

## Policy Area VI Facilities Planning

### Goal:

*Encourage the coordination and cooperation among municipalities having a mutual interest in Sullivan County to ensure the greatest level of efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of municipal services.*



### MUNICIPAL COLLABORATION

Uncoordinated and unplanned growth, together with a lack of common goals expressing the public's interest in land conservation, pose a threat to the environment and to the health, safety, and high quality of life enjoyed by residents of this county.

A significant degree of cooperation and coordination between the County, villages, towns, state and federal agencies, and special districts is required to manage land use throughout Sullivan County that are experiencing development pressures. Policies covering interagency cooperation, land use planning and development review, and municipal service provisions are needed to set the county-wide framework for inter-municipal agreements.

Sullivan County and its villages, town, special districts, state and federal agencies should consider establishing interagency planning teams to develop ongoing program coordination within the municipalities. These teams could develop specific procedures for affected agencies, municipalities and special districts to:

1. Participate, review and comment on the proposed plans and implementation measures of the others to assure consistency with this Comprehensive Plan.
2. Periodically review, at a minimum every five years, the capital improvement plans, to enhance, improve and focus concurrency and consistency with this Plan.
3. Improve joint efforts or the combining of operations to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in service provision.



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**STRATEGY 6.1**

Coordinate activities between municipal and county agencies, to ensure continuity and consistency of overall community planning and development activities.

**Timeframe**

SHORT TERM  
INTERMEDIATE  
**LONG TERM**

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Assemble information that identifies the permitting process and regulatory requirements by the federal, state, and local governments for building projects within the County and make the information available to the general public.	C	
Review municipal ordinances to determine if development approval processes can be streamlined without eliminating desired design and other requirements.	C/M	
Municipalities should attempt to coordinate the requirements in their ordinances with the ordinance requirements of other Towns and Villages in the county to establish a coordinated development pattern in the County.	M	
Municipalities are encouraged to negotiate intergovernmental boundary agreements that enable the Towns and Villages to develop efficiently and in a manner consistent with their local goals and objectives as identified within their own comprehensive plans.	M	
Encourage municipalities to coordinate land use activities along their borders.	M/C	
Establish meaningful lines of communication with those agencies that can assist the municipalities and the county in meeting overall planning objectives, and work to secure participation of these agencies in realizing mutual objectives.	C/M/P	



Leadership Role: C – County M – Municipality P – Partners  
Status: A – Active P – Pending C – Complete

## Resources

### Documents

- ◇ “Fiscal Impacts and Municipal Options.” M.R. Hattery, Cornell Local Government Program.
- ◇ “Summary of Municipal Service Alternatives.” Review of 2 Villages in NYS. NYS Department of State, Division of Local Government, July 1999.
- ◇ Intermunicipal Cooperation Tools. Pace Law School, Land Use Law Center.

### Organizations and Programs

- ◇ The *Community and Rural Development Institute (CaRDI)* - [www.cardi.cornell.edu](http://www.cardi.cornell.edu)  
A program of Cornell University, conducts research and provides assistance to communities in NYS to enable community and government capacity building, strengthen economic development, and develop effective land use management approaches and policies.
- ◇ The *NYS Department of State, Division of Local Government* - [www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/](http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/)  
Provides training and technical assistance to local governments and community organizations throughout the state and helps local officials solve problems involving basic powers and duties, public works, municipal organization, planning, land use and regulatory controls, and community development.
- ◇ The *Pace Law School Land Use Law Center* - [www.pace.edu/lawschool/landuse/index.html](http://www.pace.edu/lawschool/landuse/index.html)  
Dedicated to fostering the development of sustainable communities in New York State. The Center offers lawyers, land use professionals, citizens, and developers assistance that enables them to achieve sustainable development at the regional and local level.

### Funding Sources

- ◇ The *NYS Governor’s Office for Small Cities* - [www.nysmallcities.com](http://www.nysmallcities.com)  
The Office for Small Cities administers the Community Development Block Grant Program for the State of New York. The Community Development Block Grant Program provides grants to eligible cities, towns, and villages with a population under 50,000 and counties with an area population under 200,000 to revitalize neighborhoods, expand affordable housing and economic opportunities and or improve community facilities and services.

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**STRATEGY 6.2**

Continue to identify and secure grants, loans, and other sources of state and federal funding and incentive programs.

**Timeframe**

- SHORT TERM
- INTERMEDIATE
- LONG TERM**

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Continue to seek cooperative working relationships with adjoining municipalities in the financing of local community facilities and municipal water and sewer services.	C	A



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**STRATEGY 6.3**

Work cooperatively with municipalities regarding mutual concerns and needs in improving the overall appearance and economic sustainability of the major corridors.

**Timeframe**

- SHORT TERM
- INTERMEDIATE
- LONG TERM**

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Encourage the State of New York to change the way property is taxed to minimize competition for tax base between municipalities and maximize the likelihood of cooperative economic development efforts.	C	
Encourage school districts to consult with the County and municipalities when identifying the locations of future schools and the expansion of existing facilities.	P/C/M	
Encourage municipalities to implement economic development initiatives on a county-wide and regional basis instead of on an individual municipal basis.	M	
Hold periodic meetings between officials of adjacent municipalities to discuss common issues and potential problems.	M	



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## Resources

### Documents

- ◆ “Jefferson County Contracting with Towns for Major Improvements.” Cooperative Highway Services Case Study Report: #5. NYS Department of Transportation.

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**STRATEGY 6.4**

Continue to encourage communication and collaboration among service providers to provide the most efficient and cost effective services possible

**Timeframe**

SHORT TERM  
INTERMEDIATE  
LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Continue to pursue cooperative efforts with municipalities and neighboring counties to provide a high level of service at the lowest possible cost.	C/M	
Continue to study the feasibility and desirability of establishing combined police protection at a town and village level.	M/C	
Continue to work with the private sector to coordinate the provision of social services in order to provide the County's residents a high level of service at the lowest possible cost.	C/P	
Continue to investigate and implement county-wide and municipal approaches to providing high quality and low cost solid waste and recycling services	C/M	
Complete comprehensive reviews of the municipal services provided to determine if some of the services can be jointly provided by more than one unit of government or by the private sector.	C/M	
Determine if municipalities can save funds by cooperatively purchasing supplies and materials.	M	
Study the feasibility of consolidating employee benefits with the county government and other local governments.	M/C	
Schedule forums that are attended by representatives of the County and all of the municipalities to receive ideas from the public about how services can be provided in a more cost-efficient manner.	P/M/C	
Municipalities that contain more than one water and/or sewer district are encouraged to study the benefits of consolidating their districts.	M	
Towns and Villages, with assistance from the County should study the advantages and disadvantages of consolidating with adjoining municipalities.	M/C	

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## Resources

### Documents

- ◆ “The Consolidation of Local Government.” Report, NYS Department of State, Division of Local Government, March 1997.
- ◆ “Consolidation for Towns and Villages.” James A Coon Local Government Technical Series. NYS Department of State, Division of Local Government, 1998.
- ◆ “Implications of a Village Dissolution.” Report, NYS Department of State, Division of Local Government.
- ◆ “Intergovernmental Cooperation.” James A Coon Local Government Technical Series. NYS Department of State, Division of Local Government, 1998.
- ◆ “The Costs and Benefits of Privatization at the Local Level in New York State.” Research Briefs & Case Studies, Vol 3, #2, May 1995. Cornell Community and Rural Development Institute.
- ◆ “Promoting Intermunicipal Cooperation for Shared Highway Services.” Town of Saugerties Shared Services; Prepared by the NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, Senator George H. Winner, Jr., Chairman, Legislative Office Bldg., Albany, NY 12247 (518) 455-2544, Summer 2005.

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