

ADKCAP

Transportation Task Force: Making Transportation More Efficient in the Adirondacks



Supporting the Adirondack Region in its effort to reduce transportation energy costs and impacts

Accomplishments over the past year

- Identified public transportation coordination as the primary emphasis
- Policy developed – emphasis on regional and cross-county cooperation (see full copies of draft policy on tables at lunch)

Policy Summary: The ADKCAP in coordination with the Transportation Task Force, and the Counties of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, and St Lawrence add all ADK counties, and municipalities is endeavoring to develop policy regarding public transportation options, resources, and coordination in the North Country. [Add more counties...]

Public Transportation offers freedom of mobility, provides better choices for citizens, and positive environmental impacts. This policy is intended to introduce minimum standards of sustainable development for accessible transportation options while taking into account economic, environmental, and social impacts connected with the use and accessibility of public transit.

Accomplishments over the past year

Policy continued – Select Points:

- Provide coordination efforts that deliver efficient and effective services with minimum duplication.
- Required participation in regional GREEN initiatives regarding emissions, pollutants, and idling policies. Encourage use of energy efficient vehicles.
- Encourage participation from public institutions, business, and parks.
- Encourage travel by bicycle and foot, “complete streets” initiative – healthy communities program through Dept. of Health.
- Encourage land use and community planning that considers smart growth principles and use of multi-modal transit/use hubs. E.g. Willsboro community revitalization plan may incorporate industrial park with freight and passenger stations, bike trails, bus terminal, and walking paths.

Accomplishments over the past year

- Created a forum that helps bridge jurisdictional boundaries. Includes some, not all areas, so still have to work in filling gaps.
- Developed map to identify current public transportation routes and their coverage areas.
- Essex and Clinton counties' systems are now starting to interconnect with each other – that was not possible a year ago. There was no communication before this forum existed. Now Essex has a schedule to meet the Clinton county bus connections.



Challenges

- **Bus / shuttle lines stop at county boundaries (serving taxpayers of each county), and gaps often exist between ends of lines.**
- **Buses can't move over county line because: different inspection criteria; permits needed; funding for counties only. Should be consistent / normalized statewide.**
- **Some regions not represented in Task Force: Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, Fulton, Saratoga counties. Who to include if no planners?**

Challenges

- **Ideally need central planning authority to overcome jurisdictional issues.**
- **Need to integrate with communities outside Park too, for access to jobs, goods, energy, services.**
- **Need assessment of where people travel and then coordinate infrastructure – bus shelters where bus lines meet, park-and-rides at critical junctions and interstate exits.**
- **Need incentives for private transportation providers to come to areas that need service – train, Greyhound bus, etc.**

Steps to complete an action plan

Short-term actions (within 6 months to 1 year):

- Meet June 15 and again over summer?
- Finalize policy in task force
- Essex County has green team now – can help promote policy?
- Task Force members share policy with each county's board of supervisors or green team (if one).
- Get resolutions of support.
- Measurable goal: get 12 counties to sign on within 1 year.
Identify others.

Steps to complete an action plan

- **Task force invitation to “missing” counties to identify someone to represent them.**
- **More solar for electric vehicles. Do Lake Placid case study – Police vehicles. Host Peter Kroha to speak to municipal officials around region?**
- **Begin discussion with tourism sector – how to get visitors from metropolitan areas to park with minimal impact. Some hotels now have package/arrangements with shuttles to meet trains. Case study.**

Steps to complete an action plan

Middle-term (5-10 years):

- **Establish regional maintenance facilities (with current technology for hybrid and electric vehicle as well) to service fleets instead of each community having its own. Shared services approach.**
- **Cellulosic vehicle fuel plan for fleets and public use, locally produced and used.**

Steps to complete an action plan

Long-term (15-20 yrs):

- Other projects – hydrogen for electric vehicles. Case study – Lake Placid?
- Underground parking lots – geothermal heat too for conference center / hotel.