely be a great exhibit. Collections of extinct animal bones such as mammoths from Pine Island or shells from the great inland ocean would also be great to have in one space.

Cornwall Rising: The Town of Cornwall is exploring placemaking and street improvements to optimize value of our traditional, walkable Main Street and Hudson Street commercial corridor. County support for this and related projects, especially in extending transit for locals and visitors, would help tie the region’s assets together.

Add a walking bridge and foot path to join both sides of the ponds. And maybe buy out some of the dilapidated buildings along 17M and replace with public park. More large and small tract parks, undeveloped green spaces, farmlands, and outdoor passive recreational facilities need to be secured now before these spaces are developed. Increased open space needs to be balanced with industrial and commercial development (workplaces) and variable density housing (high density in our more urban settings to very low-density rural settings).

Meant to include the Orange County Land Trust and Black Rock Forest Consortium as the other organizations that are working on this with the OSI!!

Thanks for your input, Edward! Orange County is deeply committed to creating trail networks and preserving open space in a natural and cohesive manner, so this is excellent news.

Hudson Highlands Nature Museum is a wonderful cultural and environmental resource for our community.

I feel blessed to have the option of taking a train or bus to commute into my job in Manhattan. I also appreciate the local town offering our senior citizens free shuttles. But I would like to see Orange County develop a green intra-county transit system. Wouldn’t it be great to be able to take a steam train from Harriman to Middletown? Or something green and clean. Less cars and highways, more mass transit and bike lanes.

[Signatures and timestamps of contributors]
The ferry to metro north needs an extra shift during the day to allow all day service. Also weekend service is a must. A light rail or bus rapid transit should be built from Stewart Airport straight down Broadway to meet the Ferry. Do NOT bypass Newburgh and build this to Salisbury Mills. More and more convenient bus and bus rapid transit should connect Newburgh n-s and e-w to allow residents to shop and dine and attend school without a car.

Encourage new businesses and the creative economy and get out of the way. Zoning code should allow AIR (artist in residence) whereby an artist can do their work in their own building without special (and very expensive) commercial and factory zoning requirements. Orange county benefits enormously by the high cost of NYC. Be smart... encourage, make it easy, require safety, but don’t over tax it or that will kill the proverbial golden goose. Allow individuals to run electrics and plumbing in their own building. Inspect it, require high standards, but allow individuals who know the drill to do it themselves ... this is a big way to attract talented creative types to the county. Instruct Codes officers to work with Artists and Arts Organizations to temporarily use and occupy safe but unfinished spaces. Set reasonable requirements for say fire extinguishers, and active fire guards for temporary shows. Collaboration between codes and artists and arts producers improves safety, and instigates economic activity.

Roundabout re-alignment is needed at this dangerous intersection of Stage Rd. Still Rd. Orange Tpke. and Pine Tree Rd. A combination of limited sight distance, poor alignment and speed make for risky crossing from Pine Tree Rd. onto Stage Rd all times of day and night.

On the other hand, if those who use the power have to host the power plant, maybe they’d conserve. Otherwise the areas where few people live have to put up with the plants to support the higher density areas.

Trains that go to grand central station. Middletown takes you to NY... my husband literally travles 3 hours to work and 3 hours back.
Harvey is a warning to us all: that we must not build residences and most types of businesses in flood prone locations. We are experiencing more severe weather more often. We have had '100-year' storms with increasing frequency locally in recent years! These severe storms which historically had a 1% chance of impacting us in a particular year are now more like 50% occurrence storms - a 50% chance every year! These storms are not only hitting us more frequently, building in those flood susceptible areas are worsening the consequences. Greater development restrictions are called for minimize future disasters in areas prone to flooding.

Improvements to sidewalks at corners and cross walks would help for strollers, bikes and wheelchairs.

Better sidewalks in Cornwall ny. Walking my daughter in her stroller is a nightmare!

There is endless opportunity for small businesses in OC! We are so close to NYC it would be awesome for satellites of some large corporations in NYC take up residence in OC. With ORMC in our county, we should be focused on this becoming a real regional center. Healthcare for all is so vital, especially so people don't have to keep leaving this county for care. I know that far too many are still going to NYC hospitals, WCMC, Albany, & over to Vassar. We need to recruit & retain the best specialists to live & work in OC. A lot has been done in that area, but still nowhere near enough! We need to develop more public transportation opportunities too. And let's hang on to our farmers! We are known as a rural, farming community. Yet our farms are decreasing. There is a huge demand these days for organic produce, milk, & meat. People want farm to table restaurants. We should be offering every possible incentive to help our farmers & encourage young people to start careers in agriculture! I think clean energy is a place to develop economically. We have really started moving with solar energy. Wind energy is also an option. Tourism is another place where we can develop. There is lots of history in this county. Let's advertise & promote ourselves to get folks to visit here! With tourists come job opportunities!

Apartments
Build basketball courts on the banks of the Hudson. See what Nyack and Irvington have. Incredible resource that can be better utilized.
When a train is running late, providing an estimate of the arrival time would be far more helpful than updates on how late it currently is. That way riders will know if they have time for a bathroom break or to grab a coffee. Bicycle lanes please. In Newburgh but also by the river. Why couldn’t we have a bicycle lane starting at the Newburgh waterfront going south to Cornwall and beyond?

More apartment and rental options. For families, single family housing within 3 acre lots or larger would allow conservation of resources and better use of land. For seniors, monitored grounds around low income apartments so that they do not have to relocate away from their support group.

More reliable schedules and notifications when bus is delayed or not coming 197 warwick Its disaster

Value farms for the green space and the farm to table food and the reduction of development of our beautiful land warwick

A bike path which goes around the edges of the village, through nature, along village roads, town roads, existing trails...

Small parking area for the old erie trial with signage?? ..

Create pedestrian paths to link neighborhoods together.

Why not have it go all the way to Port Jervis?

I ride public transportation so I can have a little respite during my commute. I would feel too stressed if I had to drive it. My ride would be better if the buses ran more frequently at night. It is difficult to rush to the bus in the afternoon. Would love to see the old rail trail that runs through Blooming Grove and Washingtonville developed and later linked up to the Heritage Trail or extended to the Hudson River. Would greatly enhance the current rebirth occurring in Washingtonville.

I posted about this in Nov. on the map on a few Cornwall spots on same rail trail. Wonderful trail, hope it comes to fruition. Would serve thousands and link up communities without having to drive; lower pollution, etc!! It actually hooks up to the heritage in chester.
Solar (everywhere, should consider integrating into building codes), waste to energy (as much as possible). All wastewater treatment facilities should be powered through onsite generation as much as possible (digester gas, etc). Maximize use of FOG for public facilities. On-site energy provision should be integrated into codes.

Tiny houses could provide affordable housing for couples and singles is the local zoning regulations allowed.

The Orange Heritage Trailway crosses a cut-off street that passes through the Monroe Park and Ride Lot B and connects Rt 17M and Orange and Rockland Rd. A considerable amount of vehicular traffic crosses the trail there, but there is no signage or crosswalk to alert motorists to the presence of pedestrians and cyclists crossing there. It is difficult for pedestrians/cyclists heading south on the trail to see vehicles coming south on O&R Rd, some of whom make sudden right turns and cross the trail with little warning. A painted crosswalk and some signage would greatly improve safety there.

An old railroad bed crosses Rt 94 here and crosses the Cornwall HS grounds, Jackson Ave, Salisbury Mills, Washingtonville, Blooming Grove, runs near Camp LaGuardia, and ultimately ties into the Heritage Trail near Grey courts. Trail is pretty rough in places, and the 5 bridges over Moodna Creek in Salisbury Mills/Washingtonville are unsafe. Bridge over Seely Brook near Greycourts also in poor condition. But would be a great addition to Orange County if some parts or all of this trail could be developed into pedestrian/cycling trail, providing part of a trail link from the Hudson R to Middletown.
Well, I have 3 suggestions/questions: 1. Would it be feasible to establish a rail link from the NJ Transit line at Cornwall-Salisbury Mills Station directly to Stewart Airport? It's not very far, and there are no obvious obstacles. This would improve access to Stewart Airport from NYC and points south along the NJ Transit line, and might therefore result in more flights to/from Stewart and some economic development for the area. If not a rail line, then would shuttle bus service from the Cornwall-Salisbury Mills to Stewart serve the same purpose? 2. Since the Heritage Trail is apparently scheduled to be extended from Goshen to Middletown (yay!), it might make sense, if possible, connect the trail with the train station in Middletown. This probably would not have as much impact as connecting the other end of the trail to the Harriman train station, though. 3. There is a rail line along the west bank of the Hudson R that carries a considerable amount of freight traffic. I believe that there once was passenger service along this line. This line seems to pass by the NJ Transit junction in Secaucus, NJ. Would it therefore make economic sense to reestablish passenger train service to/from Newburgh along the west bank of the Hudson? Or would this have little economic impact on Newburgh, since there is ferry and shuttle bus service to the Metro North train station in Beacon? Could this line also be connected with Stewart Airport? I’d like to see OC explore the concept of tiny houses. I say this because I have heard MANY conversations from single people & retired folks who think this could be an interesting option for them! I’d love to learn more about how a tiny house community would impact the environment & how would zoning challenges be addressed.

Phil Fernsten  Jan 02, 2018, 01:30 PM  41.31199 -74.151  Parks & recreation  Re: Favorite recreation spot / Activity idea  2

Lynn Thompson  Feb 25, 2018, 02:04 PM  Housing  What kinds of housing options would you like to see in your community?  2
We have a town bus in place but service is quite limited. It's for seniors. I attempted to utilize the bus while recovering from surgery & needed to get rides to PT. I was denied as I was not old enough! Some residents & I have had conversation about shared services & these town buses. Would it be possible to explore sharing this service? Many aptns seniors need are in Middletown & Newburgh, where our hospitals are located. Could there be a schedule in place that perhaps the buses from small communities on the outskirts, like Walden, Maybrook, etc, be able to drop residents at a centralized location to get to their aptns? We currently rely on volunteers to get folks to aptns. It's a challenge because people that would've been retired in years past are now having to work into their 70's, even 80's to survive financially! The pool of volunteers seems to be shrinking. The bus services are already being funded & utilizes. Perhaps with some top notch planning we could work more efficiently TOGETHER to fulfill a need & get some revenue for everyone as yet another way of sharing.

Lynn Thompson Feb 25, 2018, 02:12 PM

Transportation & transit

What major transportation infrastructure projects does your community need? 2

I love to ride around the Woodcock Mountain Road and Schunnemunk area. Since Schunnemunk is already protected, I would love to see Woodcock Mountain conserved as well.

Michelle Smith Mar 29, 2018, 04:41 PM 41.41132 -74.1393 Could be better

The railroad right of way from New Windsor, along Quassaic Creek, to the Hudson in Newburgh is still in use. However, there is a largely intact but abandoned right of way from the 32 and 20 intersection to the Hudson in Cornwall-on-Hudson.

John Moran Jan 02, 2018, 10:23 PM 41.39622 -74.3231 Great!

Port Jervis Watershed Park and Trails 28 Miles of Hiking and Off-road Biking around three pristine reservoirs.


Port Jervis Elks Brox Park 295 acres for picnicking, hiking and biking

Valerie Maginsky May 22, 2017, 02:46 PM 41.3957 -74.6907 Great!

Orange Co Genealogical Society

Linda Burroughs May 25, 2017, 02:59 PM 41.40271 -74.3218 Great!

Great source for family history of Orange County families

Linda Burroughs May 25, 2017, 02:59 PM 41.40271 -74.3218 Great!

Re: What’s great about Orange County â€“ And what could be even better? 1

Thanks Kate! How would you like to see Orange County protect and develop parkland as part of the Comprehensive Plan? Beautiful People, the Orange County Chapter of Miracle League building accessible ball field at Wickham Woodlands. Funding needed for completion; planned for late 2017-early 2018, so that 'Every Child has the Chance to Play Baseball!'

Megan Tennermann May 25, 2017, 03:13 PM 41.3942 -74.1 Great!

Re: What’s great about Orange County â€“ And what could be even better? 1

Beautiful People, the Orange County Chapter of Miracle League building accessible ball field at Wickham Woodlands. Funding needed for completion; planned for late 2017-early 2018, so that 'Every Child has the Chance to Play Baseball!'

Jan Brunkhorst May 25, 2017, 05:30 PM 41.28013 -74.3071 Could be better

What’s great about Orange County â€“ And what could be even better? 1

What’s great about Orange County â€“ And what could be even better? 1
We love the concept and the opportunity of this site, and we are proud to be part of this amazing Orange County community and its resources!

Yes, kayaks and canoes, skating in the winter perhaps. But the real draw is the canal boat replica that gave rides. I've always thought the island in Island Basin could be utilized as well. An amphitheater? A 'stage' with people watching from the tow path?

The re-watering of the Cuddebackville section of D&H Canal offers canoeing, kayaking in season and ice skating in the winter. The mule path is a nature walk. Several hundred children make paid trips to learn about the canal. They would love a re-enactment on the island! The only National Historic Preservation monument in Western Orange was placed in the area as the last navigable area of the 108 mi. canal. The historic watered canal will serve to bring in historical and eco-tourists, will support the Neversink museum and local small businesses. Please let us arrange field trip at your pleasure. And visit our fb page: Wet the Canal. Thank-you!

Jane Brunkhorst May 31, 2017, 10:14 AM 41.28013 -74.3071 Could be better

Re: What's great about Orange County - and what could be even better?

Wayne Decker May 31, 2017, 04:12 PM 41.46215 -74.602 Could be better

Re: What's great about Orange County - and what could be even better?

Jane Sorensen Lord Jun 01, 2017, 04:26 PM 41.46215 -74.602 Could be better

Re: What's great about Orange County - and what could be even better?

Thanks, Wayne! We're going to take a closer look at this. The D&H Canal continues to deteriorate. The County must issue an RFP for engineering expertise to produce a 'fix-it' plan. The money's in the budget!!

Steve Skye Jun 07, 2017, 07:53 PM 41.46215 -74.602 Could be better

Re: What's great about Orange County - and what could be even better?

Thanks for your input, Steve! It does sound like we're going to need to look at the state of the canal. Do you have more information you can give us on this topic?

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 09:19 AM 41.46215 -74.602 Could be better

Re: What's great about Orange County - and what could be even better?

Thanks for commenting Burt! We actually are working with municipal planning boards on energy conservation and alternative energy production, and we'd love to see more trails that can be extended into a true nonmotorized transportation network.

A traffic light. Many crashes happen here and I've almost been hit here many times. It also needs flashing warning signs saying light ahead.


Re: What's great about Orange County - and what could be even better?

Thanks, Danielle! We have an active dedication to adaptive reuse of existing buildings. We also have a number of great museums—are you thinking of a particular historic time or activity in the County that should be commemorated?

Megan Tennermann May 30, 2017, 09:29 AM 41.39251 -74.3486 What's missing

Re: What's great about Orange County - and what could be even better?
Danielle Barbour  May 31, 2017, 01:41 PM  41.39251 -74.3486 What’s missing
I agree 100% Danielle Barbour May 31, 2017, 01:41 PM 41.39251 -74.3486 What’s missing
I’d like to see our downtown area revitalized! Rte 208 & Rte 52 go directly through Walden. WHY do we have no quaint, interesting small businesses or cafes/restaurants ( only pizzerias, Chinese, & a diner!!) in our village? We have business & industry surrounding our village, but nothing in the heart of downtown. EVERYONE I speak to would LOVE a moderately priced restaurant in our village! The Walkkill River could be a huge draw. We recently received a grant to put in a boat launch & picnic area. The river is supposedly polluted & not suitable for recreation! Help!

Lynn Thompson  May 31, 2017, 12:43 AM  41.55985 -74.1901 What’s missing
I would love a history Museum to take my kid to.

Danielle Barbour  Sep 16, 2017, 12:43 AM  41.44176 -74.418 Could be better
Thanks, Kathleen! Open space preservation is really important for our residents’ quality of life.

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 10:31 AM  41.39883 -74.0283 Great!
This is such a no brainer that If it is not done in the next 4-8 years, there will be long articles in the NYTimes, similar to the recent ones about the subway, asking, ‘What were they thinking?’

John Moran Jan 02, 2018, 10:27 PM  41.43655 -74.1019 Could be better
CPV runs counter to good planning, and the County should commit to obtaining its power from renewables. Generation can make use of active farmland for wind and passive (former) farmland for large solar, while support for commercial and residential efficiencies and rooftop solar can have further benefits in jobs, clean air, self-reliance, and setting the right example. Shorter-term, installing electric car charging stations near commercial zones (especially tourist-friendly ones) can create destinations where ‘captive’ drivers spend money while they wait, aiding employment and tax revenue while promoting ‘green’ behavior. (Additional sustainability can be gained by concentrating commercial development in walkable and transit-served neighborhoods to reduce vehicle miles traveled.)

Bill Braine Jun 01, 2017, 11:46 AM  41.40816 -74.3724 Could be better
Thanks for your input, Samuel! Safety is naturally a big concern for all residents. While specific projects are usually the purview of the municipality, we are certainly considering overall safety. Pave ALL of Hartley Road and create an area where you can begin hiking the trail to attract some more visitors. The road is really a piece of garbage that I intentionally avoid, but it should be a useful thruway.

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 09:39 AM  41.41724 -74.3662 Could be better
Re: What’s great about Orange County â€” and what could be even better?

Samuel Bergsohn Jun 01, 2017, 03:20 PM  41.40816 -74.3724 Could be better
What’s great about Orange County â€” and what could be even better?

Sustainability & resiliency Sustainability & resiliency idea
Thanks for your input, Samuel! We're looking at a lot of trail connections, particularly as they pertain to the Heritage Trail.

Thanks for your input, Samuel! The Route 17/Interstate 86 conversion is proceeding, and many of the improvements needed to bring the road up to interstate standards are in the planning phase now.

Newburgh needs rail service to NYC.

Transportation equity is a really important issue for all of us, and we are working on a number of different ways to improve it. Thanks for commenting, Carina!

Contact Lorraine Weiss, 518-268-2129, Survey & Certified Local Government Program (CLG) Unit administrator at the New York State Historic Preservation Office for Broome, Delaware, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, Tioga, and Westchester Counties.

Chester Historical Society office and archive, a treasure trove of local history.

More residential fee simple ownership and no new residential condo ownership. Condos pay only about 2/3 of the taxes of an equivalent fee simple home, which means that people who own their entire homes are unfairly paying more to subsidize condo owners.

Thanks for your input, Cliff! We agree that a Countywide strategy for parks and open space is a good idea; the County Open Space Plan was published in 2004, and we are looking at the recommendations of that plan as part of our rewrite.

There needs to be an historic overlay that would serve to protect historic areas. The overlay would highlight areas of the County with historic importance.

Thanks for your input, Tracy! As you know, we value our open space highly. Do you have specific suggestions for open space preservation?

For a healthy and growing economy, citizens need good jobs and businesses need well trained employees. Middletown should come up with master plan on how business community and SUNY community College can collaborate effectively to train future workforce and provision of technical training to help students qualify for high-tech job opportunities. Tunde Ayegboyin

Provision of community support for those relocating or intending to relocate is very important. Relocating is not without its challenges everyone knows that, but with good community support and ensuring newcomers know the best schools and areas to live in and more will be of great help for rapid development and progress.
City need to collaborate with more private investors in area of transportation. Public transportation is an essential part of mega city and city should come up with best public transport vision... The time is now.

Public Housing and Rent Regulated/stabilized apartments should be made to complete with many luxury apartments, before it is too late to manage. Cost of living is getting out of reach with sky rocketing and not regulated rents by the city.

Bike lanes are also missing in our roads.

http://www.walkkillalliance.org/ The Wallkill River Watershed is trying to address water quality issues in the River and it’s tributaries. I suggest you get involved with them - they have a good volunteer base but would love additional volunteers! the Neversink Valley Museum in Cuddebackville is the museum that reflects the history of the D&H; Canal, which needs repairing to offer living history!

The County has a few main transportation arteries, the Quikway, the Thruway, Routes 17 and 84, running through it. Development along those corridors with accompanying public transportation linking all County residents to those businesses would be terrific!

Before any major decision, our County Legislators must weigh the benefits for the greater good and not allow money or special interest groups to influence their decision.

Water is the ‘New’ Oil! I am very concerned that the county is woefully short sighted in the area of water management, to include sewage disposal as well. Can we convert superfund sites into sewage treatment plants and build new facilities on old footprints? Can we use Greenway spaces for water well drilling and maintain the bucolic, natural setting for which they were intended? [Think Diagonal drilling] Can we put ‘Water Studies’ on a 5 year cycle of examination and review? Our county is growing at a much greater rate that predicted, especially in the Eastern end of the county. Can the county impose requirements on new construction that mandates the drilling of new wells/treatment plants or taxation for the building of new wells/treatment plants? Is there any merit at all to building desalination/filtration plants along the Hudson River?
Additionally, do counties coordinate water plans or do they work in isolation? Is there a statewide consortium of water watchers? Everyone is downstream from someone right? Communities upstream from our community/county could change the natural water table by oversubscription to a previously available water source.

Consolidation and sharing of services and resources. The Town of Montgomery has 7 different water/sewer districts (3 villages and 4 small town ones). Looping the systems, while initially costly, could allow for greater reach, availability, and eventually growth. The only areas in the town with any economic success are within the villages and the Rt 208 and Neelytown Rd areas. I agree that enveloping the entire town may not be desired, but at the very least the area within the village triangle is perfect for this.

Realigning the eastern intersection of Route 52 and Route 208 would do wonders for the constant traffic issues within the village. The current intersection is only a little further than a football fields length from the other intersection of these roadways and is controlled only by a single stop sign in the northbound direction of Route 208. No turn lanes are provided and many motorists need to creep past the stop sign into the travel lane to see backwards at the westbound Route 52 traffic. Rerouted this intersection could naturally meet at 90 degrees at Valley Avenue. This area of the Village is one of the few with virgin soil, and its already zoned for business! The current owner of a large parcel was rightfully turned down by the village to rezone to residential. This would be a great spot for a small industrial park with small to medium sized spaced for new or growing small businesses.

The most important asset is water protect it pay attention don’t be fools.

Water supply protection is a primary concern for the County. Keep what we have don’t let it get away. Allow more parking for State Parks do not give away County Parks.

We enjoy swimming, hiking, biking and walking. We would love to see more places to walk free of car...love the Heritage Trail and the ideas to expand it even further, thank you.

Green jobs. Orange County needs to protect its open spaces, farms and look to expand clean, green businesses. Governor Pataki saved the ridge of SCHUNNEMONK mountain, and we want to see even more green spaces preserved from development.
Wind, water, solar. The number of pipelines proposed is troublesome, as it will only take one spill or leak to contaminate our pristine waters. Protect local farms and encourage indoor growing so we have food even in increasingly unpredictable climate changes.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Janice Annunziata</td>
<td>Aug 07, 2017</td>
<td>01:31 PM</td>
<td>Sustainability &amp; resiliency</td>
<td>Sustainability &amp; resiliency idea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Tennermann</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2017</td>
<td>11:02 AM</td>
<td>Transportation &amp; transit</td>
<td>Re: Transportation &amp; transit idea</td>
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<td>Marlena Lange</td>
<td>Aug 09, 2017</td>
<td>04:53 PM</td>
<td>Parks &amp; recreation</td>
<td>Parks &amp; recreation idea</td>
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<td>Marlena Lange</td>
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<td>Marlena Lange</td>
<td>Aug 09, 2017</td>
<td>04:55 PM</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>Orange County idea</td>
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<td>Clifton Patrick</td>
<td>Aug 10, 2017</td>
<td>02:46 PM</td>
<td>Parks &amp; recreation</td>
<td>Parks &amp; recreation idea</td>
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<td>Leslie Smith</td>
<td>Aug 12, 2017</td>
<td>05:48 PM</td>
<td>Parks &amp; recreation</td>
<td>Favorite recreation spot / Activity idea</td>
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<td>Leslie Smith</td>
<td>Aug 12, 2017</td>
<td>05:50 PM</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>What transportation projects do we need?</td>
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<td>Leslie Smith</td>
<td>Aug 12, 2017</td>
<td>05:54 PM</td>
<td>Jobs &amp; economy</td>
<td>Where should economic development be focused?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stuart Sachs</td>
<td>Aug 14, 2017</td>
<td>04:20 PM</td>
<td>Parks &amp; recreation</td>
<td>Parks &amp; recreation idea</td>
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The influx of artists creates an obvious solution... the creative economy. Each artist is a micro business who hires 1-5 people, buys materials and services locally, and creates economy around themselves and attracts tourists. The creative economy puts more money back into the local economy, and creates more economic development around itself than almost any other option. The film industry is a perfect example of this. The City and County should encourage, and do everything to attract film production even to the extent of charging low or non existent permit fees because the money will come back to the municipality 10x in terms of sales tax on the increased business generated... even a micro small film will spend a million dollars on food and hospitality boosting the local economy massively. I recommend percent for art. This is a program where by a county or municipality chooses to break off 1% of every municipal construction project and bid that to an art contractor instead of the GC. This has been shown in 400+ percent programs across the country to improve projects, build the creative economy, and it does not increase the cost of projects at all.

Jobs & economy Jobs & economy idea 1

muni and county offices including schools, libraries, dpw, water, etc. should all be required to incorporate green technology on every project. Every project should be analyzed to decide if they would be good candidates for Solar/PV, Wind, geo-therm, etc. Fleets should be required to use high percentage of low or zero emission vehicles. Construction and mechanicals should be required to be of the highest energy standards every time a building is updated. The county should have a goal of 50% co-generation, zero emission energy by 2030. Waste runoff water should be separated from sanitary and returned to the ground water BEFORE the runoff is connected to the sanitary system. These standards must be enforced by Planning and Zoning Boards as projects get designed and built. Enforcing this would prevent massive sewage discharge into the Hudson.

All public meetings, both at the county and municipal level should be video recorded and made available for viewing on public access television channels and on the internet. There have been meetings that I wanted to attend but could not.

Better announcements other than just on Facebook. Activities that are more than park and carnival related. Small businesses that allow the city to be able to send businesses to where we are. A cap as to how much renting a space is allowed to be raised to.

Jobs & economy Jobs & economy idea 1
I agree and it makes sense. I didn’t view it that way before. But I get it. But I also think to the few living in those areas, should be compensated in a way, to vacate those areas. No one ever think these things will be in their backyard. It’s just unfortunate for those that it pops up on.

Meiki, the last time this was fairly far along in the process, Chris Christie vetoed it, and as the other end of the tunnel would come into New Jersey, he had that right. Once the new governor of New Jersey is elected next fall, New York may be in a position to move this forward again.

Sustainability & resiliency Re: Sustainability & resiliency idea

Meiki Love Sep 12, 2017, 07:02 PM

Transportation & transit Re: Transportation & transit idea

Megan Tennermann Sep 26, 2017, 09:13 AM

Orange County Planning will continue to advocate with New York State for transit solutions that will benefit all our residents and others. We hope our residents will too; the only way to get transit solutions in place is to make your voices heard.

Megan Tennermann Sep 26, 2017, 10:48 AM

I take the Salisbury Mills train 5 days per week. In thinking about changes which would help me out, I live close enough to walk to the train but am too afraid as the road way is extremely dangerous. A side walk to Washingtonville would be amazing. If not how about a dedicated bike lane?

coUrbanizer via Text Sep 14, 2017, 08:38 AM 41.43646 -74.1025 & transit Why do you ride public transit?

I would actually like to see housing for young professional people & higher income families. We have a stigma attached to us in Walden that we are low income, uneducated people. We do have a fairly high percentage of lower end housing here. I would like to see some nice senior housing come in too. Our location is great for people who go into the city to work or folks who fly for their jobs! We are just minutes from I 84 & The NYS Thruway. It’s easy to get to 17 & the Taconic too! Stewart Airport is about 10 -15 mins away. It’s just a short drive to get to the ferry in Newburgh or the train in Beacon. Or the train in Maybrook/Campbell Hall. We have 1 taxi company in our village. There is a bus stop. If more young professional people moved in, I think more businesses would consider starting up here! All I hear when I ask WHY we cannot attract any businesses into our downtown area, I am told there is not enough disposable income to sustain them. Yet I hear people from other villages say they would LOVE to come to Walden to eat or shop, but there is nothing interesting in the downtown area. If some upscale housing & senior housing was here, & it drew a more diverse group of folks to live here, maybe some businesses would realize they COULD be successful here!

Lynn Thompson Sep 14, 2017, 11:07 PM Housing What kinds of housing options would you like to see in your community?
We enjoy walking the RailTrail. It's free! The trail is well maintained & it is a lovely, peaceful, safe place to get out & enjoy nature. I wish we were able to enjoy the Wallkill River more. We are told it’s pretty polluted. I’m hoping some new data will say the condition of the river is improving. But to be able to get out & kayak or canoe on the river would be terrific. We also hope that a large community garden will come to fruition. That is a project we’d love to be part of! Gardening is great exercise & a great way to connect with young & old residents. We’d like to be able to enjoy a vibrant, thriving downtown business community. We walk everywhere when we visit our daughter in Westchester County. So many shops, restaurants, small parks throughout the community...It's great exercise to push the stroller & walk around & enjoy everything. My husband golfs & enjoys the public courses in OC. If there was a pool complex in OC, we would be there as we enjoy swimming!

Yes. I much prefer taking the Port Jervis train to the city rather than driving to Peekskill. (The ferry is great but I don’t get up that early.) But the Port Jervis trains are so infrequent, especially on weekends, that I often have to cross the river to get a train that works for my schedule.

The most recent information I found is from Feb of 2017. It describes the adoption of a plan for a rail yard at Campbell Hall and some double tracking to greatly increase the frequency of service as far as Middletown. If fully funded, it is supposed to be complete by 2013. Could you speak with the MTA and update us on the plan?

Great, thank you! What types of economic development would you like to see in Monroe?

Port Jervis is in need of economic development. We are on our way back up but still could use some more businesses that create jobs.

I take Public Transportation because it affords me the ability to be more productive, sharper at work, ease of frustration on the road and the ability to meet great people with the same experience.

Affordable senior living

Under ground utilities on main street in Cornwall

My city needs a skate park to keep my family active. We also need a real activity center for the children.
I do not know what town you live in... But Middletown has a new skate park that’s really nice and it’s right off of E. Main street. And round 1 just opened up in the Middletown galleria which has bowling, arcades, ping pong and food. Massive place. Meiki Love Oct 03, 2017, 12:56 PM 41.50058 -74.0118

Orange County would benefit by having a long term plan that would make towns and villages walk and bikeable, with access to quality public transportation. This would mean fewer cars on the road and greater access to amenities for all age groups. coUrbanizer via Text Oct 04, 2017, 05:14 PM 41.4351 -74.0331

Plz keep all of Valley View property County owned and not sell to a private investor coUrbanizer via Text Oct 21, 2017, 11:03 AM 41.56396 -74.1925

A bike lane would be great on Albany Post Road from RT 17K all the way up to New Paltz. So many bikers on this road and barely even a shoulder to ride on. Very dangerous as it is today. Lili Cece Oct 24, 2017, 12:41 PM 41.56396 -74.1925

Less rental property in my community! Too much Section 8 rentals! Slumlords do t maintain their buildings up to code, municipalities don’t seem to stay on top of these slumlords & enforce the codes to the fullest extent of the law! The folks living in these deplorable rental properties have ZERO pride in ownership since they rent & they aren’t held accountable either! Let’s work on affordable housing for young families, young professionals just starting out & seniors who would perhaps like to downsize or not have the upkeep headaches & tax burden of owning a home at this stage of life. I’d like to see some great incentives to encourage folks to move into some of the beautiful older homes, some even historic, in OC. Many chose to live outside of villages so they don’t get hit with the village tax on top of county & school taxes. Please build a train service that runs to Tarrytown and down to Grand Central. Traffic is so ridiculous and living around the Woodbury commons is a pain. Give them a train service to use to get up here and take shuttles from the train station to the Commons. This train line would aid current congestion and bring those of us that work in Westchester and the city closer to their jobs. Lynn Thompson Oct 24, 2017, 04:12 PM 41.56396 -74.1925

A bike path / walkway along Maple ave in warwick heading in and out of village How about more of the unused rail beds, transform into bike paths, and how about linking some together maybe making loops - coUrbanizer via Text Nov 17, 2017, 04:07 PM 41.25615 -74.3595

Where should economic development be focused? Steven Kerneklian Nov 01, 2017, 12:37 PM 41.2935 -74.1403

What kinds of housing options would you like to see in your community? 1

What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community? 1

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<td>Wayne Decker</td>
<td>Nov 21, 2017</td>
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<td>Bike &amp; pedestrian improvements could we make in our community?</td>
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<td>John Reilly</td>
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<td>Vivian Ricupero-Logan</td>
<td>Dec 07, 2017</td>
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<td>41.24772 -74.3391</td>
<td>Why do you ride public transit â€“ and what could make your ride better?</td>
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<td>Danielle Barbour</td>
<td>Dec 13, 2017</td>
<td>07:48 AM</td>
<td>41.24772 -74.3391</td>
<td>What major transportation infrastructure projects does your community need?</td>
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<td>Dena Wolf</td>
<td>Nov 23, 2017</td>
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<td>Vivian Ricupero-Logan</td>
<td>Nov 25, 2017</td>
<td>12:13 PM</td>
<td>41.2559 -74.3598</td>
<td>What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community?</td>
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</table>
We agree, Tom! The Heritage Trail is in the process of being extended, both slightly further into the Monroe area and up to Middletown from Goshen. Where else would you like to see it go?

Megan Tennermann Nov 28, 2017, 11:03 AM 41.36285 -74.2699

Misinformation. Solution is more Open dialogue and debate of what the real truth is.

Posting positive signs like thanks visitor for keeping your/our place clean and we will try to keep it clean for your next visit . . .

Hello and thank you for your interest in our perspective! We really need a bike lane and side walk on Galloway Road. We live on Hawthorn Ave and try to walk / bike everywhere, but Galloway road is really unsafe.

We love Stanley Deming and would like to see the playground replaced. We love hiking and rock climbing and mountain biking. More mountain bike trails near Warwick, improved bicycle paths and pedestrian options outside of downtown Warwick.

Carly Foster Dec 03, 2017, 04:00 PM 41.25639 -74.3598

I’d love a walking/biking path from the village to Shoprite.

No good bicycle route into City of Newburgh from South (Cornwall/New Windsor). River Rd's shoulder often has trash and other debris that makes it dangerous to bicycle.

A spur rail line from Vails Gate crosses over River Road and ties into the main north-south tracks on the west side of the Hudson R. I thought that line was unused. Certainly no trains have come as far as Vails Gate for many years, but perhaps trains do venture part way along this spur line. If this spur line is indeed unused, perhaps it could be developed into a walking/biking path that would enable people to get across our communities.

Phil Fernsten Mar 30, 2018, 08:21 PM 41.49154 -74.0091

Bike lanes, sidewalks, raised crosswalks, EV charging stations and better signage. A rail connection to Stewart International Airport is critical. Where mass transit does not make sense we should have car-sharing and other services to encourage car-free living. We should also be advocating for a return to passenger service to the rail line on the Hudson River.

Niklas Moran Dec 07, 2017, 05:37 PM 41.43745 -74.1

Condos pay about 2/3s the tax that single-family homes pay based on market value. That means other types of properties are subsidizing condos. All types of properties should pay their fair share. Please eliminate these taxing inequities.

Clifton Patrick Dec 20, 2017, 02:26 PM
The Heritage Trail has been extended for a couple of miles past Monroe (yay!) and now ends at an old RR bridge over the Ramapo R. The decking on this bridge is unsafe, and there are no guardrails, but the bridge supports appear sound. Since the railbed continues on the other side of the river, if the trail could be extended through the village of Harriman to the Harriman train station, it would greatly improve access to the Heritage Trail, particularly for people coming from outside this area.

Phil Fernsten Dec 31, 2017, 12:56 PM 41.31199 -74.151

I think there were 12 passenger trains each day each way along the west shore of the Hudson during WW2 but restoring passenger service on that fairly busy freight line is more than I hope for. However, work is underway to double track on the Port Jervis line and create space for trains to park in Middletown, which should make it possible to greatly increase the frequency of service between Secaucus Junction and Middletown, not only improving the quality of life and potential for economic development in Orange County, but also tilting the balance to make feasible a spur to Stewart International.

John Moran Jan 02, 2018, 11:06 PM 41.31199 -74.151

What kinds of housing options would you like to see in your community?

Safe Space America Jan 02, 2018, 12:18 PM

More good low cost housing

Safe Space America Jan 02, 2018, 12:19 PM

Great idea! My daughter was a competitive diver. from grade school through college. She actually competed in Olympic Trials a few years back. She & my daughter were competitors & good friends. I had many early morning drives at 5-6am with sleepy girls in my car & drives home late at night. To have a TOP NOTCH facility here in OC would do a fantastic job of encouraging local kids to try a great sport & we would get the athletes from other areas to come & train here! Trust me, fees can be charged to all who use such a facility to help it pay for itself down the road!

Lynn Thompson Jan 14, 2018, 11:05 AM 41.31199 -74.151

We need more bus lines around the county that run between towns not just in towns.

Safe Space America Jan 02, 2018, 12:20 PM

Transportation & transit
The crosswalk lights in Chester show 'walk' for about 5 seconds, which, if one begins to cross immediately when the light signals 'walk' leave the pedestrian in the middle of the intersection when the signal switches to 'don’t walk!' This gets really scary when someone who cannot walk quickly has impatient drivers speeding around them before they can reach the far sidewalk! This must be improved for pedestrian safety.

Nininger Rd. can’t support the growing population -- and it’s going to get a lot worse very soon. If you’re not going to expand or update the roads, you need to make it easier and safer to walk and bike to where we have to go. Adding sidewalks and bike lanes or a mini mass transit system into and around Monroe Woodbury might alleviate some of the traffic. Trails are great ways for people to get around, but we don’t even have sidewalks. It’s dangerous now and will be deadly in the next few years when the population spikes.

Instead of adding lanes to existing roads to accommodate the expected increased traffic volume, we could add alternate interconnecting roads and spread the traffic around. This would keep our local roads friendlier to pedestrians. It is a lot safer and easier to cross a two-lane road than six!

**Parks & Recreation**
Favorite recreation spot / Activity idea

Clifton Patrick  Jan 17, 2018, 04:59 PM  41.35795 -74.2848

**General**

Nininger Rd. can’t support the growing population -- and it’s going to get a lot worse very soon. If you’re not going to expand or update the roads, you need to make it easier and safer to walk and bike to where we have to go. Adding sidewalks and bike lanes or a mini mass transit system into and around Monroe Woodbury might alleviate some of the traffic. Trails are great ways for people to get around, but we don’t even have sidewalks. It’s dangerous now and will be deadly in the next few years when the population spikes.

Instead of adding lanes to existing roads to accommodate the expected increased traffic volume, we could add alternate interconnecting roads and spread the traffic around. This would keep our local roads friendlier to pedestrians. It is a lot safer and easier to cross a two-lane road than six!

**What’s great about Orange County — and what could be even better?**

Steven Kerneklian  Jan 30, 2018, 01:35 PM  41.32412 -74.1533

General

Instead of adding lanes to existing roads to accommodate the expected increased traffic volume, we could add alternate interconnecting roads and spread the traffic around. This would keep our local roads friendlier to pedestrians. It is a lot safer and easier to cross a two-lane road than six!

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**Transportation & Transit**

What major transportation infrastructure projects does your community need?

Liz Geyer  Feb 06, 2018, 12:23 PM  41.32412 -74.1533

Transportation & transit

Instead of adding lanes to existing roads to accommodate the expected increased traffic volume, we could add alternate interconnecting roads and spread the traffic around. This would keep our local roads friendlier to pedestrians. It is a lot safer and easier to cross a two-lane road than six!

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**Sustainability & Resiliency**

What sustainable power sources could we use and where?

Lili Cece  Mar 06, 2018, 02:26 PM  41.32412 -74.1533

Housing

Instead of adding lanes to existing roads to accommodate the expected increased traffic volume, we could add alternate interconnecting roads and spread the traffic around. This would keep our local roads friendlier to pedestrians. It is a lot safer and easier to cross a two-lane road than six!

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Instead of adding lanes to existing roads to accommodate the expected increased traffic volume, we could add alternate interconnecting roads and spread the traffic around. This would keep our local roads friendlier to pedestrians. It is a lot safer and easier to cross a two-lane road than six!
Condo ownership is really a different structure. Most of the places where we see tiny house communities are in the Midwest and Southwest, where they can work together in a small community on a single lot or they can be a secondary unit option. The legal structure in these states is substantially different from New York State’s, and we haven't really figured out how to make that work with home rule. We’re looking at that for the housing section for the County Comp Plan, but it's an option that individual municipalities could take on their own.

Megan Tennermann Mar 30, 2018, 03:56 PM

Re: What kinds of housing options would you like to see in your community? 1

unfortunately, it is not. neither is all of Schunnemunk. But do not give up!

kate ahmadi Apr 03, 2018, 02:32 PM 41.1132 -74.139 Could be better

On the Goshen trail. You need the following: Speed bumps and larger more effective signage at each of the trails crossings.

Traffic flies by.

cOurbanizer via Text Mar 29, 2018, 06:14 PM 41.40005 -74.3229 Bike & pedestrian

What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community? 1

You need more ports potties and a source of water on the trail

cOurbanizer via Text Mar 29, 2018, 06:15 PM 41.40018 -74.323 Bike & pedestrian

What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community? 1

Hiking, cycling & cross country skiing trails, paths or lanes

Bruce W. Patterson Mar 31, 2018, 02:07 PM

Parks & recreation

What recreational facilities would help your family stay active? 1

Solar, wind, hydro - wherever they make the most sense

Bruce W. Patterson Mar 31, 2018, 02:13 PM

Sustainability & resiliency

What sustainable power sources could we use and where? 1

Hi, I think a couple water fountains on the Heritage Trail would be a great addition for pedestrians, runners and bikers. Thanks.

coUrbanizer via Text Apr 01, 2018, 12:51 PM 41.39981 -74.3225 Bike & pedestrian

What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community? 1

Thanks for your input!

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 09:19 AM 41.39622 -74.3231 Great!

Re: What's great about Orange County â€” and what could be even better? 0

Thanks, Valerie! What would you like to see the County include in our Comprehensive Plan about Port Jervis?

Megan Tennermann May 25, 2017, 03:01 PM 41.3957 -74.6907 Great!

Re: What's great about Orange County â€” and what could be even better? 0

Thanks for commenting, Valerie!

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 09:26 AM 41.38163 -74.6908 Great!

Re: What's great about Orange County â€” and what could be even better? 0

Thanks, Linda!

Megan Tennermann May 25, 2017, 03:00 PM 41.40271 -74.3218 Great!

Re: What's great about Orange County â€” and what could be even better? 0

Thanks for sharing this resource, Linda!

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 09:21 AM 41.40271 -74.3218 Great!

Re: What's great about Orange County â€” and what could be even better? 0

Thanks for commenting, Kate! We love Gonzaga too.

Megan Tennermann May 31, 2017, 10:04 AM 41.35682 -74.1738 Great!

Re: What's great about Orange County â€” and what could be even better? 0

Thanks for commenting Jan!

Megan Tennermann May 31, 2017, 10:04 AM 41.28013 -74.3071 Could be better

Re: What's great about Orange County â€” and what could be even better? 0
Support and agree with Wayne!

Jane Sorensen Lord   May 25, 2017, 06:59 PM  41.46215 -74.602 Could be better

Thanks for the information Jane!

Megan Tennermann Jun 08, 2017, 09:32 AM  41.46215 -74.602 Could be better

NY is were the modern LGBTQ movement was born in 1969 almost 50 years ago. OCCNY Pride & Safe Space America is located in Warwick and wants to build the world’s first LGBTQ Memorial Wall dedicated to the people who died and fought for the freedom we have today. This jail was one of many that housed the LGBTQ community simply for being who they where. Because the land has been made public it gives us a very rare opportunity to build this beautiful memorial in a most appropriate location. All would be fully funded by donations.Safespacemerica@gmail.com for more info.

Thanks for commenting, Danielle! You would need direct permission from Warwick, rather than the County, for any building projects.

Danielle Barbour May 27, 2017, 06:46 AM  41.27841 -74.2971 What’s missing

Thanks for commenting, Danielle! You would need direct permission from Warwick, rather than the County, for any building projects.

Megan Tennermann May 31, 2017, 10:08 AM  41.27841 -74.2971 What’s missing

NY is were the modern LGBTQ movement was born in 1969 almost 50 years ago. OCCNY Pride & Safe Space America is located in Warwick and wants to build the world’s first LGBTQ Memorial Wall dedicated to the people who died and fought for the freedom we have today. This jail was one of many that housed the LGBTQ community simply for being who they where. Because the land has been made public it gives us a very rare opportunity to build this beautiful memorial in a most appropriate location. All would be fully funded by donations.Safespacemerica@gmail.com for more info.

Thanks, Danielle, we'll make sure the County Department of Public Works is aware of this.

Move the Warwick animal shelter into this park. Also get a wild life rescue in and make a rehabilitation zoo to find it all. Like Bear Mountain zoo but nicer.

Danielle Barbour May 27, 2017, 06:55 AM  41.28036 -74.305 What’s missing

Thanks, Danielle. We appreciate your input!

Megan Tennermann May 31, 2017, 10:10 AM  41.28036 -74.305 What’s missing

Megan Tennermann May 30, 2017, 01:27 PM  41.26164 -74.4003 Could be better

Megan Tennermann May 30, 2017, 01:27 PM  41.26164 -74.4003 Could be better

Programs that make Newburgh safer and cleaner without gentrification. Especially program for the kids.

Danielle Barbour May 27, 2017, 07:15 AM  41.50136 -74.02 Could be better
Rest Haven is an historical site dating back to 1902. The property is the crossroads involving M.C. Migel (1st President and founder of the American Foundation for the Blind), Helen Keller, American Foundation for the Blind, American Red Cross, Monroe Lions Club, Monroe Band and Warwick Band. Lawn parties were a common occurrence at Rest Haven.

Thanks for sharing this resource, Timothy! Safe Dorms contact me for more info. SafeSpaceAmerica.org it's working on this. Maybe we can work together. Basically housing for 18-26 that have been tossed out of their homes. Programs have been designed to make this work and to keep them in school. Thanks! This may be more of a program to be implemented on the municipal level, but we would certainly appreciate more information.

Reach out to me by email safespaceamerica@gmail.com with contact info. Thanks, for commenting Lynn! We'd love to see more development that's specific to Walden as well. What information do you have about the pollution in the river? You can start here: http://www.recordonline.com/news/20170324/report-pollutants-in-wallkill-river-far-exceed-safe-level The river is polluted with everything from pesticides from the blackdirt farms to thousands of private sewage systems poorly maintained around it and its tributaries. I have heard & read from many sources that the quality of water in the Wallkill is quite compromised. It didn't get this way overnight, & it certainly won't be close to perfect for many years! It isn't just a local issue. The trouble starts in NJ & travels up river to Walden & beyond! Efforts are being taken to address the polluted state of the Wallkill. They have been for several years. The solutions aren't simple. Participation is needed from communities all along the river. Too many people are simply apathetic about our environment, including the state of the Wallkill. Politicians seem to have bigger fish to fry, so to speak. Money to fund public interest & clean up is always in short supply.

That's an interesting idea, Liz, thanks for sharing it. You're envisioning a performance, rather than a training or production venue?
Yes. There are lots of training places and nowhere to see professional performances of major companies/artists other than rock concerts and such. We need a real theater for real artistic not just commercial stuff.

Thanks for your input, Christopher. We absolutely agree that a well-defined and maintained trail network is a draw for tourists as well as for local users.

Thanks for commenting, Christopher. I'm sure you're familiar with the Museum of the Hudson Highlands in Cornwall, as well as the variety of art museums throughout the County. What do you envision for this museum in Middletown?

Archaeological Discoveries in the Lower Hudson Valley - A Symposium at SUNY Orange In Middletown, NY October 21, 2017, 9am-5pm organized and sponsored by the Behavioral Sciences Dept at SUNY Orange (Cory Harris, Chair, and Barry Kass, Prof. Emeritus of Anthropology), The Orange County Chapter-NYS Archaeological Association (Stephanie Benson, President), and Orange County Government Department of Planning (David Church, Commissioner)

Thanks for your input, Christopher. We agree that we need to look at all three of our rivers, and how we use and interact with them.

Thanks, Kathleen! That's an interesting idea, and we'll certainly consider it.

More river access for boaters. Newburgh's boat ramp is nice but is always overcrowded during good weather. If you live in eastern OC and are not a resident of Cornwall you either have to drive out of county or wait on long lines at Newburgh.

Thanks for your input, Robert! We agree that we need to look at all three of our rivers, and how we use and interact with them.

What's missing Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

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Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0
I would like to see County Police Departments instead of all the village and town departments. Best use of tax payer money is to pool resources.

Thanks for your input!

I would like to see the County and Towns pool their police department resources instead of each town and village having their own departments.

Thanks for your input! The State has a program encouraging local governments to consolidate services wherever they can.

The trash along the roadsides in NY in general is terrible compared to many other states. There should be a coordinated effort for trash pick-up with the dept of corrections and community service programs to clean up the roadways.

Thanks for your input!

There should be more apartment and condo style housing opportunities in Orange County for all, not just low income or senior housing but a variety of income level homes. The choices are very limited because many of the Towns do not want 'high-density' housing in their areas.

Thanks for your input! We agree that an array of housing options and opportunities is the best way to ensure that all your citizens have their housing needs met.

The soil type in Crawford won't allow for large scale projects including commercial or industrial. Crawford also has a water problem. Without solving these two major issues I cannot foresee much change.

Thanks for your input, Nick. Although the soil issue doesn't seem to be a problem we can solve, the water supply issue is one that we're looking at Countywide. The old Dwarkill Reservoir should be turned into a county park / nature preserve.

Thanks for your input, Nick! The Orange County Water Authority has more information about the Dwaarkill site, and we will certainly be looking at that site for its highest and best use.

Orange County's larger cities need help. Jobs in these locations would help to make city living welcoming to many.

Thanks for your input, Nick! We agree that bringing more jobs to our cities, and our villages, is vital for our residents.

All sustainable power sources have issues whether its solar or wind ... people will complain. Noise and or sight pollution will be a concern.

That's absolutely true, Nick. Do you have suggestions about how we can minimize the impacts of those facilities?
It's a state issue but something must be done about school and property taxes. They are pushing people away from their homes to other low taxing states. Also there should be term limits on all the counties electable positions. This would help bring in fresh ideas to better our Orange County! Thanks for your input.

Nick Ercoline  Jun 01, 2017, 09:57 AM  General  Orange County idea  0

Thanks for your input, Bill! We are looking at a number of opportunities to connect our regional transportation facilities; most of those options are out of County control, but we will certainly look at your suggestions as we coordinate with the agencies regulating transportation in our area.

Thanks for your input, Margaret! That sounds like a great idea to share with the Village of Monroe as they are considering their own Comprehensive Plan update, and we'll take a look at it too.

Megan Tennermann  Jun 06, 2017, 10:37 AM  41.43655 -74.1019  Could be better  Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better?  0

Infill, infill, infill. The County (and all other levels of government) should take advantage of the huge opportunities in Orange's urban and town neighborhoods by funding, encouraging, publicizing, and supporting upgrades and new construction of integrated rental/owned properties in urban and town centers, with accompanying low-floor storefront and 'street-friendly' industrial uses in commercial corridors. Depending on existing stock, blocks should be a combination of full-house and rental units, and subsidized housing should be integrated within instead of concentrated. Rent-to-own and renovate-to-own programs that prioritize opportunities for current residents over harmful gentrification should take precedence. (The more such housing improvements can be made in proximity to intra-county transit, the better.)

Thanks for sharing this idea, Bill! We absolutely encourage all of our municipalities, and especially our Priority Growth Areas, to permit infill and mixed-use development. We'll look into rent-to-own and renovate-to-own programs as well; we do have a couple of successful examples in Orange County, with the Newburgh Community Land Bank and the local Habitat chapters.

Bill Braine  Jun 01, 2017, 11:37 AM  Housing  Housing idea  0

Streetlamp on Owens Road, right at the driveway of 94 Owens to prevent an accident at some point. Its a fast, quick curve and is treacherous at night!!

Samuel Bergsohn  Jun 01, 2017, 03:18 PM  41.41724 -74.3662  Could be better  Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better?  0
Thanks OCDP. There is a bridge near the Hartley entrance to the trail that is VERY dangerous. There's a giant hole in the trail where the bridge is and someone could easily slip and get badly hurt. It would be so easy to put rails you at this part of the trail for safety and to make it look better. Please do what is needed to convert st hwy 17 into interstate 87!!!

Thanks for your input, Paul! We are working with the MTA to improve our transit services in the County.

Thanks for your input, Jane! The bulk of the County's housing stock is detached single family homes on large lots. We need to ensure that the housing needs of all our residents are met, and that there are adequate supplies of a variety of housing types in order to meet those needs.

No more low income rental property! Many of the landlords allow the tenants to destroy the properties & they do not fix the rental units! Then all of our property values are in jeopardy! So unfair! Many of these tenants bring NOTHING to our community, except lower standards of living & drugs! How about incentives to get young families into some of the lovely, older homes in our village & special financing assist with refurbishing them? Or nicer rentals to attract professional people to the community? Senior housing would also be a bonus, as many seniors can't afford taxes & maintenance on their homes.

Thanks for your input, Lynn. The County needs to ensure the provision of a variety of housing options, meeting the needs of all our residents.

Utilizing the Wallkill River for boating & fishing would be awesome! We enjoy the Rail Trail. Getting it extended into other communities will be amazing! We enjoy the outdoor summer concert series in our village. Better parking in our downtown area would be wonderful so you could park downtown & then walk to the bank, post office, etc. We like to walk our dog. Wish we had a dog park in Walden! I enjoy gardening. I’d LIVE to start a community garden with a focus on our seniors & school kids participating. When youth & seniors spend quality time together, magic happens!

Thanks for your input and enthusiasm, Lynn! We are working on the extension of the trail network, especially including the Wallkill River rail trail. These are terrific ideas that you can implement in the Village, and the County certainly supports placemaking activities like these!
Small farms. So many of our farms can be much more creative in order to stay in business & grow! Affiliations of local produce farmers with local restaurants is terrific. Take it further. Give cooking classes together to residents! I signed up for this on a trip to SC. It was AMAZING! Great cooking techniques/tips & we ate what we prepared & look recipes home! As more people move into this area, more medical services. We still have too many residents leaving Orange County for quality medical care. More public transportation available to residents. Improving rail service to Orange County would be so helpful. Let’s utilize Stewart International Airport! I’m sick of driving to NYC every time I need to fly!

Thanks for commenting, Lynn! These suggestions are actually included in the County Economic Development Strategy and the County Agricultural Plan, both adopted in 2015. We are looking at the best ways to implement these ideas across the County. Our health care industry is growing by leaps and bounds, but we can and should look at the types of services being offered and ways to improve them. Public transportation, including air travel, is a vital concern for the wellbeing of the County and the quality of life for our residents, and we are absolutely looking at those issues.

Continue to utilize nuclear energy. I know Indian Point is in Rockland, but I think it’s ridiculous that it’s closing. Solar. We gave acres of unused land in OC that I would rather see providing energy instead of more housing complexes being shoddily built! Wind power. Again, we gave lots of land. Share the wealth. Let several communities have a chance to win the prize!

Thanks for commenting, Lynn! We have actually seen a number of solar farms included in many of our communities over the last few years, and several of our communities are looking at the logistics of wind and geothermal power as well.
Everything!!! We have 1 taxi cab company. Buses do come into my village but on a very limited schedule. Walden had a shot at getting the train here & they blew it! It wasn’t presented in a pistice enough light! So many young people are commuting to NYC to work. They have to travel to catch the train. Parking is a disaster at the station in Beacon. Just not enough. Having the train would improve SO much in a community! People would want to live here because of the train. We also need serious road repairs! And traffic flow studies. With Rt52 & Rt208 going thru this village, traffic at certain times of the day is a disaster! We also have bridges that need repair! The Hill Ave bridge has been closed for FIVE years!

Thanks for commenting Lynn! We agree that transportation is a concern, and we are working on ways to make commuting easier and more bearable, which would include public transportation options as well as repair and maintenance of our road network.

Yes! Get more high paying jobs here instead of minimum wage retail & warehouse jobs! Let’s get people to work & off of public assistance! That will improve the quality of life for these folks. Hold the race rate down. If we are getting taxed like Rockland & Westchester, people can’t afford to stay here. Take advantage of the natural beauty & history of OC to promote more tourism. We are becoming known for music & art in Walden & Montgomery. Promote this! Let’s recruit known artists & musicians to visit, work & live here. Let’s get a County wide task force in place, with people that have successfully revitalized their communities, at the helm! Teach others how you’ve done it! Let’s put OC on the map as one of the most desirable areas of NYS to live, work & play!

Thanks for your input, Lynn! We absolutely agree that we need more high-paying jobs closer to home, and that the Orange County arts scene is amazing! The Orange County Arts Council, in Sugar Loaf, is doing a lot of good work at promoting the County to artists, and promoting the work of Orange County artists to others. The Orange County Division of Tourism is hard at work making sure that the arts are recognized here as well.

Do you have specific suggestions that you’d like us to promote? Rehab existing deserted homes

Thanks for commenting Jane! We agree that this needs to be part of the conversation about our housing stock, development patterns, and housing needs. Do you have any resources or information about renovate-to-own programs?

No, I don’t. Might HUD?
Re-watering D&H; Canal

Jane Sorensen Lord Jun 02, 2017, 05:55 PM

Thanks for commenting, Jane. We’ll need to consider this with the Departments of Public Works and Parks, but we will look at it.

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 10:40 AM

western area often overlooked

Jane Sorensen Lord Jun 02, 2017, 05:56 PM

Thanks for commenting, Jane. We are looking at how best to work with all our communities.

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 09:57 AM

Come visit! I will treat you for lunch to talk more!

Jane Sorensen Lord Jun 06, 2017, 05:27 PM

hydro rivers

Jane Sorensen Lord Jun 02, 2017, 05:57 PM

Do you mean using the rivers for hydro power?

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 09:58 AM

Yes!

Jane Sorensen Lord Jun 06, 2017, 05:25 PM

fix the Canal=historic infrastructure

Jane Sorensen Lord Jun 02, 2017, 05:59 PM

Thanks for your input, Jane! We’ll need to coordinate with the County Departments of Parks and Public Works regarding the Canal.

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 09:59 AM

We have been urgently trying to get them to fix the canal for 10 years. We feel neglected! We really aren’t ignoring the ‘western gateway’ portion of the County, although it probably feels that way at times. How would you suggest we better integrate the needs of Deerpark, Mount Hope, Greenville, Otisville and Port Jervis?

Jane Sorensen Lord Jun 06, 2017, 05:24 PM

Thanks for your input, Jane! We’re going to look seriously at the canal as an economic engine and recreational facility. We’re also encouraging small business development throughout the County, and we will look at how County Planning is able to promote businesses in specific towns or areas through policy.

Jane Sorensen Lord Jun 06, 2017, 05:59 PM

Okay, thanks for the suggestions. We are going to look seriously at the canal as an economic engine and recreational facility. We’re also encouraging small business development throughout the County, and we will look at how County Planning is able to promote businesses in specific towns or areas through policy.

Jane Sorensen Lord Jun 06, 2017, 05:21 PM

Okay, thanks for the suggestions. We are going to look seriously at the canal as an economic engine and recreational facility. We’re also encouraging small business development throughout the County, and we will look at how County Planning is able to promote businesses in specific towns or areas through policy.

Jane Sorensen Lord Oct 17, 2017, 01:47 PM

Fixing the canal gives us living history, not just history inside museum walls. Also will provide recreation for the area that was taken away from county neglect. The county is supposed to take care of the canal. We just want them to to meet their contractual obligations!
Orange County, with its wonderful cultural assets, history, and environment should become a 'Certified Local Government' (CLG) to guide, support and shape the future of our community and help protect it from insensitive overdevelopment. CLG does not stop or hinder the process, but helps guide it to reduce and mitigate the damage. It also reduces unnecessary project expense and delay by addressing public issues and concerns early in the process, when they are most effectively and economically addressed.

Thanks for your input, Cliff! We've looked into the CLG process in the past, although to the best of my knowledge we haven't been certified. We'll look into this further, but any information you have would be helpful. Could you share resources with the Orange County Planning Department?

Clifton Patrick Jun 05, 2017, 08:52 AM 41.39953 -74.3174

What’s great about Orange County — and what could be even better?

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 10:06 AM 41.39953 -74.3174

Thanks for sharing this great historic resource!

Clifton Patrick Jun 05, 2017, 08:56 AM 41.36273 -74.2701

Great!

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 10:06 AM 41.36273 -74.2701

Great!

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 10:06 AM 41.36195 -74.2725

Great!

Thanks for sharing this great historic resource!

Clifton Patrick Jun 05, 2017, 09:17 AM 41.39953 -74.3174

Smart, small - medium scale industrial, innovative incubators and commercial development (workplaces) in former commercial zones, especially in our urban centers. Large scale projects located along our transportation/energy corridors with generous buffer zones separating residential areas.

Clifton Patrick Jun 05, 2017, 09:17 AM 41.39953 -74.3174

Thanks for your input, Cliff! We absolutely concur that we need a variety of economic opportunities. The County Economic Development Strategy, published in 2015, contains a lot of similar suggestions, and we will be incorporating a lot of that work into the update as well.

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 10:24 AM 41.39953 -74.3174

Many commercial uses are compatible with downtown mixed use occupancies, such as shops on street level with offices and/or apartments above. Wise integration of uses can produce vibrant, diverse communities. Arranging shared parking and utility services behind structures with reduced number of curb cuts can also help create a pedestrian-friendly streetscape.

Clifton Patrick Jun 06, 2017, 10:33 AM 41.39953 -74.3174

Thanks for your input, Cliff! The bulk of Orange County's housing stock is detached single family homes on large lots, and we need to create a variety of residential options, both for renters and for homeowners. Those options should balance the needs of the residents and the needs of the communities they're in, though, and that can be a difficult process.

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 10:12 AM 41.39953 -74.3174

Housing Re: Housing idea 0

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 10:12 AM 41.39953 -74.3174

Jobs & economy Re: Jobs & economy idea 0

Megan Tennermann Jun 06, 2017, 10:12 AM 41.39953 -74.3174

Jobs & economy Re: Jobs & economy idea 0
Encourage solar farm multi-purpose land use to provide economic and ecological benefits by using land between and underneath the rows of PV models for grazing of small livestock, such as sheep and free-ranging poultry. 'Agricultural Good Practice Guidance for Solar Farms' by Clifton Patrick, Jun 05, 2017, 09:24 AM

Thanks for commenting, Cliff! We actually have been suggesting this through our project reviews as mandated by NYS GML Section 239. This will be a really valuable resource for our planners, thank you for sharing it! Megan Tennermann, Jun 06, 2017, 10:26 AM

The Village of Chester desperately needs a comprehensive master plan to guide zoning code changes plus future developments within the village. Thanks for your input, Cliff! We are very much in favor of every municipality having a Comprehensive Plan. Megan Tennermann, Jun 07, 2017, 02:43 PM

Thanks for your input, Steve! Due to home rule, individual municipalities are the ones with zoning authority and therefore the only ones that can create overlays. The County Historian does have a list of historic resources and individual municipalities have historic districts. Did you know that the East End historic district in Newburgh is the second-largest historic district in the country? Thanks for your input, Cliff! We are very much in favor of every municipality having a Comprehensive Plan. Megan Tennermann, Jun 07, 2017, 03:00 PM

End historic district in Newburgh is the second-largest historic district in the country? Certainly County Planning could give the Towns guidance and expertise in order to move forward with the idea of Historic Overlays. Yes, County Planning can (and does) provide our expertise to interested municipalities on planning issues, including historic preservation. Any municipal official, or member of a municipal board, is welcome to contact County Planning for assistance in regard to any planning issue. Megan Tennermann, Jun 19, 2017, 09:56 AM

Thanks. I'm actually looking for a more aggressive response. Your response says that you are waiting for the Towns to come to you. Perhaps a workshop on Historic Overlays would be a bit more effective. What are overlays, what are their benefits, how are they set up, etc. Thanks, Steve. Steve Skye, Jun 21, 2017, 01:36 PM

Bloomingburg Sewer Plant has approval to dump 325,000 gallons of effluent per day into Shawangunk Kill. The Kill on average only flows 325,000 gallons per day at this site (many times less). Look into how and why it is allowed. Protect our waterways! This area is beautiful and would make a great place for public access fishing and hiking. Thanks for your input, Timothy. We are naturally very concerned about water quality in our streams and waterways, and we will certainly look into this. We need to re-make parking system in the city. Plan should be made for multi-meter in the road side and other public areas. Free Parking and Paid parking should complete hands in hands without hindrance. TIMOTHY IPPOLITO, Jun 14, 2017, 09:55 AM

What's great about Orange County — and what could be even better? Thanks for your input, Timothy. We are naturally very concerned about water quality in our streams and waterways, and we will certainly look into this. We need to re-make parking system in the city. Plan should be made for multi-meter in the road side and other public areas. Free Parking and Paid parking should complete hands in hands without hindrance. Tunde Ayegboyin, Aug 12, 2017, 08:35 AM
Security of lives and businesses is another area that need critical attention. City security agents should be equipped with better technology gadgets to fight crimes and recruit more well trained people.

Tunde Ayegboyin Aug 12, 2017, 08:40 AM 41.55364 -74.4334 What's missing

Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

Some businesses need better regulations.. Mechanics, plumbers and other trades

Tunde Ayegboyin Aug 12, 2017, 08:50 AM 41.55364 -74.4334 What's missing

Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

County wide bus transportation!

sue anne vogelsberg Jun 16, 2017, 08:04 PM 41.3598 -74.5395 What's missing

Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

Thanks for your input, Sue Anne! We definitely believe there is a need for intra-county transit. Can you give us specific areas where you think the service is most needed and lacking? as i understand it now--certain communities, Middletown, KJ, Newburgh have bus service--open it up County wide--how many parents struggle to get their kids to jobs at the Commons or the Malls--even factoring in the air pollution from car exhaust--using public transport would be environmentally friendly!

Megan Tennermann Jun 19, 2017, 09:52 AM 41.3598 -74.5395 What's missing

Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

That's true, those communities have bus service, because they have enough people to support it. We could look into the feasibility of a route that serves communities near the Commons and other destinations, so employees who work fairly regular shifts could get the bus instead of having to drive. The Green Onion, Art gallery, organic farm market and events center

Megan Tennermann Jun 20, 2017, 09:33 AM 41.3598 -74.5395 What's missing

Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

Leslie Smith Jun 21, 2017, 02:25 PM 41.36168 -74.2689 Great!

Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

Thanks for your input!

Megan Tennermann Jun 22, 2017, 02:36 PM 41.36168 -74.2689 Great!

Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

Elio Tirinato Jul 02, 2017, 10:14 PM 41.27574 -74.2604 What's missing

Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

Thanks for your input! We are very committed to parkland in the County. Have you approached the Town of Chester with this idea? Also, your local Boy and Girl Scout troops may be interested in this as a service project. the Wallkill River, inside Thomas Bull Park would be a great place for canoeing, fishing and boating what is being done about the pollution????

Megan Tennermann Jul 03, 2017, 11:27 AM 41.27574 -74.2604 What's missing

Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

Elio Tirinato Jul 09, 2017, 05:09 PM 41.4462 -74.3471 What's missing

Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

Thanks for your input! The Wallkill River is a terrific place to canoe and kayak, and there's a boat launch not far from Thomas Bull Park, near Orange Regional. Water quality is a concern throughout the County, naturally.

Megan Tennermann Jul 10, 2017, 09:01 AM 41.4462 -74.3471 What's missing

Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0

Article in the Times Hearld Record in May terrible pollution in the Wallkill Riverve been there it doesn't look good


Re: What's great about Orange County and what could be even better? 0
And selling off the buildings within the site for housing (undoubtedly 'luxury') is the wrong way to go. These buildings could be an artists' community - housing, studio space - that would add much to the community, both in valuing the arts and the attraction of business and economic investment that the arts always brings.

Valerie Lucznikowska Jan 02, 2018, 01:23 PM 41.33453 -74.3326 Great!

Do you know where people park to catch the bus? Bill Braine Aug 03, 2017, 02:28 PM 41.45437 -74.0575 Could be better

Led, we absolutely agree that this needs to be addressed. Bill, we don't know that for certain, there isn't designated parking at this stop, but we could safely assume people park at the Price Chopper and Hannaford parking lots.

Megan Tennermann Sep 20, 2017, 09:29 AM 41.45437 -74.0575 Could be better Jobs & economy

More shops here
Thanks for your input, Alexis. That's a pretty sparsely-populated area right there. What retail do you think would be appropriate in that location? Are you suggesting shops that cater to the users of the airport?

Alexis Busin Jul 21, 2017, 07:06 PM 41.50138 -74.2703 Could be better

Pedestrian Services and safety by adding Sidewalks on public roads and Traffic signals to permit pedestrian crossing. Road Widening to add turning lanes. Street lights. Park and Ride Lots to enhance mass-transit use. Pedestrian safety is absolutely a concern that needs to be addressed throughout the County, and we definitely encourage the use of public transit.

Megan Tennermann Oct 02, 2017, 04:32 PM 41.50138 -74.2703 Jobs & economy

Pedestrian safety is absolutely a concern that needs to be addressed throughout the County, and we definitely encourage the use of public transit.

Megan Tennermann Sep 20, 2017, 11:54 AM 41.33989 -74.1682 What transportation projects do we need? Re: What transportation projects do we need?

Affordable Housing for low to middle income people by providing Multi Family Housing. Community type development. Walkable Communities. Multi Family housing should be defined as a minimum of 4 apt units per building up to 20 apt units per building, with a mix of 2 bedroom units to 6 bedroom units.


Prevent multi-dwelling developments. Too many problems ranging from pollution, reduced water, increased sewer demands, no tax base from KJ, increased taxes on others who have to live next to them and carry the burden.

Gedalye Szegedin Jul 28, 2017, 12:49 PM 41.33974 -74.1712 Housing What housing options would you like to see?

The ideal and the goal here are to have a diverse mix of housing options that serves all income levels. Impacts from development do need to be considered, and everything possible should be done to ensure that the negative impacts are minimized.

Janice Annunziata Aug 08, 2017, 05:39 PM 41.33974 -74.1712 Housing Re: What housing options would you like to see?

Provide a steady and reliable Water source, and enough Sewer specificity, so water and sewer is never a hindrance to growth.

Gedalye Szegedin Jul 28, 2017, 12:52 PM 41.33995 -74.1709 General What could make this a better place to live?
High rise/high density housing would impact negatively on our region, due to continuing water and sewer issues. Single family homes and 2 story 'garden apt' style complexes are what we currently have and seem to be what our residents are happy with. Sue Anne Vogelsberg Jul 29, 2017, 08:14 PM Housing Housing idea 0

We agree, Sue Anne! We're looking at transportation and transit linkages throughout the County as part of this effort. Please see my comment about kyiras Joel Megan Tennermann Sep 20, 2017, 11:14 AM Jobs & economy Re: Jobs & economy idea 0

The County is typically not involved in development projects, due to the legal 'home rule' structure here in New York. If you have concerns regarding a particular project, please contact the municipality where that project is located. Megan Tennermann Sep 20, 2017, 11:14 AM General Re: Orange County idea 0

Dr. Cooper, we're delighted that you are thinking about these matters in such detail. We are too, as part of the work done by the Orange County Water Authority, The Water Master Plan, adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan in 2010, addresses some of these issues, and the Water Authority has looked at the potential for desalination plants. If you would like to discuss these issue, we would be happy to talk to you! Megan Tennermann Sep 20, 2017, 11:11 AM Sustainability & resiliency Re: Sustainability & resiliency idea 0

Thanks, Michael! The Orange County Water Master Plan, adopted in 2010 as an addendum to the County Comprehensive Plan, proposed a series of intermunicipal water loops. Even intramunicipal water loops could be a good idea here. Have you spoken to the Town and the Villages about this? Megan Tennermann Sep 20, 2017, 11:06 AM General Re: What could make this a better place to live? 0

Thanks, Michael, we agree that this is a difficult intersection to navigate. NYSDOT is the owner of both these roads and will have to do the actual work, but we'll see that it gets to their attention. NYSDOT is the owner of both these roads and will have to do the actual work, but we'll see that it gets to their attention. Megan Tennermann Sep 20, 2017, 11:06 AM 41.52543 -74.2008 General Re: What could make this a better place to live? 0

No high density housing! Matthew Higgins Aug 06, 2017, 03:37 AM Housing Housing idea 0

Woodbury Creek a trout breeding stream who Black Rock Fish and Game Club the largest fish and club in SE NY (1,100 strong) + the public relies on for trout fishing should not run dry for Kiryas Joels tapping our aquifer and Woodbury Creek dry for summer months. Matthew Higgins Aug 06, 2017, 03:32 AM Parks & recreation Parks & recreation idea 0

A rail siding and yard in Harriman so freight train will not encumber on commuter traffic and adding to crappy delay. Sending the best option for a yard and siding north is foolish. Matthew Higgins Aug 06, 2017, 03:32 AM Parks & recreation Parks & recreation idea 0

Transit Village in place of the yard and siding will destroy the area with traffic. Matthew Higgins Aug 06, 2017, 03:48 AM Transportation & transit Transportation & transit idea 0

Not high density housing or so called high density transit its a huge tax burden and will destroy us. Matthew Higgins Aug 06, 2017, 03:50 AM Housing Housing idea 0

Examine the aquifer sustainability in Woodbury/Cornwall. Matthew Higgins Aug 06, 2017, 03:55 AM General Orange County idea 0

Single family residences; no multi-unit dwellings Janice Annunziata Aug 07, 2017, 01:27 PM Housing Housing idea 0
Fix the D&H Canal, there are miles of the mule path open now, but we need water for boating, fishing in a mile long portion.

Jane Sorensen Lord Oct 17, 2017, 01:36 PM

We are definitely looking at sustainable energy projects throughout the County, and we appreciate the benefits they bring. The indoor agriculture idea is a good one, thank you for sharing it!

Megan Tennenmann Sep 20, 2017, 11:59 AM

Supportive of indoor agriculture!

Carly Foster Dec 03, 2017, 04:32 PM

Please look at KIRYAS Joel as a County-wide matter of concern. Impacts to transit systems, increased pollution, traffic, and sheer loss of quality of life created by allowance of multi-dwelling units without public input regarding zoning, environmental, traffic and pollution impacts, let alone reduced water and increased sewer needs are of great concern. While Goshen may be headed to tax relief with Legoland, the Monroe/Blooming Grove/Woodbury/Cornwall area is under serious threat of unwanted expansion. Please don’t advance United Minroe’s proposed settlement, which will come at great adverse impacts to these neighboring communities. Any negotiations with KIRYAS Joel need to be County-wide, with all the town’s equally represented, to prevent inequitable, disproportionate impacts which will only result in lawsuits against the County.

Janice Annunziata Aug 07, 2017, 01:38 PM

Thanks for your comments, Ed. We’re looking at this, although obtaining a permanent green corridor in that area is going to be difficult, since most of the property is residential and privately owned. Do you have any suggestions about how to re-route the trail?

Megan Tennenmann Oct 02, 2017, 04:28 PM 41.35058 -74.1823

This is in progress, we’re excited to say! The Middletown extension has been approved and funded.

Megan Tennenmann Sep 20, 2017, 11:01 AM

solar energy, better monitoring of soil and water and air

Marlena Lange Aug 09, 2017, 04:53 PM

Until residential condos have equivalent tax load to fee simple ownership, ban new residential condo development. Owners of fee simple properties should not be forced to subsidize residential condo owners! Equal taxation, please!

Clifton Patrick Aug 10, 2017, 02:32 PM

Thanks, Cliff. This is easiest to implement on the municipal level, but there are County-owned parcels that can be used this way as well.

Megan Tennenmann Sep 20, 2017, 10:59 AM 41.3557 -74.2821

Large roundabout needed at this badly designed intersection! It would also eliminate those ugly wires and traffic lights!

Leslie Smith Aug 12, 2017, 05:56 PM
There are 4 places in the village of Chester where roundabouts would work well and ease traffic flow and confusion. 2 of them on Rt 17M (Brookside Av.) With bumper to bumper, stop and go for hours upon hours on summer weekends and whenever a problem arises on Rt 17, As Legoland is anticipated to be approved, they would improve safety and keep traffic flowing. Thanks for your input, Leslie. While roundabouts are definitely a good solution for heavily-used intersections, it can be difficult to install them in places with severe grade changes and vertical curves. The addition of large-scale projects such as Legoland or the redevelopment of Camp LaGuardia have the potential to cause impacts to traffic, without question. What other solutions might work for 17M to reduce traffic volume on the roadway itself?

Newburgh needs more loft style apartments and live work apartment for artists and professionals. Newburgh needs more market rate apartments and owner occupied housing. Newburgh does not need subsidized housing now or for the indefinite future. We have one of the highest percentage of subsidized housing in the State. We are doing our share to support at need communities, and other municipalities in the County need to step up and do their part. Tax subsidies should not be given out in Newburgh now or for the indefinite future. All good ideas! We'll make sure that these concerns are passed along.

This is actually something that the Orange County Arts Council has been working on, and it is something that municipalities can do more to encourage. Thanks for the idea, Stuart! Thank you for your comment Tracy. This is an idea we champion through the Orange County Greenway Compact, adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan in 2013. Did you have any ideas about how we can implement this?

Either re-alignment or roundabout at the intersection of Pine Tree Rd. Still Rd. Stage Rd. and Orange Turnpike in Monroe. Extremely dangerous coming out of Pine Tree to enter Stage Rd. Speaking of roundabouts, the perfect place for increasing safety, decreasing traffic delays, and reducing energy use is Vails Gate, where the notorious 5-way intersection is a perfect place for a roundabout.

Lower taxes. Energy plants and such should not be so close to where people live. They're an eyesore and it's obviously making people sick. But I guess that's where big bank eats little bank.
We're looking at a number of options to improve transit; unfortunately, this particular option would require interstate cooperation, which is more time consuming and difficult. Megan Tennermann Sep 20, 2017, 10:54 AM

Is this something that has been in process before? What can we do to start the process? There has to be a consensus on the amount of population that would benefit from this and also open up Orange county to NYC to encourage travel and even businesses. Employment can work both ways. It may seem minor but economic growth may produce from it. I understand state budget is the big issue but it might pay off in the long run.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to my comment. Meiki Love Sep 25, 2017, 11:58 PM

Really nice. Thank you! NJ should get with the program... It will benefit both ways!:) Meiki Love Sep 26, 2017, 10:29 AM

I want a hot tub here Alexis Busin Sep 01, 2017, 10:28 AM

Okay, great, thanks for your input. Are you thinking about a specific place where these improvements should be? Megan Tennermann Oct 02, 2017, 02:54 PM

Most high traffic areas in the County are very scary to cross on foot, for example Middletown’s ‘Miracle Mile’ - 4 to 6 lanes with no ‘safe zones’ for people on foot! In Chester the ‘Walk’ signals are on for 5 seconds along Route 17M! One has to really hustle to reach the opposite sidewalk before traffic lights turn green.

So are you looking to improve the condition of the existing sidewalks, or to extend the sidewalk network? Or, of course, both? Clifton Patrick Oct 02, 2017, 03:37 PM

This is a great idea, thank you! Do you know about the Washingtonville Placemaking Committee? We certainly would like to see this happen, but they might be able to help you make this a reality in less time than we could manage. Megan Tennermann Sep 20, 2017, 09:24 AM

We’re seeing this request a lot, Patti. This will definitely be passed along to the MTA and the ferry operators! Megan Tennermann Oct 02, 2017, 02:53 PM

These sound like great ideas, Lynn, thanks for sharing them. Do you have specific ideas about how to attract professionals and businesses that you’d be willing to share with us? Megan Tennermann Oct 02, 2017, 02:02 PM

Trains more frequent Do you think trains should be more frequent on the Port Jervis line? coUrbanizer via Text Sep 15, 2017, 07:31 PM

Why do you ride public transit? Re: Why do you ride public transit? 0

These are a lot of great idea, Lynn, thanks for your input! Do you have specific ideas about how to attract professionals and businesses that you’d be willing to share with us? Megan Tennermann Oct 02, 2017, 02:01 PM

Trains more frequent Do you think trains should be more frequent on the Port Jervis line? coUrbanizer via Text Sep 15, 2017, 07:31 PM

Why do you ride public transit? Re: Why do you ride public transit? 0

Thank you! Do you mean that specifically for Cornwall? Megan Tennermann Sep 20, 2017, 09:20 AM

Thank you! Do you mean that specifically for Cornwall? Megan Tennermann Sep 20, 2017, 09:24 AM

We're seeing this request a lot, Patti. This will definitely be passed along to the MTA and the ferry operators! Megan Tennermann Oct 02, 2017, 02:53 PM

These sound like great ideas, Lynn, thanks for sharing them. Do you have specific ideas about how to attract professionals and businesses that you’d be willing to share with us? Megan Tennermann Oct 02, 2017, 02:02 PM

Trains more frequent Do you think trains should be more frequent on the Port Jervis line? coUrbanizer via Text Sep 15, 2017, 07:31 PM

Why do you ride public transit? Re: Why do you ride public transit? 0

Thank you! Do you mean that specifically for Cornwall? Megan Tennermann Sep 20, 2017, 09:20 AM

Thank you! Do you mean that specifically for Cornwall? Megan Tennermann Sep 20, 2017, 09:24 AM
Definitely in favor of recreational space on the river, and we'll be sure to check out those communities. Thanks for giving us examples!

Megan Tennermann Sep 20, 2017, 09:19 AM 41.50058 -74.0123

Our ride on the Port Jervis Line, would be much better if you add an earlier train between the 2:40 PM and 4:08 PM out of Hoboken. Add a train at 3:30 PM, we would not have to wait so dreadfully long and riders will come back to ride the train from going to ride the commuter bus.

Thank you for this. We don't have input on the schedule, but we will make sure that the people who do are aware of your concerns.

That sounds like a very practical idea. We'll pass this along to Metro-North.

Preservation of Historical Places based on their historical use.

Monroe

I would love to see more cooperation with the Village of Monroe mandated to preserve the historical history. Instead they seem more concerned about things they can't control. I am trying to contribute but the Village of Monroe has blocked me for over a year now.

We need to provide protect the very history. The county should set limits that the municipalities must allow historical use.

I ride coach use because it is economical and convenient. Communications could be improved significantly.

Okay, thank you. What particular communications?

Why I use Public Transportation

Great! So what improvements would help your ride to work?

Single family homes in cornwall and COH please

Would that free up sidewalk space, or otherwise make a better environment for bicycles and pedestrians?
Undergrounding all utilities on Main Street will make an enormous difference in Cornwall. Not only are all the crooked poles and drooping cables an eyesore (reminds me of Delhi), they block views and take up space. Removing the poles could only improve the environment for cyclists, pedestrians, and people trying to park. When this topic comes up, the response from the veteran politicians is always, 'Can’t be done. Too expensive.' Well, if it is so expensive, then we better create a dedicated fund and start saving tomorrow. It is NOT going to get a lot cheaper. Why not start working on this NOW?

John Moran  Jan 02, 2018, 11:21 PM  41.43515  -74.0332

More stop signs on Mailler Ave

couRbanizer via Text  Sep 24, 2017, 02:59 PM  41.43555  -74.0332

Thanks for your comment. Is it that Mailler needs more stop signs because the intersections are unsafe, or because traffic on the road needs to be slower overall? Or some other reason? As someone who has lived on Mailler, there have been times where I’ve seen people drive well above 45 mph and not even stop at the stop sign or slow down.

Abigail Birnbryer  Dec 07, 2017, 05:47 PM  41.43555  -74.0332

Sounds like a great idea! Can you start by proposing it to municipal officials where you live?

Megan Tennermann  Oct 02, 2017, 01:51 PM  41.50023  -74.0332

Newburgh Beacon ferry off peak and in weekends!

Julie Tremblay  Sep 28, 2017, 09:12 AM  41.50023  -74.0125

We don’t control the ferry service or schedule, but we’ll make sure this idea gets to the people who do. Thanks for your idea!

Megan Tennermann  Oct 02, 2017, 01:52 PM  41.50023  -74.0125

Newburgh

Great! What kinds of economic development do you want to see in Newburgh?

Julie Tremblay  Sep 28, 2017, 09:12 AM  41.50023  -74.0125

We also need a curfew in my city and our schools need to be uniformed. Let’s not only give the children something to do besides violence, and drugs. My city needs a skate park to keep my family active. We also need a real activity center for the children. The children in my city are being lost to the streets due to a lack of caring by our city officials. We also need a curfew in my city and our schools need to be uniformed. Let’s not ONLY give the children something to do besides violence and drugs. Let’s give them structure and guide them to be the best, honest individual possible.

Sandra Rose  Sep 28, 2017, 10:30 AM  41.50068  -74.0118

Okay, thanks for this good suggestion. What city are you referring to?

Megan Tennermann  Oct 02, 2017, 01:46 PM  41.50023  -74.0125

Jobs & economy

Where do you feel economic development should be focused?

Megan Tennermann  Oct 02, 2017, 01:46 PM  41.50023  -74.0125

We also need a curfew in my city and our schools need to be uniformed. Let’s not only give the children something to do besides violence, and drugs. My city needs a skate park to keep my family active. We also need a real activity center for the children. The children in my city are being lost to the streets due to a lack of caring by our city officials. We also need a curfew in my city and our schools need to be uniformed. Let’s not ONLY give the children something to do besides violence and drugs. Let’s give them structure and guide them to be the best, honest individual possible.

Sandra Rose  Sep 28, 2017, 10:30 AM  41.50068  -74.0118

Okay, thanks for this good suggestion. What city are you referring to?

Megan Tennermann  Oct 02, 2017, 01:42 PM  41.50023  -74.0125

Parks & recreation

What recreational facilities would help your family stay active?

Megan Tennermann  Oct 02, 2017, 01:42 PM  41.50023  -74.0125

What recreational facilities would help your family stay active?

Megan Tennermann  Oct 02, 2017, 01:42 PM  41.50023  -74.0125

Re: What recreational facilities would help your family stay active?
In a similar vein to other comments, while a single seat train ride to Stewart Airport is probably the best long term goal, a bus connection between the Salisbury Mills train station and the Airport, perhaps looping near Storm King Art Center, would open up further transportation connections and opportunities to attract visitors.

That’s a good idea, Mark, thanks! Possibly this should incorporate other local destinations like West Point as well?

Potentially, although the Art Center would involve only a small detour from the most direct route between Stewart Airport and train station for those simply wanting a transit connection, while West Point would involve a somewhat longer trip.

Perhaps more than one route should be considered

Good point. Certainly the Commons, which is the other of our three biggest tourist draws, would require separate busing, and West Point has security concerns that would make a short hop-on-hop-off style tour difficult. We’ll keep thinking about this and figuring out, with County Tourism and County leadership, how we can make this happen. Thanks for sharing!

We need sidewalk improvement on Broadway and 9W and crosswalks need to be painted. Lake Street and Broadway too in the city of Newburgh 12550.

Thanks for your input! You're probably aware of the project at Lake Street and Washington Street, and other projects on Broadway promoting pedestrian and bicycle safety. We’ll make sure to pass along your concerns. Thanks for sharing!

What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community?

We absolutely need marked cross walks at the traffic circle. Also- town house option

Thanks for your input. We absolutely agree regarding the crosswalks at the traffic circle. When you say 'townhouse option', do you just want a provision in the code to allow townhouses? And if so, where do you think they should be?

Thanks, Lili. Where would you like to see this, generally?

Thanks for expressing your concerns, Lili. Traffic lights on Route 17K would be the state DOT's responsibility. We’ll be sure to pass along your concerns.
We completely agree! The new Comprehensive Plan will include a substantial transportation element, which will assist the work of the County Planning, Public Works and Parks Departments, as well as the Orange County Transportation Council. Thanks for your input!

Thanks for your input, Judith. Can you explain how larger lots for single family homes would allow conservation of resources?

I hope that Legoland will be required to feature local themes. Mastodons, a revolutionary war encampment, hudson river steamboats, etc.

That's certainly an interesting idea. That probably can't be a requirement for a private company conducting business within the County, but the County could certainly explore options for history centers or museums that present this material in a child-friendly way.

Plz keep the Dutchess Quarry intact without selling or leasing any additional property to Tilcom.

Okay, thank you. It's always good to know where bikes are being used. Do you have any sense of where the bicyclists are going? Are they biking up to New Paltz, or stopping somewhere along the way, or crossing the river?

More housing options for elderly and disabled.

Thanks, Lili, this is a serious concern for the County. When you say more options, do you mean more variety in housing types, or more age-restricted complexes in general, or options for the elderly and disabled in more places?

SEC 8 is NOT for people off entitlements—the gov is paying the rent. Young people need to rent private housing and SAVE up their money for down payment—and should put off having more kids until they do. And some may never be able to afford homes and will be life long renters.

The Orange County GIS site is fabulous and one thing that would make it even better is if the layers would align with the base map. The parcel layer in particular is troublesome in its alignment.

Re: What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community?

Re: What kinds of housing options would you like to see in your community?
I have already replied to this question. I got a thumbs up from a person going by Jane S. I'd like to comment directly to her & anyone else that may be reading this! Jane, we gave a group of residents in Walden that are very concerned & committed to the various housing situations in our community. They would very much like to form a citizens task force of some sort. They would like to work with our local officials, building inspector & code officer on this seemingly never ending issue! They have already spoken to a local realtor who is very much in favor of something like this! He is eager to participate. If you or anyone else has ANY input you'd like to share, I am only delighted to hear what ideas or solutions you could present!

How much money have they raised to buy, rehab and group live in a large old house, or other type of property that might be converted?

Lynn Thompson Nov 01, 2017, 10:50 AM

Housing

Re: What kinds of housing options would you like to see in your community?

0

Lynn, if members of your group have the skills to build and/or rehab, you might find a fixer up at the tax auction, pool in your money to buy, fix it and sell—use that profit for the next one.

Jane Sorensen Lord Nov 01, 2017, 02:27 PM

Housing

Re: What kinds of housing options would you like to see in your community?

0

Sidewalks going to the middle school would be great. Right now the sidewalk going up Dunderberg ends at the High School. Also, the amount of traffic on Dunderberg in the morning is horrible because of all the high school traffic. So people are flying through my neighborhood (Summit Ave. to Woodward Terrace) to avoid some of the backup. Dunderberg needs to be widened because of this and because of the fact that there are so many large Hasidic families moving into the area. The roads are way too small to support all the traffic that is occurring.

Steven Kerneklian Nov 01, 2017, 12:31 PM

Transportation & transit

What transportation projects do we need?

0

Thanks for your input, Steven! The Monroe Woodbury School District could actually take care of this sidewalk construction directly, since (if we recall correctly) they own all that property. Great. I did write the Superintendent as well, thinking it would be their responsibility. Appreciate the feedback.

Megan Tennermann Nov 01, 2017, 03:57 PM

Transportation & transit

Re: What transportation projects do we need?

0

Can we get bike racks at the Central Valley Park and Ride locations? I only have one car and my wife needs it during the day when I’m at work.

Steven Kerneklian Nov 01, 2017, 04:35 PM

Transportation & transit

Re: What transportation projects do we need?

0

That’s a great idea, Steven! We’re looking into the feasibility of connecting our nonmotorized and transit networks in a number of ways, including having bike amenities at park and ride lots.

Megan Tennermann Nov 01, 2017, 03:54 PM

Transportation & transit

Re: What transportation projects do we need?

0

Thanks for bringing this up!

Steven Kerneklian Nov 01, 2017, 12:33 PM

Transportation & transit

0

Add the poems back on the Chester trail mile markers

coUrbanizer via Text Nov 16, 2017, 02:43 PM

Bike & pedestrian

What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community?

0
Those were fun, weren’t they? We’ll pass that along to the Parks Department. Any ideas for poets or poems?

Megan Tennermann  
Nov 28, 2017, 11:07 AM  
41.36285  
-74.2702  
Bike & pedestrian

Re: What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community?

Be on time .. that’s all I[?] ask of you.

c0Urbanizer via Text  
Nov 16, 2017, 08:35 PM  
41.24784  
-74.3389  
Transportation & transit

Why do you ride public transit â€” and what could make your ride better?

ALWAYS CHECK TO MAKE SURE PEOPLE AREN’T AT THE BUS STOP !!!!!!!

c0Urbanizer via Text  
Nov 16, 2017, 08:42 PM  
41.24796  
-74.3387  
Transportation & transit

Why do you ride public transit â€” and what could make your ride better?

Real seats that work and are comfortable

c0Urbanizer via Text  
Nov 17, 2017, 05:13 AM  
41.24796  
-74.3391  
Transportation & transit

Why do you ride public transit â€” and what could make your ride better?

Plow paths during winter!

Solar power available to all homeowners via power company’s existing lines, but supplied by regional solar arrays. It should be a county wide initiative.

Liz Geyer  
Nov 21, 2017, 12:32 PM  
41.26261  
-74.2699  
Housing

What kinds of housing options would you like to see in your community?

I am in Slate Hill, Minisink area. Can we get a public swimming pool or lake around here? The school hours are terrible. Only available for residents in the evening for a short couple of hours. Doesn’t work for a lot of us.

Liz Geyer  
Nov 21, 2017, 12:33 PM  
41.26456  
-74.3387  
Parks & recreation

What recreational facilities would help your family stay active?

Cities like Middletown, Port Jervis, Goshen, Chester, Montgomery, Pin Bush, Warwick, SOLAR, WIND, GEOTHERMAL and should be in large regional arrays, installed, owned and maintained by the power companies or contracted with them so that the grid can be served. O&R; can do this and I understand they are beginning to EN COURAGE THE MPaint to - ENCOURAGE THEM! buses between the outlying communities around middletown, port jervis etc. those that are not served by dial a bus (my area, for instance is not served by dial a bus.)

Liz Geyer  
Nov 21, 2017, 12:36 PM  
41.26261  
-74.2699  
Transportation & transit

What major transportation infrastructure projects does your community need?

require all new school buses to be either hybrid or fully electric. the fumes are bad for the kids, the environmnet and the folks like me who are asthmatic, who have to drive behind the current crop of buses.

Liz Geyer  
Nov 21, 2017, 12:37 PM  
41.26261  
-74.2699  
General

Orange County idea

I think there is a glut of housing and the school taxes are ruing the housing market and the economy here. Work with the state to change how schools are funded. Make it a tax on income, not the value of one’s home.

Liz Geyer  
Nov 21, 2017, 12:38 PM  
41.26261  
-74.2699  
Housing

What kinds of housing options would you like to see in your community?

Dog Parks! Lets have more! Also for dog agility, have at least one park that has agility equipment.

Liz Geyer  
Nov 21, 2017, 12:40 PM  
41.26261  
-74.2699  
Parks & recreation

What recreational facilities would help your family stay active?

excellent suggestion Condors/Townhouses that are located closer to the village of Warwick

Valerie Lucznikowska  
Jan 02, 2018, 01:18 PM  
41.25627  
-74.3597  
Bike & pedestrian

What kinds of housing options would you like to see in your community?

Condos/Townhouses that are located closer to the village of Warwick

John Reilly  
Nov 21, 2017, 09:41 PM  
41.26261  
-74.2699  
Housing

What kinds of housing options would you like to see in your community?
We enjoy hiking, walking, cycling, golfing. Warwick could use a feeder network of pedestrian paths that would allow people to easily and safely reach the Village of Warwick...cycling and pedestrian pathways. For example, how easy is it to walk from the Middle and High Schools to the Village of Warwick without getting narrowly clipped by a vehicle. The Warwick Valley HS Track team is legendary in the state and nationally. Providing a platform for aspiring up and comers children or the ability to run, walk, cycle as a family would be invaluable.

Solar especially on existing large footprint properties as example Chester has several distribution types of businesses. Cultivating rooftops for large versus eating up real estate is a way of gaining dual use. Diversified power using other natural resource such as water. Not sure what technologies would perhaps allow us to capture tidal energy.

Entertainment... the Lyceum Theatre has great potential and is underutilized. See the revival of Paramount in Peekskill as a model. Would help revive Sugar Loaf possibly as a musical arts area. Barnsider could be a club (see Daryl's Barn in Pawling NY). Some sort of higher education facilities perhaps using the old Orange Cty jail... either private, public or even trade school education would build stronger base of talent for future growth for jobs, industry.

Those are some interesting ideas, John! If you could get a group together that's interested--I know there is at least one neighborhood group in Sugar loaf--you could look at some long-term development opportunities like that.

Improve flow, incredible pollution/car backup here. Remove all corner gas stations; turn donut shop parking inside pc lot; make right turn lanes; move bus lot if possible away from this intersection.

Hi Dena! We adjusted the category for you. Thanks! Thanks for your input, Dena! The three roads that come in at 5 Corners are all state highways, so the County can't really effect change in the actual alignment of the roads. The changes you're proposing, however, are all local zoning and land use changes that could be made by the Town of New Windsor. If you wanted to, you could certainly raise these issues with the Town.
While I know a traffic light is in the works for this intersection, and while I deeply hope that helps, I believe speed bumps are a better solution. If that is not feasible due to slowing down of emergency vehicles, speed cameras might be another option. Basically any options that promote traffic calming; if traffic is calmed significantly, then could add real bike lanes thus further reducing traffic.

Dena Wolf  Nov 23, 2017, 08:15 AM  41.43903 -74.0946

I think a Roundabout might be even better from a safety and flow perspective. Problem is there might not be a lot of room.

Niklas Moran  Apr 17, 2018, 11:40 PM  41.43903 -74.0946

Curb extensions near crosswalks to shorten crossing distances and increase pedestrian visibility

Great idea! The City of Newburgh has a couple demonstration projects you could look at, if you wanted to see a local example.

coUrbanizer via Text  Nov 25, 2017, 12:10 PM  41.25602 -74.3593

Develop the main Street facing space in the CVS parking lot. More stores!

It is absolutely a terrific idea to put more stores along Main Street, and to reorganize commercial developments so that the stores are adjacent to the street with parking to the back of the lot. We encourage that as much as we can with the Orange County Design Manual. Thanks for your input!

Megan Tennermann  Jan 02, 2018, 11:42 AM  41.25639 -74.3595

Encourage the gas stations to move further away from main street and redevelop the space

Okay, did you have a particular Main Street in mind?

Megan Tennermann  Nov 28, 2017, 11:04 AM  41.25615 -74.3592

The old fashioned kind...with new businesses mom and pops supported locally

Okay, but not a particular village or town in the County, then? Gas stations can be tricky for small business development. If your village has a Downtown Business Association, or even just a group of interested people, you could look at your municipal zoning to see if the types of development permitted on your Main Street actually reflect what you want to see.

Janice Annunziata  Nov 28, 2017, 09:03 PM  41.25615 -74.3592

That would probably have to be a separate trail development, Jan, but we'd really be excited to connect as many of our municipalities as possible through usable trail networks.

Megan Tennermann  Dec 07, 2017, 10:32 AM  41.25615 -74.3592

Megan Tennermann  Jan 02, 2018, 11:44 AM  41.36285 -74.2699
Transparency and dialogue are exactly what we were hoping for—and we're getting—with this website! Thank you and everyone else who has taken the time to comment, your input is really helpful and interesting!

Megan Tennermann
Dec 07, 2017, 10:11 AM
41.40707 -74.1916

Car park at oxford depot
coUrbanizer via Text
Nov 27, 2017, 09:25 AM
41.36261 -74.2702

Thanks for your input! How would a parking lot at that location help with the bicycle and pedestrian network?

Megan Tennermann
Nov 28, 2017, 11:01 AM
41.36261 -74.2702

Fix the crumbling sidewalks, curbs... For instance...20ft from your sign on Railroad Green, right by railroad tracks. Rebar is exposed, concrete is failing, trip hazard and dangerous. It can be difficult to know who owns and maintains a sidewalk. Have you asked the Village DPW who is responsible for that one?

Megan Tennermann
Nov 28, 2017, 11:01 AM
41.36261 -74.2702

I'm not a big fan of signs, however the 'text your answer' signs for the county comprehensive plan are a fantastic idea! I'd like to hear how they are working.

Hi Leslie—we're seeing good response from these signs, and we're thrilled that people are taking the time to give us their ideas! Lots of thoughtful responses, we're really excited to hear from everyone.

Megan Tennermann
Dec 07, 2017, 10:08 AM
41.25639 -74.3598

This is a great idea to expand the trail network, thanks! We are looking for ways to connect as many of our municipalities as possible.

Megan Tennermann
Dec 07, 2017, 10:06 AM
41.4269 -74.1677

Okay, thanks, we're hearing a couple other comments like this. Did you know that the Village of Warwick has a Complete Streets policy? If you and a couple of your other concerned neighbors could get together and present this to the Village as an issue, you could see some positive changes.

Megan Tennermann
Dec 07, 2017, 10:03 AM
41.25639 -74.3598

More quality housing in the $150k to $250k range to support influx of families

Carly Foster
Dec 03, 2017, 03:57 PM
41.36261 -74.2702

Those would be great options for families, especially young families. It can be hard for a developer with a large minimum lot size—say 2 or 3 acres—to make their money back on a moderately priced home, which has been the primary obstacle to getting more moderately priced homes in the area. Is this something you'd be willing to discuss with your municipal leadership?

Megan Tennermann
Jan 02, 2018, 09:56 AM
41.25639 -74.3598

More quality housing in the $150k to $250k range to support influx of families

Megan Tennermann
Jan 02, 2018, 09:56 AM
41.25639 -74.3598

Re: What are our community's biggest challenges â€” and best possible solutions?

Megan Tennermann
Dec 07, 2017, 10:11 AM
41.40707 -74.1916

What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community?

Megan Tennermann
Dec 07, 2017, 10:11 AM
41.40707 -74.1916

What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community?

Megan Tennermann
Dec 07, 2017, 10:11 AM
41.40707 -74.1916

What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community?

Megan Tennermann
Dec 07, 2017, 10:11 AM
41.40707 -74.1916

What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community?

Megan Tennermann
Dec 07, 2017, 10:11 AM
41.40707 -74.1916

What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community?
LEGO land is a family friendly economic development opportunity. We are very much looking forward to it. Encourage opportunities for energy and scientific R&D., filming in Orange County, as well as training and educational opportunities for adults with limited education and employment opportunities. Breweries, wineries, and tourism.}

Carly Foster Dec 03, 2017, 04:07 PM

Jobs & economy
Where do you feel economic development should be focused?

We need to bring back passenger train to Warwick, if possible. Additionally, should build up intermodal train beyond just down to NYC.

Carly Foster Dec 03, 2017, 04:12 PM

Transportation & transit
What major transportation infrastructure projects does your community need?

All new development should be compact, mixed use, and walkable. Should retrofit all major communities with compact, mixed use, and walkable development. Implement use of urban growth boundary to protect our pristine wilderness

Carly Foster Dec 03, 2017, 04:15 PM

General
Orange County idea

Great ideas, Carly! It's not exactly an Urban Growth Boundary in the same way that Portland has one--New York home rule law doesn't permit that--but the County does have what we call Priority Growth Areas, places with public water and sewer systems, on major roads, with good connectivity. We encourage municipalities to direct growth to those areas instead of creating new greenfield development.

Megan Tennermann Dec 07, 2017, 09:51 AM

Parks & recreation
What recreational facilities would help your family stay active?

Bike lane and sidewalk are needed along Galloway Road for safety.

Carly Foster Dec 03, 2017, 04:17 PM

Parks & recreation
Re: What recreational facilities would help your family stay active?

We actually have been hearing this from a few people, Carly, thanks for bringing it up. Do you happen to know about how many people walk or bike in the area?

Megan Tennermann Jan 02, 2018, 09:50 AM

General
Re: Orange County idea

We're getting this off the list of comments, not the map, so I'm afraid I can't see which Village you're referring to. Still, that's definitely something that can be considered, and we are working to expand the trail network for pedestrians and bicyclists. Could you bring this up with your local elected officials and see if you can come up with a route plan?

Megan Tennermann Dec 07, 2017, 09:48 AM

Bike & pedestrian
Re: What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community?


Bike & pedestrian
Re: What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community?

This is for Warwick, NY

Great, thanks! That seems like it would be a fairly long walk, but the Town and Village of Warwick have previously worked together well on joint projects like this one, so it's definitely worth mentioning. The Village has a Complete Streets policy, adopted a couple years ago, that requires them to take pedestrian and bicyclists into account when doing roadwork or other new development.

Megan Tennermann Jan 02, 2018, 09:49 AM

Bike & pedestrian
Re: What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community?
I expect the traffic would be a hindrance as well. We're always looking for ways to improve nonmotorized access. Would you suggest just extending and maintaining the River Road shoulder, or do you think there’s a better route?

Megan Tennermann  
Mar 30, 2018, 05:12 PM  
41.49154 & -74.0091

Since I am coming from the Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson I don’t have any very direct route suggestions. If there was room in the ROW of the active rail line, that would be pretty direct... County support for turning the old rail line that connects to Shore Rd in Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and would allow highschools students to potentially bike to school.

Niklas Moran  
Apr 17, 2018, 11:33 PM  
41.49154 & -74.0091

County support for turning the old rail line that connects to Shore Rd in Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and would allow highschools students to potentially bike to school.

Niklas Moran  
Dec 07, 2017, 05:36 PM  
41.43745 & -74.1

The one in Cornwall has been inactive for >50 years. The one in New Windsor is at least theoretically active. First, old houses and apartments should be renovated. If new housing should be built it should be first in denser areas and be smaller as household sizes are decreasing and the trend is towards smaller dwellings. More non-market rate housing to compete with the market. Housing is unaffordable in Orange County due to low wages and the high cost of living.

Megan Tennermann  
Jan 02, 2018, 09:46 AM  
41.43745 & -74.1

Excellent points all, Niklas. We are currently preparing to update the housing element of the comp plan, and we are looking to encourage redevelopment activities, infill development, and more flexible housing options across the board. Do you have anything you would particularly like to recommend?

John Moran  
Jan 02, 2018, 11:09 PM  
41.43745 & -74.1

Good goals, but infill development needs to also be sensitive to the existing streetscape. There are too many jarring examples of inappropriate structures that are out-of-place in a neighborhood. For example, the 1930s-1940s one-story building at 44 Main St, in the Village of Chester set amidst a downtown neighborhood of two and three-story, mostly late nineteenth century structures. Granted, this one was built a long time ago, but new projects need to follow best practices for urban infill development and actually be improvements by embracing the neighborhood’s character and enhancing the pedestrian experience.

Megan Tennermann  
Jan 02, 2018, 09:46 AM  
41.43745 & -74.1

Cliff, thanks for the opportunity to plug the Orange County Design Guide! This was produced by the Planning Department and RPA some years ago, and a more interactive version is getting online, we'll be ready for public rollout soon. In the meantime, the Design Guide is available on the County website and has terrific guidelines for context-sensitive development, both as infill and at the edges of existing downtowns.

Megan Tennermann  
Mar 30, 2018, 05:10 PM  
41.49154 & -74.0091
Would love to see more trees on Main Street as well as single side parking. If we were to either create or utilize unused space for a parking lot, I think that would eliminate some of the safety concerns people have. I think it would also free up space for some of the bigger trucks and buses that drive through. Maybe then some of the smaller, local shops on Main Street would be more accessible to not only the people of Cornwall but to tourists as well.

Abigail, this sounds great. Would you be willing to talk to the Town Supervisor about this? We can help you with some of the logistics as needed, but it’s up to the Town and the Village to decide what needs to happen with their streets.

Abigail Birnbryer Dec 07, 2017, 05:55 PM 41.43607 -74.0327 General

I’d like NO high-density housing. I’m so upset over all the trees being ripped up and nature being destroyed to put in high density housing on Nininger Rd. and 105 in Monroe, NY. What is going to be done to Nininger Road and 105 to support the 10,000 new people that are proposed to move into those homes? I moved here to get away from the city and into nature. Now my nature is being torn up and turned into a city. You should have stopped this from happening. It’s appalling.

Steven Kerneklian Dec 12, 2017, 01:33 PM Housing

What kinds of housing options would you like to see in your community?

While each local planning board is ultimately responsible for approving development plans, the county as a whole seems to have completely forgotten about this great invention called the sidewalk. As more and more cluster developments are built out, less and less seem to include sidewalks. This forces families to walk in the street (which lessens the likely hood of walking), eliminates cross walks, and makes it less safe for everyone. I use the bus because it is too difficult and expensive to drive to the city.

Michael Mcnamee Dec 12, 2017, 02:56 PM Parks & recreation

What recreational facilities would help your family stay active?

Replace the missing glass in the shelter and add a non metal bench. I use the bus because it is too difficult and expensive to drive to the city.

colUrbanizer via Text Dec 18, 2017, 01:54 PM Transportation & transit

Why do you ride public transit â€” and what could make your ride better?

Good points, both--the shelter must be very cold right now. Thanks for your input about the convenience of the transit options!

Megan Tennermann Jan 02, 2018, 09:35 AM Transportation

Re: Why do you ride public transit â€” and what could make your ride better?

An array of housing options is very important for maintaining the vitality of our communities. Tiny houses could also provide a nontraditional way for seniors to age in place near family.

Megan Tennermann Jan 02, 2018, 09:34 AM Housing

What kinds of housing options would you like to see in your community?
As the traffic increases, instead of just adding lanes, please develop more alternate routes. Trying to cross 6 lanes of Route 211 on foot in the Miracle Mile area is not for the faint of heart, much less with a wheelchair or walker. Adding multiple lanes to the routes that go through our villages makes them even less pedestrian friendly! Do not force pedestrians to risk crossing more than four lanes (two through plus two turning) in our villages. I've timed the walk signals near me and they give only about 5 to 10 seconds to cross four lanes! It is very scary to be in the middle of the road when the signal changes to green! Our local village crossings need to take into account all the users: motor-vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians (both young and old).

Arrange public transit stops at or near trails with signs to direct users. (Heritage, Appalachian, etc.)

Clifton Patrick Dec 20, 2017, 02:41 PM

Arrange public transit stops at or near trails with signs to direct users. (Heritage, Appalachian, etc.)

Clifton Patrick Dec 26, 2017, 04:12 PM

That's a great idea, Cliff. We'll need to refer that to the Parks Department to get it done.

Where the Orange Heritage Trail crosses Old Chester Rd, between Rt 17M and Knoell Rd, there is no painted crosswalk, although there is a fair amount of traffic there. There are signs warning of cyclists, but no signs warning of pedestrian traffic. Some additional signage and a painted crosswalk would improve the safety of this crossing.

The crosswalk where the Orange Heritage Trail crosses Duck Farm Rd has faded to the point of near invisibility. There is a sign warning of bicycle traffic on the 17M (south) side of the crossing, but no signage on the north side of the crossing and no sign of warning of pedestrian traffic. Some additional signage and repainting the crosswalk would improve the safety of this crossing. Sorry, the crosswalk referred to above is at Duck Cedar Rd, not Duck Farm Rd.

Where the Orange Heritage Trail crosses South St, there is a painted crosswalk, and signs warning motorists of bicycle traffic flank the trail crossing. There are no signs warning of pedestrian traffic, however. While NY law specifies that pedestrians have the right of way over vehicles in crosswalks, due to the volume and speed of the traffic on South St, signs reminding motorists that pedestrians have the right of way would improve safety here. Many vehicles do not yield to pedestrians at the South St trail crossing.
An unused rail line runs from Tarkett Dr in New Windsor to the Hudson R in Newburgh, just north of the mouth of Quassaic Creek. No train has used these tracks for many years. It would be wonderful if this right of way could be converted to a pedestrian/cycling trail, although getting across Rt 94 and Rt 300 might be a bit hazardous. This rail line is also only a few hundred yards from another old right of way that connects with the Heritage Trail at Greycourts. Could ultimately provide a trail link from Hudson R to Middletown.

Phil, that would be a great addition to a trail network in that area of the County. Our information is that this trail line is still active, is that incorrect?

There is a small industrial park at the south end of Tarkett Dr in New Windsor, and there was once a factory there that manufactured shingles. Since that factory closed, more than 10 years ago and possibly as long as 15 years ago, that rail line has not been used at all. The track is still maintained by the railroad up to a point: occasionally cleared of fallen trees, etc, but not cleared of snow, fallen branches, weeds. The rail crossings at Rt 94 and Rt 300 are still maintained and tested by the railroad. But again, no trains have used this section of track for many years. The railroad might therefore be willing to turn it over to Orange Co for recreational purposes.

Phil, thanks for this insight! The plan for future extension of the Heritage Trail does include access to the train station, but that won't be completed for awhile. Are there any other transit options that you think could benefit from trail connections?

Correction. The train yard will be at Campbell Hall, not Middletown.

A 2013 MetroNorth document on the West of Hudson Region Transit Access Study posted online shows the exact location of a proposed link from the MN Port Jervis line to Stewart Airport with the following text: ‘Immediate goal: preserve 4 mile right-of-way between the Salisbury Mills-Cornwall Station & Stewart Airport before further development takes place.’

We're updating the housing section of the plan shortly, and we're exploring options for a variety of low-cost housing choices.

Grants for small businesses would be great. The little guy and definitely needs big help these days.
Absolutely they do. Do you know that 99.1% of New Yorkers working in the private sector are considered to be working in a small business? (New York defines a small business as 100 or fewer employees). Empire State Development on the state level has some great resources for people starting small businesses—check them out at esd.ny.gov.

We're seeing this recommendation a lot, and it's absolutely something we're looking into providing. It's difficult with the way transit operates now, so consolidating and expanding services will take some time, but we are trying to make it happen.

Personally I would love to see Orange County itself demand that bullying violence and discrimination come to an end by joining with safe space America

This actually happens in Goshen too, at the five-way intersection in the middle of town. It can be so frightening! We'll look into this, of course, but it would really help if you could note the intersections. If any of them are State highways, they'll have to make the final decision.

The two that I've have noted with 'quick' lights are: State Highway 17M (Brookside Ave.) at West Street and Chester Mall Entrance. State Highway 17M (Brookside Ave.) at West Street and State Highway 94 (Academy Ave - Summerville Way).

Thank you very much for your input! We are taking the traffic concerns in this area very seriously.

That is definitely an interesting idea, which I will pass along to our Shared Services Committee, thanks for sharing!

Hybrid Electric School Buses!

Interesting thought. We'll have to look into how this could work and be paid for.

Would you be interested in joining your local Conservation Advisory Committee? I think you have a lot of great ideas, but often the County doesn't have the legal authority to implement them.

I would be interested in joining... please send me details on how to do that. I didn't know there was a local Conservation Advisory Committee.

I support this suggestion. Most towns have established a minimum lot size to keep density down. We don't even have enough condo or townhouse communities in NY State let alone tiny houses.
The problem with condos is the taxing structure: They contribute significantly less than other forms of ownership to the tax base. Condo assessments are based on the rental rates of the units, versus market value, which results in substantially lower tax revenue. The State of New York needs to correct this inequity!

Hi Lynn, thanks for sharing! This is absolutely something we're thinking about as a way to improve service to our communities. We don't have the structure in place right now, but we're looking at ways to help our communities provide intermunicipal transportation for just the reasons you suggest. South St in Goshen can be particularly hazardous in that regard. Traffic can move at a high speed and often does not stop for pedestrians on the Heritage Trail.

You need to plow at least a mile in the winter in Goshen Chester and Monroe on the trail. Okay, more trail amenities, that's a suggestion we're seeing a lot. Thanks for sharing your concerns! Safer parking in Goshen. People always drive against the one way. Fair enough. Where would you suggest as locations for safer public parking?

Lights and cameras on the trail. That's something we'd have to think about, but I promise we'll consider it. Thanks for your input. Pull up, sit up, etc stations on the trail. Good idea, thanks! Similar equipment is installed in several parks throughout the County, do you have any experience with those installations? What would you recommend specifically?

*That's* a great idea. Sorry, typing too fast! Are you involved with Glenmere lake. Love that place for fishing and trail. What's the construction going there? Please don't put a building up, that would ruin the views and tranquility.
Thanks for letting us know about its recreational value for you. Orange County does own water rights to Glenmere Lake, but development projects would be controlled by the Village of Florida, or the Town of Chester for a small portion of it.

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Need more train running after 12am

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Bike & pedestrian

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Transportation & transit

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Jobs & economy

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More parking in Port Jervis’s newly revitalized downtown

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Transportation & transit

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General

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Fix the ridges & ripples in the path, plow it in the winter

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Bike & pedestrian

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What bike or pedestrian improvements could we make in our community?
Thanks for your concern, we'll let Parks know.

Great, thanks! We're seeing a lot of requests for trail amenities. We'll pass this along to the Parks Department and see if we can work out something for everyone.

repair/upgrade equipment on port jervis line. old diesel equipment does not equate with the rates for travel

I'm afraid I don't know exactly what you mean. Could you email planning@orangecountygov.com with a full description of the problem? I promise we'll reply as soon as possible.

Housing options: help with the removal of asbestos siding costs and the demolition costs so that I can afford a place to live while paying off the unsuccessful line of credit and any overdue taxes and water bills I currently have. Estimates of $30,000 for asbestos removal and $20,000 for demolition.

The Larkin Drive Extension would provide a great alternative for traffic between the retail center at Bailey Farm and Rt 208. Currently this traffic travels primarily on Rt 105 through the Village of Monroe. It would also open up easier access between Exit 130 on Rt 17 and Kiryas Joel via the Forest Ave overpass, diverting heavy traffic off of rural backroads.

When is the Last Train

I ride the train so I don't have to deal with traffic. What would make it better is having a 7 or 7:30 train on weekends. If you go to a show, its cutting it close.

Commute to job in City less stressful. More trains on the schedule - Hoboken - Middletown NY; Cleaner bathroom; more than one bathroom; trains on time all the time; faster trains; upgraded trains.
Merge village and Town of Goshen. Merge school districts around the county.

Single family detached homes with half acre minimums. Residential development always costs more in taxes than it contributes.

That is often true—that tax money is usually spent on road maintenance and extension and maintenance of utility lines. How do you think half-acre minimum lot sizes would solve those problems?

XC skiing at Salesian and OC golf course on 416. Ice skating on Salesian pond. Extension of rail trail.

These are great ideas, Norman! We're going to get those passed along to the Parks Department, and to Goshen Parks and Rec.

Clean industry around SWF.

Solar farms around SWF. Wind farms on the mountain between Middletown and Port Jervis.

None

Infrastructure encompasses a lot of measures, including broadband availability, which is one of the issues surrounding tech expansion here.

The County or other public entity should roll out a municipal fiber network much like Sandy, OR, Chattanooga, TN, etc. This would ensure net neutrality and an affordable cost as it would compete with companies which face virtually none. This would be a great vehicle economic development tool.

Consolidate redundant municipalities, fire depts, police depts and school districts. Get rid of glaring eyesores...fence around Salesian and Haight musseum, old Lloyds gas station on Greenwich Ave in Goshen, CVS parking lot in Goshen. Get a supermarket in Goshen. Tax incentives to attract high tech. Thanks for your input, Norman! If you would like to discuss shared services, the Planning Department Grants Division is working on an opportunity for municipalities to share services like fire departments and police coverage. Please let them know your thoughts!

my ride would be better if it was actually the train and not a bus from Otisville station

An afternoon train from Port Jervis to NYC - An hour or so after the 1:29 so that it gets in closer to 6:00 would be wonderful. Of course a faster train ride would be awesome too.
That’s a good idea, thanks—we’ll pass that along to the MTA.
Kudos goes to OC Planning for getting Climate Smart Communities Certification and Clean Energy Communities Designation! We need the County to lead in sustainability and GGH reductions!

I look forward to Orange County’s composting facility and hope one day that my Village will send its compostables there.

Port jet is to nyc times

I believe we must consider more public housing options such as apartments for parents and children in suburban and rural settings. We should promote zoning changes and planning department support that will move this effort forward in Orange County. We should also consider public funding that will support renovation of existing housing stock.

Problem with this like in my situation. Politicians have no such interest unless it benefits them. No care about right and wrong.

Because of Legoland, the long term plan is to widen Rte 17. Studies have shown that widening large highways does NOT decrease congestion. Traffic always appears to fill in the newly created space. (NY Times 4/25/18). We need to think long and hard to decide where infrastructure funds would be best spent. Planning Boards and Zoning Boards should be filled by election, not appointment. It is presently too easy to fill those board positions with people either the executive or Town Board members personally favor.

Replace the sidewalks and curbs in Port Jervis, NY

More frequent and reliable timing of trains

When is the next train from Port Gervis to New York

When is the next train from Port Gervis to New York
Surely a Legoland theme park would not increase physical activity. A nice county park would have been perfect on that land! Increased traffic would definitely not improve the health of our bicyclists and pedestrians, especially our children with asthma! Thank you for asking!
Priority growth areas should be more precisely defined see p16 needs more study to fit guidelines.
P14 refers to where infrastructure is in place P15 refers to open space grants awarded. Is this program still in place and if not Plan should propose to keep it.
P20 needs a heading is this the beginning of Transportation Chapter? P20 what is mode neutral
✓ Goal 6 Do we need when feasible. Needs to be stronger
✓ Goal 6 needs some additional wording to coordinate transportation in Orange County with rest of region.
✓ P48 I think this should be more than just a policy plan and should include more specific proposals
✓ This could be a long discussion but it goes to our discussion of whether we should put in our specific proposals to improve the PJ line
✓ P54 Monroe high zero car households reflects KJ and they have their own bus system

One other thing the Plan says that Agriculture is a basic part of the county economy yet the County cuts open space funding and proposes to cut the Land Trust budget. Is there room for a recommendation here?

There are as many commuters coming from Sullivan County into Orange as there are from Rockland. I know that county is aligned with Ulster and Dutchess, but it seems shortsighted to not make the same connection with Sullivan since the Route 17 corridor is so important to both. I see the summer weekend traffic mentioned and a few other things, but the plan casts a relatively blind eye toward future development in Sullivan, even beyond the Route 17 corridor. With The Center for Discovery opening their new hospital overlooking this major artery, the possibilities of more coming seem obvious and the plan should at least mention possible traffic increases beyond Middletown. The plan stresses "connectivity" which is not just an inter-county issue.

Much is said about Non-motorized Transportation even before that section on page 68. It is really comprehensive throughout the document, but never specifically states encouraging train and bus services to accommodate bicycles. It's implied, but never stated. Considering the limited space available to bicycle riders to stow their equipment on a train or bus, the intermodal network is hamstrung in connecting bicyclists to their trails whether tourists or commuters. There should be stated encouragement for these transportation modes to accommodate more bicycle riders. I don't know if it's unlimited on the ferry or not.

✓ Corrections Needed
✓ Page 27. Sentence that says "Norwegian Air ..." has a date of 20017.
✓ Page 39. Under Key Destinations, Woodbury Common is listed both as that and also Woodbury Commons (incorrect). When referred to in the vernacular, it's "Common" not "Commons."
Page 41 Under Recreational Tourism, "voutdoor" should be "outdoor."

Page 59 has a misplaced bullet.

The plan was generally well written and complete. I have a few comments as noted below:

1 Page 1 Orange County's first Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1980, followed by a second Plan in 1987. A third Plan, Strategies....

2 Page 12 What is the significance of the large arrows in the list under Orange County is...? they could mean positive or negative, but should be changed.

3 Page 13 Priority Growth Areas - seventh line. This policy was first presented in 1976 and later adopted in the 1980 Comprehensive Plan as the Urban-Rural Concept

4 Page 23 Under local road systems there is a reference to Dolsontown Road. Isn't Dolsontown Road part of the Middletown loop road system and, therefore, a collector road?

5 Page 32 Transfer to lower Manhattan is by both ferry and subway

6 Floodprone roads should also include Route 416 at CR 99 and the Wallkill River Collector Road. Impractical

7. There is reference to a future tram or light rail from Stewart to Newburgh. Wouldn't direct bus service make more sense?
Page 11. Orange County’s first Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1980, followed by a second plan in 1987. A third plan, Strategic...  

Page 12. What are the significance of the arrows in the list under Orange County in...?  

Page 13. Priority Growth Areas - seventh line. This policy was first presented in the 1976 and later adopted in the 1980 Comprehensive Plan as the Urban-Rural Concept.  

Page 23 Under local road systems there is a reference to Dobetown Road. Isn’t Dobetown Road part of the Middletown loop road system and therefore a collector road?  

Page 32 Transfer to lower Manhattan is by ferry and subway.  

Route 416 is flood prone at Neeleytown Road [CR 99] at the Wallkill River at 184.
Good evening.

Tonight, I speak as a taxpayer of the Town of Warwick and Orange County. I also speak as a mother of two college age children, a former school nurse who cared for thousands of Orange County’s adolescents and their families, a volunteer for veteran organizations, an active community member, and employee of LEGOLAND New York Resort.

Our county is sorely lacking in public transportation. It is a detriment to citizens from all socioeconomic levels.
- Senior citizens needing to get to a doctor appointment.
- High school students trying to get their first part time job.
- Young professionals commuting.
- Employers struggling to fill roles.

I would like to share one story with you that gets to the heart of the matter.

Two summers ago, my colleague and I were working at our LEGOLAND New York Resort booth during the Newburgh Illuminated festival. A group of young men glanced at our table, hesitated for a moment, then continued to walk past. I called over to them and asked them to come back and learn about future roles in the park.

They were skeptical at best. One young man said, “You will never hire us. Nobody ever hires us.” We engaged in conversation and I learned about the many attempts they had made to find employment, without any success. It was soul crushing. I assured them that if they were willing to work hard, take the training that we can offer them seriously, and love being part of our team, they would find a multitude of roles in our park that would get their foot in the door and from there, learn and grow with many opportunities.

Their faces softened and smiles began to replace scowls. They had hope and it was visible...

Until one of them said, “We have no way to get there.”

As you develop the county’s comprehensive plan, please remember that phrase. “We have no way to get there.”

I want our senior citizens and veterans, my former students, my future colleagues, our fellow tax payers, and my precious children to be able to stay, live and thrive in Orange County. Please make it a priority to give them a way to get there.

Christine Little
51 Four Corners Rd
Warwick, NY 10990
Sandra M. Rothenberger  
349 Sarah Wells Trail  
Goshen, NY 10924  
January 2, 2019

Elaine McClung, Chairperson  
Orange County Planning Board  
124 Main Street  
Goshen, NY 10924

RE: Revision of Orange County Comprehensive Plan

Dear Chairperson Elaine McClung

When the Orange County Legislature Chairperson L. Stephen Brescia introduced updating of the Comprehensive Plan of our county this past summer, he stated that Orange County is an agricultural county but is becoming to be known as the county of warehouses/trucking. He said our image must change, and the legislature was asked to make suggestions as to how our county could attract sustainable businesses. Develop our agricultural assets, bring in technological businesses, entice research facilities, and invite advanced educational facilities to locate here. These types of business attract an educated workforce, pay good wages vs. minimum wage and create many support jobs. We need true controlled economic development/growth that benefits the area and does not put a strain on municipal services or our social programs.

L. Stephen Brescia and Orange County Partnership Maureen Hallahan have presented and are supporting building the Medline 1.2 million sq. ft. warehouse in Montgomery. Montgomery and Hamptonburgh will be destroyed. I have attached my reply to the SEQRA hearing for your review.

So why the double-speak from our legislature? Why does the Orange County Partnership and the legislature work together to build inappropriate businesses and destroy our agricultural land by building on every piece of green space they can find? Why can’t empty properties and bankrupt warehouses be refurbished for these businesses eliminating another footprint to our land? OCP offers generous PILOT programs to multibillion-dollar corporations whose only concern is increasing their bottom line. Their business activity will destroy our towns and villages and increase taxes to a point of unbearable burden for the residents. See attached article: New York ranks No. 1 in losing residents to other states.

When are supervisors and mayors going to work for the people? Goshen supervisor Doug Bloomfield changed the air-tight Comprehensive Plan to allow Legoland to build. Legoland was granted variances to the zoning laws and violations were ignored by the town board and building inspector. Doug Bloomfield stated...
he had the power to use “home rule.” This law needs to be eliminated since supervisors and mayors are using it to their advantage to the detriment of the town residents.

In your public hearing it was stated that the comprehensive plan was only a guideline to the towns in Orange County. This must change but the legislature will never agree to it being anymore than a guideline. What can be done? The Orange County comprehensive plan should be used for the town and villages that do not have one. And those that do have a comprehensive plan as Goshen, should have to hold a referendum vote of the residents to change it.

I know that your board has a daunting job but if any of the above narrative could be included in the revised Comprehensive Plan it would be appreciated.

If you have any questions or need to contact me, please do not hesitate to call.

Thank you,

[Signature]

Sandra M. Rothenberger
845-325-9748
rothenbgersandra23@gmail.com
December 19, 2018

TO: Town of Montgomery Planning Board  
RE: Medline Warehouse Scooping Session

This past spring, I attended a legislative meeting where the revision of the Orange County Comprehensive Plan was being discussed. L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman of the Legislature stated that the image of Orange County was one of warehouses and trucking. Since we are an agricultural county the legislature agreed that our image had to change by attracting professional business that would develop our economic base at a controlled pace and preserve the quality of life in Orange County.

There are approximately 100,200 acres of agricultural designated lands in Orange County. How many acres of agricultural land will be lost to Medline’s big warehouse?  
**Require** Medline to give back to the community in agricultural activities for the lost of that land.

**Require** Medline to do an Agricultural Assessment by the Orange County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board. What lands in the surrounding areas have already been designated as agricultural? Does Medline and the town planning board have other plans if these lands are so designated and cannot be built on?

Artifacts should be preserved as they cannot be replaced.  
**Require** Medline to contact the NYS Archeological Association and have them perform an archeological dig of at least 18 inches to determine if artifacts are found on Medline’s property. Such as Native American villages, historical churches and homes, graveyards or military encampments. What would Medline’s mitigation be if found to contain artifacts.

African Cemetery  
The African cemetery on Rt. 416 is being used as a truck turnaround. Why hasn’t the town stopped the desecration of these gravesites.  
**Require** Medline to state how they will prevent their trucks from using the cemetery as a turnaround.

Genealogical records preserve our heritage.  
**Require** Medline to contact the Orange County Genealogical Society, Orange County Historian and the Montgomery Historian to study if the land has any genealogical/historical significance and should not be disturbed. What would Medline’s mitigation plans be if this is historical land.
Thomas Bull Memorial Park, golf courses, horse facilities and animal farms are in the area. **Require** Medline to contact the Orange County Parks and Recreation to do an analysis of how the truck traffic and immense size of the building will affect the value and income to these recreational facilities. What will Medline's mitigation be if the activity of their facility will have a negative effect on the income and attendance of these parks and farms.

Medline's building will be built on top of an aquifer.
**Require** Medline to hire a hydrogeologist to evaluate the effects of this large building on the soil and on top of an aquifer. Is building on an aquifer allowed? Contact the Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District as developing this property may conflict with their laws. How will building on the aquifer affect the water supply of the town and private wells?

Wallkill River
The river floods the area frequently. This year the area received a record 74 inches of rain.
**Require** Medline to contact and receive permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as they mentioned building a 30-foot-high wall to stop flooding.
**Require** Medline to contact the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance to obtain the records of the Wallkill River flooding over the last 5 years and how hurricanes increased the flooding. How will Medline mitigate the constant flooding of the Wallkill River on the adjacent road and lands?
**Require** Medline to contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to evaluate the water runoff from the roof, parking lot and regraded soil and surrounding area into the Wallkill River. Does the runoff pose a threat of pollution to the soil and Wallkill river? If the roads are flooded and emergency personnel cannot access the plant site how is Medline going to mitigate these circumstances.

Cornell University
**Require** Medline to contact Cornell University Cooperative Extension as their goal is to support living in rural Orange County. They have invaluable information about the agriculture, nature (plants) and wildlife in the county. How is Medline going to mitigate disturbing the natural setting and protecting the wildlife in the area?

SPDES/SWAPP
Legoland listed SWAPP plans in their DEIS. Neither Legoland's building contractor or engineer designed a stormwater runoff plan and their silt runoff polluted the Otterkill Creek and destroyed the biodiversity of the area. The DEC has fined them and cited them over a dozen times to no avail. The town of Goshen did not require
that Legoland post a bond for damages. Who will require that Medline abides by their agreement to incorporate the SWAPP in the construction phase?

**Require** Medline to install retention ponds before construction.

**Require** Medline to post a substantial bond to correct any damage they cause from silt runoff into the Wallkill River?

**Wetlands**

**Require** Medline to honor the 100’ ft buffer for wetlands and property lines?

**Traffic**

Many intersections will need to be reconstructed to allow for the truck traffic from their facility and 90 degree turns.

**Require** Medline to pay for any road reconstruction and have DOT approvals before they start construction.

**Require** Medline to hire an independent qualified traffic expert to conduct a traffic study lasting more than 3 days.

**Require** Medline to post a separate bond for damage to the road infrastructure. If the roads, especially side roads and bridges have a maximum weight capacity, will the trucks be required to use major roads only. What is the weight capacity for Neelytown Road? How will truck traffic be prevented from using local roads? Truck traffic come from any direction not just the one road Medline proposes to use.

**Require** Medline to provide a count of how many trucks will be coming into and leaving the plant site.

**How** will Medline mitigate the flooding that occurs often under the I-84 bridge?

**How** will Medline mitigate major traffic jams on I-84 that takes hours to clear?

Ten thousand trucks travel I-84 per day.

**Noise**

**Require** Medline to do a cumulative study of the noise their plant produces, the truck engines and the backup beepers. Anything above 65 decibels is not acceptable by the DEC. Does the town have a noise ordinance? Does it state the hours that noise is acceptable? Medline states that their incoming/outgoing trucks will be at night.

**Pollution—Particle Matter and Ozone**

The last air-quality test by the DEC in the Newburgh-Poughkeepsie area was done in 2008.

**Require** Medline to do a current particle matter test.

**Require** Medline to supply records of the number of days Orange County issued warnings for high ozone levels this past summer, 2018. Measure the effects of the diesel pollution from the trucks on the surrounding towns. What will be the readings of particle matter from single occupancy vehicles (SOV) for the 600
workers? Will these levels violate the allowable levels? How will Medline mitigate the problem if the levels are too high?
The article, *Health and Environmental Effects of Particulate Matter*, published by the DEC is attached. It lists the Health Effects, Environmental Effects and Environmental Damage that occurs when high levels of particulate matter occur. Please read the irreversible effect of PM. Please read the article. Will Medline’s trucks be repaired/serviced on site? Will there be fuel stored on the property? **Require** Medline to address containment procedures in the event of a fuel spill or oil spill.

Jobs
Medline quoted they will have 600 workers. Is this number tied to the PILOT they will be receiving? Will there be claw back of their PILOT if they do not meet their quota?

Quality of Jobs
Orange County’s poverty rate is 52.9 percent of the population. See attached article *Hunger in the Hudson Valley.* **Require** Medline to state the number of part-time jobs will be of the 600 people workforce. What kind of wages do they pay and is it a living wage? See the attached article, *30 cities adding jobs nobody wants.*

Automation of Medline warehouses
Medline has installed automation/robots to 1/3 of their plant in Middletown. Will they really hire 600 workers? Automation is of no economic benefit to the town or surrounding areas. **Require** Medline to state how much of their new warehouse will be automated.

Workforce
Unemployment in Orange County is so low that it is considered zero. Every business has a Help Wanted sign. The Resorts Casino in Sullivan County cannot find enough workers. They offered free shuttle buses from various towns and paid training. They are still short of a full workforce. Where will Medline get 300 additional employees that own a car to drive to work since there is no public transportation? New Yorkers are fleeing the state. From 2011-2016 according to the Marist College of Economic Research 28,000 households moved out of the Hudson Valley. See attached article, *Marist report says families moving out of Hudson Valley.*
School Taxes

Legoland promised 1 million dollars to the Goshen school district so they scheduled a 30-million-dollar renovation project. This year they received $47,000 from Legoland. If an outside entity donates money to a school district, NYS school aid is decreased by that amount. Goshen school district was the only school in Orange County to have their state aid reduced by $47,000 this year. Goshen’s school budget for 2018-2019 is $71 million dollars. Legoland’s offer of 1M will not alleviate the increase of school tax bills of the residents.

Economic Benefit

Require Medline to hire an independent reputable company to do a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of the economic benefit not only to Montgomery but all the surrounding towns. Do not accept a balance sheet/prospectus from Medline’s accounting firm as Legoland submitted.

Support Services

Require Medline to pay all costs for support services as fire, police, ambulance services, school crossing guards, traffic control, fuel spills, damage to roads and houses due to fire or explosions and the cost to clean up a major accident scene. Include pay rate, supplies and equipment costs. Does the fire department have the necessary equipment to fight a fire in a 1.3 million sq. ft. warehouse? Charge Medline a substantial fine if their truck is involved in an accident that requires the road to be closed for some time.

Suggested Interested Parties:

Orange County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board
NYS Archeological Association
Orange County Genealogical Society
Orange County Historian
Montgomery Historian
Orange County Parks & Recreation
Jim Brooks, Thomas Bull Memorial Park
Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wallkill River Watershed Alliance
Moodna Creek Intermunicipal Council
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Cornell University Cooperative Extension
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
NYS Department of Transportation
Montgomery Fire and Ambulance Department
Montgomery Police Department
Kathy Pitts, Windfall Farm
Hamptonburgh Town Board

Thank you.

Debra B. Corr
Sandra M. Rothenberger
Concerned Citizens for the Hudson Valley
P.O. Box 414
Goshen, NY 10924
Health and Environmental Effects of Particulate Matter (PM)

Health Effects
The size of particles is directly linked to their potential for causing health problems. Small particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter pose the greatest problems, because they can get deep into your lungs, and some may even get into your bloodstream. Exposure to such particles can affect both your lungs and your heart. Numerous scientific studies have linked particle pollution exposure to a variety of problems, including:

- premature death in people with heart or lung disease
- nonfatal heart attacks
- irregular heartbeat
- aggravated asthma
- decreased lung function
- increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing or difficulty breathing.

People with heart or lung diseases, children, and older adults are the most likely to be affected by particle pollution exposure.

- AirNow can help you monitor air quality near you, and protect yourself and your family from elevated PM levels.

Environmental Effects
Visibility impairment
Fine particles (PM_{2.5}) are the main cause of reduced visibility (haze) in parts of the United States, including many of our treasured national parks and wilderness areas. Learn more about visibility and haze

**Environmental damage**

Particles can be carried over long distances by wind and then settle on ground or water. Depending on their chemical composition, the effects of this settling may include:

- making lakes and streams acidic
- changing the nutrient balance in coastal waters and large river basins
- depleting the nutrients in soil
- damaging sensitive forests and farm crops
- affecting the diversity of ecosystems
- contributing to acid rain effects.

**Materials damage**

PM can stain and damage stone and other materials, including culturally important objects such as statues and monuments. Some of these effects are related to acid rain effects on materials.
Hunger in the Hudson Valley

The federal poverty level for a family of four, the most commonly used example, is an income of $24,600 a year. The level is adjusted by $4,320 for each person in larger or smaller families. The following are the poverty levels in the mid-Hudson and the levels of participation in programs that are based in part on them. The state is included for comparison.

New York state

Population*: 19,697,457 People below poverty level*: 15.5% People receiving food stamps**: 9.2% Public school students receiving free/reduced-price lunches***: 52.9% Orange County

Population*: 376,242 People below poverty level*: 12.6 % People receiving food stamps**: 9.1% Public school students receiving free/reduced-price lunches***: 36.8% Ulster County

Population*: 180,505 People below poverty level*: 13.0% People receiving food stamps**: 7.0% Public school students receiving free/reduced-price lunches***: 45.4% Sullivan County

Population*: 75,818 People below poverty level*: 17.1% People receiving food stamps**: 13.7% Public school students receiving free/reduced price lunches***: 57.9%

30 cities adding jobs nobody wants

Getting paid to do what you love every day is a dream relatively few Americans are able to realize. Many of us manage to be content with our work, especially when receiving livable wages. Of course, there is also plenty of unenjoyable work -- at low wages -- that still needs to be done.

At one time in the United States, being employed was enough to stay out of poverty. From jobs programs implemented during President Lyndon Johnson’s “War on Poverty” in the 1960s to work subsidies and incentives introduced during President Bill Clinton’s welfare reform programs in the 1990s, the labor market has long been viewed as an anti-poverty vehicle.
However, in many parts of the country adding jobs, being employed is no longer enough to alleviate financial challenges. There were 7.6 million Americans in the labor force living in poverty in 2016. That level of in-work poverty has fluctuated over the years, but it remains roughly at the same level reported a decade ago.

The economy has added millions of jobs since the recession ended, but many of these jobs are not the same as those that were lost. Without looking at wages or in-work poverty statistics, strong employment growth does not tell the whole story.

Nationwide, retail trade and the accommodation and food services industry added over one million jobs over the past three years, accounting for 21.7% of total employment growth. In all but two of the cities on this list, these relatively low-paying industries accounted for a larger share of jobs added. But individuals working in these industries are among the most likely to earn poverty wages.

“If a job doesn’t pay enough to get you out of poverty, it’s not a desirable job,” said Marty Kohli, chief regional economist with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

To find the cities adding mostly low-wage jobs, 24/7 Wall St. reviewed three-year employment level changes in the relatively low-paying industries of retail trade and food and accommodation, as well as the percentage of the labor force living in poverty in U.S. metropolitan statistical areas.

To be considered, a metro area’s retail trade and accommodation and food services industry employment growth between 2014 and 2017 needed to exceed the national average employment growth for those industries. Individuals working in these industries are among the most likely to earn poverty wages. Out of the nearly 100 MSAs that met this criteria, the 30 listed have the highest labor force poverty rates (the share of an area's labor force earning below poverty level incomes). Data was obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Click or swipe through to see the full list.
Comprehensive Plan

Water Master Plan
- Your data from the Water Master Plan of 2010 is 9 years old and the information is out of date. A new study needs to be done.
- The water technical report is from 2009 and is 10 years old. A new technical report needs to be done.
- Maintaining our water sources from pollution must be a priority. Examples: Newburgh’s water was contaminated from the foam used at Stewart National Guard. The Wallkill River is contaminated with cancer causing toxins from OC landfill located in Goshen. Legoland in Goshen has destroyed the threatened endangered Otterkill Creek and Purgatory Swamp with silt runoff since May 2018. Some of these problems have no solution.
- Residents should have priority to the available water in drought situations vs. new mega businesses.

The Greenway Compact
- The size and type of any project must fit the size of the town and not overwhelm its area, or resources and preserve the quality of life. Legoland’s Amusement Park is not a good fit for Goshen. Medline’s 1.2 million sq. ft. warehouse is not a good fit for Montgomery or Hamptonsburgh.
- Once a site plan is approved there should be laws that the project cannot change without a new SEQRA.
- A multimodal transportation network must fit the town’s capabilities to accommodate new transportation methods.
- Utilizing infill and redevelopment. There is a glut of warehouses for sale.
- Conserving natural land and encouraging wildlife corridors. Legoland clear-cut 100 acres in one week. They cut down a massive 300-year-old Sycamore tree. They caused a silt runoff problem polluting the Otterkill Creek that their engineer says has no solution. And they displaced 100 acres of wildlife, and many did not survive the destruction of their habitat.
- Affordable housing options. Goshen supervisor Bloomfield passed a law to get rid of affordable housing.
- Environmental Quality and Sustainability must be a priority.
- Economic Prosperity results from sustainable controlled growth. Not mega projects.
- Community Quality of Life. All towns and villages in OC must make this a priority. The town boards must know it’s their responsibility to keep this in place for the residents.
- Median income. Businesses offering minimum wage jobs will not be a benefit but an economic disaster. Legoland offering 1,000 minimum wage and part-time jobs. Amy’s warehouse offering 700 minimum wage jobs. Medline offering 600 minimum wage and part-time jobs.
- Orange County unemployment rate of 3.2% is considered as full employment. Where are all the workers coming from to fill these jobs?

Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan
- In 2015 the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan was approved by the County Legislature and NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. There are eight priority projects.
• Why aren't they being implemented and considered as a requisite for new building projects?
• Where is the development of agricultural centers and indoor markets?
• Why isn't Cornell Cooperative University a main player in our agriculture and farmland plans?
• Why aren't horse farms considered as economic development?
• Why aren't the dairy farms given the help to repurpose their land into sustainable crops instead of having to sell their land?
• Many of the dairy farms are historical and archeological landmarks that must be preserved. Once bulldozed that landmark is gone forever.
See attached article: Growing number of local dairy farms shutting down.
New York ranks No. 1 in losing residents to other states

May 25, 2018, 6:06pm EDT

New York is top in the U.S. in terms of its residents leaving for other states.

In 2015, New York had a population of 19.5 million. By 2016 (the latest year available), it shrank to about 19.3 million, resulting in a net drop of 186,000 people.

This trend has been the case for awhile, as census data shows more New York citizens have been moving out of the state since around 2011. This exodus from New York is due to many factors, the top ones cited by experts being recent tax hikes, high cost of living, a poor jobs climate, and unideal weather.

According to recent data, New York state tops the charts in terms of outmigration from the state, and is followed by Illinois, California, New Jersey and Connecticut. All five of these states have negative net migration rates.
While more New Yorkers are leaving the state each year, the question must be asked of
where they are going. The top five states that New York migrants head to are Florida, New
Jersey, California, Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

In comparison, the top five largest in-migration states are, in order, Florida, Texas,
Arizona, North Carolina, and Georgia.

Southern and Western states are faring much better in terms of population growth than
their northern neighbors. Also according to the data, those leaving the top out-migration
states such as New York and Illinois are heading to these five states and a few others after
they leave.

Since the recession in the mid-2000s, migration to Sunbelt states rapidly picked up as
these states in the South and West have more opportunities for employment as well as
more affordable housing than counterparts in the north and east, according to experts

States with high unemployment, higher costs of living, and colder climates cannot
compete with these regions of the country — and it shows in migration rates.

In terms of percentages, New York ties with New Jersey at minus-0.9 percent in terms of
net migration. It is closely followed by Connecticut, with minus-1 percent net migration,
and Illinois and North Dakota tied for third with a minus-1.1 percent change in migration.

Looking at New York City specifically, the area with the largest percentage of residents
lost to other states came from the zip code 10075, in the Upper East Side, which faced a
9.3 percent decrease in its population from 2015 to 2016. The area with the most
population growth in the county, however, is in Far Rockaway, Queens.

In addition to counties that make up New York City, other counties in the state that
account for much of the population decline are Erie, Rockland and Suffolk counties.

New York’s population decline is due to many factors, differing per family. In an interview
with the New York Daily News, the Empire Center’s E.J. McMahon cited his reasoning for
the departure from the state: "The stories continue to be a lack of economic opportunity
upstate ... and downstate it’s just cost."

Heather Hartel
Correspondent
New York Business Journal
Growing number of local dairy farms shutting down

By Judy Rife

Times Herald-Record

Posted Dec 25, 2018 at 7:22 PM
Updated Dec 25, 2018 at 7:22 PM

Seven of Orange County's remaining 40 dairy farmers have quietly sold their herds and stopped producing milk in recent months, beginning an exodus from a storied industry that they predict will continue into the new year and beyond.

"Everybody who's milking cows is in trouble now," said Mike Hosking, a third-generation dairy farmer in Mount Hope who sold his herd in October. "For the past four years, we've been getting paid the same amount for our milk as we got paid 20 years ago, and it's finally taking its toll."

Hosking, whose barn was destroyed in a fire in 2014, said he never would have rebuilt it - and depleted his savings when insurance fell short - had he known the business would get this bad.

"I would have gone out then," Hosking said.

The dairy industry in much of the country has been in free fall, a result of increasing supply and decreasing demand. Americans simply don't drink as much milk as they used to, and producers of still-popular butter, cheese, ice cream and yogurt have only been able to absorb so much of the surplus.

Processors, as a result, have canceled purchase contracts with little notice, forcing dairy farmers to scramble to find new buyers for their milk or go out of business.

Six of Sullivan County's 18 dairy farmers lost their contracts in May and then had them extended temporarily. Now two plans to build small creameries to process niche products are being advanced to create a more stable market for their milk.

In Orange County, the farmers had contracts, but that security alone couldn't overcome a combination of other personal and financial pressures.
“I guess you could say my son and I – he’s past 60 and I’m past 80 - more or less decided to retire,” said Wisner Buckbee Sr., co-owner of the 500-acre Wisner Farms in Warwick. “Everybody is losing money and going out. I think all the dairies in the county will be gone within five years.”

Bill Hoekstra of Montgomery, who sold his remaining 55 cows in September for half what they were worth four years ago, said the “totally unbalanced financial equation” finally did him in.

“Nobody's happy about going out like this,” Hoekstra said. “But how long can you keep rolling a rock uphill only to have it roll back over you? When your dairy agent tells you he doesn’t think milk prices are going to get any better?”

Winnie Gros of Pine Bush said she and her husband, Jake, were squeezed financially, too: “We can handle the ups and downs – you expect them in farming – but when you’re down for so long and there’s no up in sight, you can’t survive.”

The other closing dairies are James Ballard in Campbell Hall, Dean Vellenga in Westtown and George Constable in Unionville.

“I think by spring a few more will be gone,” said Rachel Moody, the equine/livestock educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County. “Besides milk prices, the weather this year has kicked them when they were down.”

This season’s constant rain cut yields of hay and corn for many farmers, adding the unanticipated expense of buying silage to feed their herds to their bills. Hosking said, for example, a tractor-trailer load of hay cost upwards of $8,000 and would only last his 100-plus cows about 45 days.

The farms, collectively, represent more than 2,500 acres of fields and pastures that their owners intend to keep in active use in the short term to preserve the agricultural assessments that lower property taxes.

“We’ve got a lot of tillable acres and we’re going to have to make a lot of changes,” Buckbee said.

He and other farmers think hay could be a viable cash crop since, as Hoekstra pointed out,
there are probably as many horses as cows in the county today.

“We did well enough with hay this year that we were able to sell some, but there’s no guarantee that will be the case next year,” Gros said. “We’ve made no decisions. It’s all still too new.”

The farmers also held their heifers back from auction to grow on for two years and then sell at the peak of their value – when they are about to produce their first calves, their udders have descended and their potential as milk cows can be assessed.

Hosking, who kept about 40 calves, said he may keep his hand in the business by raising and selling breeding stock, since most of his prize Holsteins with their choice pedigrees sold “pretty well” to breeders throughout the Northeast.

“I guess I should think about retiring, but I’ve been doing this all my life – it’s all I’ve ever wanted to do – and I think I still have some good years in me,” said the 60-something Hosking.

But demand for cows, like the milk they produce, has fallen along with prices, robbing farmers of a source of equity that they used to be able to borrow against.

“What this is, for all of us, really, is a step into the great unknown,” Hoekstra said.

judyrife@gmail.com
Traffic Comprehensive Plan

Orange County Airport
- Orange County Airport is a small business/recreation/aviation center airport and does not need its own exit from I-84. Cargo planes can utilize Stewart Airport where the road infrastructure is in place.
- Adding an exit will increase truck traffic and be beneficial only to the large warehouses while destroying the towns of Montgomery and Hamptonburgh.
- What priority is a new exit from I-84 on the DOT list of projects?
- Reconstruction of the Harriman Tolls was on the list for 12 years.
- A comprehensive traffic study and a certified Planner should evaluate the area if adding an exit is feasible and analyze if there is any economic benefit to the surrounding towns.
- What happened to preserving our quality of life and the agricultural farms and lands as stated in the comprehensive plan under the Greenway Compact and the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan?

Workforce Commute to New York City
- People who commute to NYC for work consider the drive a tradeoff to live in Orange County for the natural, open space and the quality of life. Do a survey and don't assume every commuter wants an I-84 on/off ramp in their backyard.
- A multimodal transportation system that is sized to the towns should be encouraged.

Air Quality
- The air quality in Orange County is already bad. Do you know many times in the summer the DEC issued alerts about high ozone levels and to stay indoors?
- Trucks, buses and idling traffic are the worst polluters.
- Big business with large truck fleets should be located on the outside perimeter of small towns to alleviate health problems.

Route 17: Gateway to Development
- Legoland does not have permission from the DOT to build their bridge.
- Does the DOT allow bridges/interchanges for 1 business?
- How can Legoland open in 2020 when they just started construction at the end of 2018.
- Legoland's site plans include moving the Heritage Trail to accommodate bridge supports.
- The heritage trail sits on a secure railroad bed. Where will it be moved to?
- To move the Heritage Trail Legoland needs permission from the Department of Parks and Recreation.
- Exit 125 should not be closed to accommodate one business.
- Will egress/ingress traffic on 17M and Harriman Drive be required to use Legoland's traffic circle?
- Not all 3,000 to 5,000 cars/day are going to use Legoland's bridge. The local roads will be impacted greatly and cause slow/stopped traffic. Do a comprehensive traffic study on Rt. 17M and Rt. 207 in Goshen and the exit in Chester for current traffic for an additional 1,500 cars per day.
• Rt. 17 cannot handle current traffic volumes today especially in the summer months. Legoland is a seasonal amusement park only operating in the summer months. A bridge is not going to solve this problem. There will be adverse congestion.

• Legoland is not paying for the bridge. They received a 20-year PILOT worth 36M dollars and another 26M dollars for construction costs.

• The NYSDOT Scoping/PEL study is anticipated to start in 2019 and it could be 2021 before its completed. How long will it take for DOT to construct a bridge for Legoland?

• In Legoland’s FEIS they stated at a Public Hearing that their bridge, additional lanes on Rt. 17, installing left hand turning lanes and traffic lights at many intersections within the Goshen area would be complete before they will open their amusement park. The Scoping/PEL study will not be done until 2021.

• What is the realistic time frame for construction by the DOT on Rt. 17?

Truck Freight

• The majority of shipments by truck freight passing through these facilities (large warehouses) have origins and destinations outside Orange County.

• Why is Orange County giving large PILOTS to multibillion-dollar companies to locate in Orange County?

• This is not good economic development when it destroys the small towns and villages in the area.

• This is not good economic development when the small towns and villages must accommodate these mega warehouses and concentrated warehouse complexes.

• The best example of an industrial park with a volume of truck traffic that works is Chester.

• Orange County must copy the footprint of Chester as it has the least amount of negative impact on the town and village.

• Truck Freight companies and mega warehouses should be located near Stewart Airport. The I-84 and I-87 provide the road infrastructure and they have access to Stewart Airport cargo shipping.