

NY Forward – Capital Region - Scotia

Subject	MINUTES LPC Meeting #2	Date	Wednesday, August 19, 2026
Place	Village Hall 4 N Ten Broeck Street	Time	5:30-7:30pm
Distribution	<u>Local Planning Committee</u> David Bucciferro, Mayor (co-chair) Linda MacFarlane (co-chair) Peter Bednarek Eric Buskirk Dr. David Coppola Robert Dieterich <i>Jeffrey Gabriele (absent)</i> John Genti <i>Jamie Stegmann (absent)</i> Kristen Strock	<u>State Team</u> Matthew Smith, DOS Gina DaBiere-Gibbs, DOS Taylor Disco, HCR <u>Consultant Team</u> Ian Nicholson, Buro Happold Daniel D'Oca, Interboro <u>Public</u> ~5 individuals	

Meeting Summary:

Please see 'SCO_LPC Meeting 2_Slides_record' for the presentation shared during the meeting which parallels the discussion summarized below.

Action items are called out in ***bold-italic highlight***

Opening Remarks

Mayor Bucciferro (LPC co-chair) delivers brief opening remarks.

Code of Conduct

Gina DaBiere-Gibbs (DOS) reads the Code of Conduct preamble, and reviews key points from the Code of Conduct that LPC members are expected to abide by, including conflicts of interest and recusal

Updates: Planning Process & Engagement

Ian (BH) reviews the NYF timeline of actions since kickoff, including the website going live, the first LPC meeting, and the first public workshop. He also updates the LPC on sponsors that have attended technical sessions to discuss potential projects. He then outlines the upcoming steps in the planning process, the next of which is the deadline for projects to be submitted on Sep 1st.

Ian also shares a calendar illustrating the vision of how the NYF program will proceed, placing today's meeting in context of the overall process.

Downtown Assessment

Ian (BH) presents research done for the downtown assessment and explains its purpose in the process and for the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP).

Ian (BH) reviews a map of the current NYF boundaries for LPC members to comment on. He informs members that they can extend boundaries during the next LPC meeting as well, while reviewing project submissions. The LPC is reminded that potential sponsors outside the boundary should be encouraged to apply, given that the LPC may revisit the boundary at the 3rd LPC meeting when projects are known.

Review of history & trajectory, recent plans and investments, alignment with REDC, geography & ecology, architecture & urban form, streets, circulation & parking, parks & open spaces, land use & zoning, socio-economic conditions, employment & commuting, and real estate market.

Ian (BH) presents key observations drawn from the downtown assessment, emphasizing opportunities and challenges. LPC is invited to provide any feedback – there is acknowledgement that information presented seems broadly accurate and representative, but requesting to double-check the date of the earliest structure at the Glen Sanders property, and to make sure private investments are included in the final summary.

Public Workshop #1 Overview

Dan (Interboro) provides a brief overview of the first workshop, explaining the overall purpose and structure of the workshop, including a description of the walking tour activity where participants wrote observations and thoughts on a foldout map. He also shares the number of participants (roughly 21) and the consultant team that attended the workshop. Photos from the workshop are shared.

The team received roughly 440 comments from the workshop participants, with the top three focused on pedestrian safety & infrastructure, streets & traffic, and parks, recreation & public space. Dan showed the comments placed on the maps to elaborate on which areas of the Village were prompting certain kinds of feedback. He also proposed implications from the comments for the 5 goals laid out in the NYF application.

Dan presents 6 key themes synthesized from the activity:

1. Pedestrian safety and comfort on Mohawk Avenue emerged as the dominant issue.

2. The parks and waterfront are tremendous assets, but they feel disconnected from the business core.
3. There is considerable support for new housing and infill development, but also a desire for flexibility.
4. Revitalizing the business core requires both better buildings and more reasons to be downtown.
5. Scotia's identity and historic character could be more explicit in the goals.
6. Sustainability and resiliency should encompass the whole downtown, not only the waterfront.

Visions and Goals

Ian (BH) presents the preliminary downtown vision from the NYF application. He presents two alternative vision statements for the LPC to discuss and workshop. LPC members all agree on preference for Alternative #1, and provide various modifications to wording and emphasis.

A finalized downtown vision is drafted collectively from this input:

"The Village of Scotia will honor its small-village character while creating a more vibrant, connected, and accessible downtown. A revitalized Mohawk Avenue and waterfront will create a safer, more walkable downtown that supports active storefronts, local businesses, restaurants, housing choices, and inviting places to gather. Thoughtful, inclusive, and sustainable growth will attract visitors and reconnect residents to downtown, parks, trails, the Mohawk River, and regional destinations through wayfinding, beautification, and improvements that reflect the Village's history and identity."

Ian (BH) presents the preliminary downtown goals adapted from the NYF application. The goals are compared to key themes identified at the workshop, illustrating clear connections between the two. Proposed goals are offered by consultant team that attempt to incorporate feedback heard to date. Using this information, LPC members discuss alterations to the existing goals. Finalized goals are drafted from this discussion:

- **Expand mixed-use housing and reinvest in underutilized properties.**
- **Reinvigorate downtown storefronts and support local business growth.**
- **Celebrate Scotia's history, creativity, and village identity.**
- **Enhance pedestrian safety and comfort along Mohawk and Schonowee Avenues.**
- **Better connect downtown businesses to recreational amenities.**

LPC Q&A / Discussion

No comments/questions from LPC other than those noted above.

Public Comment

Questions and Comments from Residents:

- What role do private sponsors/landowners have in the primary goal of pedestrian safety? Isn't that a Village thing?
 - Yes, responsibility for the streetscape would fall primarily on the Village, in coordination with other government entities.
 - However, depending on the configuration of a property, there would be opportunities for some project sponsors to score well against this criteria by doing things like reducing curb cuts, removing driveways, and enhancing pedestrian amenities like shade and seating.
- Related question concerning what can be done about the "gateway intersection" where the Gateway Bridge lands in the Village. There's a lot of traffic there, and its 4 lanes wide – will NY Forward be able to do anything about it?
 - Mayor responds with some key points about the design and coordination challenges – most notably NYS DOT jurisdiction – while also noting that the intersection is within the scope of the ongoing BOA streetscape study that is anticipated to be submitted in some form for NY Forward funding.

Closing Remarks

Mayor thanks everyone for their time and commitment.

END OF SUMMARY