

NY Forward - Capital Region

Scotia

Local Planning Committee (LPC)

Meeting #1

July 8, 2026



NY Forward

Welcome!

LPC Meetings are meant to be working sessions of the LPC

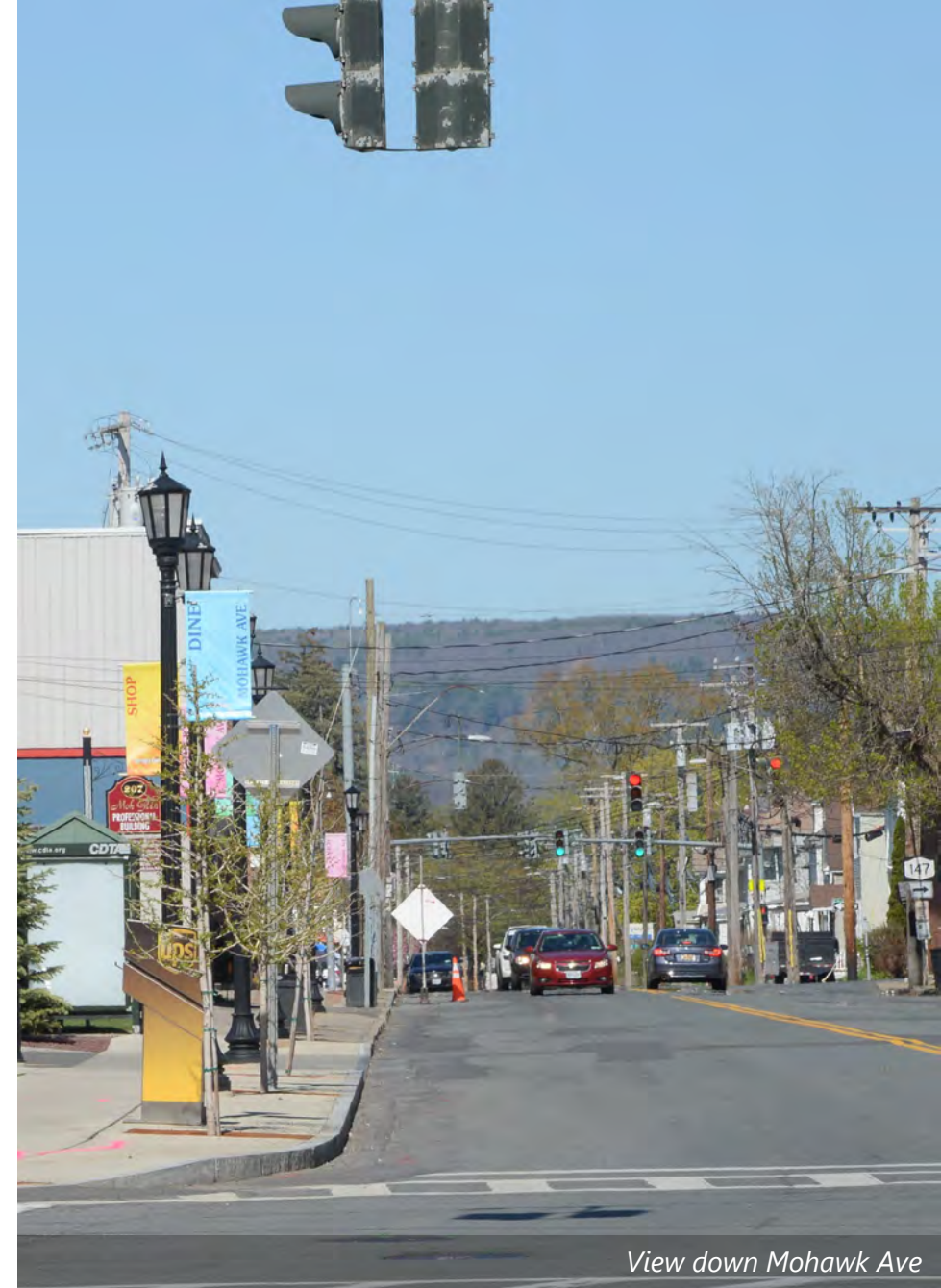
- These meetings are open to the public, but are not intended as interactive public workshops.
- The public is welcome to observe committee meetings and submit comments to **ScotiaNYF@gmail.com**
- The final 10-15 minutes of the meeting will be reserved for public comment.

How to get involved:

- We want to hear from you! There will be many other ways for community members to get involved.
- Visit the Scotia NY Forward website to send comments: **www.ScotiaNYF.com**
- There will be two public workshops and additional opportunities to provide feedback. More details will be posted to the website.

Agenda

- Opening Remarks
- Code of Conduct
- Introductions / Roles and Responsibilities
- Overview of NY Forward Program
 - Overview of NY Forward Process and Timeline
 - Scotia NY Forward Application
 - Project Development / Open Call for Projects
 - Public Engagement Strategy
- Public Comment
- Closing Remarks



View down Mohawk Ave

Opening Remarks

Mayor David Bucciferro

Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct

- Members of the NY Forward Local Planning Committee must always serve and act in the public interest, regardless of their affiliation with, or relationship to, any business, municipality, not-for-profit, agency, program, entity, or interest group.
- Code of Conduct addresses potential conflicts of interest between LPC members and their interests that do not serve the public.
- All Members must read and sign the Code of Conduct **before** the second LPC meeting.
 - Hard copies can be returned to Village Hall, or scan and email to ScotiaNYF@gmail.com

Code of Conduct

Members should use the Code of Conduct to guide service and actions while on the Local Planning Committee

Remember DAD:

- **D**isclose conflicts of interest
- **A**ct in the public interest
- **D**isqualify if necessary



Collins Park

Disclosure

- Any potential conflict of interest must be disclosed at the earliest possible time, which should be prior to the meeting in which the matter will be discussed or as soon as the conflict is noted.
- Even an appearance of impropriety or an appearance of improper conduct should be avoided.
- If unsure of conflict, please request an opinion from NYS DOS Ethics Officer:

Anais Vasquez

anais.vasquez@dos.ny.gov

(518) 473-7335

Recusal

- A Member may not vote, or attempt to influence a discussion or vote, where potential conflict exists.
- Members may provide factual information in a public forum about a project from which they have recused.



Businesses along Mohawk Ave

Code of Conduct - Preamble

Each Local Planning Committee Member is reminded of their obligation to disclose potential conflicts of interest with respect to projects that may be discussed at today's meeting. If you have a potential conflict of interest regarding a project you believe will be discussed during the meeting, please disclose it now and recuse yourself from any discussion or vote on that project.

For example, you may state that you, or a family member, have a financial interest in the project, you are on the board of the organization proposing the project, or you are a member that believes you or any other member(s) are the subject of improper influence.

We do not currently have any conflicts of interest on file. Do any LPC members need to make a disclosure to the Committee at this time?

Please inform the LPC co-chairs during the meeting if the need to disclose a conflict arises unexpectedly, and then recuse yourself from discussion or voting on the project.

Introductions / Roles and Responsibilities

Local Planning Committee

Co-Chairs

David Bucciferro

Mayor, Village of Scotia

Linda MacFarlane

Capital Region Regional Economic Development Council (REDC)

Members

Peter Bednarek

Discover Schenectady

Eric Buskirk

Scotia Planning Board

Dr. David Coppola

DDS, Resident

Robert Dieterich

1st National Bank of Scotia

Jeffrey Gabriele

Gabriel's Supermarket

John Geniti

Lincoln Elementary

Jamie Stegmann

Scotia Zoning Board of Appeals

Kristen Strock

Scotia Business Improvement District

State Agencies

Department of State (DOS) will provide guidance and support for the planning process, manage the consultant team, assist in meeting preparation, and participate in review of documents.

- Gina DaBiere-Gibbs, Gina.DaBiere-Gibbs@dos.ny.gov
- Matt Smith, Matthew.Smith@dos.ny.gov

Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) will provide expertise in housing development, CDBG, and HCR grants and programs.

- Taylor Disco, Taylor.Disco@hcr.ny.gov

Empire State Development (ESD) representative will provide broad knowledge of development and information about State revitalization funding programs.

- Mary Elise Rees, MaryElise.Rees@esd.ny.gov

NYSERDA will provide technical assistance related to decarbonization strategies and funding sources.

Consultant Team

BURO HAPPOLD

Ian Nicholson, Ian.Nicholson@BuroHappold.com

project management and revitalization strategy

INTERBORO

Daniel D'Oca, Dan@InterboroPartners.com

public engagement, architecture, urban design

with:

EDR, LaBella, KB Engineering, and Stock Studios
Photography

Roles and Responsibilities

Local Planning Committee (LPC)

NY State Agencies

Consultant Team

Village of Scotia Staff

- Review and comment on the Downtown Profile and Assessment
- Establish the vision for downtown revitalization
- Develop goals and strategies to achieve the downtown vision
- Guide a public engagement strategy appropriate for Scotia and take an active role in outreach
- Evaluate and select priority projects for funding
- Work with State and consultant team to prepare, revise, and submit the Strategic Investment Plan
- Sign the Code of Conduct and recuse themselves when there's a conflict

Roles and Responsibilities

Local Planning Committee (LPC)

NY State Agencies

Consultant Team

Village of Scotia Staff

- Ensure consultants and LPC meetings complete key tasks
- Facilitate interagency evaluation of proposed projects
- Review documents prepared by consultants
- Provide technical assistance to project sponsors, when appropriate

Roles and Responsibilities

Local Planning Committee (LPC)

NY State Agencies

Consultant Team

Village of Scotia Staff

- Prepare draft documents for review by NY State planners and LPC
- Lead public engagement events and seek community input
- Prepare project profiles and analyses that demonstrate feasibility and impact
- Provide expertise in wide array of disciplines

Roles and Responsibilities

Local Planning Committee (LPC)

NY State Agencies

Consultant Team

Village of Scotia Staff

- Provide local expertise to consultants and NY State planners
- Assist with meeting logistics, provide necessary background data and information
- Help identify municipal programs and resources that can be used to advance the NY Forward process
- Act as local point of contact of public engagement

Overview of NY Forward Program

What is NY Forward?

- The DRI program was launched in 2016 to improve the vitality of urban centers across the State.
- The 10 Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC's) select communities for significant investment to transform the downtown economy.
- This year is the fourth round of NY Forward, which applies the same approach as DRI, but to smaller downtowns, with a **\$4.5m** grant award.
- Each community prepares a Strategic Investment Plan to identify specific projects to promote downtown revitalization.

The NY Forward program focuses on creating healthy, vibrant, walkable downtowns that catalyze sustainable economic development and accrue numerous economic, social, and environmental benefits to the locality, the region, and the State as a whole.



DRI and NY Forward Program Goals



Create an active downtown with a strong sense of place that reflects the community's heritage and culture.



Attract new businesses that create a robust mix of shopping, entertainment, and service options for residents and visitors, and that provide job opportunities for a variety of skills and salaries.



Enhance public spaces for arts and cultural events that serve the existing members of the community but also draw in visitors from around the region.



Cultivate a variety of housing opportunities that help build an inclusive and welcoming community.



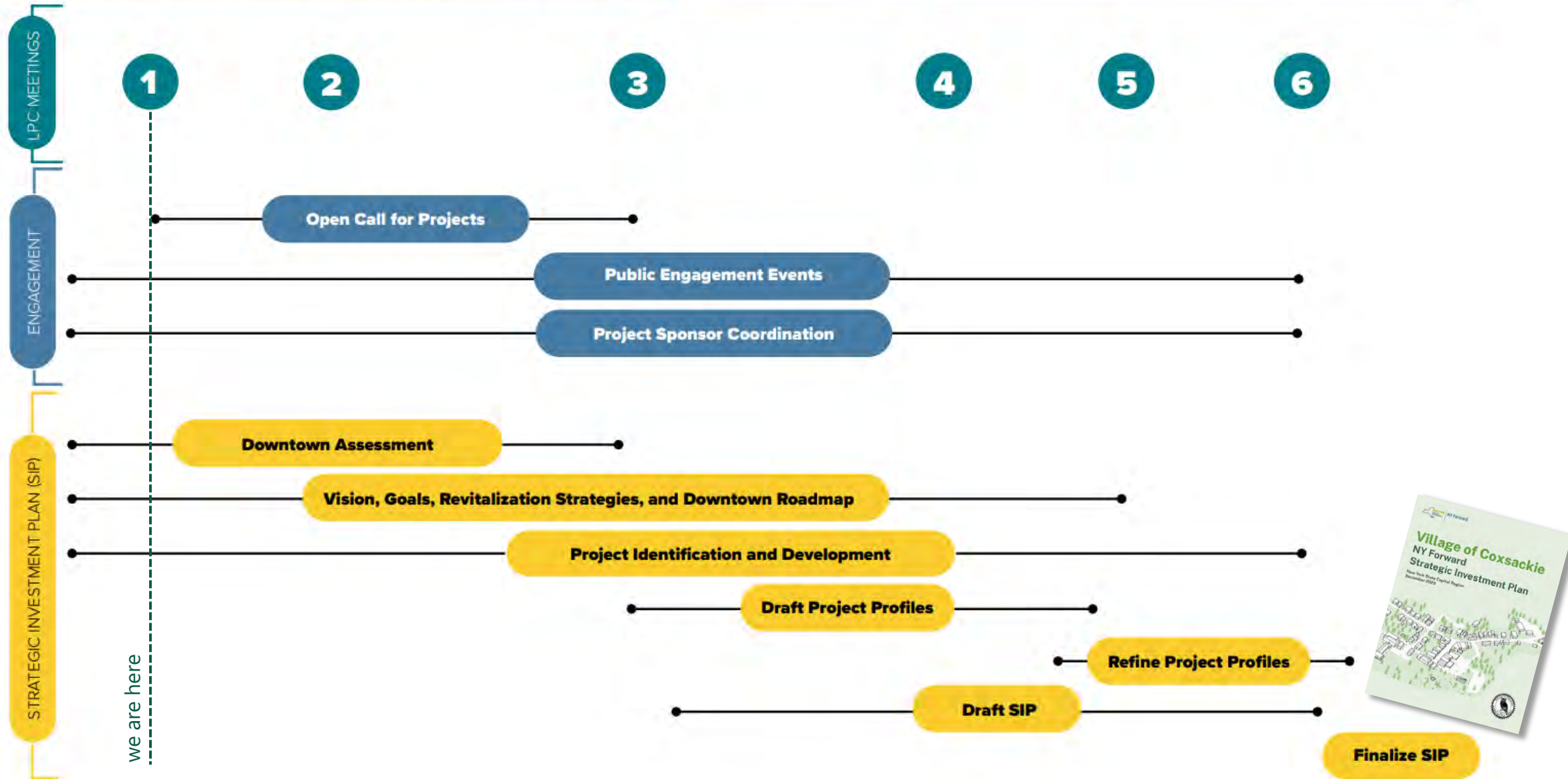
Grow local tax revenue.



Provide amenities that support and enhance downtown living and quality of life for people of all ages, abilities, incomes, and backgrounds.



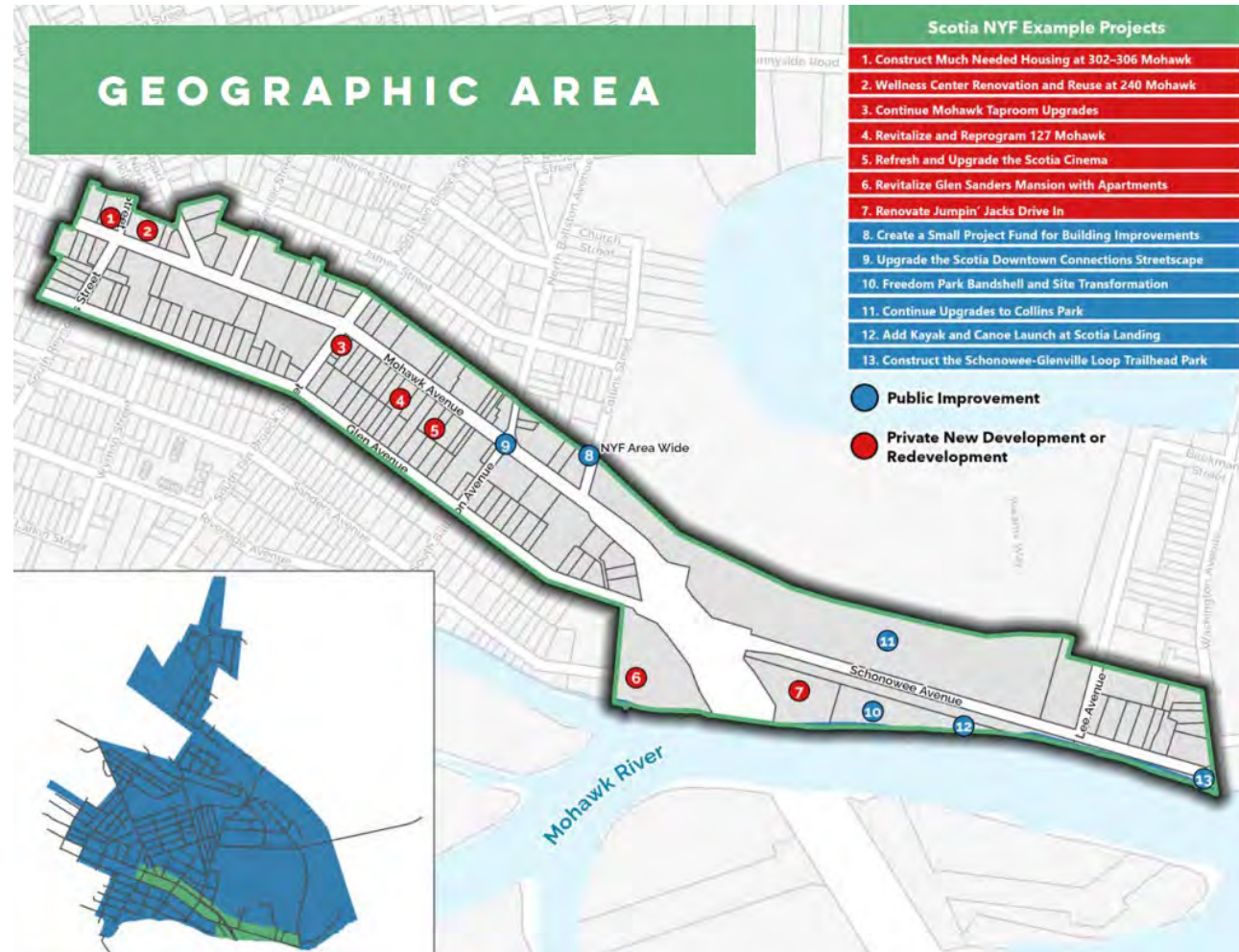
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support investments that are more resilient to future climate change impacts.



Scotia NY Forward Application

NY Forward Area Overview

- Area is:
 - Roughly a mile along Mohawk Avenue and Schonowee Avenue
 - Generally within the Village of Scotia BOA
 - Inclusive of both long-standing business institutions and numerous park and recreational facilities
 - Partially along the Mohawk River
- LPC has ability to modify this boundary during the process

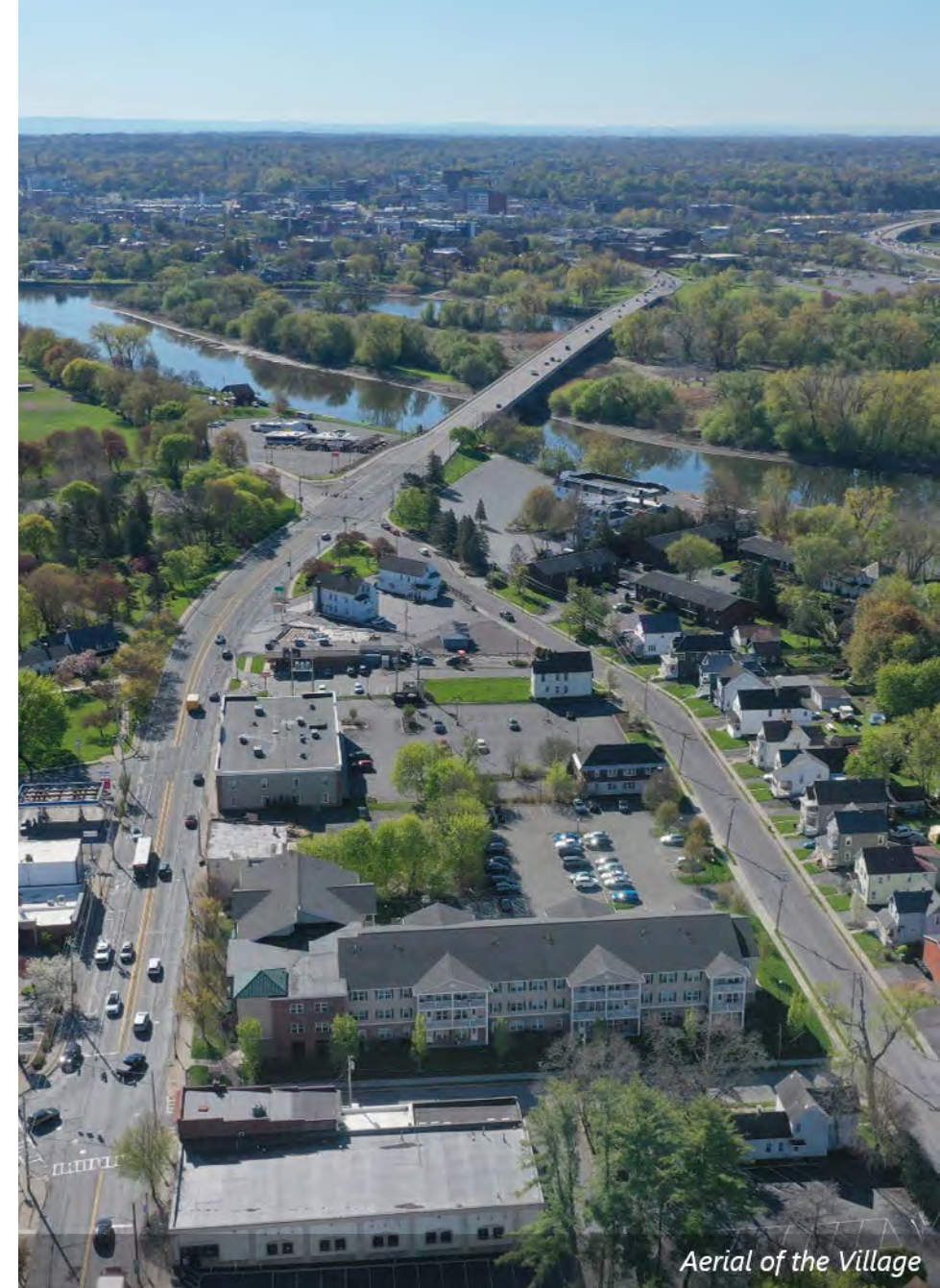


Preliminary Downtown Vision

*“The Village of Scotia envisions a revitalized Mohawk Avenue and waterfront that remain true to its **small-village character** while embracing **inclusive, sustainable growth**. Building on its rich history, scenic riverfront, and walkable neighborhoods, Scotia will continue to foster an **equitable, accessible, and welcoming downtown** that celebrates diversity and community connection. Investments through NY Forward will strengthen local businesses, expand housing options, and enhance public spaces and trails that link residents to the river, parks, and regional networks. Rooted in nature, culture, and collaboration, the Village’s vision is to grow thoughtfully, creating a thriving, close-knit community where everyone can live, work, and gather while preserving the charm that defines Scotia.”*

Preliminary Downtown Goals

- **Goal 1:** Expand housing options through new mixed-use and adaptive reuse development.
- **Goal 2:** Strengthen the business core with façade and building improvements.
- **Goal 3:** Enhance culture and recreation through Scotia Cinema, Freedom Park, and Collins Park.
- **Goal 4:** Boost walkability and connectivity with streetscape and trail investments
- **Goal 5:** Advance sustainability and resilience through green infrastructure and waterfront access.



Aerial of the Village

Past Investments

Nearly **\$10.6M** in Public Investment

- \$187K TAP-funded multimodal trail project
- \$195K in OPRHP-EPF funding for upgrades to Collins Park
- New \$8.8M Fire Department building
- \$1M CDBG Public Facilities award for updates to Village Hall – nearly completed
- \$50K of ARPA funding for small business grants
- Installation of EV charging station through a \$60K NYSDEC grant and civic organization donations
- \$300K BOA grant for Mohawk Ave streetscape design/engineering
- CRTC grant for ADA transition plan



Scotia Firehouse

Local Plans & Policies

Plans

- 2024 Envision Scotia (BOA) Plan
- 2022 Downtown Connections Plan
- 2009 Scotia Waterfront Concept Implementation Plan
- 2001 Eastern Gateway Study

Policies

- Pro-Housing community
- Village of Scotia Business Improvement District
- Village of Scotia community garden
- Village of Scotia First-Time Homebuyers Program
- Sidewalk repair reimbursement program



Final | April 2024 - Village of Scotia, Schenectady County



This document was prepared for the Village of Scotia and New York State Department of State with State funds provided through the Brownfield Opportunity Area Program.

Public Outreach / Support

NY Forward application process:

- Leveraged engagement from the 2024 Envision Scotia (BOA) plan's development
- Two public workshops were held to review NY Forward vision statement and goals, brainstorm current capital improvement needs, provide information for potential project sponsors, and gather feedback on priorities and potential projects
- Between July and October 2025, direct outreach was made to business and property owners to support the development of their projects



Aerial of the Village

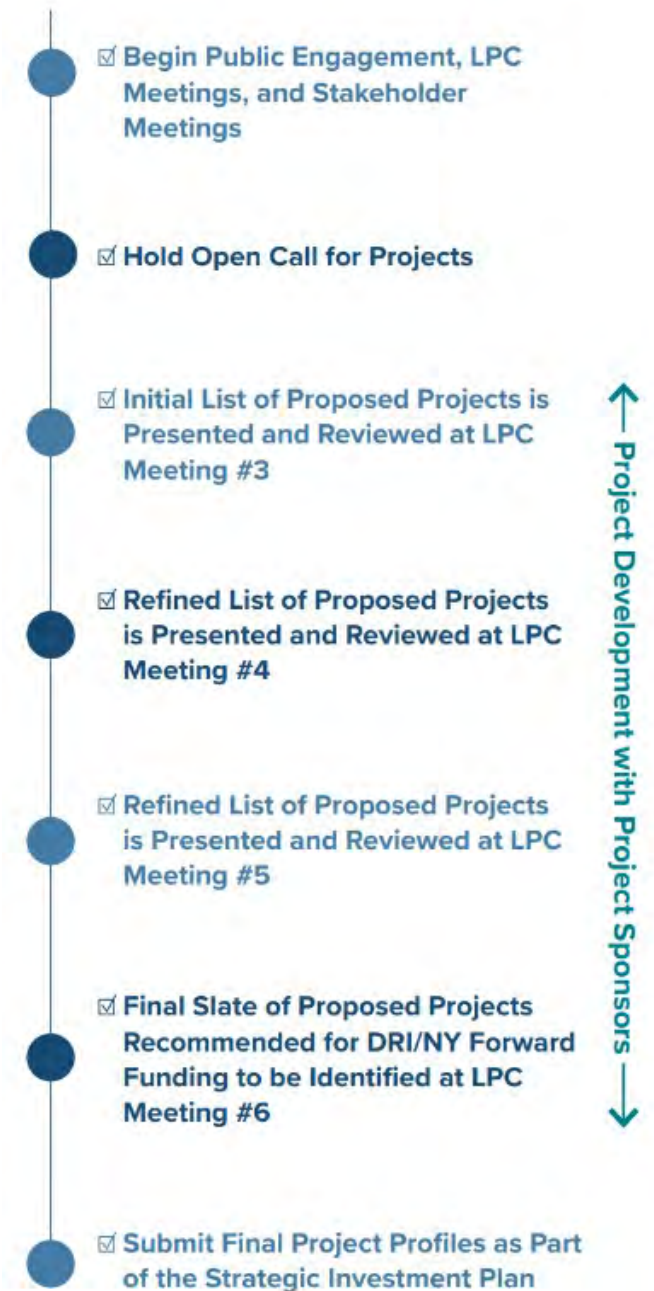
Project Opportunities

- NY Forward total award amount of \$4.5 million
- 12 projects identified in NY Forward Application + \$300,000 Small Project Fund request
- \$13.6 million in total need identified, with \$46.4 million in matching funds, for a total of \$60 million of projects proposed in NY Forward Application
- Thematic focus on housing, local businesses, outdoor recreation, and tourism
- **ALL PROJECTS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE OPEN CALL, INCLUDING THE ONES PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED IN THE NY FORWARD PROGRAM APPLICATION – NOTHING HAS BEEN PRE-DETERMINED!**
- **ALL IDEAS WELCOME!**

Project Development

Project Development Process

1. Project Sponsors propose projects through the Open Call
2. Sponsors then develop Projects further, with support from:
 - Consultant team
 - State agencies (DOS, HCR, ESD, NYSERDA)
 - Municipal representatives
 - Outside entities (SBDC's, EAC's, CDFI's)
3. LPC evaluates Projects according to set criteria
4. Strategic Investment Plan submitted to State, including non-ranked slate of Projects totaling more than \$4.5 million recommended investment



Open Call for Projects

- **All Projects must go through this process**
- All Projects must be submitted by a Project Sponsor with the capacity to execute
- Open, fair, and transparent process for LPC to vet project proposals
- Allows LPC and consultant team to obtain information in a consistent manner
- **Submission through the Open Call does not guarantee inclusion in the final plan**

How to Submit Your Project

- 1 Review the Eligibility Criteria and Project Requirements**
on pages 3-5 to learn about requirements for projects and to make sure your project is eligible to be considered for NY Forward funding.
- 2 Review the Local Vision, Goals, and Evaluation Criteria**
on pages 6-7 to learn about the vision and goals for Scotia's downtown and about how the Local Planning Committee (LPC) and State will evaluate projects. Stay up to date with the process and refer to the draft and final vision and goals on the website to ensure your project is consistent with the vision for downtown.
- 3 Consider consulting with an Architect/Engineer/General Contractor/Vendor**
to help define the project scope of work, review the existing conditions, code requirements, and design feasibility, and develop realistic budgets.
- 4 Attend Open Call Information Session, Office Hours, or Other Opportunities to Meet with the Consultant Team**
to learn more about the process and project requirements. Check the website for information about how to attend or sign up.
- 5 Fill out the Project Form**
on pages 7-16. Address each topic thoroughly and completely. The LPC will use this information to consider projects to be included in the NY Forward community's Strategic Investment Plan.
- 6 Submit your Completed Application**
Submit your completed application (and any supplemental materials) either electronically, in-person, or by mail no later than **Tuesday, September 1, at 4pm.**

→ To submit online:

Go to ScotiaNYF.com

→ To submit via email:

Email your completed application and any supplemental materials to ScotiaNYF@gmail.com

→ To submit a hard copy:

Hand-deliver: **138 Mohawk Ave, Scotia, NY 12302**

Mail: **4 North Ten Broeck Street Scotia, NY 12302**

Email notification of submission to: ScotiaNYF@gmail.com



All applicants are highly encouraged to schedule a meeting to discuss project details. To schedule a meeting to ask questions regarding project eligibility, evaluation, or the project form please contact **Ian Nicholson at ScotiaNYF@gmail.com.**

Open Call for Projects

Launch: as early as Mon, July 13

“Office hours” to discuss projects with sponsors: weeks of July 27 & August 3, TBD

Deadline for questions: Tue, Aug 18, TBD

Deadline to submit projects: Tue, Sep 1

Email address for questions and project submissions:

ScotiaNYF@gmail.com

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	7/6		7/8 LPC-1			
	7/13 OPEN CALL					
	7/20					
	7/27 OFFICE HOURS	OFFICE HOURS	OFFICE HOURS	OFFICE HOURS	OFFICE HOURS	
	8/3 OFFICE HOURS	OFFICE HOURS	OFFICE HOURS	OFFICE HOURS	OFFICE HOURS	
	8/10 PUBLIC WORK SHOP					
	8/17	8/18 Q&A DUE	8/19 LPC-2			
	8/24					
	8/31	9/1 APPS DUE				

Open Call for Projects Form

- Project Type
- Project Sponsor
- Project Location
- Project Description
 - including decarbonization, resiliency, and revitalization benefits
- Existing Conditions and Project Background
- Project Alignment with Vision and Goals
- Property Ownership
- Sponsor Capacity
- Preliminary Cost Estimate
- Cost Estimate Description
- Project Readiness and Timeframe for Implementation
- Required Documents
 - such as interior and/or exterior photos
- Supplemental Information
 - such as renderings or quotes from contractors

Project Development

Eligible Project Types

- New development and/or rehabilitation of existing downtown buildings (may include design fees)
- Public improvement projects
- Small Project Fund
 - Locally managed, \$300,000 max (up to \$600,000 may be requested if clear need and interest is demonstrated through concrete proposals)
 - 25% matching requirement
- Branding and marketing

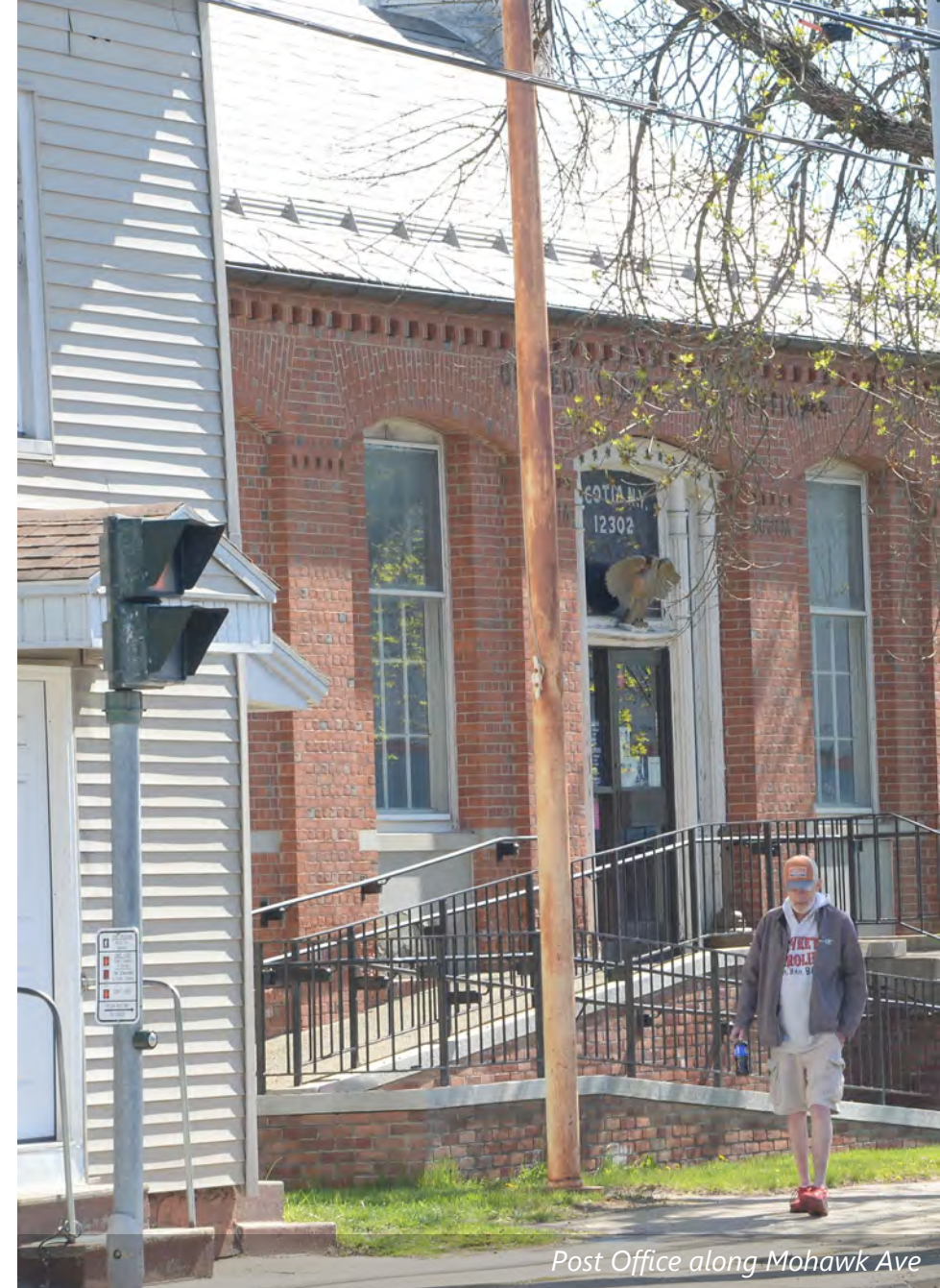
Ineligible Activities

- Standalone planning activities
- Operations and maintenance
- Pre-award costs
- Property acquisition
- Training and other program expenses

Project Development

Project Requirements

- Shovel-ready within 2 years
- Project size/scale – large enough to be transformative
- Project sponsor capacity – public, non-profit, or private entities
- Financing
- Matching and leverage
 - Matching requirement determined by LPC – at least 25% for private sponsors
- Decarbonization



Post Office along Mohawk Ave

Public Engagement Strategy

Public Engagement Plan

- Public outreach tools include:
 - 5 or 6 LPC Meetings
 - 3 Public Engagement Events
 - Sign Campaign and/or Engagement Station
 - Stakeholder Meetings
 - Project Website and Digital Media
 - Online Surveys
 - Advertising



LPC Meetings

- Meeting #1 in progress!
- Venue: **Village Hall**
- 5 additional meetings to be scheduled:
 - LPC Meeting #2: **Aug 19**
 - LPC Meeting #3: **Sep 23**
 - LPC Meeting #4: **Oct 28**
 - LPC Meeting #5: **Dec 2**
 - LPC Meeting #6: **Jan 13**
- All are open to the public, include public comment
- Purpose is to brainstorm ideas, provide direction and feedback to consultant teams, review planning products, and discuss engagement efforts



Freedom Park

Public Workshops

- Interactive, inclusive engagement with the public
- **Fire House**

Public Workshop #1 – Aug 10, 5:30pm

What Would You Like to See Downtown?

- Solicit ideas and feedback about the Vision Statement and Goals
- Gather information about the present-day downtown and ideas for the future

Public Workshop #2 – Nov 14, 2:00pm

What Do You Think of the Proposed Projects?

- Familiarize the public with the projects and solicit feedback for the sponsors
- Understand which projects best align with Vision and Goals for downtown Scotia



NY Forward Round 3 Greenwich Public Workshop

Public Walkshop

- Format option for Public Workshops
- Familiarize community members with the NY Forward Area
- Solicit feedback for Downtown Vision and Goals
- Engage with local experts
- Visit potential project locations



NY Forward Round 3 Athens Walking Tour

Local Outreach Activities

- Leverage existing community calendar of events, such as:
 - Help us fill in the blanks!
- Meant to engage a broad range of constituents



NY Forward Round 3 Local Outreach at Athens Community Fest

Sign Campaign

- Each proposed project location marked with a sign including the project name and brief description
- Signs also contain a QR code leading to a digital project review survey
- Increased visibility and community involvement throughout the planning process



NY Forward Round 3 Greenwich Project Sign

Key Stakeholders

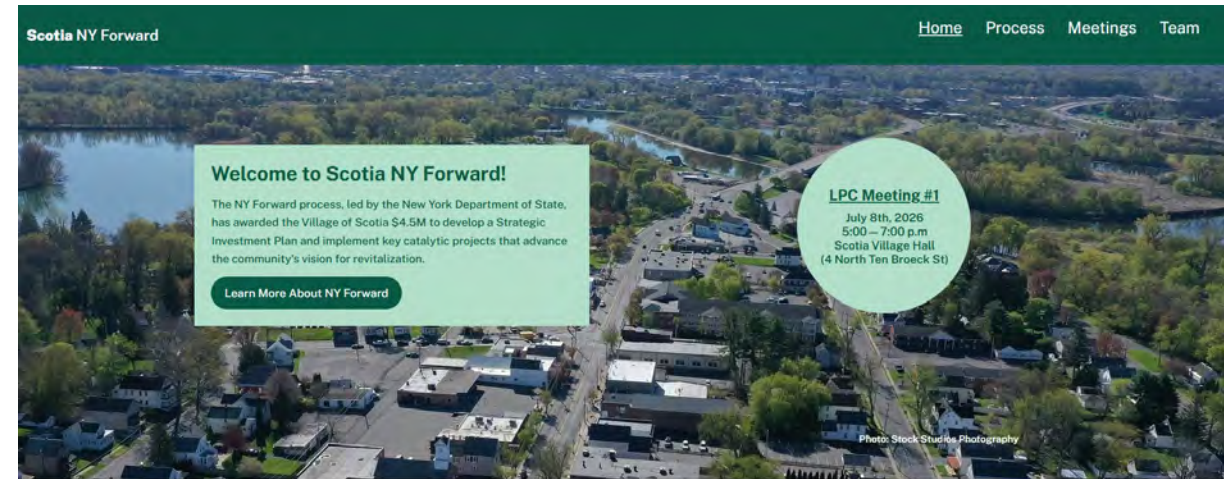
- Meetings and/or focus groups to be arranged with key stakeholders, such as:
 - Help us fill in the blank!
- Provides an opportunity to better understand community needs, identify local opportunities, and inform development of potential projects



Collins Park

Social Media, Online Outreach, Press Strategies

- Project website is live!
- Will host information on meetings, events, and project progress including proposed project information
- Will also provide a platform for feedback and interaction from the public, including the Open Call for Projects
- Scotia Community Facebook page



www.ScotiaNYF.com

Advertising

- Window banners to display in available downtown storefront
- Post flyers and postcards downtown to announce LPC Meetings and Public Workshops
- Distribute digital flyers online and through social media



NY Forward Round 3 Greenwich Window Display

LPC / Public Engagement Timeline

- *Launch Website*
- **LPC Meeting #1**
- *Open Call for Projects - Open*
- **Public Workshop #1**
- **LPC Meeting #2**
- *Open Call for Projects - Due*
- **LPC Meeting #3**
- **LPC Meeting #4**
- **Public Workshop #2**
- **LPC Meeting #5**
- **LPC Meeting #6**
- **Strategic Investment Plan**

Jun 24

Wed, Jul 8, 5-7pm

week of Jul 13

Mon, Aug 10

Wed, Aug 19

Tue, Sep 1 (TBD)

Wed, Sep 23

Wed, Oct 28

Sat, Nov 14

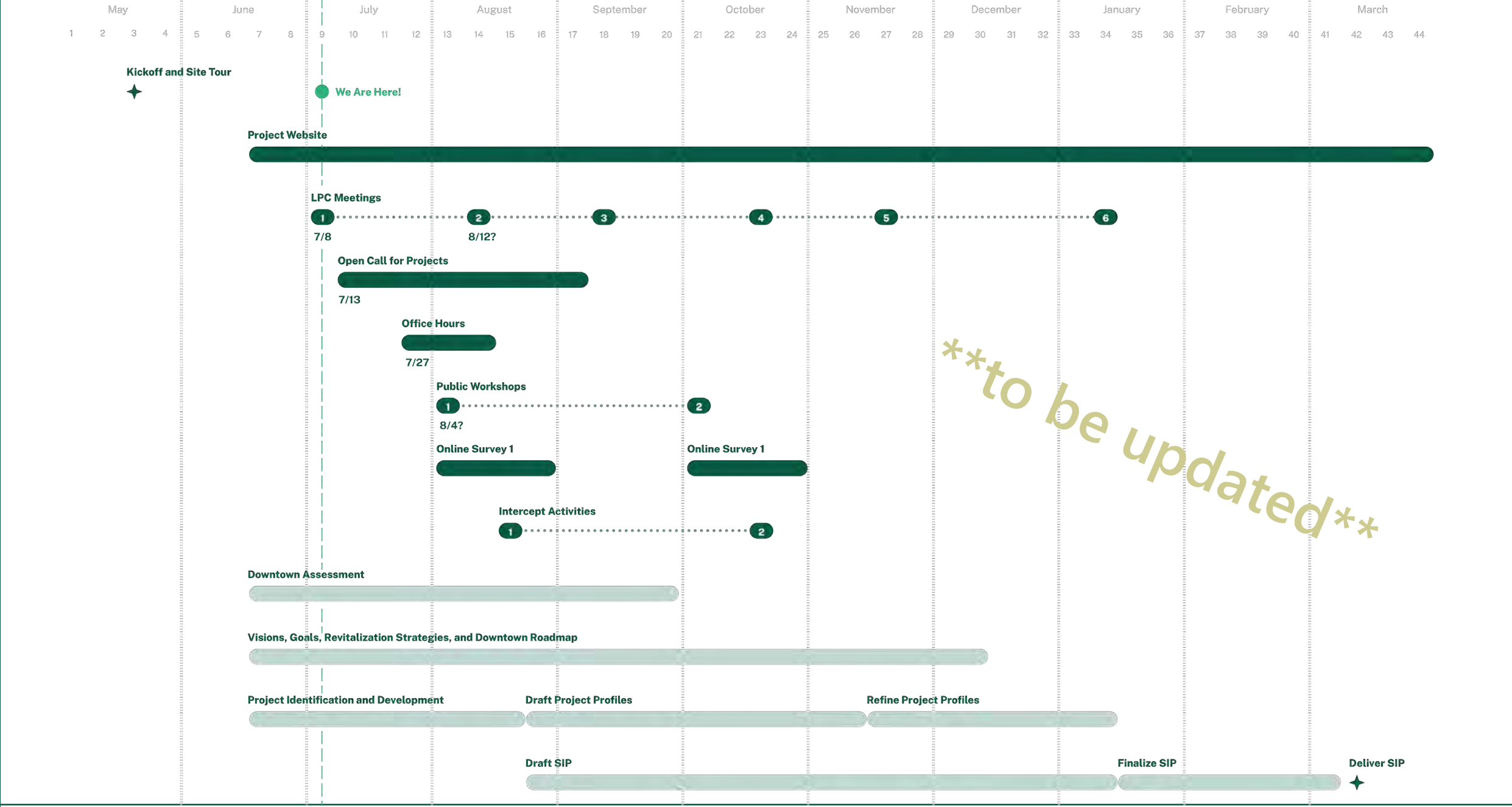
Wed, Dec 2

Wed, Jan 13

Draft – Feb 19

Final – Mar 12





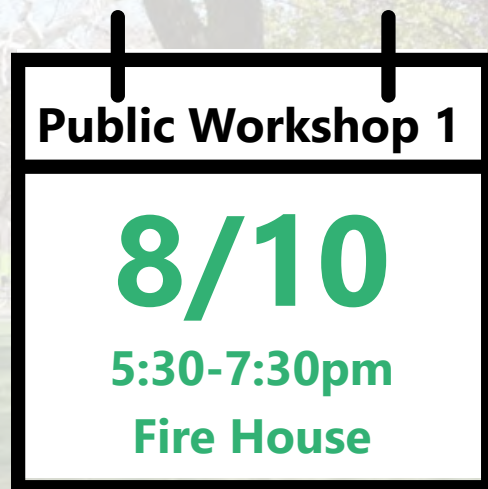
Local Planning Committee Q&A

Public Comment

please submit comments to
ScotiaNYF@gmail.com

Next Steps

- ✓ Finalize Public Engagement Plan
- ✓ Send out Open Call for Projects
- ✓ Refine Downtown Vision and Goals
- ✓ Develop Downtown Assessment



Closing Remarks

Mayor David Bucciferro



Thank you!