

# What is NY Forward?

NY Forward launched in 2022 to invigorate and enliven downtowns in New York’s smaller and rural communities—the type of downtowns found in villages, hamlets, and other small, neighborhood-scale municipal centers.

NY Forward communities develop a Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) that includes a slate of readily implementable projects aimed at revitalizing the downtown area and providing a higher quality of life for all residents. This process is guided by a Local Planning Committee (LPC), consisting of local and regional leaders with planning and implementation support from the NYS Department of State.

## What Makes a Successful NY Forward Process?

- A clear vision for downtown
- Goals and strategies to accomplish the vision
- A SIP with catalytic projects
- A clear timeline for projects and actions
- Robust public engagement
- Supportive local policies and planning

### Selection:

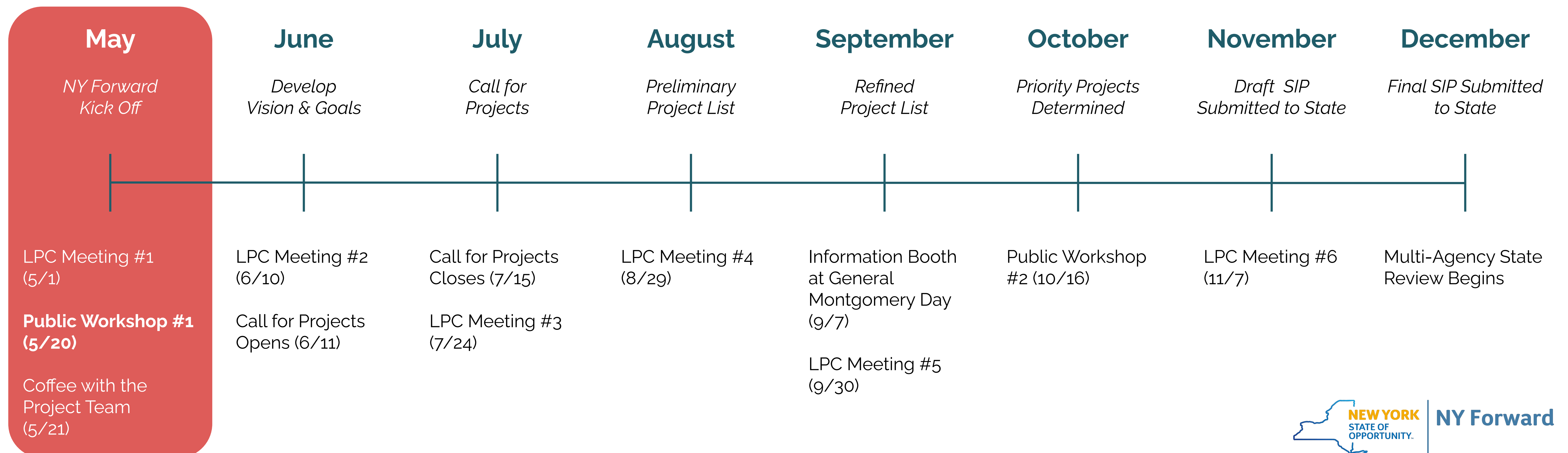
Communities submit applications to the REDCs (Regional Economic Development Council). After soliciting community input in 2023, Montgomery submitted an application and was selected in 2024.

### Planning:

Selected communities develop a SIP with a vision for downtown and a catalog of transformative projects, based on community outreach and input, informing the foundation for immediate and ongoing implementation.

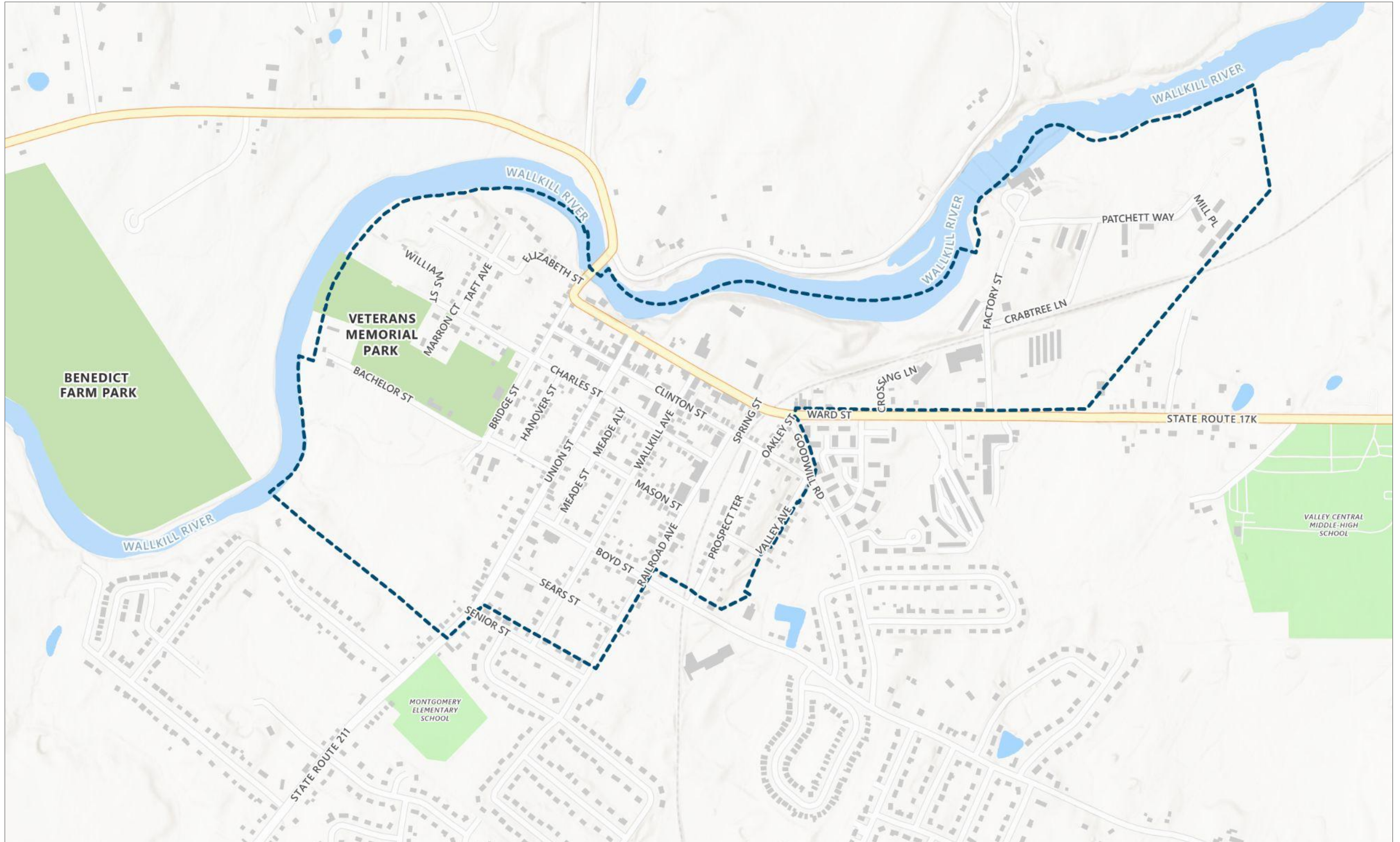
### Implementation:

NY Forward awards will be used to implement the most transformative projects from the SIP.





# NY Forward Boundary





# Open Call for Projects

The Open Call for Projects is an opportunity for community members, organizations, and businesses to submit project ideas. **All projects, including those submitted in the community's NY Forward application, must be submitted through the Open Call for Projects via a Project Form found on [MontgomeryNYF.com](https://MontgomeryNYF.com)** to be considered by the LPC for inclusion in the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP).

**Opens:** Tuesday, June 11, 2024

**Closes:** Monday, July 15, 2024

Office hours will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, May 21 in person as well as virtually in June and July. Refer to the [MontgomeryNYF.com](https://MontgomeryNYF.com) for dates and times.

Projects should advance Montgomery's downtown revitalization, align with State and local goals, be well-developed, result in secondary benefits that improve the neighborhood, leverage other public and private investment, demonstrate public support, and represent an effective and efficient use of public resources.

**Strong NY Forward projects are catalytic, transformational, able to be implemented in the near-term, and create synergies between different projects and programs in the downtown.**

## Eligible Projects

- Align new development and/or rehabilitation of existing downtown buildings
- Public improvement projects
- Small Project Fund
- Branding and marketing

## Ineligible Projects

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

To learn more about the Open Call for Projects or the NY Forward process, scan the QR code.

For questions, email: [MontgomeryNYF@VHB.com](mailto:MontgomeryNYF@VHB.com)



# Open Call for Projects

## What are NY Forward Project Requirements?

- **Timing.** Project should be able to break ground within two years of receiving NY Forward funding.
- **Project Size and Scale.** Projects should be of a size to truly transform the downtown area. Standalone projects must be at least \$75,000 in total project cost.
  - Projects less than \$75,000 should be submitted through the Small Project Fund Open Call Process.
- **Project Sponsors.** Every project must have an identified sponsor that has the capacity and legal authority to undertake a project. Project sponsors can be public, not-for-profit, or private entities.
- **Financing.** Project should have financing commitments secured or in the process of being secured.
- **Matching and Leverage.** Private projects have a minimum match requirement of 25% of the total project cost. The LPC may set a higher match requirement for private projects and/or set a match requirement for public and not-for-profit projects.
- **Site Control.** The project sponsor must have site control or be in the process of acquiring site control.
- **Reimbursement.** NY Forward funding is only available on a reimbursement basis after expenses are incurred.
- **Building Decarbonization.** New construction or substantial renovation projects over 5,000 square feet must comply with the NY Forward building decarbonization standards.

*\*Exemptions for project size or minimum match requirements may be available under special circumstances.*

## What's on a NY Forward Open Call Project Form?

- **Existing Conditions.** Existing site conditions and why the proposed is needed.
- **Proposed Project Description.** The proposed use of the site, the scope of work, and the goal of the project.
- **Project Alignment with Vision and Goals.** How the project advances the community's vision and goals for downtown.
- **Property Ownership.** Property ownership or permission to implement the project if the property is not owned by the sponsor.
- **Capacity to Implement.** Sponsor's experience implementing similar projects.
- **Preliminary Funding Estimate.** Initial cost estimate for the proposed project.
- **Project Readiness and Timeframe for Implementation.** Preliminary planning work completed, a proposed timeline, and potential challenges for the project.
- **Decarbonization.** Compliance with the NY Forward decarbonization requirements and/or interest in decarbonization.
- **Supplemental Information.** Additional information about the project, including photos of existing conditions, renderings, financial feasibility, etc.



Historic nature of the downtown

Active local restaurant scene

What is your favorite thing about downtown Montgomery?

Safe and friendly community

Veterans Memorial Park

How would  
you improve  
downtown  
Montgomery?

Make streets  
safer for  
pedestrians and  
bicyclists

Install branded  
signage in the  
downtown

Plant more trees  
and flower beds  
along Union  
Street

Improve access to  
Wallkill River







# Complete Streets & Placemaking

Furnishings & Streetscapes



Seating



Lighting



Landscaping



Litter Bins

Mobility & Wayfinding



Bike Lanes



Widened Sidewalks



Signage



Crosswalks

Public Art & Programming



Murals



Water Feature



Holiday Lights



Markets