

GENESEE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

Resolution 16-9 *Accepting the Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Trails Initiative Update as evidence of completion of UPWP Task 8701*

WHEREAS,

1. The *FY 2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program* includes Task 8701, Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Trails Initiative Update, for the purpose of updating the Regional Trails Initiative Phases I and II to reflect changes in completed and proposed trail development, funding sources, and design guidance, as well as provide a gap analysis of the existing trail network and a review of maintenance policies;
2. Said Task included inventorying and analyzing existing physical, environmental, and demographic conditions, assessing the needs of current and potential trail users, soliciting public input, developing alternatives, design guidance, and maintenance recommendations, and preparing a final report with an executive summary;
3. Said Task has been completed and has resulted in the *Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Trails Initiative Update*; and
4. Said Report has been reviewed by GTC staff and member agencies through the GTC committee process and has been found to be consistent with the goals, objectives, and recommendations of the Long Range Transportation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. That the Genesee Transportation Council hereby accepts the *Regional Trails Initiative Update* as evidence of completion of UPWP Task 8701; and
2. That this resolution takes effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned duly qualified Secretary of the Genesee Transportation Council certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Genesee Transportation Council held on March 10, 2016.

Date _____

KEVIN C. BUSH, Secretary
Genesee Transportation Council



Genesee-Finger Lakes
**Regional
Trails**
INITIATIVE

Phase III • February 2016

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Genesee-Finger Lakes Region is replete with picturesque landscapes, cultural destinations, and thriving communities. Already, a variety of trails serve the citizens and visitors to this unique area of the country. Counties, municipalities, the Genesee Transportation Council (GTC), and, importantly, community stakeholders, illustrate their commitment and excitement for a regional trail system by their efforts to build local trails and collaborate across the region to connect people with places.

In this Third Phase of the *Regional Trails Initiative*, the GTC and nine counties further solidify their commitment to create and maintain a world-class trail system that will serve the residents and visitors of the Finger Lakes region in the immediate future, and for years to come.

PLAN VISION

The vision for the Genesee-Finger Lakes Trail System is to provide a well-connected network of trails that links the region's healthy, thriving communities, builds on the unique assets of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region, and is safe and accessible for all.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives will advance the community's vision for a sustainable trail network that promotes public health, protects the environment, provides connectivity, and enhances the quality-of-life of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region.

GOAL 1

CONNECTIVITY

Develop a comprehensive, interconnected system of trails that will serve as a vital component of our region's transportation and recreation network.

Objectives

Connect communities, employment centers, and natural areas with trails that function as a complete system.

Utilize existing linear corridors (railroads, utility ROW's, waterways, etc.) in the development of a comprehensive trail system.

Implement a trail system that provides opportunities for low-cost recreation and active transportation.

Create broadly-understood and well-used linkages between destinations throughout the region to support economic development and tourism.

GOAL 2

HEALTH

Encourage active living through thoughtful trail planning and design, while considering the long-term health and environmental implications of routes and design choices.

Objectives

Create opportunities for the use of trails to increase physical activity and reduce the risk of chronic diseases and obesity.

Decrease dependence on vehicles for short trips.

Provide opportunities for people to connect with and appreciate nature and the environmental quality of the region.

Develop a trail system that is sustainable over time by providing resource protection guidance, including information on methods and best management practices in trail, design, development, and management.

**GOAL
3****ENGAGEMENT**

Encourage open communication, cooperation, and coordination among government and non-government entities including landowners, trail groups, and other organizations.

Objectives

Identify and consider the needs of all user groups when developing trails in the region.

Encourage participation and collaboration from all stakeholders, including property owners and inter-municipal partners to help ensure projects are implemented.

Identify and secure adequate funding for short-term maintenance and repairs and/or volunteers.

Promote federal, state, and local grant funding opportunities for trail development and partner with foundations and corporations for matching funds.

Encourage counties, cities, towns, and villages to include trails as an essential components in local infrastructure planning.

**GOAL
4****SAFETY**

Develop a safe network that utilizes best practices and methods in trail design, development, and management.

Objectives

Create open and safe trails with access for emergency personnel.

Utilize appropriate wayfinding, signage, and lighting to create a sense of security for all users.

Educate the community on trail safety.

**GOAL
5****EQUITY**

Develop a trail system that expands low-cost transportation choices, is accessible to all users, and meets or exceeds the standards and guidance of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Objectives

Provide opportunities for all people to have easy access to trails.

Create and encourage the development of new trail opportunities close to where people live.

Strive to design new trails for maximum accessibility (where appropriate).

Community Driven Process

Project stakeholders, public participants, and planning consultants collaborated to develop the recommendations for the future trail system. The recommendations build upon the analysis of existing planning documents, public insight, and field visits. Public workshops and an online input map provided both in person discourse and specific trail alignment feedback. The diagram below summarizes the inputs involved in creating a regional network.

Network Development

The Regional Trails Initiative Update is comprised of a phased network of facilities that will expand the 500 plus mile trail system to more than 1,000 miles in an effort to connect communities, celebrate natural features, and enhance access to cultural destinations. The system will improve health for both people and the environment by providing recreation opportunities, active transportation corridors, and educational programming. As the gaps close, this trail network will be a world-class model for regional connectivity and a destination in and of itself.

Trail Network Components

This plan unites the efforts of Phase 1 and Phase 2 to create a comprehensive nine county trails system. In some instances trails are recommended for surface upgrades; while other alignments may be removed from the regional network plan due to trail development and feasibility concerns. A data collection process was also undertaken to accurately record the existing and proposed local trails throughout each county. Key destinations were researched and documented to highlight places throughout the nine counties that can be connected with, and celebrated by, a regional trail system. Key components in the development of the trails system include:

1 TRANSPORTATION FOCUS

While there are extensive recreation-based trails throughout the region, this plan focuses on those trails used for transportation - for both daily utilitarian use and tourism. Motorized trail types, including snowmobile trails, are not included in the recommendation; instead they are used in this plan as key destinations.

2 COMPLEXITY + FEASIBILITY

The proposed trail network, in its third phase, is becoming more complex. Detailed studies of trail alignments have led to more specific alignments. These new, more refined alignments have been added to the network, and the previous conceptual lines have been removed. Alternately, some alignments have been removed completely due to fragmentation or feasibility studies indicating numerous barriers.

3 REGIONAL HUBS

Another key addition in this phase is the placement of "trail hubs." These hubs will serve as gateways to the regional trail system. Each hub should provide a level of amenities commensurate with being a major trailhead. Major trailheads/hubs include restrooms, parking areas for vehicles and trailers, potential access to camping or lodging, maps and kiosks, and signposts for the trail and its features. Minor trailheads/hubs usually include a map or kiosk of the trail network, connections to adjacent sidewalks or bicycle facilities, and shared parking. Minor trailheads are sometimes referred to as "walk-up" trailheads.

4 ON-ROAD GAP CLOSURES

As the region embraces trails for transportation use, there is also a need to close gaps with on-road segments in key locations. In addition to typical trail types, alignments for on-road facilities are also depicted on the network maps. These gap closures emphasize the importance of

5 DESIGN GUIDANCE

Each trail type is suitable for the purpose of use (recreation / transportation / both), trail users, and environmental context. The following categories of documented existing conditions and network recommendations are present in this plan. Full descriptions and guidelines for development of planned and potential trails can be found in Appendix B: Design Guidelines.

Phase 3 Recommendations Trails Marked For Removal from Plan^{**}



- Counties
- Municipalities
- Cities and Villages
- Major Parks
- Transportation Mgmt. Area (TMA)

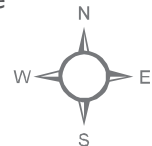
- Snowmobile Trail
- Lake Ontario Wine Trail
- Scenic Byway
- Existing /Under Dev. Trail

Phase III Recommended Trails

- Upgrade Surface Type
- Planned (previously planned trail)
- - - Potential (new trail opportunity)
- - - On-Road Trail
- Removed, No Longer Feasible

Data obtained from the Genesee Transportation Council, Monroe County, Livingston County, Wayne County, the City of Rochester, NYDOT, and the NYSGIS Clearinghouse. Map created May, 2015.

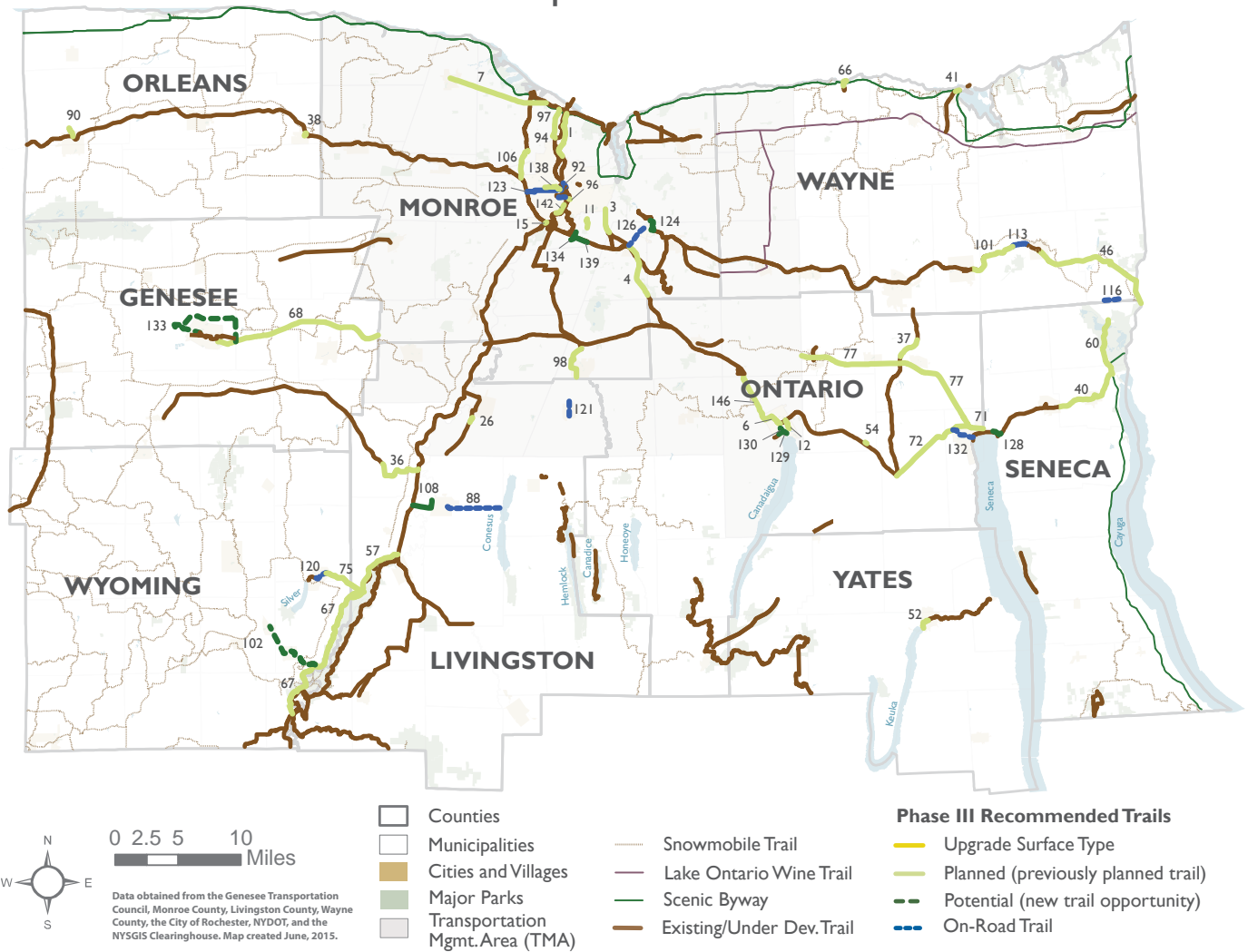
0 2.5 5 10
Miles



In some cases, the responsible recommendation is to remove trails from the system due to fragmentation or unrealistic land acquisition efforts. Alignments were also marked for removal when an alternate alignment provided a better, more feasible connection between two destinations.

^{**}Please refer to large format map inserts for detailed alignments.

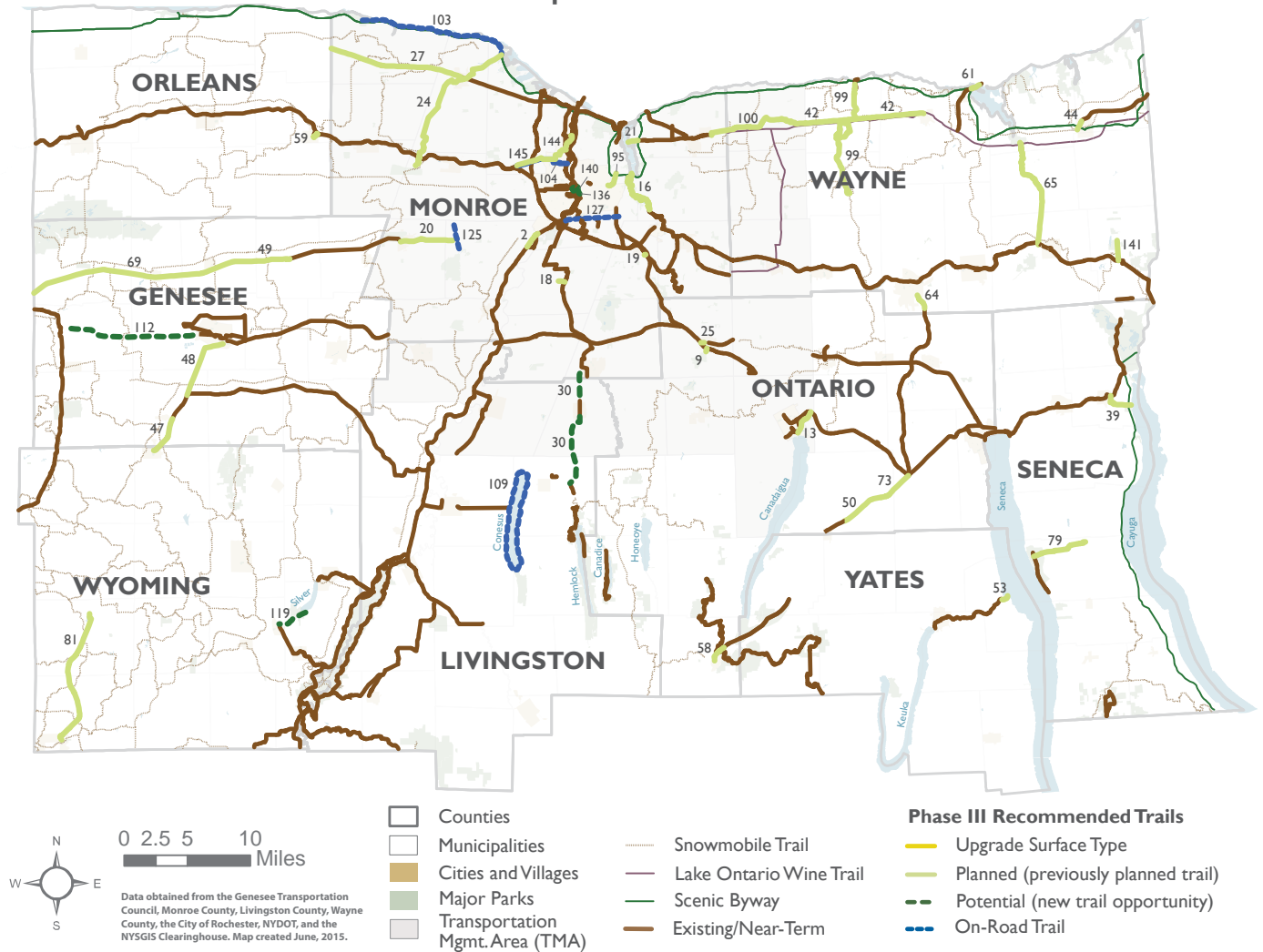
Trail Project Recommendations Near-Term Implementation Window **



Near-term recommendations should be built or be in design development within five years (2015-2020).

**Please refer to large format map inserts for detailed alignments.

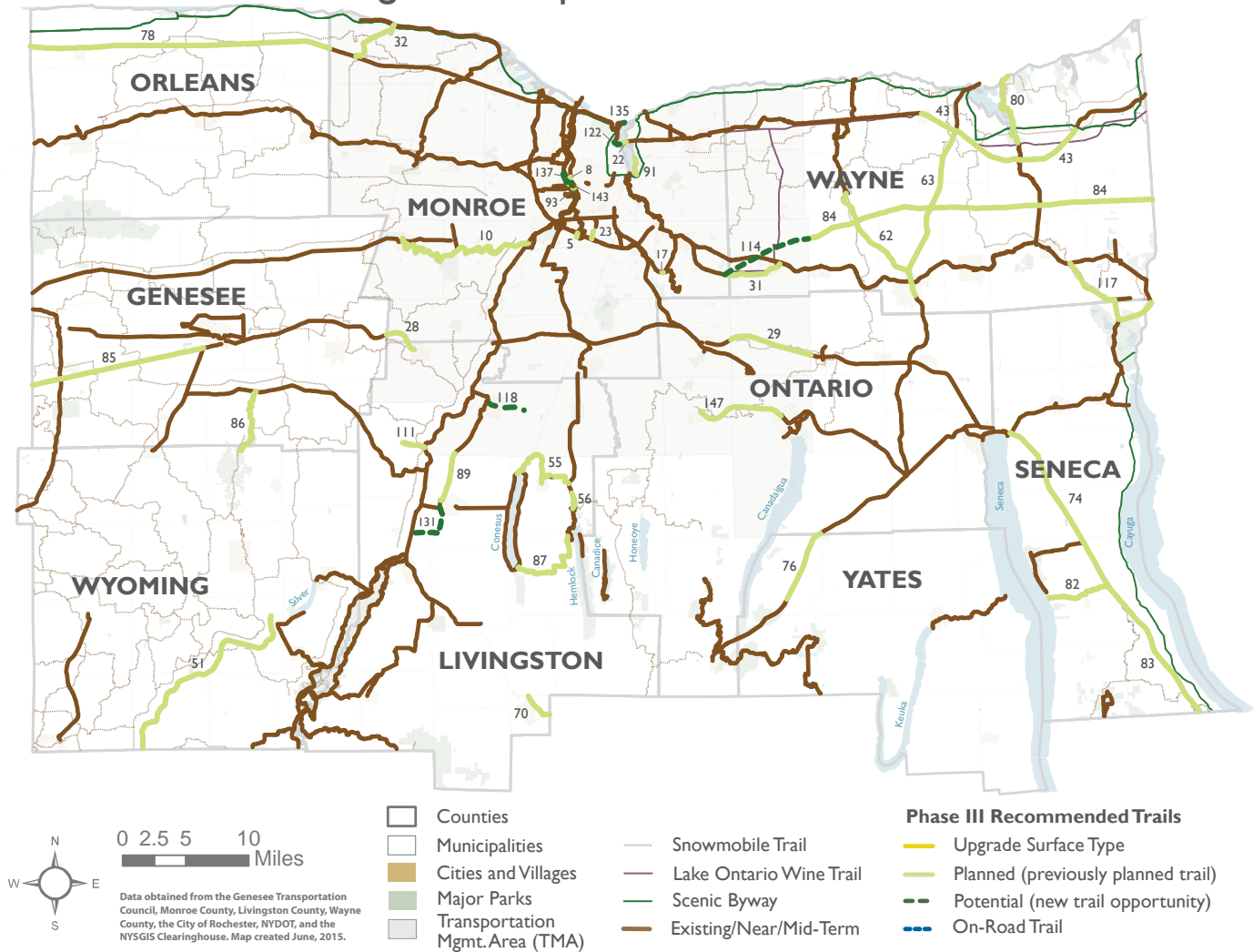
Trail Project Recommendations Mid-Term Implementation Window**



Mid-term recommendations should be built or be in design development within ten years (2020-2025). The map above illustrates all near-term recommendations have been built.

**Please refer to large format map inserts for detailed alignments.

Trail Project Recommendations Long-Term Implementation Window**



Long-term recommendations are likely to be built after ten years (post 2025). The map above illustrates all near-term and mid-term recommendations have been built.

**Please refer to large format map inserts for detailed alignments.

Planning, Management, and Marketing Recommendations

In addition to trail alignment recommendations, this Plan offers recommendations that will enhance the brand of the regional trail system, provide opportunities to increase use, and elevate the consistency of quality experiences. Implementing the recommendations within this Plan will require leadership and dedication to trail development on the part of local government agencies. Most importantly, the local communities within the region need not accomplish the recommendations of this Plan by acting alone; success will be realized through collaboration with state and federal agencies, the private sector, and non-profit organizations.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITIES

The following tables lists recommendations and follow-on activities. Narrative descriptions can be found in Chapter 5.

Recommendations	Follow-On Activities
Zoning and Ordinances	Equity Analysis
Utility Easements	Health and Economic Impact Study
Corporate Sponsorships	Branding Strategy
Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Trails App	Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Trails Website
See-Click-Fix	Wayfinding Sign Package and Systemwide Placement Plan
"Pictures of You" - The Kodak Trail	"My Last Mile" Campaign
"Wine Along The Trail" and Pop-Up Beer Gardens	Design and Implementation of Branded Trail Amenities
Photo Scavenger Hunt - Power and Freight	Identify Key Areas for Trail Oriented Development
Develop a Trails Report Card	Establish a Series of Regional Hubs
Route Marking for Distance Events: Running, Cross Country Skiing, Pair with a Cause	Develop a Maintenance Check List By Season
Friends of the Trail Membership	Trail Counts and App Tracking
Guided Tours and Encouragement Walks/Rides	Design Guidelines Workshop