# Finding Rosendale: Newsletter #1

*Ulster County Transportation Council*

## Finding Rosendale Public Information Meeting

On November 20, 2014, a Public Information Meeting on the Ulster County Transportation Council's (UCTC) "Finding Rosendale" Project was held at the Town of Rosendale Recreation Center.

The well-attended meeting, conducted by Ted Kolankowski of Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. (B&L) and Dorene Warner of W Design, was meant to introduce the project to the community, provide information about existing wayfinding resources and past studies, and seek input from the public on the project's direction.

The presentation introduced the UCTC as project sponsors and the Project Advisory Committee representatives, along with the consulting firms, as the project team.

Connections between the WVRT, Downtown, and parking areas were discussion topics at the "Finding Rosendale" PIM

The slideshow described the objective of the project to increase economic opportunities in the community by improving circulation, connectivity and wayfinding between recreation areas, public parking lots and commercial properties in and around the Town center in a manner that respects private properties.

The schedule, scope, and basis for the project were also discussed by the consultants.

## Heard at the Public Information Meeting

- Hardenberg Park used to be a town "swimming hole" on the Rondout Creek
- Main Street is unsafe for bicyclists & pedestrians and is lacking crosswalks at key crossing points
- There are many downtown events and businesses and the Theater is becoming more popular, but Downtown has too little parking.
- Besides the Trestle, the Town's heritage is strongly influenced by the D&H Canal and by the cement industry.

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### Upcoming Milestones

- Public Visioning Workshop —March 2015
- Draft Plan & Wayfinding Concept —March-April 2015
- Public Comment Meeting —April 2015
- Final Draft & Wayfinding Concept —May 2015 (Project Complete)
- Implementation—Grant Application

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# Field Visit and Data Collection

Site reconnaissance was conducted by Ted Kolankowski and Bob Murphy of B&L on Friday, October 3, 2014. They set out to better understand the connections between the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail (WVRT), parking areas, and Downtown Rosendale from the perspective of pedestrians and bicyclists.

With a focus oriented toward the parking areas of the Town Recreation Center, Binnewater Road, Willow Kiln Park, and Creek Locks Park, the team from B&L examined ways to:

- Get motorists to the four main parking areas and downtown;
- Get WVRT visitors to Downtown and the Town Recreation Center; and
- Get bicyclists from the four parking areas to Downtown and the WVRT.

The field visit in October 2014 examined biking and hiking connections between parking areas and attractions in Rosendale.

# What is Wayfinding?

It's a system that helps a user on their journey to find a location.

- A set of architectural or design elements that help orientate users (pedestrians, motorists, and cyclists) in their current state and directs them to another place.

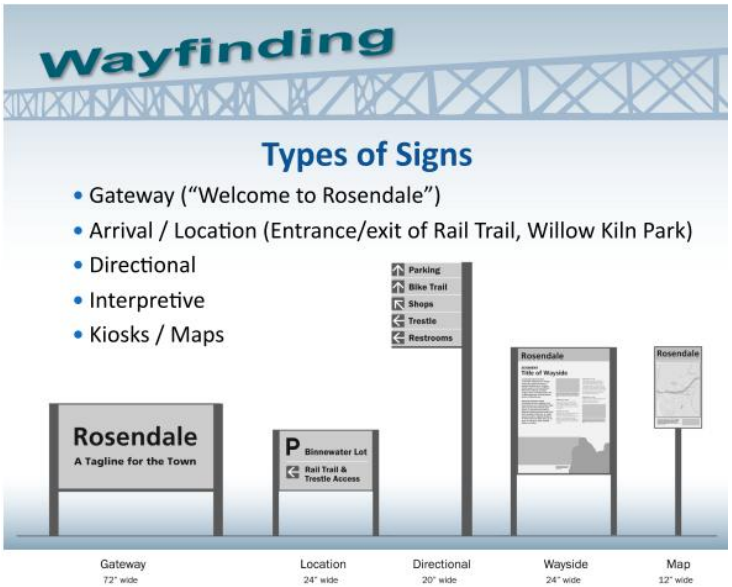
Sensory Cues:

- Narrowing of a street or pathway to slow traffic
- Striping or painted symbols on the street to guide traffic flow
- Signs
- Color
- Traffic signals
- Lights
- Landscaping
- Activities and Pedestrian use

Types of Signs

- Gateway ("Welcome to Rosendale")
- Arrival / Location (Entrance / Exit of WVRT, Willow Kiln Park)
- Directional
- Interpretive
- Kiosks / Maps

Wayfinding—"A set of architectural or design elements that help orientate users (pedestrians, motorists, and cyclists) in their current state and directs them to another place."



# Key Field Visit Discoveries

Creek Locks Park

- Yet undeveloped, it is to be a Little League baseball field
- Also contains a long stretch of very accessible shorelines in an attractive setting
- Busy connection at the top of the slope to NY-32 & Downtown

D&H Canal Tow Path

- Appears to be ample space on north side of Creek Locks Rd for a bike path
- Would extend through the signalized intersection at Route 32 onto the D&H Canal Tow Path and through Downtown to the Keator Avenue intersection on Main St.

Fairview Avenue Loop by Hardenberg Park

Welcome Space South of the Trestle

- Approaching the Trestle from the South, a large "welcome" space exists with a natural gateway formed by the rock cut
- This site could be used to create an interesting bicycle "rest stop"
- Could capture trail users and informing them how to get to Rosendale amenities and businesses

Fairview Avenue

- Provides a potential unique alternative connection between Keator Ave and the WVRT
- Loops under the Trestle from its southern abutment

> "Creek Locks Park contains a long stretch of accessible shorelines in an attractive setting."

# Review of Previous Planning Documents

Several documents related to the Finding Rosendale Project were studied by the consulting team for references and recommendations that pertained to wayfinding and establishing better connections between the recreation and business resources of Rosendale. These documents included:

- Town of Rosendale Comprehensive Plan
- Williams Lake Project Final Environmental Impact Statement
- Shawangunk—Joppenbergh Public Planning Process
- Ulster County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan

How do get from here to there?

## Ulster County Transportation Council

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Ulster County is providing funding for the study through Ulster County Transportation Council's Unified Planning Work Program to develop feasible planning and design concepts that improve circulation, accessibility, parking, and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists in and around the NYS Route 213 or "Main Street District" of the Town of Rosendale.

The plan, nicknamed "Finding Rosendale", will be consistent with complete streets concepts as well as community goals and expectations.

For more information, contact Brian Slack at bsla@co.ulster.ny.us or Ted Kolankowski at tkolankowski@bartonandloguidice.com.

# Your Input is Still Needed!

How can we better connect Rosendale's recreation and economic resources?

Where should trail users be directed to park when visiting Rosendale?

A. Willow Kiln Park
B. Binnewater Road
C. Rosendale Rec Center
D. Creek Locks Park

Are there places where connections between Main Street and the D&H Canal Tow Path can be made?

Where could a new vehicular access point to the Willow Kiln parking area be?

What is the best alternative route between Downtown and the Rosendale Trestle/Wallkill Valley Rail Trail?