

OCL *Rethinking I-81* Study
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
University College
Oct. 1, 2008

Present: Joseph Ash, Dennis Connors, Megan Costa, Carol Dwyer, Bill Egloff, Sarah McIlvain, Donna O'Mahoney Rohde, Doug Sutherland, Ben Walsh, Sandra Barrett, Rachel Pollack

Upcoming Sessions: Oct. 14, Public sessions, Oct. 15, Nov. 5

News:

- SMTC has interviewed five firms for consulting work
- Bill Egloff reported that Stantec-likely run out of their Rochester Office (www.stantec.com) has been hired as a NYSDOT consultant in the travel demand model. Also hired were HDR (www.hdrinc.com), offices in Albany, NYC, Goshen and elsewhere, and Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. (FHI), offices in Hartford and elsewhere (www.fhiplan.com).
- Creating Resilience in Sustainable Communities Symposium (portfolio.syracusecoe.org/symposium08/presentations.tpl) Sandra and Megan attended. Speakers included Majora Carter, Founder, Sustainable South Bronx on [how a desire for beautiful neighborhoods transformed South Bronx into a shining example of sustainable planning, green collar job growth, innovative technological solutions, and environmental stewardship.](#) and Paul Beyer, Director of Department of State Smart Growth Task Force, he will be invited to present at a Planning Federation (local training for members of town and village municipal planning and zoning boards, open to public) meeting.
- Steve Kearney presented "I-81 Challenge" information, explaining alternatives, various studies, at Affordable Tenants Housing meeting. Van Robinson also presented. Attendees seemed favorable to Robinson's position with caveat of concerns about health issues related to air quality, pollution, noise pollution.

Sandra Barrett and Doug Sutherland narrate working PowerPoint presentation/Ask for suggestions

Discussion:

- Re Norquist Notes: John Norquist spoke about how a highway is linear, and when you take a highway down you have a network.
- Re Use of Case Studies: We should look at local case studies 1) How driver coped with closing of interstate in the late 1980s, tools of traffic management used. 2) Erie Blvd and Clinton Square

- What does the community really want to know? What individuals are likely most concerned about is how will I get from here to there, emergency vehicle access.
- Suggested approach: Include history: How we got to where we are; Under any circumstances the existing viaduct I-81 is obsolete; A series of economic engines that are near 81 will be affected by whatever decision is made--how can we best serve them?; significant economic interest for Syracuse and the region; include case studies of other cities; what students are doing.
- Most important focus: I-81 is coming to the end of its useful life. Something is going to happen one way or another and drivers who use I-81 will be affected by construction no matter what alternative is chosen.
- Some people see expansion of University Hill as a positive; others may not. Would people in public housing see that as a plus?
- Make sure we discuss issues of safety and operations in a way that does not employ jargon.
- Color and font must be chosen for clarity.
- Our purpose: to present what we are trying to do and what we have learned to the public.
- The concern of suburbanites: How will I get through the city? If I am a commuter, will my commute take longer?
- Clearly define area of roadway impacted, from exit X to exit Y.
- Do we address funding of transportation infrastructure and how that will be handled in coming years?
- Mention all public sessions.
- Include a list of communities that have taken down highways.
- Include list of issues that should be addressed in SMTC and NYSDOT studies, ie air quality, noise pollution, etc.
- When NYSDOT seeks federal funding for project, they want to be able to say, this community knows what it wants.

Purpose of presentation is to communicate to an audience what our study is about and what we are trying to do.
What we have to date