

## Local Planning Committee (LPC) Meeting #2

Monday, June 10, 2024, 6:00 to 8:00 pm | Montgomery Senior Center, 32 Bridge St, Montgomery, NY

### Meeting Summary

Tommy Boston, Project Manager from VHB – the consulting firm that is leading the state and subconsultant project team, opened the meeting with a review of the application vision with the LPC and then presented the refined vision incorporating LPC and public feedback. The LPC members noted the key changes about creating inviting park spaces and removing gateways. They also discussed liking the addition of collaborative spirit as well as wanting to add something more specific about supporting the growth of the business community. The LPC agreed to add the language “diverse and thriving business community” to the vision.

The LPC also discussed the draft goals and whether they should make any of the goals more specific, particularly in regard to wayfinding and gateways. After the discussion, the LPC ultimately decided that the pedestrian connectivity goal was currently written broadly enough to incorporate wayfinding signage and gateways and that goals should remain broad to encourage and allow for an array of projects. The LPC also discussed whether projects could meet multiples goals, and Tommy clarified that it was possible for projects to meet multiple goals.

The LPC then discussed the match requirements for NY Forward projects. Tommy presented the State requirements and inquired if the LPC wanted to increase the private match from 25%. The LPC determined to keep the match at 25% of total projects costs for private projects. The LPC also determined to maintain no match for public and not-for-profit projects. The LPC also discussed the reimbursement nature of the program. Susan Landfried, New York State Department of State (DOS) Project Manager for the NY Forward Round II communities, clarified that there were some projects, depending on the contracting agency, that could receive interim reimbursements; however, it is important for all project sponsors to be prepared to fund the project until completion. The LPC also asked about what happened if projects were not completed in the contract period. Susan stated that contracting agencies work very hard with project sponsors to successfully implement the projects, which may include extensions and working on the scope of the projects to ensure completion. However, she noted that if there are obstacles that cannot be overcome, the State has the ability to cancel a contract and reallocate funds.

Following review of other project evaluation criteria, the LPC began discussing the co-benefits that they want to consider when evaluating NY Forward projects. Tommy provided some examples of co-benefits that other communities have used. The LPC agreed that some of the example co-benefits applied to Montgomery as well, and they decided to add “Enhances community connectivity and cohesion” and “Potential to attract regional visitors” to their co-benefits. The LPC discussed the idea of needing to have something about “multi-generational” in the co-benefits but determined that would fall under the community cohesion co-benefit. The LPC also discussed wanting to have a co-benefit that addresses the emotional component and the lifestyle of downtown Montgomery, and the LPC agreed to add the co-benefit of “Enhances the value of the Montgomery experience” to capture that aspect. It was also decided by the LPC that in addition to making the Open Call For Projects Form available digitally on the project website and at Village Hall, that paper copies of the form would also be available at the NY Forward Community Center at 32 Union Street.

Prior to the close of the LPC meeting, the public comment portion was opened. Public comments are summarized below:

- Would like to explore a project that addresses accessibility across the Village to improve the business district.
- Will the LPC door-knock businesses downtown to ask if they are interested in submitting a project or a letter of intent through the Small Projects Fund?
- Are there any income restrictions when submitting a project or a letter of intent?
- Will the state put a lien on the property if private funding falls through?
- Is there a callback period for any awarded funds?
- Would like the Village to present a project related to wayfinding, signage, and sidewalks and engage with the New York State Department of Transportation.
- Difficult to hear the LPC discussions in the back of the room and asked that sound quality be improved before the next LPC meeting.
- Can supplemental information such as plans, drawings, or photos be attached to the Open Call For Projects Form?