

Town of Warrensburg  
Complete Streets - Sustainability Assessment and Action Plan  
March 2015

Town of Warrensburg  
Glens Falls Hospital, Health Promotion Center  
Genius Loci Planning



*Funded by NYS Dept. of Health Creating  
Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play*



## **Introduction**

This sustainability assessment and action plan have been undertaken through a partnership between the town of Warrensburg, the NYS Department of Health, and the Glens Falls Hospital, Health Promotion Center (HPC). The Department of Health's Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work & Play Program (CHP2LWP) is a statewide initiative that is implemented locally. In Warren and Washington Counties, Creating Healthy Places initiatives are being carried out by the Health Promotion Center at Glens Falls Hospital, who partners with communities in a variety of program areas. These areas include the creation and maintenance of community landscapes conducive to physical activity, such as playgrounds and walking trails, as well as "complete streets" projects.

Each partnering community in CHP2LWP is unique not only in its landscape, but in terms of the resources it can apply to a project, the leadership of the governing body, and other factors that affect sustainability. Understanding and assessing these factors, therefore, is a valuable exercise that can lead to recommendations for enhancing the sustainability of programs at the local level. Local sustainability assessments can also be illustrative to other communities or can be used to demonstrate capacity to funding entities.

This assessment and action plan was guided in part by the Program Sustainability Assessment Tool (PSAT) developed by the Center for Public Health and Systems Science at Washington University in Saint Louis ([www.sustaintool.org](http://www.sustaintool.org)). This web-based resource offers a multi-step process for assessing and planning for the sustainability of programs across many disciplines. The PSAT defines the capacity for sustainability as, simply, the ability to maintain programming and its benefits over time. While several of the basic components of the PSAT are referenced below, further research on the website is recommended for those in search of the tool's details and comprehensive approach.

This plan also integrates the results of four meetings between the town's Complete Streets Committee, a representative from the HPC, and Genius Loci Planning, the planning consultant. The meetings were held in February and March of 2015. A follow-up component will be conducted in September to assess progress in implementing the sustainability action plan. The action plan represents one component of a larger program that has been conducted by the town for several years and is intended to continue. Some of the primary aspects of the town's program are discussed below.

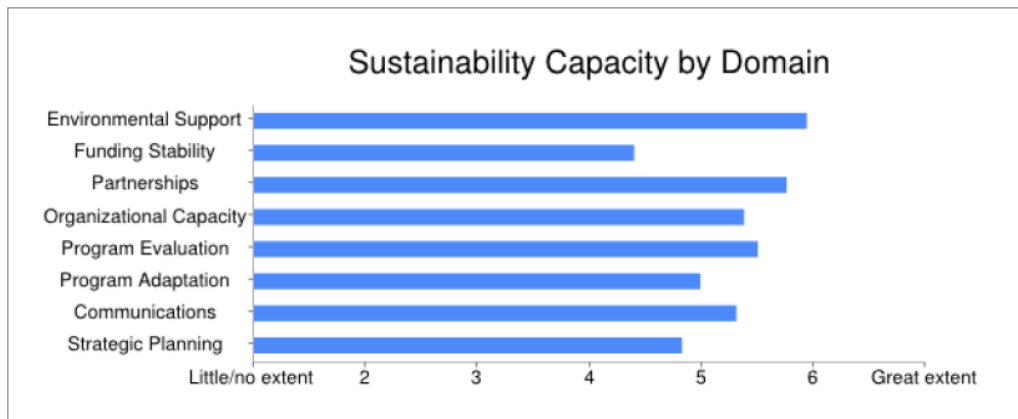
## **The Assessment**

The town of Warrensburg was approached by the HPC to partner on this assessment and planning exercise. The town and HPC have an established partnership that has helped bring about many positive changes in the community, both in the built landscape and in the cooperation among community stakeholders. The town has adopted a complete streets resolution, which is essentially a policy for sustainability with its commitment to engineer, encourage, and enforce elements of complete streets. The strengths of the town's complete streets program are reflected in many areas of the assessment's results, yet there remain opportunities for further improvement. The town is easily ranked among the municipal leaders for complete streets accomplishments in the region, if not the state. Many of the qualities of this success are drawn out and highlighted by the survey, and they are illustrative for other municipalities who aspire to improve their communities, be it in complete streets or other areas.

The PSAT identifies and defines eight domains of sustainability capacity:

- **Environmental Support:** Having a supportive internal and external climate for your program.
- **Funding Stability:** Establishing a consistent financial base for your program.
- **Partnerships:** Cultivating connections between your program and its stakeholders.
- **Organizational Capacity:** Having the internal support and resources needed to effectively manage your program.
- **Program Evaluation:** Assessing your program to inform planning and document results.
- **Program Adaptation:** Taking actions that adapt your program to ensure its ongoing effectiveness.
- **Communications:** Strategic communication with stakeholders and the public about your program.
- **Strategic Planning:** Using processes that guide your program's directions, goals, and strategies.

The assessment process began with ten stakeholders rating the town's programs by completing a survey. Ratings were provided for five indicators under each of the domains. The strength of the overall results can be attributed to a variety of factors. These include the leadership of the town board and the active and dedicated involvement of the staff, including a grants writer. Funding Stability is the weakest category, relatively speaking; yet this is to be expected, given the perennial uncertainty of public funding programs.



(adapted from [www.sustaintool.org](http://www.sustaintool.org))

### The Planning Process

The results of the assessment set the basis for the constructive dialogue that took place over the course of the four meetings. Discussions in the first meeting identified the range of successes in Warrensburg. These include the physical improvements such as park projects, sidewalks, and signage, as well as community's involvement and the support of funding programs. Summarizing the successes reinforced the progress made by the community while also addressing the visions for continued improvements. Current and future projects were listed, with subsequent discussions focusing on the opportunities and challenges associated with making these projects a reality. This exercise revealed many of the dynamics associated

with the eight domains and highlighted areas where improvements to strengthen sustainability could occur. Interrelationships between domains became clearer. For example, under Partnerships and Communication, ways to improve communications with the agencies and personnel who are responsible for different public roads were identified. Partnerships with private landowners in key locations were also considered. And the committee itself, currently comprised of four town staff members, set plans to increase and diversify its membership with business owners and residents once the action plan was complete.

After the second meeting, the committee organized goals and objectives under each project as short- and long-term. Discussions focused on funding sources, specific tasks, and responsible parties, with the concept of SMART objectives (specific; measurable; attainable; realistic; timely) influencing the process. A spread sheet was developed to serve as the core of the action plan. This was also complemented by considerable discussion on tasks associated with each of the projects, again with an eye toward making improvements within the different domains. Among the approaches considered for advancing projects were focusing on a section of a roadway corridor and focusing on an entire project. Strategies for funding applications, including resubmissions, were discussed.

The committee identified the numerous funding and technical assistance opportunities available to the town of Warrensburg. These include the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program of the Department of State (includes the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor); Making the Connection and Transportation Planning Programs of the Adirondack/ Glens Falls Transportation Council; programs of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; the Transportation Alternatives and Scenic Byways Programs of NYS Department of Transportation; the Smart Growth Implementation Program of NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (in partnership with the Adirondack Park Agency); the New York Main Street Program of the NYS Office of Community Renewal; and potential connections between Warrensburg activities and the NYS Regional Economic Development Council funding programs.

Several of the multiple complete streets and park improvement projects are guided by the River Street Streetscape Revitalization Plan that is being developed by the Chazen Companies in cooperation with the town. This plan plays the important role of organizing and visualizing future improvements, which have been written in the action plan. Maps and graphics of the River Street Plan were instrumental in guiding this assessment and action plan. The River Street Plan not only provides the committee and the town with a vision, but it includes cost estimates for improvements and offers several recommendations for funding in different program areas, including transportation, historic preservation, recreation access, and environmental protection. In these ways, the plan is a primary contributor to the town's sustainability program.

### **The Action Plan**

The action plan below distills the town's primary projects and helps organize their implementation. While it supports the town's capacity for sustainability, the committee -- in going through the exercise of developing the plan -- understands the value of enhancing sustainability and intends to explore additional ways for doing so. Guidance provided by the PSAT encourages that Strategic Planning take the seven other domains into account. The committee, who is very much focused on advancing the projects, also recognizes that certain

actions can encompass several of the domains and advance the capacity for sustainability more efficiently. For example, the committee has incorporated the creation of a complete streets web page (on the town website) in its action plan. In addition to enhancing communication, this web page can be used to increase partnerships and organizational capacity and, by illustrating past success and future vision, it can support funding stability, environmental communication, and organizational capacity. Further review of the PSAT guidance materials reveals several other aspects of sustainability that can be improved over time. These include strategies for addressing leadership transitions, adapting to changing patterns in funding, and ensuring workforce training.

In addition to considering the guidance of the PSAT, continued focus on the implementation of the projects listed in the action plan will reinforce the pattern of success that follows the town's organized and dedicated efforts. Achieving sustainability is very much found in the ability to promote natural, cultural, historical, and recreational assets for economic benefit. Warrensburg's action plan is both the latest affirmation of its ongoing capability in leveraging the qualities of location and an indication of the commitment the town will bring to improving its capacity for sustainability.

| Projects   | Term       | Owner        | Funding                | Staff Roles              | Notes             |
|--|------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Judd Bridge</b>   |            |              |                        | patty t/t hajos          | 3 mo completion   |
| center/shoulder lane striping                              | short      | County       | CHP                    | patty t/t hajos          | 3 mo completion   |
| 3-way stop   | short      | County       | CHP                    | patty t/t hajos          | 3 mo completion   |
| 3 crosswalks   | short      | County       | CHP                    | patty t/t hajos          | 3 mo completion   |
| advance warning signs                                      | short      | County       | CHP                    | patty t/t hajos          | 3 mo completion   |
|  |            |              |                        |                          |                   |
| <b>River Street</b>  |            |              |                        |                          |                   |
| sidewalk new/replacement                                   | short      | County       | MTC                    |                          | explore grant opp |
| 3 crosswalks   | short      | County       | MTC                    |                          | explore grant opp |
| 2 advance warning signs                                    | short      | County       | MTC                    |                          | explore grant opp |
| 2 speed signs  | short      | County       | MTC                    |                          | explore grant opp |
|  |            |              |                        |                          |                   |
| <b>Osborne Park</b>  |            |              |                        |                          |                   |
| Add gravel to parking area                                 | short      | Town         | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC      | patty t/t ed             | costs \$200, 3mo  |
| installation of walkway                                    | long       | Town         | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC      |                          | explore grant opp |
| add benches  | long       | Town         | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC      |                          | explore grant opp |
| signage  | long       | Town         | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC      |                          | explore grant opp |
| open guardrail leading to crosswalk                        | long       | DOT          | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC      |                          | explore grant opp |
| installation of 1 new crosswalks                           | long       | County       | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC      |                          | explore grant opp |
|  |            |              |                        |                          |                   |
| <b>Richards/River/Ridge Intersection</b>                   |            |              |                        |                          |                   |
| request DOT to paint existing crosswalks                   | short      | DOT          | n/a                    | patty t/t rob fitch      | 3mo completion    |
|  |            |              |                        |                          |                   |
| <b>Grist Mill Overlook</b>                                 |            |              |                        |                          |                   |
| extension of sidewalk from bridge                          | long       | DOT/private  | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC      |                          | explore grant opp |
| observation deck   | long       | private      | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC      |                          | explore grant opp |
| crosswalk  | long       | DOT          | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC      |                          | explore grant opp |
| 2 advance warning signs                                    | long       | DOT          | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC      |                          | explore grant opp |
|  |            |              |                        |                          |                   |
| <b>River Street/Route 418</b>                              |            |              |                        |                          |                   |
| 4 side street crosswalks                                   | long       | DOT          | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC, MTC |                          | explore grant opp |
| sidewalk replacement                                       | long       | DOT          | MTC                    |                          | explore grant opp |
| curtis walkway striping                                    | long       | DOT          | MTC                    |                          | explore grant opp |
| reaplcement of stromwater grates w/ bike-friendly grates   | long       | DOT          | MTC                    |                          | explore grant opp |
| move utility poles   | long       | DOT          | MTC                    |                          | explore grant opp |
| installation of period lighting                            | long       | DOT          | MTC                    |                          | explore grant opp |
| installation of new sidewalk milton ave to substation park | long       | DOT          | MTC                    |                          | explore grant opp |
|  |            |              |                        |                          |                   |
| <b>Farmers Market Park</b>                                 |            |              |                        |                          |                   |
| installtion of crosswalk                                   | long       | DOT          | MTC/DEC                |                          | explore grant opp |
| advance warning signs                                      | long       | DOT          | MTC/DEC                |                          | explore grant opp |
| new sidewalk to milton bridge (river side)                 | long       | DOT          | MTC/DEC                |                          | explore grant opp |
| add gravel to curtis parking area                          | short-long | Town/private | NYS AG?                | patty t/t ed, ask curtis | costs \$200, 3mo  |
| improve riverside parking (timberframe and grass pavers)   | long       | Town         | GIGP                   |                          | explore grant opp |
|  |            |              |                        |                          |                   |
| <b>Alden Avenue Intersection</b>                           |            |              |                        |                          |                   |
| install new sidewalks/landscaping                          | long       | DOT          | MTC/DEC                |                          | explore grant opp |
| install stop sign  | long       | DOT/Town     | MTC/DEC                |                          | explore grant opp |
| install crosswalk  | long       | DOT          | MTC/DEC                |                          | explore grant opp |
| bulb out sidewalk  | long       | DOT          | MTC/DEC                |                          | explore grant opp |
|  |            |              |                        |                          |                   |
| <b>Alden Avenue Pocket Park</b>                            |            |              |                        |                          |                   |
| landscaping  | long       | Town         | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC, DEC |                          | explore grant opp |
| benches/picnic tables                                      | long       | Town         | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC, DEC |                          | explore grant opp |

| Projects                               | Term  | Owner        | Funding                | Staff Roles                      | Notes                        |
|--|-------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Alden Avenue Pocket Park</b>        |       |              |                        |                                  |                              |
| landscaping                            | long  | Town         | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC, DEC |                                  | explore grant opp            |
| benches/picnic tables                  | long  | Town         | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC, DEC |                                  | explore grant opp            |
| <b>Milton Avenue Intersection</b>      |       |              |                        |                                  |                              |
| install crosswalk                      | long  | County/DOT   | MTC/DEC                |                                  | explore grant opp            |
| landscape                              | long  | County/DOT   | MTC/DEC                |                                  | explore grant opp            |
| open guardrails                        | long  | County/DOT   | MTC/DEC                |                                  | explore grant opp            |
| <b>Route 418</b>                       |       |              |                        |                                  |                              |
| Restriping/bike lanes                  | long  | DOT          | MTC/DEC                |                                  | explore grant opp            |
| <b>Main Street</b>                     |       |              |                        |                                  |                              |
| maintenance strips                     | long  | DOT          | MTC/DEC/TAP            |                                  | explore grant opp            |
| <b>Hudson Street</b>                   |       |              |                        |                                  |                              |
| sidewalk installation                  | long  | County       | MTC/DEC/TAP            |                                  | explore grant opp            |
| maintenance strips                     | long  | County       | MTC/DEC/TAP            |                                  | explore grant opp            |
| <b>River Access</b>                    |       |              |                        |                                  |                              |
| establishment of blueway trail system  | short | Town/County  | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC, DEC |                                  | explore grant opp            |
| link trail to Thurman Train station    | short | Town/County  | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC, DEC |                                  | explore grant opp            |
| kayak portages                         | short | Town/County  | OPRHP, LWRP, FWHC, DEC |                                  |                              |
| <b>Complete Streets Outreach</b>       |       |              |                        |                                  |                              |
| complete streets page on town website  | short | Town         |                        | chris will ask greg to take pics | chris will design pg w/ comm |
| <b>Exit 23 Connection</b>              |       |              |                        |                                  |                              |
| connection to Warren County Bike Trail | short |              |                        | chris will speak to kate         |                              |
| sidewalks                              | long  |              |                        | chris will speak w/              |                              |
| discussion with LG Comp Plan committee | short |              |                        | chris sent letter to committee   | recd by oborne and cummings  |
| <b>Econoquick Parking Lot</b>          |       |              |                        |                                  |                              |
| add signs                              | short | Town         | CHP                    | chris ordered signs              | costs, 3 mo completion       |
| direction main street sign             | short | DOT          | CHP                    | chris ordered signs              | costs, 3 mo completion       |
| restripe parking spaces                | long  | Town         |                        |                                  | explore grant opp            |
| <b>Elm/Water/Richards Intersection</b> |       |              |                        |                                  |                              |
| add mirror(s)                          | short | County/State |                        | patty t/t hajos                  | will research                |