

**ROCKLAND P.L.U.S.
PLANNING LAND USE WITH STUDENTS**

High School Students from throughout
Rockland County coming together to
collaborate and plan for sustainable
communities.

Symposium Event:

3/20/15 at Rockland Community College

Let's talk about Communities!

What is the best thing about your community?



Consider: What makes a community a place where you want to live?

Things to do? Family?

Sports? Friends?

Being able to get places?

Places to shop? Walkable?

Volunteering? Jobs?

Parks available? Community Center?

The people?



Here are some examples of community features.
Are they important to you?



How about these?

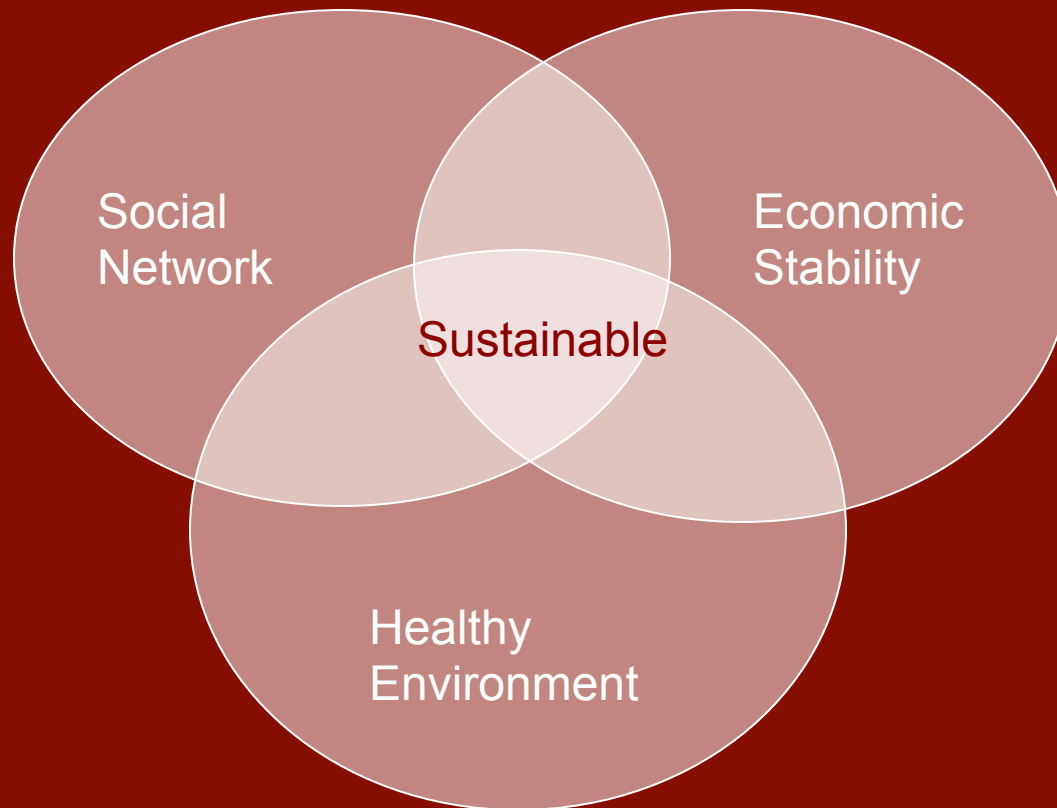


What features are essential to a community?



How can we plan for a healthy, sustainable community?

Sustainable Community Planning means thinking both locally and regionally



Rockland P.L.U.S. Helps us to S.E.E. the Community – the Social, Economic, and Environmental aspects of our communities



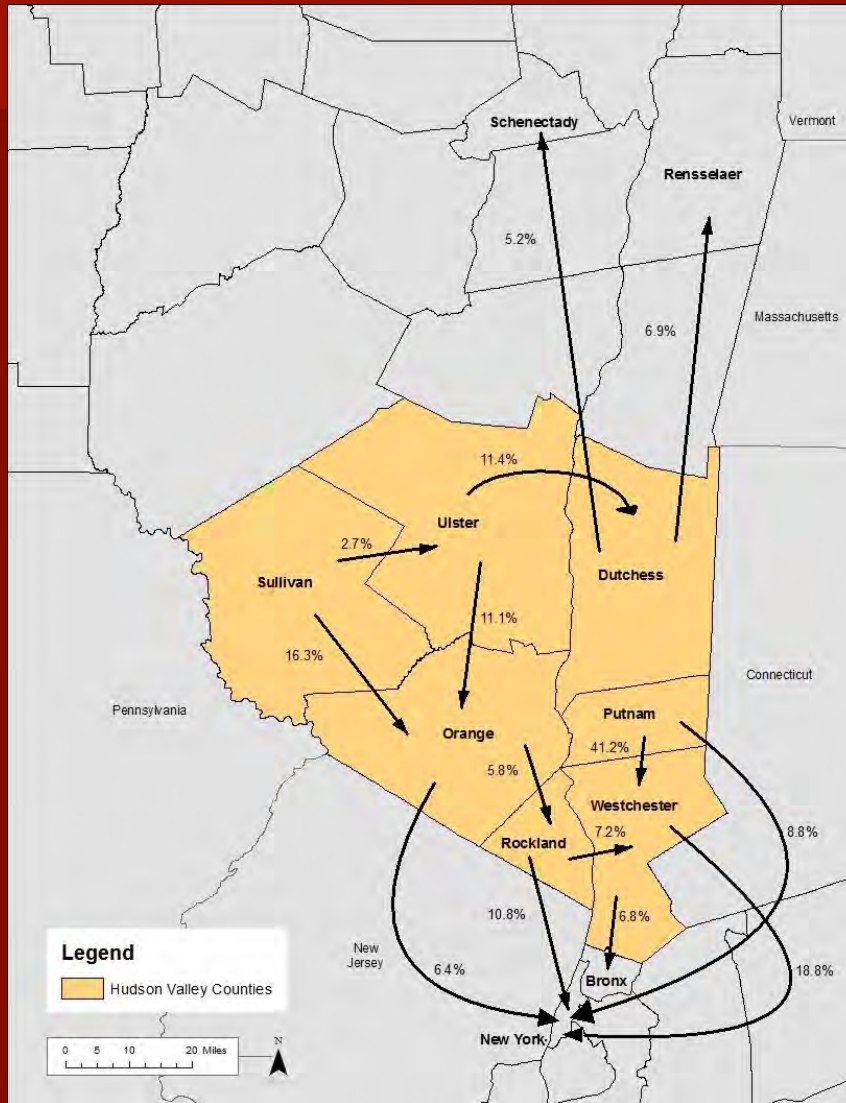
Community Planning Around Transportation



82% of Rockland Residents Live & Work in the County.
Transportation within the County is important, as well as transportation to Westchester & New York City.

Regional Commuting Patterns

Figure 11: 2010 COMMUTING PATTERNS OF HUDSON VALLEY WORKERS

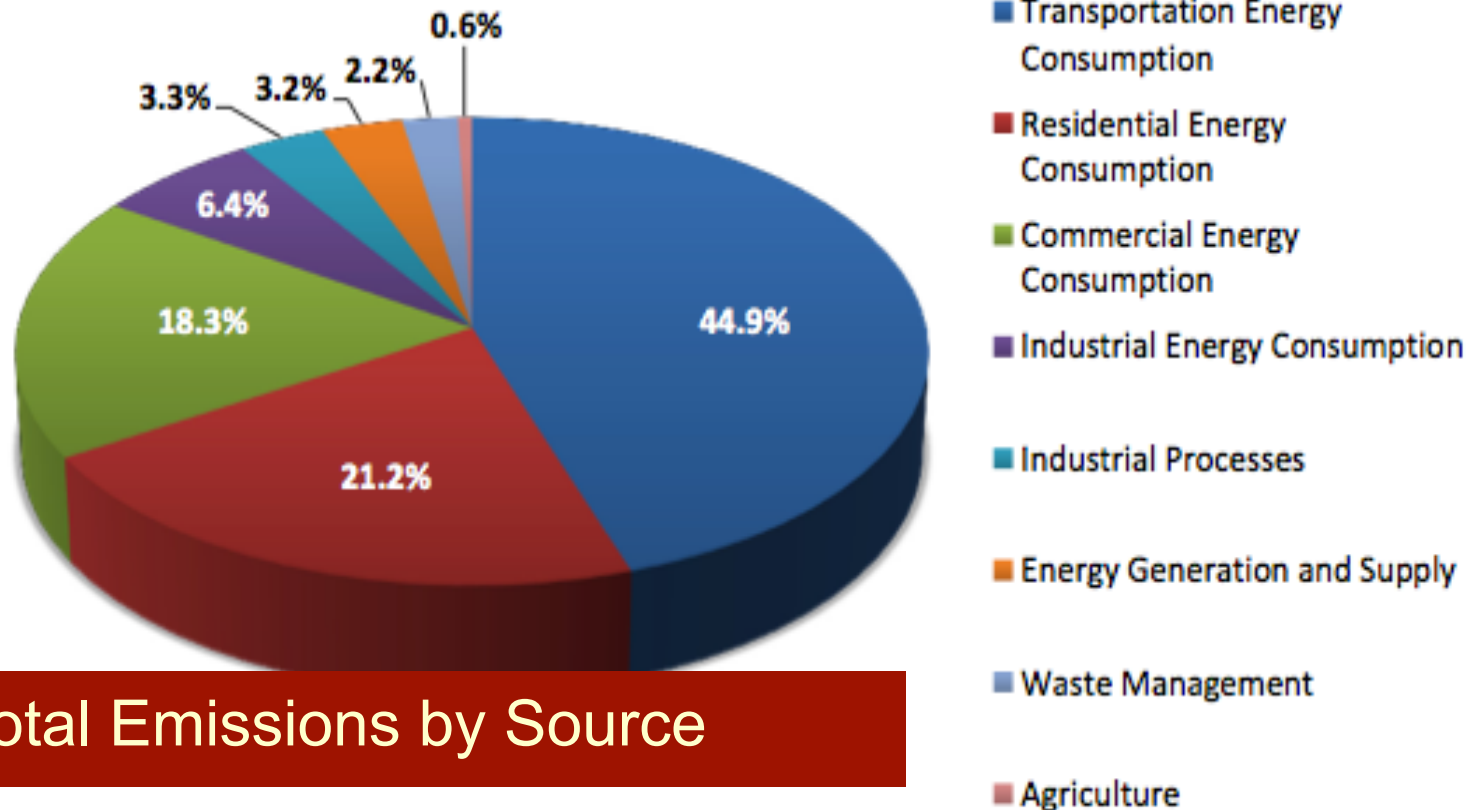


Of the 18% of Rockland commuters out of the county data show

- * 7.2% commute to Westchester
- * 10.8% to NYC but not over the bridge.

<http://hudsonvalleyregionalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/CEDS-FINAL-DRAFT-Dec-10-2013.pdf>

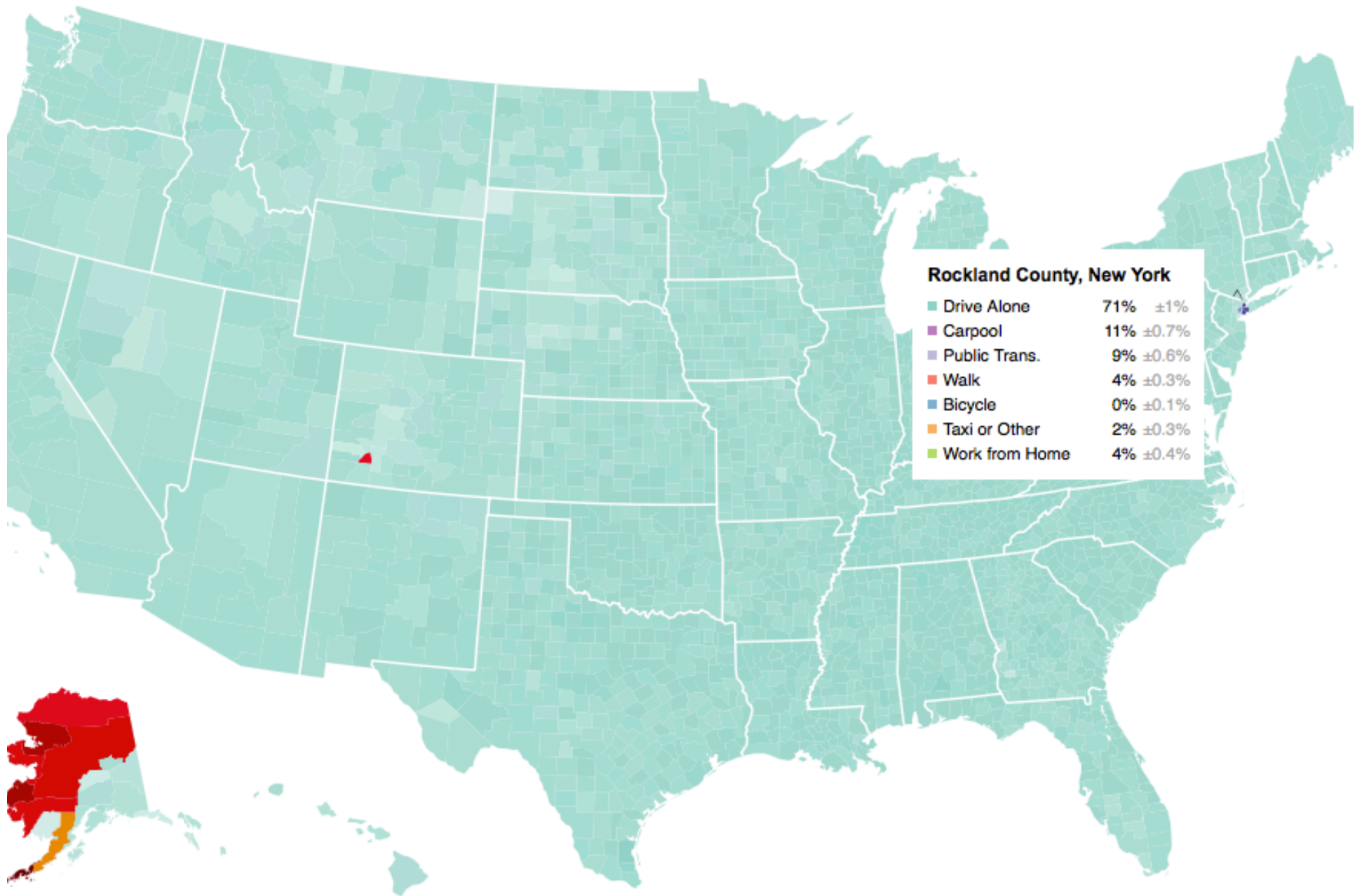
Why Focus on Transportation? Consider the following...



Total Emissions by Source

This graph from the Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Report shows almost half of our region's emissions come from transportation. Help us plan for how to move people more efficiently.

http://www.co.orange.ny.us/filestorage/124/1362/MHRSP_FinalDraftExecSummary_May2013.pdf



Let's Improve the Planning Process in our Communities

- Collaboration - Involve community members.
- Focus on Enhancing the community through the plan.
- Focus on Connecting the new plan to the community.



How can we improve collaboration to bring in new ideas & work together?

How can we enhance the wider community?



How will this blend & connect to the community?

Transit Friendly & Transit-Oriented Development. How does this compare to your community?



Commuter Rail Transit (CRT)



Stations Features

- State of the art digital customer information
- Ticket vending machines
- Seating & Enhanced Shelters

Design Elements to Consider

- Stand Alone Station or Mixed Use with commercial above or below
- Coffee Shop & Newsstand
- Connect to walkways & bikeways
- Bus Transit links to community
- Skylights & Natural Lighting
- Local Art Displays OR Historic Displays connecting to older railways from the communities in 1800s

Other Optional Add-Ons to Consider

- Wi-Fi
- Apps to communicate train updates
- Adding Art to interior displays

Rider Benefits

- High Quality, Reliable Service
- Fewer routes than BRT
- Minimal Stops so faster than BRT
- Work or Study as you travel
- Operates in all weather

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)



Stations Features

- State of the art digital customer information
- Ticket vending machines
- Seating & Enhanced Shelters
- Elevated Platforms to assist with bus entry

Design Elements to Consider

- Connect Station to CRT
- Place in wide median strip
- Coffee Shop & Newsstand
- Connect to walkways & bikeways
- Local Art Displays

Other Optional Add-Ons to Consider

- Wi-Fi
- Apps to communicate bus updates
- Adding Art to interior displays

Rider Benefits

- Reliable & Frequent Service
- Lower cost than train – more localized travel
- Dedicated lane or traffic light control for speedy transit
- More flexible routes than CRT
- Frequent stops
- Work or Study as you travel
- May experience some weather delays

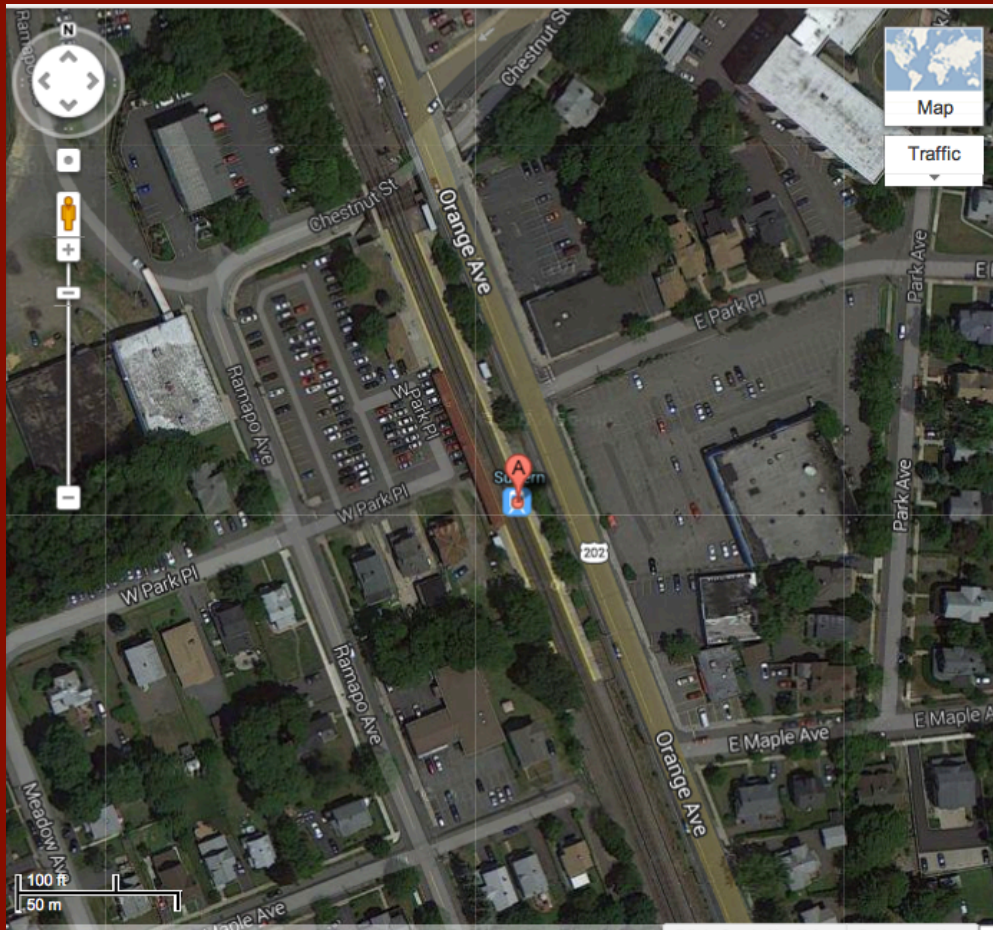
Two Types of
Mass Transit That
Will Work In Our
Communities:

Commuter Rail
Transit

Bus Rapid Transit

Note: Rockland has
the lowest ridership for
buses in the state.

What's next? Before we return you will visit your community site to: Consider Destination Planning through Transit-Oriented Development



Suffern Train Station



Use your phone, take & submit 4 photos
Follow the 'Site Assessment Form'



Email photos to: Rocklandplus@gmail.com
So we can begin planning our next visit!

Nanuet Train Station

Complete An Assessment



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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 – we will do this in our second class visit.*

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 or bus 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.

PHOTO SITE ASSESSMENT ITEMS #1-4

Take one photo each of the following four items. Once you take the photos email them into Rocklandplus@gmail.com. Label each photo with your school, your last name and the number of the photo matching the # on the form. For example: Nanuet student Joseph Lee for item #1 which asks "how it feels to be waiting in this station" would tag image as "Nanuet_Lee_1.jpg" and email it to us.

1. Photo 1: An image that provides a sense of how it feels to be waiting in this station.
2. Photo 2: An image that shows what there is to do in the area if you had half an hour to wait – Stores? Benches? Food places? Gym?
3. Photo 3: An image that shows the top one thing or space that you want to improve.
4. Photo 4: An image that captures the feature you like the best in this space.

STAKEHOLDER CONSIDERATIONS

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

Who can you think of that 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.

<http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/plus> photos to: Rocklandplus@gmail.com

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

***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)

<http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/plus> photos to: Rocklandplus@gmail.com

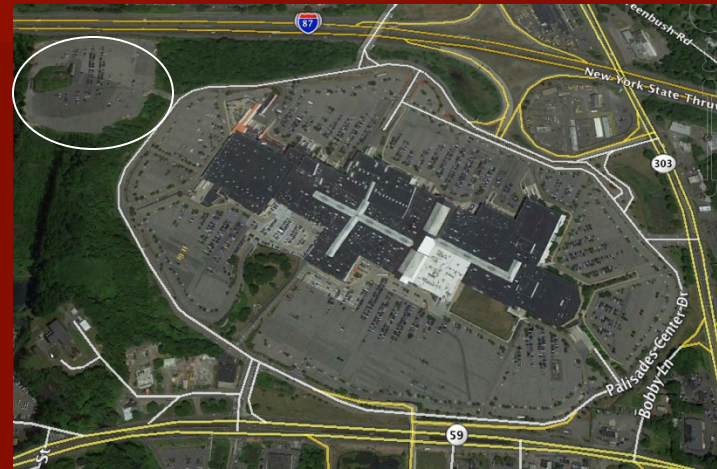
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Our Time With You

1st—What's in a Community?



2nd – Planning Around a TOD



3rd— Gather ideas into a poster



Participate in the Symposium!



Rockland P.L.U.S.
March 20, 2015
Rockland Community College
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.



Photo by Geraldine
Collins

Rockland P.L.U.S. 2015 is a collaborative partnership of

1. Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University
2. Keep Rockland Beautiful
3. Rockland Conservation & Service Corps
4. SUNY Rockland Community College