

Victor Transportation Systems Plan

Executive Summary

The purpose of the Victor Transportation Systems Plan was to develop a transportation component of the town's Comprehensive Plan update and conduct additional follow-on planning activities, identifying improvements that will provide for the safe, reliable, timely, and efficient movement of people and goods.

The Town of Victor served as the lead agency for the plan and the Genesee Transportation Council (GTC) provided Federal Highway Administration Metropolitan Planning funds for a significant portion of the work conducted.

Background

The Town of Victor has experienced unprecedented residential growth during the past several decades. Expectations are that residential development within the Town will continue during the foreseeable future. As many, if not most, new residents work outside of the Town of Victor, the residential development has contributed significantly to the volume of motor vehicle traffic traveling through the Town, especially morning and evening commuter traffic along the Route 96 corridor.

In addition to residential growth, significant commercial development during the past decade has occurred along the NYS Route 96 corridor between the NYS Thruway and the Town's northern boundary. This development has been at and in close proximity to Eastview Mall, a regional shopping center and major traffic generator. The additional commercial development has resulted not only in increased traffic congestion on State highways and local roadways in the vicinity of the Mall and nearby commercial shopping plazas, but also along the section of Route 96 that transects the Village of Victor as motorists travel from other parts of the Town and adjoining communities through the Village to these shopping destinations. Traffic congestion has become a major issue and concern in both the Town and Village of Victor.



High volumes of traffic and traffic congestion not only slows the movement of vehicles, increases accident rates and creates safety issues, but also diminishes the quality of life for Town and Village residents. To address traffic-related issues and concerns, a traffic analysis of the existing transportation network was undertaken to identify existing deficiencies. This analysis included considering projected future development and associated traffic issues that would result from

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the anticipated development. The results of the analysis were used to identify and evaluate possible measures that could be undertaken to mitigate existing and anticipated issues and concerns, improve safety, and to allow for the improved movement of people and goods.

Approach

Comprehensive Plan

As part of the development of the Comprehensive Plan, a transportation component was produced that included an evaluation of the transportation system with respect to:

- An inventory of the existing transportation conditions
- An assessment of needs and opportunities
- A series of recommended improvements and strategies

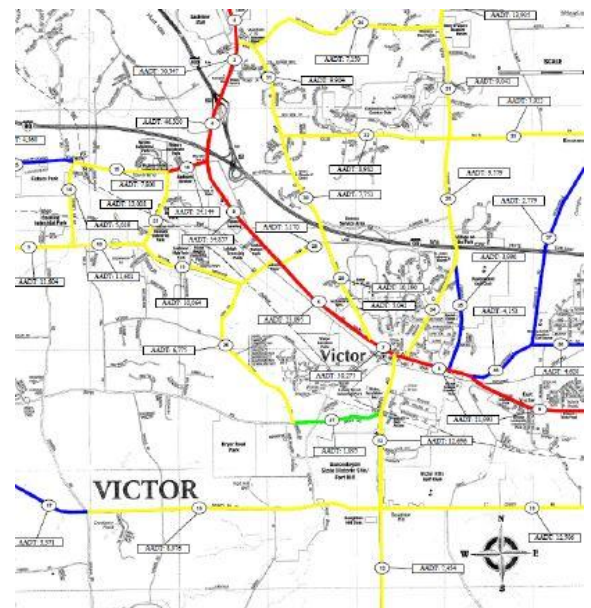
The existing conditions inventory was conducted to identify the needs and opportunities of the transportation network which were then used to develop improvement strategies. Recommended improvements included the implementation of new policies and regulatory strategies as well as specific projects.

A Steering Committee comprised of stakeholders from the Town and Village of Victor, Ontario County, New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), GTC, and others reviewed and provided comment throughout the development of the draft Comprehensive Plan. In addition, public workshops and a hearing were held to provide opportunities for questions and answers by affected parties, and written comments were accepted throughout the process.

Inventory of Conditions

The inventory and associated assessment of Victor's transportation network included the following components:

- Overview of the transportation network
- Physical conditions of roadways and bridges
- Operating characteristics on roadways and bridges
- NYS Thruway Interchange 45 and I-490 Interchange 29
- Public parking
- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Public transportation
- Regulatory framework
- Planned improvements



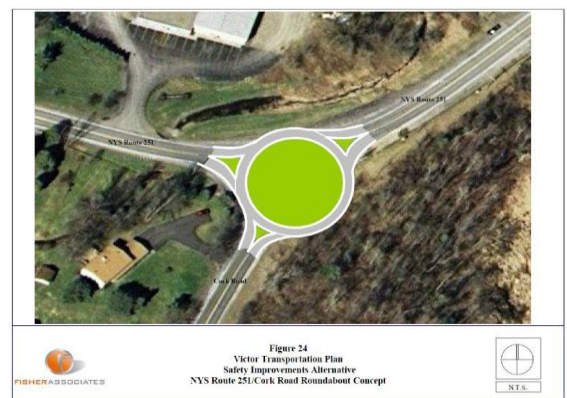
Assessment of Needs and Opportunities

Based on the inventory of conditions, needs and opportunities were identified. The primary transportation issues to be addressed include:

- Improving conditions on roadways with fair or poor pavement conditions and the five bridges deemed structurally deficient.
- Addressing the cause(s) of crashes at the seven Safety Deficient Locations identified through a town-wide assessment of rates, types, and severity.
- Increasing management and operations capabilities through additional deployment and coordination of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technologies along the NYS Route 96 corridor, as well as connection to the Regional Traffic Operations Center.
- Installing additional sidewalks to improve connectivity and leveraging the existing segments of the Lehigh Valley and Auburn multi-use trails to increase accessibility to activity centers and recreational sites.
- Enhancing County Area Transit System (CATS) operations to better serve employers in the hamlet of Fishers and the Finger Lakes Community College Science and Technology Campus Center on NYS Route 251.
- Assuring sufficient capacity to accommodate future growth consistent with the land use component of the draft Comprehensive Plan.
- Revising land use policies and regulations to more fully accommodate mixed uses, bicycle and pedestrian provisions, and appropriate parking requirements.

Four scenarios – 1.) No-Build, 2.) Improved Operations on NYS Route 96, 3.) Improved Safety on Alternate Routes, and 4.) I-490 Interchange 29 Reconfiguration – were assessed based on the following criteria:

- Cohesiveness with proposed land uses
- Advances proposed policies and regulatory strategies
- Provides benefits to physical condition
- Provides benefits to capacity
- Provides benefits to pedestrians
- Ease of implementation
- Cost



The No Build scenario incorporates the proposed new land uses and future development without any improvements to the transportation network and was used as the basis for comparison of the other scenarios. The remaining scenarios are referred to as “build” scenarios. Based on the assessment, it was determined that the component projects of the three build scenarios

advanced in combination with other strategies would best address the primary transportation issues.

Recommended Improvements and Strategies

The improvements and strategies identified (inclusive of the three non-No-Build scenarios) are presented below. An implementation summary including required actions, responsible parties, and priority (e.g., ongoing, short-term, mid-term, or long-term) was also developed.

- Improve operations on NYS Route 96 through coordination and updating of signals along NYS Route 96 along with related ITS communications strategy.
- Improve safety on alternate routes that commuters use to bypass delay through improvements (e.g., standard T intersection, roundabout, etc.) at the NYS Route 251/Cork Road and Cork Road/Modock Road intersections.
- Reconfigure I-490 Interchange 29 to address safety and capacity deficiencies via an improved design, potentially a Diverging Diamond Interchange.
- Implement Travel Demand Strategies by promoting and encouraging ridesharing, public transit, and bicycling.
- Encourage CATS to implement the recommendations in the *Ontario CATS Fixed Route Evaluation* that was completed in February 2010.
- Amend sections of the Town's land use regulations to support and facilitate improved transportation and land use connections, and encourage the Village to do so as well.
- Support Victor Hiking Trails, Inc., Walkable Communities Committee, and other partners to assist in the implementation of projects that improve connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Continue the Town's preventive maintenance program for roadways under its jurisdiction.
- Install speed limit signs along Phillips Road between NYS Route 251 and County Road 42 where there are none currently.

Follow-On Activities

Upon completion of the draft Comprehensive Plan, the Victor Town Board decided to conduct additional work in three key areas: Growth Management/Land Use, Economic Development, and Transportation. The Town commissioned three transportation-related work products which built upon the transportation component of the draft Comprehensive Plan:

1. Local Road Striping Review of the High Street Corridor with No Passing Zone Logs: Resulted in a report that clearly identifies the existing conditions, analysis criteria, and areas that have striping that is inconsistent with design standards.

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2. Assessment of Future Transportation System Needs:

Resulted in a report that assesses the projected capacity of roadway segments and intersections based on developments that were proposed or advanced since the completion of the transportation component of the draft Comprehensive Plan.

3. Mall Area Traffic Study:

Resulted in a report that identifies several alternatives to remedy the traffic issues around the mall area and address the potential for gridlock within the mall area during seasonal high traffic periods.

A Traffic Task Force that included elected officials from the Town and Village, representatives from their respective Planning Boards, NYSDOT, and GTC was convened in March 2013. The Traffic Task Force met several times to review and analyze the work completed both as part of and following the completion of the transportation component of the draft Comprehensive Plan.

Based on this review and analysis, the Traffic Task Force further refined the previous work by developing detailed recommendations for specific roadway segments and evaluating each with respect to its projected benefits, emphasizing safety and reducing delay. Associated funding options were also identified.

The Traffic Task Force's findings were provided to the Town Board for its consideration and, upon revisions proposed by the Town Board, the findings were presented in a public forum on October 28, 2013.

Summary

Victor has been and continues to be blessed with a large number of residential, retail, commercial, and light industrial growth opportunities. Along with this growth comes the potential for transportation impacts that can negatively affect quality of life and future economic opportunities. By initially developing the Victor Transportation Systems Plan as a component of the Comprehensive Plan process and then conducting additional activities, the resulting transportation recommendations – improvements and strategies – were developed cooperatively among all stakeholders and fully coordinated with growth management and land use goals and priorities.