

# Regional Engagement Orleans 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 19 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
- 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)
  - Town of Albion 7.7
  - Village of Medina 6.7
  - Village of Albion 6.4
  - Village of Holley 6.4



# Economic Development/Distress



## Goals/Objectives

- Advance CEDS priority projects:
  - Medina Park Spec Building
  - Medina Business Park Infrastructure
- Improve agricultural data to better connect farmers with buyers for their goods
- Leverage Ethanol Plant to advance economic development
- Leverage CFA Awards
  - Intergrow Greenhouses Inc. Facility Upgrade
  - Community Action of Orleans and Genesee Inc, Employment Support Project
  - Takeform Relocation- Orleans County



# Downtowns



## Goals/Objectives

- Downtown Revitalization Areas of Focus
  - Villages of Albion; Holley; Medina; Lyndonville
  - Address vacant storefronts along key commercial corridors
  - Leverage ongoing revitalization efforts
    - ▣ Medina Historic Society- Cinema/Theatre rehabilitation
    - ▣ Village of Holley Public Square Revitalization Program



# 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
- Improve lodging opportunities for visitors to the County
- Leverage existing resources and attractions for visitors
  - Sports Fishing
  - Recreational boating
  - Erie Canal



# Waterfronts



## Goals/Objectives

- Address lake level and coastal erosion concerns
- Continue implementation of the Black Creek Watershed Management Plan
  - Address water quality concerns
  - Restore and stabilize streambanks within the watershed
  - Implement practices that will reduce nonpoint source pollution from farms



# Environmental/Water Resources



## Goals/Objectives

- Address water quality within the watershed, long-term sustainability issue
- Address limited resources (staffing/expertise) to handle sewer/water and soil/water work within the County
  - Potential consolidation of boards
- Continue to monitor flooding to determine if it becomes a larger issue
- Review soil contamination near Lyndonville



# Natural Resources/Energy



## Goals/Objectives

- Implement Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan
  - Annually inspect 20% of the refuge boundary to ensure signs are visible and in good condition
  - Annual review that non-hunting areas are properly posted
  - Build awareness with local communities and schools
- Advance alternative energy within the County
- Preserve Natural Resources within the County including Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge and Local and State Parks
- Continue Implementation of the Finger Lakes Regional Sustainability Plan



# Land Use



## Goals/Objectives

- Implement Comprehensive Plans within the County
  - Town/Village of Albion
  - Town of Barre
  - Town of Murray/Village of Holley
  - Town of Clarendon
  - Town of Kendall
- Address limited resources (staffing/expertise) to handle code enforcement within the County
- Leverage Growing the Agriculture Industry Now! RLF Fund to help grow the agriculture industry
- Pursue opportunities to develop a Land Use plan with agriculture focus



# Buildings/Housing



## Goals/Objectives

- Improve quality of housing stock
- Continue support of Orleans County Housing Assistance
- Prioritize in-fill development
- Address vacant buildings/storefronts



# Infrastructure



## Goals/Objectives

- Implement Orleans County Infrastructure Plan
- Improve bridge infrastructure across the canal/improve transportation options crossing the canal
- Establish additional rail spurs in key areas of the county
  - Helena Fertilizer Company
  - Ethanol Plant
- Establish Fiber Optic within Orleans County
- Infrastructure inventory and capacity analysis



# Preservation/Cultural



## Goals/Objectives

- 25 Sites within the County listed on the National Register of Historic Places including 4 historic districts:
  - Orleans County Courthouse Historic District
  - North Main-Bank Streets, Albion Historic District
  - Cobblestone Historic District Gaines
  - Medina Main Street Historic District
- Continue efforts to preserve the “sense of place” of buildings, districts, and municipalities within the County



# 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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