

Regional Engagement Seneca County Webinar



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Webinar



- Background of the Regional Engagement Project
- Overview of November 5th Sub-Regional Forum
 - Process
 - Feedback
- Discussion of Priority Areas of Focus
 - Goals
 - Projects
- Next Steps
 - Survey
 - 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



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Sub-Regional Forum



- November 5th, 2014
- Seneca, Wayne, Yates 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



Goals/Objectives

- Need to address liability concerns to aid redevelopment

Potential Projects

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Remediation Sites
 - Former Hampshire Chemical Corp. Facility (2014)
 - NYSEG - Geneva - Border City Site (2009)
 - Additional NYS DEC Sites
- Blighted property located at Routes 5/20 in Waterloo (Georges Grocery Store)



Economic Development/Distress



Targeted Areas of Distress

- Census Tract Distress Areas
- EDA Distress Criteria (Per Capita Income 80% or less of National Per Capita Income or Unemployment Rate 1 percentage point greater than national average)
- Economic Distress Index (Income; Employment; Poverty; Education; Occupancy; Population Change)
- Village of Ovid
- Village of Lodi



Economic Development/Distress



Goals/Objectives

- Sewer infrastructure and water/water pressure improvements needed for attraction/retention of businesses
- Quality of life needs to be a focus in order to attract workers to the area including recreation and tourism
- Need to grow industrial/commercial tax base
- Job retention should be just as important as job attraction
- Identify and target specific industry clusters with emphasis on high paying/high quality jobs

Potential Projects

- 318/414 corridor infrastructure improvements
- Seneca Army Depot infrastructure improvements



Downtowns



Goals/Objectives

- Improve Village Main Streets
- Fill vacant storefronts within downtowns

Potential Projects

- Key focus areas include: Villages of Ovid; Lodi; Interlaken; along with Seneca Falls and Waterloo
- Continue implementation of the Seneca Towns Engaging People for Solutions (STEPS) program to improve physical health; economic health; and social health
- Improve building facades within the Village of Waterloo
- Install benches and pedestrian amenities with Village Downtowns



Tourism/Recreation



Goals/Objectives

- Leverage “gateway to the finger lakes” to attract visitors
- Emphasize tourism/recreation strengths: water, wineries, and women’s heritage
- Strengthen connections between economic development and tourism. (Ex. Landfill wetland development attracting bird populations and visitors)

Potential Projects

- CFA application for multi-county wastewater facility to help the wineries of 3-brothers; fox run; and Anthony Road.
- Leverage partnerships and promotion of the region’s high profile events, wellness, and educational assets to help with regional business retention and expansion (quality of life)



Waterfronts



Goals/Objectives

- Improve public access to waterfronts
- Emphasize the strengths of the Canal
- Ensure the quality of life along the lakefronts and retain identify of the Seneca Lakes for residents

Potential Projects

- Sheldrake park development Town of Ovid
- Hotel development projects to attract tourists
- Improve Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail



Environmental/Water Resources



Goals/Objectives

- Ensure the long-term preservation of surface and groundwater resources in Seneca County
- Promote sustainable waste management.

Potential Projects

- Create a county government program of green procurement, increased recycling, and reduced energy and resource use
- Hold an annual Sustainable Living Festival and encourage residents and communities to work towards a sustainable future



Natural Resources/Energy



Goals/Objectives

- Increase energy capacity
- Embrace renewable energy resources

Potential Projects

- Harness the lakes energy in Seneca County to utilize resources
- Expand capacity of renewal resource park located across from the landfill producing electricity and natural gas



Land Use



Goals/Objectives

- Maintain agricultural community connections with Cornell
- Reduce bureaucracy and speed up the permitting process for development
- Enhance the Economic Climate for Agriculture in Seneca County
- Preserve prime agricultural land

Potential Projects

- Provide an ongoing community education program about importance of agriculture for the non-farm public
- Growing the Agriculture Industry Now! RLF Fund



Buildings/Housing



Goals/Objectives

- Improve quality of housing stock
- Leverage state and federal funding for housing developments
- Increase the number of middle income housing
- Develop housing/rental properties to attract middle-income workers
- Maintain the quality of life of residents along Seneca/Cayuga lakes by working to keep costs manageable

Potential Projects

- Enforce zoning/building codes to reduce blight of homes
- Align resources and funding, such as bank loans, into targeted areas to improve housing stock
- Provide education and training programs on the need for and benefits of affordable and income-eligible housing programs



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Infrastructure



Goals/Objectives

- Expand infrastructure capacity throughout County
- Improve transportation infrastructure including railroad, truck, and bridge infrastructure
- Improve rural access to internet
- Improve water and sewer infrastructure throughout the County

Potential Projects

- 318/414 corridor infrastructure improvements
- Seneca Army Depot infrastructure improvements
- Infrastructure inventory and capacity analysis



Preservation/Cultural



Goals/Objectives

- Embrace and preserve the history of Seneca County to attract visitors and enhance the quality of life of residents.
- Leverage historic districts and sites within Seneca County to attract visitors

Potential Projects

- Preserve the history and character of Village Main Streets



Additional Information



- Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council Strategic Plan
 - Submitted CFA applications

- Finger Lakes Regional Sustainability Plan
 - Appendix 3- Recommended Strategies and Projects



Next Steps



- Survey
- Development of Draft County Strategies
- Individual County Forums- Presentation of Draft Strategy and Stakeholder Feedback
 - January/February 2015
- Final Draft County Strategies
 - February 2015

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