Village of Newark
Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application

ROUND 5
APPLICATION CONTENTS

Basic Information 2  Supportive Local Policies 25
A Collective and Unified Vision 3  Public Support 32
Justification 4  Transformative Opportunities and Readiness 36
Boundaries of the Proposed Area 7  Administrative Capacity 50
Past Investment, Future Investment Potential 9  $20 Million Request 52
Recent or Impending Job Growth 15  In Closing 56
Quality of Life 18

BASIC INFORMATION

REDC Region
Finger Lakes

MUNICIPALITY
Village of Newark

DOWNTOWN NAME
Downtown Newark

COUNTY
Wayne County

APPLICANT CONTACTS
Jonathan Taylor
Mayor
jtaylor@villageofnewark.com
(315) 945-3095

Mark Peake
Economic Development Facilitator
mpeake@villageofnewark.com
(315) 952-1947
A COLLECTIVE AND UNIFIED VISION

“Downtown Newark and the Erie Canal District will be a cultural and commercial center to the Finger Lakes region; serving regional residents, workers, and guests with unique urban vibrancy, blending downtown with the beauty of the surrounding rural landscape and the Erie Canal. As the heartbeat of a lively, world-class Village, downtown serves as a destination for those seeking to live in a unique setting, shop and work in a vibrant commercial center, and visit a community reflective and central to all that the Finger Lakes has to offer.”

This vision was crafted through a series of well-developed planning efforts, and shaped by authentic, meaningful public engagement opportunities. In a wide range of settings, community residents and stakeholders were asked a simple question:

“Why Newark?”

Their responses ranged from the Village’s strategic location between two major population centers in Rochester and Syracuse, to the diverse and bountiful employment opportunities that the Village and its private sector partners offer, to a tremendous and acclaimed public school system, to a unique setting—a bustling Village situated amongst some of the most productive farmland in the northeast.

“...a cultural and commercial center to the Finger Lakes...”

The opportunities presented in Newark are plentiful enough to not only serve those who call Newark home, but anyone traveling to or within the Finger Lakes. Downtown merchants, restaurants, shows and concerts, collegiate and youth sporting events, and active and passive recreation opportunities are built to serve the broader region.

“...a lively, full-service Village...”

Newark is far from a “one trick pony.” On the contrary, it’s a real, working Village. Village industrial parks are bursting at the seams with world class manufacturers, shipping products and technology all over the globe. The Village’s commercial centers offer all of the goods and services a community member might need. The downtown district is host to an array of dining, shopping, and leisure activities, rivaling communities much larger in size. This is truly a community where you can live, work, invest, and enjoy.

“...a lively, full-service Village...”

The Village is a microcosm of the idyllic Finger Lakes life. The orchards and farms surrounding the community, and the Erie Canal itself showcase the natural bounty that has put the Finger Lakes on the map. Newark’s location in the heart of the Finger Lakes means that visitors from and to the region can access all that Newark has to offer within an incredibly short drive. An investment in Newark bolsters the Finger Lakes brand, and strengthens the offerings of this amazing region.

A strong, unified, collective vision is central to any revitalization effort. Newark has sourced this vision from the hearts and minds of an entire community, and it is reflective in the Village’s recent successes and future potential.
JUSTIFICATION

New York State has built the Downtown Revitalization Initiative to reinforce a network of vital urban centers across the Empire State. The Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council has recognized the economic power inherent in strong, vibrant downtowns. The Village of Newark firmly believes in this approach, and has made the revitalization of the central business district a core tenet of its economic development strategy.

The location of the Village has made it the economic center of Wayne County and the northern Finger Lakes region. Located at the intersection of significant regional transportation routes, downtown Newark draws traffic from all of Wayne County and beyond. The Village's most treasured economic asset, the Erie Canal, runs right through the heart of downtown; creating an unrivaled opportunity for expansive tourism growth.

In addition to its incredible location, the Village has a set of economic drivers typically only found in much larger communities. These include:

- **A strong, skilled health and human services sector**, anchored by Rochester Regional Health's Newark Wayne Community Hospital and supported by a network of nearly 50 additional healthcare providers and human services agencies;

- **Two significant industrial parks**, bolstered by New York State designations like Build Now-NY and Start-Up NY, with acres of shovel-ready sites and strong clusters of advanced and traditional manufacturers;

- **An outstanding public education system**, featuring a Finger Lakes Community College campus, and regionally-recognized vocational programming like Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES and its award winning PTECH program; and

- **A vibrant and thriving arts community**, anchored by the Wayne County Council for the Arts, and consistently supporting the development of public art programs and projects.
The Village has maintained its position as a regional economic center via continuous and aggressive reinvestment in its infrastructure. In the last several years, the Village and its partners (including and especially New York State) have invested over $83 million in core infrastructure elements. These include water and wastewater projects serving a large section of the northern Finger Lakes region, environmentally sound transportation enhancements to develop complete streets features supporting multi-modal transportation, and reinforcement of bridge infrastructure to maintain a regional network.

Even in light of these tremendous strengths, the Village of Newark finds itself continuing to face challenges on multiple fronts. Infrastructure investments have prompted job creation engines like IEC Electronics and V-Technical Textiles to generate hundreds of new jobs with hundreds more on the immediate horizon. These new employees seek diverse housing, shopping, and dining alternatives, and a uniquely urban sense of place. DRI funds can help to capitalize on the momentum gained by early adopters in the adaptive re-use and craft food/beverage sectors, and continue to build upon investments already happening in the urban core, thereby accommodating potential new residents currently lost to other markets.
JUSTIFICATION (continued)

With the Erie Canal flowing directly through the heart of the downtown area, Newark’s long-term plans are bold and aggressive. By providing canal-facing shops, restaurants, lodging, housing and recreation, Village leaders plan for the canal to become a center of commerce. Pedestrian bridges will take walkers, runners, and bikers from one side of the water to the other while a canalside pavilion will host an extended-season farmers’ market, musical acts, dance troupes and theatrical productions.

Indoor activities will be available year-round at a canalside regional health and wellness center. Recreational rentals will be available for those wishing to utilize the canal and canal path for biking, boating, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. DRI funding will allow the Village to reimagine what the Erie Canal can bring to the community by creating critical mass and a sense of place around this historic waterway.

Through aggressive solicitation of public input, the DRI team has identified a pipeline of transformative projects within the village core. Investors have been identified and are ready to commit to developing underutilized land and buildings throughout the downtown area for such placemakers as mixed-use retail/housing, dining, recreation and entertainment. DRI funding will encourage new and renewed investments and close prohibitive funding gaps, creating critical mass within the downtown area and leading to economic gains for the Village and surrounding areas.

With DRI investment, the State of New York will join a well-resourced group of investors who have recognized the economic potential of the Newark community and a committed set of local leaders, ready and willing to advance the vision with your confidence and support.

In short, Newark is well-prepared to translate New York’s investment of Downtown Revitalization Initiative funds into demonstrable results. The Village team’s passionate and intense focus on creating economic opportunity in downtown has begun paying dividends. The culmination of work by a wide range of stakeholders has resulted in a bold but feasible plan to transform this community from one with a compelling story of potential to a tested partner who can produce results.
The natural layout of the Village’s central business district, centered on the Erie Canal, creates a straightforward approach toward a compact, walkable, concentrated, and well-defined district. Rooted in the Village’s Comprehensive Plan, and shaped by additional community engagement associated with this application development effort, the proposed district is designed to blend historic elements of Newark’s urban vibrancy, ready-to-execute redevelopment opportunities, and the natural beauty of the Erie Canal.
The Village Center Overlay District (VCOD) was created in 2009 to bring an acute focus to revitalizing downtown Newark. The DRI boundaries closely reflect the VCOD with minor modifications based on public input and the presence of transformative opportunities adjacent to the district.

The concise VCOD boundary is centered around the Erie Canal and provides strategic access to retail, fresh groceries, municipal services, and housing. The Village of Newark has deep historic ties to the canal, which is a valued attraction for commerce, tourism, and recreation. The proximity to the canal and the downtown area’s location at the intersection of New York Routes 88 and 31 enable visitors arriving in Newark as motorists, boaters, cyclists, and hikers to venture into the heart of downtown.

The downtown area reflects the objectives of the Village of Newark Comprehensive Plan, unifying both economic and social growth potential with a focus on developable properties for transformative growth. Newark is centrally located between the cities of Rochester and Syracuse to the west and east respectively, and Lake Ontario and the Finger Lakes region to the north and south. A vital urban center, and the largest village in Wayne County, the Village of Newark’s easy accessibility, 15 minutes to the north of two NYS Thruway exits, makes Newark a desirable year-round destination.

In addition to a strong base of planning, a natural delineation carved by the Canal, and historic urban form, the Village engaged in a robust public engagement effort to ensure that proposed boundaries align with the sociological and cultural interactions with the district itself. Residents and other community stakeholders were engaged by surveys, roundtables, and interactive forums to ensure that the boundaries as identified in planning exercises ring true to the community as a whole.
The Village of Newark has consistently reinforced its commitment to downtown redevelopment through proactive planning practices, including creation of the Village Center Overlay District (VCOD). Careful planning since then encourages revitalization in the DRI area. DRI funding would jump-start development around the Erie Canal, allow use of existing historic buildings and catalyze the redevelopment of empty parcels.

The Village of Newark's planning efforts have facilitated growth within the downtown area and the Village as a whole. The Village of Newark and Town of Arcadia Comprehensive Plan was adopted with the VCOD in 2009, and was reaffirmed in 2017 by the Village Board.

An Economic Development Plan which aligns with the Comprehensive Plan, was created by the Village of Newark Economic Development Alliance (VONEDA) in 2013.

These documents outline plans and establish guidelines for sustainable community growth that meet the needs and desires of citizens in terms of housing, healthcare, education, employment, and recreation.

The continuous use of and reference to these planning tools reflect the desire of the village to be a vital urban center that is attractive to current and potential businesses, visitors, and residents.

The Village seeks investments related to the Finger Lakes Forward Plan, the Comprehensive Plan and the Village Economic Development Plan. The Village Economic Development team has worked to identify opportunities for economic expansion, particularly in the areas of healthcare, next generation manufacturing, and agriculture, along with the workforce development required to support growth in these industries.
Transformative Investment
In the last 10 years, nearly $220 million has been committed to projects within the Village of Newark from a combination of sources, including private investors, local municipal funds, state funds and federal funds. Of this investment, more than half has been in infrastructure and education, catalyzing future private investment and growth in the downtown area as well as surrounding areas.

Given the unique, demonstrated ability of the Village to leverage past and current state investment, DRI funding will further catalyze downtown revitalization activity. Investment by local companies such as IEC Electronics, V-Technical Textiles, Newcut, Rochester Regional Health, and Upstate Refractory has driven job growth, creating a strong demand for a vibrant downtown area offering housing, recreation, shopping, and restaurants.

Grants awarded from both federal and state governments have been leveraged into $118 million worth of essential municipal and education infrastructure upgrades, which will enable future growth. NYS agencies such as DASNY, NYSDOT, NYSDOH, NYSEFC, and NYS Canal Corporation have provided funding for infrastructure projects within the Village. Examples of supporting grants include a TIP grant for the South Main Street reconstruction project, a Canalway grant for canal path improvements and a WIIA grant for water treatment plant upgrades.
Downtown offers a strong set of redevelopment opportunities. The perils of urban renewal, while removing most historic building stock, have opened up opportunities for mixed-use, infill development.

The remaining historic buildings, and those developed since urban renewal, present additional revitalization opportunities. Parking beyond what is currently needed, and several vacant or partially vacant buildings exist in the downtown area, creating opportunities for commercial or mixed-use development.

The Village of Newark’s downtown area includes a former hospital which is being evaluated for an adaptive re-use housing project; a former Sarah Coventry factory which has been considered for loft-style apartments, indoor retail, and office space; and multiple other existing, underutilized buildings, which present redevelopment opportunities.

Despite recent investments, downtown Erie Canal frontage is under-utilized, presenting opportunities for private and public investment. Private investment has been a driving force in downtown revitalization efforts to date, with individual businesses and not-for-profit organizations investing heavily to improve and repurpose existing facilities. These projects are helping to achieve the vision for downtown and have put Newark at a tipping point. The infusion of DRI funds is essential to fully achieving the vision.
Anchor Institutions
The Village of Newark is home to several anchor institutions, accounting for a large number of employees and significant economic stimulus in the village and the surrounding area. The organizations described below are stabilizing forces within the community and are critical to the success of downtown revitalization efforts.

**Newark-Wayne Community Hospital**
Newark-Wayne Community Hospital (NWCH), owned by Rochester Regional Health (RRH), is the only full-service hospital in the county. With over 870 local employees, RRH has been the driving force in establishing Newark as a healthcare hub for individuals from newborn to senior citizen residing in the village and the surrounding area, a goal set forth in the Village of Newark Comprehensive Plan. RRH has invested over $10 million in NWCH in the last 10 years, demonstrating its commitment to the community. RRH stands to be a key partner in efforts to develop a regional wellness center, as described later in this application.

**Wayne-Finger Lakes Board of Cooperative Educational Services (W-FL BOCES)**
With its headquarters and 300 employees in Newark, W-FL BOCES provides programs and services in collaboration with 25 school districts throughout Wayne, Ontario, Seneca and Yates counties. The organization provides educational services and instructional opportunities for learners of all ages. As an organization, W-FL BOCES is committed to working in partnership with local stakeholders to improve the efficiencies and effectiveness of school operations, providing greater opportunities throughout the region.

W-FL BOCES has re-purposed several former Newark Developmental Center buildings, including a $9 million investment in a state-of-the-art conference facility, which draws professionals from throughout the area into the village. W-FL BOCES has collaborated with Finger Lakes Community College to create a local PTECH program, which offers a combination high school diploma and Associates degree in a technical field upon completion.
Anchor Institutions (continued)

**Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC)**
The Wayne County campus of FLCC, housed in the former Sarah Coventry headquarters building just south of downtown, offers flexible course options and small class sizes to residents throughout the area. FLCC has proven to be an outstanding community partner, working with local school districts, W-FL BOCES and the business community to develop programs that meet the needs of students and the community alike.

FLCC is currently working with IEC Electronics and V-Technical Textiles to provide specialized programs for potential and current employees of both companies. Mayor Jonathan Taylor, and Silver Hill Technology Park developer Don Lasher each serve on the FLCC Advisory Board for the Wayne County Campus.

**The Arc Wayne**
The Arc Wayne, which employs 570 in downtown Newark, advocates for and serves people of all ages with or without special needs. The Arc Wayne strives to provide innovative, quality support and services promoting independence, choice and community integration.

The Arc Wayne contributes in excess of $25 million to the local economy through employee salaries and the purchase of goods and services in support of its mission. In 2019, The Arc Wayne invested $2.3 million to open a street of shops called Erie Shore Landing, capitalizing on its canal frontage.

This development in the heart of the downtown area employs 27 people. Erie Shore Landing is home to a café, ice cream shop, and print shop, providing jobs to members of the community and clients of The Arc Wayne.
Anchor Institutions (continued)

**Finger Lakes Developmental Disabilities Service Office (FLDDSO)**
FLDDSO, a part of the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), coordinates services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

As a result of Newark previously being home to a State Developmental Center, FLDDSO has a significant presence in the community with approximately 200 employees. The FLDDSO still occupies buildings on the Developmental Center campus and maintains group homes throughout the community.

Supportive Infrastructure
The Village of Newark and supporting partners have been heavily committed to upgrading infrastructure over the last 10 years, with over $83 million invested. These investments make the downtown area ripe for development. Infrastructure improvements include:

- Wastewater treatment plant
- Water treatment plant
- LED lighting project
- South Main Street community gateway
- Industrial park street extensions
- Sewer and water line upgrades
- Stormwater system improvements
- Gas line replacements (NYSEG)
- Fiber-optic network (FirstLight & Empire Access)
- Canal path improvements
- Verizon 5G infrastructure
The Village of Newark has experienced significant recent job growth as a result of its continuous strategic planning and various partnerships. With several companies having headquarters in Newark, more than 6,800 employees work in the village everyday as executives, management, production workers, and minimum-wage level employees.

These employees have re-sparked interest in the downtown area as evidenced by recent investment in projects like V-Technical Textiles, Revive Salon and Spa, and JAM Imaging. New or improved businesses make working and living in the downtown area more engaging and enjoyable. DRI funding would catalyze further development, creating an environment for active lifestyles in the downtown area for all residents, employees and visitors alike. The Village has demonstrated the ability to manage and sustain growth to complement the needs of the community.

Job Growth Near Downtown
Downtown retail and service sector employment continues to grow, as revitalization activity expands. Additionally, several companies have executed large expansions in Newark. IEC Electronics has recently completed a $23 million advanced manufacturing facility at Silver Hill Technology Park on the south end of the village. Supported by the Village of Newark, Wayne County IDA, Greater Rochester Enterprise, Empire State Development Corporation, NYSEG, RTS, and Capstone Real Estate Development, this project will ultimately create over 350 new jobs; with many of those already on the ground.

IEC will continue to use part of its existing facility for a period of time. A local investor is in final negotiations for the purchase of the existing downtown IEC facility and has shared plans for redevelopment of the manufacturing space, and development of the remaining land along the Erie Canal, particularly if DRI funding becomes available.
Job Growth Near Downtown (continued)

A greenhouse facility located just outside of downtown, originally built by Jackson & Perkins then owned by Newark Florist, was acquired and redeveloped by Honest Pharm CO, a firm aspiring to become the largest producer of hemp seeds in the country. The company will invest $7 million to upgrade the facility to include a state-of-the-art laboratory and is creating 60 to 80 jobs of diverse types, salaries and skill levels.

Local housing contractor Marshall Exteriors, who in 2018 executed an adaptive re-use project in downtown to convert a vacant anchor building into its home interior showroom, has recently acquired Finger Lakes Construction. The consolidated firm will be headquartered in the Village-owned Business Park, creating additional job opportunities in the construction and administrative fields.

The Village of Newark Land for Jobs program is aimed at creating jobs in the Village Business Park. The Land for Job program offers businesses Village-owned land in exchange for building a new facility and creating a specific number of full-time jobs. To date, this program has created almost 300 jobs and brought over $18 million in private investment to Newark, with 12 companies choosing to locate in the Industrial/Business Park. The Industrial/Business Park is located on the northwestern edge of the downtown area and is connected via the canal trail and the Edgett Street pedestrian bridge across the Erie Canal. The Village Board has recently invested to extend infrastructure within the Industrial park to create additional shovel-ready sites for development.
Job Growth Near Downtown (continued)
In 2020, the Village accelerated its downtown revitalization vision with a $336,000 New York Main Street grant award; which will spur new investment in the downtown district, support retail and service-oriented businesses, and expand job creation throughout downtown.

The presence of Newark-Wayne Community Hospital and its commitment to the community, as demonstrated by nearly $10 million in recent upgrades, has spurred growth in the healthcare sector and established Newark as a regional healthcare hub. In alignment with the FLREDC’s focus on attracting healthcare jobs to the region, 50 different health-related companies employ nearly 1,500 healthcare professionals within the village. Rochester Regional Health is developing concepts for the construction of a medical office building on the Newark-Wayne Community Hospital campus, further expanding its presence in the community.

Located on the south edge of the village, shovel-ready Silver Hill Technology Park, home to Finger Lakes Community College, is a Build Now-NY certified site and START-UP NY program location. START-UP NY helps new and expanding businesses located near eligible college campuses through 10-year tax-based incentives and innovative academic partnerships. Build Now-NY reduces the time between commitment and construction. IEC Electronics was able to take advantage of Build Now-NY for its new facility at the park. V-Technical Textiles has explored use of the START-UP NY program for its expansion project at the former St. Michael School building in the downtown area.

The Village is working with local developers and finance experts to promote its designation as a Federal Opportunity Zone; a benefit which multiple investors have identified as having the potential to leverage expansive additional investment.
In a recent survey of Newark residents and stakeholders, top answers to the question “why would you recommend Newark?” were wholly centered on quality of life and livability. Residents, employers, and guests think of Newark as a friendly, attractive, healthy, and safe community. Its traditional village scale provides easy access to a full range of amenities; a full-service Village for residents, employers, and guests.

Newark’s Livability Assets
The Village has worked to build a strong suite of assets to ensure an unmatched quality of life for residents. Housing, transportation, health and wellness, civic engagement, and economic opportunity are all central to the way business is done in Newark.

Housing and Neighborhoods
Neighborhoods surrounding the downtown area find people from different backgrounds and income levels living side-by-side, calling each other friends and neighbors, fostering good will and a greater sense of community among residents. Single-family homes, market-rate apartments, subsidized housing, and developments for the elderly and the disabled, in a healthy mix, make up typical neighborhoods in Newark. Retail stores, the downtown library, churches, and recreational areas are within a walkable distance from nearly every corner of the Village.

Inclusion and diversity are critical values for Village living. Community partners at ARC of Wayne, Habitat for Humanity, and the Newark Housing Authority provide safe, affordable, supportive housing for those most in need in the community.
Newark’s Livability Assets (continued)

**Active Transportation**
Newark has partnered extensively with the State of New York to augment and develop a strong network of active transportation assets. Neighborhood streets are at a scale that fosters a strong pedestrian environment. This has been augmented through multiple grants from the State Department of Transportation to improve sidewalk networks throughout the Village.

In downtown, recent upgrades to the streetscape at the heart of the Village pay deference to pedestrians and cyclists. Wide sidewalks and narrow travel lanes ensure that pedestrians and cyclists feel safe and comfortable as they move through the busiest part of the Village.

Recent improvements to the Village’s Erie Canal Trail ensure a safe, enjoyable pedestrian and cyclist experience along the Canal, with connectivity to the Empire Trail—linking Newark’s active transportation network to Buffalo and New York City (for the ambitious cyclist!).
Newark’s Livability Assets (continued)

Health and the Environment
The Village is blessed with a tremendous partner in Rochester Regional Health, and the Newark-Wayne Community Hospital. In service to Newark residents, and those from across the region, Newark-Wayne is the center of the Village’s healthy community approach.

As an incredibly active community, the Village and a full range of private and non-profit partners foster both organized and independent recreational opportunities with robust programming through the community center, abundant parks, and the Canal Trail. The Village has a strong commitment to the canal, demonstrated by its development of T. Spencer Knight Park and the Port of Newark. With dock space offering electrical hook-ups, laundry facilities, restrooms and showers, and a pump-out station all available at no cost to boaters, the Port of Newark is well known to travelers along the canal as one of the premier ports for boating amenities.

The port also offers free Wi-Fi and a bike repair station. The Newark Interpretative Center, located above the Port of Newark boater facilities, serves as home to the Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce and a welcome center for those arriving by boat, bike or foot via the Erie Canal.
Livability and the DRI Investment Strategy
The proposed Downtown Revitalization Initiative district is wholly reflective of the values and assets represented above. The recommended investment strategy reinforces these assets and promotes the continued development of amenities intended to foster the economic vibrancy and health of the Village and the entire Finger Lakes Region. Newark’s core investment approach is outlined below.

Developable Mixed-Use Spaces
The Village has worked with local property owners and investors to identify over 20 acres of developable land, suitable for infill, mixed-use development. These opportunities are situated immediately within the downtown district, and feature a range of proposals, including housing, commercial, recreational, and service-oriented uses. The proposed developments seek to capture the inherent energy in a downtown location, at a scale and density that bolsters the Village’s current economic vitality.

As you will see in the ensuing Transformative Opportunities section, Westshore Landing, Van Buren Plaza, and the entire Canalside Development District represent significant investments in mixed-use development and redevelopment.
Livability and the DRI Investment Strategy (continued)

A Wide Range of Housing Opportunity
Today, the Village's neighborhoods are healthy and strong. Single family homes, senior housing, multi-family development, and supportive housing facilities all dot the neighborhood landscapes throughout Newark. However, the current housing stock is not diverse enough to support an evolving population, and market conditions prevent many young professionals and seniors from calling Newark home.

The Downtown Revitalization investment strategy seeks to bolster housing stock with over 100 new housing units in the downtown and Canalside District. Multi-family workforce and senior housing is proposed to be developed in partnership with the New York State Canal Corporation and local investors. Additionally, significant infill development along the Canal will bring upper story living to the north shore of the Erie. Sprinkled throughout downtown are other infill and adaptive re-use projects that will ensure an even more diverse and robust set of housing opportunities.
Livability and the DRI Investment Strategy (continued)

**Active Transportation Options**
The concentrated, compact nature of the proposed DRI district, along with the uniquely urban setting of the Village core, makes downtown Newark and the Erie Canal District incredibly walkable and accessible in nearly every corner by bicycle and other active transportation methods. DRI funds are proposed to reinforce the accessibility of the Erie Canal Trail, and of the canal itself.

Additionally, the mixed-use developments described above and in later sections ensure that a robust set of amenities and services are offered within an easy walk or bike from existing and future housing development. Specific proposals include water amenities like kayak rentals, a launch, and additional docking facilities, as well as bicycle rentals and biker/boater/pedestrian amenities.
Livability and the DRI Investment Strategy (continued)

Access to Healthy Food
At the heart of the DRI District is both a convenient downtown grocery store, as well as a well-developed, highly visited Farmers’ Market. Residents of, and visitors to downtown Newark have ready access to fresh, healthy, affordable food on a year-round basis.

In addition to the grocery offerings, multiple convenience stores, pharmacies, and world-class restaurants dot the streetscapes of the central business district. Proposed DRI investments provide additional housing units to make these offerings more economically viable, as well as additional space for retail offerings in these sectors.

Attractive Public Spaces
Downtown Newark is home to a strong set of attractive, well-used, and functional public spaces, including central Village parks and Canalside park facilities. Preservation of public access, particularly to areas around the Canal, are of utmost importance to the Village. DRI funds will be used to provide additional amenities in the Canalside parks, and to strengthen the offerings of the Erie Canal Trail.
The economic and community development policy framework for the Village of Newark seeks to reinforce a commitment by Village leadership to promote Newark as a community of choice for an active, creative, and engaged citizenry. Policy elements have their foundations in the Village Comprehensive Plan’s vision for a constantly evolving and improving quality of life in the Village.

The Board of Trustees, Planning Board, Economic Development Alliance, and a host of other community stakeholders provide continuous evaluation and enhancement of policies designed to create a stronger, more competitive Newark community.

A Sound Planning Base
The Village has engaged in a series of strategic planning efforts to ensure that initiatives and investments are aligned with an overarching vision. Recent planning initiatives include:

- A Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2009 by the Village Board and Town of Arcadia and reaffirmed in 2017; guiding the Village in community and economic development endeavors, and steering community investment
- The 2013 Economic Development Plan, outlines a strategy for sustainable community growth; ensuring job creation, meaningful work, and value for taxpayer investment

The use of and reference to these planning tools reflect the desire to maintain and sustain a local economy that is attractive to future business growth and tourism opportunities, while maintaining a rural atmosphere.

As recommended in the Comprehensive Plan, the Village of Newark Economic Development Alliance (VONEDA) was established as an advisory group comprised of local business leaders and community members. In partnership with the Village staff and the Newark Chamber of Commerce, VONEDA works to stimulate economic growth, promote Village assets and preserve the village’s history to serve residents, the business community and visitors alike. VONEDA makes recommendations to the Village Board on economic development issues and strategic initiatives, such as the Economic Development Plan.

In 2021, Village leadership endorsed the development of a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, to carefully consider and plan for the critical areas surrounding the Erie Canal. This plan will enhance and strengthen the vision for what’s possible along the Canal, and ensure that surrounding development contributes to the economic vitality of the Canal District, the Village, and the region as a whole.
Village-Oriented Zoning
A clear, concise set of zoning and development regulations ensure that the Village develops in alignment with the vision, strategies, and goals of the Comprehensive Plan. The balance between the need for continued growth and development, and the preservation of those elements that make Newark a strong community is critical.

The current Village Center Overlay District (VCOD) was developed with the intent to “promote and protect the public health, welfare, and safety of the Village of Newark; create a uniform set of architectural and site-design standards that promote pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use development; create usable public and private spaces; and promote traditional urban-design principles within the core business district of the Village of Newark,” as stated in the Code of the Village of Newark.

The Village Board, Planning Board, and staff are committed to continued growth and renewal in the downtown area. Leadership consistency evaluates zoning and development regulations to ensure orderly development, in alignment with the vision, without being overly burdensome on the development community. Continuous improvements to code address deficiencies, reflect the current vision for downtown, and reduce the number of variances required for development.

Zoning improvements take into consideration surrounding mixed land uses, compact building design and varied housing opportunities. Careful planning within the community preserves open spaces and facilitates development decisions that are predictable, fair and cost-effective in order to achieve the targeted results for the community.
Incentives in Support of Local Priorities
The Village’s leadership team engages potential businesses and encourages current businesses to expand by identifying opportunities for adaptive reuse of existing structures.

Building enhancements can be supported using RPTL 485-b, Wayne County IDA, Empire State Development, NYSERDA and NYSEG incentives. Recent projects include:

• Marshall Exteriors, a local construction company, recently leveraged these incentives to reuse a former downtown drug store; investing nearly $1 million, which has created 35 jobs in downtown.

• V-Technical Textiles added 32 new downtown jobs by repurposing the former St. Michael School – which had been vacant for 8 years.

• Craft food and beverage projects, including Grind-On Coffee Company and Craft 120 have also leveraged incentives to support redevelopment in existing buildings in downtown; capturing new economic energy while preserving the historic urban fabric of the downtown district.
Land Bank
The Wayne County Industrial Development Agency (WCIDA) has established the Wayne County Land Bank in an effort to mitigate the effects of disinvestment, blight, and vacancy throughout Wayne County. The Land Bank acquires, manages, maintains, and repurposes vacant, abandoned and foreclosed properties.

Through effective management and marketing by the Land Bank, these properties are returned to productive use, and enhance economic vibrancy throughout Wayne County. Village leadership maintains a strong relationship with the Land Bank.
Energy Sustainability

In 2017, the Village Board adopted a resolution affirming its commitment to be a Climate Smart Community, pledging to decrease energy and water consumption and reduce harmful emissions. Newark has completed four high-impact action items required to be designated a Clean Energy Community. The Village has engaged in energy-code training, streamlining codes for solar use, LED street lighting, and energy benchmarking of Village buildings and facilities. Specific energy projects executed in recent years, include:

- **An energy-efficient lighting project** has resulted in the entire Village of Newark being lit using only LED lighting. The project expects to produce an approximate 75 percent energy savings and reduce light pollution and the Village's carbon footprint. Beyond the energy savings, new LED lighting throughout the community will improve street safety.

- **Recent upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant** include the installation of more energy efficient pumps, an ultra-fine bubble aeration tank which requires less surface area, and the switch to turbo blowers which operate with the efficiency of a jet engine.

- In 2017, the Village **constructed a compost facility** as part of wastewater treatment plant upgrades to compost sludge rather than sending it to the landfill.

- The Village is currently **prioritizing the installation of Electric Vehicle charging stations**, identifying strategic sites to capture local traffic and those visitors traveling through the region.
Context Sensitive Streetscape Design
As the Village undertakes improvements to street sections throughout the Village Center, we endeavor to consider the urban nature of the downtown footprint, and the heightened presence of alternative, active transportation modes. As such, downtown streetscape work includes:

- Narrow travel lanes designed to calm traffic and reduce speed
- Protected pedestrian crossings to provide for safe walking and biking access throughout downtown
- Wide sidewalk sections to enhance the pedestrian experience and provide for outdoor dining opportunities
- Pedestrian-scaled street lighting to ensure a high visibility and safety for walkers, bikers, and motorists
- Planted areas to reduce heat effects along street sections, reduce water runoff volume, and enhance stormwater quality
Age Friendly Policies
Newark designs project, programs, and services for all ages and abilities; and provides accessible transportation, affordable and accessible housing and easy access to fresh produce and groceries. These amenities particularly help senior citizens live comfortably within the downtown area, addressing requirements for a certified Age-Friendly Community as outlined by AARP/WHO. Seniors in the Newark community have access to programs such as Meals on Wheels, Silver Sneakers, elder day care, and various social activities.

Leadership and Management
Vibrancy of the downtown district is advanced through the vision and collaborative leadership of the Mayor and Village Board of Trustees, and stakeholder organizations like the Village of Newark Economic Development Alliance (VONEDA). These organizations source strategic insight from local investors and residents themselves in developing projects, programs, and services to advance the vision of the Village of Newark.

On the ground, downtown vitality is ensured through the cooperative efforts of the Village Economic Development Facilitator and the Superintendent of Public Works. This leadership team brings strong effort from their individual departments to advance the strategic vision of Village leadership.

The Economic Development office executes business recruitment, retention, and expansion activities in the downtown district, including incentive development and administration, and direct outreach to current and prospective investors. The Department of Public Works ensures that public facilities in the district are maintained to a high visual and functional standard, and contribute to the unique urban vibrancy of downtown Newark.
During the 2019 Downtown Revitalization Initiative interview process, Village leadership presented a philosophy and ideology that characterizes the economic development approach over the last several years. When asked how Newark had proceeded after not being selected for the 2018 award, Mayor Jonathan Taylor succinctly replied:

“Our first DRI effort was approached in response to the State’s call to action. Following our initial participation in the DRI process, we shifted from downtown revitalization as a means to receiving grant funds, to revitalization and economic development as central to everything we do…”

In so many facets of this economic development approach, public engagement is a central driver. Thus, when the 2021 Downtown Revitalization Initiative call for proposals was announced, the Village didn’t have to construct an effort from the ground up.
Robust, Meaningful Public Engagement

In preparation for the 2021 Downtown Revitalization Initiative, a diverse and robust set of engagement tools was developed in order to collect meaningful feedback. The tools engaged early in this process included:

**Surveys:** Leveraging a strong social media presence, a community survey was actively promoted, which ultimately drew over 500 responses. Respondents consistently cited the recent improvements to downtown as critical to the community’s future, and identified additional amenities including a hotel and conference center, additional canalside development, indoor recreational and athletic training facilities, and expanded restaurant offerings as top priorities in the continued revitalization of the district.

**Public Forums:** Over the course of the application effort, the Village hosted two public forums, drawing dozens of participants. Forums were staged to allow participants to “roll up their sleeves and plan”, with interactive stations throughout larger venues, including visioning, mapping, prioritization of investments, and an open opportunity to discuss challenges and opportunities with the Mayor and other Village leadership.

**Focus Groups:** In order to gain deeper insight into specific areas of the community, the Village hosted a series of roundtables and focus groups with key stakeholders. Focus groups included major employers (representing over 2,500 employees), local investors, Town of Arcadia residents and leadership, and the Village of Newark Economic Development Alliance. Common threads throughout each of these focus groups included the development of a diverse housing stock, appropriate development along the canal, the development of a hotel and conference center, recreational and athletic training facilities, and additional retail and restaurant development.
Connecting with our Community in the Pandemic Era

Early in the application development effort, the region was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Village leadership refused to let the impacts of the virus dampen the opportunity to hear from residents and key constituencies on downtown revitalization and economic development generally. As such, a series of digital and remote feedback tools was deployed to continue sourcing ideas, information, and feedback from the community.

**Digital Focus Groups:** In order to maintain the opportunity to discuss revitalization with critical stakeholders, Village leadership shifted the focus group approach to a Zoom format. Through this approach, the Village was able to gain additional insight from young professionals and parents of Village school children. Common themes in these discussions included expanded opportunities for entertainment, more development along the canal, and continued development of affordable housing.

**Virtual Student Engagement:** In traditional planning engagements, Village leadership often seeks insights from the future of Newark—the K through 12 student body. With the pandemic keeping most school aged children at home, the Village partnered with the Newark Central School District to execute a call for ideas. Students were asked, “What do you love about Newark?”

The students submitted digital postcards, audio recordings, and brief writings regarding their favorite parts of the community, and their viewpoint on opportunities ahead of the Village. Unsurprisingly, the students raved about the parks and playgrounds in the community, but also realized the importance of community assets like the hospital and Newark’s prominent location on the Erie Canal.

The feedback received from across the community—from significant investors, to second graders, drove the approach central to the application. The themes resonating from these engagement activities have shaped the recommendations and strategies overviewed in the proposal.
Local Commitment to Developing a Strategic Investment Plan
Public engagement doesn’t stop at the application process. The team sought out insight and advice from successful neighbors in Geneva, Seneca Falls, and Watkins Glen to learn more about how the community remained engaged in the DRI process throughout planning and into implementation. Central to this continued engagement is the appropriate staffing of the Local Planning Committee.

The Village has evaluated the composition of a range of LPCs around the Finger Lakes and beyond, and has received commitments from a broad set of stakeholders to participate as part of the Local Planning Committee. Potential partners in that effort include:

- Village Mayor and Select Trustees
- Village Staff (Economic Development and Public Works)
- Newark Central School District
- Newark Chamber of Commerce
- Newark Community Center
- Village of Newark Economic Development Alliance (VONEDA)
- Wayne County Industrial Development Agency
- Wayne County Land Bank
- Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council
- Major Employers
- Resident and Civic Group Representation

The Village is dedicated to the competitive principles outlined in the DRI application overview, including a strong planning and management infrastructure, project readiness, leveraged private sector investment, job creation, and contributions to community character.
The economic momentum of the Village of Newark over the last five years has attracted tremendous attention from the investment community. In addition to the job creation and recent development successes outlined in previous sections, Newark is currently in discussions with multiple property owners and new investors who express excitement about the potential for Newark to continue to grow on its current trajectory.

The Village remains committed to high-quality development in alignment with the vision for a diverse and inclusionary economic future. The projects outlined below have been initially evaluated to ensure that economic potential is tempered by readiness, and the ability to stimulate financial growth in the early stages of revitalization.

**Transformative Projects**
The Village has defined “transformative” as those projects which signal a course change for downtown Newark and the Village as a whole. These are projects which stand to change the face of the community, and accelerate the vision of a strong, diverse economy. The following represent projects for which the highest potential for transformation exists.
VAN BUREN COMMONS MIXED-USE DISTRICT

Project Summary
An infill, mixed-use development on a 13-acre site, formerly designated as parking for IEC Electronics, which relocated to the Silver Hill Industrial Park as part of a 2020 expansion by the firm. Situated at a premier location, immediately on the north shore of the Erie Canal, Van Buren Commons will host a wide range of housing, retail, restaurant, and service options.

The development will be fronted by a canalside plaza, with outdoor dining, transient docking, and access to the Erie Canal for kayaks and other small watercraft. Of particular prominence in this district is the development of two-to-three net-zero energy multi-family structures of 25 units each.

The buildings, developed in partnership with the Solar Home Factory and Community Preservation Corporation, feature income-integrated housing (51% affordable), in sustainable design—generating more electric energy than consumed on-site, and drastically reducing the carbon footprint of development.

READINESS
Developer and investor are in final stages of negotiation for site acquisition. Preliminary site development planning has been completed.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
Surveys, roundtables, and public forums all pointed to an appetite for additional housing, retail, and hotel space. This project addresses all three.

NEED
Available retail space and housing units are at critically low levels. New development is needed immediately to address market pressure.

ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COST
$50 million

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
DRI (NY State), LWRP (NY State), NYSERDA (NY State), PILOT (Village, School District, Town, County), Private Equity

TIMING OF DEVELOPMENT
Within 24 months of project funding award
ERIE CENTRAL HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Project Summary
The Village has identified a developer, operator, and two potential sites for the development of a 100-room hotel and 200 seat conference center, immediately adjacent to the Erie Canal.

The Erie Central Hotel and Conference Center will serve as an anchor to downtown and the Canal District; generating critical all-season visitation via the capability to host meetings, weddings, and other events in a unique setting at the heart of downtown, along the Erie Canal.

ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COST
$15 million

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
DRI (NY State), LWRP (NY State), Brownfield Tax Credits (NY State), PILOT (Village, Town, School District, County), Private Equity

TIMING OF DEVELOPMENT
Within 24 months of project funding award
ERIE CENTRAL HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Project Summary (continued)
The primary site opportunity exists on the location of a current hotel, presently situated on a NYSEG brownfield clean-up site. Hotel owners are evaluating potential closure and demolition of the building. If executed in the near term, the potential developer has discussed the opportunity to purchase this site, leveraging Brownfield Tax Credits to advance development of the project.

The secondary site opportunity is at the above-referenced Van Buren Commons. The site features enough acreage to host the hotel immediately along the canalside plaza, affording hotel operators the opportunity to host outdoor dining and events along the Erie Canal.

READINESS
Site One: The current property owner is in negotiation with NYSEG for final clean-up details. The owner and future developer have discussed potential acquisition terms. The developer and operator are prepared to start work immediately upon project award and site acquisition. Preliminary site development planning has been completed.

Site Two: Developer is in the final stages of negotiation for site acquisition. Preliminary site development planning has been completed, and an operator has been identified.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
Surveys, roundtables, and public forums all pointed to an appetite for hotel and meeting space. This project addresses both.

NEED
Throughout the four-county region, full service hotel and meeting space are in critical need. In discussions with regional tourism promotion leadership, this has been identified as a top market priority.
NEWARK REGIONAL MUNICIPAL CENTER

Project Summary
The Village and Newark Central School District administrative offices are currently located in an aging facility, with significantly deteriorating building elements, and which is immensely inefficient relative to energy performance. In recent capital planning efforts, Village and School District leadership have listed this facility need among its top capital priorities. Costs associated with direct service to constituents and students have consistently trumped investment in administrative facilities during historical budget discussions.

The Downtown Revitalization Initiative represents an opportunity to strengthen the collaboration between the Village and the School District, and to ensure that taxpayer dollars support a highly efficient space, cost-effectively addressing administrative needs well into the future. A new facility will be developed in the above-referenced Van Buren Commons, which will serve as the headquarters for Village and School District leadership.

The Village is in discussions with a private developer, who will consider a public-private partnership for project development, which will drive value for taxpayer investment, and mitigate impacts associated with municipal borrowing.

READINESS
Developer and investor are in final stages of negotiation for site acquisition. Preliminary site development planning has been completed. Municipal and School District leadership are prepared to build leasehold and O&M costs into future budgets.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
Local leadership has continuously identified the need for modern space as a top capital priority, sidelined only by continued need for investment in direct service infrastructure.

NEED
Current spaces are energy and operationally inefficient, with exorbitant annual costs for operations.

ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COST
$5 million

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
DRI (NY State), LWRP (NY State), PILOT (Village, Town, School District, County), Private Equity

TIMING OF DEVELOPMENT
Within 36 months of project funding award
WESTSHORE LANDING POCKET NEIGHBORHOOD

Project Summary
Like much of the Finger Lakes and the nation, the Village of Newark is experiencing a critically low supply of housing. Exacerbating the housing shortage is a lack of variety among the current housing stock; with many homes developed in the early 1900’s, in similar design frameworks.

The Village has very few single-story housing opportunities, and even fewer modern, multi-family housing options. The Westshore Landing pocket neighborhood has been designed to serve a mix of housing needs.

ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COST
$20 million

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
DRI (NY State), LWRP (NY State), NYSERDA (NY State), Private Equity

TIMING OF DEVELOPMENT
Within 36 months of project funding award
WESTSHORE LANDING POCKET NEIGHBORHOOD

(continued)

Project Summary (continued)
The project, overlooking the Erie Canal, features up to seven multifamily structures, designed for workforce and senior living. Additionally, up to 25 single-story patio homes are proposed, for age-in-place, zero-maintenance senior housing. As part of the multi-family portfolio, the developer is considering two-to-three net-zero energy multi-family structures of 25 units each.

The buildings, developed in partnership with the Solar Home Factory and Community Preservation Corporation, feature income-integrated housing (51% affordable), in sustainable design—generating more electric energy than consumed on-site, and drastically reducing the carbon footprint of development.

READINESS

This project is proposed for a parcel currently owned by the New York Power Authority.

Village officials are in preliminary discussions with Canal Corporation leadership, regarding priority uses for the site, in alignment with the Reimagine the Canals initiative.

Preliminary site development planning has been completed.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Surveys and focus group sessions with local investors and realtors have continually supported the development of additional housing stock; particularly in reference to workforce and senior housing.

NEED

Current housing stock offered for sale or rent are at historic lows. Modern multifamily development and single-floor senior living are nearly non-existent.
Project Summary
Indoor recreation and athletic opportunities for local and regional athletes have consistently been identified as a capital need of the Newark community. The Upstate Recreation and Wellness Center project is designed to either locate at the Van Buren Commons development, or on land currently owned by the New York Power Authority along the Erie Canal.

The site will feature an indoor track, basketball courts, a weight room, and practice/competition space for soccer, lacrosse, and other field sports. The space will also host office and treatment facilities for physical therapists, sports medicine practitioners, and other health care providers. Serving the needs of the Newark Central School District, Section V Athletics, the Wayne-Finger Lakes League, Newark-Wayne Community Hospital, NCAA athletics, and the community at large, the center will also extend the following benefits:

- Collaboration with municipalities and school districts
- Lower operational costs which will increase recreational opportunities for economically disadvantaged families
- Enhancing economic vitality through hosted events

ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COST
$15 million

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
DRI (NY State), LWRP (NY State), PILOT (Village, Town, School District, County), Private Equity

TIMING OF DEVELOPMENT
Within 36 months of project funding award

READINESS
Site One: The developer is in final stages of negotiation for site acquisition. Preliminary site development planning has been completed, and the Village is in discussion with inaugural donors.

Site Two: Currently owned by the New York Power Authority. Village officials are in preliminary discussions with Canal Corporation leadership, regarding priority uses for the site, in alignment with the Reimagine the Canals initiative.

The Village is also in discussion with a developer who will consider a public-private partnership for development, which would mitigate borrowing and capital costs for the Village.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
Surveys, roundtables, and public forums all pointed to the need for indoor recreational and athletic training and competition space. The Village has consulted athletic directors from around the region, all of whom support this concept.

NEED
The seasonal nature of weather in upstate diminishes local recreational opportunities. Currently, Newark students are training in inadequate facilities, or are traveling extensively for training and competition. The community has no winter space in which to hold recreational programs.
Project Summary
As part of its 2020 expansion project, IEC Electronics relocated to the Silver Hills Industrial Park, at the edge of the Village of Newark. Its former manufacturing facility is in the process of being acquired by a private investor, who envisions a flexible manufacturing space, capable of housing multiple tenants in support of manufacturing innovation.

The Village and the prospective owner envision an industrial incubator, with flexible spaces of 1,000 to 25,000 square feet. As a former industrial facility, the space is already served by high capacity electric and water, and boasts ready access to key transportation routes.

READINESS
Developer and investor are in final stages of negotiation for site acquisition. Preliminary site development planning has been completed.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
The Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council has identified flexible, advanced manufacturing space as a critical need in its strategic planning efforts.

NEED
Wayne County has limited industrial incubator capacity, and consistent interest by firms indicates a strong need for smaller spaces with more flexible terms.

ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COST
$5 million

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
DRI (NY State), PILOT (Village, Town, School District, County), Private Equity

TIMING OF DEVELOPMENT
Within 36 months of project funding award
CANALSIDE ARC PROMENADE

**Project Summary**
The ARC of Wayne, a support organization for the developmentally-disabled, has managed the successful adaptive re-use of a prominent former manufacturing facility along the Erie Canal.

The space currently houses multiple enterprises, including service-oriented businesses and retail/restaurant offerings. The space is separated from the Canal by Van Buren Street; a Village street, which exists in this segment primarily to serve the ARC facility.

The ARC is proposing temporary, seasonal closures of Van Buren Street, as it abuts this building, for the development of a covered promenade, which will serve as a multi-use pavilion. The space would be flexible enough for an extended season farmers’ market, an events pavilion, and a performance venue for musical and theatrical performances immediately along the Canal.

**READINESS**
The Village is the current owner of Van Buren Street, and has committed to designating the site for this use. The ARC has indicated its willingness to serve as a programmatic partner in site operation.

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT**
Surveys, focus groups, and public forums have all indicated the need for additional performance space, farmers’ market enhancements, and outdoor event venues. This site is flexible enough to serve all of these needs.

**NEED**
There are no performance venues or other outdoor events spaces specifically dedicated along the Canal in the Village.

**ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COST**
$450,000

**POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES**
DRI (NY State), LWRP (NY State), Village Capital Funds (municipal bonding)

**TIMING OF DEVELOPMENT**
Within 24 months of project funding award
Project Summary
The facility referenced above also houses additional, vacant space which can be further developed for retail, service, and restaurant space. The ARC of Wayne has successfully developed multiple ventures at this site, and will continue to do so as funding and market capacity are available.

**READINESS**

The ARC of Wayne is the current owner of this site, and has committed to designating the site for this use. The ARC has also indicated its willingness to continue to serve as a programmatic partner in site operation.

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

Surveys, focus groups, and public forums have all indicated the need for additional retail, restaurant, and service offerings. This site is flexible enough to serve all of these needs.

**NEED**

Retail, restaurant, and service spaces are limited in the downtown district. Additional space will be readily absorbed by the market.

**ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COST**

$250,000

**POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES**

DRI (NY State), LWRP (NY State), ARC Program Funds

**TIMING OF DEVELOPMENT**

Within 12 months of project funding award
NORTH MAIN STREET STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

Project Summary
The Village has recently executed a significant streetscape project at the southern corridor to Newark. Enhancements included a more pedestrian focused corridor, with narrow travel lanes, improved parking, wide sidewalks, enhanced crosswalks, natural stormwater management features, and pedestrian-scaled lighting.

The Village proposes to continue this treatment along Main Street throughout the rest of the proposed DRI District.

READINESS
New York State is the current owner of North Main Street. Improvements would be developed in accordance with NYSDOT standards.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
Surveys, focus groups, and public forums have all indicated support for the prior treatment, and a desire to extend improvements to the north of the current project area.

NEED
While the enhanced streetscape section is clearly preferred, no DOT or local funds have been identified for these improvements.

ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COST
$2 million

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
DRI (NY State), NYSDOT Funds, Village Capital Funds (municipal bonding)

TIMING OF DEVELOPMENT
Within 36 months of project funding award
ADDITIONAL HIGH-IMPACT PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to clearly transformational initiatives, the Village has also been in discussions with public and private partners for the development of high-impact projects—those which will continue to move the needle toward the Village’s revitalization efforts. These projects have the potential to be transformational in their own corners of the District, and when considered collectively, will serve to bolster the functionality, attractiveness, and market potential of downtown, and the Village as a whole.

Such projects include:

St. Elizabeth’s Adaptive Re-Use Housing
Local investors have identified an historic, former hospital facility, located in the heart of downtown, as an adaptive re-use opportunity for the development of 4 to 5 mixed-income apartment units.

Electrify Newark
EV Charging Station Initiative: The Village has identified 5 priority sites for electric vehicle charging stations; conveniently located to serve the needs of locals, as well as regional and national travelers to Newark.

Canal Crossing Pedestrian Bridge
Village officials have identified a former, abandoned rail crossing over the Canal, at the eastern end of the district, which can provide for convenient, safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclists. This will enhance a heavily used, existing multi-modal crossing at the north end of the district.

Canalside Boater Services Center
A local vehicle service station operator has advised of his interest in developing a boater services facility, with fuel and other mechanical needs, as well as convenience store service at the center of the district, along the Erie Canal.

Canalside Water Amenities Center
As part of the Van Buren Commons development, the Village has identified a concession partner who will engage in the rental of bicycles, canoes, and kayaks. The Village has identified a site which can host a seasonal rental center, as well as construction of a kayak and canoe launch.
TRANSPORTATION

Transient Boat Dockage
Boat dockage and associated support services (tie-offs, water, electric) have all been identified by regional stakeholders as a top priority. The Village has received extensive boater traffic since 2019, and space for docking is very limited.

Downtown Public High-Speed WiFi
The Village has prioritized the installation of 5G telecommunications equipment throughout the downtown district. DRI funds will enable us to partner with local providers to provide for high-speed connectivity for visitors, boaters, and other downtown guests at no cost.

ReFresh Newark Small Projects Fund
During the public engagement process, dozens of property owners were identified as seeking to advance smaller projects at their buildings. The Village proposes establishing a $600,000 fund for small projects, including façade enhancements, accessibility improvements, and the development of additional affordable housing units.

Fund for Public Art
Travelers to Newark often rave about the murals and other public art projects. The Village recommends establishing a $100,000 fund for art projects in the Village, and for the collaborative promotion of public art throughout the district.
Newark prides itself on a well-developed organizational infrastructure, with a strong capacity to manage a wide range of municipal functions, including public infrastructure design and construction, planning and development review, business recruitment, retention, and expansion, and financial administration.

Over the last five years, the Village has developed successful applications for critical economic development and infrastructure projects, and a strong complement of internal staff and contracted subject matter experts have executed these projects on-time, on-budget, and to incredible results.

To ensure effective, efficient program delivery, we will employ an internal team and consulting partners, including:

**Mayor Jonathan Taylor**
Mayor Taylor is serving his second term as the chief elected official for the Village. During his tenure, he has shepherded federal, state, and private investment toward tens of millions of dollars in downtown revitalization, industrial development, and expansion of the community’s commercial base.

**Mark Peake, Economic Development Facilitator**
Mr. Peake has served the Village for over two decades in economic and community development roles. He has served as the lead staff member, responsible for economic development efforts in Newark; successfully advancing its impactful Land for Jobs program and fostering growth and revitalization in downtown and industrial parks.

**Robert Hutteman, PE, Superintendent of Public Works**
Mr. Hutteman recently joined the Village team after over three decades of private sector engineering and infrastructure development experience. Prior to his appointment, he dedicated years of service to the Village as a volunteer, focused on supporting placemaking and infrastructure enhancement in the Village.
Internal Team and Consulting Partners (continued)

**Robbin Bremer, Development Services Coordinator**
Ms. Bremer has served the Village for nearly two decades, providing administrative support to community development efforts, including grant administration, planning and zoning board administrative support, and program management for economic development efforts.

**Valerie Quade, Village Clerk-Treasurer**
A recent addition to the Village team, Ms. Quade is responsible for financial management of Village operations, including administration of all federal and state funding awards, and administrative oversight of the Village’s general, water, and sewer fund budgets.

Collectively, the team has executed over $100 million in public infrastructure projects, and facilitated a similar scale of investments by private sector partners. They are skilled project managers, program administrators, and public finance experts.

In addition to the internal team, in support of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative we will enlist the support of the Village of Newark Economic Development Alliance (VONEDA); a focused group of economic development stakeholders, representing private sector employers, investors, civic partners, and other community partners. Representatives of VONEDA will join Village leadership, REDC representation, and other key partners on the Local Planning Committee in facilitating the vision of Newark’s Downtown Revitalization Initiative award.

---

**DOWNTOWN IDENTIFICATION • ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY (continued)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village of Newark</th>
<th>Round 5 DRI Application</th>
<th>Administrative Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• DOWNTOWN IDENTIFICATION •</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Newark has spent recent years aligning its strategic imperatives, policy frameworks, and implementation efforts toward an intense focus on economic development and downtown revitalization. As a result of these concerted efforts, the team has identified well-resourced investors and project opportunities that are both catalytic and shovel-ready.

With these prospects primed to move, a $20 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative investment will be quickly absorbed, leveraged for exponential private sector investment, and will quickly begin producing economic returns for Newark, the Finger Lakes, and New York State.

Administrative Readiness and Capacity
Generally, the Village of Newark has taken steps over the last several years to be prepared to accelerate implementation of a DRI investment. The Village has reinforced its administrative infrastructure with:

A Full-time Economic Development Facilitator
Mark Peake, who will manage the development elements of this project with the support of his full administrative team.

Superintendent of Public Works
Bob Hutteman, a licensed Professional Engineer, who will advance the public infrastructure segments of the project.

Village Clerk-Treasurer
Valerie Quade will address administrative, reporting, and compliance measures.

Village Mayor
Village Mayor, Jonathan Taylor, who has reinforced downtown revitalization as a strategic priority for the Board of Trustees, will head this experienced, capable team.
Policy Alignment and Readiness
The Village has crafted a Comprehensive Plan and Economic Development Strategy that clearly outline the vision for redevelopment of the Village center. All of the projects contemplated in the Downtown Revitalization Initiative proposal have been vetted by Village leadership to ensure alignment with these critical policy frameworks.

Described below, the Village is recommending two significant transformational projects that will require continued review and action by the Village Planning Board and the Board of Trustees. Both of these projects were identified as critical in the public engagement phase of application development, and the proposed uses are strongly aligned with the Comprehensive Plan vision.

In both cases, development proposed will require a rezoning action and State Environmental Quality Review. The sites are not currently zoned for the proposed development as a result of the recency of redevelopment activity. However, it is the full intent, without any negative feedback on concepts to date, that these rezoning actions will advance expeditiously, and without dissent.

Project Readiness
The Village has worked with the development community, the public, and other key stakeholders to identify two significant, transformational projects that will change the course of downtown's economic potential for decades to come. In each case, the Village has worked with site ownership, investors, developers, and project operators to ensure that, with support and investment from the Downtown Revitalization Initiative, the proposed projects are ready to advance within weeks of authorization.

The two sites under consideration for significant transformative activity include:

**VAN BUREN COMMONS**
**MIXED-USE DISTRICT**

**WESTSHORE**
**LANDING**
Project Readiness (continued)

Van Buren Commons Mixed-Use District
Van Buren Commons is a proposed infill development located on the site of the current IEC Electronics facility. IEC Electronics is a global manufacturing firm, which recently expanded its operations, necessitating a move to the Village’s Silver Hill Technology Park. The existing site is proposed to be acquired by Capstone Real Estate Development of Rochester. The owner/founder of Capstone is Wayne County native Don Lasher.

The proposed development at Van Buren Commons includes two mixed-use buildings containing housing and retail opportunities, a hotel and conference center, a municipal center, and the development of net-zero housing opportunities.

The Village has committed to closing the current Van Buren Street to vehicular traffic to create a plaza along the Erie Canal for outdoor events, hotel usage, outdoor dining, canal light watercraft access, and other water-related uses.

Elements of readiness include:

Site Control: Capstone Development is in final negotiations with the current site owner, IEC Electronics. There are no anticipated delays.

Commitments from Project Partners: Capstone will be the developer and owner of the entire development. They will also operate the mixed-use and housing components. Solar Home Factory is in final discussions regarding siting of net zero project components. Capstone is in final discussions with a hotel operator. The Village of Newark will operate the municipal center.

Other Funding Sources: DRI funds will be leveraged by private sector funding from Capstone Development, which has been committed. Additional investment is likely, though not necessarily essential, from NYSERDA for the net zero components. The Village of Newark has committed to operational costs of the municipal center.

Zoning/Regulatory Compliance: Due to its prior industrial use, the site will need to be rezoned. The developer has provided conceptual plans, which have received support from the Village, and are in alignment with the Comprehensive Plan. No delays are expected for rezoning.
Project Readiness (continued)

Westshore Landing
Westshore Landing is a site currently owned by the New York State Power Authority, under the auspices of the New York Canal Corporation. The site contains roughly twenty acres of developable land, immediately adjacent to the Erie Canal. The Village conducted outreach to residential housing developers, and has received multiple concepts—all of which are in alignment with market demand, the vision of the Comprehensive Plan, and the intent of the Reimagine the Canals strategy. The Village proposes working with the Canal Corporation to identify a developer and investor to construct a diverse complement of housing addressing affordability concerns, and the needs for workforce and senior housing.

Elements of readiness include:

Site Control: The site is currently owned by the New York Power Authority/New York Canal Corporation. The Village has been in discussion with Canal Corporation leadership to ensure that the proposed redevelopment aligns with the goals of Reimagine the Canals. Canal Corporation leadership has overviewed the property disposition approach, which can be navigated to advance development priorities.

Commitment from Project Partners: The Village conducted outreach to multiple partners to determine opportunities for redevelopment. The Canal Corporation has indicated that property disposal will require a competitive procurement. The Village will work with the Canal Corporation to select an appropriate developer, from but not exclusive to those originally identified as potential partners.

Other Funding Sources: DRI funds will be leveraged by private sector financing. Multiple development partners have committed to addressing the remaining costs of construction and development.

Zoning/Regulatory Compliance: Due to its prior use in support of canal operations, the site will need to be rezoned. The developer has provided conceptual plans, which have received support from the Village, and are in alignment with the Comprehensive Plan. No delays are expected for rezoning.

These transformational opportunities represent unique projects that can quickly leverage additional DRI investment. When coupled with the full range of additional, shovel-ready, high-impact projects, a $20 million investment is clearly capable of being catalytic in monumental, course-changing revitalization activity in the Village.
It’s Clear.

The Village of Newark has reached a tipping point. Over the course of the last ten years, an amazing resurgence has developed. Years of careful planning and policy execution have set the stage for public and private investment, and for job creation unrivaled in communities of similar size. In nearly every corner of downtown, and the Village as a whole, momentum is evident.

**It’s clear in our jobs base.** Since the commencement of the Regional Economic Development Council strategy, Newark has partnered with New York State and the FLREDC to create hundreds of new manufacturing and service sector jobs. Village industrial parks are teeming with innovative firms, shipping products across the globe.

**It’s clear in our housing market.** The demand for housing in Newark has taken the market to critically low inventory. Investors and developers stand ready to create new, environmentally-sound housing developments to support a surging job market.

**It’s clear in our infrastructure investment.** In partnership with New York State and regional utility providers, Newark has spent the last five years investing nearly $100 million in new transportation, water, wastewater, and natural gas capacity. The downtown streetscape paints a picture of what is possible when New York and Newark work together toward a unified vision.

**It’s clear in our policy readiness.** Our Comprehensive Plan, Economic Development Strategy, and modern zoning codes set the stage for a development-friendly community that knows how to move projects forward, without compromising quality of life. Village Trustees, Planning Board members, the Village’s Economic Development Alliance, and regional partners all understand the vision for the future, and guide projects to impactful fruition.
It’s clear in our civic pride and engagement. Whether it’s visiting a farmers’ market, running in or cheering on a 5k, or a celebrating a multi-million-dollar groundbreaking, Newark residents show up. They show up because they feel heard. They feel heard because they are heard. Newark’s success is built upon their commitment, talent, and expertise. It is leveraged often to spectacular results.

But, this momentum is shadowed by fragility. Newark's renaissance is just beginning to bloom, and resources will be tested to maintain momentum. Investment from the State of New York, via the Downtown Revitalization Initiative is the catalyst needed to accelerate private sector investment, and cement Newark’s position as a regional center of commerce, and an economic engine to the Finger Lakes Region.

In Newark, Downtown Revitalization Initiative funding means:

• A strong quality of life, attractive to the workforce for a growing industrial base;

• A robust retail and service sector, creating jobs and opportunities for commerce for the entire northern Finger Lakes region;

• A diversified housing stock—ripe with opportunities for affordable, workforce, and senior housing, and critical to maintaining and growing the resident base;

• Environmentally sound development—reducing the carbon impacts of development and strengthening the Erie Canal ecosystem;

• A destination for visitors to New York and the region, seeking to connect with the Erie Canal, and to experience all that the Finger Lakes has to offer.

Newark has the experience, the capacity, the partners, and the confidence to translate this State investment into a multi-fold impact on the region’s economy. The Village has long been a vital partner to New York State, and strong stewards of public investment. This is another opportunity to partner together and demonstrate how collaboration between state and local government, and the private sector, pays true economic, environmental, and social benefits.

As a Village, we are proud of the work we have done, and are eager to continue with your support.