



Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council Meeting  
April 18, 2012  
Cornell University

**Council Members Present:** David Skorton, Tom Tranter, Bob Duffy, Harvey Stenger, Keith Baumann, Kathryn Boor, Barbara Schindler, Martha Robertson, Ernie Hartman, Tim O’Hearn, James Johnson, Svante Myrick, George Miner, Uttara Prasad, Debra Preston, Tony Rosemarino (for Dan Spoor), Diane Lantz, Lou Santoni, Susan Skidmore, Doug Barton, Patricia Cummings, David Patak, Scott Welliver,

**State Agency/Local Government Staff Present:** Steve Johnson , Terry Kane, John Burin, Paul D’Amato, Jean Egenhofer, Bijoy Datta, Pam Eshbaugh, Tim Grippen, Kevin McLaughlin, Tim Joseph, Elaine Miller, JC Smith, Linda Hardie, Paula Yonger, Bob Furlani, Dan Buyer, Irene Baker, Kevin McCabe, Frank Surdey, Julie Sweet, Tom Kowalik, Susan Payne, Robin Alpaugh

Reports/Discussions

T. Tranter welcomed everyone and asked Council members to introduce themselves and indicate their affiliation. He thanked the Lt Governor for his continuing assistance and expressed appreciation, on behalf of the Council, to D. Skorton and the Cornell University staff for hosting this meeting.

Lt. Governor Duffy thanked the Council for their commitment and looks forward to progress in the next phase of the Regional Council activities.

D. Skorton reviewed the meeting agenda indicating that most of the meeting would be open to the public with time available for public comment and the later portion of the meeting would be a private working session.

T. Tranter asked members of the Council to review and approve meeting notes from previous Council meetings held on December 16, 2011 and February 6, 2012. G. Miner moved and K. Bauman seconded the motion that the notes be approved. The notes were approved.

Representatives from Southern Tier Central Regional Planning Board and the Southern Tier Network, M. Weber and J. Starks, made a presentation on broadband infrastructure, explaining the Southern Tier Central project and proposing an extension be considered by the Council to extend the STN existing dark fiber network into Broome and Tioga Counties.

Irene Baker presented an update on how the State plans to monitor progress on projects funding in Round 1 of the CFA process and introduced the CFA Round 2 process.

S. Payne and K. McLaughlin presented an initial progress report of projects funded in this region during Round 1 of the CFA process, including funding status, process and timeline for implementation of the Rural Initiative Fund, Shovel Ready Site, and Community Revitalization Initiatives. The Council agreed to modify the terms of a loan/grant awarded under the Rural Initiative Fund from a maximum of 33% of the total project cost, as originally approved by the Council, to a maximum of 90% of the total project cost. The maximum award of \$300,000 remains unchanged.

S. Payne outlined Council roles and responsibilities in 2012, including new project development for CFA Round 2 and activities and opportunities to engage the public.

Members of the public were given an opportunity to address the Council. Pat Pryor spoke about the broadband committee in Tompkins, and the need for a wireless solution for broadband given the agricultural industry as well as tourism. Ed Marks spoke on the Cleaner & Greener Initiative, a \$1M planning process through NYSERDA that will take 8 months to complete. Leslie Schill remarked that there was good interest in this proposal at their public meetings at Corning Community College, Ithaca, Delhi and Chenango County. Chuck Bartosh remarked that he supports last mile broadband access via wireless technology for security issues because wireless is not tap-able and it also provides for access to homes. Krys Cail spoke on Healthy Urban Food initiative and a \$300k application consortium to combat obesity, and asked about the status of Agricultural work group. Brett Bossard spoke about the ST Council's Tourism work group, the Council on the Arts and budgeted funding, asked how it will work, and the need to come up with priority arts projects. Philly DeSarno and Gary Ferguson spoke about the Ithaca Tomorrow project, a \$7M-\$10M reconstruction of The Commons, which is expected to leverage \$108M in private investment including upper story residential.

The Council, moved to closed session and heard a presentation by D. Utter on the SAGE Commission (Spending and Government Efficiency Commission), its purpose and progress to date.

#### Decisions/Actions

The notes from the December 16, 2011 and February 6, 2012 Council meetings were approved.

The conditions of the Rural Initiative Fund were changed to read "the maximum award of a loan/grant is 90% of the total project cost." This represents a change from 33% of the total project cost as originally approved by the Council.

PowerPoints from this meeting will be posted on the Council's website.

Next meetings:

- Date: Thursday, June 28, 2012
- Time: 12:00 – 2:30
- Location: Binghamton University

- Date: Tuesday, September 4, 2012
- Time: 12:00 – 2:30
- Location: Binghamton University