



E-PARCC

COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE

Syracuse University

Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs

Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration

Collaborative Solutions to Transportation, Land Use and Community Design Issues: The City of Chance and Lucky Highway 13

TEACHING NOTE

This simulation challenges a group to come up with a consensus design plan that satisfies as many interests as possible and leaves no one out. Yet each individual negotiator's job is to get as close as they can to their own interests without blowing up the negotiation or accepting a "deal breaker" that drops below their bottom-line solution. The group will have to continue to work together on future projects and plans. Thus, preserving good relationships, particularly among supporters--i.e., other coalition members--is also important. Instructors may decide not use all the roles depending on the number of people in the group. Instructors should also note that the case is comprised of both shared and confidential information. If time allows and the group can accommodate more complexity, the following new information can be brought into the room midway through negotiations to see if it modifies the dynamic:

New Information (Zinger):

Last week, a huge, unexpected and devastating snowstorm hit Chance hard. Power was knocked out, and SR 13 was closed for a time. When it initially reopened, SR 13 had chain requirements and it took nearly two days to fully clear the road. Several minor accidents, mostly fender-benders, occurred in the downtown area and one major accident occurred at the edge of downtown. Road conditions, traffic and safety are in the news every day and the citizens are organizing a forum to address traffic and road safety issues for the whole community.

New Information (Zinger):

The developer of the downtown mixed-use project has just decided to pull her application, citing as key reasons the long and arduous planning process and the lack of resolution of the road issues. Some people think it may have more to do with a rise in interest rates and a less-favorable lending climate. The downtown merchants and other project supporters are very concerned and want to make sure that this does not have a negative impact on the strength of downtown. Local merchants and business leaders are asking the mayor and city manager to "do something" quickly to shore up the image of downtown so this is not seen as a trend in disinvestment.

This simulation was an honorable mention winner in our 2007 "Collaborative Public Management, Collaborative Governance, and Collaborative Problem Solving" teaching case and simulation competition. It was double-blind peer reviewed by a committee of academics and practitioners. It was written by Jeff Loux of the University of California- Davis, and edited by Laurel Saiz. This simulation is intended for classroom discussion and is not intended to suggest either effective or ineffective handling of the situation depicted. It is brought to you by E-PARCC, part of the Maxwell School of Syracuse University's Collaborative Governance Initiative, a subset of the Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration (PARCC). This material may be copied as many times as needed as long as the authors are given full credit for their work.