

**“Best Practices in Participatory Decision Making  
to Improve Civil Infrastructure Systems”**

Workshop to be held in New York City  
October 26 and 27, 2001

*Sponsored by the Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems*

This workshop will bring together public participation specialists, decision scientists and participants in public and community decisions to discuss successes, failures, and best practices of public participation processes. The focus of the workshop will be on decision processes that use decision analysis and public participation tools to improve infrastructure systems, such as transportation systems, utility lifelines, and wastewater treatment systems.

The workshop will be held on October 26 and 27 at New York University’s Wagner School. About 20 participants representing the fields of decision analysis, negotiation analysis, social psychology, economics, public participation, and community involvement have been invited. Most participants will have some disciplinary roots, but they will also have extensive experience with participatory processes in the area of infrastructure systems.

The workshop will be sponsored by the Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems (ICIS), which is a collaborative effort of New York University (lead), the University of Southern California, Cornell University, and New York Polytechnic University. Rae Zimmerman is the director of ICIS. The workshop organizers are Kathy Stein and Detlof von Winterfeldt.

During the first day, selected participants will present their experiences with decision analysis and public participation processes, emphasizing what worked, what did not work, the lessons they learned and guidelines for best practices. Each presentation will be followed by brief reactions from two panelists. The second day will be devoted to round table discussions of several topics, including best practices and visions for the future, especially considering new analysis and communications technologies. The findings of the workshop will be summarized in a White Paper.