

# COUNTY OF SCHENECTADY



RORY FLUMAN  
COUNTY MANAGER

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER  
620 STATE STREET  
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK 12305

TELEPHONE: (518) 388-4355  
FAX: (518) 388-4590

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**To:** Geoffrey T. Hall, Clerk of the Legislature

**From:** Rory Fluman, County Manager 

**CC:** Jesse McGuire, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature

**Date:** January 14, 2020

**Re:** 2020 Proposed County of Schenectady Countywide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan

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Please see attached the 2020 Approved County of Schenectady Countywide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan. This plan is formally submitted to the Schenectady County Legislature and must sit for 45 days of Public Review. By January 15, 2020 the plan will be filed with the New York Department of State.

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# Schenectady County

2020 Approved County-wide Shared  
Services Property Tax Savings Plan  
December 30th, 2019

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Schenectady County Manager  
County Office Building  
620 State Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Schenectady, NY 12305  
(518)388-4355  
[manager@schenectadycounty.com](mailto:manager@schenectadycounty.com)



### County-Wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan Summary

#### Appendix A

Approved

<b>County of</b> Schenectady			
<b>County Contact:</b> Rory Fluman, County Manager			
<b>Contact Telephone:</b> (518) 388-4355			
<b>Contact Email:</b> rory.fluman@schenectadycounty.com			
<b>Partners</b>			
<b>Row 1 – (total # of) Cities in County</b>			
	<b>Participating Cities</b>	<b>Panel Representative</b>	<b>Vote Cast (Yes or No)*</b>
1.	Schenectady	Gary McCarthy, Mayor	Yes
2.			
3.			
<b>Row 2 – (total # of) Towns in County</b>			
	<b>Participating Towns</b>	<b>Panel Representative</b>	<b>Vote Cast (Yes or No)*</b>
1.	Glenville	Chris Koetzle, Supervisor	Yes
2.	Niskayuna	Yasmine Syed, Supervisor	Yes
3.	Rotterdam	Steven Tommasone, Supervisor	Excused
4.	Princetown	Louis Esposito, Supervisor	Yes
5.	Duanesburg	Roger Tidball, Supervisor	Excused
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			



## County-Wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan Summary

### Appendix A

16.			
17.			
18.			
19.			
20.			

**Use Additional Sheets if necessary**  
**\*The written justification provided by each Panel Representative in support of his or her vote on the Plan is attached hereto, as Exhibit 1.**

**Row 3 – (total # of) Villages in County**

	Participating Villages	Panel Representative	Vote Cast (Yes or No)*
1.	Scotia	Tom Gifford, Mayor	Yes
2.	Delanson	Gale Gifford, Mayor	Yes
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

**Use Additional Sheets if necessary**  
**\*The written justification provided by each Panel Representative in support of his or her vote on the Plan is attached hereto, as Exhibit 1.**

**Row 4 – (total # of) School Districts, BOCES, and Special Improvement Districts in County**

	Participating School Districts, BOCES, and Special Improvement Districts	Panel Representative	Vote Cast (Yes or No)*
1.	blank	blank	blank
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			



### County-Wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan Summary

#### Appendix A

8.			
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Use Additional Sheets if necessary

\*The written justification provided by each Panel Representative in support of his or her vote on the Plan is attached hereto, as Exhibit 1.

**Row 5**

<b>2019 Local Government Property Taxes</b>	<b>The sum total of property taxes levied in the year 2019 by the county, cities, towns, villages, school districts, BOCES, and special improvement districts within such county.</b>
	<b>\$377,318,846</b>

**Row 6**

<b>2019 Participating Entities Property Taxes</b>	<b>The sum total of property taxes levied in the year 2019 by the county, any cities, towns, villages, school districts, BOCES, and special improvements districts identified as participating in the panel in the rows above.</b>
	<b>\$377,318,846</b>

**Row 7**

<b>Total Anticipated Savings</b>	<b>The sum total of net savings in such plan certified as being anticipated in calendar year 2020, calendar year 2021, and annually thereafter.</b>
	<b>2020 \$2,127,899    2021 &amp; thereafter TBD</b>

**Row 8**

<b>Anticipated Savings as a</b>	<b>The sum total of net savings in such plan certified as</b>
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### County-Wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan Summary

#### Appendix A

<b>Percentage of Participating Entities property taxes</b>	being anticipated in calendar year 2020 as a percentage of the sum total in Row 6, calendar year 2021 as a percentage of the sum total in Row 6, and annually thereafter as a percentage of the sum total in Row 6.
	2020 0.56%    2021 & thereafter TBD

**Row 9**

<b>Anticipated Savings to the Average Taxpayer</b>	The amount of the savings that the average taxpayer in the county will realize in calendar year 2020, calendar year 2021, and annually thereafter if the net savings certified in the plan are realized.
	2020 0.56%    2021 & thereafter TBD

**Row 10**

<b>Anticipated Costs/Savings to the Average Homeowner</b>	The percentage amount a homeowner can expect his or her property taxes to increase or decrease in calendar year 2020, calendar year 2021, and annually thereafter if the net savings certified in the plan are realized.
	2020 0.56%    2021 & thereafter TBD

**Row 11**

<b>Anticipated Costs/Savings to the Average Business</b>	The percentage amount a business can expect its property taxes to increase or decrease in calendar year 2020, calendar year 2021, and annually thereafter if the net savings certified in the plan are realized.
	2020 0.56%    2021 & thereafter TBD Businesses are expected to save roughly the same as homeowners as identified in row 10.

#### CERTIFICATION

I hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that information provided is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. This is the finalized county-wide shared services property tax savings plan. The county-wide shared services property tax savings plan was approved on 12/30/19, and it was disseminated to residents of the county in accordance with the County-wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Law.

Rory Fluman

County Chief Executive Officer

(Print Name)

1/2/20

(Signature)

(Date)



# County-Wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan Summary

## Appendix A

**The 2020 Approved  
County of Schenectady  
County-wide Shared Services  
Property Tax Savings Plan**



**County-wide Shared Services Panel**

Gary R. McCarthy, Mayor of the City of Schenectady

Yasmine Syed, Niskayuna Town Supervisor

Christopher Koetzle, Glenville Town Supervisor

Roger Tidball, Duanesburg Town Supervisor

Louis Esposito, Princetown Town Supervisor

Steven Tommasone, Rotterdam Town Supervisor

Tom Gifford, Scotia Village Mayor

Gayle Gifford, Delanson Village Mayor

Rory Fluman, County Manager

## The Proposed 2020 County of Schenectady County-wide Shared Service Plan

### Executive Summary

The following proposed 2020 County-wide Shared Services Plan is submitted to the Schenectady County Legislature to sit for 45 days of public review. The municipalities within Schenectady County have a long and collaborative history in shared services. The County of Schenectady convened the County-wide Shared Services Panel on April 16<sup>th</sup> and September 19<sup>th</sup> of 2019 to discuss ongoing projects and shared services that will reduce municipal costs and result in property taxpayer savings. The proposed 2020 County-wide Shared services plan centers around our County Wide Radio System Project (see appendix A & B). The project involves an 800mhz trunked simulcast radio system that will serve all emergency response agencies in Schenectady County. The new system will significantly enhance communications within and between all agencies replacing out dated disparate current systems that often times fail to ensure first responder safety and the safety of the public. This new radio system is also a collaborative project with Albany County rather than purchasing our own system core, it will be shared with Albany for increased regional response capabilities.

Once fully implemented, the County-wide Shared Services initiatives Plan is anticipated to save \$ \$2,127,899 on an annualized basis for municipalities within our county (See Appendix A & B). The County intends to submit on behalf of the shared services panel a grant application through the Municipal Restructuring Fund which, if received, will leverage additional upfront funding, resulting in greater annualized savings.

In addition to the above initiatives, additional opportunities for property tax savings are under review. The most noteworthy initiative currently under analysis is the potential for the County, the City, the Towns, Villages to engage in an LED Street Lighting Initiative and a joint Zombie Property Registry.

### **Existing County of Schenectady Inter-Municipal Shared Services Successes**

The County of Schenectady and all the municipalities located within Schenectady County have a long and successful history of consolidation, shared services and inter-municipal cooperation.

- *Schenectady County Unified Communications Center*

The most recent shared services success was the creation of a single county –wide public safety call answering and dispatch center. This initiative, implemented in 2014, has saved the participating municipalities more than \$600,000 per year.

- *County Operated and Funded County-wide Library System*

The Schenectady County Public Library is one of only a few county operating and funded county-wide library system. The library system serves the City of Schenectady, five towns and two villages. The County-wide library system model has proven to be extremely efficient as demonstrated by the following chart:

**AREA LIBRARY COMPARISON – 2016**

<b>Library Name</b>	<b>Total Operating Fund Receipts Per Capita</b>
Albany Public Library	\$86.48
Bethlehem Public Library	\$140.13
Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library	\$75.72
Crandall Public Library	\$74.67
Guilderland Public Library	\$97.75
Saratoga Springs Public Library	\$109.67
Schenectady County Public Library	\$31.20

**Source: New York State Education Department – Public Library Statistics – Bibliostat Connect -**

- *Public Works and Highway Shared Services*

Current public works and highway shared services are robust and have proven to be very successful. Examples include:

- The City of Schenectady provides waste removal and leaf pick up services for the Village of Scotia.
- County of Schenectady provides snow plowing and removal for the Town of Princetown and New York State Department of Transportation.
- Town of Duanesburg provides snow plowing, leaf & brush pick up/disposal and additional special projects for the Village of Delanson.
- The City of Schenectady provides water to the Towns of Niskayuna and Rotterdam.
- The County of Schenectady provides vehicle maintenance services for the City and Village of Scotia.
- The County of Schenectady and the Town of Glenville swap snow plowing routes for purposes of efficiency.
- The County of Schenectady shares salt shed spaces with the Towns of Niskayuna & Glenville that enabled the County to eliminate snow plowing runs by increased efficiencies in salt loading onto plow trucks.
- The County of Schenectady Leaf and Brush Composting Facility is provided to the municipalities for their use.
- The County of Schenectady maintains Veterans Park for the City of Schenectady

- *Solar Energy Consortium*
  - The Schenectady County Solar Energy Consortium is a joint venture of the County of Schenectady, the City of Schenectady, the five towns in Schenectady County: Duanesburg, Glenville, Niskayuna, Rotterdam and Princetown and the two villages: Delanson and Scotia. The Consortium based on the current electricity rates will save \$460,000 annually for its members. This is based on the current experience of the County of Schenectady using our current Purchase Power Agreements. Eight identified solar farms will have a total of 26 Mw of capacity annually. Through our partnership with GE solar, the solar energy collected will be given to participants through the form of solar bill credits ultimately providing savings for all Schenectady County consortium participants. The county alone will save \$49,000 annually on these solar credits alone.
  
- *Examples of other shared services include:*
  - County-wide Hazardous Materials Team
  - County-wide Civil Service Administration
  - County-wide Traffic Prosecution
  - County provides labor contract negotiations for the City of Schenectady
  - Geographic Information Services
  - LED lighting Initiatives

## Summary

Three Public Hearings will be held to inform and engage the public for comment on the proposed 2020 County-wide Shared Services Plan (see appendix C). The Schenectady County-wide Shared Services panel will hold one final 2019 meeting where a vote will be held by municipalities to approve the 2020 County-wide Shared Services Plan. Once the plan is voted on, it will be presented to The Schenectady County Legislature in its final form, and then submitted to the New York State Department of State.



# SCHENECTADY COUNTY

## Appendix (B) of the 2020

### County-wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan



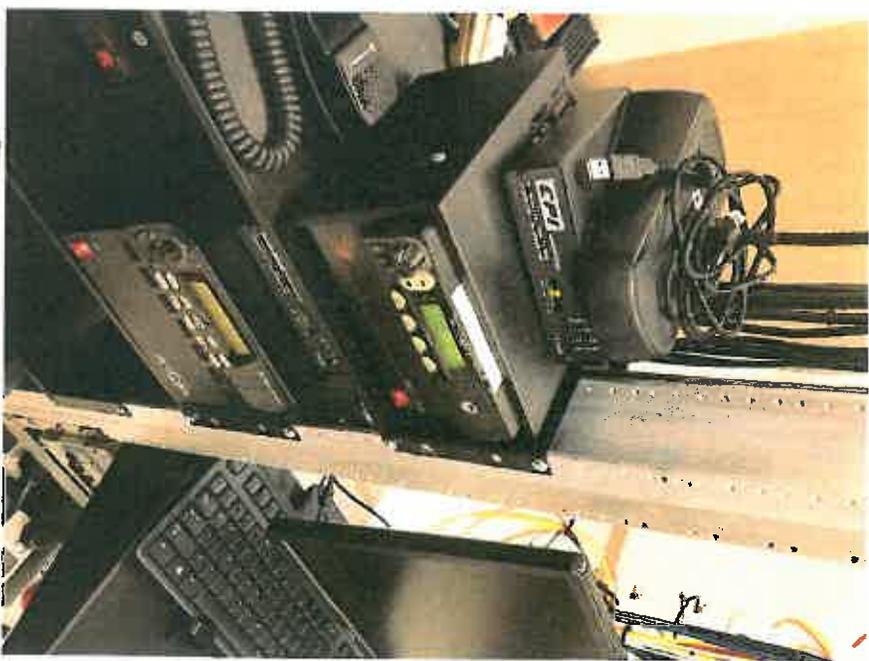
# COUNTY-WIDE RADIO SYSTEM

Schenectady County has not only accepted the challenge of establishing a county-wide radio system, but is now leading the way in cost sharing, interoperability, and shared services in the state. This large scale multi-year project will replace our disparate and broken radio systems in the county and serve to protect our emergency responders.



# EXISTING RADIO SYSTEMS IN SCHENECTADY COUNTY

- ▶ The current Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems for emergency responders is composed of several disparate systems, on several different frequency bands that are now near the end of life. All of these systems experience coverage issues in different locations in the county. These systems consist of VHF, UHF, 800MHz, Low Band, Analog and Digital.



**These radios are  
17yrs old**



# EXISTING RADIO SYSTEMS IN SCHENECTADY COUNTY

## Interoperability / Expansion

- ▶ The current systems in place leave no room for expansion in the event of large scale incidents.
- ▶ Outside agencies coming into the county to assist cannot communicate with on scene responders. Albany, Saratoga, Rensselaer have all upgraded to 800MHz county systems.
- ▶ Specific channels cannot be “patched together” as they cause interference and communication loss.



# EXISTING RADIO SYSTEMS IN SCHENECTADY COUNTY

## Coverage Gaps / Static

- ▶ There are multiple locations in the county especially the Duanesburg/Princeton section that there is no radio communication at all for our responders.
- ▶ All current systems in place emit static on a day to day basis covering what could be emergency communications.



# EXISTING RADIO SYSTEMS IN SCHENECTADY COUNTY

## National Interopable Channels

Currently if a large scale incident occurred in Schenectady County that required out of county resources, there would be no system in place for them to communicate. The map below shows the counties that have taken steps to install and monitor National Interop Channels.



# GUIDANCE

## NYS Interoperable Consortium

- ▶ Communicate More Easily Across County and National Borders
- ▶ Communicate Among Disparate Agencies
- ▶ Cover Neighboring Counties in Catastrophic Events
- ▶ Share Infrastructure and Backhaul Assets Where Possible
- ▶ Urge US Department of Homeland Security to Assist in Collaborative Initiatives (Structurally, Financially)
- ▶ Further Supports Nationally Sanctioned Public Safety Working Groups in their continued development of Safety and Interoperability Standards



# GUIDANCE

## NYS Interoperable Consortium

- ▶ Collaborate to Share Resources
  - • Spectrum
  - • Infrastructure
  - • Training Consistency
  - • Standards for Interoperability
- ▶ Albany County System is the Benchmark for the Area – The system has provided the coverage, reliability, and interoperability that all counties are reaching for.



# THE PLAN

For the last several years a team made up of representatives from Police, Fire, and EMS have been meeting to formulate a plan under the guidance of Homeland Security, that not only fulfills the Interopable Consortium Guidelines, but in the most cost effective way possible, provides Schenectady County with a long term, self sustaining, technology driven communications system.



# THE PLAN

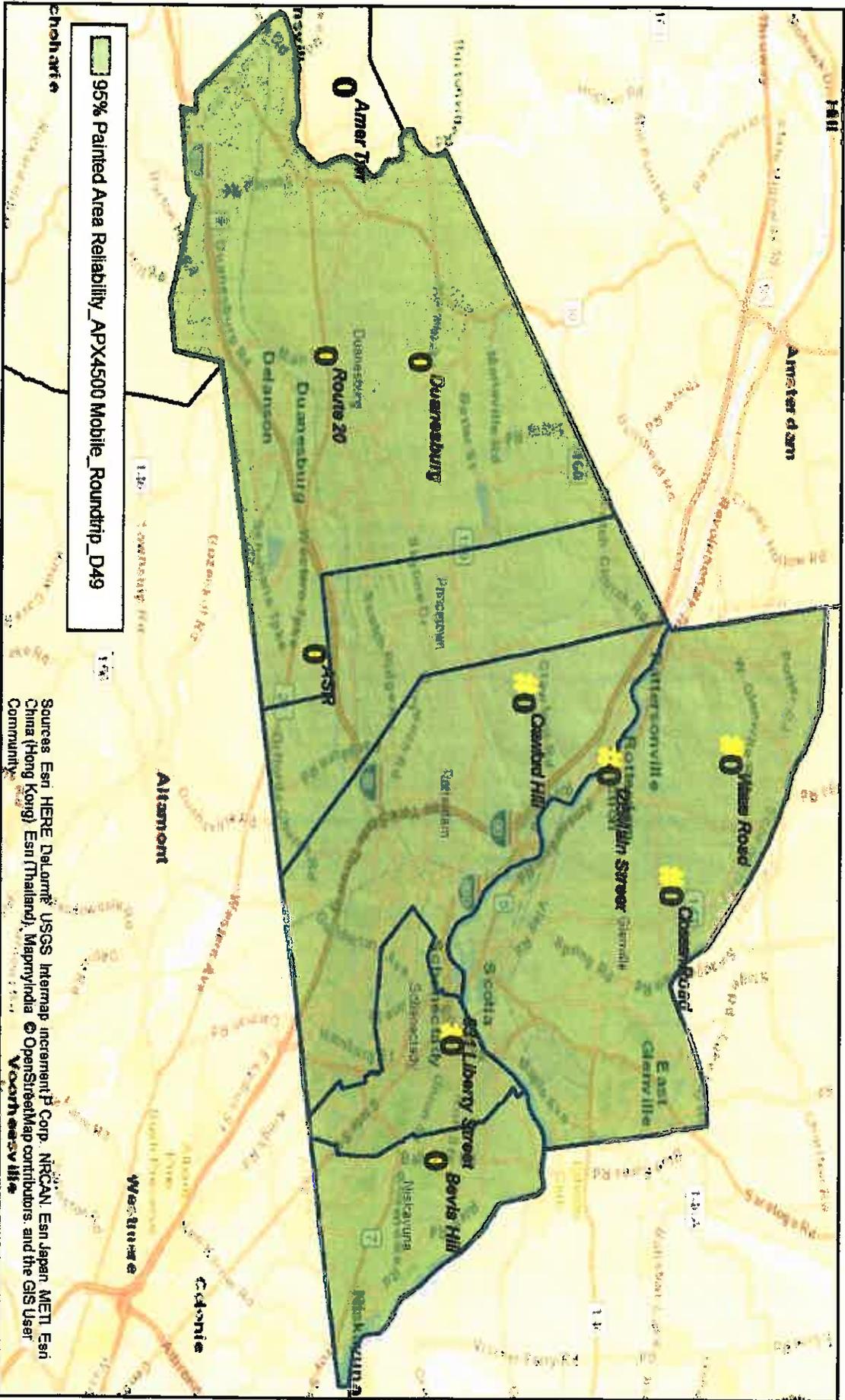
**11 site Public Safety P25, 800MHz, trunked, simulcast radio system.**

- **New hardware and infrastructure**
- **Subscriber units to provide mobile and portable radio coverage throughout the entire county for every Police, Fire, and First Responder.**
- **We will install National interoperability channels to provide radio coverage for out of county mutual aid for first responders in the event of a large scale incident.**





**Schenectady County, NY**  
 10 Site 800 MHz Astro F DMA Simulcast  
 Mobile DAQ 3.4 Roundtrip Coverage



Sources: Esri HERE DeLorme USGS Intermap increment P Corp. NRCAN, Esri Japan METI Esri China (Hong Kong) Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia © OpenStreetMap contributors and the GIS User Community

36W APX4500 Mobile, Unity Gain 1/4 Wave Antenna,  
 Center Roof Mount

For Informational  
 Purposes Only

Run\_0

JEC

Hydra 4.5.3048.0 R3

Projection: GCS\_North\_American\_1983

N/A

# THE PLAN

Great care has been taken to control costs for this undertaking.

1. Sharing the Albany County Core - Up front costs to purchase our own depending on the size of the core is 500k-1 Million dollars.
2. Maintenance for a core is approximately 180k per year we would be solely responsible for with our own core.
3. Building one new tower - Relationships with Albany County, CDTA, Schenectady City, and Schenectady County Towns have enabled us to use existing towers saving on build costs, land acquisition, and rental costs.



# THE PLAN

Equipment - Today's responders need the best equipment available. We cannot just reprogram portables or mobile units, we need to bring them all under this design. With that said the sub-scriber units being proposed are some of the best options available.



# FUNDING

By working together showing interoperability and cost sharing plans we have set our county up for the opportunity to receive additional grant funding from assorted sources.



**Appendix C  
County of Schenectady  
2020 County-wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan Timetable**

April 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	4 pm	Panel Meeting	County Office Building, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor Chambers, 620 State St, Schenectady
September 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	4 pm	Panel Meeting	County Office Building, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor Chambers, 620 State St, Schenectady
December 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	4 pm	Panel Meeting/ Vote	County Office Building, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor Chambers, 620 State St, Schenectady <b>***Plan Approved by Committee on this date***</b>

December 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2019	4 pm	Public Hearing	County Office Building, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor Chambers, 620 State St, Schenectady
December 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	4 pm	Public Hearing	County Office Building, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor Chambers, 620 State St, Schenectady
December 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	4 pm	Public Hearing	County Office Building, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor Chambers, 620 State St, Schenectady

November 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Proposed Plan Submitted to the Schenectady County Legislature for review		
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January 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	<b>The Approved 2020 County of Schenectady County-wide Shared Service Plan is Filed with the New York State Department of State</b>		
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January 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Plan Presented to the Schenectady County Legislature	County Office Building, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor Chambers, 620 State St, Schenectady	
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## VILLAGE OF DELANSON

Equal Opportunity Employer

**Mayor**  
Gayle K. Gifford

**Board of Trustees**  
Joshua D. O'Connor  
George "Bucky" Grenier

1797 Main Street, P. O. Box 235, Delanson, NY 12053  
telephone: (518) 895-2199 Fax: (518) 895-2100  
[www.delanson.net](http://www.delanson.net)

**Village Clerk-Treasurer**  
Nicole O'Connor  
**Water Commissioner**  
Jeffrey Iveson

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**DATE:** December 30, 2019

**TO:** Schenectady County

**FROM:** Mayor Gayle Gifford

**RE:** Proposed 2020 Schenectady County-wide Shared Services Plan

There are a couple things I'd like to have changed/corrected in the proposed plan.

Page 3 - Town of Duanesburg Highway provides more than snow plowing to the Village. They also provide Village Street/Road maintenance, leaf & brush pick up/disposal and additional special projects.

Appendix A - My name is spelled incorrectly it should be Gayle.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you.



**VILLAGE OF DELANSON**  
**Equal Opportunity Employer**

**Mayor**  
Gayle K. Gifford

**Board of Trustees**  
Joshua D. O'Connor  
George "Bucky" Grenier

1797 Main Street, P. O. Box 235, Delanson, NY 12053  
telephone: (518) 895-2199 Fax: (518) 895-2100  
[www.delanson.net](http://www.delanson.net)

**Village Clerk/Treasurer**  
Nicole O'Connor  
**Water Commissioner**  
Jeffrey Iveson

January 10, 2020

Mr. Rory Fluman  
County Manager  
Schenectady County  
620 State Street  
Schenectady, NY 12305

The Village of Delanson, NY is in support of any and all measures to reduce the property tax burden on our residents. The 2020 County of Schenectady Countywide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan anticipates reducing that burden by cost sharing on the new County-Wide 800MHz Radio System. The 11 site Public Safety P25, 800MHz trunked simulcast radio system will provide increased capacity and safety to our first responders through increased interoperability channels and partnerships with all surrounding counties. Schenectady County is positioned to take the lead on this project through Grant identification, application, and securing of funds for the project.

The Village of Delanson, NY is in support the 2020 County of Schenectady Countywide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan.

Sincerely,

Honorable Gayle Gifford  
Mayor

Cc: Trustee O'Connor  
Trustee Grenier



**CITY OF SCHENECTADY**  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

City Hall - Jay Street  
Schenectady, New York 12305

**Gary R. McCarthy**  
Mayor

Office: (518) 382-5000  
Cell: (518) 424-0483  
Email: [GMcCarthy@SchenectadyNY.Gov](mailto:GMcCarthy@SchenectadyNY.Gov)

January 7, 2020

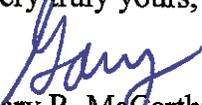
Mr. Rory Fluman  
County Manager  
Schenectady County  
620 State Street  
Schenectady, NY, 12305

Dear Rory:

The City of Schenectady, New York is in support of any and all measures to reduce the property tax burden on our residents. The 2020 County of Schenectady Countywide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan anticipates reducing that burden by cost sharing on the new County-Wide 800MHz Radio System. The 11 site Public Safety P25, 800MHz trunked simulcast radio system will provide increased capacity and safety to our first responders through increased interoperability channels and partnerships with all surrounding counties. Schenectady County is positioned to take the lead on this project through Grant identification, application, and securing of funds for the project.

The City of Schenectady, New York is in support the 2020 County of Schenectady Countywide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan.

Very truly yours,

  
Gary R. McCarthy

Rory Fluman  
County Manager  
Schenectady County  
620 State Street  
Schenectady, NY, 12305

The Town of Niskayuna, NY is in support of any and all measures to reduce the property tax burden on our residents. The 2020 County of Schenectady Countywide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan anticipates reducing that burden by cost sharing on the new County-Wide 800MHz Radio System. The 11 site Public Safety P25, 800MHz trunked simulcast radio system will provide increased capacity and safety to our first responders through increased interoperability channels and partnerships with all surrounding counties. Schenectady County is positioned to take the lead on this project through Grant identification, application, and securing of funds for the project.

The Town of Niskayuna, NY is in support the 2020 County of Schenectady Countywide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan.

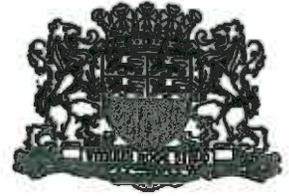
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yasmine Syed', written in a cursive style.

Yasmine Syed  
Supervisor

# TOWN OF ROTTERDAM

Steven Tommasone, Supervisor  
Evan Christou, Deputy Supervisor  
Joseph Guidarelli, Councilmember  
Samantha Miller-Herrera, Councilmember  
Stephen Signore, Councilmember



John F. Kirvin Government Center • 1100 Sunrise Boulevard • Rotterdam, NY 12306  
Telephone: 518-355-7575 • Fax: 518-355-7976 • Website: [www.rotterdamny.org](http://www.rotterdamny.org)

Rory Fluman  
County Manager  
Schenectady County  
620 State Street  
Schenectady, NY, 12305

Dear Mr. Fluman,

The Town of Rotterdam, NY is in support of any and all measures to reduce the property tax burden on our residents. The 2020 County of Schenectady Countywide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan anticipates reducing that burden by cost sharing on the new County-Wide 800MHz Radio System. The 11 site Public Safety P25, 800MHz trunked simulcast radio system will provide increased capacity and safety to our first responders through increased interoperability channels and partnerships with all surrounding counties. Schenectady County is positioned to take the lead on this project through Grant identification, application, and securing of funds for the project.

The Town of Rotterdam, NY is in support the 2020 County of Schenectady Countywide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Tommasone  
Town Supervisor