

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION



RADISSON HOTEL, CORNING, NEW YORK

APRIL 17 - 18, 2007

## WHAT IS A WALKABLE COMMUNITY?

Recent polls and media stories show a strong demand for communities where people of all ages and abilities can safely and comfortably walk and bike. Walkable communities have many benefits: opportunities for people to be healthy and active, reduced pedestrian injuries, less traffic congestion and air pollution, reduced crime due to more “eyes on the street,” and economically viable downtowns where people can walk, bike and shop. Creating walkable environments requires the active collaboration of people with interests in safety, land use, economic development, transportation, education, law enforcement and healthy promotion. This conference will bring together people from these various disciplines and provide participants with the tools to work together to create walkable communities in New York State.

## SPONSORING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

**New York State Department of Health  
New York State Department of State  
New York State Department of Transportation  
New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee**

*Additional planning agencies and organizations:*

**New York Bicycling Coalition  
New York State Physical Activity Coalition  
Parks & Trails New York  
The Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo**

# CREATING WALKABLE COMMUNITIES PRELIMINARY AGENDA

**TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007**

**9:00 - 11:00 REGISTRATION**

**11:00 - 12:15 OPENING KEYNOTE PLENARY**

## **Walking and Improving the Quality of Life**

Walking is the preferred physical activity in the U.S. It is inexpensive and fun. It is great for our personal and public health; but it is also much more. Walking and walkable places improve our environment, enhance our transportation systems, advances economic development and boosts recreation for all. This improves our quality of life and contributes to every one's happiness. Quality of Life is the most important element of economic competitiveness. To attract and retain highly creative and educated people is the greatest challenge of economic development. Every city's current priority: To create life style environments to which "wealth" creating people are attracted. But despite the many known benefits, much still needs to be done. It is more than building sidewalks and trails. It is about change of lifestyle, and the way cities are built. The presentation showcases some international best practices and suggests specific actions to follow. It's about creating walkable communities!

Presenter: Gil Penalosa, MBA *Executive Director, Walk & Bike for Life, Oakville, Ontario, Canada*

**12:30 - 1:15 LUNCH**

**1:15 - 2:15 PLENARY SESSION**

## **Safe Routes to School and Introduction to New Law**

Many fewer children walk to school today than did 50 years ago. The good news is the federal government is interested in changing this trend. The recently-passed SAFETEA-LU transportation reauthorization legislation includes a new, national Safe Routes to School program. The legislation makes available \$612 million in Federal funds over five fiscal years. Each state will receive a portion of the funds and the funds are to target K 8 schools. This session will provide the national perspective on the Safe Routes to School program and some local efforts to help children walk to school.

Presenters: National Expert on Safe Routes to School (TBA)  
*Andrew Wheatcraft Educational Facilities Planning, Rochester City Schools*

**2:30 - 2:45 EXHIBIT BREAK AND POSTER SESSIONS**

# CREATING WALKABLE COMMUNITIES PRELIMINARY AGENDA

**TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007 CONTINUED**

**3:00 - 4:00 CONCURRENT SESSION 1**

## **Pedestrian Safety Programs**

Police Chief Sal Trentanelli will discuss the effectiveness Corning's current Pedestrian Crossing Safety Project, which targets pedestrian crossing safety in mid-block crosswalks with no traffic safety devices. Market Street in downtown Corning contains several of the targeted areas.

Changing economic development in the City of Schenectady has had a large impact on pedestrians and their safety. A comprehensive campaign promoting the idea to get people to cross at crosswalks has become a priority. A primary goal has been to get the community to buy into this campaign, beginning by working with local business owners, media and local police departments. The coordinator plans to replicate this campaign in the suburbs too!

Traffic Safety Grant funding has allowed the Geneseo Police Department's (GPD) dedication to the enforcement of the traffic laws with respect to pedestrian safety. They were able to issue 80 traffic tickets to motorists for failing to yield the right of way to pedestrians in the crosswalk. GPD has reduced both the number of pedestrians injured in crashes from four car/pedestrian accidents in 2002 to zero car/pedestrian accidents during the most recent grant period.

Presenters: Sal Trentanelli *Chief of Police, City of Corning / Steuben County TSB Chair*  
Denise Cashmere *Coordinator, Schenectady County STOP-DWI*  
Eric Osganian *Geneseo Police Department*

## **Real Estate and Rail Trails/Greenways - Generating Interest**

Open spaces and trails for walking and bicycling increase the desirability of neighborhoods and the value of houses. This session will discuss the experience of some of New England's most treasured communities that have trails and greenspaces. The speaker has a unique niche in real estate practice in the U.S.; he specializes in the sale of residential property next to or near to rail trails and other greenways in Massachusetts. He has become a top seller in just a couple of years. Learn how he does this - and how to engage/teach realtors and developers in your area about this growing market trend.

Presenter: Craig Della Penna *Realtor and Executive Director for Northeast Greenways Solutions*

## **Bogota's Ciclovía Sunday Bikeways**

As Commissioner of Parks, Sport and Recreation, Gil led the closure of 91K of roads every Sunday of the year to allow people to walk, run, bike and skate. Every week there are over 1.5 million people enjoying these spaces. He has helped cities like Guadalajara to set up one 24K program, and is currently providing information to people in Chicago, Baltimore, Cleveland, etc, who want to set up a similar program.

Presenter: Gil Penalosa *Executive Director, Walk & Bike for Life, Oakville, Ontario, Canada*

# CREATING WALKABLE COMMUNITIES PRELIMINARY AGENDA

**TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007 CONTINUED**

**4:15 - 5:15 CONCURRENT SESSION 2**

## **Improving Pedestrian Signal Timing and Crossing Clearance Intervals Based on Demographic and Behavioral Trends**

While the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Green Book, AASHTO Pedestrian Guide, and FHWA Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices gives designers the "option" of timing signals for slower walking speeds, engineers often assume that the 4 feet/second (1.2 meters/second) "normal" design speed for the "pedestrian clearance interval" should be applied by default. This design speed is being revised to 3.5 feet/second (1.1 meters/second) to account for changing population demographic and behavioral trends.

Presenters: James Ercolano, MS *Pedestrian Specialist, Pedestrian and Bicycle Program, NYS Department of Transportation*  
Eric Ophardt, PE *Program Manager, Pedestrian and Bicycle Program, NYS Department of Transportation*

## **Land Use Tools for Walkable Communities**

Increasing the availability and attractiveness of pedestrian facilities can help revitalize downtowns, provide an alternative means of transportation, and encourage a healthier lifestyle. This session provides an overview of several common municipal land use tools (zoning, site plan review, subdivision regulations, and special use permit). The program then explores how these tools can be tailored to improve pedestrian conditions by the requirement of sidewalks, pathways and other pedestrian facilities, as well as through the encouragement of better site design.

Presenters: Peter Q. Manning *Land Use Training Specialist, NYS Department of State, Division of Local Government*  
Christopher Eastman *Land Use Training Specialist, NYS Department of State, Division of Local Government*

## **Pedestrian Safety for Aging Adults**

How do we provide facts, explain risks, foster open communication, encourage safety... and have fun doing it? NYCDOT Safety Education hosted Senior Safety Month; a wonderful opportunity to concentrate safety outreach among the aging adult population and to establish a thorough program for ongoing senior events throughout the year. The presentations included lively discussions, fun raffles and a viewing of "There's More to Taking a Walk than Moving Your Feet," a video with facilitator's guide. Seniors responded to "What's your Pedestrian Safety IQ?" and "How Walkable is your Neighborhood?" activities and were provided with a number of educational materials to take home. A newly developed Queens County program surveys direct providers of services for seniors in an effort to identify impediments to educating older citizens about their pedestrian habits. Survey results then provide the basis for any new public information and education campaigns.

Presenters: Michelle L. Kaucic, M.P.A. *Community Coordinator, NYC Department of Transportation, Office of Safety Education*  
Cindy Brown *New York Coalition for Transportation Safety*

# CREATING WALKABLE COMMUNITIES PRELIMINARY AGENDA

**TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007 CONTINUED**

**5:45 - 6:45 Light Reception with Exhibitors**

## **The Following Posters Will be Presented on Tuesday and Wednesday**

*by Jim Ercolano Pedestrian Specialist, NYS Department of Transportation*

**Maintenance and Protection of Pedestrian Traffic In Work Zones**

**Conceptual Engineering Solutions for Accessible Roundabouts**

**Pedestrian Barriers, Bridges, Tunnels, Busing and Prohibitions:  
The Pros and Cons of Various Pedestrian Access Restrictions**

**Understanding New York State's "Yield to Pedestrian" Law**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2007**

**7:00 - 8:15 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

**8:30 - 9:30 CONCURRENT SESSION 3**

### **In Step with Pedestrian Groups**

Pedestrian groups are springing up all over the state with the purpose of getting more people walking by making walking safer and more the norm. This session will provide information about where pedestrian groups are, what they are doing, and steps for helping them grow.

Presenter: Jeff Olson, R.A. *SUNY Albany, Initiative for Healthy Infrastructure*

### **How Much Parking is Too Much? Shared Parking and Walkable Commercial Districts**

Parking downtown is often more difficult than it should be, especially since, as transportation engineer Wesley Marshall has found, many commercial districts have more parking than they need—even when demand for parking is at peak levels. Mr. Marshall will discuss why too much parking can actually be harmful to downtown revitalization. But he'll also explain how it's possible to provide an adequate amount of shared parking in mixed-use neighborhoods and create vibrant commercial districts that encourage safe and enjoyable pedestrian activity.

Presenter: Wesley E. Marshall, P.E. *University of Connecticut, Civil and Environmental Engineering*

# CREATING WALKABLE COMMUNITIES PRELIMINARY AGENDA

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2007 CONTINUED

### 8:30 - 9:30 CONCURRENT SESSION 3

#### **Accessibility for Everyone**

The City of Corning Market Street Historic District Handicapped Access project, funded with a \$400,000 Community Development Grant from the NYS Governor's Office for Small Cities, made approximately 60 storefronts accessible through the installation of new ramps and door-opening equipment. Other City initiatives include the "Vital Link" program, which works to ensure continuous access to stores and services for handicapped residents throughout the winter and crosswalk improvements for pedestrian safety on Market Street and elsewhere in the community.

Sidewalks and trails serve as critical links in a community transportation network by providing access to commercial districts, schools, businesses, government offices and recreational areas. Unfortunately, many sidewalks and trails do not adequately meet the needs of people with disabilities. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which covers state and local governments, prohibits communities from designing new facilities or altering existing facilities, including sidewalks, shared-use paths and trails, that are not accessible to people with disabilities. Accessible sidewalks and trails have been shown to enrich a community's quality of life and promote independence for people with disabilities. This session will discuss current and emerging accessibility issues and design parameters that will help to improve the accessibility of sidewalks, shared-use paths, trails and street crossings in your community.

Presenters: Jim Goodling *Planning Director, Corning NY*  
Robert Speece, *RLA Design Quality Assurance Bureau, NYS Department of Transportation*  
Carole Frazier *NYS Department of Environmental Conservation*

### 9:45 - 10:45 CONCURRENT SESSION 4

#### **Trail Use and Safety**

There's no doubt about it - trails are becoming more and more popular. This growing popularity brings both opportunities and challenges. Learn about two recent studies, one which demonstrates how to determine trail use and one which lays out recommendations to improve safety of road and trail intersections.

The Capital District Transportation Committee's (CDTC) 2006 survey of trail users and adjoining residential land owners provides data on who is using the trails within the region and the attitudes of those that live next to the Canalway Trail. The Parks & Trails New York study, which surveyed highway officials, trail managers, and volunteers to gather information on the design and management of the state's road and trail intersections, offers policy and design recommendations to improve road and trail intersection safety. Parks & Trails New York's presentation will also look at a safety education campaign that will be introduced on a pilot basis in June at selected locations along the Canalway Trail.

Presenters: Jason A. Purvis *Senior Transportation Planner, CDTC*  
Fran Gotcsik *Director of Programs and Policy, Parks & Trails New York*

# CREATING WALKABLE COMMUNITIES PRELIMINARY AGENDA

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2007 CONTINUED**

**9:45 - 10:45 CONCURRENT SESSION 4**

## **Pedestrian Disaster Preparedness: What's a Walk-out Plan?**

Mass evacuation on-foot is often the only means for people to quickly escape terrorist attacks, sudden natural disasters, or to cope with other actions that may cause highway and transit systems to shut down. Successful pedestrian evacuations witnessed during the 9/11 attack in New York City, August 2003 Northeast Power Outage, and the 1980/2005 New York City transit strikes show that walking is the most reliable/sustainable mode of travel for overcoming obstacles.

Presenters: Ivan Vamos *New York Bicycling Coalition*  
Jim Ercolano *Pedestrian Specialist, NYS Department of Transportation*

## **Active Living by Design**

Presenter: to be determined

**10:45 - 11:15 EXHIBIT BREAK AND POSTER SESSIONS**

**11:15 - 12:15 CONCURRENT SESSION 5**

## **Complete Streets for New York**

Description: This session will provide an overview of "Complete Streets," a new policy approach that integrates walking and bicycling as routine elements of infrastructure projects. Participants will learn about the national Complete Streets movement, existing federal policy, and a New York State guidebook on how to get similar policies adopted in New York State. The presentation will also include an overview of training programs available for local officials and advocacy organizations to learn more about designing a safer, healthier built environment.

Presenters: Lois E. Chaplin *Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Specialist, Cornell Local Roads Program*  
Jeffrey S. Olson, R.A. *Alta Planning + Design, Saratoga Springs, New York*

## **Historic Neighborhood Schools: Anchors to Walkable Communities**

Throughout the United States, magnificent and perfectly functional traditional neighborhood schools are being abandoned for consolidated school campuses at remote sites to which few students walk or bike. Funding policies with minimum acreage requirements and arbitrary maximum spending amounts for rehabilitation versus new construction are often to blame. Learn about what some states are doing to retain walkable neighborhood schools while they build community and reduce spending on school buses and sprawl.

Presenter: Roberta Lane *Program Officer / Regional Attorney, National Trust for Historic Preservation*

# CREATING WALKABLE COMMUNITIES PRELIMINARY AGENDA

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2007 CONTINUED**

**11:15 - 12:15 CONCURRENT SESSION 5**

## **Public Health and the Built Environment - A Case Study from New York City**

Transportation is a public health issue. This session will provide examples of how modifications to New York City streets, including changes in timing of lights, how curb cuts are made, and how crosswalks are designed have benefited the health of New Yorkers.

Presenters: Amy Pfeiffer *Director of Planning, Transportation Alternatives*  
Karla Quintero *Research Coordinator, Transportation Alternatives*  
Brooke DuBose *Pedestrian Campaign Coordinator, Transportation Alternatives*

**12:30 - 1:30 LUNCH**

**1:30 - 2:15 TOWN MEETING PLENARY SESSION**

Don't miss this opportunity to discuss recent changes in the law that may have an impact on pedestrians and bicyclists. This session will also provide a forum for discussing the use of existing laws and legislative proposals for the future that will impact these vulnerable users of our roadways.

Neal Schoen of DMV's Legal Division will be on hand to discuss this topic.

**2:30 - 4:30 POST CONFERENCE TRAINING SESSIONS**  
(PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED)

## **Safe Routes to School**

Presenter: to be determined

## **Complete Streets**

Planning Safer Communities for Bicyclists and Pedestrians is a workshop from the Cornell Local Roads Program. It is designed for local officials and planning board or council members for villages, towns, cities and counties, and advocates who are interested in learning the basics of how to safely accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians in their community. Participants in this abbreviated session will understand what the basic principles are that are covered in the day-long offering. They also have a chance to critique interactive hands-on activities that are being designed for use with various audiences on a range of topics from planning to enforcement and engineering strategies.

Presenter: Lois E. Chaplin *Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Specialist, Cornell Local Roads Program*

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