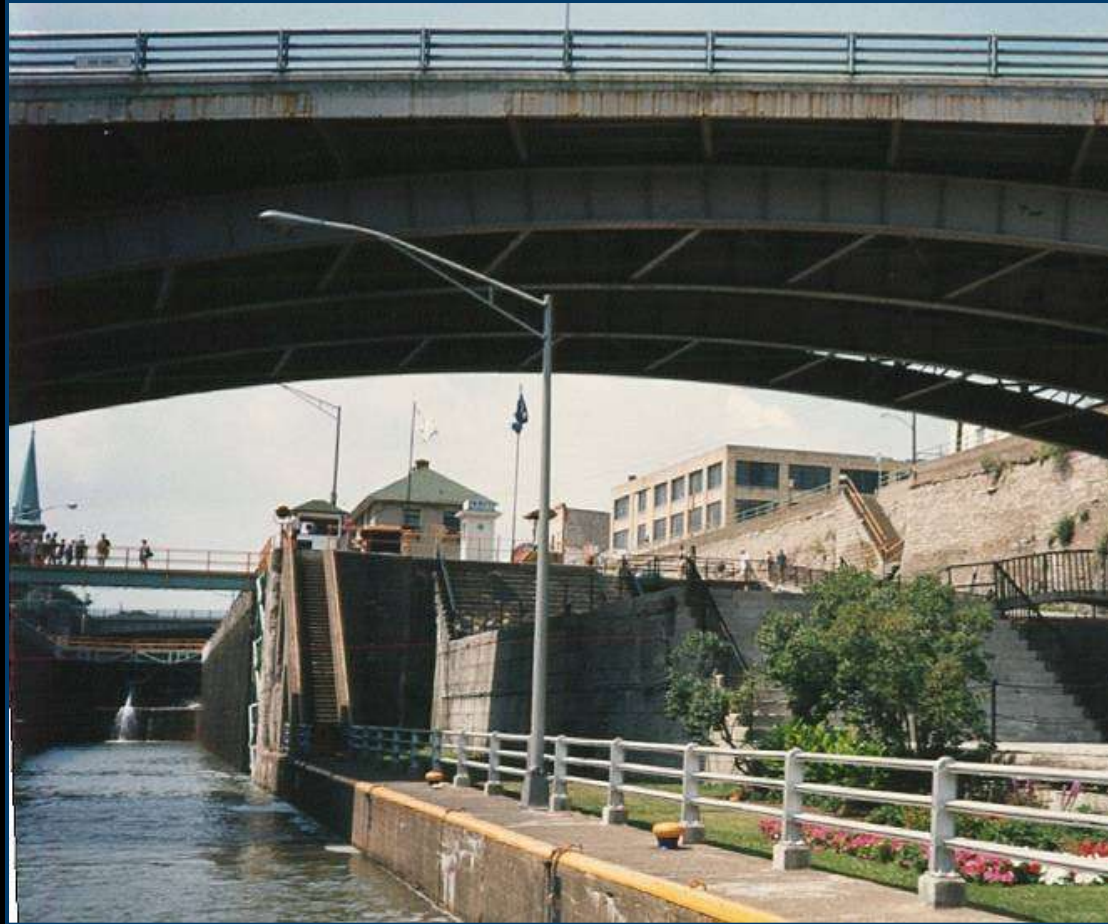


# Waterfront Redevelopment

Overcoming Obstacles to Reconnect the Public to the Waterfront



**The waterfront has played and continues to play a significant role in America's development.**

- **About 53% of all Americans (148.3 million people) live in coastal counties.**
- **Coastal counties account for 17% of our Nation's land.**
- **It is estimated that the coastal population has increased by 45% between 1960 and 1990.**

(Source: Population Reference Bureau)



**The waterfront has played and continues to play a significant role in America's development.**

- **It is estimated that 3,600 additional residents move to the coast each year.**
- **It is estimated that by 2020, 18 million people will live in Chesapeake Bay Watershed.**
- **By 2025, nearly 75% of Americans are expected to live in Coastal Counties.**

**The waterfront has played and continues to play a significant role in America's development.**

## **Why?**

**Historically... shipping needs, the need for water for manufacturing and industrial processes, as well as access to fishing and other resources drew people to the water. Many of the nation's largest cities evolved from their shipping and mercantilism history.**

**Today... tourism, access to water recreation activities, attractive scenery, and moderate climates are a few of the qualities that draw people in.**

# Today...

- **U.S. coastal tourism & recreation industries are the largest & fastest growing economic segments of the U.S. service industry.**

(Source: NOAA's Sea Grant [1998])

- **U.S. coastal tourism & recreation contribute tax revenues of \$58 billion annually with \$7.5 billion generated by foreign visitors.**

(Source: NOAA's Sea Grant [1998])

- **Coastal states earn 85% of all tourism revenues.**

(Source: NOAA's Sea Grant [1998])

# Today...

- **Coastal & marine waters support 28.3 million jobs, generate \$54 billion in goods and services.**

(Source: NOAA's Sea Grant [1998])

- **Local fishing contributes \$30 billion to U.S. economy.**

(Source: EPA [1997])

- **U.S. coastal areas provide a destination for 180 million Americans to recreate each year.**

(Source: NOAA's Sea Grant [1998])

- **More than 90% of foreign visitors to the U.S. visit the nation's coasts.**

(Source: NOAA's Sea Grant [1998])

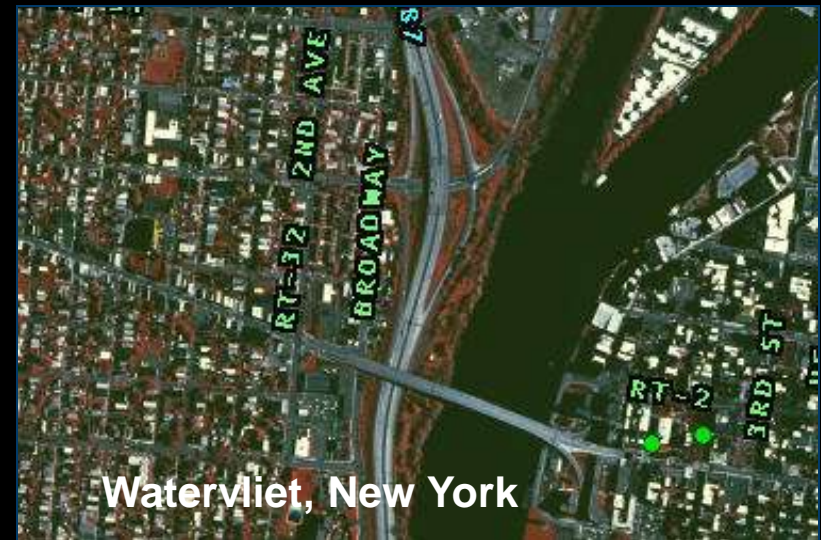
# But, initially....

- **Mimicking the traditional water transportation right-of-ways, coastal shores were viewed as an ideal location for railroad lines, highways and interstates.**
- **Between 1936 & 1938, a dozen bills and resolutions introduced to Congress and 2 hearings culminated in the 1938 passing of the Federal Highway Act.**
- **Construction of today's modern Interstate system was kicked off with the 1956 Highway Act.**



# Built to connect major population centers...

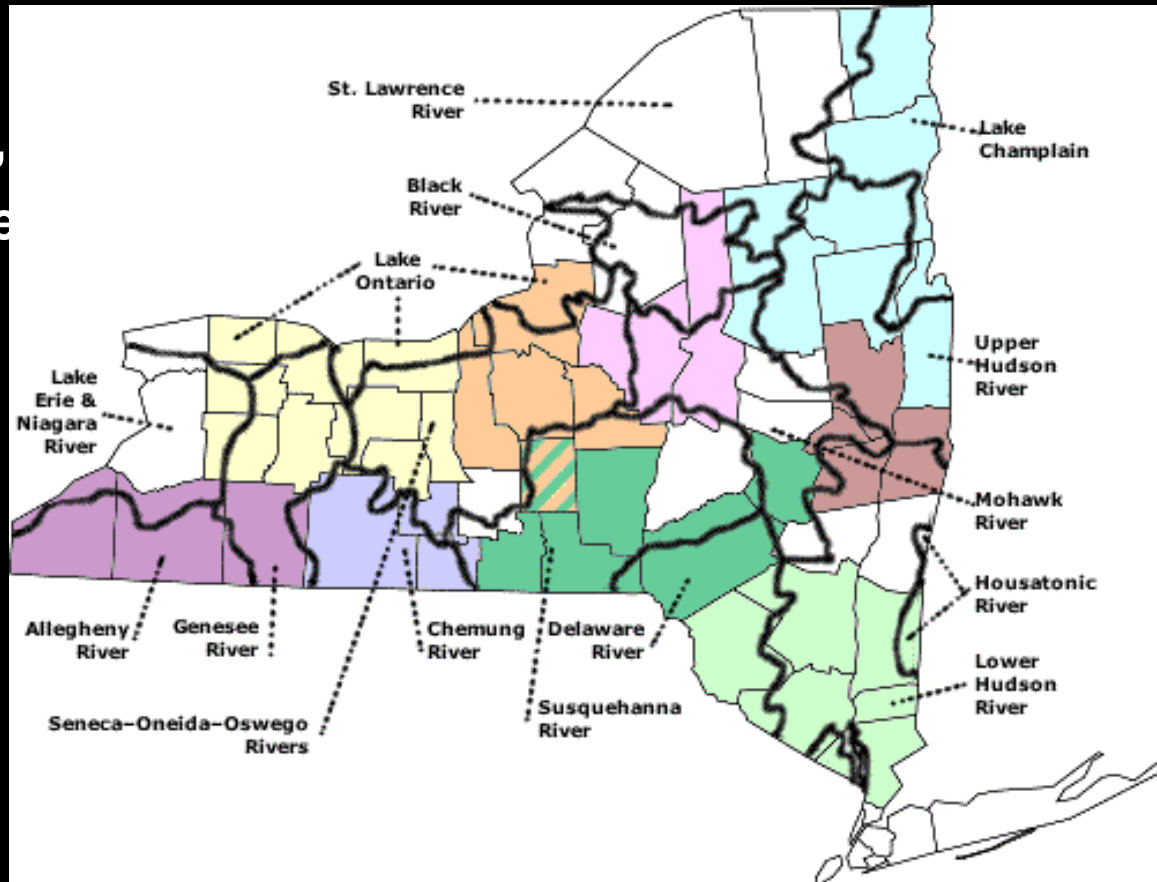
- Many of the Nation's 42,800 interstate highway miles run along coasts.
- Many of the Nation's highway miles run through developed urban areas.





**No where is this more true than in New York State.**

**Many of the communities located along the Hudson, Mohawk, and St. Lawrence Rivers, the Erie Canal, as well as Lake Ontario have been divided by U.S. and State Highways, and Interstate Highways.**



**An ongoing issue associated with America's waterfronts has been the fact that so much of it is in private ownership, with inadequate public access. While planning around the nation's highways, interstates requires creativity, waterfront roadways...**

- **Ensure government ownership of the waterfront.**
- **Allow for public right-of-ways and public access.**
- **Visually inform people of waterfront's public nature.**
- **Often result in lands being turned over to State and local park agencies.**



**Former rail yards and railroad tracks present a myriad of challenges related to environmental contamination, infrastructure, as well as acquisition and maintenance, however they also allow for unique public access opportunities...**

- **Land assemblage has already been done.**
- **Former rail yard parcels are quite sizable.**
- **Former rail beds provide linkage to other communities.**



# Revitalization opportunities can be pursued via transportation infrastructure through...

## Reconnection Opportunities

- Establishing bike/hike trails
- Constructing pedestrian bridges
- Developing public parking under elevated roadways
- Cleaning up waterfronts and promoting recreational boating

# Revitalization opportunities can be pursued via transportation infrastructure through...

## Public Access Opportunities

- Promoting an area through its visibility from the roadway, e.g. a visual invitation
- Using publicly owned right-of-ways to ensure access
- Promoting transfer of lands from government transportation agencies to park agencies
- and promoting recreational boating

# Revitalization opportunities can be pursued via transportation infrastructure through...

## Creative Use of Resources

- **Rehabilitating old buildings for new uses, e.g. rehabbing a former train station for tourism**
- **Using mixed use concepts to get the most out of a limited space to attract a variety of users, e.g. restaurant at a marina located at a park**
- **Working with an environment's existing resources to promote revitalization**



# Examples of Success Stories



**City of Portland Waterfront Park Providing greenspace in a dense urban core.**



**Milwaukee, Wisconsin**



**Lake Geneva Boathouse.**



# Examples of Success Stories



**A restaurant on a barge provides local diners and transient boaters with a waterside dining option on the Hudson in Albany.**



**A boat launch and floating docks provide water access at Albany's Corning Preserve.**



**The Park's Hudson Mohawk Bike Hike Trail links Albany with adjacent communities.**

# Examples of Success Stories



**One time under-utilized space under I-787 is ideal for car and trailer parking at the Corning Preserve.**



**Despite I-787, Albany's Corning Preserve provides residents and visitors with an enjoyable waterfront experience.**



**In Albany, the Hudson River Way pedestrian bridge has improved waterfront access.**

# Examples of Success Stories



**The Village of Waterford's Visitor Center is a destination point for recreational boaters.**

**Annual Festivals such as the Tug Boat Roundup attract thousands of visitors each year.**



# City of Watervliet, Albany County



**Public Spaces along  
Watervliet Waterfront**



**Public Boat Access  
location**





# City of Watervliet, Albany County



**I-787 provides easy access to the City, both physical and visual- commuters get a postcard view of Broadway.**



**Used the City's historic role in canal shipping to redefine the Waterfront to encompass the area where the Erie Canal.**



**Linking the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail to the City's Hudson Shores Park would greatly improve access to the waterfront.**

# City of Cohoes, Albany County





# City of Cohoes, Albany County





# City of Cohoes, Albany County



**Temporary Transportation needs for small boats and water crafts often go unmet**

**Preservation of a natural view shed**



# City of Cohoes, Albany County

**Obstacles of waterfront once being zoned for industrial uses.**



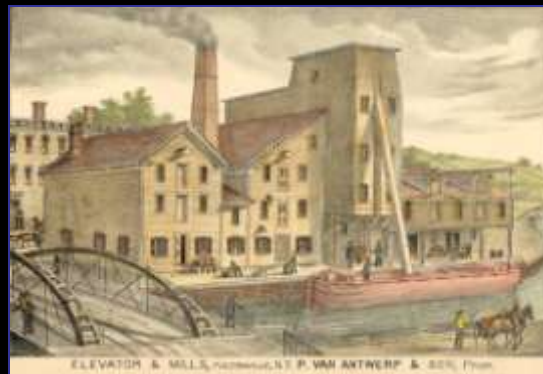
# Village of Fultonville, Montgomery County



**Fultonville still maintains a manufacturing distribution area adjacent to the waterway.**



**The waterway connected Fultonville and its industries to international markets.**



**Fultonville has not made the transition from its waterway being an industrial resource to recreation tourism center**

# City of Port Jervis, Orange County

## Key Revitalization Proposals:

- **Boat launch, pick up spots, and docks.**
- **Riverfront restaurants and shops.**
- **Pedestrian walkway to provide access to waterfront over rail tracks.**
- **Riverfront enhancements including a band shell, playground, picnic area, fountain, fishing pier, overlook plaza, and a baseball stadium.**

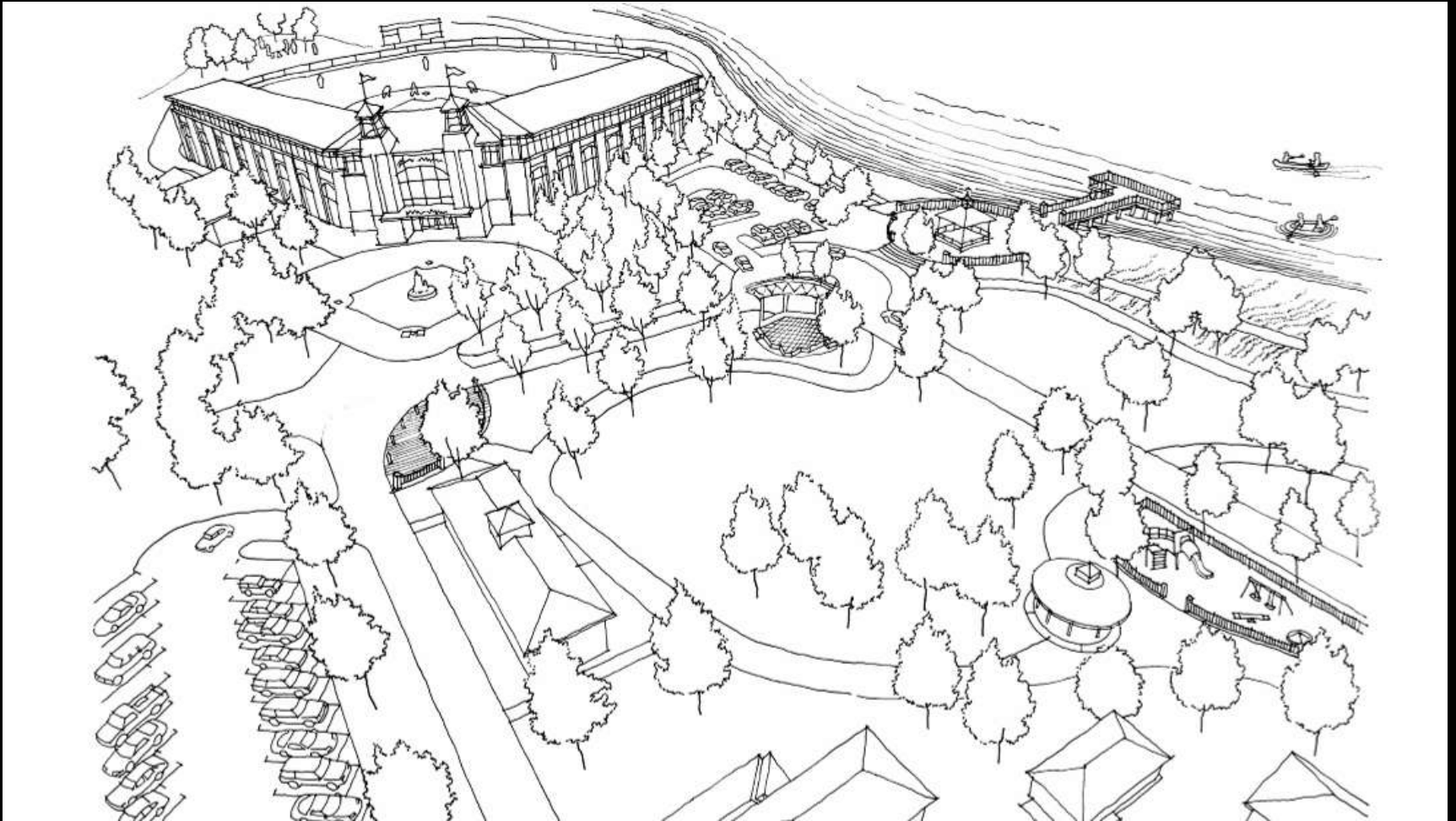




# City of Port Jervis, Orange County



# City of Port Jervis, Orange County



# Village of Fort Edward, Washington County



**Fort Edward View from  
Lock 7**



**Roger's Island, River Peak  
Flow 1900 CFS**



# Village of Fort Edward, Washington County



**View of Fort Edward with Roger's Island in the center**



**View of Roger's Island from Lock 7 Gate**

## Closing remarks...

- **Our nation's waterfronts-- dating back to their historical “working waterfront” days--- have been linked with various modes of transportation.**
- **While this has presented challenges, it also provides some key opportunities for public access.**
- **In addition to public land ownership and the financial resources to carry the day, successful waterfront planning requires thorough public involvement and openness to creative thinking.**