



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 – 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, bus or transit 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 transit station but the area around it (see outline on map). The goal is to create a real destination, a community ‘hub’. **Use the map, a visit to the site in your community, and this form to guide your investigation and impression of the site.** Consider the following when thinking of how this site can build linkages to the wider community: The community’s 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 five items. Once you take the photos email them into Rocklandplus@gmail.com. Label each photo with your school, your last name and the appropriate photo number from this 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.

- **Photo 1:** How does it feel to be waiting in this station?
- **Photo 2:** What there is to do in the area if you had half an hour to wait – Stores? Benches? (Wifi?) Food places? Gym?
- **Photo 3:** The top one thing or space that you want to see improved.
- **Photo 4:** The feature you like the best in this space.
- **Photo 5:** You will be assigned one area of ‘expertise’ to use in your assessment
 - i. Pedestrian friendly;*
 - ii. Water friendly - allows water to infiltrate*
 - iii. Environmentally friendly – solar? Plug in for cars? Hybrid spots?*
 - iv. Visitor friendly – places to sit? Information on area? Etc.*

STAKEHOLDER CONSIDERATIONS

The support of others who live and work in the community is an important part of the planning process. What different groups and community memvers might care about what happens to this space (sports teams, school groups, senior citizen groups, affordable housing groups, homes and businesses near the site). These different people/groups are ‘stakeholders’ in the planning process.

Who can you think of that should be considered as stakeholders when re-developing your site? Can you involve any of them in the planning & development of your proposed site. To further explore groups in your community: <http://www.planet-rockland.org/default.html>

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COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT FORM: Team activity: to complete in small groups after surveying your site.

Think about the village/town in which your site is located and consider its strengths and weaknesses. How can your site improve the whole community? You can use your own knowledge of the community or check the County website - <https://rocklandgov.com>

Rate the following features of the community 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; job training/internship opportunities</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)