

NY Forward - Capital Region

Watervliet

Local Planning Committee (LPC)

Meeting #2

August 20, 2026



NY Forward

Welcome!

LPC Meetings are working sessions of the LPC

- These meetings are open to the public, but are not intended as interactive public workshops.
- The public is welcome to observe committee meetings and submit comments to **WatervlietNYF@gmail.com**
- During the final 15 minutes of the meeting, the public is also invited to ask questions and provide comments.

How to get involved:

- We want to hear from you! There will be many other ways for community members to get involved.
- Visit the Watervliet NY Forward website to send comments: **www.WatervlietNYF.com**
- There will be one more public workshop and additional opportunities to provide feedback. More details will be posted to the website.

Agenda

- Opening Remarks
- Code of Conduct
- Updates: Planning Process & Engagement Activities
- Downtown Assessment
- Public Workshop #1 Overview
- Vision and Goals
- Public Comment
- Closing Remarks



View down 19th Street

Opening Remarks

Mayor Charles Patricelli

Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct - Preamble

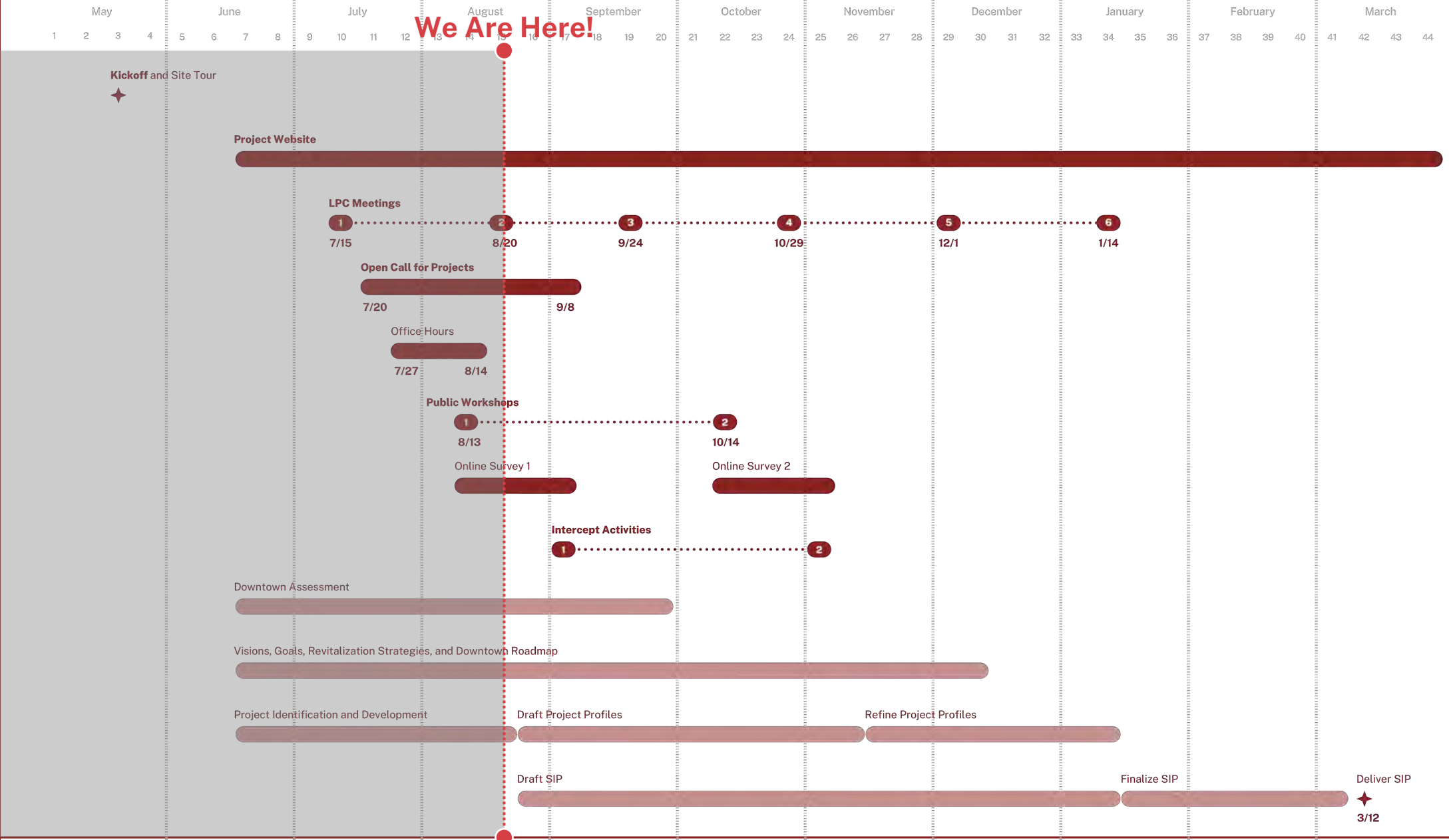
Each Local Planning Committee Member is reminded of their obligation to disclose potential conflicts of interest with respect to projects that may be discussed at today's meeting. If you have a potential conflict of interest regarding a project you believe will be discussed during the meeting, please disclose it now and recuse yourself from any discussion or vote on that project.

For example, you may state that you, or a family member, have a financial interest in the project, you are on the board of the organization proposing the project, or you are a member that believes you or any other member(s) are the subject of improper influence.

*We do not currently have any conflicts of interest on file. **Do any LPC members need to make a disclosure to the Committee at this time?***

Please inform the LPC co-chairs during the meeting if the need to disclose a conflict arises unexpectedly, and then recuse yourself from discussion or voting on the project.

Updates: Planning Process & Engagement Activities



What's been done so far?

- ✓ June 25 WatervlietNYF.com went live
- ✓ **July 15** **LPC Meeting #1**
- ✓ July 20 Open Call for Projects released
- ✓ July 29 Postcards delivered
- ✓ **Aug 13** **Public Workshop #1**
- ✓ July 27 – Aug 14 Office Hours / Technical Assistance sessions
- ✓ **Aug 20** **LPC Meeting #2 – IN PROGRESS**

What's on the horizon?

- ❑ Sept 8 **Open Call for Projects - DUE**
- ❑ Sept 24 LPC Meeting #3
- ❑ **Oct 14** **Public Workshop #2**
- ❑ Oct 29 LPC Meeting #4
- ❑ Dec 1 LPC Meeting #5
- ❑ Jan 14 LPC Meeting #6 (if needed)



Looking towards 19th St Bridge

Downtown Assessment

Downtown Assessment

...provides a **clear, concise, and compelling story** of the downtown through data, visuals, local insights, and on-the-ground observations.

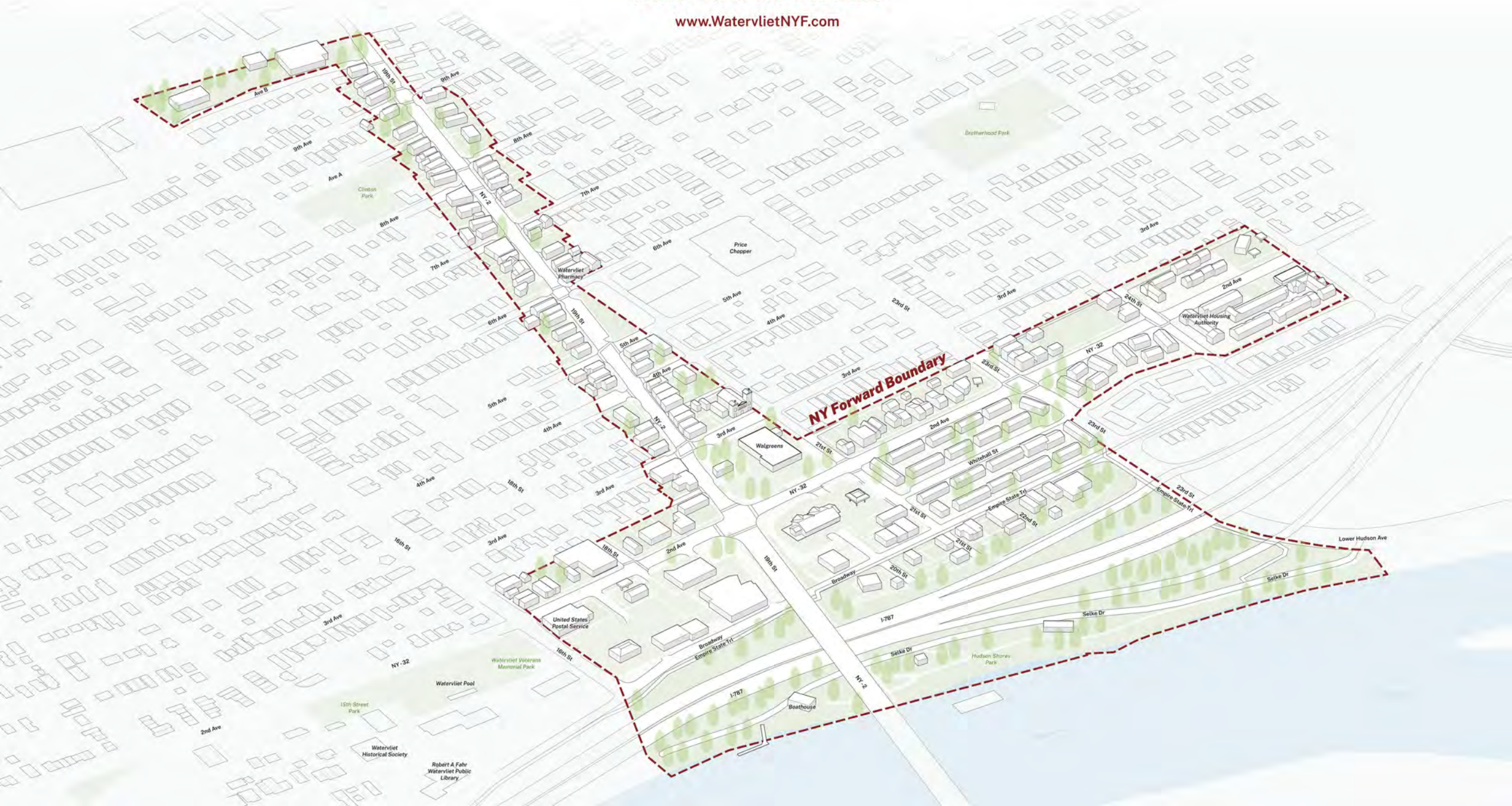
...highlights **key trends, opportunities, and challenges** to lay the foundation for the development of revitalization strategies.

...is not intended to provide a comprehensive technical description of the downtown, but rather an **analysis of the demographics, market conditions, local economy, and other characteristics** that are related to revitalization efforts.

...allows the reader to **understand why this downtown will benefit from the NY Forward program** and provides a **logical basis for the projects** recommended for NY Forward funding.

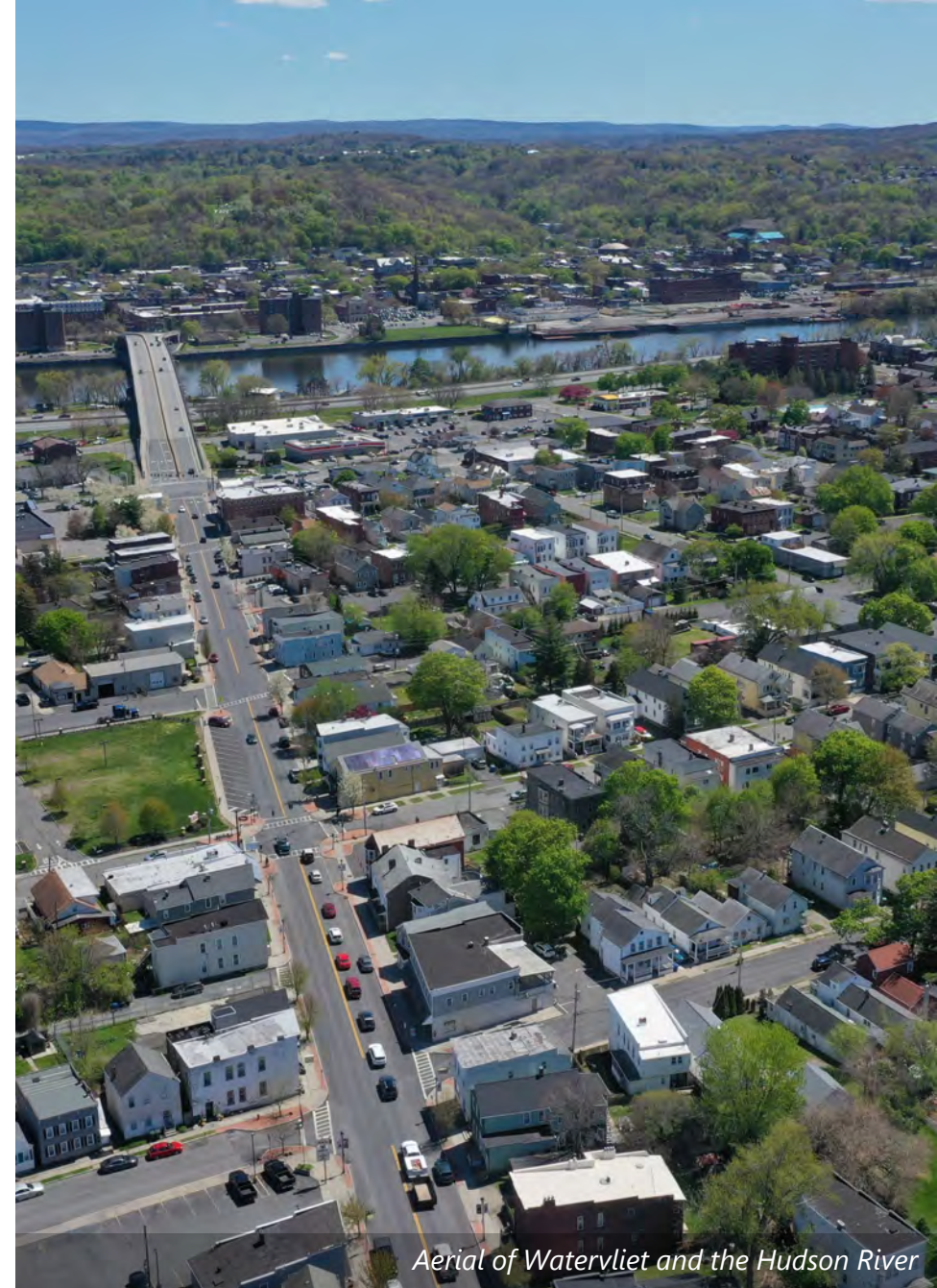
Watervliet NY Forward

www.WatervlietNYF.com



Downtown Assessment

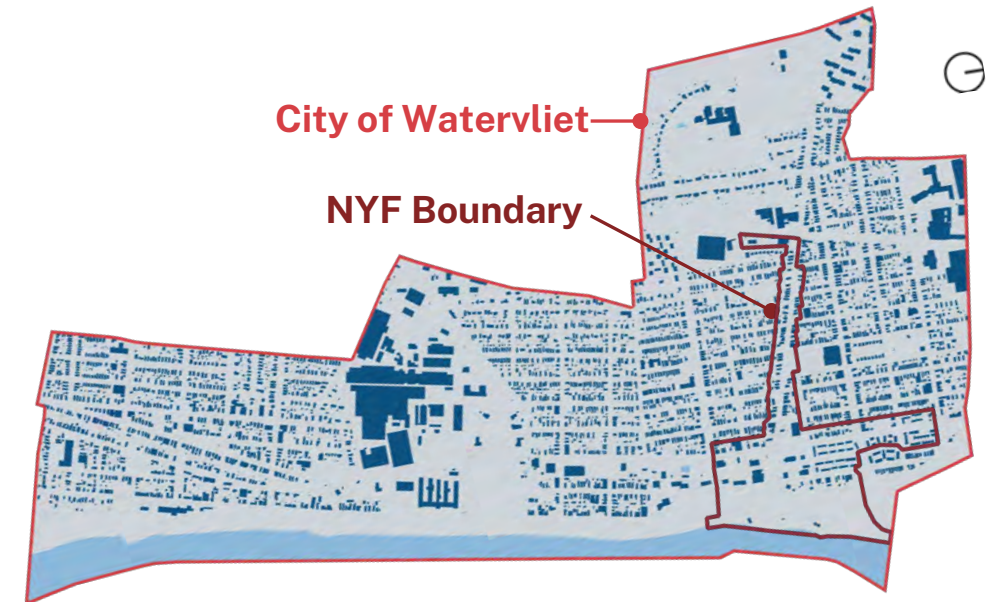
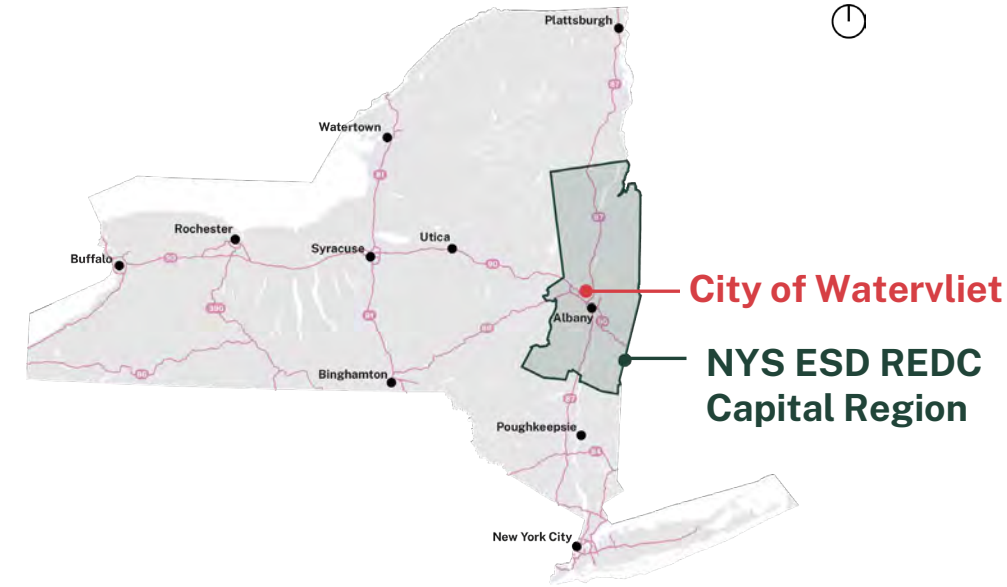
1. Study Area
2. Historical and Regional Context
3. REDC Priorities
4. Recent Plans and Investments
5. Downtown Snapshot
6. Downtown Character
 - i. Public Realm
 - ii. Building Form and Conditions
 - iii. Downtown Identity
 - iv. Downtown Economy
 - v. Downtown Housing
7. Key Observations



Aerial of Watervliet and the Hudson River

1. Study Area

- The city is located on the west bank of the Hudson River in **Albany County**, directly across the river from Troy.
- Watervliet is one of New York State's smallest cities by land area, **~1.4 square miles**, with a population just over **10,000 residents**.
- The NY Forward boundary is centered along the **19th Street** and **2nd Ave corridors** and includes **Hudson Shores Park**.



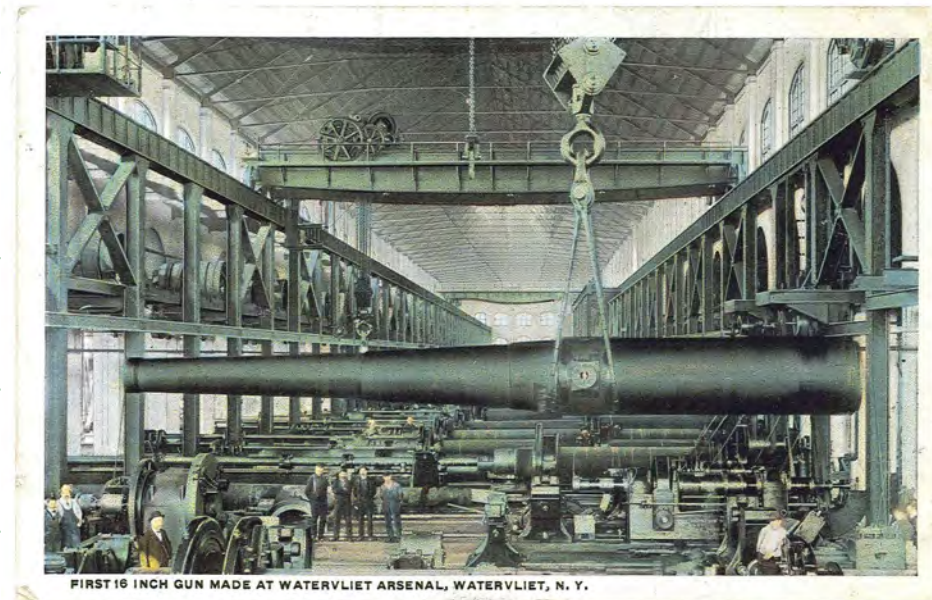
2. Historical and Regional Context

- Pre-1600s** Homeland of the Mohawk Nation, Haudenosaunee Confederacy.
- 1630** Land acquired by Kiliaen van Rensselaer, Dutch settler.
- 1813** Watervliet Arsenal established during the War of 1812.
- 1825** Erie Canal opens, accelerates trade, manufacturing, population.
- 1836** Incorporated as the Village of West Troy.
- 1896** Officially becomes the City of Watervliet.
- 1917 - 1945** Watervliet Arsenal expands dramatically during the World Wars, becoming major national artillery producer and employing more than 9,000 workers at WWII peak.
- 1960's** Construction of I-787 severs the downtown's connection to the Hudson River.
- 1946 - 2000** Declining industrial employment and reduced Erie Canal freight traffic contribute to economic and population decline.
- Today** Leverages industrial heritage, waterfront assets, regional location to support revitalization and growth



Main Street, 1890's.

Watervliet



3. REDC Priorities

As a NY Forward community, Watervliet will be designated a "Catalyst Community" by the CREDC.

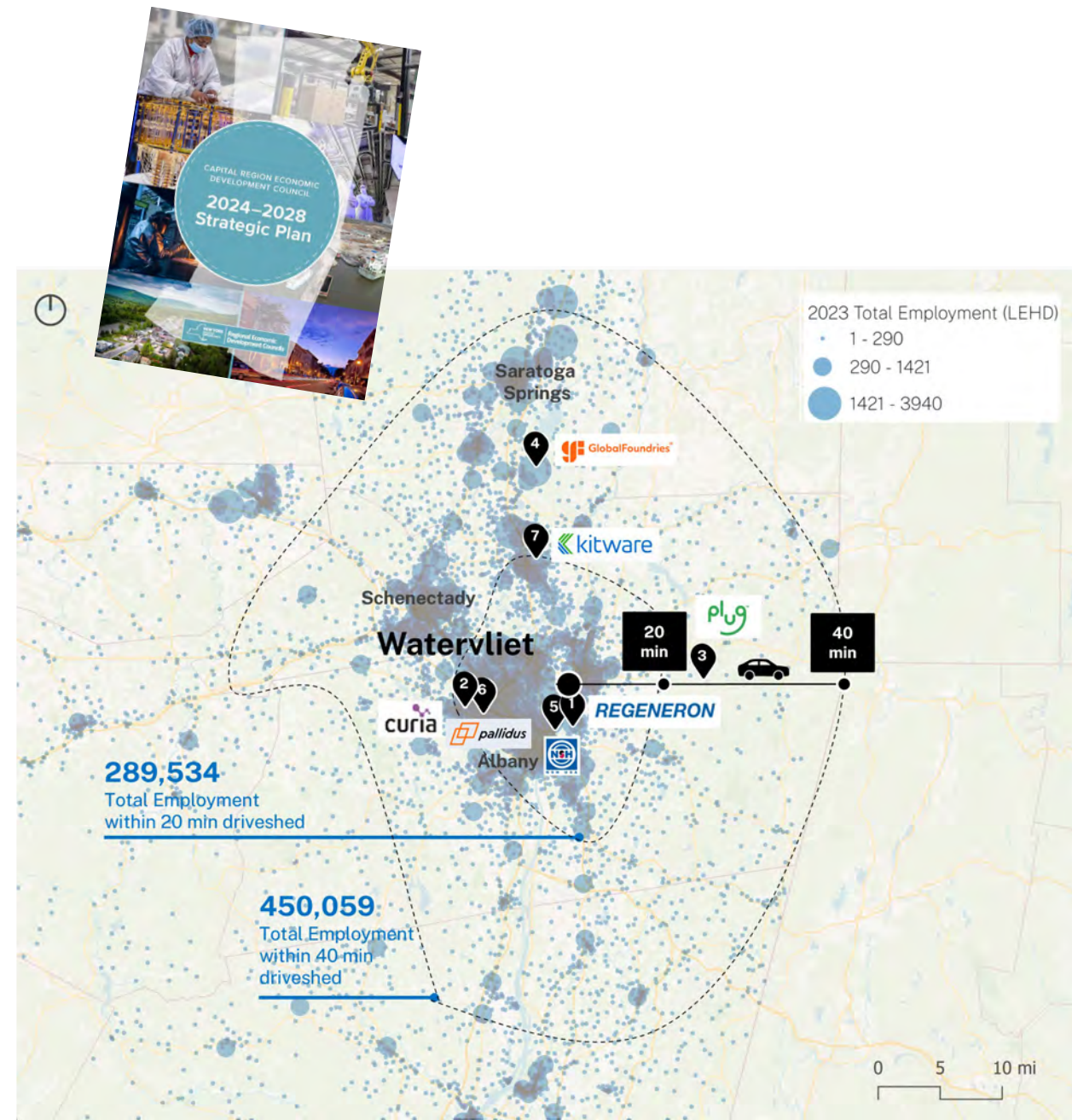
Focus areas for the Capital Region are projects within 10 miles of Catalyst Communities that promote:

People – workforce development, affordable housing, childcare

Place – placemaking, sustainable growth, infrastructure improvements

Innovate – entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship, research

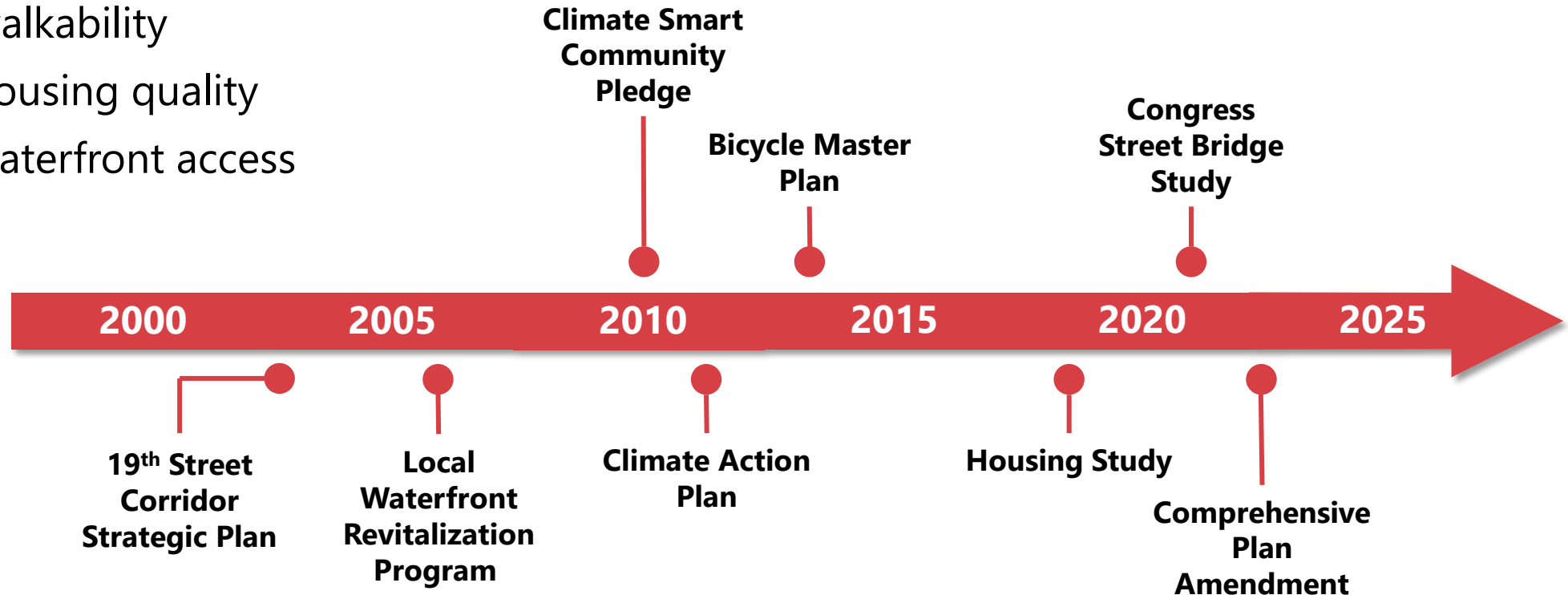
Grow – targeted tech industries (clean energy, life sciences, semiconductors, software development)



4. Recent Plans and Policies

Key themes from these past plans have included:

- Addressing infrastructure needs
- Enhancing walkability
- Improving housing quality
- Improving waterfront access



4. Recent Investments

\$160 million over the past two decades

Notable public projects in/around the NY Forward area include:

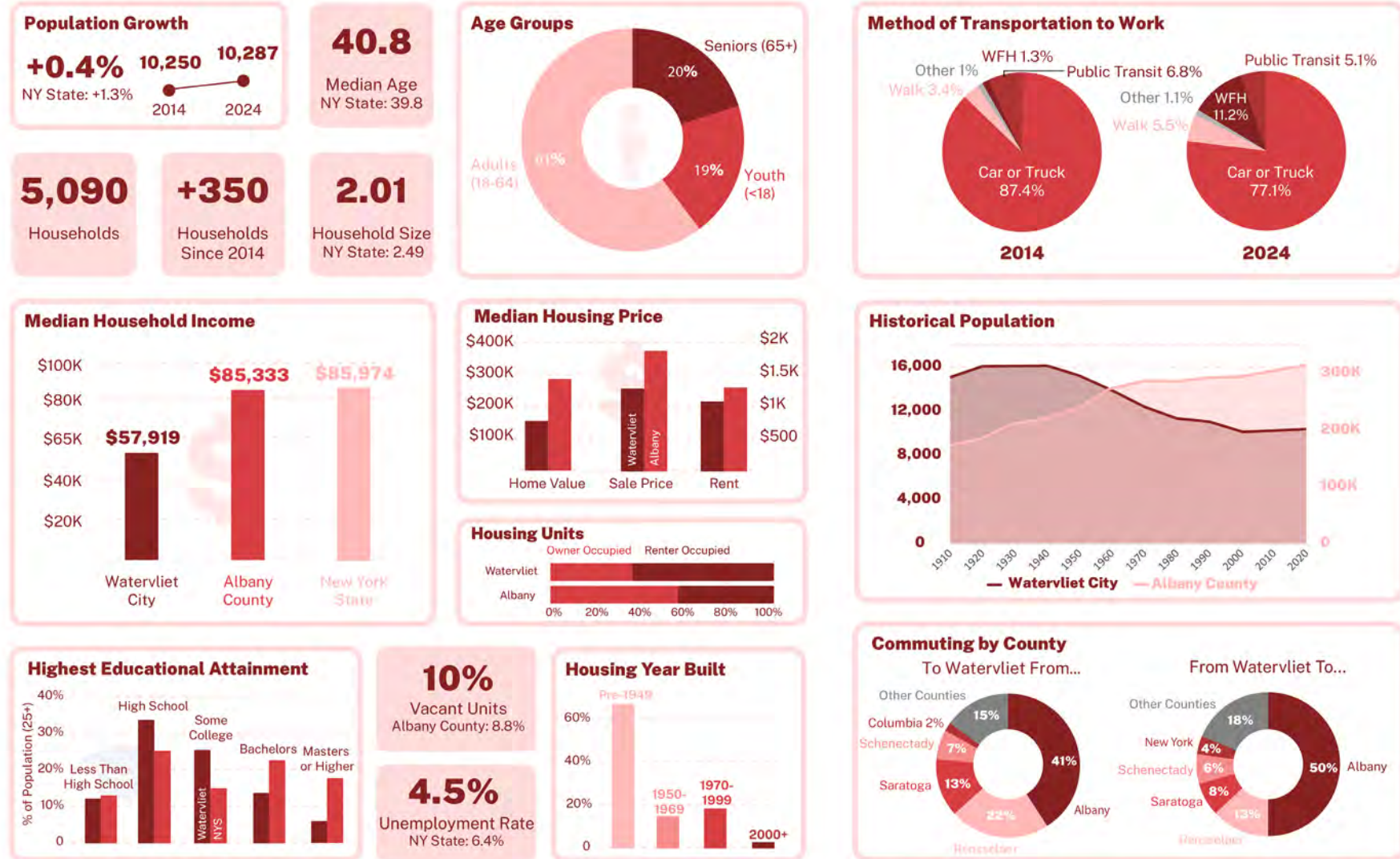
- \$1.1M storm sewer & dry river flood control improvements along 19th Street
- \$2.4M planned/recently completed Hudson Shores Park enhancements
- \$2.65M community pool and bathhouse reconstruction
- \$1M+ of small business and microenterprise support



5. Downtown Snapshot

Data Source: Census American Community Survey (2014-2024)

- Despite a **modest increase** over the past decade, population has been **declining since the mid 1900s**.
- The **median household income** in the City (**\$58K**) is lower than NYS (**\$86K**).
- Educational attainment** is behind the State, with **13% earning a Bachelors degree** (22% in NYS).
- 66% of housing units** in the City were **constructed before 1949**.



6. Downtown Character

- i. Public Realm
- ii. Building Form and Conditions
- iii. Downtown Identity
- iv. Downtown Economy
- v. Downtown Housing

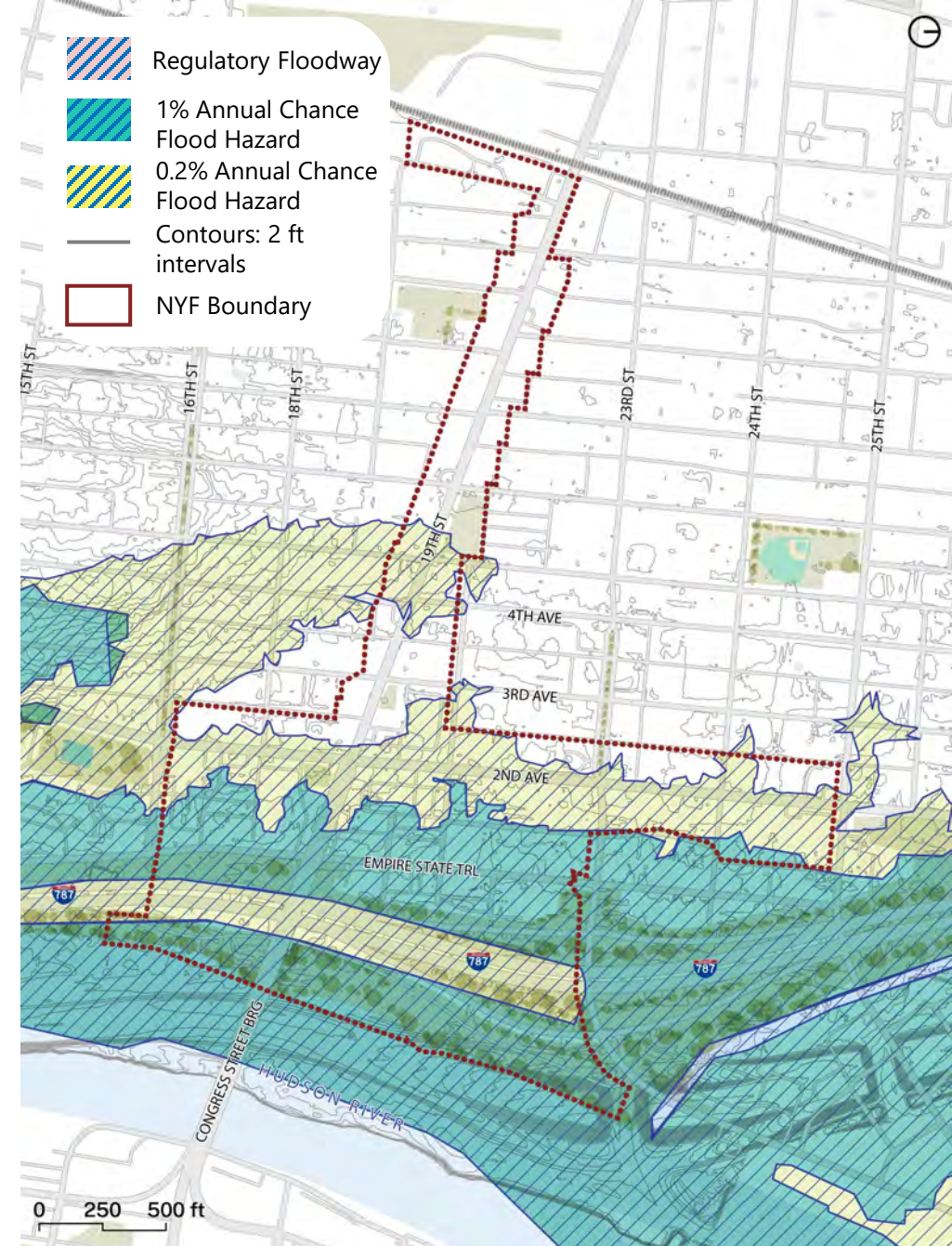


Businesses along 19th Street

6. Downtown Character

i. Public Realm - Geography

- Watervliet is located on the **western bank of the Hudson River**, five miles north of Albany.
- As its namesake “overflowed plains” suggests, Watervliet is a largely **flat riverfront city**.
- The Hudson River has historically been **central to the city’s development**, supporting transportation, manufacturing and commerce through the Erie Canal era and the growth of the Watervliet Arsenal.
- Watervliet is a member of the **Albany County Stormwater Coalition** to protect water quality and ensure compliance.



6. Downtown Character

i. Public Realm - Open Space

- **Hudson Shores Park** is the City's primary waterfront open space with access to the Hudson River and regional **Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail**.
- **Neighborhood parks** include Clinton Park, Brotherhood Park, Reds Field, Seventh Street Park, 15th Street Park, and the indoor Dome facility.
- Recent and planned improvements include an accessible kayak launch, amphitheater, playground upgrades, restrooms, waterfront amenities, and Erie Canal Side-Cut Park.



Fishing on the Hudson River



Hudson Shores Park

6. Downtown Character

i. Public Realm - Streets, Circulation & Parking

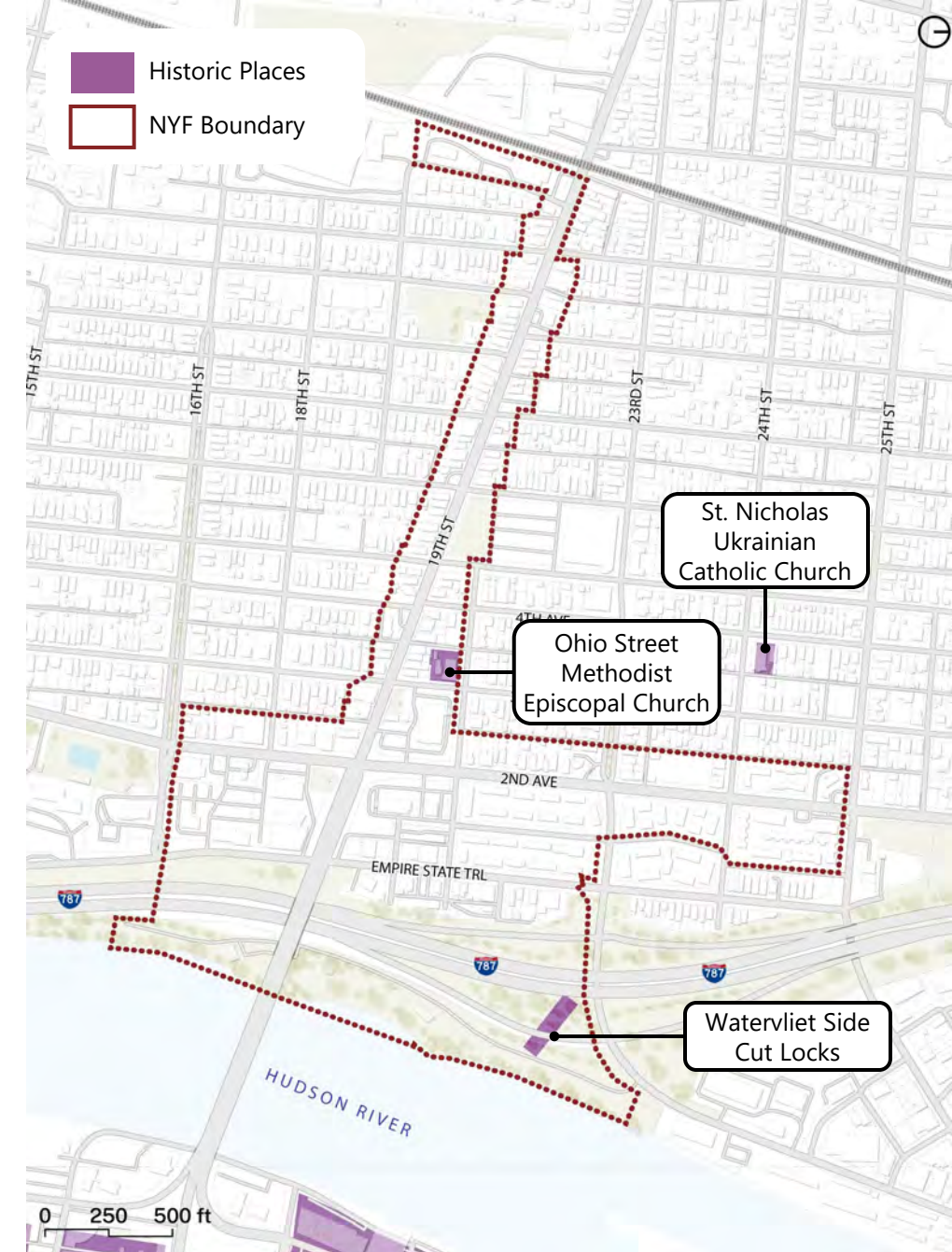
- **I-787** creates a physical barrier between downtown and the Hudson River, **limiting direct waterfront access**.
- Broadway serves as the city's **primary north to south corridor** and **regional connector**.
- 19th Street functions as Watervliet's **historic main street** and **commercial corridor**.
- The Congress Street Bridge provides a **critical link** between Watervliet and Troy.



6. Downtown Character

ii. Building Form and Conditions

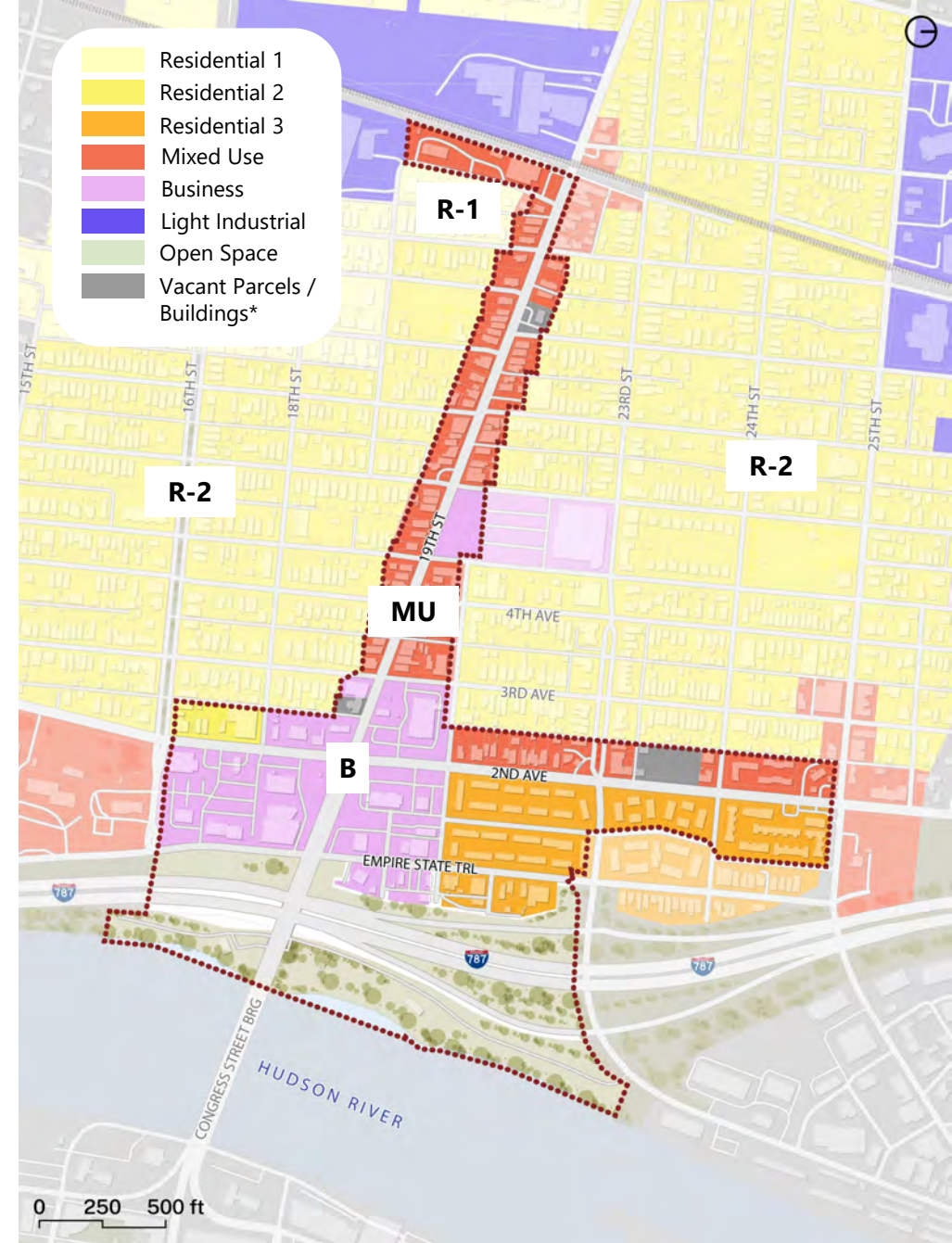
- Watervliet's built environment reflects its **industrial and working-class history**, with a mix of historic commercial storefronts, civic buildings, multi-family housing, and neighborhood businesses.
- Historic compact walkable development pattern interrupted frequently in commercial areas by **suburban style developments** set back from street and/or with significant paved area, such as gas stations and chain stores.
- **Watervliet Arsenal occupies 143 acres** and includes 72 buildings, covering over 2.1 million square feet – the US Army facility separates two distinct sections of Watervliet.



6. Downtown Character

iii. Downtown Identity – Zoning Districts

- Nearly half of the city's land area is devoted to residential units.
- Vacant land is around 3.3% of land use.
- Land use and zoning are governed by **Watervliet Zoning Board**.
- The entire NY Forward area is in zoning districts that allow for mix of uses.
- There are significant areas of light industrial zoning near the NY Forward area.

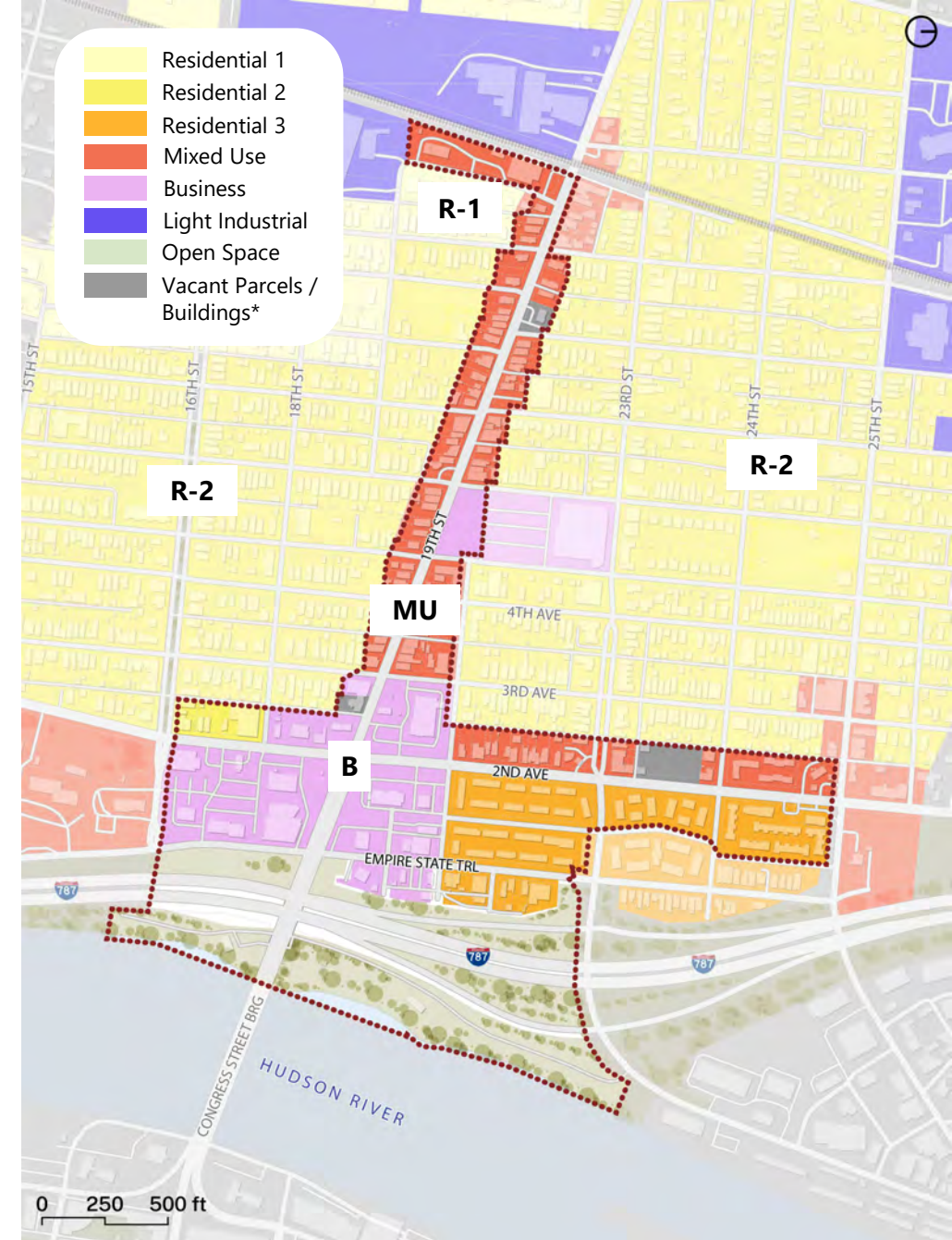


*Vacant parcels or buildings identified in NYF application.

6. Downtown Character

iii. Downtown Identity – Zoning Districts

-  Residential 1 (R-1)
 - Allows for single family homes on large lots, promotes open space and low population density
-  Residential 2 (R-2)
 - Permits retail, office, service and promotes job creation
-  Residential 3 (R-3)
 - Multi-family residential
-  Mixed Use (MU 1 & 2)
 - Mixed-use zone for residential and commercial uses
-  Business (B)
 - Predominantly commercial uses such as retail and offices
-  Light-Industrial (L-I)
 - Light manufacturing and industry and warehousing
-  Open Space
 - Protects natural areas and scenic views, limits development

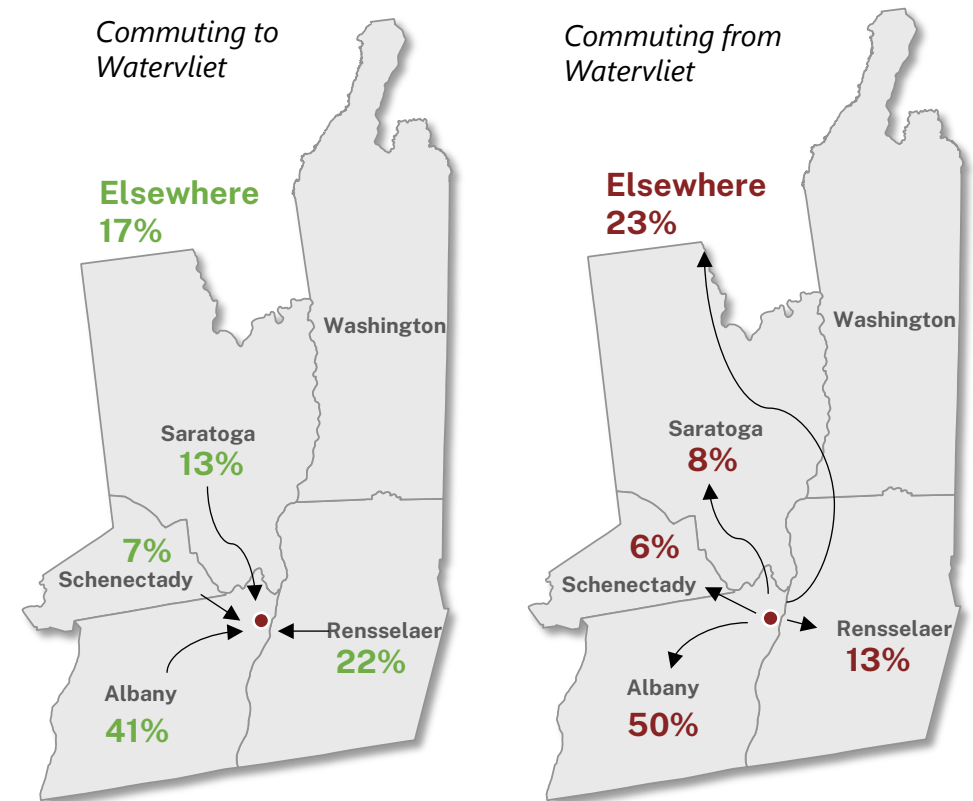
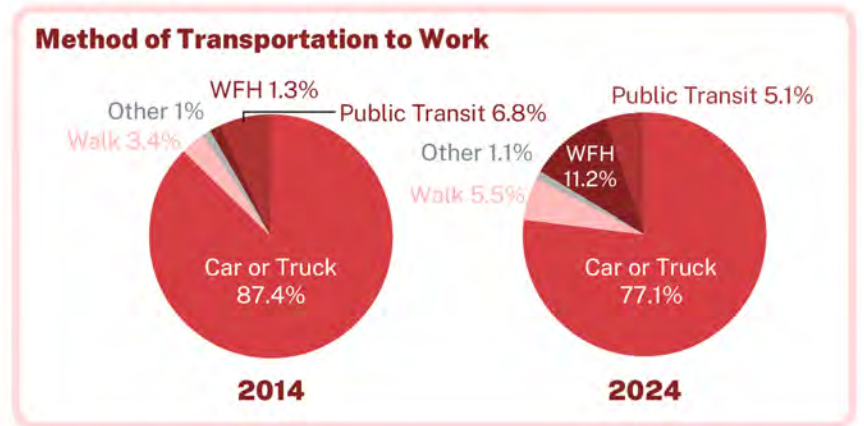


*Vacant parcels or buildings identified in NYF application.

6. Downtown Character

iv. Downtown Economy - Commuting

- **Work-from-home** increased from 1.3% in 2014 to 11.2% in 2024.
- Majority of people **drive** a car or truck, while a small cohort **walk** (5.5%) or take **public transit** (5.1%).
- 41% of workers in Watervliet are commuting from **within Albany County**.
- Watervliet residents primarily commute **within Albany County (50%)**, indicating a strong concentration of local employment opportunities.
- **Manufacturing, retail trade, and construction** are the largest industry sectors in the City.

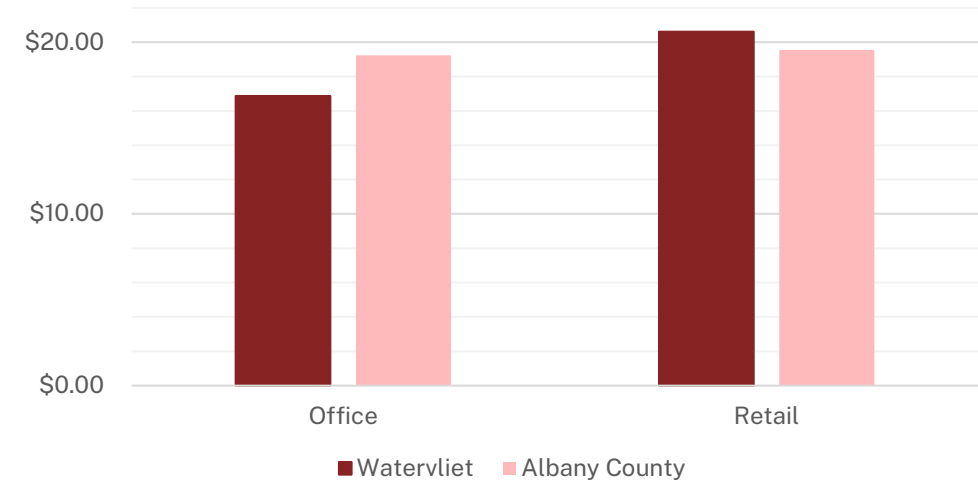


6. Downtown Character

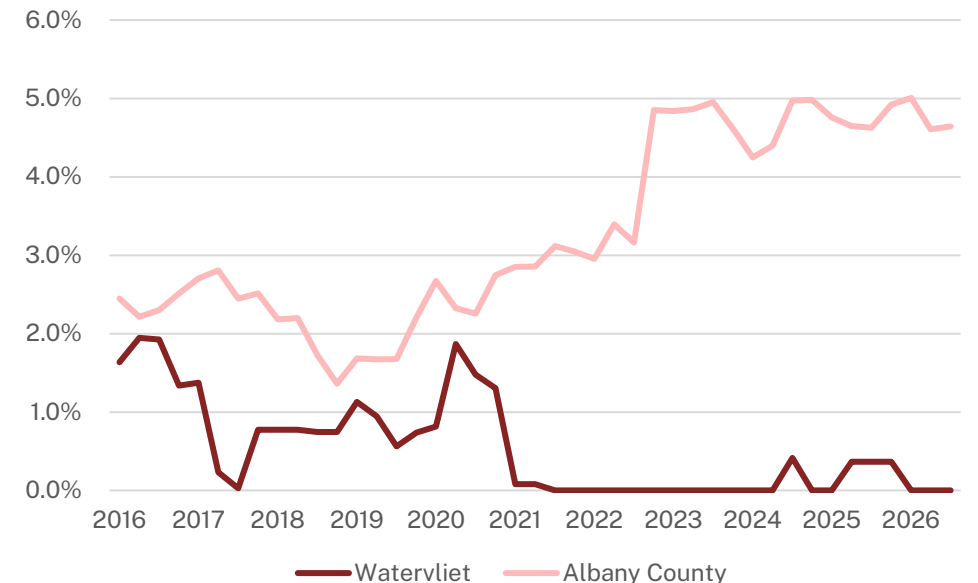
iv. Downtown Economy – Real Estate

- Watervliet's commercial market is characterized **by limited inventory and strong occupancy** across both the retail and office sectors.
- Retail is particularly strong, with **rents exceeding** Albany County averages, **prices rising** by 17%, and **vacancy remaining near 0%** in recent years.
- Consistently low vacancy across both retail and office properties indicates **sustained demand for commercial space** in the City.

Rent / SF by Property Type (2026)



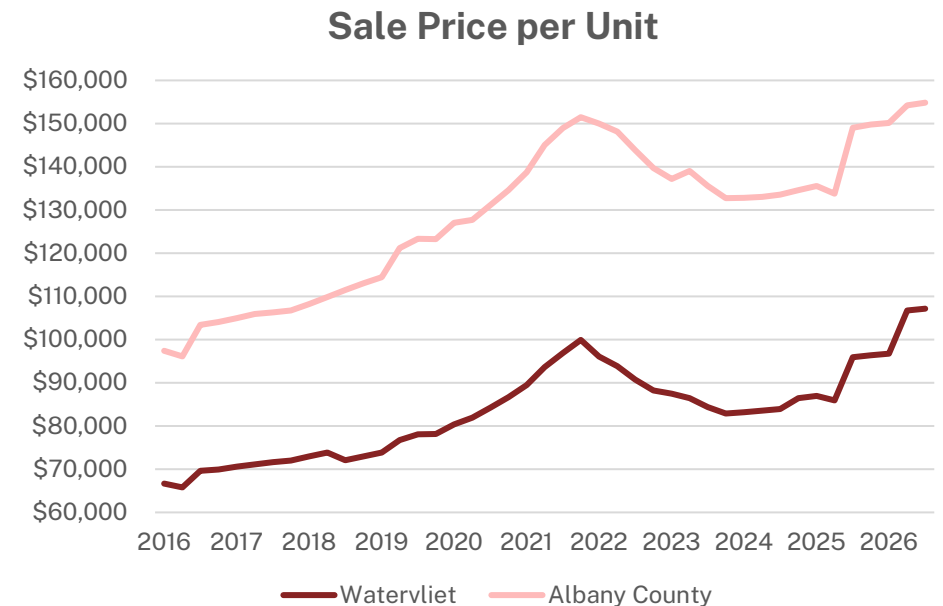
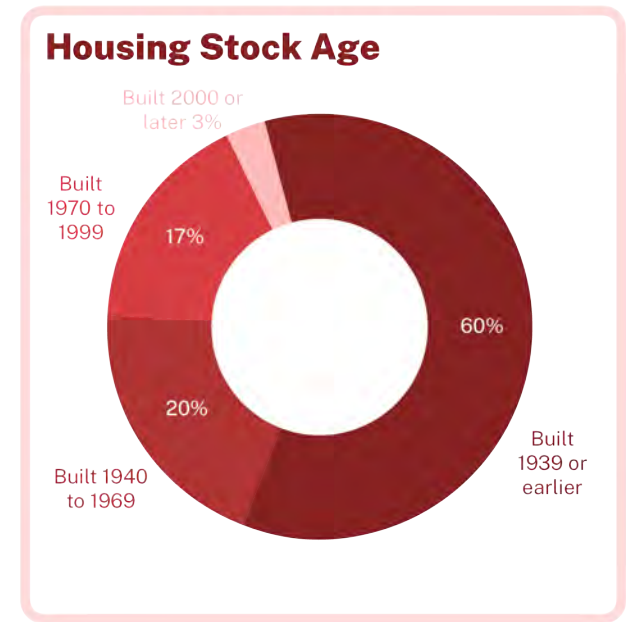
Retail Vacancy Rate



6. Downtown Character

iv. Downtown Housing

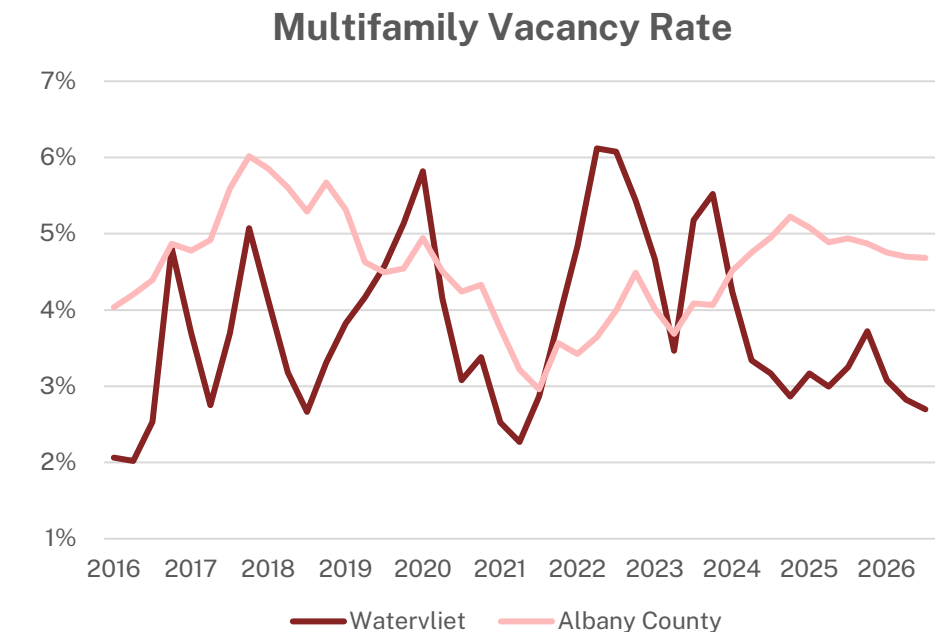
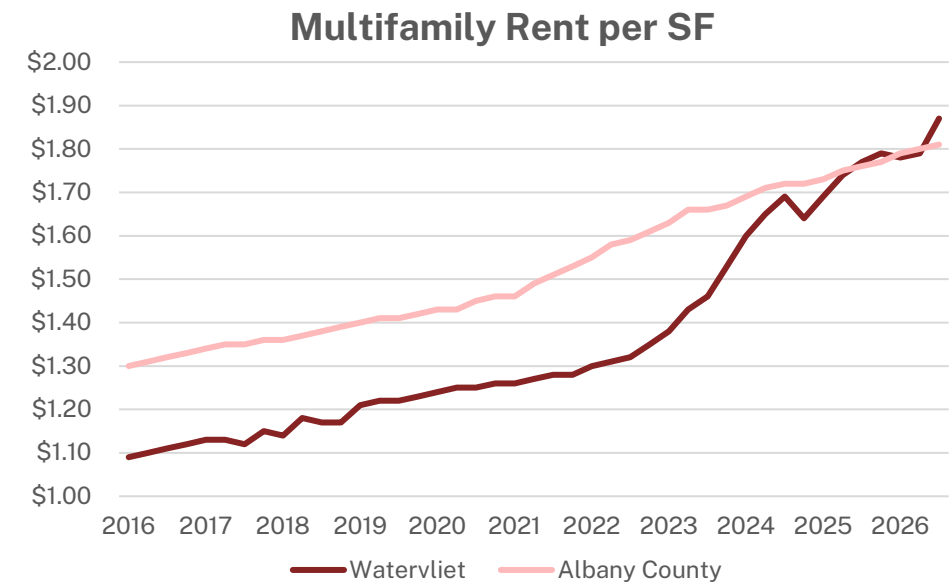
- **Six in ten** homes in the City were built before 1939, indicating an **aging housing stock**.
- Home sale prices in the **City (\$109K)** are significantly lower than in the **County (\$155K)**.
- Multifamily sale price per unit rose from **\$66.7K in 2016** to **\$107.2K in 2026** – a **61% increase**, equivalent to roughly **4.6% annual growth** over the period.



6. Downtown Character

iv. Downtown Housing

- **Multifamily rent per SF increased 72%** in Watervliet, compared to 39% growth in the County.
- Watervliet's **multifamily** vacancy rate is **approx. 2 percentage points below** the County average.
- Rising rents per SF and a low vacancy rate **suggest strong demand for multifamily housing**, and market conditions that may support continued investment, with rents approaching the break-even rent of at least \$2/sf required for new construction.



7. Key Observations

1. A **stable population** and **major economic anchors**, like the Watervliet Arsenal, provide a foundation for long-term economic resilience.
2. An **aging housing stock** and **weak market conditions** make it difficult to attract new residential development and support reinvestment.
3. The City benefits from **valuable recreational and waterfront assets**, though **I-787 limits access** and connectivity to the Hudson River.
4. Strong **civic and philanthropic engagement**, combined with more than \$36 million in **recent investment**, provides momentum for continued revitalization.
5. **Deteriorated pedestrian infrastructure, uneven public spaces, and underinvested commercial properties** detract from the City's overall visual appeal.
6. Access to **regional employment centers, educational institutions, public transit, and bikeshare services** strengthens regional connectivity and mobility.
7. **Affordable housing programs** help support residents, but **higher than average poverty** rates highlight ongoing economic challenges.

Public Workshop #1 - Overview

Public Workshop #1 - Overview

- Opening remarks from Co-Chair
- NY Forward Overview Presentation
 - Public Q&A
- Breakout Activity
 - Walking tours of 19th Street, 2nd Ave, and Hudson Shores Park
 - Comments on present & ideas for future
 - Sharing thoughts on vision and goals
- Group Discussion



Map of the NY Forward area with public comments

Who was there?

- About **24** Participants
- State team
 - NY DOS: Matt Smith, Gina DaBiere-Gibbs
- Consultant Team
 - Buro Happold: Ian Nicholson, Ashley Dominguez
 - Interboro: Daniel D'Oca, Kate Chapman, Doris Qingyi Duanmu
 - EDR: Patrick O'Shea



Public Workshop Advertisement









Engagement by the numbers

Topic	Written	Verbal	Combined
Business & Downtown Activity	13	39	52
Pedestrian Safety & Infrastructure	15	29	44
Streets & Traffic	5	37	42
Parks, Recreation & Public Space	13	24	37
Trees, Landscaping & Sustainability	4	33	37
Housing & Development	5	18	23
Waterfront & Connections	4	11	15
Character, History & Identity	3	—	3
Parking	2	—	2
Total	64	191	255

Key Findings

1. Connectivity, walkability, and pedestrian safety emerged as the strongest theme.
2. Hudson Shores Park is a major asset, but it is disconnected from the rest of Watervliet.
3. There is a desire for more everyday destinations and places to gather.
4. 19th Street could function more like a neighborhood main street and less like a regional thoroughfare.
5. Successful housing opportunities need to be accessible and well connected to various services and destinations.
6. Sustainability can include tangible goals like the comfort, maintenance, and performance of public investments.
7. Watervliet could benefit from stronger gateways and a clearer sense of arrival.

1

Connectivity, walkability, and pedestrian safety emerged as the strongest themes.

Comments on the present

- Watervliet is compact enough to be highly walkable, but major traffic and the current mobility infrastructure make many short trips unnecessarily difficult or uncomfortable.
- There's fast traffic on 19th Street and 2nd Avenue, along with difficult crossings, inconsistent pedestrian signals, sidewalk conditions, and conflicts among buses, bicycles, pedestrians, and vehicles.

• Ideas for the future

- Prioritize safer crossings, accessible sidewalks, traffic calming, transit access, bicycle connections, and clear routes between major destinations.

• Implication

- Pedestrian safety could become an explicit NY Forward priority rather than an implied component of several different goals.

2

Hudson Shores Park is a major asset, but it is disconnected from the rest of Watervliet.

Comments on the present

- The waterfront attracts many residents and visitors including walkers, dog owners, cyclists, boaters, and concert and restaurant goers.
- The existing pedestrian and bicycle routes make it difficult and dangerous to get to the waterfront.

• Ideas for the future

- Create a safe connection between the park and the surrounding neighborhood.
- Improve landscaping, enhance visibility and signage, expand recreation and docking opportunities, strengthen the rowing facilities, mitigate highway noise.

• Implication

- The most important waterfront investment may not be another attraction within Hudson Shores Park, but rather the connection between the park and the rest of Watervliet.

3

There is a desire for more everyday destinations and places to gather.

Comments on the present

- Many residents described the city primarily as a place to live and work rather than a place to spend leisure time.
- There is an absence of coffee shops, restaurants, and gathering.

• Ideas for the future

- Create more “third places” and destinations within the city where residents and families could have fun without leaving the city.

• Implication

- Goal 4 could include destination-oriented businesses, gathering places, family recreation, and activation of existing commercial corridors.

4 19th Street could function more like a neighborhood main street and less like a regional thoroughfare.

Comments on the present

- Many life-long residents reflected on 19th Street's past, and recalled a corridor with shops, services, trees, and reasons to walk from one destination to another.
- There are a handful of businesses that have been around for a long-time, but there are no longer central hubs and destinations along 19th Street with a concentration of businesses.

• Ideas for the future

- Leverage existing opportunities for reinvestment, such as vacant and underutilized storefronts and former commercial properties.
- Activate the street and highlight Watervliet's character through smaller investments like outdoor seating, street trees, and façade restoration.

• Implication

- Investments on 19th Street could combine economic activation, building rehabilitation, infill development, pedestrian safety, and public-realm improvements.

Successful housing opportunities need to be accessible and well connected to various services and destinations.

Comments on the present

- It is difficult for residents, particularly seniors and residents of Watervliet Housing Authority, to access services.
- Poor sidewalk conditions and missing crosswalks create barriers for connectivity.

• Ideas for the future

- Create safe and accessible routes to pharmacies, groceries, transit, parks, and other daily services.

• Implication

- Goal 3 could further emphasize the connection between housing opportunities and accessible services and pedestrian safety.

6 Sustainability can include tangible goals like the comfort, maintenance, and performance of public investments.

Comments on the present

- The lack of street trees and shade was immediately apparent on the Second Ave walking tour.
- Highway noise is an issue at Hudson Shores Park.

• Ideas for the future

- Consider native or water-tolerant planting at Hudson Shores Park to enhance the appearance of the waterfront and reduce maintenance demands.
- Expand the City's tree canopy.

• Implication

- Goal 1 could translate “resilience and sustainability” into tangible outcomes including shade, green infrastructure, resilient design, and maintainable landscaping.

7 Watervliet could benefit from stronger gateways and a clearer sense of arrival.

Comments on the present

- Watervliet was described as a place people pass through on their way to Albany, Troy, Latham, or elsewhere.
- Drivers can enter the city without a strong visual cue that they have arrived in a neighborhood where people live, work, and shop.

• Ideas for the future

- Strengthen neighborhood gateways and improve wayfinding to encourage drivers to slow down.

• Implication

- Gateway improvements, wayfinding, public art, landscaping, and traffic calming could simultaneously strengthen community identity, improve safety, and capture more regional visitors.

Location: Intersection of 19th Street and 2nd Ave



Comment

"When Watervliet was more walkable, this used to be a community hub."



Idea

"Treat this intersection as a major gateway to the city!"



Location: Grassy area in front of Price Chopper



Comment

"This space is underutilized."



Idea

"Explore mixed-use commercial or housing infill here!"



Location: 19th Street and 8th Avenue



Comment

"This used to be a gas station and then it was an ice cream shop."



Idea

"Keep properties along 19th Street active and prioritize reuse!"



Location: Black Bear Inn



Comment

"19th Street used to be tree lined and have a small-town feel."



Idea

"Let's activate the street with outdoor seating!"



Location: 2nd Ave between 16th Street and 19th Street



Comment

"There are several underutilized properties."



Idea

"Add more housing and mixed-use development here!"



Location: 2nd Ave and 23rd Street



Comment

"Residents go to Latham for fun and recreation."



Idea

"There could be food trucks here or other family friendly activities."



Location: South of 16th Street



Comment

"There are more destinations south of 16th Street."



Idea

"More destinations for families and recreation!"



Location: 23rd Street under I-787



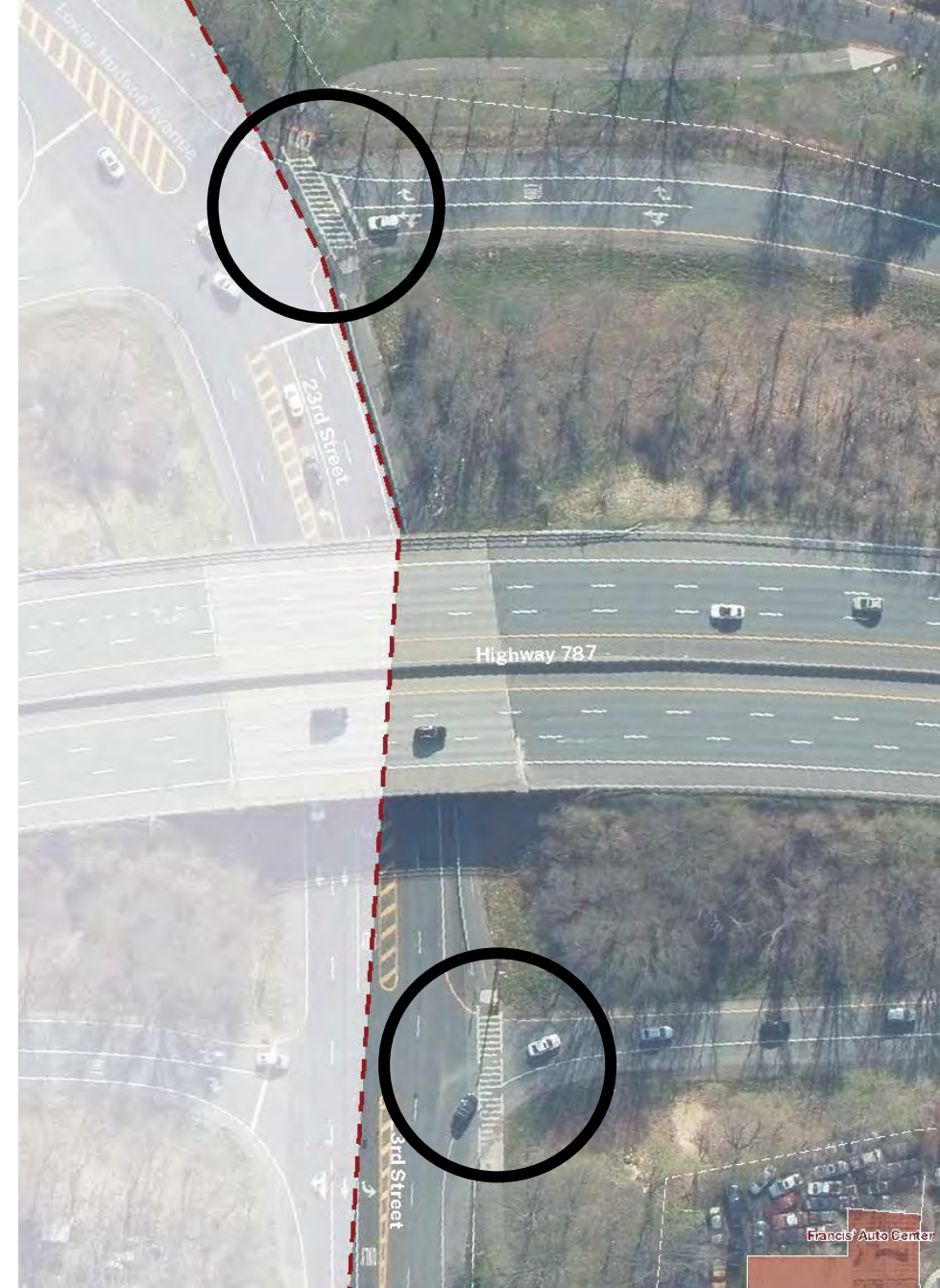
Comment

"Dangerous intersection! No pedestrian buttons."



Idea

"Advance the 16th Street connection to the park and improve other intersections!"



Location: Hudson Shores Park



Comment

"The restaurant and concert area bring visitors to the waterfront."



Idea

"Improve river access and visibility along with playground equipment."



Location: Hudson Shores Park



Comment

"The regional trail is a major asset, but some cyclists avoid the Watervliet waterfront segment because it is difficult to access."



Idea

"Make local connections to the trail safer."



Overall Takeaways

- The strongest lesson from the workshop is that Watervliet does not lack assets. The challenge is that many of its assets are disconnected from one another.
- The LPC could consider strengthening the vision around connections and how the slate of projects could work together to enhance Watervliet's existing assets.
- The workshop validated the direction of the four preliminary goals, but participants felt the goals could more specifically reflect the issues experienced during the walks, especially pedestrian safety, connectivity, destinations, and everyday quality of life.

Online Survey Summary

Purpose of the Survey

- Understand how well the NY Forward **Vision & Goals** align with public sentiment
- Identify community priorities for downtown revitalization
- Capture lived experiences from residents, workers, business owners, and visitors
- Provide clear guidance for **project selection** and **LPC decision-making**



Watervliet NY Forward Survey #1

Thank you for participating in this survey. This is an opportunity to contribute to a shared vision and goals for the future of the Watervliet NY Forward Area!

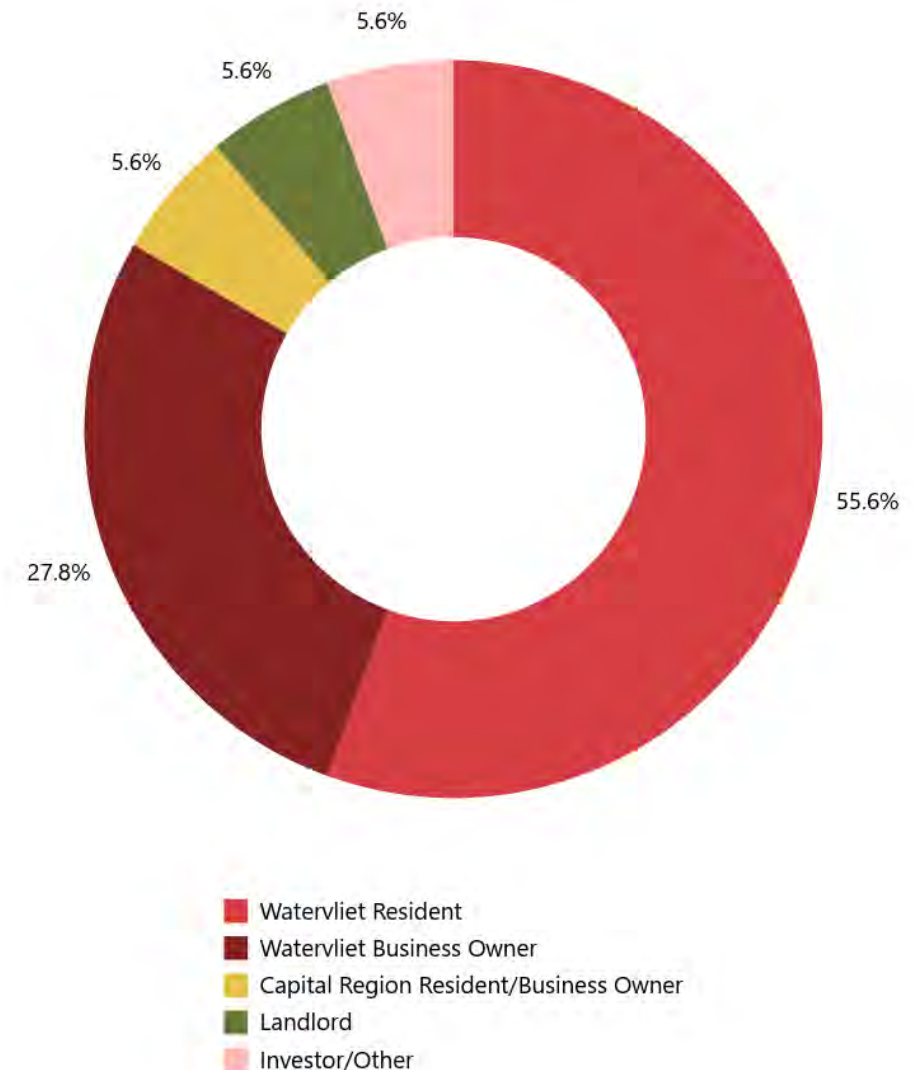
Please reference the NY Forward boundary area in the map below responding to the following questions.

NY Forward Boundary



Who Responded?

- Majority: **Watervliet residents** (including lifelong residents)
- Others: Capital Region residents, business owners, landlords, investors
- Strong representation from multi-generational families
- Mix of ages, neighborhoods, and perspectives



Top Investment Priorities



What People Love About Watervliet

- Tight-knit community & hometown pride
- Walkability and proximity to Troy, Albany, Latham
- Multi-generational roots
- Local institutions: Bob's Diner, Pat's Pub, Deacon Blues, Big Pool
- Empire State Trail and waterfront potential

"Just about everything. Lived here my entire life."

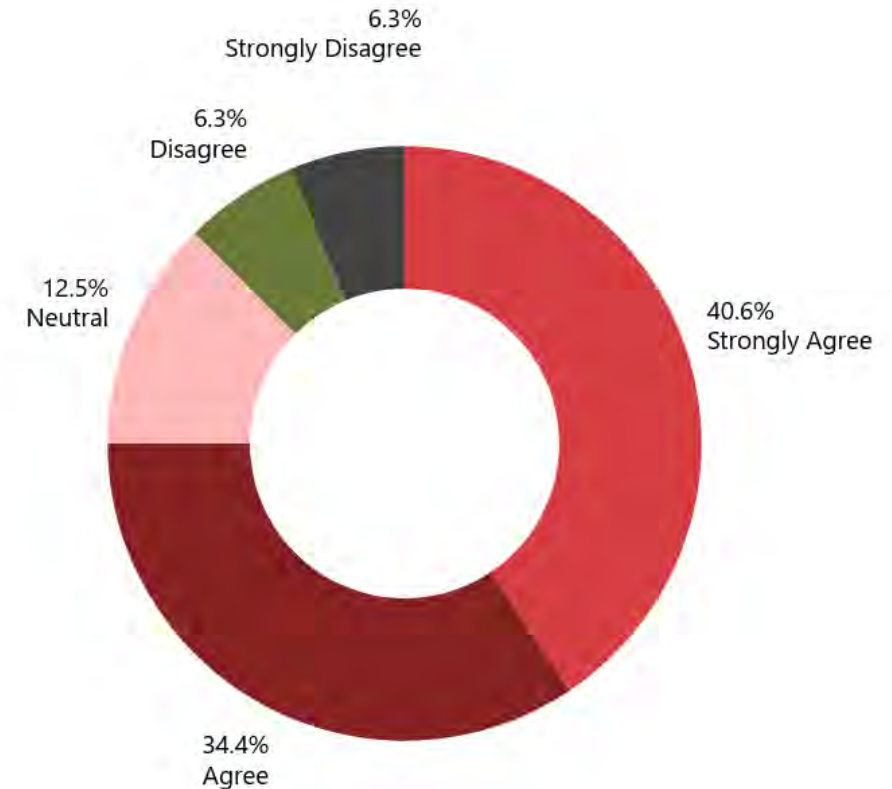
Key Concerns

- Crime and safety
- Absentee landlords & poorly maintained properties
- Youth programming gaps (ages 12–18)
- School quality and safety
- Vacant or “cheap-looking” storefronts
- Overgrown weeds, full garbage cans, lack of corridor care
- Limited waterfront access and amenities

“More garbage cans on 19th Street would help — DPW can’t do it all.”

Alignment with Vision

- Most respondents agreed with the vision and goals
- There were some concerns about the specific priorities or language used
- Respondents particularly agreed with these themes:
 - Walkability
 - Downtown Vitality
 - Waterfront Access
 - Public Safety
 - Beautification
 - Renter/Owner Balance



Alignment with Goals

- **Public priorities strongly reinforce the four goals**
- Goal 1: Resilience & Sustainability
 - Beautification, property maintenance, infrastructure concerns
- Goal 2: Parks & Waterfront Access
 - Strong desire for improved riverfront access and amenities
- Goal 3 Housing & Neighborhood Stability
 - Calls for owner-occupied housing, better property upkeep, balanced housing mix
- Goal 4 Local Economy & Downtown Vitality
 - Desire for better storefronts, more varied retail, events, nightlife, jobs

We want to hear more!

The image is a screenshot of a web browser displaying the 'Watervliet NY Forward' website. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'https://www.watervlietnyf.com'. The website has a dark red header with the title 'Watervliet NY Forward' on the left and a navigation menu on the right with links: 'Home', 'Process', 'Open Call', 'Meetings', 'Team', 'Instagram', and 'Facebook'. The main content area features an aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood. Overlaid on this image are four pink callout boxes. A green arrow points from the top of the slide to the first callout box. The first callout box on the left contains the text 'Welcome to Watervliet NY Forward!' followed by a paragraph about the NY Forward process and a 'Learn More About NY Forward' button. The other three callout boxes are on the right: the top one says 'Fill out the Watervliet NY Forward Survey!', the middle one says 'Submit the Open Call for Projects Form', and the bottom one says 'LPC Meeting #2' with the date 'August 20th, 2026', time '6:00-8:00 p.m.', and location 'Watervliet Senior Center (1501 Broadway)'. A small credit 'Photo: Stock Studios Photography' is visible at the bottom right of the aerial image.

Watervliet NY Forward

Home Process Open Call Meetings Team Instagram Facebook

Welcome to Watervliet NY Forward!

The NY Forward process, led by the New York Department of State, has awarded the City of Watervliet \$4.5M to develop a Strategic Investment Plan and implement key catalytic projects that advance the community's vision for revitalization.

[Learn More About NY Forward](#)

Fill out the Watervliet NY Forward Survey!

Submit the Open Call for Projects Form

LPC Meeting #2
August 20th, 2026
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Watervliet Senior Center
(1501 Broadway)

Photo: Stock Studios Photography

Vision and Goals

Preliminary Downtown Vision

From Application

“ Watervliet envisions a vibrant, connected city where its historic 19th Street corridor and Hudson River waterfront once again form the heart of community life. Building on its strong **working-class heritage** and strategic location within New York’s Capital Region, the City will transform its compact downtown into a lively, walkable center of business, culture, and recreation. Future investments will reconnect residents and visitors to the Hudson River through improved access to Hudson Shores Park and the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail, while a proposed pedestrian tunnel at 16th Street will knit together neighborhoods long divided by I-787. Along 19th Street and 2nd Avenue, revitalized storefronts, new housing, and enhanced streetscapes will **foster small business growth and downtown living**. Modern infrastructure, green streets, and public art will reinforce Watervliet’s identity as a **resilient, forward-looking waterfront city**. With NY Forward support, Watervliet will realize its promise as a welcoming, inclusive, and dynamic gateway where heritage meets tomorrow. ”

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Proposed Downtown Vision

Alternative 1

Watervliet envisions a future where its 19th Street corridor and waterfront are the heart of a thriving community, connected by safe and inviting streets, vibrant public spaces, diverse housing choices, and growing local businesses. Continuing a tradition of reinvention, Watervliet has transformed underutilized spaces into places of opportunity, reconnected neighborhoods to the Hudson River, and strengthened its role as a gateway between Albany, Troy, and the broader Capital Region. Investments in accessibility, sustainability, recreation, and economic opportunities have created a city that serves everyone. The result is a city as forward-looking as it is historic that exemplifies how a working-class community can write a bold new chapter of prosperity.

Alternative 2

Watervliet envisions a vibrant, connected, and welcoming city where the Hudson River is once again part of everyday life and where the next generation can build its future with pride. New investment will reconnect the community to its waterfront, create new housing opportunities for residents of all ages and incomes, and strengthen 19th Street as a vibrant center for local business and community life. Watervliet will leverage its strategic Capital Region location, rich history, and strong neighborhoods to become a model 21st century small city that embraces innovation while honoring the people and traditions that shaped it. The city will emerge as a place families choose to stay, entrepreneurs choose to invest, and visitors choose to return.

Finalized Downtown Vision

“ *Watervliet is a thriving city where the **Hudson River** is once again part of everyday life and future generations can live with pride. We will emerge as a place families choose to stay, entrepreneurs choose to invest, and visitors choose to return.*

”

Preliminary Downtown Goals

From Application

Goal 1: Strengthen resilience and sustainability through infrastructure investments and climate action.

Goal 2: Expand access to parks and the waterfront through enhanced public spaces, recreational amenities, and multimodal connections.

Goal 3: Improve housing opportunities and foster neighborhood stability to create a more walkable, inclusive community for all generations.

Goal 4: Grow a resilient and innovative local economy that creates jobs while leveraging the City's assets and role as a regional connector.



View down 2nd Avenue



Businesses along 19th Street

Preliminary Downtown Goals

From Application

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Key themes identified at Public Workshop #1

- Strengthen resilience and sustainability through maintenance friendly public realm improvements
- Improve connectivity, walkability, and pedestrian safety throughout the city and to the waterfront and parks.
- Strengthen community life through more everyday destinations and welcoming places for people to gather
- Establish stronger gateways that create a clear sense of arrival into Watervliet.
- Support housing opportunities that are accessible and well connected to services and destination

Suggested Goals

Goal: Transform Underutilized Sites into Centers of Opportunity

Redevelop vacant, underused, and obsolete properties into productive destinations that generate investment, expand the tax base, and create opportunities for residents and businesses.

Goal: Grow a Resilient and Innovative Local Economy

Support entrepreneurship, workforce development, and emerging industries while building upon Watervliet's manufacturing heritage and strategic regional location.

Goal: Celebrate Heritage While Shaping the Future

Leverage Watervliet's unique history—including its Shaker roots, canal-era development, and industrial legacy—to strengthen community identity and create authentic destinations.

Goal: Create a Dynamic Mixed-Use Downtown

Encourage investment that brings new housing, businesses, services, and public amenities to downtown while supporting a vibrant and active environment throughout the day and evening.

Goal: Build a Sustainable Future

Invest in infrastructure, public spaces, and environmental improvements that prepare Watervliet for future growth while enhancing quality of life for current residents.

Goal: Reconnect Watervliet to the Hudson River

Transform the waterfront into a visible, accessible, and active community asset by improving physical connections, expanding recreational opportunities, and creating destinations that draw residents and visitors to the river.

Goal: Strengthen Downtown as the City's Walkable Heart

Enhance 19th Street and surrounding corridors as vibrant, pedestrian-oriented destinations that support local businesses, housing, civic life, and everyday needs.

Goal: Expand Housing Choice and Neighborhood Vitality

Encourage a diverse range of housing opportunities that allow residents of all ages, incomes, and life stages to remain in Watervliet while attracting new residents to the downtown core.

Goal: Improve Connectivity Within and Beyond the City

Create safe, convenient, and accessible connections between neighborhoods, downtown, transit services, employment centers, and regional destinations.

Goal: Strengthen Community Connections

Improve connectivity between downtown, the Hudson River, and the Capital Region to increase economic opportunities and restore community ties.

Goal: Foster a Welcoming and Inclusive Community

Build upon Watervliet's strong neighborhoods and diverse population by creating public spaces, programs, and partnerships that strengthen community identity, pride, and belonging.

Finalized Goals

Goal: Make downtown more beautiful and livable.

Goal: Improve pedestrian safety and comfort.

Goal: Interconnect residents, amenities, businesses, and investment.

Goal: Establish Watervliet as an economic and cultural destination.

Goal: Enhance recreational assets and community spaces.



Aerial of Watervliet

Public Comment

Please submit comments to
WatervlietNYF@gmail.com

Local Planning Committee Q&A

Closing Remarks

Mayor Charles Patricelli

Next Steps

- ✓ Continue to support Project Sponsors working towards 9/8 due date
- ✓ Stakeholder discussions / local outreach activities
- ✓ Begin preparing for LPC Meeting 3 and Public Workshop 2
- ✓ Develop **revitalization strategies** based on agreed **vision** and **goals**

Open Call - DUE

9/8

4:00 pm

WatervlietNYF@gmail.com

or hard copy to City Hall

LPC Meeting 3

9/24

6-8 pm

Watervliet Senior
Center

Public Workshop 2

10/14

6-8 pm

Watervliet Senior
Center

Thank You!



NY Forward