

On May 19th, Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress convened experts to discuss the Hudson Valley region's infrastructure in a half-day conference on the heels of National Infrastructure Week. To those of you who could join us we hope you found it both enjoyable and informative. Here is a summary of the event and funding sources for infrastructure that were discussed.

Congressman Sean Maloney opened the conference and discussed several federal funding opportunities including the passage of the Dam Safety Act which will allocate \$13.9 million annually for dam inspection and engineering assistance for the 800 Hudson Valley dams, including 100 high hazard dams. The Congressman also addressed replenishment of the Federal Highway Trust Fund which is necessary to ensure the continued funding of road maintenance projects throughout the region.



Pattern for Progress Chief Strategy Office March Gallagher presented the findings of Pattern's recent infrastructure report entitled Infrastructure Planning and Investment: A Widening Gap. The report is available at:

<http://pattern-for-progress.org/sites/default/files/2014%20Infrastructure%20report%20FINAL.pdf>



Some key information was presented by Jim Levine, Vice President and General Counsel of Environmental Facilities Corporation, who briefed attendees on EFC's new project funding criteria which no longer prioritizes consent decree communities at the expense of regular infrastructure maintenance. Mr. Levine also identified that EFC funding can be used for road and other infrastructure where improvements would also affect water quality.

FUNDING SOURCES DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE:

FEDERAL SOURCES

US Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers Rural Development funding: the Water and Environmental Loan program serves communities under 10,000 in population with median household income at or below state median with low interest finance for water and wastewater infrastructure. The Community Facilities program provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for communities under 20,000 in population. Both programs have small grant components. For more information www.rurdev.usda.gov/ny

Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce accepts applications four times per year for grant funding. Funds can be used for construction of infrastructure. Projects must create and/or retain jobs and be located in a distressed community. The match is 50% or less depending on level of distress. For more information www.eda.gov or visit the local representatives at www.hudsonvalleyregionalcouncil.org for help in crafting an application.

STATE SOURCES THROUGH THE CONSOLIDATED FUNDING APPLICATION (deadline June 16th). www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov

New York State Empire State Development has Infrastructure Investment grant funding, municipalities are eligible, and the ESD funds can only be 20% of the total project costs. Projects that result in job creation are given preference.

The NYS Office of Community Renewal has NYS Community Development Block Grant funds available for addressing local public infrastructure and public facilities eligible projects including the repair, replacement or expansion of existing systems, construction of new systems into un-served areas and principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons. These projects may also include ancillary public works components such as sidewalks, streets, parking, open space, and publicly-owned utilities.

New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation has Green Innovation Grant Program and Clean Water State Revolving Fund Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grants of up to \$50,000 for communities over 50,000 residents and \$30,000 for smaller communities.



STATE SOURCE (Non-CFA Funding)

New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation provides low-cost loans to local governments for water-quality infrastructure. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund loans for variety of publicly-owned wastewater and water-quality infrastructure including wastewater treatment and collection facilities, stormwater management projects, landfill closures, green infrastructure, decentralized wastewater, reduction of atmospheric deposition, land acquisition for water quality and harbor and estuary restoration/protection projects. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund provides loan capital for treatment plants, distribution mains and storage facilities. More information at www.efc.ny.gov