



Downtown **Lowville**

The Natural Choice



»» **Downtown Revitalization Initiative**

2021 | Round 5

1

Introduction to Downtown Lowville

Lowville, *The Natural Choice*





THE BATEMAN



Overview of Downtown Lowville

REDC Region:
North Country

Municipality Name:
Village of Lowville

Downtown Name:
Lowville

County Name:
Lewis County

Point of Contact:
Mayor Joseph Beagle

Email:
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Secondary Email:
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»» **At a Glance** Downtown Lowville is on the right track. Recent public and private investment, local planning efforts, and capital infrastructure improvements have begun to spur downtown's redevelopment and have created a wave of momentum. To build on this momentum, the Village has undertaken a variety of planning initiatives to refine its vision for downtown and to identify projects that can effect positive change in Lowville. Funding from the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) would allow the Village to truly unlock Downtown Lowville's full potential.

With funding from the DRI, the Village intends to make strategic investments in projects that leverage existing cultural and recreational assets, repurpose and revitalize vacant properties, and build off recent momentum. These projects will promote economic development, catalyze tangible change, and create benefits that can be realized by all of Lowville's residents. With forward-thinking economic development policies already in place, a proven track record of administering State contracts, and a supportive and committed community, the Village of Lowville is an ideal candidate for Round 5 of the DRI.





State Street in Downtown Lowville

A Snapshot of **Downtown Lowville**



Family-Friendly Community



Businesses along State Street



Lewis County Court House Building



Outdoor Recreation Destination



Bucolic Landscapes



Small- and Family-Owned Businesses



Businesses along Shady Avenue



Downtown Lowville



St. Peter's Church



State Street Commercial Corridor

Downtown Vision

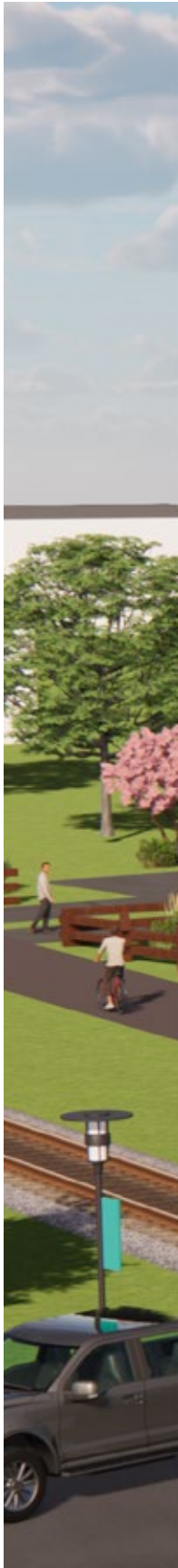
Provide a brief statement of the municipality's vision for downtown revitalization.

“**Downtown Lowville** envisions itself as a vibrant, rural community committed to maintaining a high quality of life, promoting environmental sustainability, and providing unparalleled access to outdoor recreational opportunities. The Village intends to preserve and enhance its small-town charm while diversifying its economic base and encouraging economic development that is consistent with its unique character. With the creation of an active and walkable commercial corridor, the opening of new and niche businesses, the expansion of downtown housing options, and the enhancement of recreational and quality of life amenities, the Village sees itself transforming into a thriving, family-friendly, and economically-viable place for people of all ages to live, work, and visit.”



Watch Our Video!

Click here to learn more from community members about our vision for Lowville.





Proposed Transformation of the Trinity Avenue Corridor

Justification for Downtown Lowville

Provide an overview of the downtown area nominated and the reasons for its selection.

Downtown Lowville is trending in the right direction. In recent years, the Village has secured millions in both public and private investment, has attracted businesses and jobs, and has made a concerted effort to enhance its public realm. With proven ability to administer economic development initiatives, a demonstrated need for further improvement, and the pieces in place to effect real and noteworthy transformation, Lowville has positioned itself to strategically and effectively leverage investment from the DRI. Here is what sets Lowville apart:

»» **Demonstrated Need** Lowville has been through an all too familiar economic cycle – a boom and a bust. The Village has weathered years of sustained economic depression, the deterioration of architectural assets and landscapes, and the blighting of State Street and downtown – but the community has found resolve with an infallible commitment to envisage a better future. As shown in **Section 4, Transformative Opportunities**, our vision involves a combined **\$35 million** in public and private investment through the DRI, demonstrating the Village’s need for State funding support. This infusion of funding will catalyze additional outside investment and will have a tangible and transformative impact upon downtown.





With an abundance of natural resources, thriving industry clusters, and a desirable quality of life, Lowville has fostered the ideal balance of people, prosperity, and planet.

State Street corridor in Downtown Lowville

Justification for Downtown Lowville

»» **Scenic Location** Nestled in the Black River Valley, between the foothills of the Adirondacks and the Tug Hill Plateau, Lowville is rich in natural resources and scenic viewsheds. Because of its climate, the Village is also a four-season recreation destination.

»» **Strategic Location** Lowville is strategically located just 40 miles south of the Canadian border and a day's drive from major cities like Montreal, Toronto, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Albany, and New York City. This strategic location widens Lowville's catchment area, gives it access to a large labor pool, and makes it an attractive location for businesses who want to leverage U.S. and Canadian markets. Interstate 81 and the NYS Thruway make Lowville easily accessible from anywhere in the state and State Street (Route 12/26) provides an important regional connector to destinations like Watertown, Fort Drum, Rome, and Utica.

Lewis County also has a robust public transit system, with six fixed and accessible routes throughout the county, a Lowville Village Loop, a JCC Connector Route (Watertown), a Utica Connector Route, and a seasonal Old Forge Route (summer). Recently, a Fort Drum Circuit Route was added and van pool service will be launched this fall. This transit system expands mobility options in the Village and also caters to the senior population.



Mill Creek

Justification for Downtown Lowville

»» **Thriving Industries** Lowville has proven that it is a destination for the advanced manufacturing, agricultural, natural resources, and renewable energy markets. Kraft Heinz, one of the Village's major employers and key economic drivers, recently invested \$50 million to expand its capacity and add 100 jobs locally; they are currently considering a second expansion that would add another 60 new jobs. Other major employers include Quibica AMF, the world leader in bowling pin production, and the Village's healthcare centers, which have more than doubled over the last seven years, drawing people in from the tri-county area. Further support of the Village's major employers and industry sectors as well as continued workforce development will encourage continued private investment and will positively impact the local and regional economy.



Kraft Heinz Facility

»» **Unparalleled Tourism Market** Lowville and Lewis County benefit greatly from the region's premier winter-sports tourism market. A recent report documenting the economic and fiscal impacts of snowmobiling activity on the Tug Hill Region estimates that non-local snowmobile users spend approximately \$190 per day and snowmobiling activity generates over \$400,000 in tax revenues for Lewis County per year. To ensure that these visitors stay, spend, and return to Lowville year after year, the Village – with the help of DRI funds – could better leverage its existing snowmobiling-related assets and provide additional amenities like diversified shopping and dining options to strengthen the Village's status as a snowmobiling destination.



Snowmobiling in Lowville

Justification for Downtown Lowville

»» **Recent Investment** In the last five years alone, over **\$134 million** has been invested in catalytic projects in Lowville and the surrounding area. This renewed interest in development in Lowville has created a platform for continued growth and momentum. Funding from the DRI will allow Downtown Lowville to build off these recent economic successes and will likely encourage additional private investment in its growing and diversifying economy.

»» **Community Commitment** There is a prodigious amount of volunteer supported civic, economic, and cultural committees and boards within Lowville. The frequent activity of these committees evidences community buy-in and commitment to seeing these and other revitalization initiatives through. The Village also benefits from a dedicated coalition of local business owners and investors, some of whom have already committed private funds toward their proposed projects.

The Village's successful implementation of past State contracts demonstrates organizational capacity and shows the local leadership's strong commitment to advancing the community's vision. The Village's recent \$19 million investment in infrastructure — the "Five Streets Project" which is currently replacing water and sewer lines on downtown roadways — also evidences its commitment to modernizing infrastructure, promoting walkability, and creating a strong foundation for DRI-funded placemaking projects.

“Our trails, waterfalls, kayaking, hunting, and other outdoor activities attract thousands of visitors every year. By connecting these experiences to a lively downtown, we will be able to develop our small businesses, cultivate interest, and stimulate our tourism industry.”

- Richard Chartrand, County Legislator, Lowville

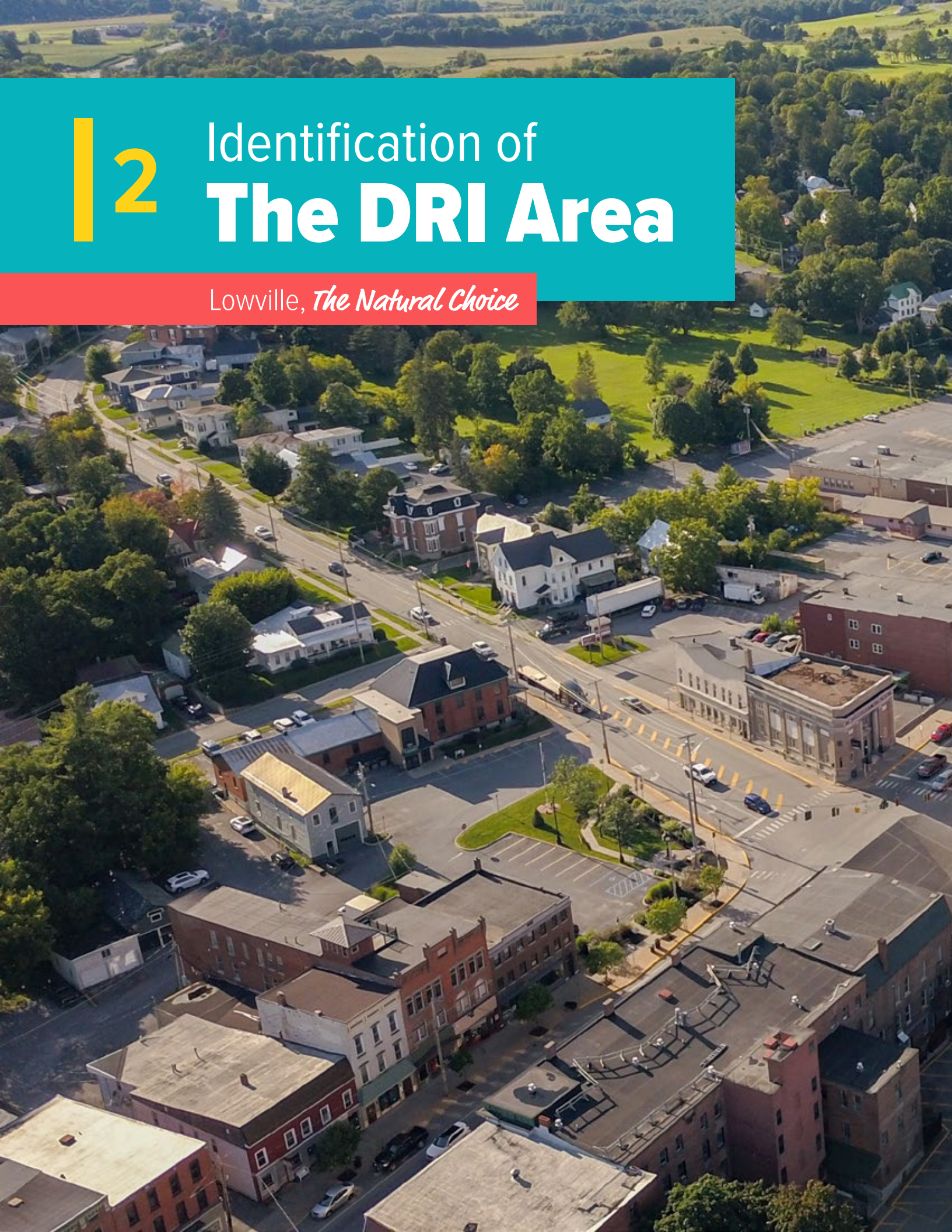


Lowville Town Clock

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Identification of The DRI Area

Lowville, *The Natural Choice*





Boundaries of The DRI Area

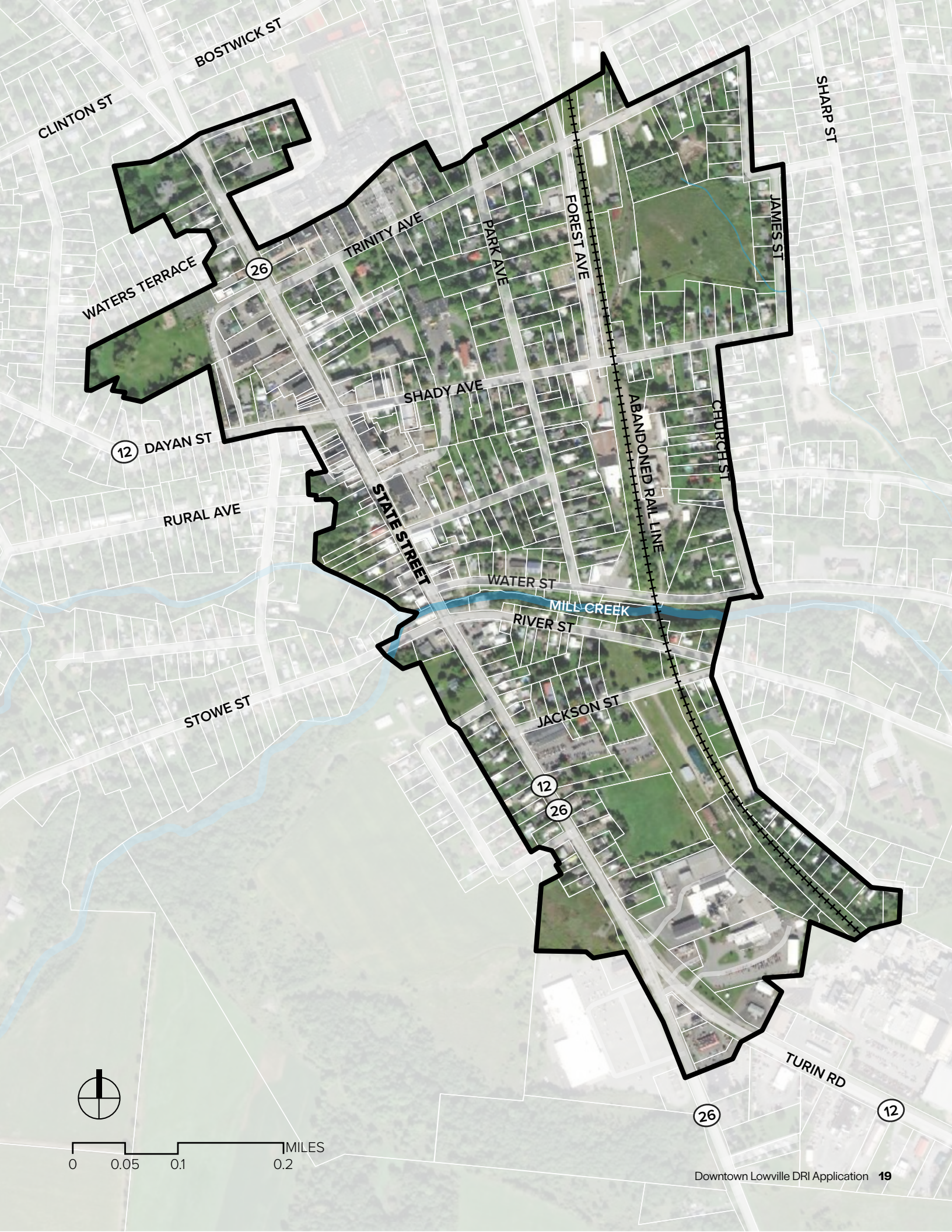
Detail the boundaries of the targeted downtown area or neighborhood.

The proposed DRI area is well-defined and compact, and concentrates investment along State Street – the Village’s main commercial corridor – which is primed for reinvestment. The DRI area is approximately 210-acres and encompasses nearly 25% of the Village’s population as well as one-third of its 280 businesses.

»» **Boundaries** The DRI area is bound to the north by Davenport Place, extends south to where Routes 12 and 26 diverge, and is bisected by Mill Creek, a tributary to the scenic Black River. State Street, an important regional connector, acts as the central spine of the DRI area. This heavily-traveled roadway is home to Lowville’s historic downtown and provides direct access to regional destinations like Watertown, Fort Drum, Rome, and Utica. The DRI area is also traversed by an inactive rail corridor, which has significant potential for redevelopment into a tourist rail line, and could connect to nearby destinations like Croghan and Carthage.



Historic Downtown Lowville



CLINTON ST

BOSTWICK ST

WATERS TERRACE

26

TRINITY AVE

PARK AVE

FOREST AVE

JAMES ST

SHARP ST

12 DAYAN ST

SHADY AVE

RURAL AVE

STATE STREET

ABANDONED RAIL LINE

GEORGE ST

WATER ST

MILL CREEK

RIVER ST

STOWE ST

JACKSON ST

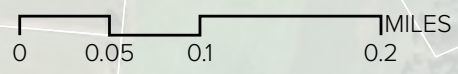
12

26

TURIN RD

26

12



Recent Downtown Investments

Describe how this DRI area will be able to capitalize on prior private and public investment and catalyze future investments in the neighborhood and its surrounding areas.

A healthy, vibrant downtown is crucial to the economic health of the village and the entire region. Several recent investments in downtown Lowville – by generating momentum, incentivizing public and private investment, and creating jobs – have established a strong base to support an infusion of DRI funding.

»» **Recent Downtown Investments** With over **\$134 million** in recent investments and another **\$35 million** in potential public and private investments through the DRI, Lowville is well-positioned to not only reinvigorate its downtown but also to further the North Country Regional Economic Development Council’s vision of leading an economic renaissance in New York State’s rural communities. Recent downtown investments are summarized in the table on the next page.



Village of Lowville Five Streets Reconstruction Project

	Project	Investment
PUBLICLY FUNDED	Five Streets Reconstruction Project (to be completed in September 2021) Replacement of water and sewer lines, addition of storm drains, curbing, and sidewalk segments, and road resurfacing on Shady Ave, Trinity Ave, Stowe St, Water St, Park Ave, and East State St.	\$ 19,000,000
	LED Streetlighting (to be completed in fall 2021) Replacement of existing streetlights with LED bulbs and energy-efficient “smart” sensors.	\$ 409,000
	Streetscape Improvements (2021 to date) Restoration of fountain, addition of planters and traffic medians, and other improvements.	\$ 45,000
	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade – Phase I (2017) Upgrades to the WWTP and creation of a 24” sewer line to support the Kraft-Heinz expansion.	\$ 3,810,000
	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade – Phase II (to be completed in 2022) Complete rebuild of the plant to extend its operational lifespan for the next 75 to 100 years.	\$ 9,200,000
	Groundwater Project (to be completed in 2022) Creation of additional wells to expand public water supply.	\$ 5,700,000
	Lewis County Jefferson Community College Education Center (2019) Collaboration between Lewis County and JCC to construct a 22,000 sqft education center.	\$ 7,000,000
	Center for Business (2019) Creation of a multi-tenant co-working and incubator space. Approved as a CDL licensing facility.	\$ 1,030,000
	Solar Array (2018) Installation of a 2.2 megawatt solar array adjacent to the Village.	\$ 3,400,000
	Lowville Producer’s Dairy COOP (2017) CFA Award of \$48,000 for the purchase of CombiFoss milk-testing equipment.	\$ 222,000
Lowville Academy & Central School Expansion (2012) Construction of a \$5.5 million multipurpose athletic complex and other capital improvements.	\$ 32,800,000	
PRIVATELY FUNDED	Kraft-Heinz Expansion (2016) Expansion of manufacturing facilities. \$20 million in funding from NYS.	\$ 50,000,000
	Placemaking Enhancements Public-private partnership between Lions Club and the Village to improve the streetscape.	\$ 400,000
	Medical Facility Upgrades Renovations to a privately operated multi-disciplinary medical facility.	\$ 1,000,000
	Bed & Breakfasts Renovations Renovations of the 1812 House and Judge’s Quarters into two new bed and breakfasts.	\$ 250,000
	Tony Harper’s Restaurant Revitalization of a vacant building into a restaurant.	\$ 200,000
	Cafe Z Facade improvements.	\$ 250,000
	Bateman Draft House New addition to the downtown State Street corridor.	\$ 20,000
	Total	\$ 134,736,000

Future Potential Investments

Describe how this DRI area will be able to capitalize on prior private and public investment and catalyze future investments in the neighborhood and its surrounding areas.

Downtown Lowville has all the elements in place – an attractive main street, a strong local economy, capable and committed leadership, invested stakeholders and business owners, and a supportive community – to transform itself into a vibrant and lively downtown. All it needs is an infusion of funding from the DRI to really catalyze this transformation and get the momentum going.

- »» **Redevelopable Sites** Downtown Lowville has a number of vacant or underutilized properties that are ripe for investment and present significant potential for redevelopment. Reactivating empty storefronts along State Street will create opportunities to bring in new businesses and reinvigorate this important commercial corridor.
- »» **Growing Workforce** Recent investments are attracting young professionals and emerging businesses to Lowville, including the relocation of certain Lewis County Health System services and a new partnership between Jefferson-Lewis BOCES and Jefferson Community College that provides an accelerated, cost-effective pathway to earning a business degree. In order to encourage these new employees and students to live downtown, the Village needs to diversify its housing stock and provide residential units and amenities that cater to this demographic. Many of the projects proposed in this application include a housing component. Increasing the supply of housing in Downtown Lowville will enable the Village to better capture these workers and to continue to provide diverse housing options to retain existing residents.





Lewis County’s Facade and Streetscape Improvement Program aims to revitalize the historic character and attractiveness of villages in the County through public and private investment. This active grant opportunity aligns with the DRI goals and will complement and strengthen future DRI investments.

Underutilized Buildings along State Street

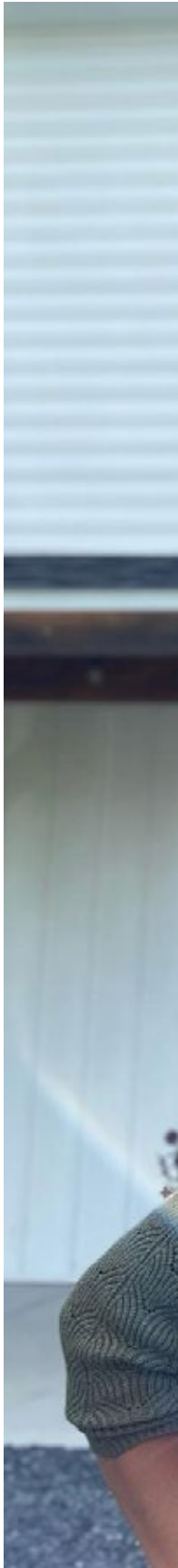
Recent and Impending Job Growth

Describe how recent or impending job growth within or near the DRI area will attract professionals to an active life in the downtown, support redevelopment, and make growth sustainable in the long-term.

Lewis County is committed to attracting new businesses and professionals to work in Lowville and the larger region, while also providing support for existing businesses.

»» **Lewis County Health Systems** A major employer and anchor institution in the Village of Lowville, Lewis County Health Systems are poised to undertake \$32.8 million in facility upgrades. Specifically, renovations to the medical-surgical inpatient floor and the construction of a new two-story surgical pavilion housing orthopedics, general surgery, and obstetrics & gynecology are planned and will significantly expand medical services, create new jobs, attract young professionals to downtown, and increase local access to healthcare.

»» **Entrepreneurial Growth** Several new small businesses, including Bateman Draft House, West Martinsburg Mercantile, PB&J Cafe, and the Farmhouse Boutique, have recently opened their doors in and surrounding the Village. These entrepreneurial pursuits — many of which are female-run or female-operated — highlight local artisans, celebrate the Village’s agricultural heritage, and diversify the Village’s retail offerings.





The Farmhouse Boutique outside the Village of Lowville

Recent and Impending Job Growth

»» **Recent Job Growth** Between 2012 and 2018, Lewis County experienced a consistent decline in its annual average unemployment rate. In 2020, the unemployment rate peaked at 7.7%, driven by the pandemic. However, the County is already recovering with a current unemployment rate of 5.9% (2021), underscoring the County’s economic resiliency and growth potential.



Developable Sites

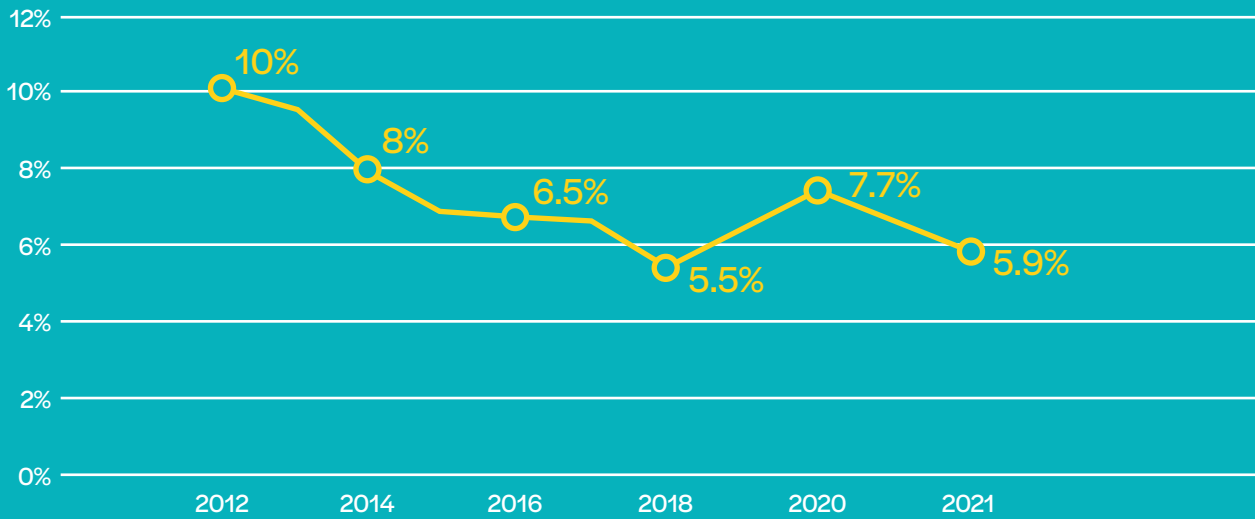
»» **Anchor Institutions** The Village of Lowville is home to over 40% of Lewis County’s employed population. Employment in the Village is anchored by a number of large institutions in the following job sectors: Healthcare and Social Assistance, Manufacturing, Educational Services, Accommodation and Food Services, and Retail Trade.

Multiple anchor employers reside in or are adjacent to the proposed DRI area including: Kraft-Heinz, Neenah Paper, Walmart, AMF, Lewis County Health Systems, the County of Lewis, Tops Market, and Lowville Academy. These anchor institutions employ a large portion of the region’s workforce and are essential partners in spurring economic development given their ability to make capital investments, create jobs, procure goods and services locally, and develop real estate.

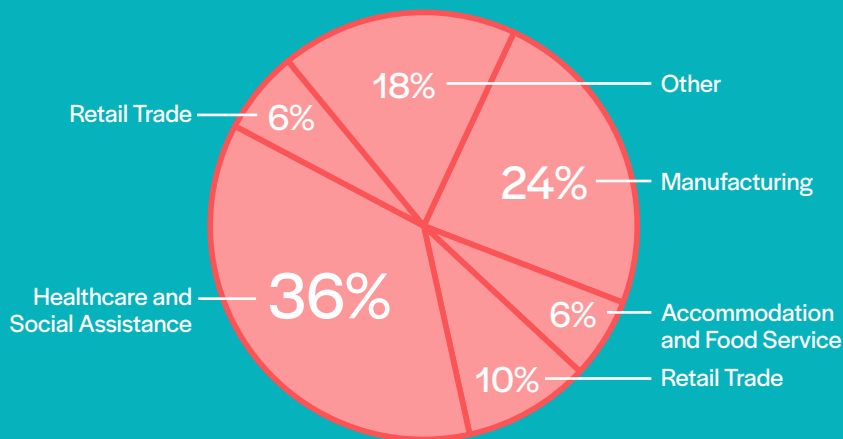


Tops Market

Average Annual Unemployment Rate, Lewis County



Percent of Jobs by Sector, Lowville



Anchor Employers, Lowville

- Lewis County Health System**
360 – 675 employees
- Kraft-Heinz**
375 – 450 employees
- County of Lewis**
280 – 300 employees
- Lowville Academy**
240 – 260 employees
- Walmart**
175 – 200 employees
- Neenah Paper**
125 – 135 employees
- Tops Market**
60 – 75 employees

Downtown Quality of Life

Identify the properties or characteristics that the DRI area possesses that contribute, or could contribute if enhanced, to the attractiveness and livability of the downtown.

As the “urban heart” of Lewis County, Lowville provides the only true downtown in the county and the Village strives to be an ideal place for people of all ages and backgrounds to live, work, and visit. DRI funding will be a necessary catalyst to achieve this vision, to further strengthen downtown’s unique sense of place, and to bolster the amenities and services that Lowville offers residents.

»» **Lively Downtown** The proposed DRI area is home to numerous historical sites, restaurants, and businesses. State Street is lined with historic buildings that form a continuous streetwall and create an inviting, human-scale environment. Through its ongoing Five Streets Project, the Village has begun to actively transform downtown – creating a more walkable, safe, and pedestrian-friendly corridor. This project sets the stage for further improvements, including the implementation of a “complete streets” policy.

The Village is committed to bringing new experiences and programming to the downtown to activate public spaces and attract visitors and retain residents. For example, the Village recently received a grant through the Pratt Northam Foundation to fund a “Music in the Park” program, which offered free concerts this past summer in Veteran’s Park. And, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Village closed Shady Avenue on weekends throughout the summer of 2020 to accommodate outdoor dining.





Shady Avenue and State Street corridors

Downtown Quality of Life

»» **Recreation** Lowville’s location in the Black River Valley, with the Adirondacks to the east and Tug Hill to the west, gives it a unique advantage – it is naturally home to four-season recreation offerings. Popular activities include: boating, fishing, kayaking, swimming, ATV riding, hiking, biking, horseback riding, bird watching, hunting, and camping. Mill Creek, which runs right through the heart of Downtown Lowville, is particularly popular with kayakers. Lowville is also a premier destination for snowmobiling, and benefits from a strong winter-sports tourism industry.



Kayaking on Mill Creek

»» **Year-Round Attractions** In addition to its four-season recreational offerings, Lowville also offers an array of year-round attractions and activities. The nationally-recognized Lowville Cream Cheese Festival brings food, games, music, and family fun downtown each September, with over 15,000 attendees annually. Tug Hill and the surrounding trail networks bring snowmobilers in the winter and the Adirondacks bring hikers and campers. During the summer, Lowville features other activities including: Food Truck Fridays, music festivals, and other events at the Lewis County Fairgrounds. These events contribute to quality of life for residents and are a major draw for visitors.



Cream Cheese Festival in Downtown Lowville

Downtown Quality of Life

»» **Historic Resources** Cultural and historic resources are essential components of a healthy local economy and they help strengthen and sustain a community's shared identity. These assets can also bring numerous economic benefits including jobs, tax revenue, and tourism.

The Village of Lowville offers a wealth of social, cultural, and historical resources. The Village boasts its own Historic District, as well as nine structures and sites that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) including the: Bateman Hotel, Franklin B. Hough House, Lewis County Fairgrounds, Lewis County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, Lowville Masonic Temple, Lowville Presbyterian Church, Old Lowville Cemetery, and Stoddard-O'Conner House. A portion of the Historic District and seven of the nine NRHP structures fall within the DRI area.

These structures and sites are unique community assets that define the Village of Lowville and give it a unique sense of place. They also draw heritage tourists to downtown.



The Bateman Apartments



Lowville Presbyterian Church



Lewis County Fairgrounds

Downtown Quality of Life

»» **Agriculture** Lewis County is ranked sixth in the state for milk production with over 27,000 cows and approximately 190 dairy farms. Dairy is not only a thriving industry, but it is the backbone of both Lowville and Lewis County. Within the Village, Kraft-Heinz and Lowville Producer's Dairy Cooperative are major drivers of the local and regional economy. In fact, Kraft-Heinz is the largest producer of cream cheese in New York State.

In 2016, the Dairy Cooperative received assistance from the Lewis County Industrial Development Agency and was awarded a NYS CFA grant of \$48,000. The State's investment allowed the Dairy Cooperative to purchase equipment that enhances the quality and efficiency of its milk production operation, resulting in a better product for consumers and enabling the company to expand its services outside of Lewis County.

A Snapshot of Agriculture in Lewis County



#1

in Christmas tree sales in New York State



#4

in maples syrup industry in New York State



625

farms in the county



98%

of farms are family-owned



292

average farm size in acres

Source: Cornell Cooperative Extension





Lowville Farmers Co-Op

Supportive Local Policies

Articulate the policies in place that increase the livability and quality of life of the downtown.

The Village is committed to providing a high quality of life for all residents, so that they are proud to call Lowville home. With the guidance of its Comprehensive Plan, the Village has implemented a variety of key strategies for enhancing livability and quality of life.

»» **Comprehensive Plan** The Town and Village of Lowville are in the process of updating their joint Comprehensive Plan (last updated in 2009), to be completed by the end of this year. The plan serves as a guide for the physical development of the community and provides a framework for growth. It also outlines specific strategies to achieve the goal of making Downtown Lowville the vibrant centerpiece of Lewis County's economy. The development of the plan has been informed by extensive engagement with citizens, business owners, and Town and Village staff and its goals and strategies are designed to benefit all community members.

»» **Commitment to Clean Energy** Lewis County is a leader in planning and implementing renewable energy projects. It is the only county in the North Country region to be certified by New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) as a Clean Energy Community and in December 2020, the County took the Climate Smart Community Pledge and formed a Climate Smart Task Force. In 2019, Lewis County adopted Local Law No. 7-2019 entitled "Energize NY Open C-PACE Financing."

The County is home to several hydropower facilities, as well as several wind farms, including the largest in the state (Maple Ridge Farm), and has pledged to act as a model for sustainable community development. Examples of the County's commitment include the installation of electric vehicle charging stations, the implementation of a LED light replacement program in partnership with NYPA, National Grid, and the Village of Lowville, and a recently formed partnership with Joule Assets to facilitate Community Choice Aggregation outreach and education. The County also invested in a 2.2 MW solar facility, which came on-line in 2018.

Supportive Local Policies

- »» **Lewis County Economic Development Strategic Plan**
The Lewis County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) updated its Lewis County Economic Development Strategic Plan in the fall of 2020 to promote business growth and expansion in Lowville and Lewis County. The plan identified major opportunities to capitalize on in the next three to five years including: developing vacant sites, promoting entrepreneurship, creatively using IDA services to facilitate business expansions, leveraging and growing the recreation and agricultural industries, and promoting Lewis County to potential residents and businesses.
- »» **Chamber of Commerce Strategic Plan** The Lewis County Chamber of Commerce updated its Strategic Plan in April of 2021 so that it can continue to support existing businesses and bring new businesses to Downtown Lowville and the rest of Lewis County.
- »» **Agricultural Plan** In May 2019, Lewis County received a grant from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to update its Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan, last completed in 2004. The updated plan promotes awareness of and strengthens agricultural practices in and around the Village.
- »» **Zoning Code** In 2015, the Village updated its Zoning Law in partnership with the Tug Hill Commission, which facilitates the implementation of a range of desirable projects in the downtown core and promotes predictability in land and building uses.

The Chamber of Commerce is committed to supporting and growing business, tourism and recreation. They believe that the communities' vibrancy centers on leveraging our strengths – our natural environment, good infrastructure and a strong history of standing together.

Supportive Local Policies

»» Unparalleled Access to Outdoor Recreation

Lewis County leads the region in terms of average snowfall and number of motorized sports clubs. Unsurprisingly, visitors to Lowville come largely for the area's plentiful snowmobiling trails. Visitors attracted by these snowmobiling trails are considered motorized recreation enthusiasts, and they often make multiple and long trips to the Tug Hill region. Many of these enthusiasts own second homes in the area, increasing their local spending and resulting in above-average economic impact in relation to other types of tourists. Compared to other counties, Lewis County has the highest number of second homes owned primarily by snowmobilers.

Snowmobiling creates significant benefit for both the region and local economy. According to a 2021 report documenting the economic and fiscal impacts of the Tug Hill Region's snowmobile activity, over \$2 million dollars in tax revenue is generated annually by snowmobile activity in the Tug Hill region. Snowmobile user spending activity provides a significant boost to the local economy, supporting 866 total jobs and resulting in over \$81 million in total sales each year. Several opportunities exist in Lowville to take further advantage of snowmobile-related assets and to ensure that visitors stay, spend, and return to the Village.

Economic Impact of Snowmobiling on the Tug Hill Region

35,254

unique snowmobile trail users per year

52%

percent of non-local snowmobile users, from outside the Tug Hill region

\$192

average daily spending of non-local snowmobile users

866

total jobs supported by snowmobile user spending

\$444,848

average annual tax revenue generated by snowmobile activity in Lewis County



Source: Economic and Fiscal Impact: Tug Hill Region's Snowmobile Activity (2021)

Supportive Local Policies

»» **Housing Needs Assessment** Lewis County is in the process of conducting a Housing Needs Assessment and Market Study, expected to be completed by April 2022. The study, which is funded by the New York State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), will analyze the existing housing stock and market in Lewis County, identify needs, and recommend strategies and initiatives to increase the diversity of housing options, meet market demands, encourage investment, and promote living in the region.



Maple Run Development

»» **Workforce Development** Recently opened in January 2019, the new Jefferson Community College (JCC) facility located immediately north of the Village of Lowville, provides skills-focused trainings and classes in partnership with the BOCES and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The goal of this facility is to provide students with workforce development resources and job training skills that can be applied to employment that is available within the Village and region.



Lewis County JCC Education Center

»» **Complete Streets** The Village, in partnership with the Tug Hill Commission, recently facilitated a Complete Streets and Community Design for Economic, Environmental and Public Health Workshops for the Village of Lowville, in anticipation of pursuing its own “complete streets” policy. Mark Fenton was the featured speaker at the workshops with discussion on how to improve accessibility and walkability along the Village’s streetscapes for people of all ages to enjoy. Lewis County also in the process of developing countywide policies and individual municipal complete streets plans.

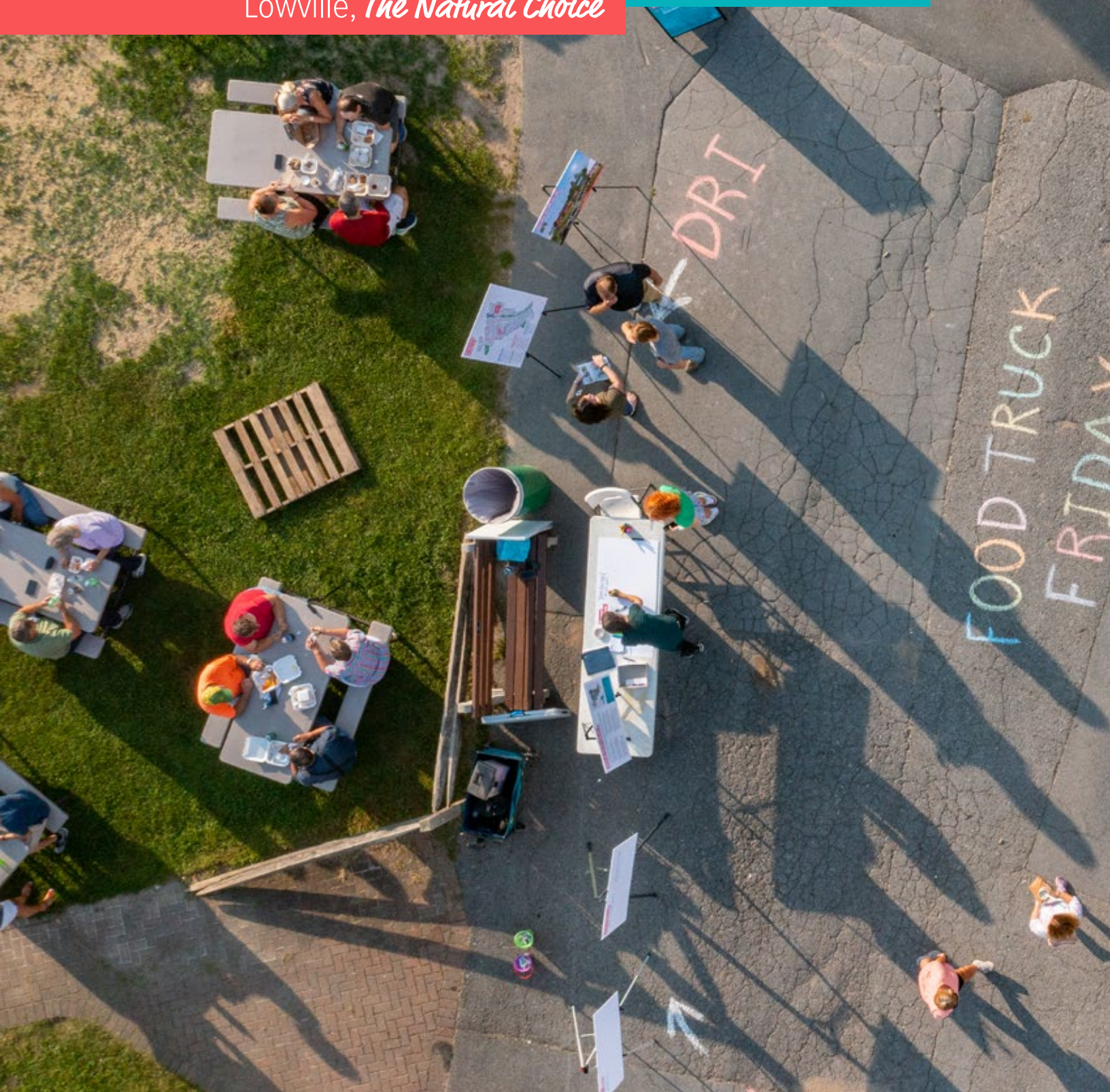


North State Street Corridor

3

Description of **Public Support**

Lowville, *The Natural Choice*



SPLASH PAD TOWN HALL
DOUBLE PLAY THEATER
COMMUNITY CENTER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DOWN COMPLETE TUGHILL
TOWN STREETS ARTISAN
TRAIL MURALS
HEAD ROASTERS
BIKE & BREW



Description of Public Support

Describe the public participation and engagement process conducted to develop the DRI application, and the support of local leaders and stakeholders for pursuing a vision of downtown revitalization.

The Downtown Lowville DRI application is the direct result of community input and the culmination of multiple recent planning projects – including the Town and Village Comprehensive Plan, Village Center Green Infrastructure Project Feasibility Study, Lewis County Survey of the Community, and the Complete Streets & Community Design for Economic, Environmental and Public Health Workshop – all of which have positioned the Village to implement this next chapter of its revitalization.

»» **Community Engagement** The Village facilitated a public outreach campaign throughout the month of August 2021 to understand the community’s vision for Downtown Lowville, solicit ideas for revitalization projects, and identify challenges that could be overcome with strategic projects. Public outreach initiatives included:

- Establishment of a webpage dedicated to the Village’s DRI application on the Naturally Lewis website to build awareness and share information;
- Distribution of a public solicitation for project proposals; and,
- Facilitation of a public pop-up event at the popular Food Truck Friday event to get community feedback on proposed projects and opportunities to make Lowville a vibrant downtown for all.





DRI Community Pop-Up Event at Food Truck Friday

Description of Public Support

- »» **Village DRI Webpage** A webpage dedicated to the Village’s DRI application was established on the Naturally Lewis website. Throughout the months of August and September 2021, this webpage provided public access to information about the DRI program and Lowville’s DRI application, a project proposal solicitation form, and notifications about upcoming public events.
- »» **Open Call for Proposals** On August 11, 2021, the Village issued an open call for project proposals to be included in its DRI application. The call for proposals was advertised in press releases, local media outlets, and on the Naturally Lewis website, and the public was encouraged to submit applications for consideration through August 30th. A total of 16 project proposals were submitted.
- »» **Community Pop-Up Event** In partnership with Lewis County, the Village of Lowville hosted a community pop-up event at the popular Food Truck Fridays event on August 27, 2021 at the Lewis County Fairgrounds. Community members learned about the Village’s DRI application, provided feedback on the proposed projects, and identified several other opportunities to improve downtown Lowville, with a focus on making downtown a lively, accessible, and safe place for all, regardless of age, income, or ability.

Community Ideas for Revitalizing Lowville

murals jobs for youth

redevelop vacant spaces

trails senior center

book store music brewery trail

activities for kids

address homelessness ice cream

coffee teen lounge

shop splash pad

more festivals

diverse food social club for people with disabilities

pool winter historic preservation

community center

bakery

dog park walkability



DRI Community Pop-Up Event at Food Truck Friday

Description of Public Support

»» **Community Survey** Feedback from the most recent Lewis County Survey of the Community, conducted in October 2020, was also incorporated into the DRI application. The survey is administered to randomly selected adults in Lewis County, with 16% of the total respondents coming from the Village of Lowville and 9% from the Town of Lowville.

Key findings from the 2020 Community Survey are summarized below:

- The quality of life offered by Lewis County was rated as excellent or good by 78% of the respondents.
- Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, 77% of respondents indicated that their personal financial situation has remained the same or improved in the past year.
- Environmental quality, education, policing and crime control, and the overall quality of life in the county continue to be the top ranked community indicators.
- The ranking of “availability of good jobs” as poor was measured at an all-time low since the beginning of this annual survey.

Overall Quality of Life in Lewis County (2020)

23% ★★★★★
excellent

55% ★★★★★
good

17% ★★★★★
fair

5% ★★★★★
poor



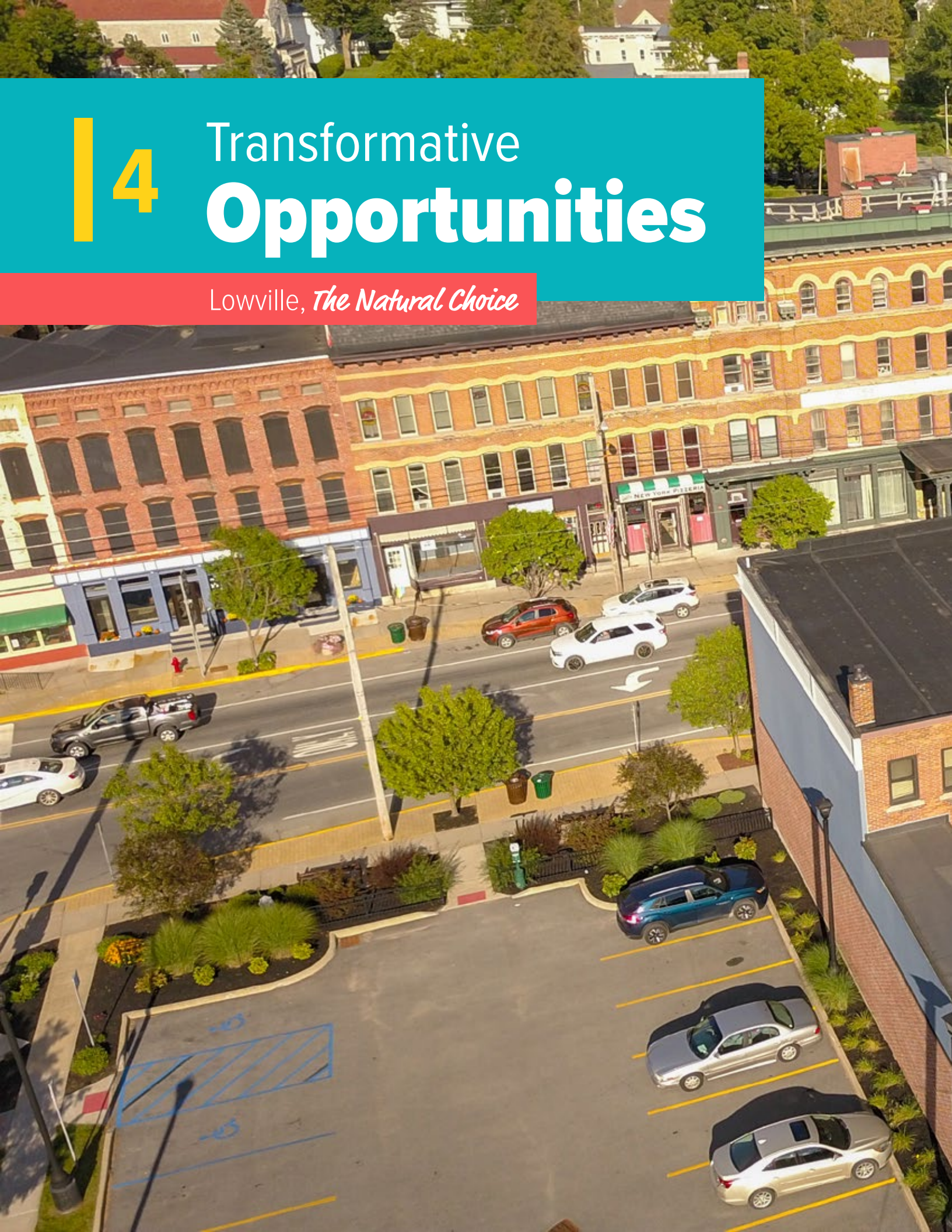


Recreation in Veteran's Park

4

Transformative Opportunities

Lowville, *The Natural Choice*





IVORY SOAP
IT
COATS.
FINE FABRIC

J. MAHONEY
GROCERIES
GROCERIES
LAMPS



Transformative Opportunities

The projects listed in the following pages are transformative opportunities that the Village believes will provide significant returns on investment through economic development and the enhancement of the public realm and quality of life in Downtown Lowville. They represent the potential for \$35 million in public and private investment, including a demonstrated need of over \$17 million in DRI funding, and the potential creation of 35 new full-time jobs. Each project has been thoughtfully planned and selected by the Village for inclusion in this application due to their strong potential to transform downtown and catalyze additional investment and development. The tight spatial clustering of these projects creates synergistic effects, allowing these strategic investments to build off and leverage each other's successes.

The projects are diverse in scope, impacting all aspects of life in Downtown Lowville including:

- »» Economic Development
- »» Tourism
- »» Quality of Life
- »» Recreation

By reinvesting in downtown, leveraging private-sector investment, capitalizing on existing assets, and building off the momentum of recent successes, these projects will help transform Downtown Lowville into a vibrant community where the next generation of New Yorkers will want to live, work, and raise families.

Economic Development

1. Skewed Brewing
2. Elements Day Spa
3. American Legion
4. The Trading Post
5. Residential Renovations
6. National Abstract
7. Mixed-Use Redevelopment
8. Tug Hill Artisan Roasters
9. Lowville Farmers Co-Op
10. PB&J Cafe and Lloyds of Lowville

Tourism

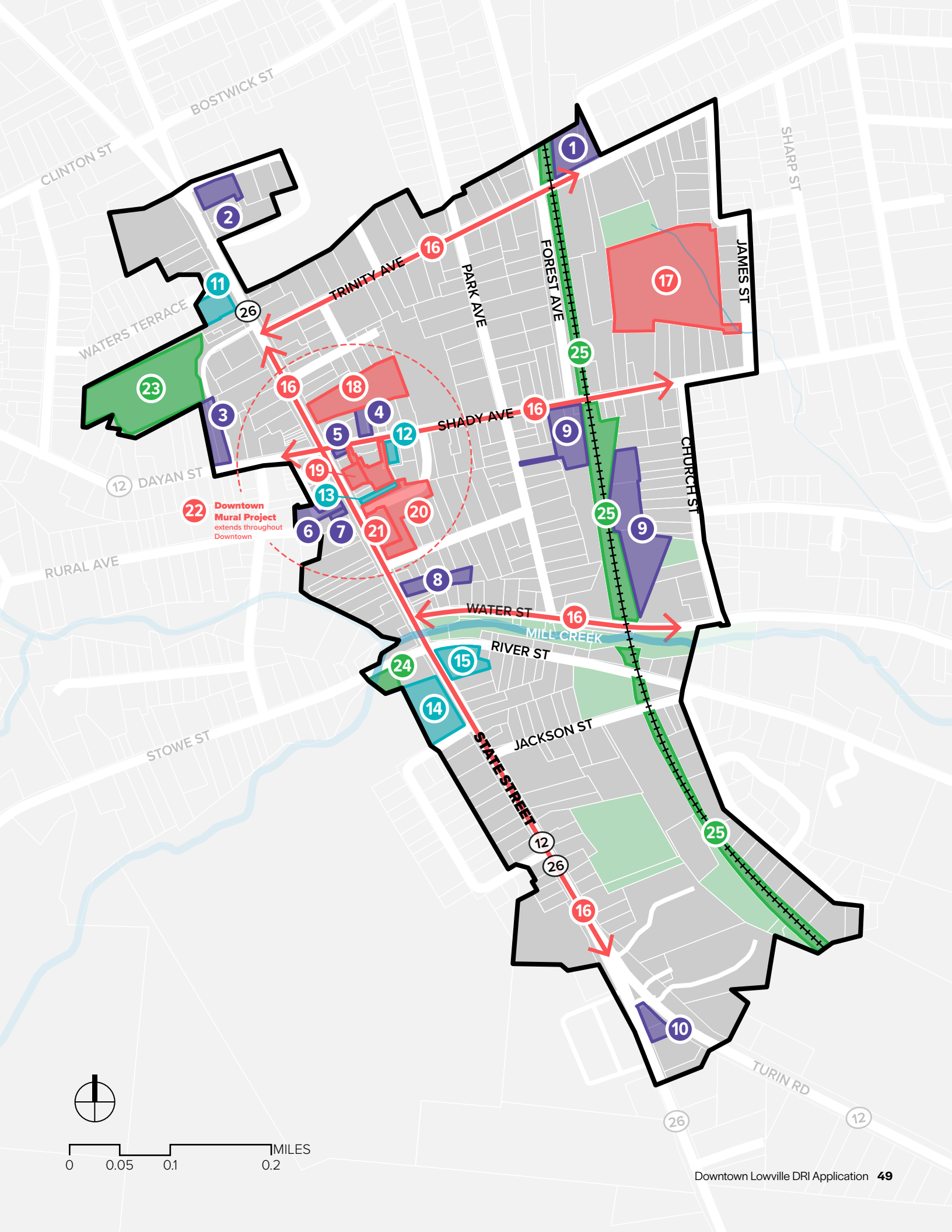
11. 1812 House
12. Town Hall Theater
13. Lewis County Historical Society
14. Judge's Quarters B&B
15. Welcome Center

Quality of Life

16. Downtown Complete Streets
17. Double Play Community Center
18. Hand in Hand Childcare
19. Bateman Apartments
20. Lowville Commons
21. Community Services Hub
22. Downtown Mural Project

Recreation

23. Veteran's Park Improvements
24. Downtown Trailhead
25. Rail-with-Trail Corridor



22 Downtown Mural Project extends throughout Downtown



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 MILES

Economic Development Projects

The following transformative projects were selected for their significant potential to support economic development in Downtown Lowville. Each project has demonstrated the ability to generate increased economic activity, retain or create jobs in Lowville, and enhance the viability and livability of downtown. These projects also have the ability to spur related development and catalyze additional private investment. They will leverage recent and ongoing economic successes and strengthen Lowville's status as an important driver and economic hub in Lewis County.

Project Metrics

Total Investment:
\$7,711,500

DRI Funds Requested:
\$4,292,900

Jobs Created:
6

Number of Projects:
10



1

Expansion at Skewed Brewing



Location: 5501 Trinity Ave

Property Owner:
Lewis County IDA

Project Sponsor:
Skewed Brewing

Project Type:
Economic Development

Jobs Created: 2 to 3 FTE

Cost Estimate: \$2,000,000

DRI Request: \$800,000

>>> Description This project adds a 8,000 square-foot expansion to the existing Skewed Brewing manufacturing facility at 5501 Trinity Avenue as well as an outdoor patio area for visitors. The expansion will allow Skewed Brewing to significantly scale production and keep up with growing demand. The outdoor patio, which will feature seating, lawn games, and nighttime lighting, will create a fun and inviting space for visitors to enjoy Skewed Brewing’s creations. This project builds on the company’s recent \$8,000 investment in upgraded electricity service to support the proposed expansion. The expansion is expected to be operational in a year, with the first shipment of products planned for fall 2022.

2

Renovations at **Elements Day Spa**



Location: 7686 N. State St.

Property Owner:

Amanda Kraeger Zehr

Project Sponsor:

Amanda Kraeger Zehr

Project Type:

Economic Development

Jobs Created: 1 FTE

Cost Estimate: \$195,000

DRI Request: \$78,000

»» **Description** Elements Day Spa is looking to expand its service offerings at 7686 North State Street. This project would create more treatment rooms to accommodate referrals from local physicians and would renovate rooms to allow for easier access for handicapped patients. New siding and insulation will be installed to improve the exterior facade and enhance energy efficiency. Additional parking, including designated handicap spaces, will be added in the rear of the building to free up parking on State Street. With DRI funding, these renovations are expected to be completed by fall 2022 or spring 2023.

3

Historic Preservation of the American Legion



Location: 5383 Dayan St.

Property Owner:
American Legion

Project Sponsor:
American Legion

Project Type:
Economic Development

Cost Estimate: \$200,000

DRI Request: \$80,000

»» **Description** The historic, 152-year-old American Legion building at 5383 Dayan Street is in need of renovations to preserve its architectural character. This project will reconstruct two historic cupolas and include heritage-appropriate treatments to the brick facade. Other improvements include a new roof and windows. The American Legion building is an iconic piece of Downtown Lowville’s streetscape and improvements here will be immediately noticeable, as the Legion is the first commercial building visitors see as they enter the Village from the west. Renovations are expected to be completed in six months.

4

Renovations at The Trading Post



Location:
5415, 5421 Shady Ave.

Property Owner:
Cedar Bridge Properties, LLC

Project Sponsor:
Cedar Bridge Properties, LLC

Project Type:
Economic Development

Cost Estimate: \$1,070,000

DRI Request: \$354,000

»» **Description** The owners of the Trading Post building are working to restore the historic structure to its original grandeur. The exterior facade will be returned to its historic condition and the interior of the building will be remodeled to accommodate future occupancy. Work will involve replacing the roof, rebuilding the rear wall, and installing new wiring, plumbing, and an elevator at 5421 Shady Avenue. This project leverages privately-funded work already begun at 5415 Shady Avenue in August 2021 including roof repairs, new windows, and updated plumbing and electrical.

5

Andromeda Project, LLC Residential Renovations



Location:

7596 S. State St.

Property Owner:

Andromeda Project, LLC

Project Sponsor:

Andromeda Project, LLC

Project Type:

Economic Development

Cost Estimate: \$110,000

DRI Request: \$44,000

»» **Description** This project restores the historic building at the corner of the highly visible State Street / Shady Avenue intersection in preparation for future residential occupation. Windows on the second and third stories of the building will be replaced along with other structural improvements. This project leverages recent investments in the building which involved structural and facade improvements at 7592 and 7594 South State Street. Together, these investments are the initial steps in renovating and prepping the building for occupancy on the second and third floors. The project can be completed in late 2022 or early 2023 dependent on funding.

6

Renovations at **National Abstract**



Location: 7557 S. State St.

Property Owner:
National Abstract

Project Sponsor:
National Abstract

Project Type:
Economic Development

Cost Estimate: \$300,500

DRI Request: \$102,500

»» **Description** The building at 7557 South State Street is one of the many late 1800s brick buildings lining South State Street. This project seeks to restore the historic elements of the original facade that have been altered or removed by past renovations. Additional elements of the project include: renovating the 2,400 square-foot second floor into office space, reconfiguring the entrance to provide private access to the first and second floor offices, and upgrading the building’s mechanical and electrical systems to meet current energy efficiency codes. Once complete, National Abstract will continue occupying the first floor office space and other tenants will be sought for the second floor offices. The restoration part of the project is expected to occur during the 2022 construction season, with the office renovations to follow.

7 Mixed-Use Redevelopment



Location:
7545, 7551 S. State St.

Property Owner:
Keller Red, LLC
(who is supportive of IDA
acquiring the property)

Project Sponsor: Lewis County
Economic Development

Project Type:
Economic Development

Cost Estimate: \$3,000,000

DRI Request: \$2,500,000

»» **Description** This project adaptively reuses the buildings at 7545 and 7551 South State Street to create a mixed office and residential development. Several existing buildings will be demolished to make way for a 12,000 square-foot, 3-story addition. The remaining portion of the existing building will be treated with facade improvements and the second and third stories will be remodeled to accommodate a makers space and four loft apartments. The lower floors of the building will house the Lewis County Industrial Development Agency/Lewis County Economic Development and co-working and conference spaces. This project creates entry-level housing options that are attractive to young professionals and fills the need for creative and co-working spaces downtown. Property acquisition and demolition is expected in 2022, with construction slated to begin in 2023.

8

Renovations at Tug Hill Artisan Roasters



Location: 7514 S. State St.

Property Owner:

Transfer of ownership underway to owner of Tug Hill Artisan Roasters

Project Sponsor:

Tug Hill Artisan Roasters, LLC

Project Type:

Economic Development

Jobs Created: 1 to 2 FTE

Cost Estimate: \$347,000

DRI Request: \$138,800

»» **Description** Tug Hill Artisan Roasters, a local coffee shop, is moving its cafe and roasting facility into the historic Old Jail and Sheriff’s Residence on South State Street. This project will restore the historic building and rebuild the original wrap-around porch. It will also create a streetfront patio space for outdoor dining. The interior of the building will be remodeled to support the roastery, bakery, cafe, and retail spaces. Other improvements include re-paving and striping the parking lot and installing an energy efficient heating system. This project leverages funding from the New York Main Street Program and the Lewis County Microenterprise Grant Fund.

»» **EV Charging Stations**

Tug Hill intends to install 3 EV charging stations in its parking lot for public use.

9 Lowville Farmers Co-Op



Location: 5500 Shady Ave.

Property Owner:
Lowville Farmers Co-Op, Inc.

Project Sponsor:
Lowville Farmers Co-Op, Inc.

Project Type:
Economic Development

Cost Estimate: \$438,000

DRI Request: \$175,200

»» **Description** The Lowville Farmers Co-Op has been a staple of the Village's economy for 101 years. In recent years, the Co-Op has been growing its sales and bringing new products to market. This project will fix leaking roofs at the Co-Op's facilities, construct a small storage expansion on the mill, repair equipment including the grain distributor, add two more grain bins for storage, and install a robotic stacker for feed bags. These improvements will increase efficiency at the production facility and allow the Co-Op to keep up with growing demand from local residents and farmers. These improvements are expected to be completed by the end of 2022 if funded.

10 Parking Improvements at PB&J Cafe and Llyods



Location:

7409 Utica Blvd,
7405 S. State St.

Property Owner:

PB&J Cafe, Lloyds of Lowville

Project Sponsor:

PB&J Cafe (with verbal
consent from Lloyds)

Project Type:

Economic Development

Cost Estimate: \$51,000

DRI Request: \$20,400

»» **Description** This project involves repaving the parking lots at PB&J Cafe and Lloyds of Lowville Diner, which have experienced continual problems with ponding and, in the winter, icy patches. Repaving these lots will make it much easier and safer for customers at both the cafe and the diner to park and access the buildings. This project also includes the addition of central air at the PB&J Cafe. The cafe and diner are located on a centrally-located lot at the southern gateway of the DRI Area, meaning that improvements here will be immediately recognizable and will help generate increased customer traffic in the area.



Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Look for projects with this color footer to see where EV charging stations are proposed!



Indicate interest in installing charging stations within the proposed DRI boundary.

»» **Addendum** In alignment with our strong commitment to sustainability and decarbonization, the Village is interested in installing several electric vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout the Downtown Lowville DRI Area. Several Village-owned lots have been identified as feasible locations for charging stations and a number of private property owners have also expressed interest in installing charging stations in their lots as well. These charging stations will be the first publicly-owned charging stations in the Village of Lowville and among the first in private lots. All will be available for public use and will encourage the environmentally-friendly and sustainability-minded practices that the Village champions, while also promoting increased economy activity at nearby businesses.

These EV charging stations, coupled with the decarbonization features included as part of many of the proposed projects and our promise to ensure that private projects adhere to the NYS Stretch Energy Code, guarantee that DRI funds will go towards sustainable projects that will improve livability in Lowville for generations to come.

Tourism Projects

The following transformative projects advance tourism in Downtown Lowville, Lewis County, and the larger region. They capitalize on Lowville’s existing assets – like its scenic beauty, its heritage, and its historic architecture – and create unique offerings that will draw visitors downtown and will promote Lowville as a destination for culture and recreation.

Project Metrics

Total Investment:
\$3,914,000

DRI Funds Requested:
\$2,923,200

Jobs Created:
5

Number of Projects:
5



11

Renovations at the 1812 House



Location: 7663 N. State St.

Property Owner:
Chris Buckingham

Project Sponsor:
Chris Buckingham

Project Type: Tourism

Jobs Created: 1 FTE

Cost Estimate: \$178,000

DRI Request: \$71,200

»» **Description** Centrally located in Downtown Lowville, this project focuses on renovating the historic 1812 House to attract new visitors, support expanded programming, and celebrate the Village’s rich historic heritage. Since opening its doors in 2017, the 1812 House and its grounds have functioned as a quaint bed and breakfast and event center, hosting weddings, reunions, and parties. This project will preserve the building’s historic features and enhance the experience and comfort of all. The proposed renovations include commercial kitchen updates, the addition of central air conditioning and utility upgrades to increase efficiency, construction of an outdoor kitchen, facade improvements, and new landscaping.

12 Renovations at the Town Hall Theater



Location: 5428 Shady Ave.

Property Owner:
Patrick O'Brien

Project Sponsor:
Patrick O'Brien

Project Type: Tourism

Cost Estimate: \$200,000

DRI Request: \$80,000

»» **Description** This project involves restoring and upgrading the historic Town Hall Theater. The first-floor facade of the building will be restored and the pre-WWII glass panels that are broken or missing will be replaced with historically-accurate replicas. Interior upgrades will include the addition of 400 new seats with built-in cup holders and some small tables. DRI funding will complement recent private investment at the theater, in particular the addition of a stage in front of the film screen which has significantly expanded the theater's potential arts and cultural programming. This project complements additional planned investments including the installation of energy-saving windows on the second floor, to be privately funded by the project sponsor.

13 Lewis County Historical Society



Location: 7552 S. State St.

Property Owner: Lewis County Historical Society

Project Sponsor: Lewis County Historical Society

Project Type: Tourism

Jobs Created: 1 to 2 FTE

Cost Estimate: \$1,096,000

DRI Request: \$1,096,000

»» **Description** This project provides for the restoration of, and heritage-appropriate improvements and upgrades to, the iconic, historic, and national register-listed Masonic Temple building in Downtown Lowville from which the Lewis County Historical Society operates its museum. Restoration work will preserve the historic character and structural integrity of the building while green technologies, including a rooftop solar array, energy efficient windows and lighting, and a green HVAC system, will improve sustainability and work towards decarbonization. These improvements will allow the Historical Society to expand its collections and programming and become a center for art, educational, cultural, and heritage tourism – all while attracting increased numbers of visitors to Downtown Lowville.

14 Judge's Quarters Bed & Breakfast



Location: 7485 S. State St.

Property Owner:
Timothy Widrick

Project Sponsor:
Timothy Widrick

Project Type: Tourism

Jobs Created: 2 FTE

Cost Estimate: \$440,000

DRI Request: \$176,000

»»» **Description** Judge's Quarters Bed and Breakfast is a historic home located at the southern edge of Downtown Lowville. This project includes the construction of two new buildings: a two-story residential building with a 900 square-foot dwelling unit on each floor, and a new carriage house with a rental unit on the second floor and snow sled/vehicular storage on the first floor. These new buildings will double the number of existing rental units available at the Judge's Quarters. Complementing these new proposed structures, this project also includes streetscape improvements along the site's South State Street frontage. With its prime location adjacent to Downtown and the Lewis County snow sled trail system, this project will provide much-needed recreational lodging, and simultaneously beautify the entrance into the Village.

15 Lewis County Welcome Center



Location: 7490 S. State St.

Property Owner:
Nortz Gerald A Inc.

Project Sponsor:
Lewis County Chamber of
Commerce

Project Type: Tourism

Cost Estimate: \$2,000,000

DRI Request: \$1,500,000

»»» **Description** This project creates a Welcome Center at the intersection of State and River Streets in the center of Downtown Lowville. The Welcome Center will provide information about local businesses and programming to visitors and is ideally located to capture snowmobilers and other recreational enthusiasts from the nearby trailheads. It will also strengthen Lowville’s status as the urban heart and central hub of Lewis County. A small outdoor plaza will host pop-up events and can be rented out for local businesses to showcase their goods and services. The Welcome Center will house several Chamber offices and a community meeting space. The Lewis County Chamber of Commerce is looking to acquire the property at 7490 South State Street, whose current owner intends to relocate, in order to facilitate implementation of this project.

Quality of Life Projects

The following transformative projects enhance quality of life in Lowville and promote downtown as a family-friendly and economically-viable place to live and work. These projects strengthen Lowville's sense of place and improve amenities like housing, education, and the arts so that residents are proud to call Lowville home. They also diversify downtown's array of healthcare and childcare services and enhance pedestrian safety in order to make Lowville more livable for existing residents and more attractive to potential residents and businesses.

Project Metrics

Total Investment:
\$21,575,000

DRI Funds Requested:
\$8,175,000

Jobs Created:
24

Number of Projects:
7

16 Downtown Complete Streets



Location: State St., Water St., Shady Ave., Trinity Ave.

Property Owner:
Village of Lowville

Project Sponsor:
Village of Lowville

Project Type: Quality of Life

Cost Estimate: \$3,500,000

DRI Request: \$3,000,000

»»» **Description** This project implements “complete streets” techniques along State Street, Water Street, Shady Avenue, and Trinity Avenue in Downtown Lowville. Improvements on State Street will emphasize streetscaping and wayfinding, with pedestrian amenities, facade enhancements, and signage that create a welcoming, cohesive, and safe environment. Connections to State Street from Water Street, Shady Avenue, and Trinity Avenue will be enhanced through ADA compliant curbs, defined bikeways, strengthened pedestrian crosswalks, streetside amenities, pedestrian lighting, and wayfinding signage. These enhancements are intended to provide options for safe, multi-modal travel, improve accessibility, and better connect the these streets and the proposed rail-with-trail corridor to State Street and Downtown.

17 Double Play Community Center



Location: 7653 Lanpher St.

Property Owner:
V.S. Virkler & Son Inc.

Project Sponsor: Double Play Community Center

Project Type: Quality of Life

Jobs Created: 20 FTE

Cost Estimate: \$13,500,000

DRI Request: \$2,000,000

»»» **Description** This project provides a new home for the Double Play Community Center and enables this long-time community resource to expand its health and wellness facilities and programs. The new site is a 7-acre vacant lot nestled in a residential area of the village, for which the project sponsor has already secured funding and worked out a purchase option with the property owner. The proposed 35,000 square-foot community center will include a stage for performances and concerts, a senior community room with kitchen, a dance room and music area, and a workforce training room. A gymnasium, indoor turf field, and walking track will also be provided. Outdoor recreational facilities include a multi-purpose athletic field, volleyball courts, a handicap accessible playground, and a trail. The proposed facility and complement of programming would be one-of-a-kind in the North Country.

18 Satellite Location Hand in Hand Childcare



Location: 7618 North St.

Property Owner:
United Methodist Church

Project Sponsor:
Hand in Hand

Project Type: Quality of Life

Jobs Created: 4 FTE

Cost Estimate: \$175,000

DRI Request: \$175,000

»» **Description** As the only childcare center in Lewis County, demand for Hand in Hand's services is high – the organization even has a wait list. In order to serve more families, Hand in Hand is planning to move its Pre-K programming to the Methodist Church, whose leaders support the proposed project. This location will provide three classrooms for sixteen kids and will free up space for younger children at its existing facility just outside the Village. It will also provide opportunities for more participation and programming and create four full-time jobs. This project will renovate the church's existing classroom space to bring it up to code and will also create a play area on site. The church kitchen will be renovated as well.

19 Apartments at the Historic Bateman Hotel



Location: 7574 S. State St.

Property Owner:
Conifer Bateman Associates

Project Sponsor:
Conifer Bateman Associates

Project Type: Quality of Life

Cost Estimate: \$2,200,000

DRI Request: \$800,000

»»» **Description** This project redevelops the upper floors of the historic Bateman Hotel into 24 apartments to provide additional downtown housing options. The project totals 13,258 square feet and creates 3 studios, 18 one-bedroom units, and 3 two-bedroom units, all of which will be affordable. The existing storefronts on the ground floor, which are presently occupied, will also be upgraded. This project leverages recent investments at the Bateman building, including a new draft house and spa on the lower floors, and the project sponsor is in the process of securing NYS/HFA Low Income Housing Tax Credits and Federal Historic Tax Credits to supplement DRI funds.

20 Lowville Commons



Location: Public parking lot behind 7550 S. State St.

Property Owner:
Village of Lowville

Project Sponsor:
Village of Lowville

Project Type: Quality of Life

Cost Estimate: \$100,000

DRI Request: \$100,000

»» **Description** This project enhances the user experience at the Lowville Commons public parking lot and better connects it to businesses along State Street and Shady Avenue. The Lowville Commons lot provides freely-available public parking within walking distance of nearby businesses in Downtown Lowville. This project will resurface and better formalize the existing lot with green infrastructure and bicycle amenities and will also create an accessible pedestrian connection between the lot, alongside the Town Hall Theatre, to Shady Avenue – as this is an often traveled pedestrian route.

»» **EV Charging Stations**
The Village is interested in including three public EV charging stations in the Lowville Commons lot.

21 Community Services Hub



Location: 7550 S. State St.

Property Owner:

North Country Transitional Living Services

Project Sponsor:

North Country Transitional Living Services

Project Type: Quality of Life

Cost Estimate: \$2,000,000

DRI Request: \$2,000,000

»» **Description** Transitional Living Services, along with Credo Community Center, The Arc, Oneida-Lewis and Mountain View Prevention Services, are looking to utilize the existing Lowville Commons facility as a Community Services Hub to better service the public and streamline care. This project would include both interior and exterior renovations necessary to house all agencies under one roof. Interior improvements to offices, clinical space, treatment rooms, and conference areas are needed as well as exterior improvements for the facade and ADA accessibility. By consolidating these agencies into one building, money will be saved and the public will have all of their community services needs met in one place. This location is ideal for both pedestrians and the Lewis County Public Transportation system.

22 Downtown Mural Project



Location:
Throughout Downtown

Property Owner:
Various

Project Sponsor:
Lewis County

Project Type: Quality of Life

Cost Estimate: \$100,000

DRI Request: \$100,000

»»» **Description** This project will commission several murals on blank walls throughout Lowville. These murals will enhance placemaking and strengthen Lowville’s identity by celebrating its history and future, creating recognizable landmarks on iconic downtown buildings, and beautifying the streetscape. Several buildings have been identified for murals including: the facade between Tony Harper’s and Dollar General, the wall of the parking lot at the corner of Dayan and South State Streets, and alongside the Lowville Commons walkway as proposed in **Project #20**. Local artists will receive preference for these commissions.

Recreation Projects

The following transformative projects leverage Lowville’s unique recreational offerings and four-season climate to promote downtown as a hub for year-round recreation. They create opportunities for both winter and summer and passive and active recreation, and cater to the area’s large community of snowmobilers and winter-sport tourists as well as to residents who want to walk their dog or ride their bike. These projects promote healthy activity and expand Lowville’s breadth of recreational offerings, contributing to quality of life and making Lowville an attractive place to live and visit.

Project Metrics

Total Investment:
\$2,100,000

DRI Funds Requested:
\$2,025,000

Number of Projects:
3

23 Improvements at Veteran's Park



Location: 5401–5407
Lowville Heights Road

Property Owner:
Village of Lowville

Project Sponsor:
Village of Lowville

Project Type: Recreation

Cost Estimate: \$500,000

DRI Request: \$500,000

»» **Description** This project enhances recreation facilities and improves pedestrian and vehicular access to Veteran's Memorial Park. New amenities will include a splash pad, upgrades to play equipment, and an accessible walking trail. Outdoor theater equipment will be purchased to allow for new programming, including "Movies in the Park" and other family events. The Parkway which connects the park to State Street will be reorganized to improve circulation and safety and enhance walkability. Green infrastructure features including bio-retention ponds, culvert day-lighting, porous pavement parking areas, and additional tree planting will be included as part of the project.

»» **EV Charging Stations**
The Village is interested in including three public EV charging stations in the Veteran's Park lot.

24 Downtown Trailhead



Location: 5446 Stowe St.

Property Owner:
Francis G. Main

Project Sponsor: Lewis County
Development Corporation

Project Type: Recreation

Cost Estimate: \$500,000

DRI Request: \$425,000

»»» **Description** This project redevelops a presently-underutilized site into a recreational trailhead. The trailhead will serve as a gateway to the county's numerous snowmobile trails in the winter and will also connect to multi-use paths in the summer. It will provide a formalized parking lot with dedicated parking for snowmobiles as well as other amenities like gas and tourism information. Gateway signage is also envisioned at the site, with an arching welcome sign that creates a unique and recognizable marker for the trailhead and also identifies Lowville as the start and endpoint for snowmobile activity in the Village and the region.

25 Lowville Rail-with-Trail



Location: Rail corridor from Kraft-Heinz to the Fairgrounds

Property Owner: Mohawk, Adirondack + Northern Railroad

Project Sponsor: Lewis County

Project Type: Recreation

Cost Estimate: \$1,100,000

DRI Request: \$1,100,000

»» **Description** This project creates a trail corridor along inactive portions of the Mohawk, Adirondack, and Northern Railroad and the Lowville Beaver River Railroad. The corridor will feature multi-use trails along both sides of the rail line which can support walking, cycling, running, skating, and other activities. The existing rail ties will also be repurposed to use for rail bikes. This project creates a regional tourism corridor by connecting local destinations, including the Lowville Depot and a farmer’s market to be created along the trail, to destinations in nearby Carthage and Croghan. It also involves the restoration of the original Lowville Depot as well as the construction of a roundhouse and turntable to display a historic steam locomotive.

15

Administrative Capacity

Lowville, *The Natural Choice*



WIS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

All Voters
Please use the
New
Courthouse
Entrance



Administrative Capacity

Describe the existing local administrative capacity to manage this planning and implementation initiative.

The Village has a proven track record of successfully executing multi-million dollar State contracts and is committed to continuing this success through the implementation of the DRI. Knowledgeable and experienced Village staff will lead the administration and execution of the project, in partnership with Lewis County and with participation from various boards, organizations, and other municipalities.

»» **Community Partners** The Village of Lowville recognizes that local capacity is fundamental to the successful implementation and long-term success of DRI projects. In partnership with Lewis County, the Village of Lowville will locally administer the DRI grant program. As the County seat, Lowville has a significant advantage with County staff and resources being easily accessible. Lewis County is committed to supporting the Village throughout the DRI planning process, project development, and project implementation. Lewis County's Planning Department partnered with the Village of Lowville to develop the Village's DRI application, and, if awarded DRI funding, the County will continue to provide staff time and resources to assist the Village in managing the DRI planning process and the implementation of public improvement and private projects.

Lewis County successfully administers a number of grant programs including NYS DOT State Operating Assistance, NYS DOT Accelerated Transit Capital, FTA 5311 Rural Transportation Funding, CARES Act Funding (all managed by Lewis County Public Transportation), NYS Septic System Replacement Funds, as well as various Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs. It also leverages funding from the Northern Border Regional Commission, New York Main Street Program, and NYS Agriculture and Markets. The County's contracts with New York State have been well-managed, delivering results within budget and on schedule. This funding has gone to transformative projects throughout Lowville and the County and Village intend to build on this momentum with an infusion of DRI funding.





Lewis County Court House

6

Letters of Support

Lowville, *The Natural Choice*





JOSEPH A. GRIFFO
SENATOR, 47TH DISTRICT
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

ALBANY OFFICE:
ROOM 414
STATE CAPITOL
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
PHONE: (518) 455-3334
FAX: (518) 426-6921

UTICA OFFICE:
207 GENESEE STREET, ROOM 438
UTICA, NEW YORK 13501
PHONE: (315) 793-9872
FAX: (315) 793-0298

EMAIL ADDRESS:
griffo@nysenate.gov

September 3, 2021

Joseph Beagle, Mayor
Village of Lowville
5535 Bostwick Street
Lowville, NY 13367

Dear Mayor Beagle:

I write in support of the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) application.

Downtown investment is critical to ensure the continued prosperity of several large, regional employers located in Lowville that support thousands of dairy, forestry, and transportation jobs throughout the area. A vibrant, livable downtown is critical to attracting the educated and talented workforce that these manufacturers depend upon.

Lowville's DRI application integrates outdoor recreation opportunities with downtown placemaking to create a regional hub for snowmobiling, hiking, biking, hunting, and many other outdoor activities. As the State continues to invest in initiatives in the Adirondacks and Tug Hill Region, the creation of an urban core with shopping, dining, and hospitality services will allow residents and visitors to take advantage of the recreational opportunities available throughout the region.

I am pleased to support Lowville's application and their efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph A. Griffo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph A. Griffo
Senator



KEN BLANKENBUSH
Assemblyman - District 117

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

MINORITY MEMBER
Insurance Committee

COMMITTEES
Agriculture
Committee on Agriculture & Conservation
Energy
Rules
Ways and Means

August 3, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my full support for the application made by the Village of Lowville for New York State's Downtown Revitalization Initiative Grant. I believe this will greatly enhance the community in several ways, summarized below, as well as provide added benefits to Lewis County and the surrounding region. I believe such growth to the community would provide economic benefits by adding to the tax base and creating jobs, along with the indirect advantages of bringing outside dollars to their existing businesses. It will also spur further development from private investors looking to commit to a vibrant and healthy community.

The village's overall focus for its revitalization campaign is to improve the village's aesthetic and living experience for current and future residents to ensure regional employers based to the village can attract the trained and talented teams they need now, and over time. As a tight knit community, I believe it is necessary to bring back the "downtown experience" that has been changing with each new generation. With Kraft Heinz, QubicaAMF and Neena Paper, three important regional manufacturers, within walking distance of downtown, and almost double the manufacturing jobs per capita of Jefferson & St. Lawrence Counties at 17 per 1,000 people, and an aging workforce, it is time for the village to attract a new demographic. With this grant village leaders hope to encourage area youths to stay or return, attract new young people to the area and continue the village's economic development. Some of the ideas that have been discussed have revolved around embracing tourism more. For example, building a visitor center and creating recreational parking and a trailhead in the center of the village to encourage snowmobilers and ATV riders to utilize the downtown amenities more easily. Others have focused on improving the housing and commercial space by removing dilapidated, unused buildings on State Street and replacing them with models that are more in line with the downtown aesthetic, offering apartment space on top levels with retail space on the ground levels. The creation of a walking and bicycle trail along the railroad tracks from Stowe Street to Maple Ridge has also created much excitement.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my full support for the Village of Lowville and their request for this funding. Now more than ever, Lewis County needs this funding to assist their recovery from the loss of revenue experienced by the pandemic. I would greatly look forward to these positive changes. Please call my district office at 315-493-3909 with any further questions about my support.

Sincerely,

Ken Blankenbush
NYS Assemblyman - District 117

TOWN OF LOWVILLE

5533 BOSTWICK STREET
LOWVILLE, NEW YORK 13367-1234
NYS TDD (800)662-1220
VOICE: (315) 376-8070 FAX: (315) 376-3099
tolclerk@centralny.twebc.com

RECEIVED

AUG 23 2021

VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

Randall A. Schell
Supervisor

Aimee Murphy, RMC
Town Clerk /Tax Collector

August 23, 2021

Village of Lowville
Attn: Mayor Joseph Beagle
5535 Bostwick Street
Lowville, NY 13367

Dear Mayor Beagle;

The Town Board of the Town of Lowville discussed the Village's proposed Downtown Revitalization Initiative at our meeting on August 19, 2021. We unanimously endorsed supporting the proposal.

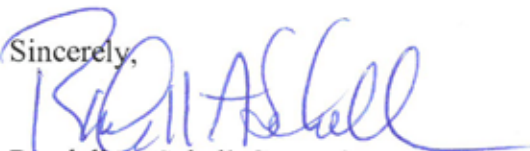
The Town of Lowville recognizes the importance of a vital, thriving downtown to the surrounding municipalities and the County of Lewis. The proposed projects will contribute to beautifying the Village and providing necessary structural and infrastructure needs that will enable the area to move into the next decade.

Recognizing the extensive rehabilitation that has already been accomplished in the past several years, the proposed DRI will build on a solid foundation of successful projects.

Please know that the Town of Lowville is ready, willing and able to assist you in these important endeavors that will improve the life and lifestyle of the residents in the greater Lowville area. Continued development of critical infrastructure will enhance the region's ability to grow small business and industry to keep Lowville in a competitive position with other jurisdictions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further assistance in this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Randall A. Schell, Supervisor
Town of Lowville



OFFICE OF LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

7660 North State Street
Lowville, New York 13367
Telephone: (315) 376-5355
Fax: (315) 376-5445

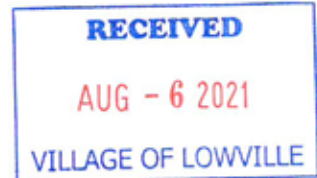
Lawrence L. Dolhof
Chairman
larrydolhof@lewiscounty.ny.gov

Ryan Piche
County Manager
ryanpiche@lewiscounty.ny.gov

Cassandra Moser
Clerk
cassandramoser@lewiscounty.ny.gov

July 30, 2021

Mr. Joseph Beagle, Mayor
Village of Lowville
5535 Bostwick Street
Lowville, NY 13367



RE: Village of Lowville Downtown Revitalization Initiative

Dear Mayor Beagle,

On behalf of the Lewis County Board of Legislators, this letter is to document our collective support of the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant application submitted to the Regional Economic Development Council.

The Board fully supports your efforts to spur economic development in the epicenter of our County. The worthwhile initiatives outlined in the application would entice pedestrian traffic and enhance business, while luring further downtown development. We certainly join your efforts to invigorate tourism, while expanding services for youth and seniors alike.

The Board of Legislators respects your visionary initiatives and urges favorable consideration for the Village of Lowville DRI application that would augment our concerted economic development efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Dolhof".

Lawrence L. Dolhof
Chairman of the Board



**OFFICE OF LEWIS COUNTY
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

5274 Outer Stowe Street
Lowville, New York 13367
Telephone: (315) 376-5858
Fax: (315) 377-3085

Patricia Fralick, MBA
Director of Community Services

Scott Mathys
Community Services Board Chair

September 7, 2021

Mr. Joseph Beagle, Mayor
Village of Lowville
5535 Bostwick Street
Lowville, NY 13367

**RE: Letter of Support for the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization
Initiative Application**

Dear Mayor Beagle:

On behalf of Lewis County Community Services we wish to express our support for the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant application submission to the Regional Economic Development Council.

By relocating and consolidating human service agencies like Transitional Living Services, along with Credo Community Center, The Arc, Oneida-Lewis, and Mountain View Prevention Services into one building, money will be saved, and the public will have their community services needs met in one convenient location. Currently the service providers are all in separate locations spanning several miles with steep hills, poorly maintained sidewalks, limited lighting and heavy vehicle traffic; making services harder to attain for those in need. Moving community services to the heart of Downtown Lowville would improve pedestrian access and could serve as a hub for the Lewis County Public Transportation system.

Revitalizing Downtown Lowville will enhance services, increase business, and add jobs, while making the region more attractive to tourism. All of this is in keeping with the premise of increasing the local economy and enhancing quality of life for those who live and work within the region, as stated in the goals of the initiative.

If our community was chosen to receive funding to revive and reinvigorate our downtown area, our organization, our clients and our community would benefit tremendously. Thank you for your consideration of the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative Round 5 Application.

Sincerely,

Patricia Fralick, MBA, CASAC
Lewis County Director of Community Services



OFFICE OF LEWIS COUNTY RECREATION, FORESTRY & PARKS

7660 North State Street
Lowville, New York 13367
Telephone: (315) 376-5972
Fax: (315) 377-3137

Jacqueline Mahoney

Director

jackiemahoney@lewiscounty.ny.gov

July 29th, 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to support the Village of Lowville's nomination for round 4 of the Department of State's Downtown Revitalization Initiative.

As you may know, Lewis County's outdoor recreation has an estimated economic impact of nearly \$160 million and the Village of Lowville is the geographical connector between the Tug Hill and Adirondack Regions. By developing this corridor and providing recreational amenities within the downtown area, the Village of Lowville will have the ability to cultivate both local and regional tourism wealth.

It is the hope of our local ATV & Snowmobile Clubs that the Village of Lowville is successful in its nomination for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative so that we can lay the foundation for tourism advancement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Mahoney".

Jacqueline Mahoney
Director



August 31 2021

7551 South State Street
Lowville NY 13367

Re: Letter of Support – Downtown Revitalization Initiative, Village of Lowville

Distinguished Members of the North County Region Economic Development Council,

On behalf of the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce, I offer my full support for the Village of Lowville's Round 5 Downtown Revitalization Initiative application requesting funds that will capitalize and improve upon our very unique Main Street.

In recent years we have been very impressed by the Village and County's support for small businesses and nonprofit organizations. They have invested in and/or matched funding to leverage many of our successful projects.

The projects on the table now are especially exciting and will directly result in more year-round activity and the bottom-line profitability of our businesses. These projects come out of a number of local planning efforts. In my opinion, the development of these projects provides a great base to build on and make us a wise place to invest the State's DRI resources. The business community, nonprofit network and deep commitment of private foundations and philanthropists has been a game changer – but we want to see public investment to leverage what the private sector is committed to doing.

Working together, this true and ongoing public-private partnership can show NY's small villages that success is within reach.

Our agency strongly endorses Lowville's application and we're ready to help in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Kristen Aucter
Executive Director
Lewis County Chamber of Commerce



September 1, 2021

Lewis County IDA
7551 S. State Street
Lowville, NY 13367

RE: Letter of Support for the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application

To whom it may concern:

Lewis County Economic Development, through its board, the IDA and its brand, Naturally Lewis, are championing the growth of a community where people want to live, work, build business and play. We foster forward thinking and relationship building, connecting people, businesses, partnerships and resources to effectively and efficiently grow our county.

On behalf of Lewis County Economic Development, I am pleased to express my support for the Village of Lowville's 2021 Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) application. Being that our agency works to attract and enhance economic progress, the Downtown Revitalization Initiative would support our 2020 three-year strategic plan; which detailed our intent to advocate for investments that build a great quality of life and collaborative plans that make Lewis County a community to thrive in. The Downtown Revitalization Initiative would allow Lowville, at the very heart of our County, to continue to build upon recent public and private investments in our community totaling over \$140 million dollars over the last decade.

My staff and I look forward to working with the Village of Lowville and supporting both public and private investments in economic development, tourism, quality of life and recreation. Thank you for your consideration of the Village of Lowville Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brittany Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Brittany Davis
Executive Director
Lewis County Economic Development/IDA

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

LOWVILLE ACADEMY and CENTRAL SCHOOL

7668 NORTH STATE STREET
LOWVILLE, NEW YORK 13367-1328

Fax: 315-376-1933 Net: www.lowvilleacademy.org

REBECCA DUNCKEL-KING
Superintendent of Schools
Telephone: 315-376-9000

SCOTT D. EXFORD
Middle School Principal
Telephone: 315-376-9010

BRIAN E. FINN
High School Principal
Telephone: 315-376-9015



PHILOMENA B. GOSS
Elementary School Principal
Telephone: 315-376-9005

August 30, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the Lowville Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant. As the Superintendent of Schools at Lowville Academy, I have the privilege of working in this quaint and unique North Country community. As population rates decline across New York State, we understand how important it is for villages to be inviting and welcoming to families who are looking for a healthy environment in which to raise their children. As a school district, we believe we are a critical factor that parents consider when looking for a place to live, but we recognize we are part of a greater community that works together to create an outstanding quality of life for families. The Lowville Downtown Revitalization Initiative will have a significant impact on efforts to maintain and grow an atmosphere that is enriching and vibrant for all residents.

As a major employer in the region, our school district is continuously searching for highly qualified educators who will have a positive impact on the educational growth of children and also be active, contributing members in our community. Providing a setting that is attractive to young professionals is essential as we recruit and compete for these recent graduates. It is important to create an environment that welcomes individuals to the north country following the completion of their education. Our young people are one of our best resources and it is our desire to support a community that draws people home.

As a district, we are very pleased to support the efforts of the Lowville Downtown Revitalization Initiative as we believe strongly this is would provide a significant, positive benefit to all of the students and families in our community. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rebecca Dunckel-King'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Dunckel-King
Superintendent of Schools



**Lewis County Historical Society
7552 S. State Street
PO Box 446
Lowville, New York 13367**

September 3, 2021

North Country Regional
Economic Development Council

Re: Letter of Support – Village of Lowville DRI Application

Dear Council Members :

The Lewis County Historical Society – one of the North Country’s premier institutions for historical preservation, educational programing and heritage tourism in Lewis County and its environs – writes to voice its full support for the Village of Lowville in its application for funding through the 5th Round of New York State’s Downtown Revitalization Initiative.

Lowville has a rich history dating back to the late 1790s, when the first settlers put down roots at a time pre-dating Lewis County’s formation. Since those early days, Lowville has been the prominent point in Lewis County due largely to its early focus on education, the entrepreneurial and spirited efforts of its merchants and businesses, the quality of life afforded its residents, its central location in the Black River valley between the western slopes of the Adirondacks

and the Tug Hill plateau, and its status as the business, municipal, transportation and cultural hub of Lewis County.

Lowville is home to the only National Historic Landmark building in Lewis County (and one of the few anywhere in northern New York) – the Franklin B. Hough House. At least seven other historic homes or sites in or around the Village’s downtown area are listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places, and there are dozens of other buildings or sites around the Village that should be. Indeed, the State has regularly recommended to us that a Historic District be created for Lowville’s downtown in the near future.

Not surprising, the Lewis County Historical Society itself is located in downtown Lowville. We own and operate out of the former Lowville Masonic Temple, a beautiful and imposing 1928 brick Colonial Revival building listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which we are in the process of restoring. We are an essential presence in the downtown Lowville streetscape, an active participant in downtown activities and our building is a community treasure.

But make no mistake, the Village of Lowville is in serious need of a revitalization of its downtown. And the application for funding through the 5th Round of New York State’s Downtown Revitalization Initiative that is being made by the Village of Lowville, if granted, stands to work economic and cultural miracles for our little village.

Not only would the funding of this program greatly improve downtown Lowville’s historic streetscape, but it would promote and stimulate heritage tourism, draw more people to the downtown core, provide an economic stimulus to the community as a whole and, perhaps most importantly, allow Village institutions to attract further investment.

DRI funding for Lowville would also have a broad reach beyond the Village’s borders. For Lowville is quite unique among its north country neighbors in that it is truly the only real downtown that exists in all of Lewis County. And we believe that no county in the State can well survive unless there is a strong central municipal core someplace – and in Lewis County, the only place for that is Lowville. As a result, we believe that strengthening Lowville’s downtown core not

only strengthens the Village of Lowville, but it strengthens Lewis County as a whole.

From the Historical Society's point of view, granting the Downtown Revitalization Initiative application of the Village of Lowville would be major step in the right direction – and we strongly support doing so.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter and hear our views.

Respectfully,



Cole Mullin
Office Manager
Lewis County Historical Society



Jonathan W. Miller
President
Lewis County Historical Society



Lewis County Agricultural Society

P.O. Box 51 • Lowville, NY 13367

www.lewiscountyfair.org

RACHEL LISK

6041 HOUSEVILLE RD.

TURIN, NY 13467

9/14/2021

RE: Letter of Support for the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application

To whom it may concern:

I am the current Fair Manager of the Lewis County Fair. The Lewis County Fairgrounds is located off of Bostwick St. on the north end of town. The Lewis County Fairgrounds is run by the Lewis County Agricultural Society and works with many different businesses in downtown Lowville as well as many other Lewis County and surrounding county businesses. With the generosity of these local businesses the Lewis County Agricultural Society has a large amount of sponsorship dollars to support the annual fair and fairgrounds from year to year.

The Lewis County Fair brings in many different visitors from the state and the country. Adults born in Lewis County who moved away are regularly found back in Lewis County, the 3rd week in July, to enjoy our fair from year to year. The Ag Society often is told that the fair is the best around, has beautiful grounds, and people from the State come to the Lewis County Fair over their own county. Our Board of Directors work tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that the fair is a success from year to year.

If the Village of Lowville is selected for the Downtown revitalization initiative, I envision the whole community benefiting. Construction on sidewalks, buildings, and the overall aesthetic of downtown will not only affect the residents of Lowville/Lewis County but will be appealing to past residents, people passing through, and visitors of the area. Businesses will thrive, the town will look put together and neat, and the community will continue to say they are from this area.



Lewis County Agricultural Society

P.O. Box 51 • Lowville, NY 13367

www.lewiscountyfair.org

With increased revenue, local businesses may then be able to sponsor more non-for-profits or at a higher sponsorship level of the organizations they already support. Smaller businesses may be able to grow and expand providing more job opportunities.

Our community is proud of being “small town”. We are proud of our history, agriculture, and close knit. As a community member and mother I know, if given this opportunity, the Village of Lowville will continue to grow. It will be a place we are proud to call home. It will be a village where we can learn, grow, work and play. Lowville will have the opportunities for residents of all ages to live their best lives.

Thank you for your consideration of the Village of Lowville Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application.

Sincerely,

Rachel Lisk

THE
LUNDY GROUP
OF COMPANIES

September 13, 2021

Joseph Beagle, Mayor
Village of Lowville
5535 Bostwick Street
Lowville, NY 13367

RE: Village of Lowville Downtown Revitalization Initiative

Dear Mayor Beagle:

On behalf of the Lundy Group of Companies, I am pleased to express my support for the Village of Lowville's 2021 Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) application.

As a local real estate developer for over 20 years, I have worked in Lewis County many times and have always found the environment welcoming to investment and growth. With the expansion of regional manufacturing and recreational tourism, I believe downtown Lowville is prime for renaissance!

I have spoken with County Manager, Ryan Piche, about the many exciting projects the community is exploring through this grant opportunity, and I am eager to continue those discussions, should the Village be awarded in this round.

We wish you the best of luck on your grant application and I hope we will continue to explore investment opportunities together soon!

Best Regards,



Michael E. Lundy, CEO
The Lundy Group of Companies



Transitional Living Services of Northern New York

482 Black River Parkway • Watertown, New York 13601 • Tel: (315) 782-1777 • Fax: (315) 785-8628

September 8, 2021

Mr. Joseph Beagle, Mayor
Village of Lowville
5535 Bostwick Street
Lowville, NY 13367

RE: Letter of Support for the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application

Dear Mayor Beagle:

On behalf Transitional Living Services of Northern New York, we wish to express our support for the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant application submission to the Regional Economic Development Council.

By relocating and consolidating human service agencies like Transitional Living Services, along with Credo Community Center, The Arc, Oneida-Lewis, and Mountain View Prevention Services into one building, money will be saved, and the public will have their community services needs met in one convenient location. Currently the service providers are all in separate locations spanning several miles with steep hills, poorly maintained sidewalks, limited lighting and heavy vehicle traffic; making services harder to attain for those in need. Moving community services to the heart of Downtown Lowville would improve pedestrian access and could serve as a hub for the Lewis County Public Transportation system.

Revitalizing Downtown Lowville will enhance services, increase business, and add jobs, while making the region more attractive to tourism. All of this is in keeping with the premise of increasing the local economy and enhancing quality of life for those who live and work within the region, as stated in the goals of the initiative.

If our community was chosen to receive funding to revive and reinvigorate our downtown area, our organization, our clients and our community would benefit tremendously. Thank you for your consideration of the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative Round 5 Application.

Sincerely,

Maureen P. Cean
Executive Director



In Partnership with United Way

Maximizing Independence Through Wellness

www.tlsnny.com

September 7, 2021

The Honorable Joseph Beagle
Village of Lowville
5535 Bostwick Street
Lowville, NY 13367

RE: Letter of Support for the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization
Initiative Application

Dear Mayor Beagle:

On behalf of The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter, we wish to express our support for the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant application submission to the Regional Economic Development Council.

By relocating and consolidating human service agencies like Transitional Living Services, along with Credo Community Center, The Arc, Oneida-Lewis, and Mountain View Prevention Services into one building, money will be saved, and the public will have their community services needs met in one convenient location. Currently the service providers are all in separate locations spanning several miles with steep hills, poorly maintained sidewalks, limited lighting and heavy vehicle traffic; making services harder to attain for those in need. Moving community services to the heart of Downtown Lowville would improve pedestrian access and could serve as a hub for the Lewis County Public Transportation system.

Revitalizing Downtown Lowville will enhance services, increase business, and add jobs, while making the region more attractive to tourism. All of this is in keeping with the premise of increasing the local economy and enhancing quality of life for those who live and work within the region, as stated in the goals of the initiative.

If our community was chosen to receive funding to revive and reinvigorate our downtown area, our organization, our clients and our community would benefit tremendously. Thank you for your consideration of the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative Round 5 Application.

Sincerely,



Karen Korotzer
CEO



**Credo Community Center
for the Treatment of Addictions, Inc.**

www.credocc.com
credo@credocc.com

WE CELEBRATE LIFE

9/7/2021

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:

595 West Main Street
Watertown, New York 13601
Phone: (315) 788-1530
Fax: (315) 755-2538

Mr. Joseph Beagle, Mayor
Village of Lowville
5535 Bostwick Street
Lowville, NY 13367

OPIATE TREATMENT SVCS:

595 West Main Street
Watertown, New York 13601
Phone: (315) 755-2033
Fax: (315) 755-2037

**RE: Letter of Support for the Village of Lowville's Downtown
Revitalization
Initiative Application**

OUTPATIENT SERVICES:

595 West Main Street
Watertown, New York 13601
Phone: (315) 788-1530
Fax: (315) 788-3794

Dear Mayor Beagle:

On behalf of Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addictions, Inc. we wish to express our support for the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant application submission to the Regional Economic Development Council.

7714 Number Three Road

Lowville, New York 13367
Phone: (315) 376-5958
Fax: (315) 376-5953

By relocating and consolidating human service agencies like Transitional Living Services, along with Credo Community Center, The Arc, Oneida-Lewis, and Mountain View Prevention Services into one building, money will be saved, and the public will have their community services needs met in one convenient location. Currently the service providers are all in separate locations spanning several miles with steep hills, poorly maintained sidewalks, limited lighting and heavy vehicle traffic; making services harder to attain for those in need. Moving community services to the heart of Downtown Lowville would improve pedestrian access and could serve as a hub for the Lewis County Public Transportation system.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES:

Intensive

24180 County Route 16
Evans Mills, New York 13637
Phone: (315) 629-4441
Fax: (315) 629-5473

Women's

1130 State Street
Watertown, New York 13601
Phone: (315) 779-1772
Fax: (315) 782-0609

Revitalizing Downtown Lowville will enhance services, increase business, and add jobs, while making the region more attractive to tourism. All of this is in keeping with the premise of increasing the local economy and enhancing quality of life for those who live and work within the region, as stated in the goals of the initiative.

COMMUNITY RESIDENCES:

Men's

417 Washington Street
Watertown, New York 13601
Phone: (315) 788-3833
Fax: (315) 788-9155

If our community was chosen to receive funding to revive and reinvigorate our downtown area, our organization, our clients and our community would benefit tremendously. Thank you for your consideration of the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative Round 5 Application.

Aftercare

138 Winthrop Street
Watertown, New York 13601
Phone: (315) 788-6881

Sincerely,



John Wilson, Executive Director



Mountain View Prevention Services

7714 Number Three Road • Lowville, New York 13367
Tel. 315 376-2321 • Fax 315 376-2347

September 8, 2021

Mr. Joseph Beagle, Mayor
Village of Lowville
5535 Bostwick Street
Lowville, NY 13367

RE: Letter of Support for the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application

Dear Mayor Beagle:

On behalf of Mountain View Prevention Services, we wish to express our support for the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant application submission to the Regional Economic Development Council.

By relocating and consolidating human service agencies like Transitional Living Services, along with Credo Community Center, The Arc, Oneida-Lewis, and Mountain View Prevention Services into one building, money will be saved, and the public will have their community services needs met in one convenient location. Currently the service providers are all in separate locations spanning several miles with steep hills, poorly maintained sidewalks, limited lighting and heavy vehicle traffic; making services harder to attain for those in need. Moving community services to the heart of Downtown Lowville would improve pedestrian access and could serve as a hub for the Lewis County Public Transportation system.

Revitalizing Downtown Lowville will enhance services, increase business, and add jobs, while making the region more attractive to tourism. All of this is in keeping with the premise of increasing the local economy and enhancing quality of life for those who live and work within the region, as stated in the goals of the initiative.

If our community was chosen to receive funding to revive and reinvigorate our downtown area, our organization, our clients and our community would benefit tremendously. Thank you for your consideration of the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative Round 5 Application.

Sincerely,


Christopher S. Paige
Executive Director



September 7, 2021

RE: Letter of Interest for the Downtown Revitalization Grant

This letter is on behalf of Hand In Hand Early Childhood Center in Lowville, NY. Hand In Hand Early Childhood Center's mission is to provide high quality care and early education for infants, wobblers, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children in a safe and nurturing environment, with responsive, loving care and enriching opportunities and experiences that are developmentally age appropriate and will also build self-esteem and independence.

Hand In Hand services over 60 families at the early childhood site as well as three afterschool programs in Lewis County which services over 100 families. Currently, Hand In Hand is the only Childcare facility in Lewis County. This means that we are limited on how many families we can meet the needs of. Hand In Hand has waiting lists for every age group and the list continues to grow daily. We are finding that many families are choosing to stay home from work because they are unable to find quality childcare for their children.

By receiving the Downtown Revitalization Grant, I am confident that Hand In Hand would be able to open a second early childhood center in the Lowville downtown corridor to service even more families. This would mean that Lewis County would be able to provide not only employment to at least 10 more people in this new center, but also would allow for more people to go back to work at the hospital, the factories, schools, and other places of employment. This will help to revitalize the economy in Lewis County because Hand In Hand would be able to offer care on non-traditional hours for our workforce who needs night time care for their children. This center would also allow for parents to utilize a drop-in service that would allow them to do shopping or appointments downtown with a safe, fun place for their children to go.

Thank you for your consideration

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jenniffer Bleakley'.

Jenniffer Bleakley
Executive Director
315-376-9414

5780 Brookside Circle
Lowville, New York 13367
PHONE (315) 376-9414
FAX (315) 376-8683

 where care and learning go hand in hand

Victoria Myers
5358 Waters Terrace
Lowville, NY 13367
9/2/21

RE: Letter of Support for the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application

To whom it may concern:

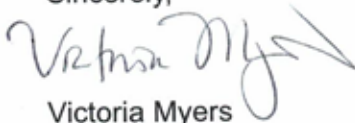
I am a special education teacher of 22 years. I have taught my entire career at Lowville Academy. I also reside in the Village of Lowville with my husband and raised our three children here. We have a real connection to the downtown area being revitalized through this grant opportunity.

As a long-time resident of the downtown area, our family has long been seeking changes and improvements to our area that would benefit small local businesses but also improve the quality of life for our county. Lowville is the man hub of the county and has great potential. What this grant would do to change our community atmosphere, opportunities for growth, and outlook for the future is historic. Between business and recreation improvements proposed we would keep many of our young people who are leaving and attract numerous young families to our village to reside! Currently, the village has numerous buildings that are in desperate need of repair and improvements. Such improvements would attract new businesses and potential residents. Likewise, our village is in desperate need of recreational improvements in ways of trails and facilities for people of all ages. Many senior citizens can not walk on these sidewalks, especially in the winter. Having a facility like the one prosed in the DRI along with the walking trails would make our village a real attraction for so many while making our lives healthier.

Receiving funds and reviving the downtown area would benefit not my family, but as a teacher, it would benefit countless students who have few opportunities for recreation and wellness in our area. Additionally, my husband is a small business owner in the village, his business would undoubtedly be improved by greater traffic and visitors to downtown with the improvements proposed.

Thank you for your consideration of the Village of Lowville Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Myers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Victoria Myers

Lowville School Teacher/Village of Lowville resident

Luke McKean
26072 Jewett Place
Calcium, NY 13616
9/2/2021

RE: Letter of Support for the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application

To whom it may concern:

I am currently in the United States Army and I have been doing an internship with Double Play Community Center for a couple of months now.

This community center gives chances to kids of all ages to discover what sport or activity they enjoy doing! The community center offers camps with all different things to do and experience. All the way from young kids to high school students. They give high school athletes ways to better themselves in the sports they love to play and make it to the next level. I have personally seen athletes train and improve drastically because of what this community center offers.

Receiving funds for the organization would greatly improve the community and families in the area. It will allow them to get more equipment and bigger facilities. This would mean they can offer to even more kids of all ages and give them more opportunities. Not only more but better opportunities as well.

Thank you for your consideration of the Village of Lowville Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application.

Sincerely,

Luke McKean

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke McKean", written in a cursive style.

Samuel Benzing
106 Girard Ave.
Watertown, NY 13601
09/02/2021

RE: Letter of Support for the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application

To whom it may concern:

I am a Personal Trainer at Double Play Community Center. As a young person that grew up in the area my entire life, I believe this revitalization would incentivize others to stay. When I turned 22, I moved slightly north to Evans Mills.

Double Play is a vital asset to the community because of their role in spreading awareness of the importance of health and fitness training. American's lifestyle has turned even more sedentary than it was prior to COVID with many working from home. The importance of regular physical activity is the highest it has ever been. There is no current place that offers any indoor sports activities in lowville currently, outside of school sports. The winter season takes up a good majority and when spring comes all of the fields are too muddy to use or taken up by high school sports.

Receiving these funds would allow Double Play to expand, opening up more fitness and sports related jobs in a town that has very little opportunity in this job sector. It would also allow for more out-of-school sports to be available.

Thank you for your consideration of the Village of Lowville Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application.

Sincerely,

Samuel Benzing

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel Benzing", written in a cursive style.

Michael J. Nichols
5532 Trinity Ave
Lowville, NY 13367
September 9, 2021

RE: Letter of Support for the Village of Lowville's Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application

To whom it may concern,

Dan Myers is a business partner of mine. More than that, he is a friend and mentor, generates unmeasurable value to the Village of Lowville. Mr. Myers and I have discussed in detail, on countless occasions, his vision for the Community Center. This is the reason why I agreed to partner with him on a different venture.

The Community Center will greatly increase value in the Village of Lowville. The building alone will increase property value. Contractors and workers will be required to build it. Materials will be required. It will also increase traffic into the Village. With the demand created by the Community Center, everyone will benefit as the Village increases supply.

More importantly though, it will add value to the youth of the Village. It will show them that anything is possible, regardless of the challenges or obstacles in front of them. The social value cannot be measured. I am not from the Village of Lowville, the Region, or even the State of New York. Originally, I am from West Virginia. I chose to stay here after I retired from the United States Army. What ultimately lead me to call Lowville home is North Country values. This is the time to live those values. Not just a Village, but also a community connected. A place where everyone can go to share in that connection.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Nichols