



**Cortland County
Agriculture, Planning &
Environmental Committee
Committee Meeting
~ Agenda ~**

60 Central Ave.
Cortland, NY 13045
www.cortlandcountyny.gov

Thursday, April 9, 2026

10:00 AM

Room 302

View Meeting Virtually

WebEx Meeting Information

<https://cortlandny.webex.com/cortlandny/j.php?MTID=m45cf59fba1fc42bdc352c8947fe41917>

Thursday, April 9, 2026 10:00 AM | 1 hour | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 2334 167 8648

Password: EFzppaPB623

Join by phone

+1-415-655-0001 US Toll

Access code: 233 416 78648

Call to Order

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Committee Member Reed Cleland				
Committee Member Beau Harbin				
Committee Member Paul Heider				
Committee Member Jason Prentice				
Committee Member Sandra Price				
Committee Vice-Chair Mitchell Eccleston				
Committee Chair William McGovern				

Approval of Minutes

- March 12, 2026 - Agriculture, Planning & Environmental Committee Minutes**

Resolutions

ON MOTION OF WILLIAM MCGOVERN

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.

Adopt Cortland County Public Transportation System Title VI Plan

WHEREAS, the Title VI Act of 1964 ensured that anti-discrimination is enforced throughout the work undertaken by all recipients of federal funding; AND

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Title VI/Environmental Justice program serves, creates, implements and regulates procedures that comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898, Executive Order 13166, Limited English proficiency, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 and the Title 49 CFR Part 21; AND

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires all applicants who receive federal funding ensure their programs, policies, and activities comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; AND

WHEREAS, Title VI provisions include, but are not limited to, prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, age, nationality, religion, disabling condition, or being included within minority populations and/or low-income populations, as well as prohibits exclusion from participation, denial of benefits to, or others subject to discrimination under any program or activity administered by NYSDOT; AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County is an applicant on various types of transportation grants; AND

WHEREAS, Trisha R. Hiemstra PE, Director of Planning, is the Cortland County Public Transportation Title VI Officer; AND

WHEREAS, under the requirements of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), all recipients who receive Federal Funding must have a Transportation Title VI Plan and Procedures; AND

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Cortland County Public Transportation System Title VI Plan will fulfill the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirement; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature be and hereby officially adopts the Cortland County Public Transportation System Title VI Plan.

ON MOTION OF WILLIAM MCGOVERN

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2.

Amend 2026 Budget – Rural Transportation Assistance Program

WHEREAS, the Rural Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP) is a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) program administered by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to support training and professional development; AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County can access RTAP funds directly to be reimbursed for individual training and professional development needs; AND

WHEREAS, RTAP funds are fully reimbursable, and no local matching share is required under the NYSDOT RTAP program; AND

WHEREAS, in order to attend training and professional development activities under RTAP, the County must amend the 2026 budget to reflect the increase in both estimated revenue and appropriations associated with these reimbursable funds; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, the Cortland County 2026 budget is amended as follows:

Increase

Revenue	A56305 44589 RTAP	\$10,000
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Increase

Appropriations	A56305 54035 RTAP	\$10,000
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ON MOTION OF WILLIAM MCGOVERN

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3.

Authorize Agreement with New York State Department of Transportation Federal 5311 Mass Transportation Capital Project Contract Number C006015 Mobility Management and Mobility Management (ADTAP)

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature adopted Resolution No. 244-22, which authorized the County of Cortland to submit a request for the consolidated grant funds to the New York State Department of Transportation, pursuant Federal Section 5311, Title 49 United States Code, for the continuation of Mobility Management Program for contract period January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2029 and has a committed local share; AND

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation is requesting a resolution to indicate Cortland County's acceptance of the Mass Transportation Capital Agreement under Contract Number C006015 to include specific PIN Numbers:

PIN Number 3790.00.103 Mobility Management
PIN Number 3790.05.102 2023 Mobility Management
PIN Number 3790.05.402 2023 ADTAP Mobility Management
PIN Number 3790.06.102 2024 Mobility Management
PIN Number 3790.06.402 2024 ADTAP Mobility Management

; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the total project cost is \$791,752.97; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review and approval by the County Attorney or designee, be and is hereby authorized to sign the New York State Department of Transportation Mass Capital Agreement Contract C006015 for specific PIN Numbers stated above.

ON MOTION OF WILLIAM MCGOVERN

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.

A Resolution in Support of State Legislation to Protect Prime Farmland and Strengthen Standards for Siting Major Renewable Energy Facilities (A.10519/S.8712)

WHEREAS, New York State has established ambitious clean energy and emissions reduction goals that require timely deployment of renewable energy generation and supporting infrastructure; AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County supports the responsible development of renewable energy projects while also protecting public health, community character, local economies, and critical natural resources; AND

WHEREAS, agriculture is a cornerstone of Cortland County's economy and contributes to Cortland County's overall food security and resilience, as demonstrated by the statistics contained in the USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture; AND

WHEREAS, farmland conversion can be permanent, and large-scale energy projects sited on prime agricultural soils may reduce long-term agricultural productivity and undermine regional farmland protection strategies; AND

WHEREAS, the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (ORES) plays a central role in permitting major renewable energy facilities under Public Service Law Article 8, and statewide standards should provide clear, enforceable protections for agricultural lands, including prime farmland and soils; AND

WHEREAS, A.10519/S.8712 (Woerner/Hinchey) would strengthen agricultural land protections by (1) defining "agrivoltaics" as the integrated, simultaneous production of solar energy and marketable agricultural products, (2) directing ORES to prioritize previously developed and underutilized sites such as

brownfields, landfills, former industrial/commercial sites, dormant generating sites, and large built sites, (3) requiring enhanced evaluation of impacts to prime farmland and important soil groups, (4) requiring cumulative impact review and regional farmland considerations, and (5) strengthening decommissioning planning and financial assurances to ensure agricultural soils can be restored for future production; AND

WHEREAS, the bill would further support farmland preservation by establishing a farmland conservation fee for certain solar development on prime farmland, deposited into the state Agricultural and Farmland Viability Protection Fund, while exempting qualifying agrivoltaics projects to encourage dual-use designs that maintain active agricultural production; AND

WHEREAS, the legislation requires periodic reevaluation of these standards to incorporate new information and technology and to ensure continued effectiveness in balancing renewable energy development with the protection of a critical mass of farmland within each region; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that Cortland County supports legislation to amend the Public Service Law to strengthen farmland protection and food security considerations in the siting, design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of major renewable energy facilities, including by prioritizing previously developed sites and establishing clear standards for agrivoltaics; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that Cortland County urges the New York State Legislature and Governor Kathy Hochul to enact this legislation to ensure renewable energy development proceeds in a manner that minimizes impacts on prime agricultural lands, supports regional farmland preservation objectives, and protects the long-term viability of New York's agricultural economy and local food systems; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that Cortland County calls for continued partnership among New York State, the counties, ORES, the Public Service Commission, and the Department of Agriculture and Markets to implement siting standards that promote clean energy while safeguarding critical working lands and ensuring meaningful local engagement and practical, enforceable decommissioning and restoration requirements; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that Cortland County shall authorize the Clerk of the Legislature to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the Temporary President of the Senate, NYS Senator Lea Webb, Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie, Assemblymember Anna Kelles, Assemblymember Jeff Gallahan, the chairs of relevant state legislative committees, ORES, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), the Public Service Commission, the Department of Agriculture and Markets, and to the Town Supervisors and Village Mayors of the various Cortland County municipalities.

Monthly Reports

- 1. Cornell Cooperative Extension Monthly Report**
- 2. Department of Planning & Economic Development Monthly Report**

Discussion Items

- 1. Direction with Economic Development aspect**
- 2. Potential time change for Committee**
- 3. Climat Smart Communities Sub-Committee**

Adjournment