

Priority Projects in Kingston's Application

Mixed-Use Commercial and Residential with Parking Structure Development

At the junction of North Front and Wall Street is a City-owned flat parking lot and a vacant warehouse. This property used to be the site of a parking garage and, since it was demolished in 2008, the SBD has struggled to grow due to parking limitations. The City is working with a local developer and architect to design a mixed-used development along with 400+ parking spaces, including 200 dedicated to public access. The concept has attracted the investment of the Bonura Hospitality Group, which is working on construction plans and intends to invest \$30-32M in the immediate future.

Implementation of the Uptown Stockade Transportation Plan

This transportation plan was completed in 2009 by the Ulster County Transportation Council and recommends changes that could be made to improve access to, circulation within and economic vitality in and around the SBD. The plan contains detailed recommendations, many of which are ready for implementation. Construction documents could be completed within one year, and build-out could be completed the next year. Improvements include:

- › Reverse the street directions of several streets in the area to improve circulation and bicycle, vehicular and pedestrian safety and provide direct access to the Kingston Plaza from Wall Street.
- › Implement a coordinated traffic signal system and install traffic signals with pedestrian push buttons.
- › Complete and implement a comprehensive parking strategy for the study area.
- › Complete recommended walkability and bikeability improvements, such as installing/replacing sidewalks, pedestrian-scale lights, crosswalks and on-street bicycle infrastructure and signage
- › Complete transportation system enhancement plan improvements such as tree planters, street furniture and decorative pavement.

Implementation of the Kingston Wayfinding Plan in the Stockade

The Kingston Wayfinding Plan was selected for funding in the Ulster County Transportation Council's 2017 Unified Planning Work Program. The goals of this plan are: 1) to enable visitors and residents to navigate safely, efficiently and easily through Kingston, 2) provide a family of wayfinding signage that creates a visual identity for the City and its distinct districts and, 3) encourage and support economic vitality by helping to increase motor vehicle, bicycle and foot traffic to business districts. The planning will begin in October 2017 and within one year the City will have a plan for signage graphics, kiosks and installation locations.

Implementation of a Critical Element in the Kingston Intermodal Facility Plan

The Kingston Intermodal Facility Site Location and Conceptual Design Analysis was completed in 2009 to examine potential sites for an intermodal facility, recommend a single site and develop a preferred plan. It outlines facility requirements to increase public transit usage, access, and capacity, which are features such as more bus slips, additional parking, a taxi waiting area and dedicated bicycle and zip car parking. The site selected for preferred development is the existing Adirondack Trailways terminal with adjacent properties. DRI funds can be used to acquire adjacent properties and upgrade the terminal to an intermodal facility.

Dietz Stadium Facility Improvements

Dietz Stadium, a 2,500-seat venue, is a major organized sports facility adjacent to Forsyth Park, the Adirondack Trailways station and the Andretta Pool. The site serves as both a community and regional destination. Schools use the fields for practice, residents use the oval track for running and walking and many civic events take place here. Most recently it has become the home field for the Kingston Stockade Football Club, which draws an average of 1,200 spectators to events. The 2013 Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommends upgrades including benches, water fountains, fencing, lighting, shade tree plantings, bike racks, new lockers rooms and bathrooms and a more modern food vending facility. Recently, the City lost the State Football Sectionals, which Kingston was home to for over a decade, due to the lack of high quality facilities. With DRI support these upgrades, also desired by the Stockade Football Club, could easily be made within two years.

Public Wifi and Wireless Broadband

The City is interested in a Public WiFi system in the SBD to allow business owners, residents and tourists alike to benefit from on-demand access to information. The City is in the process of upgrading light poles to LED, and has researched a variety of Smart technologies which would allow the City during our light pole replacement to create a network of public WiFi access points in the district.

Creation of a Community Land Trust (CLT)

The City can use the DRI to advance plans to create a Community Land Trust (CLT) with our affordable housing partners and private foundations in and around Kingston and in coordination with the City's existing efforts to establish a Land Bank. According to a report just released by Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, the demand for affordable housing throughout the Valley remains high and in Ulster County there is a \$652 gap between monthly rent and monthly income. A CLT will allow Kingston and the SBD to develop true and long-term affordable housing and commercial buildings through the use of this innovative technique of land acquisition that has been proven to be successful in communities like Burlington, VT and Syracuse, NY. We are prepared to move this concept forward immediately, as the displacement pressures being placed on the SBD are presently very intense.

Tourism Promotion and Marketing Program

A key component of the establishment of the SBD as the anchor for commerce for this region is the expansion of a targeted tourism and marketing program specific to the City of Kingston. With its proximity to the Thruway and Trailways bus terminal, the SBD is the gateway into the greater Kingston area and surrounding region. Ulster County Tourism does a great job attracting visitors to Ulster County, an industry that pumps more than \$500 million dollars annually into the local economy. As the only city in the county, with its rich cultural heritage, its burgeoning food scene and its many festivals and events, the City of Kingston has the opportunity to revitalize its marketing strategy and showcase its unparalleled beauty, history, diverse attractions and retail offerings.

The Kingston Uptown Levee

The Kingston Uptown Levee, a 10-12 foot berm and wall between the Kingston Plaza and the Esopus Creek, built with federal funding in the 1970s and designed to prevent flooding in the Kingston Plaza, the Dutch Village apartments and along Schwenk Drive, no longer meets federal standards. As a result, federal flood plain maps have been revised putting about 35 properties into the floodplain. Insurance premiums have increased significantly and property owners cannot develop in the plaza area without a variance. With DRI funds we will be able to fully implement our partnership with FEMA's Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedure for Non-accredited Levees. Funds would be utilized for detailed mapping and structural assessments to determine whether areas of the floodplain could be re-categorized to reduce insurance premiums.

Frog Alley Historic Preservation and Park Project

The Frog Alley property owned by the Friends of Historic Kingston contains the Louw-Bogardus House ruin, which is listed on the state and federal registries of historic places. This ruin could be the earliest existing dwelling in the Hudson Valley or the entire country and it is home to two very rare, Dutch jamless fireplaces. The aim of this project would be to stabilize the ruin, add lighting and park amenities and add interpretive signage. In the heart of the SBD, completion of the project would create a quaint historical greenspace.

Other Potential DRI Projects

There are many other projects in the DRI area that could be considered by the Local Planning Committee and the State for funding. Several willing property owners could use assistance to implement the adaptive re-use of vacant buildings and spaces such as the Cioni Building, the Family Court Building, and the Columbia Beauty Supply Building. Recommendations to decommission the I-587 Interstate (the shortest interstate in the nation) could be implemented with a plan to break up a superblock around the Kingston Plaza, allowing traffic to flow from Albany Ave. and Broadway along I-587 directly to the plaza and alleviating traffic back-ups on Clinton Ave., allowing for a re-design of the Kingston Plaza geared toward modern shopper preferences. The Volunteer Firemen's Hall and Museum, a popular

attraction for families, is in need of repairs and upgrades. The Midtown Linear Park could benefit from additional funds for amenities and in the Kingston Plaza there is a gap in the Kingston Greenline that could be addressed. In this same gap, the Catskill Mountain Railroad is slated to run short train rides in the plaza and more funding could build the needed infrastructure for a rail with trail on this stretch. The Academy Green Park could be improved to become a more frequently used event space and recommendations for this park in the Kingston Parks and Recreation Master Plan can be implemented. Several floodwater and stormwater drainage improvements have been identified by the City's engineering department. Finally, a program for business development could be expanded to include support for cooperative business models.