

**City of Oneonta Comprehensive Plan
Public Workshop – October 25, 2006**

Ice breaker comments:

Would like to see-

- Sleep all night – noisy (students, baseball camps)
- Dietz St parking lot
- More bike trails
- Oneonta School District- take teens to teen center
- Anchor store DT
- Students walk/bike safely to school (East St traffic jams)
- Major chain grocery store DT
- Close Main St to traffic
- High tech industry incubator
- Dietz St – rear access & beautification (of stores on Main St backed up to Dietz St parking lot)
- Address to brain drain
- Clean industry
- Decent paying jobs
- Factory next to my house
- Citywide trash & leaf removal
- Knowledge based business – potential
- Low cost housing

When I retire-

- Keep children in Oneonta – child labor!
- Unify City and Town
- Participate in music and arts
- Accessible to the moderately abled
- Public pool
- Be able to survive the era of fossil fuel depletion (peak oil)
- Colleges to remain & remain affordable
- Only industries that are environmentally safe – green technologies
- Safety – better lit streets
- Senior housing
- Affordability
- Family friendly & safe
- Preserve historic DT, residential areas & parks
- Biker friendly

Design breakout groups – comments:

From sheets-

- **Pedestrian connection to Southside (sidewalks, well-lit, etc)**
- Main St exit 14, exit = eastbound only, enter = westbound only
- **Limitations on areas for student housing**
- **Residential housing DT**
- **Small scale DT shops, no “big box”**
- Roundhouse re-creation
- Road to Chestnut
- Baseball camps to connect to roundhouse and services/shops, kid friendly
- Connection to Hampton Inn from roundhouse area
- Housing abandoned by students → co-opted?
- Apartment “style” housing on campus
- “foreboding” entrance to parks
- Fonda Ave bridge? Underpass?
- Revitalize brownfields
- **Mixed use**
- Infiltrate bikes into DT & tie together mixed use and residential
- **Gateways**
- Integrate east of SR 205 into plan
- Integrating municipal services
- Recognize historical district on maps
- Bus parking – possible at Clinton Plaza
- Railyards – grocery store
- Rejoin neighborhoods
- Concern of residential zoning classifications – restrictive covenants
- Gateway through RR land, ingress/egress to acreage (?)
- Raise tax base critical
- Heavy vs. light industry → clear definitions/restrictions
- Parking DT core
- Fonda Ave bridge → vehicular or peds
- RD8 – high density residential zone
- Larger municipal/civic
- Ice rink not in existing green areas
- **Active participation of steering members**
- Destination retail
- Light commercial within neighborhoods (like Church)
- Revitalize small markets on East, River, and Broadway St.
- Close traffic to Main
- Old freight depot – students?
- Add DT historic district to map (Main St, Fairview to Elm)
- Appropriate gateway design near D&H site
- **Lack of access to river – lookouts on river bridges**

- **Zoning should reflect historic areas – mainly rentals**
- **Improve viaduct on Main St – landscaping, plantings**
- More artists lofts DT
- Mixed use on Chestnut (small scale, design standards)

From land use maps:

- DT historic district
- I88 barriers & buffers
- Arches on gateways
- **Focus on eastern and western gateways, gateways at exits 14 & 15**
- River St access from north
- **Exit 15 → bike & ped paths/lanes with trees**
- Better design standards integrated with city lighting, sidewalk (in transitional area)
- Maple Street interaction not pedestrian friendly
- **Keep easterly area of Walnut St historic district as residential**
- **Extend DT lighting, sidewalk in exit 14 transitional area; avoid strip mall development**
- **Better design standards in eastern commercial area**
- Integrate southside DOT I88 study with gateways
- Existing I88 greenway plan/study
- Potential DOT funds available for future RH parcel study
- RH parcel as industrial
- Northerly and easterly gateways should be secondary
- **Possible round-about @ intersection of Main St and James Lettis Hwy**
- Trail connecting greenspace at southwest edge of City along SR 205, CR 8 to westerly greenspace to west side Neahwa Park
- Extend exit 14 transitional area along Prospect & Fairview to SR23
- **Commercial area south of River Road to be commercial/residential OR high density/senior**
- How do we ensure the preservation of SFH?
- Add discussion in plan about housing transition from MFH to SFH
- James Lettis Hwy – primary gateway

From roundhouse parcel maps:

- **General agreement with market study**
- Low visibility, limited access from north
- Light industrial
- Railroad positive to attracting commercial/industry
- **Connect Roundhouse Rd to River Rd?**
- Small residential area off of SR23 to the south
- Bridge connection from River Rd to Roundhouse Rd
- **Incubator for green technologies**
- **Recommend against heavy industry**
- Preservation area at old roundhouse
- Need to recommend specific land use/zoning classifications

Policy Area comments:

Downtown-

- Add historic to objective #1. (Improve DT's ability to compliment the commercial, tourism & *historic*, industrial, and retail areas in the town and the region.)
- **Beautify Dietz St parking lot.**
- Encourage regional tourism through existing railroad historical society – leatherstocking railway historical society
- Consider “parent parking” areas – creating a more convenient parking site for parents
- Sell parking garage to private business so it will be better managed and maintained
- Connect the 3rd floor of the parking garage to Main Street buildings
- **Provide more reasons (through stimulus) for family-oriented businesses to bring adults back to DT rather than be student populated after 6pm**
- Establish more all-day parking for people who work in DT area

Quality of Life-

- **Not having a student house next to a family home**
- No industry with odorous or noxious emissions – including such light industrial applications as perfume factories, vitamin factories or any other seemingly innocuous but odoriferous plants
- A river walk in a green area – great for visitors and residents
- Parks in city are deteriorating – devote funds to revitalize facilities – esp. tennis courts
- **Create a student housing/summer transitional zone.**
- Consider ‘performance’ type zoning/sub’d regulations for selected areas to encourage innovation
- **Rather than segregating student, encourage good citizenship in mixed neighborhoods**
- **Bikeways – share the road with auto, safely**

Economic Health & Revitalization-

- **Develop relationships with college economics departments to build an economic incubator in the old D&H rail yards**
- Survey outsiders on their perception of Oneonta
- Provide infrastructure support to industrial areas (RR yards) to attract industries; type of infrastructure may help self-select industries that community wants

Destination & Image-

- Preserve, maintain & celebrate architectural integrity of 19th century foundation of town, including encouraging/enabling homeowners to maintain same
- Better set good sprinklers DT or it will be gone!
- Improve the look/scenic beauty of the entrance ways to the city – currently they are ugly
- Historic walking tours through neighborhoods in transition will encourage the property owners to view their investments with fresh eyes. Some residents do not understand that the little architectural ‘old style’ on their homes and apartments are the ‘ohh and ahh’

stuff in other places, i.e. widows walk, ten over ten windows, etc. They get antique roadshow...

- Relocate bus line off Main St

Administration & Government-

- **Combine city and town**
- Educate the community about governmental authority of existing structure
- Better communication of proposed developments with any residents likely to be affected by such – mass mailing in the case of something as important as the power plants; the Daily Star did not work.
- Change gov't rules to insure that the city council members attend meetings
- Promote the city to attract commercial developments
- Change gerrymandered districts to allow student, commons voting for city gov't
- Somehow... residents need to know their ward # and their representative's name. Perhaps ward #'s on the street signs? Welcome signs posted with their alderman's name. Their polling, voting place needs to be advertised frequently. Registration dates need to be emphasized.
- Fewer wards better publicized.