

## Local Planning Committee (LPC) In-Person and Virtual Meetings



After a January orientation, the LPC met in person five times and virtually twice. At the February kickoff, the group pondered the question *what will it take for the DRI to be a success?* Responses included "some things may derail us, we need to stay focused;" "willingness to review the challenges – work through them to find viable solutions;" and "trust – each other and the process." The LPC's work was focused on vetting the project proposals, and weighing project feasibility, public input and, of course, the budget. All project proposers were invited to make presentations to the LPC at its May committee meeting.

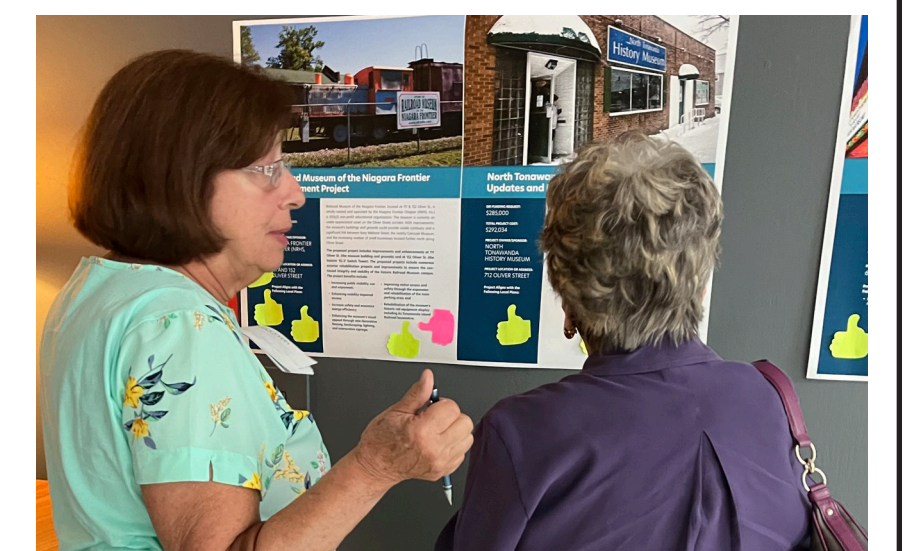
## Interactive Site Tours:

- Webster Street/River Road/Gateway Harbor/Tonawanda Island
- Oliver Street

Unseasonably chilly late April weather made the tours a challenge. The Webster Street/River Road group carpooled instead of walking. Thank you to Oliver Street merchants who invited that tour's participants inside to warm up!



## DRI Public Workshops March 29 and May 10



### Project Prioritization

Smart Growth 2.0, Oliver Street Walkability Enhancements, Carousel Museum and Witter's Renovations received the most "thumbs up" from participants in Public Workshop #2 held May 10 at Lumber City Church. Also receiving strong support were the other cultural institutions: Carnegie Art Center, Railroad Museum, Riviera Theater and NT History Museum.

Some residential projects proposed for funding received less support. These included the Carousel Apartments and Timber Shore.

## Youth Engagement

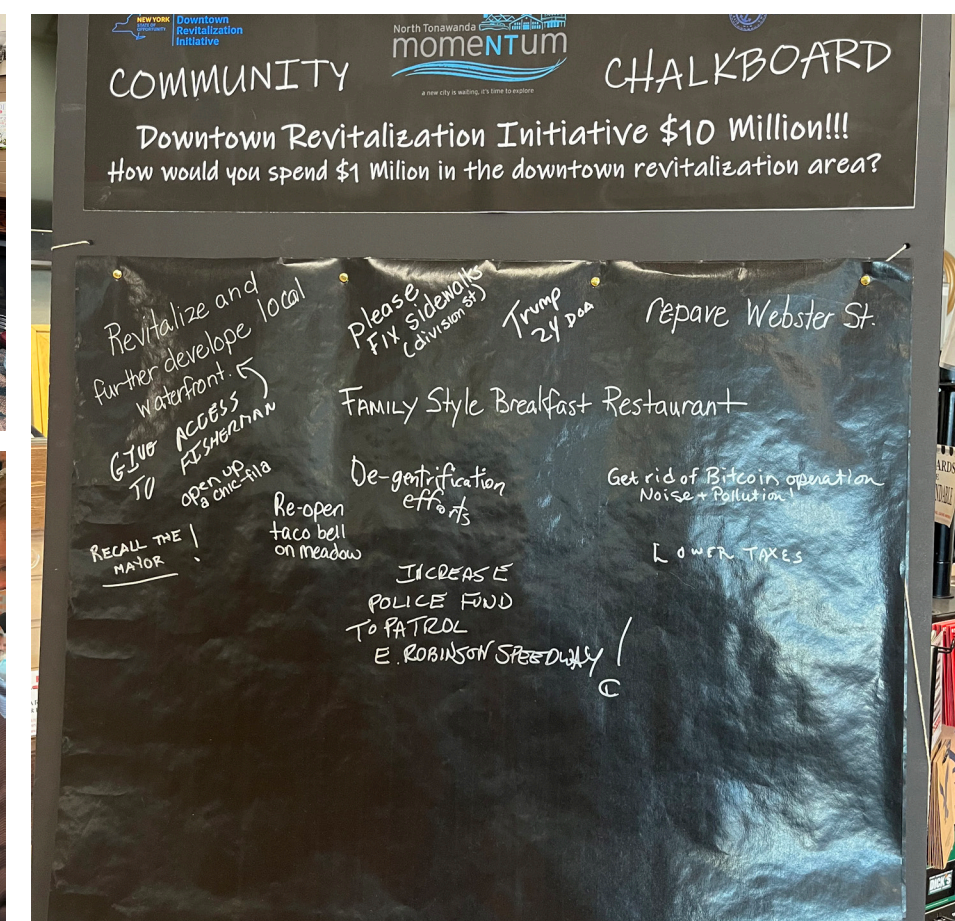


On May 23, more than 50 North Tonawanda high school students participated in a project prioritization workshop. The students' favorite project? Caruthers Street Dog Park. The cultural institution project they supported the most was the Riviera Theater with the Railroad Museum a somewhat distant second.



## Other Engagement Activities

The consulting team held office hours to help project sponsors prepare their proposals, visited the Senior Citizens Center, placed "community chalkboards" around town and visited Webster Street entertainment venues on a Thursday evening to talk about the DRI.

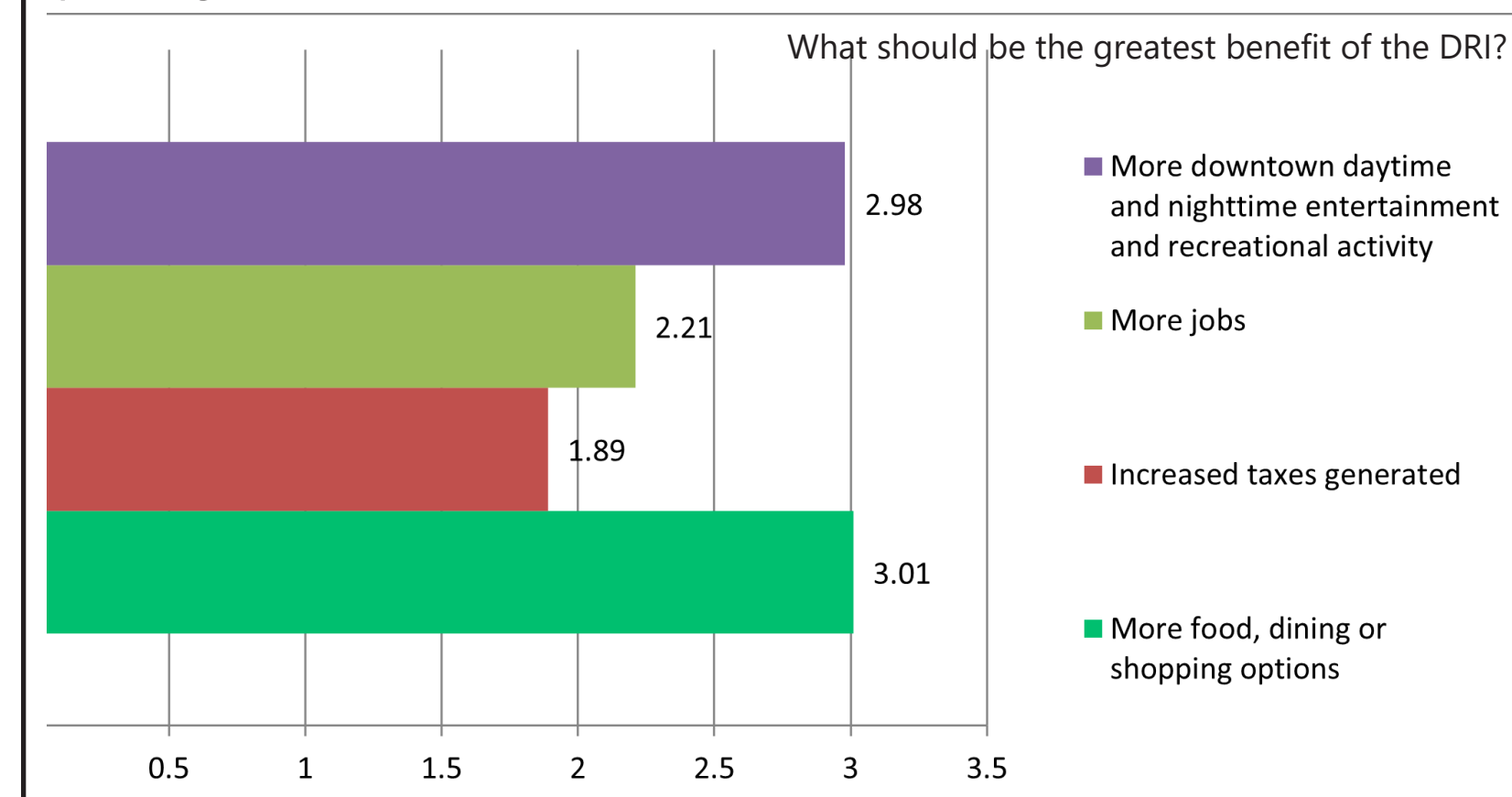


## DRI Community Survey

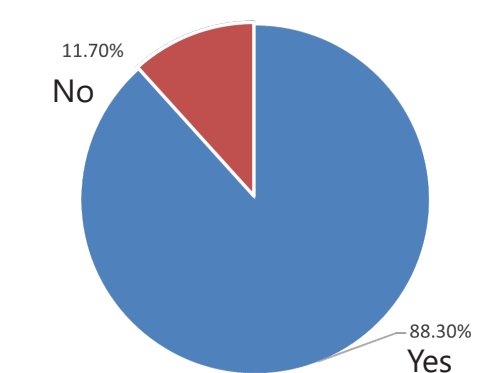
Survey respondents want to see the DRI result in more shopping and dining options downtown, followed by daytime and nighttime entertainment and recreation opportunities. A majority agreed there should be more mixed-use buildings downtown with retail/commercial on the first floor and offices/residential on the floors above. And while a slight majority said they would not live in a downtown apartment or condo, many of these respondents said they already own or just prefer a single-family home; others cited parking as an issue.

We asked: *With what other city's downtown would you like North Tonawanda's to be favorably compared?* Some responses:

- East Aurora (29)
- Lewiston (25)
- Williamsville (14)
- Buffalo (14)
- Niagara on the Lake (12)
- Ellicottville (9)
- Hamburg (5)
- Let NT be unique NOT a COPY of someone else!!!



More mixed-use buildings?



Would you live downtown?

