

# Regional Engagement Genesee County Webinar



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# Webinar



- Background of the Regional Engagement Project
- Overview of October 21<sup>st</sup> Sub-Regional Forum
  - Process
  - Feedback
- Discussion of Priority Areas of Focus
  - Goals
  - Projects
- Next Steps
  - Draft Document
  - Stakeholder Input
  - County Meeting



# Project Background



- Regional approach to advance economic and community development planning
- Assessment and profile of existing conditions
- Identify opportunities to advance economic development
- Prioritize future revitalization efforts within the Region
- Final strategy identifies priorities, projects, and action items



GENESEE/FINGER LAKES  
Regional Planning Council

# Sub-Regional Forum



- October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015
- Genesee, Orleans, & Wyoming Counties
- Project overview
- Individual County breakout sessions
  - Existing Plan Profiles
  - Discussion/Feedback



# Priority Areas of Focus



- Brownfields
- Economic Development/Economic Distress
- Downtowns
- Tourism and Recreation
- Waterfronts
- Environmental/Water Resources
- Natural Resources/Energy
- Land use
- Building/Housing
- Infrastructure
- Preservation/Cultural



# Brownfields



- Total of 22 sites are being addressed (or have been addressed) under the NYS DEC Environmental Remediation Programs, which include:
  - New York State Superfund Program
  - Resource Conservation and Recovery Program
  - Brownfield Cleanup Program
  - Environmental Restoration Program
  - Voluntary Cleanup Program
- Goal to remediate sites and return them to active and productive use
  - City of Batavia has BOA plan with identified focus areas
- Connect projects with funding opportunities
  - NYS DEC
  - EPA
  - Others



# Economic Development/Distress



- Economic Distress Index
  - Income
  - Employment
  - Poverty
  - Education
  - Population Change
- Each category standardized within the Region with 0 set as the average
- Scores ranged in Region from (-12.9 to 9.6)
  - City of Batavia 4.2



# Economic Development/Distress



## Goals/Objectives

- Advance CEDS priority projects:
  - WNY STAMP
  - Genesee Valley Agribusiness
  - LeRoy Food & Technology Park
  - Upstate Med-Tech Project
  - Buffalo East Technology Park
- Advance Infill Development
- Increase Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Implement GCEDC Shovel Ready Strategy for 7 key Economic Development sites



# Economic Development/Distress



## Goals/Objectives

- Leverage CFA Awards
  - City of Batavia Sustainable Batavia Project
  - Genesee Biogas, Biogas Plant at Genesee Valley Agri-Business Park
  - Batavia Business Improvement District Downtown Revitalization
  - City of Batavia Microenterprise Assistance Program
  - Wastewater Engineering Reports
    - Town of Batavia
    - Village of Alexander
    - Village of Bergen



# Downtowns



## Goals/Objectives

- Increase Small Business Development throughout the County
- Leverage efforts of City of Batavia and the Batavia Business Improvement District
  - Façade Improvement Program
  - Infill Development
  - Redevelopment Loan Fund



# Tourism/Recreation



## Goals/Objectives

- Create a network of advocates for the Finger Lakes Region lifestyle
- Invest in the development, promotion and preservation of the cultural, artistic and historic assets of the Region
- Promote the Region's growing wine, culinary, and agricultural enterprises
- Strengthen and support Region's diverse water resources and recreational tourism opportunities
- Market Kayak launch points to increase usage
- Leverage existing resources and attractions for visitors
  - Darien Lakes State Park
  - Darien Lake Amusement Park
  - Holland Land Office Museum
  - Jell-O Museum
  - Agri-Tourism



# Environmental/Water Resources



## Goals/Objectives

- Continue efforts to remediate eroded streambanks and educate property owners on methods for resiliency
- Develop & Advance Genesee/Wyoming Counties Tonawanda Creek LWRP project
- Pursue opportunities to leverage CRS program to mitigate flood insurance costs
- Protect and restore Water Quality throughout the County



# Natural Resources/Energy



## Goals/Objectives

- Address flooding concerns throughout County
- Develop and Implement Sustainable Batavia Project to advance sustainability initiatives in the City of Batavia and Genesee County
- Support Green Genesee/Smart Genesee project
- Advance existing energy projects
  - Genesee Biogas, LLC
  - Implementation of Strategic Energy Plans
- Preserve Natural Resources including Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; John White Wildlife Management Area; and Darien Lakes State Park



# Land Use



## Goals/Objectives

- Continue support for the agriculture industry throughout the County
- Leverage Growing the Agriculture Industry Now! RLF Fund to help grow the agriculture industry
- Look into possibility of establishing a Purchase of Development Rights program in Genesee County
- Advance ongoing land use planning projects
  - Farmland Protection Plan Update
  - Smart Growth Plan Update
  - Municipal Comprehensive Plan Updates



# Buildings/Housing



## Goals/Objectives

- Support update of Genesee County Housing Plan
- Improve quality of housing stock to help attract new employees/workforce
- Prioritize in-fill development
- Address vacant buildings throughout the County
- Increase services to support independent living
- Address the need for new housing
  - Impact of STAMP
  - Smart Genesee Plan working on this



# Infrastructure



## Goals/Objectives

- Advance current infrastructure projects
  - WNY Stamp
  - LeRoy Food & Technology Park
  - Buffalo East Technology Park
  - Other GCEDC sites
- Improve access to Wi-Fi infrastructure to school districts throughout the County
- Infrastructure inventory and capacity analysis needed
  - Sewer/Wastewater
  - Transportation
  - Electric
  - Broadband



# Preservation/Cultural



## Goals/Objectives

- 22 Sites within the County listed on the National Register of Historic Places including 3 historic districts:
  - Genesee County Courthouse Historic District
  - Stafford Village Four Corners Historic District
  - Lake Street , Bergen Historic District
- Continue efforts to preserve the “sense of place” of buildings, districts, and municipalities within the County



# Other Plans



## Goals/Objectives

- Improve government efficiency
  - Shared services/coordination with existing efforts
- Implement Genesee County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan



# Leverage Existing Efforts



- Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council Strategic Plan
  - Submitted CFA applications
  - Upcoming CFA Applications
- Finger Lakes Regional Sustainability Plan
  - Appendix 3- Recommended Strategies and Projects



# Next Steps



- Finalization of Draft County Strategies
- Stakeholder Input
  - E-Mail
  - Survey
- Priority project identification
- Individual County Forums- Presentation of Draft Strategy and Stakeholder Feedback
  - January/February 2016
- Final County Strategies
  - March 2016

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