

2004 BOARD MEETINGS

May

Annual Meeting

Paul Raetsch, Regional Director of the Economic Development Administration presents overview of EDA

June

Cattaraugus County

Tour of the Olean Water Treatment Facility, Olean, NY

July

Fiscal Year 2005

ARC Project Presentations

August

Allegany County

Tour of Tracewell, Cuba, NY

September

Chautauqua County

Tour of the Mina/Findley Lake Community Center, Findley Lake, NY

October

NYS Department of State

Presentation of the Preliminary Draft New York State Appalachian Regional Investment Package for fiscal year 2005

STW STANDING COMMITTEES

(*AD-HOC Committees)

Administrative

Community Development

* Entrepreneurship Roundtable

Economic Development Advisory

Environment & Natural Resources

Executive

Human Resource Development

Local Government

* Conference Planning Committee

Technology

* Community GIS

*Discover Steering Committee

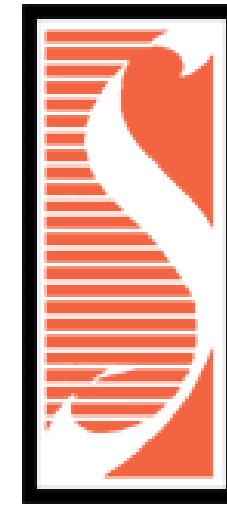
Transportation

STAY CONNECTED

Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board has a web site which outlines its programs and may be viewed at:

www.southerntierwest.org

Look for our current events, publications, affiliations, municipal websites, and register for our conferences online!



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ANNUAL

REPORT

Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES - - JANUARY 1, 2004 - DECEMBER 31, 2004

Revenue Sources	
Federal and State Grants	\$569,747
Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties	74,630
Other Local Share	224,900
STW Reserve	14,140
	\$883,417
Program Expenditures	
Payroll, Leave, and Fringe Benefits	\$626,049
Program Operations	257,368
	\$883,417
In-Kind Revenue and Expenditures	
All Programs	\$355,347

Center for Regional Excellence Open House to introduce the new facility 2000



Center for Regional Excellence dedicates a "Wall of Fame" in tribute to famous people from the region 2001



Official designation of the Southern Tier Expressway as Interstate-86 2002



STW and STERA receive \$7 million for rehabilitation of the Southern Tier Extension Rail Line 2002



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Development Division of Southern Tier West was instrumental in initiating several projects and achieving success within the areas of economic development, entrepreneurship, and human resource development.

Southern Tier West continued work on the **West Valley Redevelopment Strategy Project**, a planning initiative to support an economic development response to the ongoing decommissioning of the West Valley Demonstration Project. Funded by the USDOC Economic Development Administration and other Federal and local sources total of \$90,000 in 2003, the participants began investigating numerous prospective re-uses for the 3,300-acre campus in 2004, including laboratories and equipment, plus re-engagement of the displaced labor force.

In February, Southern Tier West brought together approximately fifty organizations and private sector employers to discuss a collaborative initiative to promote entrepreneurship within the Southern Tier West region. The ARC Entrepreneurship Program Manager gave a best practices presentation at this first meeting. This began a series of discussions for the purpose of developing a coordinated regional

strategy for a regional entrepreneurial program that will support and promote a broad range of entrepreneurs. 2004 accomplishments of the **Entrepreneurship Roundtable** (as it is referred to) included establishing several committees; submission of a \$2 million multi-organizational application to the Kauffman Foundation to create a region-wide comprehensive entrepreneurial program; and submission of a smaller entrepreneurial initiative project to the Appalachian Regional Commission.

In 2004 Southern Tier West hosted the **EDA Satellite Downlink Broadcast Series** as follows: "Regionalism - Maximizing Effective Partnerships in an Era of Scarce Resources" held on February 4; "Competitiveness in Rural U.S. Region: Learning and Research Agenda" held on May 4; and the "Economic Development Strategies in a Worldwide Economy" on September 9.

Southern Tier West undertook its **Annual Comprehensive Regional Planning Process** in 2004 resulting in the publication of three resource documents: 2004 Regional Development Strategy (RDS), 2004 Southern Tier West Region Comprehensive Project List, and 2004 Southern Tier West Region Statistical Abstract. EDA and ARC use the RDS to guide their investment in the region.

Under **Human Resource Development**, Southern Tier West hosted and sponsored several seminars for the general public, targeting non-profit agencies, planning and development agencies, county government departments, and local governments. Southern Tier West and Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES sponsored a "Grant Writing Workshop" on April 28th in the Center for Regional Excellence. The session was facilitated by Southern Tier West.

Southern Tier West hosted two downlink broadcast seminars sponsored by the Development Districts Association of Appalachia: on September 13 "Learning More About Indirect Cost Ratios and In-kind Reporting Requirements" presented by William Broadus, Jr.; and on November 5, "Grant Seeking for Resource Development" presented by David G. Bauer.

Five economic development and training projects were awarded **Appalachian Regional Commission** funding in 2004. The Village of Canaseraga received \$150,000 for their Wastewater Collection & Treatment Project with a total project cost of \$4,590,000. The Town of Perrysburg received \$150,000 for the Versailles Water District with a total project cost of \$880,000. ARC provided \$52,874 with a match of \$52,874 in local funds for the Enchanted Mountains Inventory Project sponsored

by Cattaraugus County. SUNY College of Technology at Alfred received \$150,000 matched by \$156,313 in local funds for the Manufacturing Technology-Automated Manufacturing Laboratory. A third year of the Workforce Competitiveness Project sponsored by Jamestown Community College on behalf of the Regional Training Consortium/Southern Tier West Human Resource Development Committee received \$120,000 ARC grant and \$120,000 in local funds.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Southern Tier West was awarded a **Baseline Contract** by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) in July 2003. The contract is a four-year program split into two 2-year focus areas. The first two years of the contract focused primarily on Stormwater Phase II outreach and education to municipalities, contractors, and highway officials.

Stormwater Phase II became effective March 10, 2003. Stormwater Phase II regulations impact any site disturbance of one acre or more. During 2004, Southern Tier West provided one training session for contractors, builders, and highway superintendents to explain

the regulations and provide an overview of a stormwater plan submission. Two training sessions were held for CEO's and other municipal officials to introduce the Stormwater Phase II Program and provide training on how to develop a municipal stormwater management plan. NYS DEC and Cattaraugus County SWCD partnered with Southern Tier West to develop training materials and provide presentations at the training sessions. Southern Tier West also partnered with the Town of Great Valley Highway Department to develop the first annual **"Muddy WNY-Storm Water Blues" Equipment Show and Demonstration**.

The **Environmental & Natural Resources Committee** was very active in 2004 with in-depth discussions regarding green energy, brownfield redevelopment, computer recycling, regulation enforcement, and the Phase II Stormwater regulations. A presentation on green energy development at the September Committee meeting has initiated examination of potential projects in the region.

INFORMATION SERVICES

In late February 2004, the **DiscoverSouthwestNY website** was launched. Because of the importance of this program to the region as a whole, the launch

was highly publicized. A press conference was held to announce the launch of the site and tremendous effort was put into getting the site exposed to the public.

Looking back it is clear that the website has been an overwhelming success, surpassing all expectations that were placed on it. Estimates show the site has had over four million hits since launch from over 200,000 users. Inquiries have come from people and businesses in fifteen states, generated from their use of the website. Because of this popularity, the site has become the official tourism website for the Chautauqua-Allegany region, being linked directly from the I Love NY website. Use of the site has steadily increased and all indications are that this trend will continue through 2005.

The site has solidified the partnership between Southern Tier West and a variety of local tourism agencies. This partnership continues to work toward the improvement of the site and other efforts to increase awareness of the region through various means.

The **Community GIS Program** saw a 40 percent increase in membership by adding five new communities. These communities were added through a special partnership program with Cattaraugus County. The new



Increased traffic on the Southern Tier Extension Railroad



Muddy-WNY Stormwater Blues Conference April 26, 2004



DiscoverSouthwestNY.com Launch February 2004



2004 Southern Tier West Annual Dinner Speaker: Paul Raetsch, EDA

Established
Regional Leadership
Academy
2003



Launch of the
DiscoverSouthwestNY.com
Website
2004



**INFORMATION SERVICES
CONTINUED**

members have strengthened the program and expanded its capability. It appears that membership will continue to grow and help communities in the Southern Tier West region.

In 2004, Southern Tier West provided technology-related contractual services to several entities. These services are primarily related to GIS and GPS consulting, as well as website hosting.

One of the major contracts procured through the technology division included the **Enchanted Mountains Inventory Project**, which involves considerable GPS data collection as well as GIS and Internet GIS services for ten villages in Cattaraugus County. Another is a contract with the **City of Salamanca** that will carry over into 2005 for GPS data collection of all infrastructure in the Board of Public Utilities service territory.

Technological advancement continues at Southern Tier West to the direct benefit of all its constituents. The trend of growth will continue, and new areas for future development are being explored now.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The mission of the Center for Local Government and Community Services is to enhance the skills and competencies of public officials. To carry out this mission, the Center provides access to training and educational programs, professional skills and leadership development training, technical assistance and support services, information and consultation. What began as a simple mechanism to help local government officials become better and more responsive public servants, has evolved into one of the most comprehensive in-service technical assistance and training programs in the State.

In 2004, Southern Tier West revamped its **Membership Program** to more accurately reflect the changing face of the program. The restructuring was in response to a charge from our Members to develop a way to make access to our program easier and more cost effective. Using a simple 4-tier format, Members can now link their annual contribution together with exactly how much of the program they intend to use. Early indications are that the new 4-tiered Membership Program is being well received.

In just its second year, the **Regional Leadership Academy** is beginning to emerge as one of the Center's most attractive and highly sought after programs. Focusing specifically on leadership and professional skills development, the Regional Leadership Academy offers customized training to local government officials who want to improve their leadership, management, communication and interpersonal skills. Sixteen individuals representing both the public and private sector participated in the program.

The **11th Annual Local Government Conference** was held at Houghton College on May 11, 2004. Delivered under the theme "Gateway to Better Government", over two hundred and fifty local officials attended.

The **2nd Annual Highway Conference** was held at the Center for Regional Excellence on October 15, 2004. Displays, on-site demonstrations and classroom programs focused on road drainage, water quality, proper roadside vegetation management and equipment usage.

On November 18, 2004, the **3rd Annual Planning and Zoning Conference** convened at the Chautauqua Institution. Over

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

35 YEARS OF SERVICE - - 2004



Do you remember when the New York Mets won their first World Series? How about when the New York Jets became the first AFL team to win the SuperBowl? Do you remember what year it was when nearly 40,000 people came together for the "Woodstock Music and Art Fair?" The answer? 1969.

1969 was also the year that the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was created by an act of the NYS Legislature and the Legislatures of Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties. Very few public benefit organizations can point to as rich a history of accomplishments as Southern Tier West. Through its affiliations with NYS Department of State, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Southern Tier West helped facilitate the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars in the region. If not for the Southern Tier West Region of NYS being designated as part of the Appalachian Region and Southern Tier West as one of three Local Development Districts, Route 17 would still be a two-lane road.

Throughout our history, Southern Tier West has helped the region realize many of its local and regional goals, including the investment of substantial federal funds in hospitals and clinics; the establishment of a regional vocational educational system; funding for the first educational broadcast network; the coordination of grant funds for numerous industrial parks; and the leveraging of grant funds for major public infrastructure projects at Chautauqua Institution, the Seneca Nation of Indians, the City's of Jamestown, Dunkirk, Olean, and Salamanca, and the Villages of Cuba, Ellicott, Randolph, and Wellsville. Southern Tier West also provided assistance to doz-

DiscoverSouthwestNY.com has drawn accolades from all over the country.

Another major accomplishment was the implementation of the Southern Tier West Development Foundation. The primary purpose of the Foundation is to use the earnings off locally captured philanthropic capital to provide incentive or seed grants to communities for their planning and development activities. Since the inception of its grantmaking program in 2000, the Foundation has granted nearly \$65,000 and leveraged in excess of three-quarters of a million dollars.

Of course, none of these accomplishments would have been possible without a very strong, committed, and supportive Board of Directors. Participation on the Southern Tier West Board isn't like most other organizations. It requires members to put aside their own parochial interests and think about issues to enlist some of the very best talent the region has to offer.

It has been said that an organization is only as good as its staff -- and I can say from personal experience from 25 years at Southern Tier West, that we are blessed with the most professional staff in the state.

I can say that I am proud to have worked with Southern Tier West through my 25-year tenure. Starting out as a pure planning organization conducting numerous studies, Southern Tier West has evolved into an implementation organization whose prime focus has been the actual development of assets in our three-county region. As there are changes within federal and state programs, I expect Southern Tier West to further evolve into an organization that will grow and prosper for the benefit of the people in the southern tier region.

ens of private sector businesses, resulting in the creation and retention of thousands of jobs through the years.

If not for the diligence and commitment of Southern Tier West, the mainline railroad which runs along the southern portions of all three of our counties would have been abandoned and torn up years ago. After nearly 15 years, Southern Tier West was finally able to create a consortium of four counties in New York State and work with the State Legislature and Norfolk Southern Railroad to save and grow rail freight services in northern Pennsylvania and southwestern New York State. Through the Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority (STERA) partnership, Southern Tier West has been able to attract approximately \$7 million in rehabilitation monies, open portions of the line that had been closed for years, and attract 20 new shippers on the line. The line has grown from approximately 70 car shipments a year to approximately 3,000 car shipments a year.

Another more recent Southern Tier West accomplishment is our DiscoverSouthwestNY.com regional marketing initiative. In just one year since its launch, more than a quarter of a million visitors have accessed the website. As the official "I Love New York" site for the three-county area,



**I-86 PRIDE Program
ALCOA donates to Randolph Project**



**I-86 PRIDE Program
First PRIDE Project**

ABOUT SOUTHERN TIER WEST RP&DB

The Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board is a unit of government created in 1969 by a resolution of the Legislatures of Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties in New York State under the authority of Article 12B of the New York State General Municipal Law. From its headquarters in Salamanca (Cattaraugus County), New York, Southern Tier West serves Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties of New York State.

The Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board's mission is to help coordinate and enhance planning and development activities in Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties, so as to promote the social, physical, and economic development of these counties.

Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board maintains ongoing and active relationships with national, state, and local governments, agencies, and the private sector for-profit and non-profit organizations. Of particular importance are Southern Tier West's ongoing relationships with two specific federal agencies, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA).

The Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board is a sixteen (16) person Board, with five (5) Board members appointed by each of the three County Legislatures and one (1) Board member appointed by the Seneca Nation of Indians.

STW STAFF

Donald R. Rychnowski
Executive Director

Richard T. Zink
Assistant Director

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Sr. Regional Economic Development Coordinator

Eric M. Bridges
Director

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STW BOARD

Chairman
Robert Keis

Supervisor, Town of Mansfield

Vice Chairman

John Margeson

Allegany County Administrator

Secretary

Mark Thomas

Chautauqua County Executive

Susan Myers

Allegany County Legislator

Brent Reynolds

Allegany County Legislator

Jerry Scott

Councilman, Town of Cuba

Ed Sherman

Allegany County Legislator

Joseph Eade

Retired Cattaraugus County Legislator

Gerard Fitzpatrick

Chair, Cattaraugus County Legislature

William King

Supervisor, Town of Ashford

Charles Krause

Cattaraugus County Legislator

James Cooper

Councilman, Town of Poland

Louis Drago Jr.

Chautauqua County Legislator

Kevin Muldowney

Councilman, City of Dunkirk

Vivian Taylor

Councilman, City of Jamestown

Lucille White

Seneca Nation of Indians

Left during the year

Richard Frey

Mayor, City of Dunkirk

Richard Slagle

Mayor, Village of Celoron

Joseph Trusso

Chautauqua County Legislator

Initiated
I-86 PRIDE Program
2003



100 representatives from towns, villages, and cities attended with programs including Quality Communities, zoning admendments, comprehensive planning, Stormwater regulations, use variance procedures, and leadership development. The event also featured an audience-directed Mock Meeting session.

2004 also marked the introduction of a **Corporate Sponsorship Program**. The program provided local businesses a more cost-effective way to participate in and support such activities as the Local Government Conference, Highway Conference, Planning and Zoning Conference, and Regional Leadership Academy. Thanks and appreciation to our inaugural members: MRG Group, TVGA Consultants and URS Corporation.

TRANSPORTATION

During 2004, Southern Tier West served as a review site for the final **EIS Revised Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Route 219 Project**. Southern Tier West regularly receives updates from New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Region 5 as to the status of the Route 219 plan. Southern Tier West supports the four-lane limited access, free-way plan and will continue to follow its progress.



Local Government Conference
May 2004

Reopening of
Southern Tier Extension
Rail Line from Hornell NY
to Meadville, PA
2003



A ceremony was held on September 10th at the site of the second completed **I-86 PRIDE Project** constructed at the eastbound Randolph rest area. Partnerships were developed locally to construct the project similar to the 2003 project in Angelica with the addition of an out-of-state partner, PermaLoc Corporation, providing discounts to the PRIDE group for their aluminum edging products. The I-86 PRIDE Program is moving forward with the third project at the Cuba exit. Southern Tier West is working closely with the Village and Town of Cuba to develop this project for 2005. In 2004, Cuba took the first step to initiate the project by planting three tree islands with nine trees.

As a result of the support and recommendations from the Southern Tier West Transportation Committee, other groups and individuals, **reconstruction of I-86** in Allegany County began in 2004. The project will be a ground-up reconstruction of the highway beginning with the Cuba to Friendship segment in 2004 continuing through 2006.

In **transportation planning**, a new type of partnership was formed between Southern Tier West and the NYS DOT. Southern Tier West requested assistance from the Mobility Management Bureau of DOT to study economic and transportation development around

the Randolph interchange and, at the request of Cattaraugus County, the Olean/Allegany area of the Route 417 Corridor. This type of transportation planning examines the relationship between economic opportunities and transportation issues such as traffic flow to obtain the most benefit to an area. This type of specialized assistance has not been accessed before in our area and will prove beneficial to the region in the future.

Southern Tier West continued its emphasis on development of the region's **rail transportation system** in 2004; focusing on providing additional freight shipping options for the region's employers through the rail operator Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad Company. During 2004, 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 also provided rail access assistance to current and potential rail shippers along the regions rail lines, worked with communities to assist them with grade crossing pavement marking and signage compliance obligations, and worked with private grade crossing and non-compliant adjacent land-use issues.



I-86 PRIDE Program
Cuba plants tree islands