

# Underutilized and Abandoned Right-of-Way Inventory

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the 2016-2018 Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWP), the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) developed the *Underutilized and Abandoned Right-of-Way Inventory*.

### Purpose

The purpose of this planning-level inventory is to identify underutilized and abandoned right-of-way (ROW) within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) and document findings in a Geographical Information System (GIS) to serve as a desktop reference for future planning activities.

### Abandoned or Underutilized ROW

Staff considered a ROW underutilized if it appeared to be a well-delineated corridor that provides limited or restricted access. Similarly, staff considered ROW abandoned if it appeared that it is no longer in use.

In addition to closed roadways, bridges, and railroad/trolley facilities, the inventory also includes underutilized access roads for utility corridors, abandoned train platforms, water features, closed landing strips, abandoned tunnels, and underutilized trails.

### Methodology

SMTC transportation planners reviewed high-resolution aerial and streetview images on Google Earth and historic maps to identify underutilized and abandoned ROW within the MPA. The process involved applying local knowledge and professional judgement on a case-by-case basis. The

following image shows an example of a closed roadway that exists within the MPA.



**Image:** Closed Roadway - Valley Drive, Town of Elbridge (Elbridge R1). Description: A section of Valley Drive along Skaneateles Creek is closed between the villages of Elbridge and Jordan.

The SMTC determined that establishing a Study Advisory Committee and holding public meetings was not necessary to develop a ROW inventory.

The final geodatabase inventory consists of the GIS shapefile and its attribute table. SMTC planners and any member agencies may use the inventory as a planning-level reference for future planning efforts provided that the noted disclaimers are followed. Inventory data may contain sensitive information and include features that exist on private property. Therefore, caution is advised, and the SMTC makes no guarantee about the accuracy or completeness of this data. The geodatabase is for general planning-level reference purposes only.