ROCKLAND PLUS 2016
PLANNING LAND USE WITH STUDENTS

FACILITATOR GUIDE

ROCKLAND PLUS

Facilitator's Information 2016

Thank you for being part of Rockland P.L.U.S. 2016. As a facilitator, you play a key role in helping the students engage in an exciting exchange of ideas and information with their peers and mentors. With your guidance, they will present and gather input from mentors to improve their local Transit Focused Revitalization plans, and then in mixed school teams apply their knowledge to revision Exit 10 on the NYS Thuway in order to revitalize the economic base of a reunified South Nyack.

The following schedule is an annotated agenda for the day (**Appendix A**)

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. - Check- In
Ellipse Lobby of the Technology Center
-**Teachers** will receive nametags for their student group
-**Student** tags will indicate their assigned group for both Sessions I & II

8:30 – 8:50 a.m. – Brief Explanation of the Day and Facilitator & Mentor Introductions
Ellipse Room of the Technology Center
Welcome by Dr. Wood, RCC. Followed by a quick highlight of the day, its focus and the wealth of talent in the mentors/facilitators. School planning teams will be matched with their facilitator & mentors and relocate to room assigned for Session I in small school groupings.

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. - Session I: Poster Presentation 30 Minute Session *(see bullets below for more specifics)*
Rooms in Student Union and the Faculty Lounge
The goal of this session is for the students to **present their local Transit Focused revitalization project ideas** to the mentors aided by their poster and the presentation guidelines **(Appendix B).** Schools with two groups will present both posters prior to receiving mentor feedback. Students will then **gather mentor feedback, and record what they gave as strengths of the project, as well as their suggestions for improvements, onto the provided form (Appendix C).** If time allows, the facilitator will guide students in a discussion of how the project could incorporate the mentor feedback. The group will return to the Ellipse Room Lobby, where the posters and feedback forms will be hung for review by the event participants.

> #### Student Presentations - (15 minutes)
> - Facilitator, students, and mentors introduce themselves. (5 minutes)
> - Students Present. Student teams have ample time to present, so encourage them to **take their time** and address each section of their poster. Encourage full group participation. (10 – 20 minutes depending on 1 group or 2 presenting)
> - Note: Facilitator helps guide the team's presentation utilizing the Presentation Guidelines Form **(Appendix B)**. Be sure each poster section is clearly explained.

> #### Mentor Feedback (10-15 minutes depending on 1 group or 2 presenting)
> - After the students have finished their presentation, the mentors will ask questions and provide suggestions and feedback. The goal is to encourage dialogue.
> - **Students complete the provided Planning Feedback Form (Appendix C)** outlining what the mentors noted as the strengths of the project as well as their suggestions for improvement. There is one form for each table. As time allows, discuss how their plan could be adjusted to address the input.
> - **Thank Mentors & Return to the Tech Building** with poster and Planning Feedback Form.

9:40 - 10:00 a.m. - Coffee and Morning Snack
Ellipse Lobby of the Technology Center
During snack, the posters will be hung and students, facilitators, and mentors are invited to view the poster presentations to learn what other groups did.
10:00 - 10:25 a.m.: Introduction to Collaborative Mapping Project
Ellipse Room of the Technology Center

Session II is introduced with a look at a newly visioned South Nyack
Participants are provided with an overview of the project, and an explanation of the collaborative mapping session. After the presentation, students from the schools will be mixed into planning groups for Session II. New integrated teams of ~ 10 students, 2-3 from various school, will be in each group.

10:30 - 12:00: **Session II – Planning and Mapping**
Student Union Building, Faculty Lounge, Tech Building and Academic ! and !!
The student groups, their facilitators and the mentors will move into their planning teams for the second activity around planning for 'Exit 10, South Nyack'. Each planning table will have a full set of suppies including site map and overview of 'factors to consider', check off forms to use in planning their communities, a LARGE MAP and pens and Planning Features Card Set for mapping out their redevelopment plan.

- **Introductions:** Encourage a round of quick introductions supported by the icebreaker activity which we will provide as you head to your groups. **(10 minutes)**
- Tell the students that each planning group has been assigned 2-3 mentors to work with them to give feedback and insights. However, they can ask questions of any of the mentors. **Discuss & Review** (1) The information shared in the introduction to Session II – the materials provided **especially the map and project highlights sheets, as these will be new to the students**, and the (2) Goals of this activity. Be sure the students are oriented to the site and look through the list of what already exists at this location. Remind them to **use the planning skills and resources they have already developed through the work they did on their local transit hub.** **(10 minutes)**
- Start by asking the students to think again of what community **features are important** to include in a healthy community for the needs of all ages and stage of life – social, economic and environmental pieces that can be included in this project. These can be jotted down on the edge of the map.
- **Brainstorm:** Work in teams to complete the Community Assessment Sheets **(Appendix D)** thinking of Rockland County as a whole. Compare sheets looking at what **ranked as strongest (#5) and weakest (#1) identifying Rockland's greatest strengths and weaknesses? Discuss these to help begin the discussion of what they would include in this new site.** **(20 minutes)**
- **Lay out the planning cards** to help think through what will be included and how it will be laid out on the planning map. Use your **Cost Benefit form (Appendix E)** to help make decisions as to what to include to revitalize this area. Engage the mentors providing feedback on student selections. As the facilitator, you can make suggestions and invite discussion, for example: **How would you create a multiuse community hub**? **What would attract people to this area?** Use **Appendix F** to help students jot down their ideas. Groups may wish to select a name/logo and label the map **(20 minutes)**
- **Sketch it out:** After laying things out start to build your map.
- **Prepare to Share**: Help students to select a spokesperson! Be sure to reserve 5 – 10 minutes at the end of the session to prepare for the presentation back in the Ellipse Room after lunch. The presentation will be short (2 minutes each), include just the highlights based on the Final Wrap Up Form **(Appendix G)** –jot down notes on the form at this time. Note – before you leave for lunch, pack up all supplies and leave them on the table. Someone will take them back to the Ellipse Room.

12:10 - 12:40: Lunch - Students eat in Cafeteria and Cultural Arts Building atrium. Facilitators and Mentors can eat in Faculty Lounge or cafeteria.

12:50 - 1:20: Student Feedback Presentations Ellipse Room of the Technology Center
We have 15 groups to hear from so we will ask students will provide one highlight from their planning projects and the most valued mentor feedback.
Mentor Thoughts - mentors who remain may join in and share observations on:
- A strength of the plan
- Biggest challenge to the team in planning

1:20 p.m. – Wrap Up & Evaluations
1:30 p.m. – Students depart

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★ APPENDIX A★
Friday, March 18, 2016
Rockland Community College

8:00-8:25 AM
Ellipse Lobby in Tech Bldg.

Student Check In

8:15-8:30 AM
Ellipse Lobby in Tech Bldg.

Mentor & Facilitator Check In

8:30 – 8:50 AM
RCC Ellipse in Tech Bldg.

-**Welcome from SUNY RCC Dr. Wood**
-**Introductions & Day Plan**
- **Introduction to Mentors and Facilitators**

9:00 – 9:30
Student Union & Faculty Lounge

SESSION I: Student Presentations of Local Transit Oriented Development Project (T.O.D)
        Each school team presents to mentors for feedback and discussion on their T.O.D. project plan

9:40 – 10:00
RCC Ellipse Lobby in Tech Bldg.

Snack Break

10:00 - 10:25
RCC Ellipse in Tech Bldg.

Introductions to new planning site

Students will receive background information on Exit 10, South Nyack
Connection to historic South Nyack – challenges & opportunities
New Visions

10:30 – 12:00 PM
Student Union & Faculty Lounge

SESSION II: Collaborative Mapping Project
 Students will work in mixed school teams to apply their understanding of community revitalization around a transit hub to develop a plan for the new project site. Mentors provide feedback and guidance during the process.

12:10 – 12:40
Faculty Lounge & Student Cafeteria
Cultural Arts Building

Lunch

12:50 – 1:20
RCC Ellipse in Tech Bldg.

Team Presentations
   **Maps posted – 1 project highlight from team spokesperson – consider:**
- How was the revitalization of South Nyack achieved?
- How did the proposed plan focus on addressing perceived weaknesses & strengths of Rockland community?
- How was walkabilty achieved?
- Most valued piece of input received from mentors
- Comment from Mentors (from those that can stay)

1:20

Wrap up and reflection/ Evaluation form

1:30

Dismissal
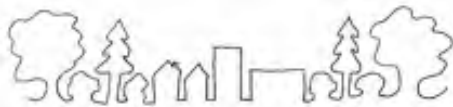
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★ APPENDIX B★

PRESENTATION GUIDELINES
TALK ABOUT YOUR POSTER EXPLAINING EACH SECTION

★BE SURE TO FOCUS ON THE UNIQUENESS OF YOUR PROJECT PLAN! ★

1. **FOCUS ON MAPS –** Where is your site located? What currently exists there around the transit station? What special features did you add to your station in apps? Signage?

2. **FOCUS ON THE STATION** - Remember the 5 photos you took. (1) What does it look like at the site now? (2) What could you do if you had 30 minutes to wait at the station? (3) What has to be removed or changed? (4) What do you want to be sure to keep and focus on? (5) How did it rate for friendliness to Pedestrians? Water? Environment? Visitors?

3. **HOW DO YOU ASSESS THE COMMUNITY** –Remember your Community Assessment - What did you rate as a #1 or #2 that you were able to correct in this plan (Enhanced community character? Access to wilderness area? Environmental Awareness?) What did you rate as a #5 that you could brag about in your plan (Safety? Education?) This is a general overview of the community so the mentors know where you started your planning.

4. **SITE PLAN** – Focus on the site map and explain the key features of the project. This is the main thrust of your presentation, so take your time. How did you address weakness and capitalize on strengths? Be sure to wrap up the presentation of your site plan with an explanation of how this plan addresses the three overlapping spheres of sustainable planning that we have talked about in class: S.E.E. (Social/Economic/Environmental balance)

5. **STAKEHOLDERS** – How would you engage a wider group of stakeholders in your project? Suggest stakeholder groups and individuals that you would reach out to include in this project.

6. **ENVIRONMENTAL & WATER PLANNING FEATURES**– What did you include:
    *   Energy
    *   Water Efficiency
    *   Indoor Environmental Quality
    *   Reducing heat island effect, light pollution, or increasing biodiversity
    *   ETC.

7. **COMMUNITY & SERVICE FEATURES** – What did you include:
    *   Community Gardens
    *   Recreational Activities
    *   ETC.

8. **COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS** – Mention the cost decisions you made – weighing the cost/benefit decisions.
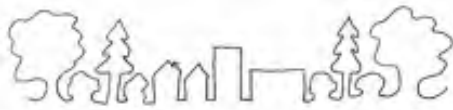
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★ APPENDIX C★
SOCIAL▪ECONOMIC▪ENVIRONMENTAL (S.E.E.)
Feedback From Your Mentors!
Mentors help us S.E.E. the community!

POSITIVE & UNIQUE IDEAS THIS PLAN BRINGS TO THE COMMUNITY:

1.

2.

3.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW TO IMPROVE THIS PLAN:

1.

2.

3.

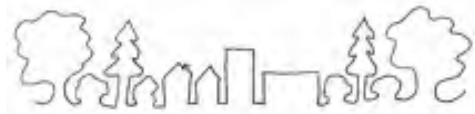ADDITIONAL PARTNERS WE COULD SUGGEST YOU WORK WITH:

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★ APPENDIX D★

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 -

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*)

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★ APPENDIX E ★
COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS

For your plan complete a quick Cost Benefit Analysis, recording your considerations below. Every decision has a cost that must be weighed against the benefit. Costs are not always monetary, and sometimes even the true monetary cost can be hidden.

Consider the social trade offs, what groups will benefit, how can you gather their support; what groups might lose and can your plan be adjusted to address this.

- Many of the choices your plan will include are NOT choices that are being made by communities and builders today.
    - Why do you think this is?

SELECTED ITEM	'COSTS' NOT EXCLUSIVELY $s	ACTUAL $'s $ to $$$$$	BENEFIT OF THIS SELECTION

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★ APPENDIX F ★
EXIT 10 SOUTH NYACK TRANSIT ORIENTED COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROJECT
PLANNING GUIDE

For the new South Nyack space being visioned as part of the New Bridge project consider how to make this location a true 'Gateway to Rockland County' while it revitalizes and reconnects South Nyack.

USE WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN YOUR CLASSROOMS TO HELP – JOT DOWN NOTES:
   a) Community Enhancing Features –How do our needs change at different ages and stages of life? What key features did you choose for your community? What features did you choose to support the economy, provide for social interaction and for a healthy environment?

   b) Community Assessment Sheet – What are the weaknesses & strengths you identified in our Rockland Community? How can we address some of these weaknesses through this project, and connect to the strengths of the community to help develop a **Community Hub**?

Use the feedback from your mentors in the earlier session and what you learned from planning your own local redevelopment project to help you plan. Start at the beginning…

1. 'S.E.E.' the Community – What sustainable planning needs can be addressed to link social, economic, & environmental needs?

2. Use the Planning Cards to Vision Ideas – What can you use and link?

3. Environmental Ideas – what energy, water and environmental concepts can you incorporate?

4. Connect outwards – how can you get people to stop at this area and then into the South Nyack community?

5. Something new and different – what can make this project special?

6. Potential Partnership Groups – Who can you work with?

7. Market your project – brand it – give it a new idea or a new hashtag ID to build use
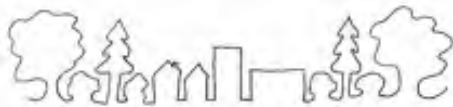
PLEASE SELECT ONE PERSON TO SPEAK TO THE GROUP AND TWO OTHERS TO HELP DISPLAY THE PLAN. THIS WILL BE SHORT AND FOCUSED!

S.E.E. this project – Thinking of how revisioning this transit location can support the Social, Economic and Environmental Needs of Sustainable Planning…

LET'S HIT THE HIGHLIGHTS

1. List 3 highlights from your project. How does your proposed project address existing weaknesses while drawing from the strengths of the community – to become the 'heart' and 'economic engine' of the surrounding community?

2. Is there one suggestion your mentors offered that really helped improve your project?