

Complete Streets + Green Buildings = Complete Communities

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ABSTRACT

Green buildings can only be so green if people can't walk, bike, or otherwise get to them without having to get in a motorized vehicle (even if it's an EV). And what about in rural NYS? Shouldn't they have active transportation options too? And what about health outcomes and wellness? The Clarkson CEM Consulting group, partnering with the St. Lawrence County Health Initiative (under the NYS Health Department Creating Healthy Schools and Communities Program), has worked to make the critical connections that put life back into buildings, communities, and spaces that have been too often forgotten. In this session, the team will share how efforts to engage in complete streets/vision zero efforts have helped to revitalize small towns and enhance the sustainability of the buildings in them. From the hamlet at the center of the Town of Madrid to the connections to and from the St. Lawrence Central School buildings/campus, C3G, through a practical experiential learning experience, is helping to build the next generation of engineers that understand both green building and green infrastructure that connects them.

BIOGRAPHY

Erik C. Backus, P.E., LEED AP BD+C, ENV SP, FMP, is a Professor of Practice and the Howard E. Lechler Endowed Director of the Construction Engineering Management program at Clarkson University. At Clarkson, Professor Backus teaches courses and executes research/work in an array of topics related to the built environment. Chief among these topics are sustainability, resilience, and life-cycle thinking related to infrastructure and buildings. Most recently Erik has lead a team of students and fellow faculty researchers in the process of attaining LEED for Communities Gold certification for the New York Olympic Region, which includes the site of the famed 1980 Miracle on Ice in Lake Placid.