

Southern Tier West Board, Staff, & Financials



Southern Tier West

Regional Planning & Development Board
Center for Regional Excellence
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BOARD MEMBERS

Allegany County

Vice Chairman, John Margeson, Allegany County Administrator
Curtis Crandall, Ex Officio, Allegany County Legislature
Ted Hopkins, Allegany County Legislator
Susan Myers, Allegany County Legislator
Brent Reynolds, Allegany County Legislator
Jerry Scott, Councilman, Town of Cuba

Cattaraugus County

Chairman, Robert Keis, Supervisor, Town of Mansfield
Joseph Eade, Retired Cattaraugus County Legislature
Gerard Fitzpatrick, Cattaraugus County Legislature **
William King, Supervisor, Town of Ashford
Charles Krause, Cattaraugus County Legislature

Chautauqua County

Secretary, James Cooper, Councilman, Town of Poland
Sebastian Baggiano, Vice President, Chautauqua Institution
Louis Drago, Jr., Chautauqua County Legislature
Greg Edwards, Chautauqua County Executive
Kevin Muldowney, Councilman, City of Dunkirk *

Seneca Nation of Indians

Lucille White, Seneca Nation of Indians Administration

* Left during the year

** Deceased

STAFF MEMBERS

Donald Rychnowski, Executive Director
Richard Zink, Assistant Director
Brian Schrantz, Assistant Director
Eric Bridges, Director, Center for Local Gov't & Community Services*
Thomas Barnes, Sr. Regional Economic Development Coordinator
John Buzzard, Information Services Associate
Brenda Farnham, Maintenance
Ginger Malak, Sr. Regional Development Coordinator
Paul Miller, Regional Program Coordinator *
Brian Paschen, Community Assistance Specialist
Daniel Reynolds, Regional Environmental Analyst
Sarah Schreckengost, Publications Associate
Eileen Weishan, Community Assistance Specialist

* Left during the year

FINANCIAL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2006 - DECEMBER 31, 2006

Revenue Sources

Federal & State Grants \$614,133
Allegany, Cattaraugus & Chautauqua Counties \$74,630
Other Local Share \$259,812
Reserve (\$10,723)

\$948,575

Program Expenditures

Payroll, Leave, and Fringe Benefits \$563,446
Program Operations \$395,852

\$959,298

In-Kind Revenue and Expenditures

All Programs \$2,620,000

SOUTHERN TIER WEST 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT SERVING

ALLEGANY
CATTARAUGUS
AND
CHAUTAUQUA
COUNTIES



Southern Tier West Program Areas



A Note From Executive Director - -

Donald R. Rychnowski

"If anything has characterized the mission of Southern Tier West since its inception, it has been the promotion of a common vision shared by our region's municipalities. Through our programs and activities, Southern Tier West has successfully advocated for teamwork in accomplishing a broad range of goals."

Andrew Carnegie once said, "teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision, the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational activities, and it is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board's business is building teams to accomplish both local and regional goals. Organizationally, we are comprised of representatives of diverse constituencies, brought together to consider commonalities and to develop and implement effective joint approaches to solving problems. Three ongoing initiatives that we've had recent success with are examples of this approach.

Broadband Development Initiative

In 2005, we began to focus on the region's broadband needs. We initiated a study in 2006 to measure operational systems and educational, health, and business needs for broadband access – especially for the more rural areas in our region. Service throughout the region is an important consideration.

Transportation

We've been working on highway, rail, and aviation transportation issues for many years, and we continued to make progress in this area in 2006. With respect to highway issues, we worked with the I86 Coalition to upgrade Route 17 to interstate standards. We also worked with NYS DOT to develop a comprehensive strategic transportation planning and development program for the region. We've also been working to resurrect the 219 Association to encourage the completion of construction of Route 219 as a limited-access highway from Springville to the Pennsylvania border, as part of a major highway corridor – the Continental One Highway – connecting Toronto, Canada to Miami, Florida. With respect to railroad issues, we have continued to work closely with STERA on the rehabilitation of the Southern Tier Extension Railroad Line. In 2006, we helped obtain federal, state and private rehabilitation funds, and rehabilitation activity is ongoing.

Alternative Energy

Alternative energy is fast becoming a primary action item for government operations at all levels. New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) aggressively promotes the development of alternative energy sources for residents, governments, and businesses. In 2006, NYSERDA contracted with us to assist local governments with the assessment and evaluation of potential and proposed wind energy projects, and with the development of appropriate policy and regulatory responses to these projects. If you look at these varied initiatives, you can see a common theme: the partnership, teamwork, and regional approach that we are utilizing, which has made us successful over many years. In 2007, we hope to continue and expand this work to include a homeland security project, and undertaking an e-government project. Southern Tier West is a creature of our region and our constituents, and our mutual future success depends on how we – all government organizations, economic development entities, chambers of commerce, business entities, and people in general – work together as a TEAM.

TRANSPORTATION

Southern Tier West's Transportation Division focused on highway and railroad systems issues in 2006.

Reconstruction of I-86

During 2006, Southern Tier West continued its advocacy for ongoing reconstruction of I86, which continued in all three counties in 2006.

Route 219 Construction Project

During 2006, Southern Tier West continued its advocacy role in support of the *Route 219 Construction Project*. Southern Tier West supports the four-lane limited-access freeway plan alternative.

Route 417 Corridor Study

In 2006, Southern Tier West continued to participate in the NYS DOT-sponsored Route 417 Corridor Study in the Olean/Allegany area of the Route 417 Corridor. This study examines the relationship between economic activities and opportunities and transportation issues (such as traffic flow) to obtain the most benefit to the area.

Regional Transportation Strategy

In late 2006, Southern Tier West was invited by NYS DOT to submit application materials for a contract to fund the development of a Regional Transportation Strategy of our region. The planning initiative is to be a two-year study commencing in 2007, and will involve highways, transit, rail, and aviation.

Railroad Transportation System

During 2006, Southern Tier West continued its emphasis on development of the region's *Railroad Transportation System*, focusing on providing additional freight shipping options for the region's employers using the Southern Tier Extension Railroad Line. Southern Tier West continued to provide contractual administrative support to the Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany and Steuben Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority (STERA). Southern Tier West helped STERA obtain of NYS DOT, FRA, and private funding for \$3,931,889 of railroad rehabilitation projects in 2006, and assisted STERA with managing the construction projects. STERA has an additional \$6,281,889 of NYS DOT rehabilitation funding pending. These projects are scheduled to be completed in 2007.





Southern Tier West Year 2006 Review



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The mission of Southern Tier West's **Center for Local Government and Community Services** is to increase the effectiveness of governance of our region's municipalities. The program has evolved into one of the most comprehensive local government in-service training and technical assistance programs in New York. The Center works with communities and community-based institutions to establish sustainable foundations for community and economic development.

Local Government Conference

The cornerstone of the Center's training — **the Annual Local Government Conference** — celebrated its 13th year of excellence in 2006. The Conference again reached its historical maximum attendance of 320 individuals, with forty programs ranging from Water Operator in-service credit classes to finance, planning, and technology topics. The Conference also featured 35 exhibitors and 48 speakers from 34 different State agencies and area businesses.

Planning & Zoning Conference

On November 16, 2006, Southern Tier West held the **5th Annual Planning and Zoning Conference** at Chautauqua Institution, with over 100 attendees representing towns, villages and cities. The programs presented included land use, quality communities, planning and zoning case law, and leadership development.

Regional Leadership Academy

In 2006, Southern Tier West continued the **Regional Leadership Academy (RLA)** program, which once again included programs for Cattaraugus County, with a series of customized programs targeted specifically at County leadership. The RLA is a leadership and professional skills development program for local government and other public sector/nonprofit officials. The RLA offers customized training services to individuals who want to improve their leadership, management, communication, and interpersonal skills.

Corporate Sponsors

Southern Tier West's partnerships in 2006 included the enrollment by four companies in the Center for Local Government & Community Services's Corporate Sponsorship program: Labella PC, MRB Group, TVGA Consultants, and URS Corporation. The Corporate Sponsorship Program offers enhanced exposure to local governments and significant discounts to all Center-initiated activities. These companies have become active participants in planning and development activities being undertaken by many of the region's communities.

Local Government Award

Southern Tier West presented the 2006 Southern Tier West Local Government Award to David McCoy of TVGA Consultants. Mr. McCoy was recognized for his many years of service to the Local Government Conference and his activities with Southern Tier West and many of the region's communities.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Southern Tier West's Economic Development Division activities include business development and finance, entrepreneurship, human resource development, comprehensive planning, and EDA and ARC program management.

STEDO Small Business Revolving Loans

In 2006, Southern Tier West continued to provide support to the **STEDO and WRC Small Business Revolving Loan Programs**. STEDO closed five small business RLF loans during 2006, with two additional loans pending closing at the end of the year. WRC closed three small business RLF loans during 2006. The seven STEDO loans total \$411,000, and leverage \$5,367,900 of additional investment, while projecting the creation of 125 jobs and the retention of 77 jobs. The three WRC loans total \$125,000, and leverage \$1,105,000 of additional investment, while projecting the creation of 84 jobs and the retention of 44 jobs. In 2006, STEDO submitted an application to ARC for the recapitalization of its ARC-funded RLF.

Entrepreneurship Project

During 2006, Southern Tier West continued work on the **Entrepreneurship Project**, funded by ARC, to try to improve the effectiveness of services that promote entrepreneurship in our region. The project will have three components, a primary and secondary school-based effort, a web page that will assist entrepreneurs, and a revitalized public sector entrepreneurship assistance process. This initiative grew out of the efforts of the Entrepreneurship Roundtable, which is a joint effort of approximately fifty organizations and private sector employers to discuss collaborative approaches to promoting entrepreneurship within the Southern Tier West region.

Inventory of Business Development Sites

In 2006, Southern Tier West assisted Cattaraugus County with the development of an **Inventory of Business Development Sites** in Cattaraugus County. Cattaraugus County will use this information to market to prospective business developers.

ARC Area Development Program

The ARC Area Development Program focuses on economic development, including infrastructure, job training, and child day care projects that either support direct economic development or indirectly stimulate job creation and retention. In 2006, four projects were awarded ARC funding. The City of Olean received \$150,000 for the East Olean Sewer Project, with a total project cost of \$1,220,338. Alfred State College received \$150,000 for the Heavy Equipment and Truck Advanced Diesel Laboratory, with a total project cost of \$430,478. The Cattaraugus County Department of Economic Development, Planning and Tourism received \$39,182 for Year 2 of the Enchanted Mountains Asset Mapping Project, with a total project cost of \$80,661. Finally, Southern Tier West received \$51,113 for the Stormwater Management Guidance Program, with a total project cost of \$105,607.

EDA Development Program

In 2006, Southern Tier West worked with project sponsors to conceptualize projects that could be funded by EDA. As a result, Southern Tier West anticipates that Chautauqua County will be invited by EDA to submit the Progress Drive Improvements Project for funding.

Annual Planning Process

In 2006, Southern Tier West undertook its **Annual Comprehensive Regional Planning Process** resulting in the publication of three resource documents: the [2006 Southern Tier West Region Regional Development Strategy](#), the [2006 Southern Tier West Region Comprehensive Project List](#), and the [2006 Southern Tier West Region Statistical Abstract](#). EDA and ARC use these documents to guide their investment in the region.

EDA Satellite Downlink Broadcasts

In 2006 Southern Tier West hosted the **EDA Satellite Downlink Broadcast Series** as follows: "Global Gateways," held on February 14, 2006; "Rural Entrepreneurship and Innovative Leadership," held on March 28, 2006; and "North Dakota's Strategy for Growth in the 21st Century: A Rural Economy in Transition," held on July 20, 2006.



Southern Tier West Program Areas



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED

Multimodal Freight Transfer Facility

In 2006, Southern Tier West began the *Multimodal Freight Transfer Facility and Manufacturing Center Feasibility Study Project*, using EDA and NYS DOT funding, to evaluate the feasibility of and recommend the best site for the proposed construction of a Multimodal Freight Transfer Facility and Manufacturing Center.

Salamanca Area Planning Initiative

In 2006, Southern Tier West brought to a close work on the *Salamanca Area Planning Initiative*, under which it provided specific economic development, health, housing, and general planning services to the City of Salamanca under contract. Salamanca completed a housing assessment survey and study, a downtown redevelopment study, and a study relating to the redevelopment of the Ray Evans Theater, all of which Southern Tier West participated in. In a related initiative, Southern Tier West provided training to the Town of Great Valley, and assisted the Town with a planning survey that may lead to a comprehensive planning initiative in 2007.

ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES

The Environmental & Natural Resources Division's activities include water quality management, stormwater management, and wind energy.

Water Quality Management Program

During 2006, Southern Tier West continued work on a water quality management program funded in 2003 by a four-year grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). Stormwater Phase II regulations, which impact any site disturbance of one acre or more, became effective March 10, 2003. Southern Tier West's program focus in 2006 included primarily Stormwater Phase II outreach to and education of municipalities, contractors, and highway officials. Southern Tier West partnered with NYS DEC and the three-

county Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop training materials and provide presentations at the training sessions. Southern Tier West maintains a close working relationship with Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties Water Quality Coordinating Committees. Southern Tier West also provided information on how to develop a municipal Stormwater management plan to municipal officials.

Stormwater Equipment Show & Demonstration

The *3rd Annual Muddy WNY Stormwater Blues Equipment Show and Demonstration* was held at the Town of Great Valley Highway Barns on May 12th. The show featured demonstrations, hands-on displays, and face-to-face instruction that focused on road drainage, water quality, and proper roadside vegetation management and equipment usage.

Stormwater Management Guidance Program

In 2006, Southern Tier West also began the Stormwater Management Guidance Program, funded by ARC. On November 29th, Southern Tier West hosted the first of three stormwater conferences at the Center for Regional Excellence. Agenda topics included Stormwater Phase II Permit Requirements, Development of Stormwater Management Plans, and Cost Comparison of Pro-active Verses Reactive Erosion Controls. This program will continue into 2007.

Wind Energy Local Government Support Program

In 2006, Southern Tier West began a program, funded from New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), to assist local governments with issues concerning wind energy development. Wind energy development is a major issue in our region, since two of the top five counties statewide for wind energy development potential are located in our region. Southern Tier West held conferences on wind energy development on August 29th and December 2nd, at which technical documents, model laws, maps, and other various forms of technical assistance were provided to the region's municipalities.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The Information Services Division's activities include data management, Community GIS, internet services, and homeland security.

Census 2010

In 2006, Southern Tier West, as a Census Data Affiliate, began participation in activities preparing for the 2010 Census. NYS Empire State Development contracted with Southern Tier West to aid in preliminary steps toward the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) process, under which municipalities can review the Census Master Address File and make appropriate corrections. Southern Tier West expects this to be an ongoing initiative through the 2010 Census.

Community GIS

The *Community Geographic Information Systems (GIS)* program has been one of the most successful programs that Southern Tier West offers. The program completed its sixth year in 2006 and saw continued expansion. Southern Tier West continues to serve member community data on GIS-enabled websites. Membership has now grown to 24 towns, villages, and cities. New members have concentrated on extensive data collection efforts. GIS-based infrastructure system asset management has also become recognized as an important governmental function. Community GIS has proven to be a perfect tool to help manage water, sanitary, storm sewer, and other systems owned and operated by municipalities.

Discoversouthwestny.com

In 2006, Southern Tier West continued to host the www.discoversouthwestny.com web site, a regional marketing site that contains information on living, recreation, and doing business in the Southern Tier West Region.

Homeland Security

The *Homeland Security Initiative* continued in 2006 with Southern Tier West hosting a Homeland Security roundtable discussion and visioning session. The Geospatial Information Technology Association (GITA) came to Salamanca and facilitated the session as part of their Geospatially Enabling Community Collaboration (GECCo) Project. During the session it became clear that this initiative could prove to be highly important to the region. Representatives from the State were excited about the potential the initiative offered, indicating that, if the program proved successful, it could be replicated throughout the state. Southern Tier West went about identifying funding sources to implement the program, obtaining some commitments and working with GITA on development of a four-state proposal to US Department of Labor. Although the four-state proposal was ultimately unsuccessful, Southern Tier West continues to investigate other possible funding sources and hopes to implement the program in 2007.

