

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

We will begin the presentation shortly

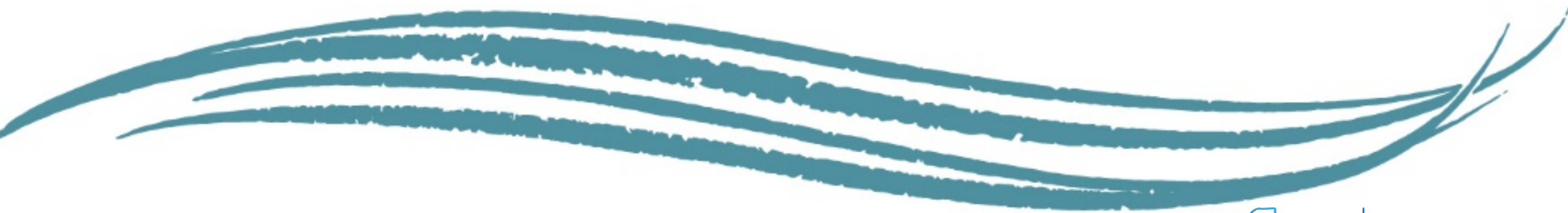


a new city is waiting, it's time to explore

North Tonawanda



momentum



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



**Downtown
Revitalization
Initiative**

Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI)

Public Meeting #2

May 10, 2022, 5:30 PM

Agenda

- ◆ Welcome!
- ◆ DRI Program Overview
- ◆ NT DRI Roles & Responsibilities
- ◆ Project Schedule
- ◆ Public Engagement Updates
- ◆ DRI Projects
- ◆ Next Steps
- ◆ Questions



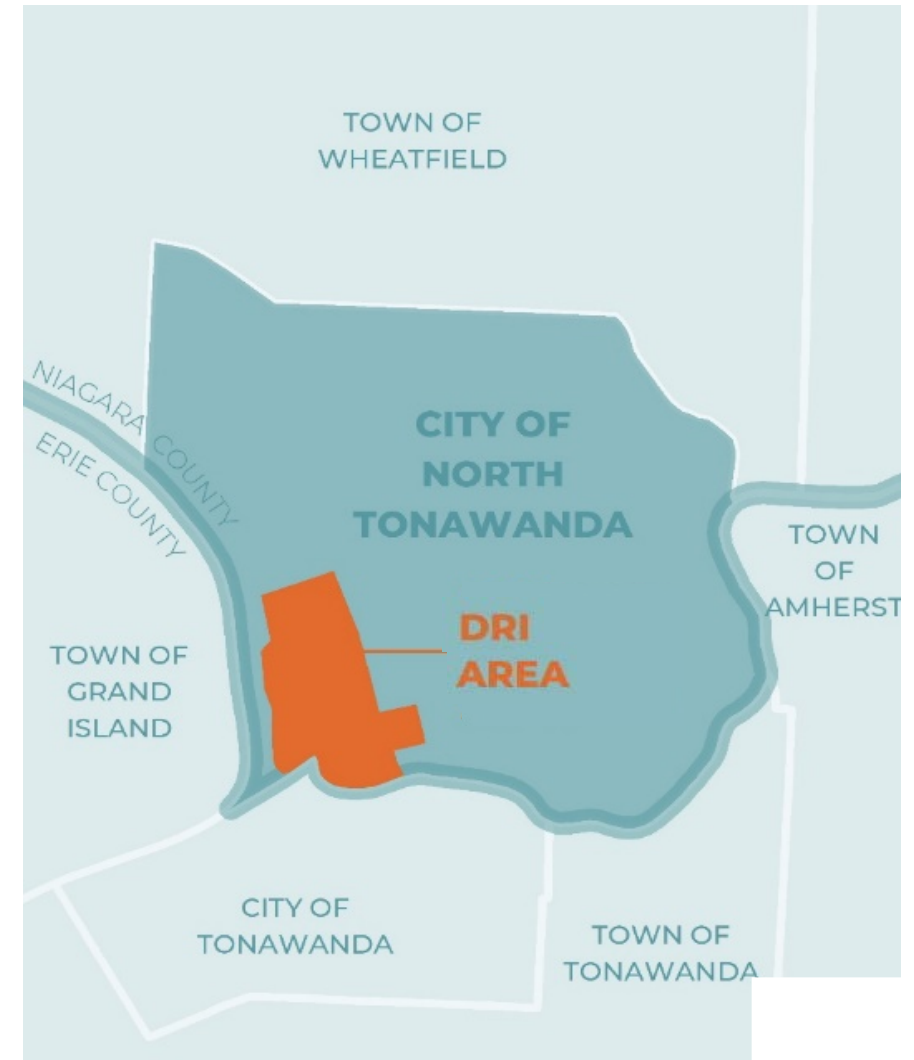
Downtown Revitalization Initiative Overview

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Continued community outreach will help shape which projects are included in the Strategic Investment Plan which is the final product of the process



Who helps make this possible?

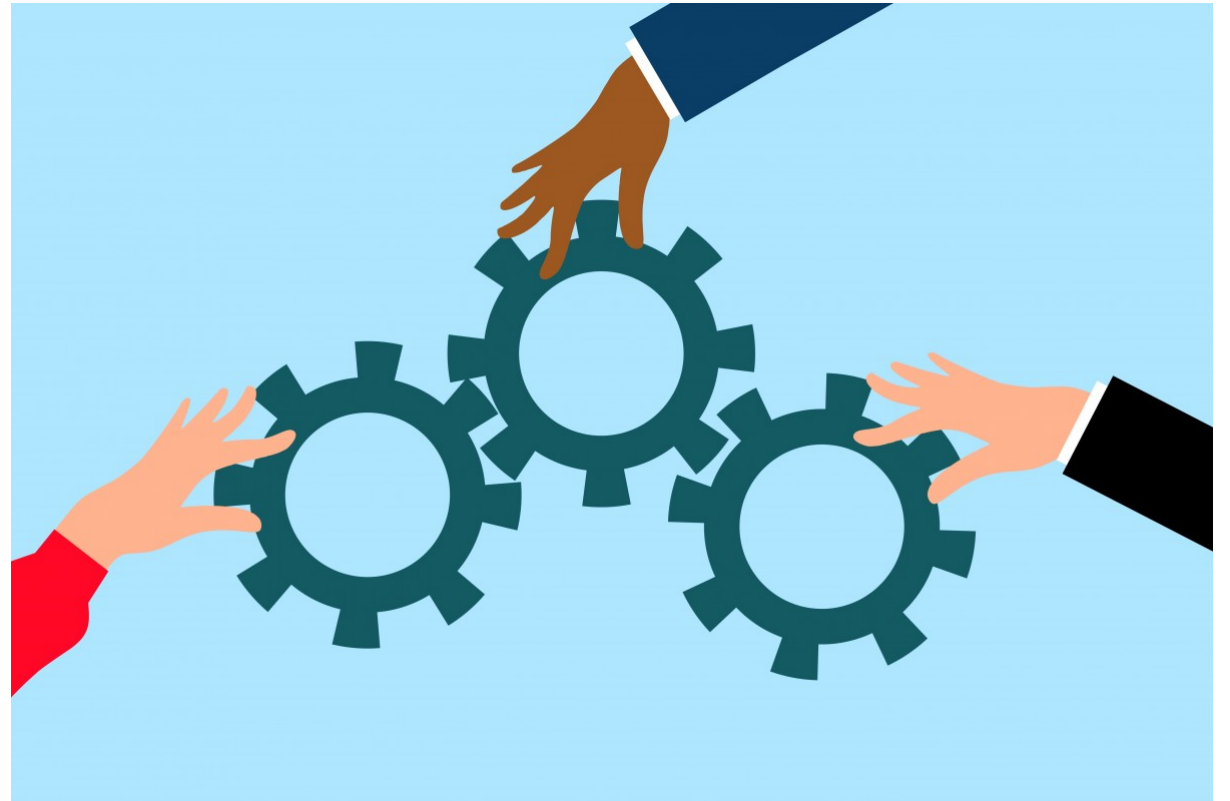


Local Planning Committee (LPC)

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 Legislature

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



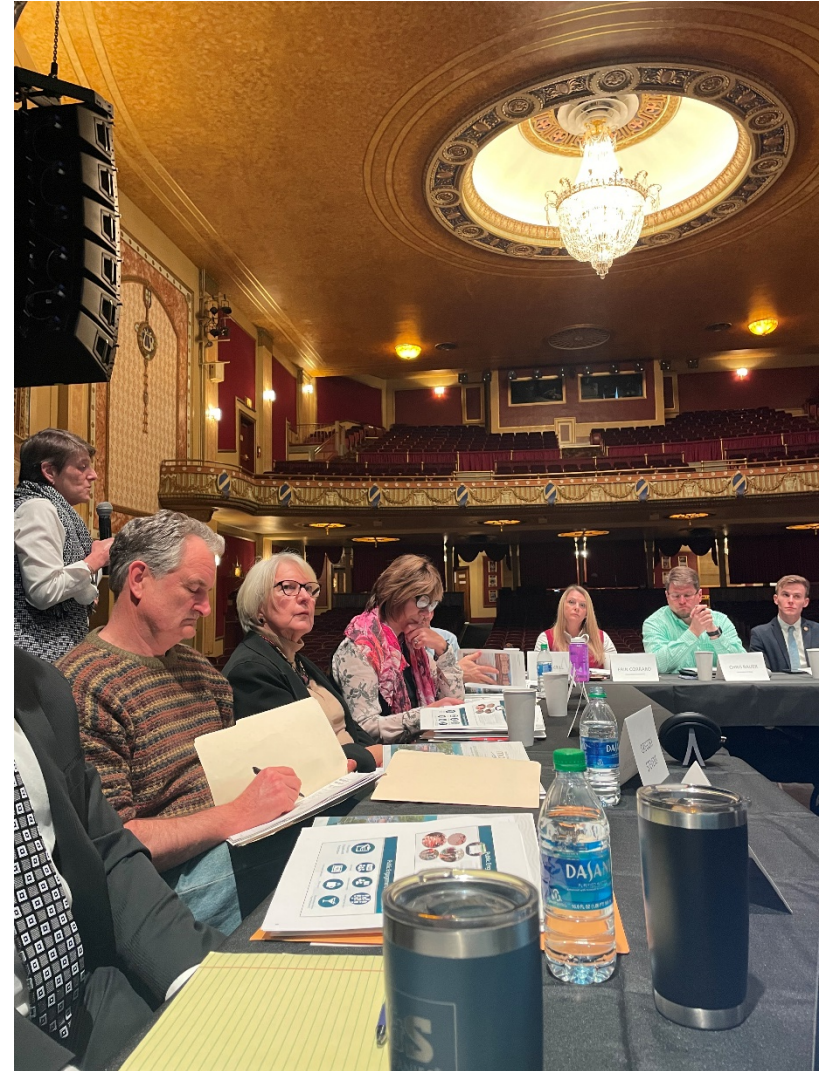
State Partners and City Staff

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
 - ◆ Preliminary Project List
 - ◆ Downtown Profile and Assessment
- ◆ April - LPC Meeting #3
 - ◆ Finalize Goals & Strategies
 - ◆ Review Engagement to Date
 - ◆ Site Tours and Venue Tour
 - ◆ Focus Project List
- ◆ May - LPC Meeting #4
 - ◆ Review/focus project list
 - ◆ **Public Workshop #2**
 - ◆ 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 Timeline

Workshop #1	Tuesday, March 29, Carnegie Art Center
Workshop #2	5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 10, Lumber City Church
Workshop #3	Week of July 11 (tentative)
Tour #1	Tuesday, April 19 – Webster/Manhattan/Main streets and waterfront
Tour #2	Wednesday, April 27 – Oliver Street and Merchants
Entertainment Venues	Thursday, April 28 – Webster Street venues
Seniors Forum & Youth Tour	Seniors, May 3; Youth, TBA
Office hours	By appointment only Pulp 716, Project 308 Gallery
Survey	Open!
Chalkboards	Budwey's, City Hall, Pulp 716, The Vegan Grocery Store, Sticky Face BBQ
LPC	3-6 p.m. Fourth Tuesday of every month, Lumber City Church

Public Workshop #1



- 33 attendees + consultant team
- Brief presentation
- 5 activities
 - Vision, Goals & Strategies
 - Mapping
 - Community Chalkboard
 - Visioning with Cards
 - Collaging
- "Corner conversations"

Community Chalkboards



Downtown
Revitalization
Initiative



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



CITY OF North Tonawanda

COMMUNITY

CHALKBOARD

Downtown Revitalization Initiative \$10 Million!!!
How would you spend \$1 Milion in the downtown revitalization area?

Venues:

- Workshop #1 & #2
- City Hall
- Budwey's
- Pulp 716
- Vegan Grocery Store
- Sticky Face BBQ

Great Ideas:

- E-bike rentals
- Streetscape improvements & amenities – seating, recycle bins, bike racks
- Building and façade renovations, historical markers
- Parks, trees & greenspaces, community gardens
- Shopping & dining, activities for all ages
- Waterfront and waterway activities & improvements

Community Mapping

- ◆ North of Robinson
 - Oliver Street Improvements
 - Housing
 - Shoreline development
 - History Museum
 - Trails, gardens
- ◆ South of Robinson West
 - Trees
 - Gateways, signage
 - Public art
 - Public realm improvements
 - Trolley/rail connections
- ◆ South of Robinson East
 - Carousel Museum/carousel downtown
 - Cultural connections
 - Year-round waterfront refreshments
 - Jobs
 - Signage, info kiosk, ASL accommodations
- ◆ Tonawanda Island
 - Docking
 - Destinations/mixed-use dev't/hotel
 - Pedestrian overlook (towers)
 - Boardwalk/trails
 - Shoreline access

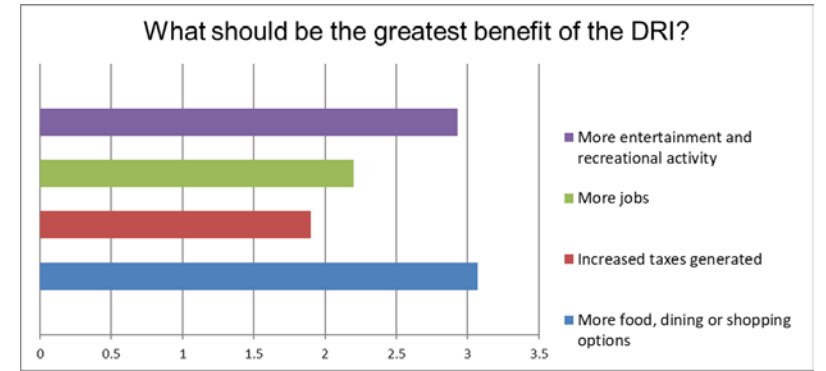
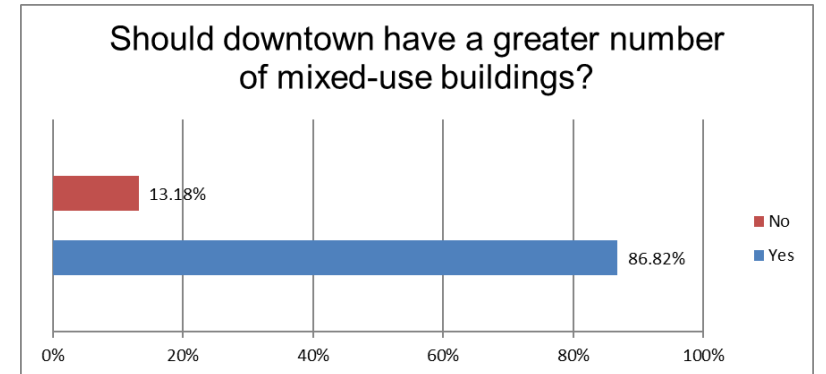
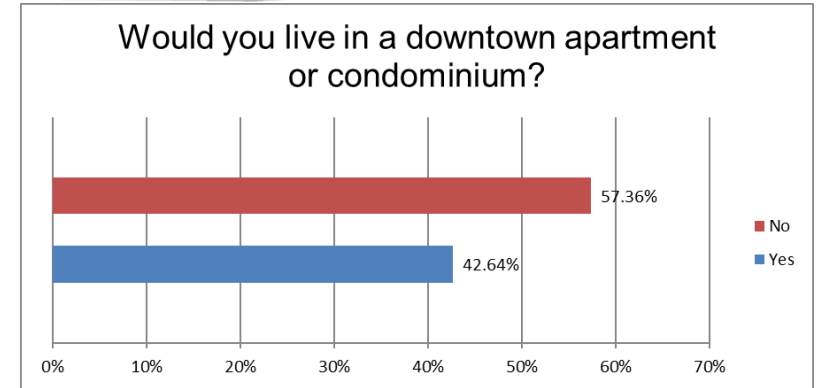
Preliminary Survey Results

Downtowns to be favorably compared with?

- ◆ Buffalo including Canalside and the Elmwood Village
- ◆ East Aurora
- ◆ Ellicottville
- ◆ Lewiston
- ◆ Niagara-on-the-Lake
- ◆ Williamsville
- ◆ *I don't think you need to copy a city. You need to make the city unique to attract people.*

Lasting impact of DRI?

- ◆ *That it made NT an even better more fun place to live.*
- ◆ *At first people will notice the obvious changes. Years down the road, the casual visitor to downtown will be nicely surprised by the significant changes.*
- ◆ *What I HOPE is that this will become a city that people describe as charming and forward-thinking.*
- ◆ *The lasting impact of the DRI will be enduring projects that take into account accessibility, timeless design and quality materials, and environmental initiatives that increase walking, biking, renewable energy, and more green space.*



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

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

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

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.

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

DRI Projects

Goals for Each Project

- ◆ Catalytic
- ◆ Transformative
- ◆ Align with State and Local Goals
- ◆ Project Readiness
- ◆ Co-Benefits
- ◆ Cost Effective

Types of Eligible Projects

- ◆ Public Improvements
- ◆ Non-Profit Projects
- ◆ Private Projects
- ◆ Branding & Marketing

Open Call for Projects – CLOSED

- ◆ What the application asked 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
- ◆ Held Info session March 31 via Zoom
- ◆ Staffed DRI Office Hours to assist project sponsors
- ◆ Closed Call for Projects on April 26



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   **Downtown Revitalization Initiative**

DRI Projects Received

- ◆ Public – 7
- ◆ Non Profit – 6
- ◆ Private – 20



Must narrow down slate of projects by July to submit to New York State totaling \$13-15 million. New York State will then choose which projects will be funded



DRI Projects - Public

- ◆ Oliver Street Walkability Enhancements
 - Sidewalk improvements, crosswalk enhancements, bump outs, installation of green space, new planters, garbage receptacles, seating, and improved pedestrian-scale lighting
- ◆ Gateway Harbor Recreation Hub and Wayfinding Signage
 - Public Wi-Fi, solar phone charging stations, technology enhancements to the Visitors Center (TV screens, iPads, wayfinding kiosk, pay kiosk) kayak storage, ADA kayak ramp, new seating and wayfinding signage
- ◆ Commercial Property Improvement Fund
 - Support of small scale projects and underutilized buildings within the DRI area to bring properties up to code, improve facades, new signage, roof repairs, promote walkability and provide space for new commercial tenants
- ◆ Carnegie Arts Center Enhancements
 - Building repairs, ADA elevator, roof repairs, green infrastructure improvements
- ◆ Carruthers Dog Park
 - Areas for seating, parking, shade furniture, landscaping, fencing, and small walking loops

DRI Projects - Public

◆ Smart Growth 2.0

- Charles R. Fleischmann Park landscaping, seating, clock and sprinkler; Webster and Main Street streetscape enhancements and updates; electric car charging stations and enhancements to Manhattan Street parking lot

◆ 78 Bridge Street Public Benefit Area

- Survey, design and construction of an area that includes site fill, a concrete cap, concrete sidewalk and a handrail

◆ Island Street Overlook

- Benches, clearing a brush to provide scenic views, plantings and a new railing for safety at the terminus of Island Street

DRI Projects – Non Profit

◆ Riviera Theatre

- 6,000+ square foot expansion will include ADA restrooms, new concession area and box office and artists' merchandise area

◆ NT History Museum

- Youth engagement area and allow the History Museum to diversify and customize its programming

◆ Railroad Museum

- Parking lot and ADA accessibility updates

◆ Carousel Museum

- Restoration of the Allan Herschell Company Complex

◆ Suzuki Strings

- Further analysis and restoration of building facade

DRI Projects – Private

- ◆ 122 Webster Street
 - Development of multi use residential/commercial complex
- ◆ Carousel Park Apartment Upgrades
 - Renovation to senior center, security, unit interior and common areas
- ◆ 211 Main Street Redevelopment
 - Development of office building with three office suites and conference room
- ◆ 10 Goundry Street
 - Two story 8-10 unit residential apartments
- ◆ 27 Main Street
 - Conversion of 3,500 SF to commercial prep kitchen, ice cream shop/restaurant and retail spaces

DRI Projects – Private

- ◆ 235/239 Oliver Street Upgrades
 - Upgrades to 8 low income apartment units
- ◆ Prosper Brewing Upgrades
 - Expansion and addition of second restroom/covered patio
- ◆ 134 Main Street Renovations
 - Rehabilitation of property with additional commercial restaurant space and courtyard
- ◆ 82/83 Webster Street Upgrades
 - Roof repair, brick and mortar repairs, exterior signage and mural
- ◆ The Clubhouse
 - Indoor golf simulator at 62 Webster Street

DRI Projects – Private

◆ 230 Oliver Street

- Conversion into mixed use 6 unit property with coffee shop and laundromat as well as 4 one-bedroom units

◆ 624 River Road Apartments and Coffee Shop

- 111 market-rate apartments and coffee shop/restaurant

◆ Twin Cities Elks Lodge

- New construction of large meeting room, bar, restaurant and office space

◆ River Road Riverwalk

- Construction of 300 foot walkway along Niagara River at 364 River Road

DRI Projects – Private

- ◆ Timber Shore Redevelopment
 - Redevelopment of 78 Bridge Street into mixed-use commercial space with mixed-income housing
- ◆ 15 Webster Street Upgrades
 - Property rehab to include fitness center, art space and offices
- ◆ 665 River Road
 - Development of new pull barn, office space and garden center
- ◆ 729 River Road Sensory Garden
 - New garden including a sensory path the in drifts of plants
- ◆ Tonawanda Island Redevelopment
 - Multi phase development of public/private mixed-use spaces including restaurants, shops and a public boardwalk
- ◆ 300 Oliver Redevelopment
 - Redevelopment into a two-story patio and second floor banquet space

Next Steps

- ◆ Monthly LPC Meetings
- ◆ 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

- ◆ YOUR TURN: Review the proposed projects!
 - Grab the Vision, Goals and Strategies sheet, a pen and some thumbs
 - Stick a "thumbs up" on projects you like and that you think align with the goals and strategies. Tell us why this project is transformative to you!
 - Don't like a project? (We know, it happens!) Give it a "thumbs down" and be sure to tell us why.
- ◆ Take our brief survey on your smartphone (QR code at sign-in desk) or paper
- ◆ How would you spend DRI money? Give us your ideas on the Community Chalkboard!

