

## Local Planning Committee (LPC) Meeting #5

Monday, September 30, 2024, 6:00 to 8:00 pm | Montgomery Village Hall, 133 Clinton 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 the LPC Code of Conduct and provided a recap of the timeline for the process. Christie Kastalek, Deputy Project Manager from VHB then provided a recap of the public engagement events that have taken place since the last LPC meeting in August. Christie noted that the project team was present at General Montgomery Day on September 7<sup>th</sup> and engaged with over 125 members of the public including a mix of Village residents and residents from surrounding communities. She also noted 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.

Tommy then summarized where the LPC is in the project evaluation process, noting that for this LPC meeting, he and Christie would present updates for all projects based on coordination with project sponsors that had occurred since LPC Meeting 4. Following each project update, the LPC used the project evaluation criteria to evaluate the projects with regards to Catalytic Effect. Christie introduced the digital polling platform that was used in the last LPC meeting. She noted that after each project sponsor presentation, the LPC would be given the opportunity to ask questions or make comments to help them in their evaluations. Christie also updated the LPC on 64 Clinton Street, which had been withdrawn by the project sponsor prior to LPC Meeting 5.

Tommy began the project update presentations by presenting four public projects. The LPC discussed the Veterans' Memorial Park project at length to determine project priorities given the high costs, and the LPC came to a consensus to scale back a park component to reduce costs. Following the public projects, Tommy and Christie took turns presenting on the private and not-for-profit projects. Each of the projects were followed by a discussion and Q&A with the LPC before they evaluated each project's Catalytic Effect as part of the evaluation criteria. Following project update presentations, Christie presented the results of the LPC's evaluation of each project with regard to Catalytic Effect. The LPC discussed the results and made note of how each project scored.

Based on the results of the evaluation, the LPC deliberated and weighed removing projects for consideration for NY Forward funding based on a lack of updates from project sponsors. The LPC came to a consensus on dropping both 102-108 Clinton Street (which will be listed as a supporting project in the Strategic Investment Plan) and 77 Ward Street from the list of projects up for consideration for NY Forward funding. The decision was carefully deliberated and the LPC felt it best to focus on projects that had advanced significantly in project development since LPC Meeting 4. This brought the total number of projects down to 10 (from 13) with a total NY Forward request of \$6.83 million, within the range of \$6 to \$8 million that should be submitted as part of Montgomery's Strategic Investment Plan.

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 the new playground equipment as part of the Veterans Memorial Park project would include components for children with special needs. The LPC confirmed that this would be included in the project during the bidding process.
- A comment was made about the importance of the wayfinding project, with an emphasis on the role that good wayfinding plays in assisting visitors to the downtown in helping them locate parking to patronize the small businesses.
- A question was asked regarding the potential impacts of a new proposed roadway off of Charles Street to access Veterans Memorial Park as part of a future phase of the park redesign. The LPC and the project team clarified that any new roadway improvements would be subject to Village review and approvals and the state environmental review process (SEQR) and would go through extensive preliminary engineering and design to mitigate impacts from any stormwater runoff or traffic.
- A question was asked about the scope of the public Veterans Memorial Park project and whether or not the dog park would be eliminated or kept as-is. It was clarified by the project team that the dog park would remain unchanged.
- A question was asked on whether or not sidewalk upgrades would be included in the Montgomery Nursery School project, citing existing concerns about pedestrian and vehicular safety during pick-up and drop-off hours. The LPC and project team clarified that the nursery school was including a painted crosswalk across Wallkill Avenue to improve connectivity and that a future component of the public streetscaping project could include sidewalk improvements along Wallkill Avenue between Clinton and Ward Streets.
- A final question was asked on why Ward Street was not included in the streetscaping project. The project team clarified that while Ward Street will only receive lampposts as part of the streetscaping project, there may be an opportunity to extend the streetscaping treatments there based on future coordination with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) being that Ward Street is a heavily trafficked state route (17K).