

James Bosley Email 4/17/2020 – Background, Easements, To Do Items

Does not include SRT Information - I see you are looking to inventory your resources and get organized and I commend you on that. I do not mean to leave anything out, but I am going to skip over the Verdantique trail, and the Feasibility Study for the SRT within the City of Plattsburgh (and all other “SRT” efforts, both past and present) and instead start from when I became involved.

J. Bosley SRTG - As a freelancer (probably in **2011**) I did some GIS mapping for *Victoria Duley* when she was with SUNY TAC doing a preliminary study which helped to lead to the Feasibility Study for the Saranac River Trail Greenway (this is a separate feasibility study than the one that was done for the Saranac River Trail in the City). A few months after I started working for the County in *2012*, Laurie Williams reached out to Rodney Brown for help with trail expansion efforts and Rodney assigned me to help the Saranac River Trail Valley Greenway Corridor (an informal group) which later became the Saranac River Trail Greenway, Inc. (a corporation on file with New York State, which also has 501c3 status with the IRS). **My role** was (and probably will continue to be, despite upcoming changes in my department) to administer those grants for which a municipality (such as the County of Clinton) had to be the recipient of the funds and which help accomplish expansion of the SRTG trail (which in turn benefits all County residents). For practicality and convenience my office address is used as the SRTG’s official address (one was needed for incorporation, tax, and banking purposes) and I maintain a file box which contains pretty much everything having to do with the SRTG. More recently the *Town of Plattsburgh Planning Department* has done a lot of work (I mean a LOT of work, and they deserve recognition) to help the advancement of the SRTG and has produced a number of documents. I believe I have a copy of all of the final documents produced by the Town of Plattsburgh for the SRTG in the file box here as well. The ***SRTG Feasibility Study and the preliminary design for the “Blue Trails” section of the SRTG were both New York State Department of State grant projects*** which I administered (Melissa McManus administered the larger grants which included these two projects). I have the files and maps produced as a result of these two projects, and we can print them as needed. I think we have tried to get a copy of the feasibility study to all of the board members, but if Alan or anyone else needs one, please let me know. As far as data in GIS format, I do have a shapefile from Alta Planning for “SRTG_Alignment_151119” from the SRTG Feasibility Study, but the files from ***MJ Engineering for the Blue Trails preliminary design are in a CADD format*** which I cannot open. *However, all of the maps (and published planning documents) that were produced for both projects I can print, and these maps would be useful for board members meeting with landowners to ask for easements.* Unfortunately the file sizes are awfully large which makes it impossible for me to email most of these files to any of you, but if anyone would like a digital copy of them you can stop in and see me with a flash drive or Jesse may be able to share them with you through an ftp server, drop box, or Google drive (I have trouble getting County permission to do such things because of IT security concerns). I think that speaks to #1 and #2 from your email Jesse.

#3 current SRTG board projects: I would recommend going back through your previous meetings’ minutes to get a complete picture, but just trying to go from memory I **think you as a board were looking to get request-for-funding letters out to big employers near the trail, find an additional (beyond the \$5,000 awarded from Clinton County tobacco settlement funds) \$5,000+ for improvements to the Treadwells Mills section (which I think is what the AARP**

application is about), and acquire easements for the Blue Trails section so that I can apply for the next NYSDOT TAP grant for final design and construction when that becomes available. I am still concerned about the **20% match requirement** for that NYSDOT grant (roughly \$300,000 would be needed to cover the match), but we can save that topic for later. *If you really want to look at all incomplete corridors, it would be best to look at the preferred alignment indicated in the feasibility study and compare it to what has been built/designated thus far.* I think Nick might have information related to the improvements made in Saranac, and I think the shoulder on the Hardscrabble Road was being widened by the County Highway Department. I think there was something Sean may have mentioned in a recent meeting about maybe the Imperial Dam removal and/or SUNY doing something which may accomplish some of the Blue Trails section. I think Sean was working on getting the **various board member terms back on track with the original staggering**, except going with January to December terms instead of July to June terms. #4 & #5: I will stay out of those as they are purely board matters.

I don't know if I will be able to get your minutes from yesterday out to you today, but I wanted to at least address the topic of easements.

Attached are six files which I think are relevant:

- May 9, 2018:** Clinton County passed a **resolution authorizing acceptance of a trail easement across the property of MA Jerry.**
- July 25, 2018:** Clinton County passed a **resolution authorizing an MOU agreement between the County, the SRTG, Inc., the Town of Plattsburgh and other involved municipalities** outlining the responsibilities of each in advancing the SRTG trail.
- July 25, 2018:** The **MOU agreement is fully executed. The document includes a statement that the County will accept trail easements for the SRTG from private property owners.**
- Sept. 24, 2018:** The **easement deed for the section of the Treadwells Mills Connector** which is on the property of **MA Jerry is accepted by the County of Clinton and filed with the County Clerk.** This easement deed can serve as an example document for further easements.
- March 5, 2019:** NYSDOT sends a letter to the Town of Plattsburgh with an **approved permit for access underneath I-87 between the Treadwells Mills Connector section and the City of Plattsburgh parcel where the compost facility** is located within the Town of Plattsburgh which is near where the proposed Blue Trails section terminates. This document may also serve as a useful example/template for sections of the trail within State rights-of-way.
- March 6, 2019:** An agreement between the SRTG, Inc. and Lower Saranac Hydro Partners, LLC is fully executed allowing the public access area regulated under FERC license No. 4114-NY to be made part of the SRTG trail system. The agreement states "This MOU shall automatically terminate if SRTG does not successfully pass a resolution incorporating the Hydro Partners Property into the Trail within one year of execution of this MOU." Going back through your minutes from the last year, I do not see where a vote was made to officially adopt that section into the SRTG. Did you

as a board officially incorporate that section of trail, or were you waiting to accomplish the improvements first?

Thank you,

-James