

HERKIMER ONEIDA COUNTIES BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE



WELCOME TO THE BAPAC

HOCTS established the Herkimer-Oneida Counties Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BAPAC) in 2000 to provide input and advise HOCTS during the development of the updated two-county Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and the two-county Bicycle Touring Map.

BAPAC presently serves as an important public forum for open communication and information exchange between HOCTS, other state agencies, federal agencies, advocates and citizens regarding bicycling and pedestrian issues across the two-county area.

Members of this committee have the opportunity to meet periodically to discuss issues that affect the bicycling and walking community.

BAPAC committee members are asked to advise HOCTS on changes or updates that may be needed in the Long - Range Transportation Plan, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and Bicycle Touring Map.

BAPAC'S VISION

"To improve the quality of life through the development of a safe and enjoyable regional transportation and recreational system that is readily accessible to bicyclists and pedestrians."



WHAT IS HOCTS?

Transportation planning in Herkimer and Oneida Counties is carried out by the Herkimer- Oneida Counties Transportation Study (HOCTS). HOCTS is a cooperative effort by local, state, and federal agencies for conducting transportation planning activities in Herkimer and Oneida Counties. HOCTS was created during 1963 (in compliance with the Federal Highway Act of 1962) in order to establish transportation goals and objectives on a local basis. The Herkimer-Oneida Counties Governmental Policy and Liaison Committee (GP&L) has been designated as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation by the Governor of New York.

HOCTS shares responsibility with the state to develop cooperative transportation plans and programs for the two-county area. HOCTS also provides a forum for the identification of transportation needs by area residents and organizations.

The principal decision making committees of HOCTS are the Governmental Policy and Liaison Committee (GP&L) and the Transportation Planning Committee (TPC). The GP&L has final approval and authority on all major transportation decisions, policies, and programs developed through the HOCTS organization.

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Advisory Groups

Advisory Groups such as BAPAC provide public input into the transportation planning process considering transportation issues from the user's perspective.

Advisory groups may direct ideas and recommendations pertinent to HOCTS for consideration.

Advisory groups may exist independently of the HOCTS structure, thus the actions and opinions of Advisory Group members do not necessarily represent those of HOCTS.

Advisory Group membership is comprised primarily of private citizens of representatives of interest groups, advocacy group's and/or others with a special interest or knowledge related to transportation concerns.

Examples of activities that BAPAC could be involved in may include:

- Identifying future short and long-term improvement strategies for development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- Providing recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian improvements to state and local agencies.
- Advising law enforcement agencies on issues, education, and enforcement of pertinent existing laws and ordinances that pertain to bicycling and pedestrian issues.
- Providing ideas on encouraging bicycle use and walking as viable alternative means of transportation.

What is HOCTS's Role in Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning?

As part of its mission, HOCTS seeks to provide transportation alternatives and in particular, to make the Herkimer-Oneida County region more accessible to bicyclists and pedestrians. Reflecting federal directives, HOCTS has placed renewed emphasis on intermodal projects that provide the traveling public with alternatives to the personal automobile.

Another way HOCTS carries out this goal is by managing federal aid funding for bike/ped studies and projects, and by coordinating the planning efforts of the local governments. HOCTS adopted the 2002 Herkimer-Oneida Counties Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan which serves to direct the implementation of future bicycle and pedestrian projects and programs.

The HOCTS staff also provides technical and planning assistance upon request to various member agencies, project consultants and the community at-large.

If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.

- **Chinese Proverb**