



SUSAN VANBENSCHOTEN, PE



PRESIDENT | CEO | PRINCIPAL ASSOCIATE

OVERVIEW

Ms. VanBenschoten has over 25 years of professional experience including the management of complex multidisciplinary, transportation planning and engineering projects for state agencies, municipalities, and institutions, and private developers. Ms. VanBenschoten's expertise is focused in the area of transportation planning using context sensitive solutions aimed at community enhancement. She has expertise in traffic operations, multi-modal transportation planning and design, traffic calming, and public involvement. Her experience includes a wide variety of projects such as: corridor management plan development, corridor studies, transit oriented development (TOD) planning, master planning, area-wide transportation studies, transit studies, pedestrian and bicycle planning. She specializes in managing large-scale, multi-modal and multi-disciplinary projects.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Ms. VanBenschoten has extensive experience on a wide variety of transportation projects such as corridor management plans, corridor studies, traffic impact studies, transportation master plan development, downtown revitalization plans, parking studies, travel surveys, and long-range transportation plans. Her particular area of focus is developing context appropriate solutions for community enhancement by evaluating a wide range of transportation strategies from traditional to innovative solutions.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Ms. VanBenschoten has a particular expertise in and passion for the public involvement elements of her projects. She is skilled in bringing diverse interest groups together to address issues in consensus building efforts. Her work has included identifying stakeholders, orchestrating and moderating public and stakeholder meetings, interactive workshops, and design charrettes. She also is well versed in a variety of other public outreach applications such as surveys, newsletters, media releases, and project websites.

LAND USE PLANNING AND MASTER PLANNING

Ms. VanBenschoten has managed and participated in the preparation of numerous land use plans for corridors and municipalities. She has a thorough and comprehensive understanding of interrelationship of land use and transportation and how to manage one to positively influence and complement the other. Her land use work has focused on holistic planning of mixed-use master plans, low impact developments, transit-oriented developments, and village and urban environments with complete streets.

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

ROUTE 7 TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE PLAN | WILTON, REDDING, RIDGEFIELD, DANBURY, CT | 2010-2011

Ms. VanBenschoten served as Project Manager for the development of a comprehensive transportation and land use plan for the Route 7 corridor from Norwalk to Danbury, CT. Susan managed a large study team who worked together to develop a broad transportation and land use plan for the area. The goal was to look ahead to the year

EDUCATION

- B.S. Civil and Environmental Engineering, Clarkson University, 1986
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rensselaer at Hartford, MBA Candidate

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)
- Connecticut Institute for Traffic Engineers (CTITE)
- Connecticut Chapter for Intelligent Transportation Systems (CT-ITS)
- Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS)

YEARS EXPERIENCE

- 8 Years with firm
- 25 Years in industry





2030 and improve and interconnect the various components of the transportation system including the roadway, commuter rail, bus travel, walking, and biking. The study team has also evaluated how land is currently used in the corridor and how it could be used in the future to work with the transportation system serving it. Concept plans for three focus areas in the corridor were developed by holding neighborhood design charrettes that established a vision and plan for various activity nodes along the corridor. An action plan was developed to guide the various stakeholders in their implementation of the various plan elements into the future.

REDEVELOPMENT OF THE GILBERT AND BENNETT WIRE MILL FACTORY | GEORGETOWN, CT | 2004-2008

Ms. VanBenschoten served as Project Manager for a variety of consulting services to the developers for the Georgetown site in Redding, CT. Initially, working with a large spectrum of stakeholders, FHI prepared the transportation Master Plan for traffic access and internal circulation for the development site. The transportation master plan formed the basis for the more detailed traffic study to support the site plan and State Traffic Commission (STC) certificate approvals. FHI also assisting GLDC with the rail station legal, design, and operational issues associated with constructing a new rail station and grade crossing upgrade and relocation. This assistance includes coordination with various departments at the Connecticut Department of Transportation as well as the service operator; MetroNorth. Over the course of 5 years of consulting services, Ms. VanBenschoten assisted the project team with technical analyses, documentation, agency coordination, project marketing and advocacy, and strategy and became a trusted leader as part of the project development team.

TOWNWIDE TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE STUDY | ESSEX, CT | 2010

Working as a partner with another consulting firm, Ms. VanBenschoten is serving as FHI's Project Manager in the development of a townwide transportation and land use plan for the historic town of Essex, CT. This study is focused on enhancing the quality of life in Essex by providing transportation options other than cars to facilitate mobility within the town and connectivity between the three village centers and other major destinations. The plan consists of land use and other regulatory strategies aimed to promote a development pattern of mixed use villages and discourage the emerging trend of suburban-like sprawl. Complementing these regulatory strategies are infrastructure improvements to improve safety and walk ability within villages and support the desire to bike and use transit to get around town. Ms. VanBenschoten has led the public involvement efforts associated with the project as well as the traffic analyses and strategies that are focused on calming traffic, balancing all modes of travel, improving safety, and enhancing sense of place.

REDESIGN OF I-587/ALBANY AVENUE/BROADWAY URBAN GATEWAY | KINGSTON, NY | 2010

The intersection of Route I-587/Albany Avenue and Broadway serves as a key gateway into the City of Kingston, NY. Unfortunately it is currently an unsafe, hostile area where vehicles dominate the environment challenging the sustainability of the economic community in and around the intersection. FHI is leading the effort to redesign the intersection to balance the needs of all modes while creating a "place" and attractive gateway into the city. Using innovative approaches, such as modern roundabouts and enhanced transportation networks for all modes, the project team is working to advance a design concept that will more safely process traffic while enhancing the City. Ms. VanBenschoten serves as the Senior Project Advisor on this project helping FHI's project manager with both technical and public involvement strategy.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TRAFFIC SAFETY CONSULTING | 2009-2011

Ms. VanBenschoten has managed a variety of efforts for various clients to promote federal, state, and local Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs. Her consulting services for SRTS efforts include State, Regional, and Municipal clients and have ranged from infrastructure and operational improvements, assessment of school policies that affect transportation safety, and programmatic elements such as educational programs (bike rodeos for example) and other encouragement strategies. A large component for successful SRTS school programs is the ability to engage the entire school community including students, parents, and the school administration. As such, Ms. VanBenschoten's strong public involvement, communication, and coordination skills have been an asset on these types of projects. Many of Ms. VanBenschoten's projects have received significant federal infrastructure grants as well as awards for innovation.



**TRAFFIC CALMING TRAINING AND RESOURCE GUIDE DEVELOPMENT | SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT MUNICIPALITIES | 2009**

Ms. VanBenschoten served as Project Manager for the training of 15 municipalities and the development of a Resource Guide for their use in the consideration of traffic calming principles. Ms. VanBenschoten conducted training sessions with the 15 municipalities and the regional planning agency focused on the traffic calming study process and toolbox of calming strategies. A resource guide was developed as part of this training for the municipalities to use when conducting their own traffic calming studies. As part of this effort, a pilot project was selected and completed for the Choate School in Wallingford, CT.

CITY OF NORWALK CONNECTIVITY PLAN | NORWALK, CT | 2010-2011

Ms. VanBenschoten serves as Project Advisor to FHI's Project Manager for the development of a connectivity plan for the City of Norwalk Redevelopment Authority. FHI is currently working with the City to develop a multimodal plan focused on providing connectivity between the existing and planned development in the West Avenue Corridor of the City. The plan includes an innovated transit shuttle service to decrease dependence on cars as well as parking policy and bike and pedestrian infrastructure to promote walking and biking. The plan also includes some urban design elements focused on improving aesthetics and sense of place. Ms. VanBenschoten has been working on a variety of public and private initiatives within the City and provides a comprehensive perspective to this project given her experience locally within Norwalk as well as other urban settings.

ADDITIONAL PROJECT EXPERIENCE

- Route 44 Corridor Study, Bolton CT (2007-2008)
- Route 72 Corridor Study, Bristol CT (2007)
- 95/7 Ventures Mixed Used Development, Norwalk, CT (2008)
- Gateway Community College Traffic Access Plan, New Haven, CT (2007-2008)
- Kelly Road Traffic Calming Study and Funding Application; South Windsor CT (2003-2004)
- Greenwich (CT) Central Business District Traffic Management Plan (2002)
- Lockwood Road Traffic Calming Study, Greenwich, CT (2000)
- Adriaen's Landing Transportation Master Plan, Hartford, CT (2000-2001)
- I-95 (CT) Commuter Shoulders Operational Screening (2003)
- Route 34 Corridor Study, Derby, CT (2004-2005)
- State Scenic Road Corridor Management Plans (2002-2003)
- Route 7 Travel Options Improvement Plan, SWRPA and HVCEO (1998-1999)
- Stamford Transportation Center Access and Circulation Study, City of Stamford (2003-2004)
- Danbury (CT) Branch Commuter Rail Extension Feasibility Study, HVCEO (1993)
- Southeastern Connecticut Intermodal Transit Study, SCCOG (2005)
- Commuter Rail Station Site Selection/Design, West Haven/Orange, CT (2003-2005)

