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**2000 ANNUAL REPORT**

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**BROOME COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING  
and  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**submitted to:**

**The Honorable: *Jeffrey P. Kraham, County Executive***

**The Honorable: *Daniel L. Schofield, Chairman*  
*Members, Broome County Legislature***

## **DIVISION OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

This section of the Department of Planning and Economic Development's annual report describes the principal accomplishments of the Division of Planning and Economic Development for the calendar year 2000. The activities of the Department's other divisions, the Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC) and the Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study (BMTS) will be reported in subsequent sections of this report.

Essentially, the year 2000 can be regarded as one of productivity and stability for the Division of Planning and Economic Development. The productivity of the Division is manifest in the various projects and products identified in this portion of the department's annual report. The Division's stability is best evidenced by the fact that, for the first time in several years, and, most specifically, since the Division was reestablished in January, 1997, its personnel roster remained unchanged for the entire year. This situation contributed to the development of a trained staff nucleus whose integration of talents enabled Departmental leadership to more clearly focus on the Department's overall mission: the promotion of the sound and orderly economic and physical growth and development of Broome County and its' constituent municipalities.

To this end, the following accomplishments are reported for year 2000:

### **Comprehensive Planning**

The Department of Planning and Economic Development made significant progress during 2000 in addressing an issue long considered a priority by the Department and its Planning and Economic Development Board, the development of a comprehensive plan for the County. Interested parties both inside and outside county government have consistently supported the creation of a county plan as essential to the continued economic growth and development of Broome County.

With the formation of the Broome County Economic Development Council in late 2000, the continuing sophistication of the Planning Department's Geographic Information System (GIS) and the current availability of funding resources for this purpose, the Department is well-positioned to coordinate efforts to develop a plan designed to establish the framework for an economic development strategy to guide the County into the twenty-first century.

During 2000, the Planning Department applied for and received one of the largest grants awarded by New York State through its Quality Communities Demonstration Program for the development of a Broome County Plan for Sustainable Economic Development. Additionally, this initiative will be supported financially through county funding as well as contributions from other area development agencies.

An essential element in the creation of the economic development plan will be to seek out and contract with a well-qualified, professional consulting firm to undertake the project. The consulting firm will be asked to identify, analyze and address issues considered critical to the future development of the county including, but not limited to, such areas as:

- Workforce development and recruitment
- Marketing
- Targeting industries
- Corporate/industrial park development
- Revitalization of urban areas and brownfields
- Infrastructure (including telecommunications)
- Quality of life
- Housing
- Land-use regulations
- Government relations and support

The consultant will analyze and prioritize issues such as those listed above and will work with county leaders to develop a blueprint for action that the community will support and implement.

The consulting firm will be guided in its efforts by a Steering Committee consisting of representatives of the Broome County Economic Development Council, the Broome County Executive's Office, the Broome County Legislature, the Broome County Planning and Economic Advisory Board and selected others appropriate to the task.

In this regard, one of the initial steps in this process is the drafting of a Request for Proposals for potential consultants. The RFP describes the background, purpose and scope of services for the project. The Broome County Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, Ms. Julie Sweet, is the chairperson of the subcommittee of the Broome County Economic Development Council responsible for drafting the RFP. At year's end, this process had commenced and a final RFP is scheduled for issuance by the end of the first quarter, 2001.

This activity represents the first tangible movement toward the development of a county-wide plan since the late 1970's.

### **Land-use Reviews**

New York State General Municipal 239 (l) & (m) mandates county review of designated land-use and zoning proposals within the county. During 2000, the Division of Planning and Economic Development reviewed and rendered advisory opinions on 243 such proposals. This represents an increase of forty reviews over the year 1999 total of 203. A complete list of these projects is included as an addendum to this report.

### **Capital Improvement Program**

As mandated by the Broome County Charter and Administrative Code, the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, with technical assistance from planning staff, reviewed, evaluated and rated county departmental requests for projects to be included in the county's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Planning Department's year 2001 recommendations were completed on schedule and submitted to the Director of Budget and Research for review and final action by his office and by the Capital Programs Advisory Committee for ultimate inclusion in the 2001-2006 Capital Improvement Program. As a member of the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee, the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development participates in the final review process.

### **Geographic Information System (GIS) Development**

The Planning Department continued to lead the development of a comprehensive GIS for Broome County. This work furthers the GIS Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan authored in June 1999.

During 2000, a GIS User Group for Broome County was established to ensure that all county GIS efforts are coordinated for maximum efficiency and effectiveness. The User Group, comprised of staff from Planning, EMC, BMTS, Real Property, IT, Emergency Services and Environmental Health, met throughout the year to address GIS issues.

In Spring 2000, the staff of the Planning Department and the Environmental Management Council received GIS training from the Binghamton University Department of Geography. This training covered everything from the basic use of the latest GIS software to programming techniques that enable Planning Staff to create custom GIS applications.

GIS development in 2000 had two main components, creation of data layers and acquisition of hardware and software. To pay for this work, the Planning Department secured a \$61,193 grant from the NYSARA Local Government Records Management program. The grant funds will be used to acquire a powerful GIS workstation, a network server, new software (including internet mapping software that will be deployed during 2001), consulting services and additional training for County staff.

Using NYSARA funds, the Planning Department contracted with the Geography Department of Binghamton University for the creation of GIS data layers and GIS applications. The BU graduate students will assemble digital and paper maps of roads, streams and natural features, water and sewer districts, zoning, town boundaries, and Census geography. This information will be converted to GIS files in a consistent format. When this work is completed in 2001, the backbone of the GIS will be in place.

One interesting GIS initiative of 2000 was the development of a redistricting program using the 2000 Census data. Planning Staff member Douglas English has begun development of a user-friendly interface for the GIS software so that election officials can work directly with Census data and computer maps to draw new legislative boundaries. This program should be in final form in early 2001, and it is anticipated that Tioga County will use it as well as Broome officials.

### **Town of Lisle Comprehensive Plan**

In 2000 the Department of Planning completed the draft comprehensive plan for the Town of Lisle. This is the first plan in the history of the Town of Lisle, and was a collaborative effort between the Town Board, the Town Planning Board, the Broome County Health Department, BMTS and the Planning Department.

The number one goal of the plan is to 'Preserve the Rural Character of Lisle'. Additional goals include the consideration of additional land use regulations, agricultural protections, protection of the environmental resources of the town, improvement of the building permit law, and improvement of the condition of the housing stock. The Town of Lisle Town Board adopted the plan on March 8, 2001.

### **Wastewater Management**

For several years, the issue of centralization or consolidation of sanitary wastewater management systems within the county has been an issue of concern and debate among area political and business leaders. Many of the apparent deficiencies in the existing systems now

operating in the county, including inadequate capacity, declining infrastructure and jurisdictional conflicts have given rise in some quarters to the notion that the county government should play a more prominent and coordinative role in wastewater management.

The Department of Planning and Economic Development has consistently been an active participant in discussions and analyses of this issue. During the 1990's, in addition to sponsoring a Wastewater Needs Assessment Study conducted by two local engineering firms, the Department coordinated the activities of the Broome County Wastewater Planning Commission, a consortium of public and private citizens created to address county-wide wastewater issues.

Accordingly, with increasing evidence of a rapidly growing consensus in many segments of the county that wastewater management be viewed as a county-wide problem, this Department coordinated a public forum on wastewater management, hosted by county government, on August 10, 2000. Substantial sentiment for some type of direct county involvement was voiced by representatives of several constituent municipalities at that forum. As a result, the current county administration instructed the Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development to coordinate county efforts on this issue and to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) from professional consultants to conduct a detailed study of wastewater management alternatives for the county.

The RFP was issued in early December and proposals from four consulting firms were received by the December 29 submission deadline date. Selection of the consultant in early 2001 is to be made by the Broome County Legislature's Economic Development and Planning Committee and the consultant's progress will be monitored and guided by a steering committee of selected county officials.

### **Broome Corporate Park**

The Department monitors the county's interests and contractual obligations at the Broome Corporate Park in the Town of Conklin. It also provides any assistance requested by the professional development agencies in their respective efforts to bring corporate entities as clients to the Park.

During 2000, the Department coordinated a Corporate Park hydrological (drainage) study conducted by a local engineering firm. The study was a requirement imposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as a condition for the issuance of a Freshwater Wetlands Permit to the county when the Park was initially constructed. The purpose of the study was to insure the continued integrity of the New York State designated wetlands within the Park's boundaries and to insure consistent drainage from the Park as it neared full development. The study was completed in 2000 and has tentative DEC approval. Final approval, which will satisfy the county's contractual obligation in this regard, is anticipated in early 2001.

### **Economic Development Resource Center**

Since the Department serves as the principle repository for demographic, land use and other geographic data within the county, the county government's increased direct involvement in economic development significantly expands the Department's role as a resource center for Broome County's enhanced Economic Development Program.

Substantial data collection and analysis, considered critical to support the county's accelerated economic development efforts, continued in year 2000 and includes such information as the identification and evaluation of available or potential industrial sites, the adequacy and capacity of existing transportation systems, public utilities, labor characteristics, quality-of-life issues and financial and incentive programs.

It is expected that the Department will continue to provide the research and informational requirements in support of the professional economic development community to insure the continued economic growth of the county for the foreseeable future. In this regard, Planning staff has regularly met with officials of the Broome County Industrial Development Agency and other development agencies throughout 2000 in order to more clearly define the Department's specific role in the County's overall economic development program.

Indicative of the Department's more involved role in direct economic development was the appointment of Commissioner Julie Sweet as the County Executive's representative to the Board of the recently formed Broome County Economic Development Council, a select group of public and private citizens charged with charting the long-term economic development strategy for the county. This group currently functions through the Broome County Chamber of Commerce.

### **Grantsmanship**

The Planning Department provided technical assistance to the Office for Aging for their successful 2000 application to the New York Small Cities Program. The grant will provide \$600,000 for the construction of a much needed senior center to serve the towns of Triangle, Lisle, Nanticoke, and Barker. The Planning Department provided maps, photographs, and other input for the application that helped document the need for a new center.

The Planning Department was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the New York State Quality Communities Program for a Comprehensive Plan for Sustainable Economic Development. This was one of the largest awards in the State, and will enable Broome County to hire a consultant team to coordinate this effort. The Plan for Sustainable Economic Development is the first county-wide planning effort since the late 1970's. This project will be augmented by the \$61,193 GIS development project funded by NYSARA grant funds.

As part of our economic development efforts, the Planning Department also prepared an application for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funds for the creation of a brownfields revolving loan fund. The application requests \$1,000,000 in federal funds for the clean up of hazardous materials found on public or privately held sites within the County. If funded, the program is designed to return abandoned or underutilized industrial sites to productive use. An announcement from the EPA is expected in early 2001.

The Planning Department is also serving as facilitator of a \$50,000 grant from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and a \$10,000 grant from the Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board, both awarded to Broome County to establish a Farmland Protection Plan for the County. The study is being implemented by the Cooperative Extension of Broome County. The Planning Department is providing administrative, cartographic and other technical assistance to the implementing agency. Completion of the Farmland Protection Plan is anticipated by June, 2001.

In addition to the foregoing, the Department provided varying levels of technical assistance to several county departments, municipalities and outside agencies in their respective grantsmanship efforts.

### **Census 2000**

In 1999, a Complete Count Committee was established to coordinate the 2000 decennial census. The Complete Count Committee was a collaborative effort between local government, the Census Bureau, local and regional planners, and other community representatives to enhance data collection, recruiting and promotional activities. Planning Commissioner Julie Sweet was chairman of the Complete Count Committee.

In 2000, the Complete Count Committee coordinated Census marketing and outreach through promotional events, staffing of Questionnaire Assistance Centers, and media relations. The result of this effort was a 72% response rate for Broome County. This compares to a statewide rate of 63% and a national rate of 67%. The Town of Chenango had the highest response rate at 82%, and the Town of Vestal was a close second at 81%. The towns of Chenango, Colesville, Conklin, Kirkwood, Triangle, and Windsor all met or exceeded their target rate as established by the Census Bureau. These higher returns mark a reversal of a three-decade decline of Census response rates.

The Census Bureau plans to begin releasing the results of the 2000 Census early next year. More information about the Census can be found at their web site: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

### **Empire Zone**

Governor George Pataki announced a complete overhaul of the Economic Development Zone program in 2000. The most visible change was a new name for the program: Empire Zones. With the name change came major new incentives for businesses within the Zone. For qualifying businesses, Empire Zones can become virtually 'tax-free' zones.

In addition to the tax incentives, the Empire Zone now has a revolving loan fund for zone businesses. The loan fund was created through an initial public offering to private investors. The Zone Administrative Board approved its first loans from the new fund in 2000.

To help announce these new incentives, Planning Staff launched a web site for the Broome County Empire Zone. Located at [www.broomezone.com](http://www.broomezone.com), the web site has information on the new incentives, a description of the local economic base, and complete maps of the Broome Empire Zone. Chief Planner Frank Evangelisti serves on the administrative board of the Empire Zone.

### **Airport Corridor**

One of the major planning studies continuing in the Department of Planning and Economic Development during 2000 was a land-use analysis of the Airport Corridor. This area has long been considered by planning and economic development officials as a potential area for significant future development. With the imminent extension of public water and sanitary sewer services throughout this corridor, the Department, in consultation with the municipalities in this area, is examining the potential impacts of such public improvements on land-use patterns along the corridor.

During the past year, Planning staff worked with the water system design consultant to identify existing and future water demand along the proposed water route. The department participated in meetings between the consultant and communities affected by the water project. During 2001 the department will assist the consultant in assessing alternatives for the sewer system and will help to identify the alternative that best meets the needs of the county, affected municipalities and residents.

### **Agricultural Reviews**

During 2000 the Department of Planning and Economic Development concluded its review of Agricultural District #4, which covers all or parts of the Towns of Sanford, Windsor, Colesville, Fenton, Kirkwood, Conklin, Binghamton, Chenango, Maine, Union and Vestal.

The Agricultural District reviews are mandated under Article 25AA of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law. The intent of the law is to preserve, protect and encourage the development and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products within designated districts in each county. Broome County has three such districts. The review is conducted to measure the effectiveness of the District with respect to its compliance with the intent of the law and to modify its boundaries, adding or deleting individual parcels, as necessary.

Such District reviews are conducted on an eight-year cycle. The next review, Agricultural District #5, commences in 2001.

### **Construction Report**

The Department of Planning and Economic Development compiled the Broome County Construction Report for 1999. The report is an annual product which provides building permit activity within the various county municipalities and is an indicator of growth patterns and trends. It is a useful tool for individuals in government and business who are involved with land-use planning, infrastructure improvement, housing and economic development.

### **Cartography**

The Planning Department continued to serve as the cartographic center for the county, servicing the public and other departments/agencies by providing cartographic technical assistance and through the sales and distribution of a variety of products, including several types of maps and aerial photographs. The Division also provides ancillary services relating to cartography, such as flood plain certification and photo searches.

A substantial enhancement of the department's service to the public and other interested agencies during year 2000 was its ability to produce new digital color aerial photographs of a quality and clarity previously not available.

### **Planning and Zoning Seminars**

An integral part of the Planning Department's technical assistance program to local municipal officials involved in the field of planning is the sponsorship of Planning and Zoning Seminars that focus on specific planning topics.

In June of 2000, in affiliation with the New York State Department of State and utilizing local planning officials, attorneys and others experienced in the planning and zoning field, the Department hosted a mock site plan review as an educational and training exercise for municipal officials.

## **Committees**

The principal committee or board associated with the Department of Planning and Economic Development is the Broome County Planning and Economic Development Advisory Board. This statutory board, which provides advice and guidance to the Commissioner and staff on planning matters, convenes bi-monthly throughout the year.

Departmental staff serve on a variety of county committees, many of an ad-hoc nature, including the Parking Committee, Safety and Security Committee and the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

In addition, the Commissioner and individual staff members are members of, or active participants on, boards, committees and subcommittees of a variety of organizations including, but not limited to the following:

- The Broome County Economic Development Council and its various subcommittees
- The Southern Tier East Regional Planning and Development Board (STERPDB), and its various subcommittees
- The Broome County Chamber of Commerce
- The Broome County Empire Zone Board
- The Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study (BMTS) Planning Committee
- The Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)
- The City of Binghamton Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
- The 2000 Census Complete Count Committee
- Broome County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board
- Broome County Capital Programs Advisory Committee
- The Town of Vestal Corridor Study Steering Committee
- The Broome County Records Management Advisory Committee
- The NYS DEC Region VII Open Space Advisory Committee

## **Personnel**

As previously stated, there were no changes in personnel within the Division during calendar year 2000. However, there are two personnel circumstances involving two long-term employees of Department that are reported.

Fred Lewis, Senior Planner for Community Assistance, who served the Department with distinction from 1984 until his 1999 retirement, passed away in February 2000. Fred will be fondly remembered for his many contributions to the county and its constituent municipalities.

And, on October 6, 2000, David "Skip" Reynolds filed for retirement. Mr. Reynolds has been with the Department since 1982 and has served as Chief Planner since 1986 and as Acting Commissioner during the period July 1989 to January 1993. Mr. Reynolds continues to serve as Chief Planner on a temporary basis until an undetermined date in the Spring, 2001.

This concludes the narrative report on the Division of Planning and Economic Development. Sections on the 2000 accomplishments of the two other Divisions in the Department as well as all supporting material follow.

## **Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)**

### 2000 Accomplishments

**Riverbank Clean-Up.** The EMC held its 15<sup>th</sup> annual Riverbank Clean-Up on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The event was a great success. A total of 330 volunteers, comprising 27 registered groups and numerous individuals, removed trash from 27 sites along the Susquehanna, Chenango and Tioughnioga rivers and their tributaries. Total weight of the garbage is estimated at 5 tons and included over 3 tons of bagged material, a half a ton of tires, and 1 ton of scrap metal and other miscellaneous debris. The cooperation from nine municipalities, which provided garbage collection and disposal services, was first-rate. The event received ample media coverage.

Staff prepared and submitted, on behalf of the Broome County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC), a Section 319 Clean Water Act, Level III mini-grant application in the amount of \$2,500 to the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee to enhance and expand the 2001 Broome County Riverbank Clean-Up. The grant was awarded to the WQCC in December. The Broome County Soil and Water Conservation District (lead agency) will perform the financial responsibilities under this endowment. The EMC will coordinate and implement all other aspects of the program.

**Joyce Smith Environmental Photography Show and Competition.** The EMC's fourth photography show and competition, renamed in honor of an EMC volunteer, was an unequivocal success. A total of 182 photographs were submitted by 72 amateur photographers. Winners and honorable mentions were exhibited at the ART Mission Gallery in downtown Binghamton during May and June. An opening reception at the ART Mission was well attended. The County Executive, Jeffrey P. Kraham, presented first place winners with Certificates of Recognition. The quality of entries and printed media coverage was excellent. The Press and Sun Bulletin wrote many announcements relating to the event and published a first place and an honorable mention winning photo. Entries for the 2000 competition were solicited in the beginning of the year. Other sponsors for the show and competition included the Garland Gallery and Slideways Graphics.

**Book Recycling Fair.** The EMC, in conjunction with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County (CCE-BC), Free Read, the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program, the Broome County Rotary Club and America Reads Challenge, participated in the Division of Solid Waste Management's (DSWM) second Annual Book Recycling Fair on November 1 - 4 and 10 & 11. The event was held at CCE-BC on Upper Front Street in Binghamton. During the first four days of the event, books were collected from the public to be either given away or recycled. A separate textbook drop off was held on November 8 at the Johnson City High School Bus Garage for County school districts. Books were given away to the public during the last two days of the event. The fair resulted in the collection 103,300 books, 55,910 of which were redistributed to the community and 47,390 of which were recycled. Outstanding cooperation from all of the participating organizations, volunteers, the recycling company, and the media made this event a success.

**Earth Fest.** The EMC participated in the County's 30<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Day celebrations by attending planned activities at Broome Community College (May 4<sup>th</sup>) and the Earth Fest at Roberson Museum and Science Center in Binghamton (May 6<sup>th</sup>). The variety of educational displays and attendance at both events was good. This year's display highlighted land conservation options including conservation easements, land stewardships, and land bequests. Pictures of local plants, wildlife and landscapes were displayed to exemplify natural resource significance when considering land conservation choices. Companion educational materials on the topic were also distributed.

**Pesticide Neighbor Notification Task Force.** The EMC formed a Task Force, per the County Executive's request (October), to examine NYS enabling legislation allowing NYS Counties the option to adopt 48-hour notification requirements as promulgated by the State, and advise as to whether the County should adopt a local law to "opt in". The Task Force thus far has examined the law, collected and compiled available pesticide sales and usage databases, reviewed actions to date by other counties and states, and created a survey for distribution to retail establishments that sell over-the-counter pesticides.

The EMC's Pesticide Neighbor Notification Task Force held 4 meetings in 2000. The average monthly attendance was 8 people.

**Land Use and Natural Resources.** The EMC and its Natural Resources Committee reviewed and provided comments and recommendations on several development proposals, including the Newing Dormitory and Field House at Binghamton University (January and February); examined the proposal for a Johnson City Police Station and the Aurora Plastics facility, Conklin (October); hosted a speaker from the Friends of the Treaty Line State Forest group and sent comments to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regarding the Region 7 & 4 Draft Treaty Line Unit Management Plan (March); reviewed and sent comments on the Draft and Full Environmental Impact Statements for the Shoppes at Vestal (February, June) and the Johnson City K-8 School (April, May), and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Manley's Mighty Mart, Dickinson (July); researched land conservation options and explored opportunities for land trust formation within the County (Spring); sent a letter of support to the ad hoc alternative energy organization, the EnergyPlus Cooperative (June); followed hazardous waste site cleanup efforts in the County and considered the creation of a Brownfields subcommittee (October); hosted a speaker supporting the nomination of the Susquehanna River, from Cooperstown, NY to Susquehanna, PA, as an American Heritage River (October); followed the developments of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission related to consumptive water use issues; and sent comments to the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Draft Feasibility Study and Integrated Environmental Assessment for the Whitney Point Lake Modification Project (November).

The Natural Resources Committee held 11 meetings in 2000. The average monthly attendance was 8 people.

**Brownfield Redevelopment.** The EMC formed a subcommittee of the Natural Resources Committee (November) to rank and develop a prioritized list of high-value, low-hazard brownfield sites in the County, and promote the identification, characterization and cleanup of higher hazard sites that have significant redevelopment potential. The subcommittee, coordinating with local governments, agencies, and experts, researched and identified potential sites; evaluated potential funding sources for brownfield investigation and cleanup; and examined strategies to aid local governments and economic development agencies in the identification of redevelopable properties, while flagging those with significant liability potential.

The EMC sent a letter to the Department of Planning and Economic Development supporting their application for funding to establish a \$1,000,000 revolving loan fund through the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative (December).

The Brownfields Subcommittee held 2 meetings in 2000. The average attendance was 13 people.

**Municipal Development Reviews.** Staff reviewed site plans, special permits, and requests for variances, and provided responses related to potential environmental impacts for nearly 70 proposals, per NYS General Municipal Law, 239 l & m.

**Solid Waste Management.** The EMC and members of its Solid Waste Committee met jointly with the Nanticoke Landfill Citizens Advisory Committee (March); sent a letter to Broome Recycles, Inc. regarding conditions at the public recycling drop-off; sent letters to County and Legislative officials asking that vehicle hazards and traffic queuing at the landfill entrance be addressed prior to Phase I new landfill construction (March), and urging prompt action to fill vacancies in the DSWM (July); provided intern guidance for development of an educational brochure and fact sheet on backyard burning (summer); provided staff and volunteers for the DSWM's book recycling program (November). The Committee followed the latest developments related to Airport Corridor waterline infrastructure expansion, waste management contracts, scrap tire management, and NYS legislative bills related to waste management.

The EMC's Recycling & Waste Management Committee held 8 meetings in 2000. The average monthly attendance was 10 people.

**Household Hazardous Waste.** The Environmental Analyst maintained the County's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Registration Line and scheduled appointments for 643 Broome County residents and 65 Tioga County residents for HHW drop-off at the Broome County HHW Facility; and provided technical assistance as appropriate. The EMC provided these support services for the Division of Solid Waste Management.

**Environmental Education and Events.** The EMC maintained and made available its extensive library of books, pamphlets and information sheets, and periodicals; hosted three student interns from Binghamton University; sent one staff member to ArcView (Geographic Information System) training sessions at Binghamton University (March); sent staff and displays to Binghamton University for Career Day (March) and Volunteer Resource Fair (August) activities; sent one volunteer to a regional alternative energy forum in Ithaca (February); cosponsored and helped coordinate Walk 'n' Roll 2000, a week-long promotion for walking, bicycling and in-line skating as healthy, alternative modes of transportation (May); co-sponsored a Planning & Zoning Training Seminar for local officials, with the Department of Planning and Economic Development, and sent staff and volunteers to the New York State Association of EMC's (NYSEMC) annual DEC update meeting (June); attended a regional meeting of NYS Association of Reduction, Reuse and Recycling and toured Envirocycle, a CRT monitor recycling facility (June); participated in a County Health Department (BCHD) organized Bicycle Rodeo and Skills Clinic at the Chris Thater Memorial Races, Recreation Park (August); sent one volunteer to the NYS Waterfront ReDiscovery Conference in Albany (September); and sent the EMC Director to the NYSAEMC's Conference on the Environment (November).

The EMC hosted many speakers and offered informative presentations on the following topics: the Aurora Project, a local eco-industrial alliance of business, academia and local government (January); deregulation and development of regional energy cooperatives (March); potential modifications to the DEC's Conservation Fund, and related impacts on non-recreational special programs for resource conservation (April); social and environmental impacts of river management (May); understanding regional state forest management (June); local State Assemblyman's point of view on consumptive water use regulations and other evolving environmental issues (September); the County Executive's position on issues affecting the local environment (October); the City of Binghamton's Comprehensive Plan (November); and flood mitigation management (December).

**Agency Coordination.** The EMC had representation on the BMTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee and continued to participate in transportation and Metropolitan Greenway project planning and implementation. Staff offered project planning and environmental review assistance to the Broome County Parks and Recreation Department (Otsiningo Park expansion) and the Broome County Security Division (outdoor public safety training facility). In addition, EMC staff and/or volunteers participated in the activities of the BMTS Planning Committee, County Planning Advisory Board and Economic Development Council, Earth Day Southern Tier, Broome County WQCC, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County, West Nile Task Force (BCHD), and the Healthy HEART Coalition, among others. The EMC Director served on the Education Committee of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, and as Member-at-Large on the NYSAEMC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.

**General.** The EMC provided information and technical assistance to government agencies and the public on environmental subjects and regulations, including the State Environmental Quality Review Act; supported a local ad-hoc coalition to support sound forest management in the NYS Forest, Treaty-Line Unit (April); established the Joyce Smith Memorial Fund Committee to fulfill the mission of the established trust fund account (June); sent a letter to Governor Pataki supporting NYS involvement in the Chesapeake Bay Program (September); and formed the Pesticide Neighbor Notification Task Force (October) and the Natural Resources Committee, Brownfields Subcommittee (November). Staff and Council members met with members of the County's Executive branch to discuss the EMC's work program and membership appointments (June).

The EMC held 11 General Meetings in 2000. The average monthly attendance was 18 people.

**Administration and Funding.** The Environmental Analyst remained a full-time position in the 2000 budget. EMC staff earned \$15,000 in revenue by performing environmental planning services for the Division of Solid Waste Management.

**Membership and Volunteer Recognition.** The County Executive re-appointed Burrell Montz as EMC Chairperson for 2000. Council appointments were confirmed by the Legislature at their July and August sessions. EMC staff held a recruitment drive and public information meeting about the history, purpose, structure and operations of the EMC (February). The Broome County Executive and the EMC honored a 30-year veteran of the EMC (October). A slate of new officers and member nominees was adopted and forwarded to the County Executive for consideration (December).

The EMC's Membership Committee held 2 meetings during the year. The number of people attending was three.

**BINGHAMTON METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
**2000 ANNUAL REPORT**  
For the Department of Planning and Economic Development

The Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study is designated by the Governor to carry out Federally mandated regional transportation planning functions for the Binghamton metropolitan area. The BMTS Central Staff, administratively housed within the Department of Planning and Economic Development, performs all of the technical tasks to support the planning process. These tasks are enumerated in the Unified Planning Work Program, approved each year by the BMTS Policy Committee. In 2000, BMTS Central Staff was comprised of five full time professionals, one part time support position, and two seasonal traffic counters.

Long Range Planning This year saw the adoption of *TRANSPORTATION TOMORROW:2025* by the BMTS Policy Committee. This update of BMTS' long-range regional transportation plan has been a major undertaking. The investment strategy places a high priority on system preservation and personal mobility. It identifies High Priority Metropolitan Corridors for early attention: Vestal Corridor, City of Binghamton Access, Airport Corridor, and Main Street. The Plan is broadly multimodal, recognizing that people should be able to travel efficiently and safely by whatever mode they choose for a given trip; and that businesses should have competitive choices for moving freight. The Plan seeks to support the achievement of community goals in the areas of accessibility and mobility, economic development, and quality of life.

Follow up work was immediately begun on two of the High Priority Corridor studies. The Vestal Corridor Study was delayed as a result of State budget issues, but was initiated in July. A meeting of a community-based Advisory Group was held in October, and a public meeting was held in November. The consultant team conducting the study was then primarily involved in data collection. The bulk of the work will be done in 2001, with BMTS providing travel forecasting services, as well as assisting with public outreach.

BMTS Central Staff is the lead on the City of Binghamton Access Study. This study is examining the opportunities to improve access into downtown Binghamton, the First Ward/Anitec site, and the East Frederick St/Brandywine area. The work is being progressed in conjunction with the City of Binghamton's Comprehensive Plan Update. That effort is addressing future land use issues, so BMTS can focus on the transportation alternatives. Because of that connection, the Access Study will continue into 2001; the Binghamton Plan is due to be completed in July.

Traffic Engineering and Project Development BMTS Central Staff continues to provide professional traffic engineering assistance upon request and at no cost to Broome County and local governments within the metropolitan area. In 2000, BMTS responded to requests ranging from independent review of traffic impact studies for site development to studies of safety and traffic operations at various intersections. This work ensures that municipalities can respond with appropriate professional standards to these issues. BMTS cooperates with the Planning Department in the review of §239 (l) and (m) actions; these are certain classes of local land use actions that require county review. The senior BMTS traffic engineer also participates in and provides technical assistance to the City of Binghamton Traffic Board, and the NYSDOT Region 9 Site Impact Review Committee.

Project development activities focus on working with NYSDOT on the scoping and preliminary engineering of metropolitan area Federally funded capital projects. This includes the determination of the objectives that the completed project must address, and the traffic operations, engineering, and environmental analysis that leads to the development of a limited number of design alternatives. Projects that have been progressed by BMTS Central Staff in include Front Street (BCC to I-81 Exit 6) Reconstruction, Upper Court Street (Tompkins St to Binghamton City line) Reconstruction, North Street (Village of Endicott) Reconstruction and Emergency Vehicle Traffic Signal Preemption project. BMTS assisted NYSDOT by providing traffic forecasting services for the Route 17 Reconstruction and the Empire State Games.

BMTS continued to participate with NYSDOT in the completion of an incident management plan for Route 17 and Interstate 81 through the metropolitan area. This plan would include preplanned response to incidents on those expressways, including predetermined detours for road closures, motorist notification through dynamic message signs of road and/or lane closures, and improved communication among emergency response agencies and transportation agencies.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning BMTS Central Staff developed a Greenway Implementation Plan that was a follow up to the Binghamton Metropolitan Greenway Study. This plan, which was approved by the BMTS Planning and Policy Committees, proposes a phased approach to constructing the trail system over a number of years. Initial accomplishments were the securing of funds through the Federal STP Transportation Enhancement Program for the Vestal Rail-Trail project and the Otsiningo Park Trail Extension.

The Binghamton Metropolitan Bicycle Map was completed and printed. BMTS staff used BMTS' ArcView Geographic Information System mapping software to create most of the map, which was then printed under contract to the NYSDOT Graphic Arts Division. About 5000 copies of the map have been distributed.

BMTS Central Staff, in cooperation with the Broome County Environmental Management Council and the Broome County Health Department, and with the assistance of members of the BMTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, produced "Walk 'n' Roll 2000". This is a week long series of promotional and educational events designed to encourage area residents to consider walking or cycling for some of their travel needs. Included this year was a Pedestrian Road Show, sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration. National experts were brought to Binghamton to teach local planners and engineers how best to accommodate pedestrian needs, thereby making walking safer and more inviting.

Transit Planning BMTS Central Staff took the lead on continuing the development of the Binghamton Intermodal Transit Terminal project. This included providing materials to Senator Schumer's and Congressman Hinchey's offices for their consideration in seeking Federal discretionary funding. Funding was not obtained in the Federal fiscal year 2001 budget. The project will be resubmitted for consideration in 2001 for the FY 2002 budget.

BMTS staff completed the Binghamton Regional Job Access Plan as part of its involvement in the welfare-to-work transportation issue. Broome County was able to use the plan as the basis for its successful application for funds from the Federal Transit Administration's Job Access Reverse Commute Grant. The county received \$200,000 from the FY 2000 program and \$250,000 from the FY 2001 program. The money will be used to extend BC Transit service hours on weekday nights and on Saturday and Sunday. Doing so was identified in the BMTS plan as the top priority in assisting people without cars in entry into the workforce.

Capital Programming The 2000-2004 Transportation Improvement Program, which was approved by the BMTS Policy Committee in 1999, was monitored and amended a number of times. This program includes all of the transportation projects in the metropolitan area that will be funded with Federal aid. This TIP represents about \$130 million of Federal investment in the metropolitan transportation system over the next five years. It demonstrates BMTS' priorities in maintaining and improving the safety and efficiency of travel for all users.

Travel Demand Modeling and Geographic Information Systems BMTS continued to maintain its computerized Binghamton Regional Traffic Model, which was used not only to produce traffic forecasts for the BMTS long-range plan, but also for a number of NYSDOT capital projects, including the Memorial Bridge rehabilitation in Binghamton and the Route 17 reconstruction in Broome County. Work also continued on development and application of the ArcView based geographic information system (GIS) in cooperation with the Planning Department, with a variety of traffic items being added to the database.

Professional Development BMTS Central Staff Director Steven Gayle was elected to the office of International President of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) for a one year term beginning in January 2001. ITE is a professional society of nearly 15,000 members practicing in the disciplines of traffic engineering, transportation planning, design, safety, and operation of transportation facilities. These members are employed by public agencies, private consulting firms, and academic institutions. ITE is responsible for developing standards and professional practices for transportation engineering. Mr. Gayle also served as the co-chair of the Policy Committee of the National Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and continued as chair of the Broome Chamber's Transportation Committee. He was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Broome County Economic Development Council.

**BROOME COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
As of December 31, 2000

**Staffing**

Julie M. Sweet, Commissioner

**Planning and Economic Development Division**

David J. (Skip) Reynolds	Chief Planner
Frank Evangelisti	Chief Planner
Vacant	Senior Planner
Lowell E. Carman	Planning Technician
Douglas English	Planner Trainee
Susan Holly	Secretary

**Environmental Management Council**

Stacy Merola	Director
Thomas Evans	Environmental Analyst

**Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study**

Steven B. Gayle	Director of Transportation Planning
Cynthia M. Paddick	Traffic Engineer
Mark Sullivan	Traffic Engineer
John J. Sterbentz	Senior Transportation Planner
Scott E. Reigle	Transportation Planner
Cecelia Laurendeau	Account Clerk Typist