

NY Forward - Capital Region

# Scotia

Public Workshop #1

August 10, 2026



**NY Forward**

# Welcome!

**This is an interactive public workshop to get feedback on the **vision and goals** for the Village of Scotia downtown.**

- We'll start with a brief overview of the NY Forward program and some key demographic highlights.
- Then we'll break into small groups to discuss needs, challenges, goals, and opportunities.
- What we do today will lay the foundation for how projects that are submitted for funding are evaluated.



*Entrance sign with Collins Park behind*

# We want to hear from you!

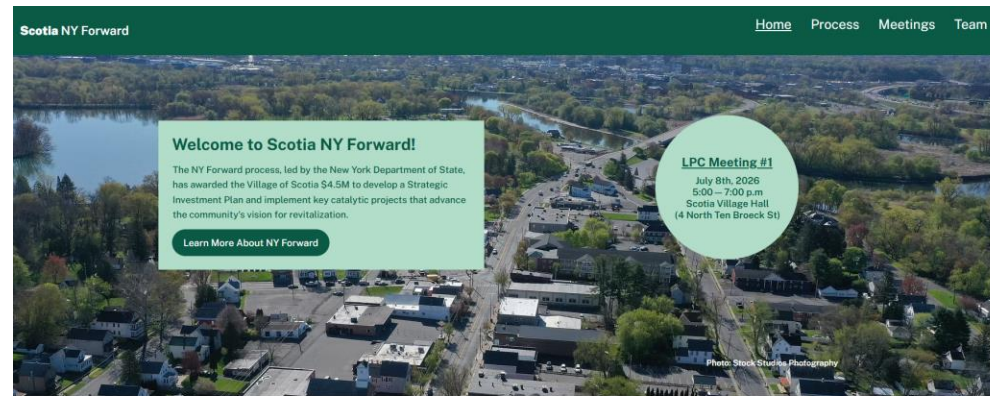
How to stay involved after this workshop:



## Agenda:

Discuss the projects that have been submitted through the Open Call.

[www.ScotiaNYF.com](http://www.ScotiaNYF.com)



Send a note any time to:  
**ScotiaNYF@gmail.com**

# 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.

# 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**

1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:Gina.DaBiere-Gibbs@dos.ny.gov)
- Matt Smith, [Matthew.Smith@dos.ny.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:MaryElise.Rees@esd.ny.gov)

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

# Consultant Team

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**BURO HAPPOLD**

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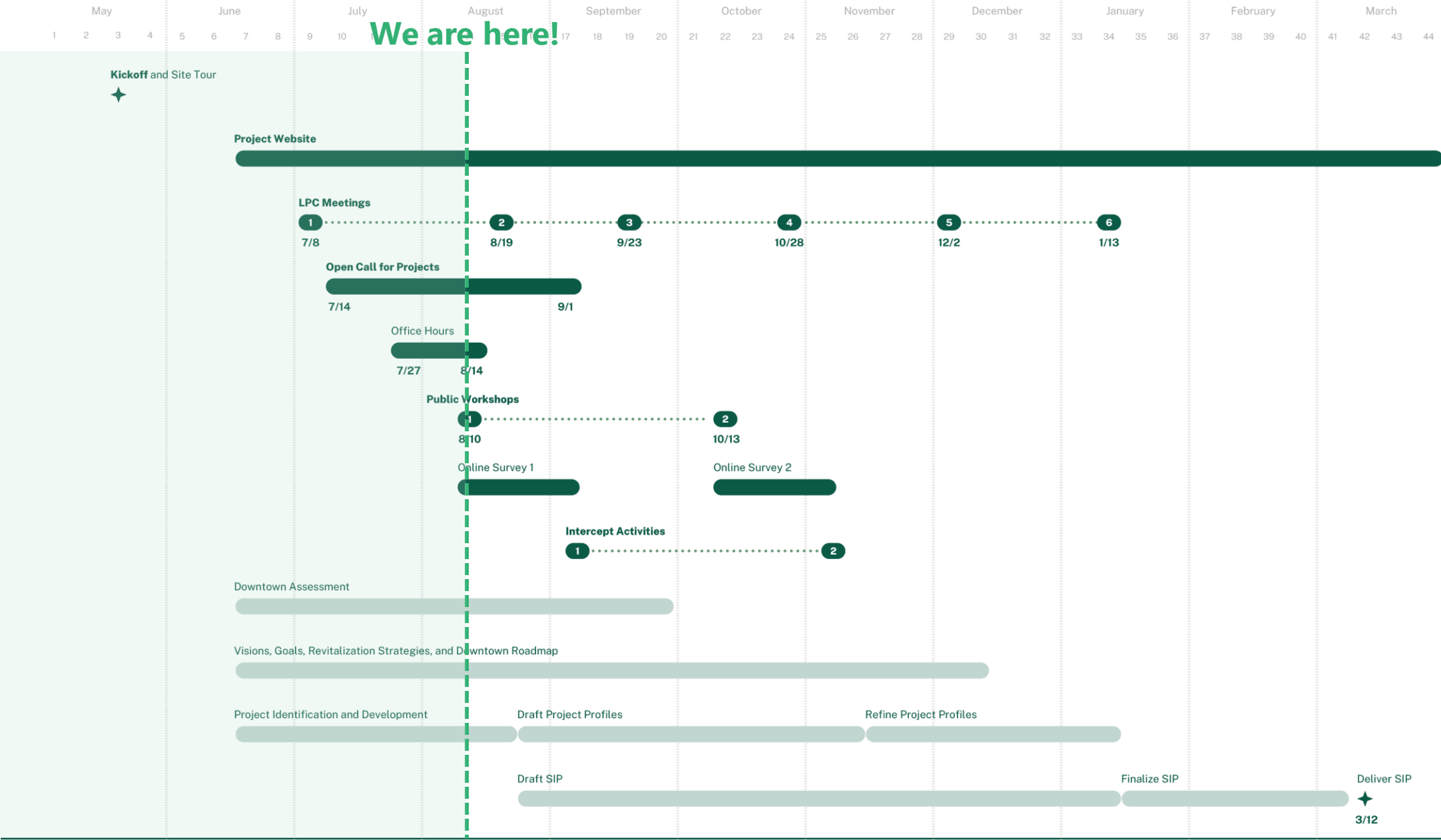
**Ian Nicholson**, [Ian.Nicholson@BuroHappold.com](mailto:Ian.Nicholson@BuroHappold.com)  
*project management and revitalization strategy*

**INTERBORO**

**Daniel D'Oca**, [Dan@InterboroPartners.com](mailto:Dan@InterboroPartners.com)  
*public engagement, architecture, urban design*

*with:*

EDR, LaBella, KB Engineering, and Stock Studios  
Photography



# LPC Meetings

- Venue: **Village Hall**
- LPC Meeting #2: **Aug 19, 5:30-7:30**
- LPC Meeting #3: **Sep 23, 5:30-7:30**
- LPC Meeting #4: **Oct 28, 5:30-7:30**
- LPC Meeting #5: **Dec 2, 5:30-7:30**
- LPC Meeting #6: **Jan 13, 5:30-7:00\***
- All are open to the public and include time for public comment.

*\* If needed*



# Public Workshops

## Public Workshop #1 – IN PROGRESS!

### 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 – Oct 13, 5:00-7:00pm

### What Do You Think of the Proposed Projects?

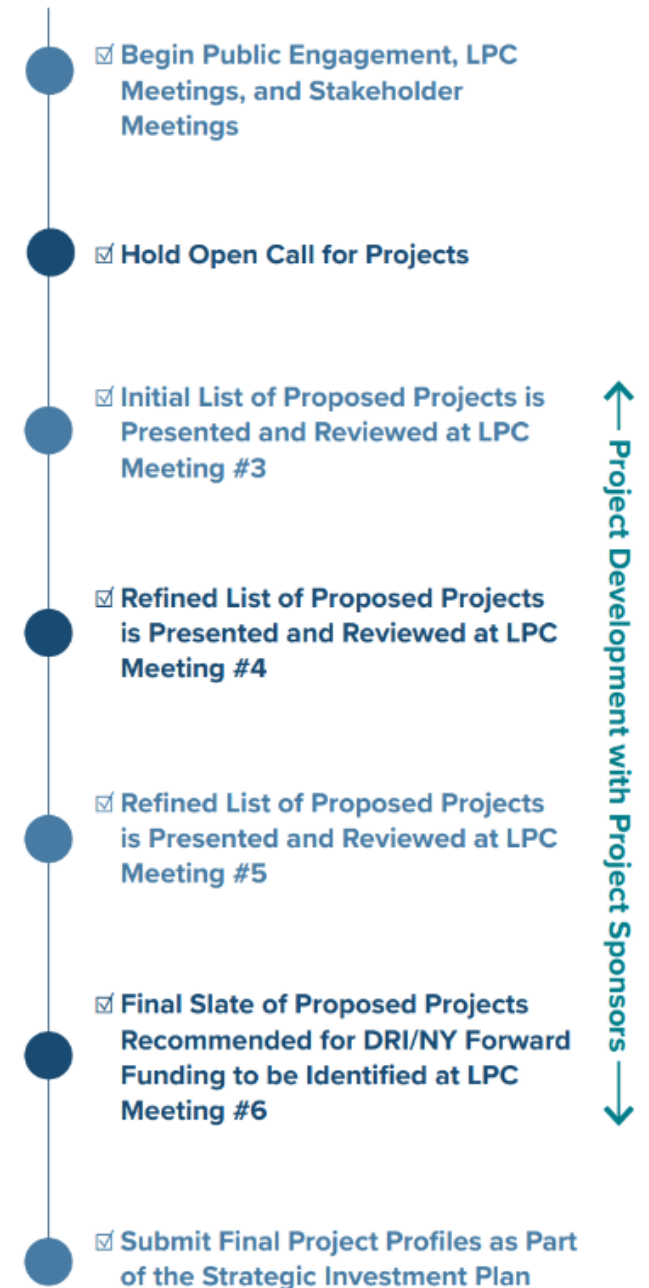
- Familiarize the public with the projects and solicit feedback for the sponsors
- Understand which projects best align with Vision and Goals for downtown Scotia



NY Forward Round 3 Greenwich Public Workshop

# Project Development Process

1. Project Sponsors propose projects through the **Open Call for Projects**
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 \$6-8 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](https://ScotiaNYF.com)

→ **To submit via email:**

Email your completed application and any supplemental materials to [ScotiaNYF@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ScotiaNYF@gmail.com).**

# Open Call for Projects

**Jul 13** Launched

**Jul 27-Aug 14** Technical assistance\*

**Aug 18** Deadline for questions

**Sep 1 (4pm)** Deadline to submit

\* Link to sign-up sheet posted to:

[ScotiaNYF.com](http://ScotiaNYF.com)

Email address for questions and project submissions:

[ScotiaNYF@gmail.com](mailto:ScotiaNYF@gmail.com)

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

# 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
  - 25% matching requirement
- Branding and marketing
  - for public purposes

## 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
  - Smaller projects (<\$150k) use Small Project Interest Letter
- Project sponsor capacity – public, non-profit, or private entities
- Financing: *Sponsor must carry pre-reimbursement costs*
- Matching and leverage: *at least 25% for private sponsors*
- Decarbonization



Post Office along Mohawk Ave

# NY Forward in Scotia

# NY Forward Boundary

*\* Can be modified or adjusted at discretion of Local Planning Committee.*

*\* Sponsors with potential projects just outside the boundary are therefore encouraged to submit their application thru the Open Call*

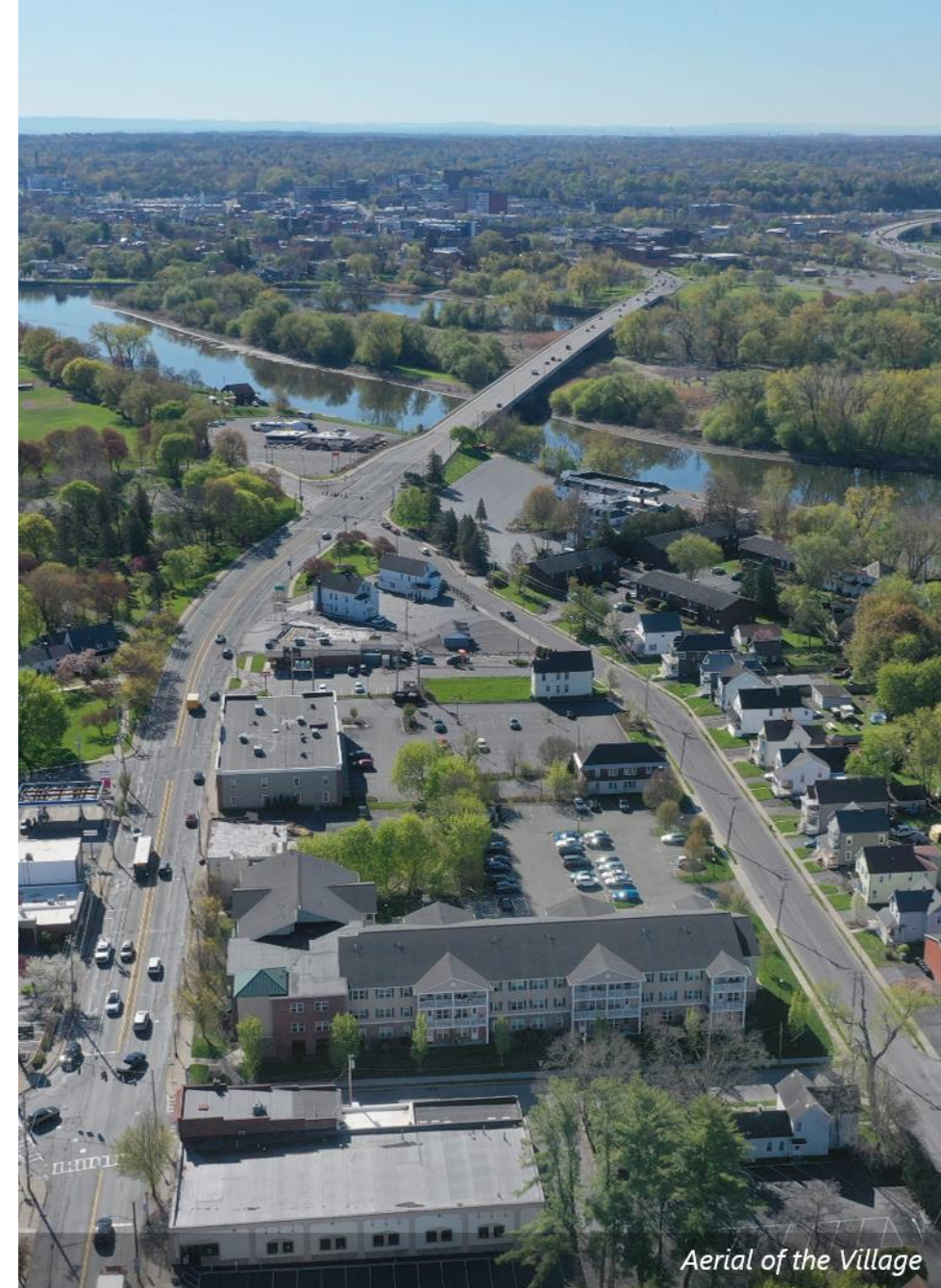


# Preliminary Downtown Vision

*“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.”*

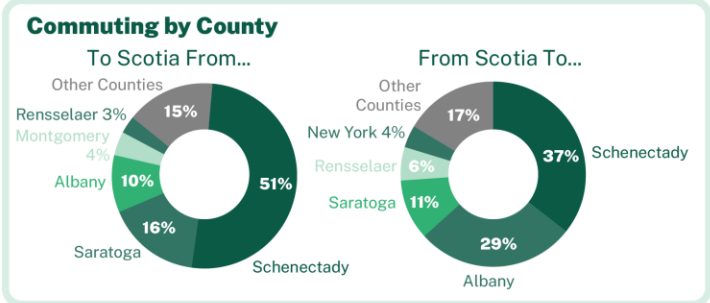
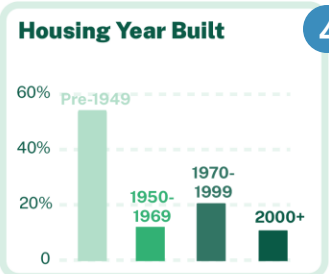
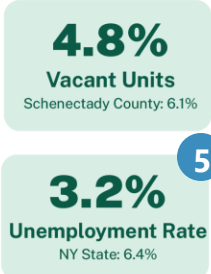
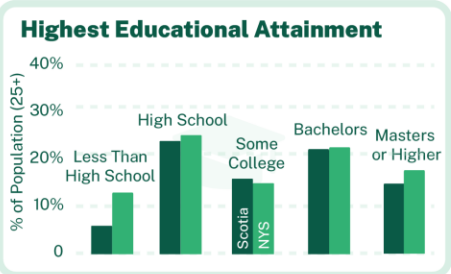
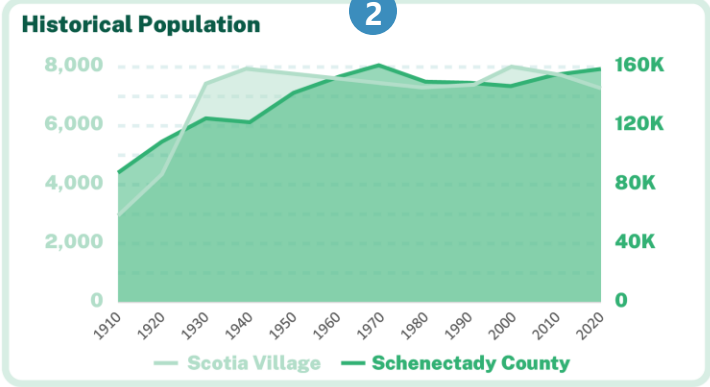
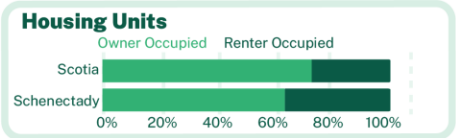
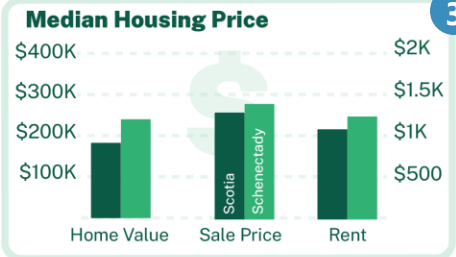
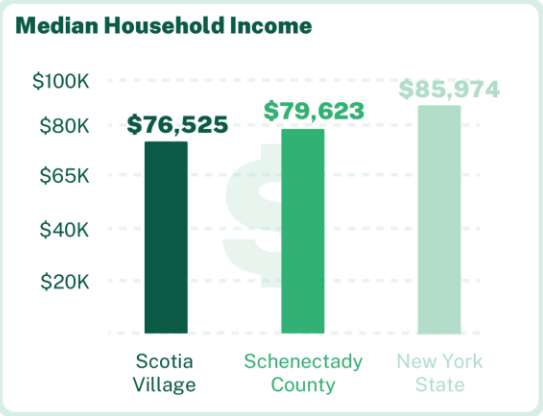
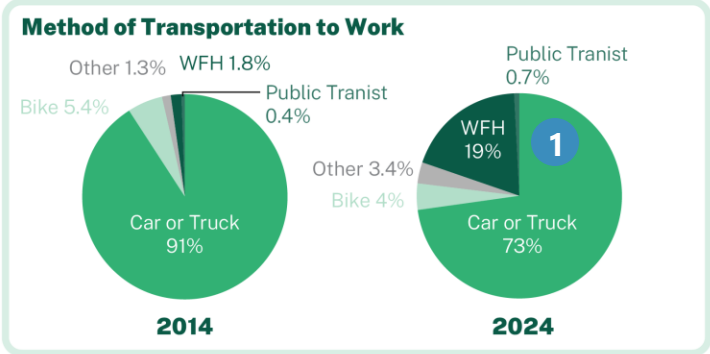
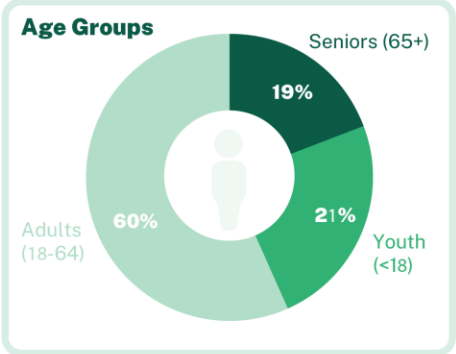
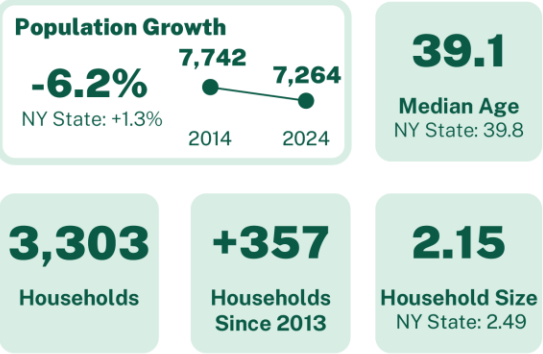
# Preliminary Downtown Goals

- **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.



# Scotia Demographic Snapshot

Data Source: Census American Community Survey (2014-2024)



- 1 **Work-from-home** percentage increased 10.5x from 2014 to 2024.
- 2 Village **population** has **remained relatively stable** since WWII, with a slight decline since 2000, while the County has experienced modest growth.
- 3 Housing costs are modestly **lower than the County**.
- 4 More than half of Scotia's **housing units** are more than **75 years old**.
- 5 Unemployment rate is **half of the NY State average**.

# Potential Strengths & Opportunities

- **\$10.6m invested** recently in public infrastructure, private businesses, and nonprofit projects
- **Affordable housing** market compared to nearby areas
- Relatively **stable long-term population** base
- Nearby **regional employment hubs** in stable and growing sectors
- **Recreation and open space amenities** like Freedom and Collins Parks, the Erie Canal/Mohawk River, and the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail
- **Community-driven** planning and strong civic engagement
- Access to CDTA **regional bus service** as well as CDPHP **bikeshare**

# Potential Needs & Challenges

- Market housing values and rental rates **insufficient to support construction costs**
- **Traffic and high crash rates** along Mohawk Avenue
- **Aging housing** stock
- **High local tax burden and limited municipal capacity** to fund major revitalization projects without outside support
- Disconnected and **incomplete bicycle infrastructure**
- **Abandoned, vacant, and underutilized sites** along Mohawk Ave
- **Water and sewer infrastructure** in need of updates
- **Small parcels, limited site depth, and parking constraints** that make downtown redevelopment more difficult



# Questions?

# Two Options

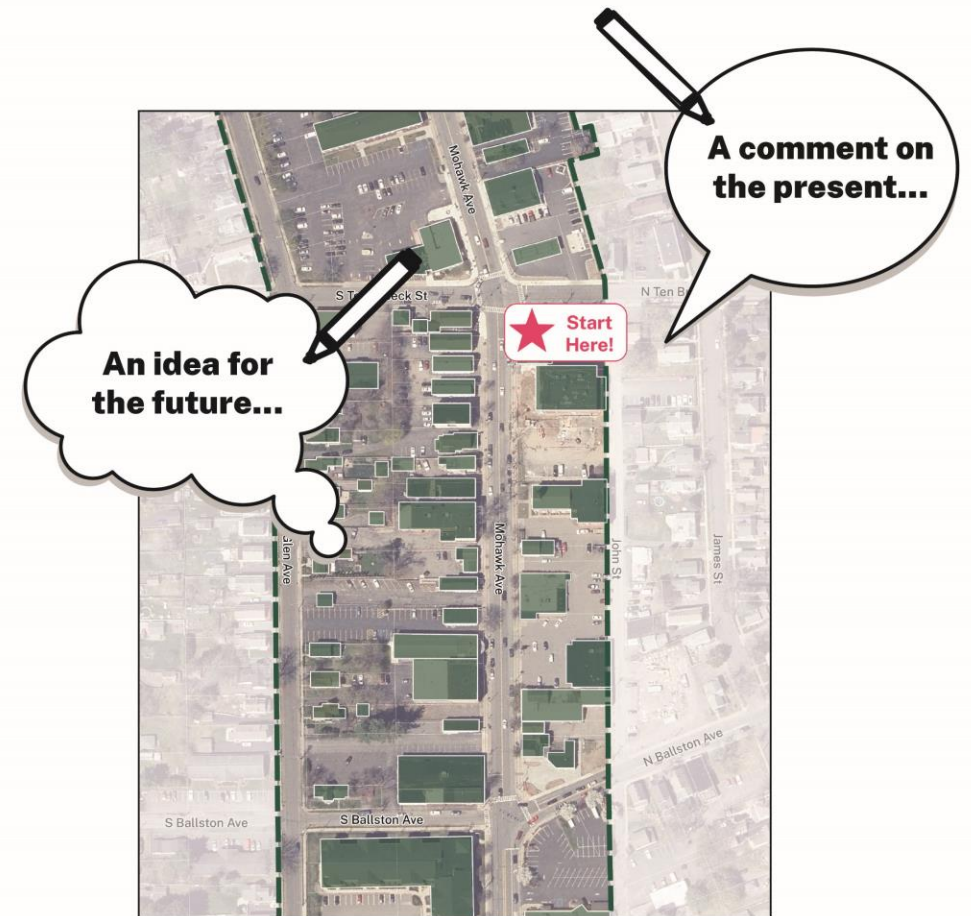
## Option One: Walking Tour

- Two groups
  - Housing options, mixed-use development, building improvements, and strengthening the business core
  - Culture, recreation, walkability, and sustainability
- Each group will have a walking tour guide and a handout
- As you walk and talk with the group, add your ideas and comments to the handout

## Vision & Goals Activity

Share your vision and goals for downtown Scotia!

Add your **comments on the present**  and **ideas for the future**  on the walking tour map.



# Two Options

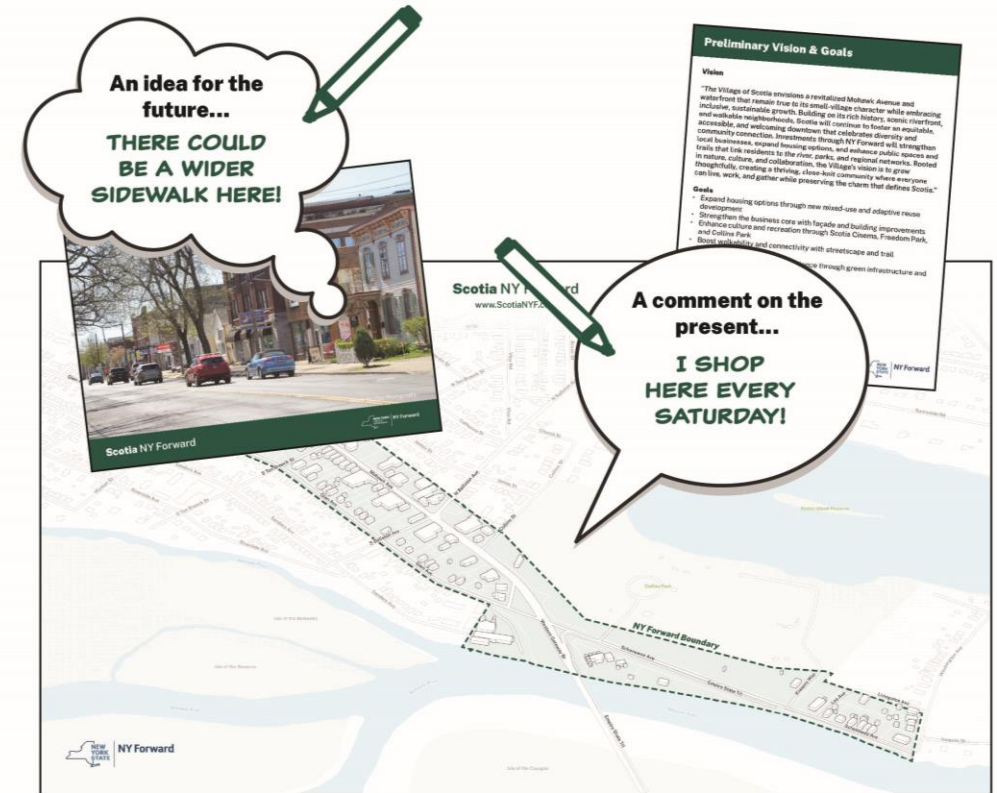
## Option Two: Table Activity

- Discuss your ideas for downtown Scotia around the engagement table
- Place your comments and ideas over the tabletop map, image cards, and vision and goals sheet

## Vision & Goals Activity

Share your vision and goals for downtown Scotia!

Add your **comments on the present** and **ideas for the future** on the provided shapes and place them over the tabletop map, image cards, or the vision and goals sheet.



# Walking Tour Logistics

- **Schedule:**

- 6:00pm: Depart from **Scotia Village Hall**
- 7:00pm: Reconvene for discussion at **Lions Pavilion in Collins Park**
- 7:30pm: Conclude workshop

- **Route:**

- Walk up **Mohawk Ave to Vine Street**
- Walk down **Mohawk Ave to Schonowee Ave**
- Walk down **Schonowee Ave to Washington Ave**
- Walk to **Lions Pavilion in Collins Park**

- **Distance:** about 1.5 miles

# Walking Tour Group Leaders

- **Dan D'Oca** (Interboro)
- **Kate Chapman** (Interboro)
- **Doris Qingyi Duanmu** (Interboro)
- **Ashley Dominguez** (Buro Happold)
- **Isabel Mulay** (Buro Happold)
- **Aidan McKibbin** (EDR)



Let's Discuss!