

Thank you for joining us for the North Tonawanda Downtown Revitalization Initiative Public Meeting!

We will begin the presentation shortly



a new city is waiting, it's time to explore

North Tonawanda



momentum



a new city is waiting, it's time to explore



**Downtown
Revitalization
Initiative**

Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI)

Public Meeting #1

March 29, 2022, 5:30 PM

Agenda

- ◆ Welcome!
- ◆ DRI Program Overview
- ◆ NT DRI & Public Projects
- ◆ Roles & Responsibilities
- ◆ Project Schedule
- ◆ Public Engagement & Vision
- ◆ DRI Projects & Open Call for Projects
- ◆ Next Steps
- ◆ Questions



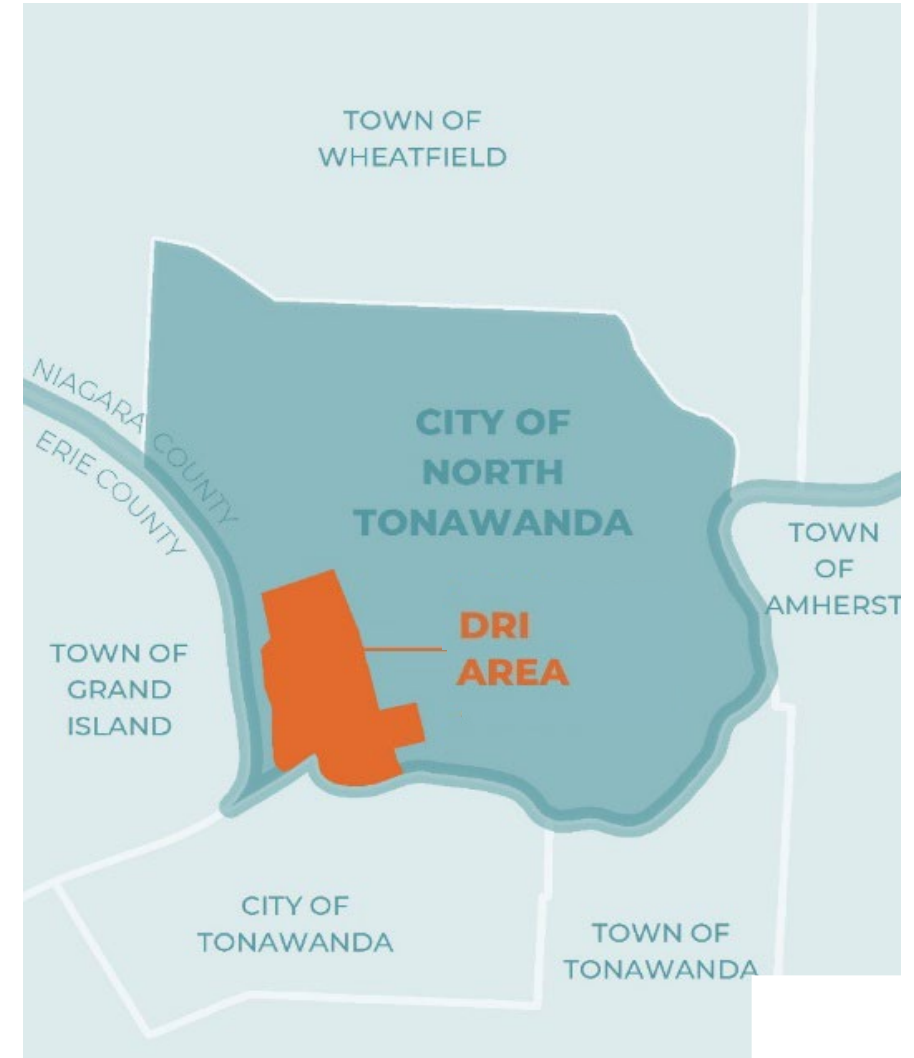
Downtown Revitalization Initiative Overview

- ◆ Economic development program with the intent to transform downtown neighborhoods that are magnets for redevelopment, job creation, and housing diversity
- ◆ Led by New York State Department of State with Empire State Development and NYS Homes and Community Renewal partners
- ◆ North Tonawanda is part of the 5th round of funding - \$10 million award



NT's Downtown Revitalization Initiative

- ◆ North Tonawanda applied the summer of 2021
 - DRI announcement of award was made in December of 2021
- ◆ Application included potential public and private projects that were catalytic for NT's downtown
 - Drew upon previous outreach and planning
- ◆ Community outreach will help shape which projects in the Strategic Investment Plan



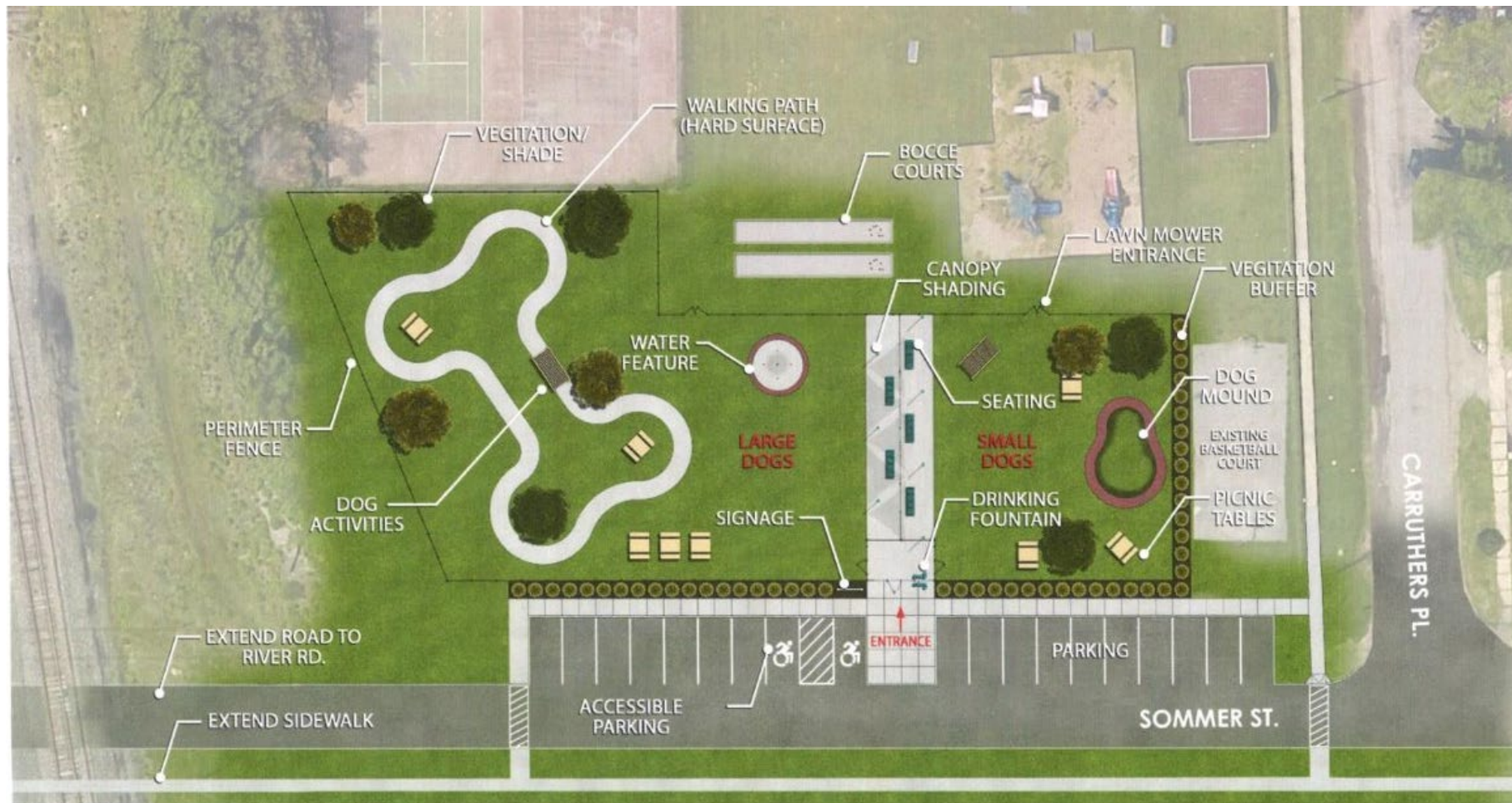
Potential Public Sector Projects

- ◆ 78 Bridge Street Public Benefit Area
- ◆ Downtown Small Business Revolving Loan Fund
- ◆ Island Street Overlook



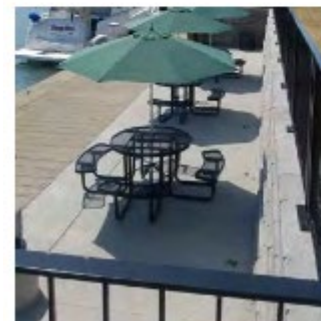
Potential Public Sector Projects

Carruthers Place Greenspace Enhancements



Potential Public Sector Projects

- ◆ Smart Growth Phase 2:
 - Charles Fleischman Park enhancements and clock
 - Manhattan Street Parking Lot enhancements
 - EV Charging Stations
 - Streetscape refresh
- ◆ Gateway Harbor Enhancements
 - Enhanced seating
 - Recreation hub implementation
 - Wayfinding signage



Potential Public Sector Projects

◆ Oliver Street Walkability Enhancements

- Heritage Park Improvements
- Heritage Park Linkage
- Streetscape Improvements
- Pedestrian Improvements

◆ Commercial Property Improvement Grant Program

- Webster & Oliver Streets

WALKABILITY

Sidewalk conditions along the Oliver Street corridor are primarily good, with some uneven areas. A few blocks have sidewalks in excellent condition. Amenities such as planters, street trees, and benches are mostly concentrated between Wheatfield and Robinson Streets.

FEEDBACK

“We should add more pedestrian-scale lighting on the streets.”

“Strengthen sidewalk linkages between Oliver Street and the neighborhoods in order to increase walkability.”

“We need to increase pedestrian accessibility between Oliver Street and the waterfront.”



LEGEND

— sidewalk | excellent condition

— sidewalk | good condition

● planter

● tree

● bench

Potential Public Sector Projects

- ◆ Carnegie Art Center
 - Critical building enhancements
 - Green infrastructure
 - HVAC Upgrades
 - Mosaic Tile Restoration



Who helps make this possible?

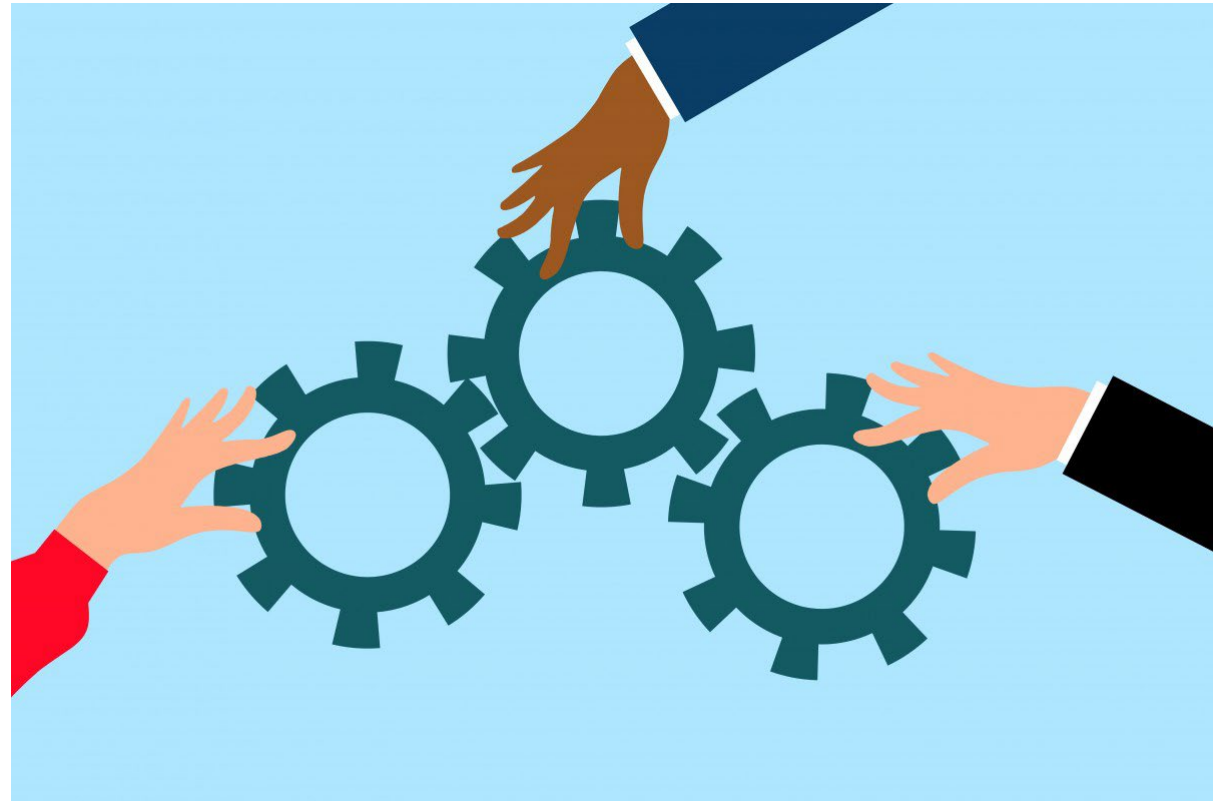


Local Planning Committee (LPC)

Name	Affiliation
Austin Tylec, Mayor (Co-Chair)	City of North Tonawanda
Paul Brown (Co-Chair)	Buffalo Building and Construction Trades
Amy Berent	Pulp 716
Deanna Brennen	Niagara Small Business Development Center
Suzanne Daddis	Rotary Club
Barbara Hughes	Webster's Bistro
Amy Usiak	Lumber City Development Corporation
Gabrielle Richards	The Vegan Grocery Store
Brian Wudyka	North Tonawanda Climate Change Task Force
Donna Burgio	North Tonawanda Project Pride
Kelley Culp-Burton	KCB Architecture
Valerie Cronin	Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas
Tom Lang	Riviera Theatre
Gregory Stevens	Niagara River Greenway
Amy Fisk	Niagara County Brownfield Development Corp
Richard Andres	Niagara County Legislator

Role of the LPC

- ◆ Provide direction to consultant team
- ◆ Review documents
 - Downtown Profile and Assessment
 - Community Participation Plan and Materials
 - Project Profiles / Sheets
- ◆ Submit slate of projects
- ◆ Deliver an on-time Strategic Investment Plan to NYS DOS



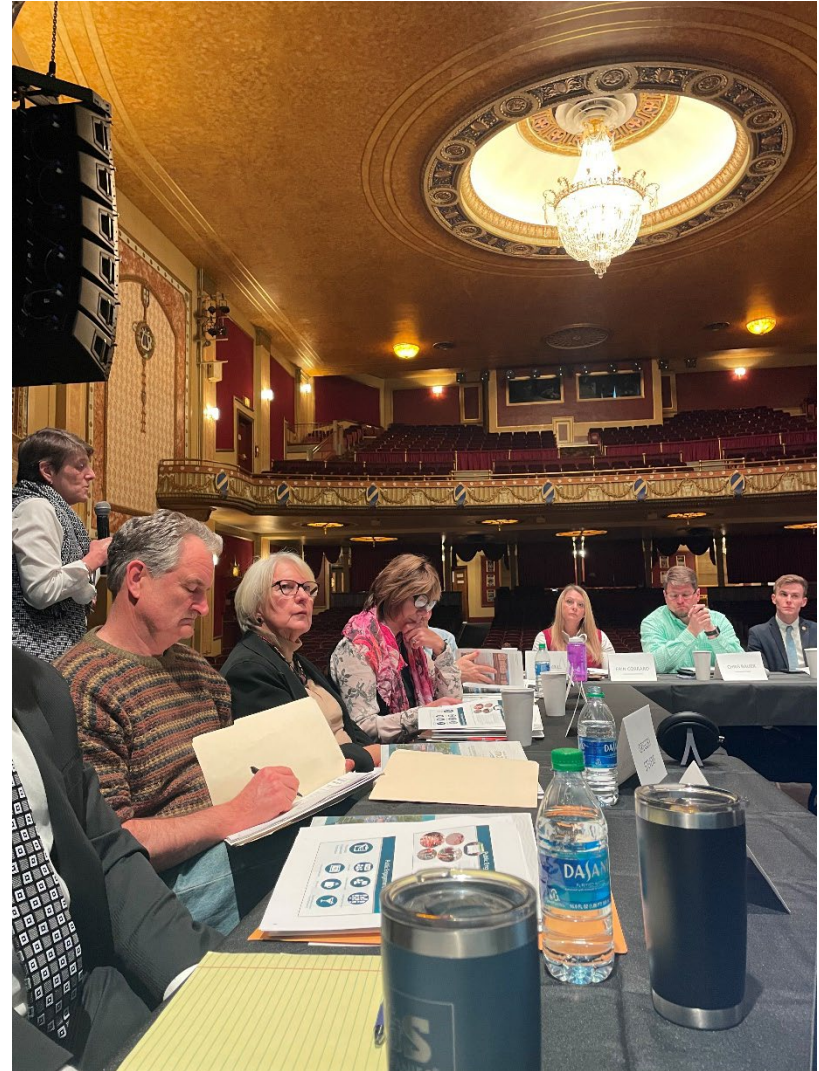
State Partners and City Staff

Name	Department
Chris Bauer	Department of State
Erin Corrado	Empire State Development (ESD)
Lori Borowiak	NYSERDA
Lenny Skrill	NY Homes and Community Renewal (HCR)
Jennifer Dunning	Office of the Governor

Name	Title
Laura Wilson	Director of Development
Chelsea Spahr, PE	City Engineer
Travis Sikora	Assistant Engineer

Role of the State Partners

- ◆ Assist the LPC and Consultant Team
- ◆ Manage Consultant Team
- ◆ Manage LPC Process
- ◆ Liaison with Other State Agencies
- ◆ Ensure DRI Program Compliance
- ◆ Maintain Schedule



Planning Team



Role of the Planning Team

- ◆ Coordinate LPC Meetings
- ◆ Lead Community Engagement – we need your input!
- ◆ Prepare Documents and Information
- ◆ Develop and Analyze Projects through:
 - Vision, Goals & Strategies lens
 - Planning & Economic Development lens
 - Architectural lens
 - Engineering lens
 - Cost estimating and budgeting
- ◆ Prepare DRI Strategic Investment Plan and put forward projects that will receive funding

Project Schedule

- ◆ February - LPC Meeting #1
 - ◆ Intro and Orientation to DRI Program
 - ◆ LPC Roles and Responsibilities
 - ◆ Projects
 - ◆ Outreach overview
 - ◆ Visioning Exercise
 - ◆ Boundary Discussion
- ◆ March - LPC Meeting #2
 - ◆ Review Engagement Plan
 - ◆ Review Vision, Goals, & Strategies
 - ◆ Open Call for Projects
 - ◆ **Public Workshop #1 (3/29/22)**
 - ◆ Plan Public Workshop #2 (wk of 5/9 or 16?)
 - ◆ Preliminary Project List
 - ◆ Downtown Profile and Assessment
- ◆ April - LPC Meeting #3
 - ◆ Finalize Goals & Strategies
 - ◆ Review Engagement to Date
 - ◆ Preview Public Workshop #2
 - ◆ Focus Project List
- ◆ May - LPC Meeting #4
 - ◆ Review/focus project list
 - ◆ Review Engagement to Date
 - ◆ Plan Public Workshop #3
- ◆ June - LPC Meeting #5
 - ◆ Review/focus project list
 - ◆ Review Engagement to Date
 - ◆ Preview Public Workshop #3
- ◆ July - LPC Meeting #6
 - ◆ Review Public Workshop #3
 - ◆ Review/focus project list
 - ◆ Finalize slate of projects

Public Engagement Plan Overview



Proposed
Engagement
Techniques



Workshops



Community Survey(s)



Interactive Site Tours



Community Chalkboard



Office hours



Entertainment Venue
Tour

Vision for Downtown

Downtown North Tonawanda is an energetic, diverse, high quality, and unique city experience for residents and visitors. Downtown is a vibrant and welcoming mixed-use district centered on the confluence of two historic waterways, the Erie Canal, and the Niagara River. Downtown North Tonawanda is the hub for residential, commercial, employment, leisure and recreation wants and needs for the city and the region. Residents and visitors alike delight in our waterways, the beauty of our natural landscapes and the multitude of landside cultural and recreational amenities offered at this "Gateway to the Erie Canal."

In downtown North Tonawanda, on Tonawanda Island and throughout our urban waterways, we will energize, diversify, add value, and become incomparable.

Goals for Downtown

In downtown North Tonawanda, on Tonawanda Island and throughout our urban waterways, we will energize, diversify, add value, and become incomparable.

Goal #1

Energize – Support the density necessary to create excitement throughout the day and into the night with a robust mix of shopping, dining, hospitality, entertainment, and service destinations

- ◆ Retain existing and recruit new investment
- ◆ Help entrepreneurs find resources they need
- ◆ Promote downtown dining and entertainment destinations
- ◆ Add shade trees and structure and new street furniture to encourage lingering
- ◆ Support arts and cultural institutions to downtown

Goals for Downtown

In downtown North Tonawanda, on Tonawanda Island and throughout our urban waterways, we will energize, diversify, add value, and become incomparable.

Goal #2

Diversify – Enhance downtown as NT’s residential, hospitality, economic, and employment center, and a place that visitors will want to visit again and again and share with others by attracting an array of living, working and recreating opportunities to downtown

- ◆ Identify unfilled niches in downtown
- ◆ Promote downtown as a location for regional satellite establishments and events
- ◆ Encourage development of diverse housing
- ◆ Improve connections between the waterfronts and other downtown destinations
- ◆ Ensure that downtown is accessible by people of all physical abilities

Goals for Downtown

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Goal #3

Add value – Focus on the highest quality, efficient and climate resilient development befitting the downtown's abundant historic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources and its delightful public realm.

- ◆ Distribute information about incentives for energy efficient and climate resilient
- ◆ Offer financing mechanisms to encourage developers' projects
- ◆ Enhance the public realm
- ◆ "Green" downtown their lots and building exteriors
- ◆ Support revitalization and rehabilitate of downtown buildings

Goals for Downtown

In downtown North Tonawanda, on Tonawanda Island and throughout our urban waterways, we will energize, diversify, add value, and become incomparable.

Goal #4

Become incomparable – Leverage downtown's unique location, culture and history at the confluence of two historic waterways to develop exceptional urban waterfront experiences

- ◆ Develop recreational and instructional programming for all ages related to the water
- ◆ Showcase Niagara County's agricultural bounty
- ◆ Develop Tonawanda Island
- ◆ Promote and activate the public realm
- ◆ Encourage accessibility, convenience and safety downtown

DRI Projects

Goals for Each Project

- ◆ Catalytic
 - Attracts other investment and positively impacts surroundings
- ◆ Transformative
- ◆ Align with State and Local Goals
 - Community Support
- ◆ Project Readiness
 - Can be implemented in the near term
- ◆ Co-Benefits
 - Multiple benefits that stem from the initial projects (increased quality of life, growth in local tax base, improved buildings)
- ◆ Cost Effective

Types of Projects

- ◆ Public Improvements
 - Streetscaping
 - Parks
 - Infrastructure
- ◆ Non-Profit Projects
 - Cultural institutions, such as museums, historic sites, and theaters
- ◆ Private Projects
 - ◆ New Construction
 - ◆ Rehabilitation
- ◆ Branding & Marketing
 - Hard costs (no advertisements)

DRI Projects

- ◆ Public & Non-Profit Projects
 - Opportunity for 100% reimbursement
 - Leveraging strongly encouraged
- ◆ Private Projects:
 - Minimum DRI Ask - \$100,000
 - Maximum DRI Ask – 40% of Project Cost
 - Residential Projects – Minimum of 8 Units, Affordable Component
 - Decarbonization Component (new construction & rehab)
 - ◆ Example: Green Energy, Building Efficiency, Decarbonized Heating & Cooling, EV Charging Station
 - ◆ If included, maximum DRI Ask – up to 50%
 - ◆ Projects required to meet the Stretch Energy Code
 - ◆ <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Energy-Code-Training/NYStretch-Energy-Code-2020>

Open Call for Projects – Open now!

- ◆ What the application asks for:
 - Project Title
 - Preliminary Funding Estimate
 - Summary Description
 - Responsible Parties and Project Partners
 - Site/Ownership/Legal Jurisdiction
 - Anticipated Revitalization Benefits
 - Timeframe for Implementation and Project Readiness
- ◆ 30 days to submit projects – opened 3/27
- ◆ Following Call for Projects consultant team helps to develop any missing information
- ◆ Info session at 4 p.m. Thursday via Zoom, more details at sign-in table



DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE
CALL FOR PROJECTS
INFORMATIONAL SESSION

Join the City of North Tonawanda and the DRI Planning Team to Walk Through the Call for Projects Template and a Q&A

4:00 - 5:00 PM • Thursday, March 31st
via ZOOM Link

<https://cscos.zoom.us/j/97354521828?pwd=T1FFVjZ6U2U5ZHc0cGRMMdkwOFNrUT09>

Meeting ID **973 5452 1828**
Passcode **943523**
Call in **(888) 475-4499** (Toll Free)

 North Tonawanda  **momentum**  **NEW YORK**
STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. **Downtown Revitalization Initiative**

a new day is waiting. it's time to explore.

Next Steps

- ◆ More outreach!
 - Visit us at office hours
 - Look out for chalkboards
 - Join us on site tours
- ◆ Monthly LPC Meetings
- ◆ Call for Projects
- ◆ Project Selection
- ◆ Development of Strategic Investment Plan



Presentation Wrap Up

- ◆ Final Questions
- ◆ Contact Information:
 - Daniel Riker (C&S) – driker@cscos.com
 - Emma Phillips (C&S) – ephillips@cscos.com
 - Laura Wilson – Lumber City Community Development – lwilson@lcdc.com
- ◆ For information: www.ntmomentum.com/dri-resources



Our Activities This Evening

- ◆ Mapping
 - ◆ Show where you'd like to see projects happen
- ◆ Vision, Goals and Strategies
 - ◆ Help confirm and refine our goals and strategies for the DRI
- ◆ Collaging
 - ◆ What does your vision of the perfect downtown NT look like?
- ◆ Community Chalkboard
 - ◆ How would you spend \$1 million the DRI area?
- ◆ Insight Cards
 - ◆ How would \$1 million be transformational?