ROCKLAND P.L.U.S.
Planning Land Use with Students
Site & Community Assessment

Page 1 is to be completed during a field visit by the students, independently in or small groups.
Page 2 focuses on community linkages - designed for small group work in class.

Your focus is Transit Oriented Development (TOD) , a planning design that builds around public transit in order to maximize access, encourage ridership, build connections to the community, through blending mixed-use residential and commercial areas. Start by reviewing the map of your community train station on the PLUS website (it can be printed if desired). http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/plus/Rockland.html

The area you are considering for redevelopment is not just the train station but the area around the station (see outline on map). Use the map, a visit to the site in your community, and this form to guide your investigation of the site. Consider the following to build linkages to the wider community: your community character; existing community resources; your selected 'community enhancing features'; and how to better connect and promote public transit.

SITE ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS #1-5:

1. List 5 descriptive words that you think best describe the appearance of your transit station.

2. List 5 descriptive words that you think best describe the appearance of the area around the transit station.

3. What challenges do you see in improving the transit station and redeveloping the area around it? (for example: expenses, competing business, clean up costs, traffic issues, etc.)

4. What community enhancing features (CEF) at this site should be added, retained or enhanced? Do any of them match the CEF you selected during our classroom activity? Which one/s?- Remember to consider uses for the different periods of time: ES, HS, Senior

5. In planning, the support of others who live and work in the community is an important part of the process. Think about different groups and members of your community that might care about what happens to this space (for example sports teams, senior citizen groups, affordable housing groups, homes and businesses near the site). We call these different people/groups 'stakeholders' in the planning process.

    Who should be considered when re-developing your site? Who are the stakeholders? Brainstorm a list with your class and consider if you should involve any of them in the planning & development of your proposed site. You can go to http://www.planet-rockland.org/default.html to further explore groups in your community who you might work with.

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PLANNING LAND USE WITH STUDENTS

Team activity: to complete as a class project or small groups.

Think about your village/town and consider its strengths and weaknesses. How can your site improve your community? Use your own knowledge of your community or check the County website - https://rocklandgov.com

Considering your wider community (the village or town around the site), rate the following features under **Strengths** or **Needs/Challenges** using a score of 1 (mainly absent) to 5 (well represented). Support your number choice with a few words of explanation.

Community Feature – How does your community rank in these categories?	Strengths Rank: 1 (low) - 5 (high)	Comments: Needs/Challenges
Cultural Community Character: *Places of Historical Significance* Arts* Theatres*		
Demographic Diversity: *Diversity of people and backgrounds*		
Housing/Affordability/Mix of Housing: *Apartments* Condos* Single family homes* Options for singles*Families * Retired*		
Transportation/Accessibility/Walkabilty: *Public transportation* Sidewalks* Drivable roads* Bike Trails*Crosswalks *Walking Paths*		
Health & Wellness: *Healthy food options*Exercise opportunities* Preventive treatment*Clinics and hospitals close by *Opportunities for Health Education*		
Social/Recreation: *Opportunities for various ages: children/teens/adults/seniors?*		
Wilderness: *Undeveloped areas ranging from open space to parkland*		
Environmental Awareness: *Community awareness? Of streams? Recycling? Are people energy conscious?*		
Water & Energy Conscious Development: *Stormwater runoff collection, Energy saving (i.e. solar or automatic light switch off), green building requirements.*		
Goods & Services (i.e. stores, shopping): *Can you walk to them?*		
Education: *Are there schools there? (pre schools through college level)*		
Safety: *Is there street lighting, fire depts., police? Do residents feel safe?*		
Employment: *Range of opportunities from entry level to professional*		
Aging in Place: *Transportation & living space for seniors in the community*		

*Brainstorm: Based on your completed table, evaluate the overall needs of the community. Do you see opportunities for the TOD to improve your community? (*Look for low rankings in column #2*)