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## ***Announcements***

### **Overview of Governmental Accounting, Feb. 28**

Join the Office of the New York State Comptroller as they present an Overview of Governmental Accounting webinar on Wednesday, February 28, from 10am - 11am.

This session will familiarize local officials with the accounting process for municipalities and some of the unique elements of governmental accounting. It will include an overview of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the Uniform Accounting System, measurement focus and encumbrances. Also discussed will be the resources available from the Comptroller's Office to assist fiscal officers with their responsibilities. There is no cost to attend his webinar, and it is Qualifying Professional Education (CPE) eligible.

Click [here](#) to register.

### **Red Flags for Fraud Hybrid Workshop, February 29**

The Tug Hill Commission, together with the Office of the NYS Comptroller is presenting a municipal fraud prevention and detection workshop on Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, from 7pm-8:30pm. This workshop is offered in a hybrid format. The live presentation will take place at the Town of Boonville Municipal offices and will also be offered via Zoom at the same time.



In this session, speaker Ingrid M. Otto, CPA, Auditor 2, will identify steps local officials can take to help detect and prevent fraud and abuse. Participants will learn about the fraud triangle, which consists of common red flags, organizational vulnerabilities to fraud and how to minimize risks.

Designed to provide practical advice and information, with plenty of time available for questions, the workshop is open to all.

There is no cost to attend, but registration is required for attending either in person or online. Click [here](#) to register or call the Commission office at 315-785-2380.

## NYSLTAP – CLRP Foundational Webinars Continue

Join the New York State Local Technical Assistance Program Center (NYS LTAP) for their ongoing series of free Foundational Webinars focused on the important principles key to local highway agency operations and management. Focusing on why highway departments do what is done, each webinar offers a convenient way to learn the basics of a particular topic. Taken together, they cover the foundation of local highway issues. Many webinars will be repeated yearly or every other year to give attendees the opportunity to attend the full series. These webinars run from 9:00 am - 10:00 am on most Tuesdays.



### February 6th - [Culverts\\*](#)

*In this webinar, Willy Grimmke will discuss maintenance and repair techniques for common culvert distresses and deterioration as well as covering maintenance techniques for correcting those issues.*

### February 13th - [Finding, Retaining & Motivating Employees](#)

*Good employees are vital to any highway and public works department. It is more critical than ever to find, retain, and motivate employees. Jim Sheridan explains why this is so critical and sheds some insight on how to have the best employees possible.*

### February 20th - [Work Zones \\*](#)

*Work zones can be very dangerous places but are vital to the maintenance and construction of our roads and streets. Discussed in this webinar, is what makes a good work zone and the critical components to make the work zone safe for both the highway agency and the traveling public.*

### February 27th - [Purchasing & Financing](#)

*Proper financing is crucial to successful highway and public works departments. In this webinar, Tim Hunt will discuss the underlying basis for purchasing and finance and help you understand the role these funds play in a well-run department.*

### March 5th - [Surface & Subsurface Drainage\\*](#)

*The key to good roads is drainage. The key to good drainage is controlling potential drainage problems before they become serious. This webinar, David Orr will cover the most common drainage problems on highways and offer some simple solutions.*

### March 12th - [Pavement Maintenance\\*](#)

*You can pay me now or you can pay me later. In this webinar, John Rondinaro will review the basics of pavement maintenance and why timing and the correct choice of maintenance action is vital to good roads and streets.*

\*Anticipated to be worth 1 PDH for engineering continuing education

All online webinars and virtual workshops are worth Road Master credit based on the length of the session.

## 35th Annual Planning Symposium, March 13



Registration is open for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Planning Symposium, sponsored by the Onondaga County Planning Federation. Scheduled from 8:00am - 4:15pm on March 13, at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown, the courses can be used to fulfill annual training requirements for planning and zoning board members.

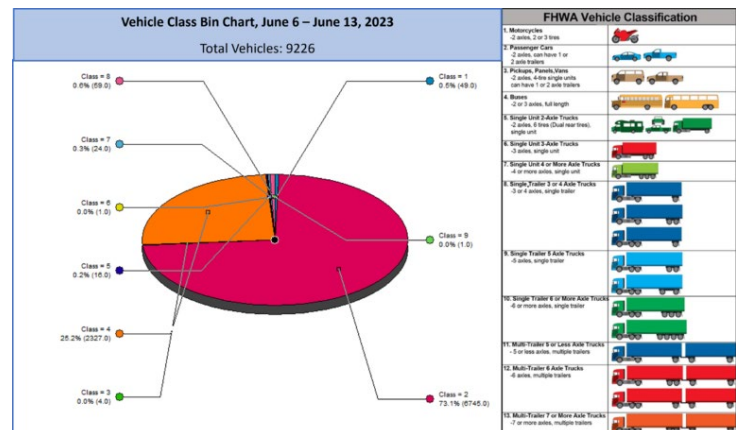
The daylong training includes numerous options for sessions, including: *Planning and Zoning: An Introduction*, *Developing Town Centers: A How-To Guide*, *Case Study: Comprehensive Planning as a Learning Enterprise*, *Developing Transit Oriented Communities*, *Can Solar Development and Agriculture Work Together? Using Local Land Use Authority to Protect Water Quality*, *A Deep Dive into Onondaga County's Housing Market*, *Map Reading 101*, *Public Meetings and Hearings*, *Overview of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Process*, *NYS Department of State Funding Opportunities: Empowering Sustainable Communities and Resilient Downtowns* and ends the day with *Closing Plenary Session: Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning*, which will summarize recent legal cases pertaining to land use and explore the implications of these cases on land use regulation at the local level.

All registrations must be received by March 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a registration fee of \$85 prior to February 23<sup>rd</sup>, and \$95 if received after.

For more information, including the full program, sessions, presenter biographies and to register, please visit the Onondaga Planning Department's Planning Symposium webpage, <http://www.ongov.net/planning/ocpf.html>

## NYS Tug Hill MetroCount Program

Once again, the Tug Hill Commission is offering its MetroCount system to the municipalities in the Tug Hill region. The unit collects vehicle data for a section of road, providing insight into traffic flow and volume. The system is capable of producing detailed speed reports and monitoring vehicle traffic, including axle-based classifications, gap and headway, as well as direction.



Deployment and analysis of the MetroCount roadside unit is available at no cost for any municipality. Commission staff will work with interested communities and set up the unit as directed. Data collection usually lasts about a week. The staff will then retrieve the unit, analyze the data and present a report to the municipality. Collected traffic data can be used to generate traffic summaries, histograms, and other filtered reports.

For more information or questions, contact Christopher Barboza, [chris@tughill.org](mailto:chris@tughill.org) or 315-785-2389. Municipalities interested in the program can complete the sign-up form [here](#).

Data collected from last season is available here: [MetroCount 2023 Field Season Data Summary](#)

## 2024-2025 Records Management Grant

The New York State Archives has announced that they are now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) grant cycle.

The LGRMIF grants help local governments to establish records management programs or develop new program components. It is a competitive program, awarding grants based on the merits of applications.

To apply for an LGRMIF grant, Records Management Officers (RMO) must have a NYS Directory Service (NYSDS) account prior to February 26, 2024. If a NYSDS account is needed, please complete the [online registration form](#).

The 2024-2025 applications are due by March 11, 2024, at 5 p.m.

For more information, and to access the guidelines, please visit the LGRMIF [webpage](#). Interested applicants can also view the recorded LGRMIF [webinars](#) which cover topics such as navigating the eGrants portal, writing the grant narrative, budgeting the grant, grant closeout and more.

## NOCCOG to Cover One Local Government Conference Registration

Once again, the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments will cover the registration cost of 1 attendee from each member municipality attending the 2024 Local Government Conference, May 1 and 2, at the Turning Stone Conference Center.



The registration can cover one or both days of the conference, including the reception. However, the registrations must be received before the end of the early registration period, which is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Local Government Conference registrations and agendas have been sent, but are also available on the Tug Hill Commission's LGC registration [webpage](#). Once completed, please email the NOCCOG sponsored registration to John Healt, at [jhealt@tughill.org](mailto:jhealt@tughill.org).

For more information, please reach out to John Healt by calling, 315-941-2818, or by email, [jhealt@tughill.org](mailto:jhealt@tughill.org).

## GPS Tracking Now Available on Oneida County Plow Trucks



The public can now track Oneida County Department of Public Works (OCDPW) vehicles through online GPS technology as they remove snow and ice from their road routes.

The technology allows residents to see when and where roads are being cleared and salted by county vehicles, which could assist in travel planning during the winter months.

OCDPW operates 28 vehicles that plow and salt over 400 total miles of state-owned roads. It also plows all the county roads in the Towns of Augusta and Florence. While OCDPW does not provide snow and ice removal for any municipal-owned roads in villages or towns, the county usually contracts with towns and villages to plow and salt most county roads within their municipalities. GPS tracking is only available on county-owned plows and the routes they are responsible for.

The GPS tracking map can be found on the county's website [here](#). Tracking is initiated when the vehicle's salt spreaders are active. The map offers an address search function and allows residents to search by day and time. The live function of the map operates on a 10-minute delay.