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Comptroller

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

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I wanted to ask if it is legal or possible to “audit” the Consensus Group based on the fact that they received taxpayer money, \$250,000, to do their research. Many people have asked at the meetings to show references, end notes, etc., to show where they got the information, who they spoke to, who recommended plans to them, etc. Anytime we ask these questions they refuse to answer or say they will let us know at another time, and they don’t.

During one of their meetings in January of 2015, about 51 minutes into the meeting they reference a book called “Cities without Suburbs” by David Rusk. It would have been nice to see this reference in their report instead of having to watch about 10 hours of their meetings to get my answer. Also, during another meeting in October of 2015, about 50 minutes into the meeting they interviewed by phone the former mayor of Indianapolis, Jerry Abramson. This was also not mentioned that they spoke to him. His discussion and what he said should be shared with the taxpayers. It would be nice to have transparency from a group that received our hard earned money. Thank you.

It is our intention to audit any savings calculations proffered by the Consensus Group. However, at this time, the Consensus group has not made savings the linchpin of its proposal. Rather the process underway now is to stimulate and generate conversation. Should Consensus or any group use tax savings as part of their argument, the Comptroller’s Office stands ready, willing and able to audit those calculations, assertions and conclusions.

With regard to public money, it is our understanding Consensus received a grant from New York State so, yes, they did use public money for this study, but I am not sure of the remaining details of your question. I would suggest you contact Consensus on some of the specificity you desire, which interestingly, uses a Rochester address.



By the people, for the future.

Get Involved

[The Commission](#) and CGR's study team deeply value the community's interest in this project, and recognize that public engagement is a vitally important part of the process. There are a number of ways you can *inform* (and *be informed by*) the effort:

- **Sign-up for electronic notifications.** This website will be regularly updated with information, reference documents and reports throughout the project. [Sign up for email alerts](#)

- **Attend public forums.** The Commission will be scheduling public meetings/forums at specific points in the project to present information to the community and obtain comments/feedback. Meeting dates, times and locations will be posted on the [calendar page](#) as they are scheduled.
- **Submit comments or questions.** Anyone can submit suggestions, feedback or questions at any time by visiting the [official public comment page of Consensus](#), [contacting us](#) or by mailing correspondence directly to the Study Committee technical consultant at the following address:

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