

## Meeting Notes

Project:	Clinton Street, Binghamton DRI
Project No:	23008.20
Date:	May 19, 2025

<b>Participants</b>	
<b>Local Planning Committee</b>	
Kathryn Connerton – Co-Chair	Jared Kraham – Co-Chair
Mary Ann Callahan	Jenny Chang
Mackenzie Cooper (virtual)	Stacey Duncan (virtual)
Jason Kovarik	Alecia Lashier
Carla Murray	Ely Rooney
John Rozzoni	Frank Stento (virtual)
Marybeth Smith	
<b>New York State</b>	
Julie Sweet – DOS	Carly Creed-Herman - ESD
Tammy Kocak – ESD	Lenny Skrill - HCR
<b>SWBR</b>	
Adam Bonosky	Marc Wouters
<b>Municipal Staff</b>	
Sarah Glose – City of Binghamton	Benjamin Straebler – City of Binghamton

3:04 – Meeting Begins

Welcome remarks from Mayor Jared Kraham and Kathryn Connerton.

Local Planning Committee (LPC) introductions for all in attendance in person and virtually.

The agenda for LPC 1 was reviewed.

Julie Sweet reviewed the Code of Conduct for LPC members including the **D.A.D. guidance.**

- The recusal form for LPC members was introduced and the method of providing them to New York State was presented.

# SWBR

- An emphasis was placed on ensuring that LPC members who had recused themselves from discussion about specific projects were not to advocate for those projects and should only factually answer questions regarding the same.
- The New York State ethics office contact information was presented in case LPC members had questions during the process.

The process of voting for the Slate of Projects was introduced.

The various New York agencies and their relationship to the DRI process were discussed, including:

- Department of State (DOS)
- Empire State Development (ESD)
- Homes and Community Renewal (HCR)
- The Governor's Regional Representative
- New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)

The contract was clarified as between the consultant and the DOS.

The consultant introduced the team with a review of previous DRI experience and the expertise of the various subconsultants that make up the team.

The responsibilities of the LPC and municipal staff were identified.

The New York State DRI goals were introduced.

- These goals will be utilized by the State when evaluating the projects recommended for funding.
- These goals may also be supplemented with goals from the LPC to ensure the DRI meets local needs.

An overall DRI timeline was presented, identifying the current phase as part of the planning phase to be followed by the implementation phase. This was followed by a description of the current planning phase's timeline.

A review of the types of projects that are eligible for funding was presented along with a review of the types of projects not eligible for funding.

- It was clarified that the Branding and Marketing types of projects were to be sponsored by the municipality and not to be submitted by private entities.
- With minor exceptions, DRI projects are to be capital improvements.
- DRI funds cannot be used for site acquisition.

DRI requirements were reviewed.

- The LPC has the discretion to increase the match and minimum project budget requirements.
- Additional requirements such as property tax payment status and code violation histories may also be considered by the LPC.
- All projects that are interested in funding are required to apply, regardless of whether they were included in the original application.

The Open Call for Applications was described.

- At least 4 weeks should be held for sponsors to fill out the application.
- Consultants will provide guidance to the sponsors throughout the process.



How the State will review projects was discussed, including the goals and other criteria. It was clarified that the LPC will narrow down the list of projects for the State to review and that the State has final say on what projects will receive funding.

It was clarified that the grant funding is on a reimbursement basis, and that projects receiving funding are subject to M/WBE and procurement requirements.

A further description of the LPC was presented including the roles and responsibilities and that meetings will occur on a monthly basis.

An overview of public engagement as part of the DRI process was introduced.

- Community input is key to the process.
- Will help craft and refine additional goals and strategies for the DRI.
- Workshop #1 will focus on an overview of the program and input on the DRI.
- Workshop #2 will focus on feedback for submitted projects.

More detail on the Open Call Process was presented.

- All projects must fill out the application.
- The consultant will guide applicants through the process.
- Ideal is to receive as much information as possible.
- The LPC will need to identify additional goals and criteria to be generally solidified during LPC 2.
- Information as well as the application will be posted on the DRI website.
- Those with smaller projects may submit a letter of interest in a Small Project Grant Fund, which also will be posted on the DRI website.
- General application components were listed.

The Clinton Street DRI application was reviewed.

- The Mayor explained that Clinton Street has a lot of potential and has a history of being another downtown in Binghamton.
- The benefit of a low match, as compared to other State grant programs, was noted.

A review of the Vision Statement occurred. Some adjustments were suggested including:

- Using “commercial” rather than “retail” activity.
- Adjusting to be “better connected to the surrounding community”
- The idea of the area being a gateway was brought up.
- The sense of community and the multi-cultural history of the neighborhood was discussed.
- Concepts of being visually welcoming and art were mentioned.
- The importance of perceived and actual safety was discussed.

An initial review of building and site uses and vacancies was presented.

The LPC was asked to provide their thoughts on the goals for the DRI Area, with the consultant team noting these thoughts on a large newsprint flip board. These will be incorporated into additional DRI goals for the LPC to discuss at the next LPC meeting.

The next LPC meeting will occur at the First Ward Senior Recreation Center in Binghamton on June 25, 2025, from 3:00 – 5:00 pm. Workshop #1 will occur shortly after.

The consultant team is looking for lists of stakeholders to engage with and the best ways to engage with them.

The CFA workshop will occur on May 27 from 1-4 at Binghamton University. The due date is July 31, 2025.

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## Public Comment Period

- There is concern of crime and drug use in the area.
- Considering existing residents and the importance of the bus line should be important.
- Consider potential future needs such as parking structures to unlock other development opportunities.
- Consider resurrecting Clinton Street Days.
- A resident wanted to emphasize that funds should not be used to benefit slum lords who may be getting ready to apply.

5:20 meeting ends

The foregoing constitutes our understanding of matters discussed and conclusions reached. If there are any errors or omissions in the basic discussion, please notify the Architect in writing.

By: Adam Bonosky