A significant new Hudson Valley Pattern For Progress report details the alarming extent of deteriorating roads, bridges and water and wastewater systems in seven communities and across the region -- and tallies the massive price tag, billions of dollars, to improve them and ensure reliability.

Just as importantly, "Rebuilding Our Infrastructure: Got A Spare Billion? Actions, Dollars Needed Now," recommends 63 solutions, including potential legislation, uses of cutting-edge technology, and approaches for sharing expertise and emulating successful models across the nation and around the world.

With the support of the Hudson Valley Regional Economic Development Council, Pattern's Center For Housing Solutions provided assistance to assess infrastructure in seven small and mid-sized urban communities: the cities of Kingston, Mount Vernon, Newburgh, Peekskill and Poughkeepsie, and the villages of Brewster and Monticello. Pattern's report arms each community with a wealth of data, ideas and expertise.

The needs in these "Opportunity Areas" are stark: Many roads and bridges urgently need repair or upgrades. Communities have deep, persistent worries about water and wastewater management and safety -- or have facilities that can no longer wait for repairs and upgrades. The price and volume of work necessary to return infrastructure to a "state of good repair" is steep, despite proactive efforts by Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the State Legislature to provide billions in recent state budgets.

The problem, Pattern found, was created by a confluence of factors that include deferred maintenance, financial crunches, growing price tags for repairs, demographic shifts and municipalities' reduced staffing.

The report is available at PatternForProgress.org/reports.

**Upcoming Events**

**MAY 15 - Astorino, Day, Odell headline County Leaders Talk**

Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino, Rockland County Executive Ed Day and Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell will discuss how they push for smart growth, navigate change and address priorities from residents, New York State and Washington, D.C., when they join Hudson Valley Pattern For Progress for a panel discussion May 15 at Pace University in Pleasantville from 7:45-9:30 a.m. (directions to the campus are located on the event page).

County Executives Astorino, Day and Odell drive policy, quality of life, job attraction, transportation and management of tax dollars in constantly evolving communities. They do that while gauging the impact of huge projects such as the Tappan Zee Bridge construction and planned closing of the Indian Point nuclear power plant.

The public and audience members will have an opportunity to help determine topics addressed by the county executives. Questions are welcomed before and during the event via Pattern's Facebook page at Facebook.com/PatternForProgress and on Twitter by tweeting to @HVPattern. They also can be emailed to ssbinske@pfprogress.org.

In addition to Pattern's integration of social media, in a unique move, Pattern has partnered with Pace's Master's of Public Administration Program to have its government students directly question the county leaders as well.

Tickets are $55 for Pattern members and $70 for non-members. Tables of eight and sponsorships are available. For more information or to reserve a ticket, call (845) 565-4900, email Robin DeGroat at rdegroat@pfprogress.org, or visit www.PatternforProgress.org.

Carl Meyer  
President & CEO, T-SEC

Why are you, and your business, based in the Hudson Valley?
T-SEC is a New Windsor-based nonprofit that provides technology and business services to small and medium-sized manufacturers and entrepreneurs to help them grow businesses and create jobs. T-SEC’s originators are retired executives who wanted to keep active and give back to community. We recognized that the manufacturing base needed assistance, and saw an opportunity to help create jobs for the next generation and fill vacant commercial space.

How does your business help quality of life in the valley?
Job growth in the valley will grow not by leaps and bounds, but via entrepreneurs, innovators and crafts people who will move into the valley, make products and provide services. They will have an impact on the economy down the road. We’re trying to bring new, advanced technologies and a vibrant workforce to the valley. They like coming here and living here. If we can help them prosper and grow, they’re ideal for the valley. It’s controlled growth that will have a positive impact on the economy as well as the quality of life.

What new initiative helped your business grow in the past year?
Our partnership with The Accelerator, powered by the Orange County Industrial Development Agency. It enables us to reach entrepreneurs and help establish two incubator spaces, one for fashion design and manufacturing, and one for bottling. Each has four to six entrepreneurs. We’re working on creating two more, one in Middletown for IT services and one in Kingston for artisan food manufacturing.

The valley is constantly changing. What best practice would you share to make the most of that evolution?
Our emphasis on attracting artisans and entrepreneurs. The valley is becoming a desirable place to do business. Quality of life is significant here. We’re looking to attract and support new businesses in the innovation economy so that entrepreneur owners can live and work here.

Mary Beth Bianconi  
Partner & Sr. Project Mgr., Delaware Engineering

Why are you, and your business, based in the Hudson Valley?
As civil engineers, the Hudson Valley is an ideal location. We benefit from strong demand for sustainable municipal infrastructure, a focus on economic-development-driven investment, and ties to the political and financial centers in Albany and New York City.

How does your business help quality of life in the valley?
Delaware Engineering specializes in supporting cost-effective, resilient municipal infrastructure. Water, sewer and drainage systems are the underpinning of quality of life to support existing homes and businesses while also attracting investment that brings employment and an expanded tax base.

What new initiative helped your business grow in the past year?
We are investing our time, talents and financial resources in a number of organizations in the Hudson Valley that have supported the growth of our business, including Pattern for Progress, the Orange County Partnership and the Sullivan County Partnership.

The valley is constantly changing. What best practice would you share to make the most of that evolution?
While the valley is experiencing positive momentum, the state of our infrastructure is generally in decline. Progress in the valley will rely on vibrant communities for which we recommend development of plans to improve, manage and maintain infrastructure.

Briefly describe the Hudson Valley in five years, 2022.
In five years, the valley will have continued to build upon the focus on economic development and the environment, with investments in infrastructure and education to support the workplaces and workforces of the future.

Something fun folks should know about you or your business?
Delaware Engineering personnel are colleagues in work and friends in play. Staff spends time together at the gym or on the road, hunting and fishing, and supporting home-renovation ventures as well as our Make-A-Wish and Habitat for Humanity projects.

Your advice on how to ensure a strong workforce?
Education at all levels must match the current and future needs of business and industry. Short-duration focused technical training programs should be encouraged and celebrated. While STEM is in vogue, strong employees must be creative and capable of clear communication.

What was your first job?
At the age of 12, I taught 3- and 4-year-olds to swim. I continued teaching swimming through high school and college, and have taught hundreds of children and adults, including many people with disabilities, to swim.

Why have you chosen to support Pattern for Progress?
We work passionately with diverse people across many fields to craft infrastructure solutions that benefit communities and the environment. Pattern for Progress’ mission to improve the quality of life in the Hudson Valley aligns perfectly with Delaware Engineering’s purpose.

What else would you like to communicate to Pattern’s membership?
We live in a troubling world; it can be easy to feel powerless to make life better. Membership in Pattern supports a premier public-policy resource resulting in a positive impact on living, working and playing in the Hudson Valley.