

Local Planning Committee (LPC) Meeting #4

Thursday, August 29, 2024, 5:00 to 8:00 pm | Montgomery Senior Center, 32 Bridge St, Montgomery, NY

Meeting Summary

Tommy Boston, Project Manager from VHB – the consulting firm that is leading the state and subconsultant project team, opened the meeting with a recap of the public engagement events that have taken place since the last LPC meeting. Tommy noted that the project team would be tabling at the upcoming General Montgomery Day on Saturday, September 7 to solicit feedback from the public on the potential for each of the 13 projects to transform Montgomery’s downtown. He also advertised that Public Workshop No. 2 would be held on October 16 from 6-8pm at the Senior Center where members of the public would have an opportunity to interact with project sponsors and learn more about their projects.

Christie Kastalek, Deputy Project Manager from VHB, gave a recap of where the LPC is in the project evaluation process, noting that for this LPC meeting, the projects would be presented by their respective project sponsors and that the LPC would use the project evaluation criteria to evaluate the projects in regard to Project Readiness and Co-Benefits. She continued to explain that the LPC would use a digital polling platform to evaluate the projects in real-time, with time for a general discussion at the end of the project sponsor presentations. She noted that after each project sponsor presentation, the LPC would be given the opportunity to ask questions and/or request additional information to help them in their evaluations.

Tommy began the project presentations by presenting on behalf of the Village’s four public projects. Following the public projects, project sponsors presented on their private and not-for-profit projects that were followed by a discussion and Q&A with the LPC for each individual project. Following project sponsor presentations, Christie presented the results of the LPC’s evaluation of each project with regard to Project Readiness and Co-Benefits. The LPC openly discussed the results of the evaluation and made note of how each project was evaluated. The LPC also requested that additional imagery such as a map of the project location or a rendering of the project would be most helpful to engage with and better understand the transformative capabilities of each project. The LPC also suggested to project sponsors that as they continue to make changes to their project scopes, that they compare it against the project evaluation criteria found in the Open Call for Projects application.

Prior to opening it up to public comment, Tommy reminded the LPC that the total request for NY Forward funding for the 13 projects was approximately \$8.1 million and that at LPC 5 on September 30, the LPC would have to work to lower that total ask to be between \$6 million and \$8 million.

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

- A question was raised about whether or not there was anything to show for the Small Project Fund (SPF). Susan Landfried, NY Forward Project Manager at New York’s Department of State, noted that the Small Project Fund would be a separate process and that anyone who submitted a Letter of Interest (LOI) should wait until the state announces the awards for Montgomery in spring 2025. She cautioned that those who submitted an LOI to the SPF should not be spending any money now as anything spent before the award is announced and a contract is signed is not eligible for reimbursement.

- A question was asked about where to submit questions about Montgomery's NY Forward process. The response directed them to submit any questions via email to MontgomeryNYF@vhb.com.
- Another question was asked on whether or not project sponsors would be in attendance at Public Workshop No. 2. The response confirmed that project sponsors are encouraged to attend the second public workshop to answer questions from members of the public regarding the scope of their project.
- The final question asked was whether or not there would be a handout with information on each of the projects presented during tonight's LPC meeting. The response confirmed that the presentation given tonight would be uploaded and available for viewing on the project website at MontgomeryNYF.com and that the website would be updated with a summary table that showed each project's title, NY Forward funding request, and total project cost.