

GOAL 1: SUPPORT HOUSING FOR ALL LIFE STAGES AND INCOMES

1.1 Support Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

- Action: Update zoning to permit ADUs by right (with basic design/size regulations), create a streamlined permitting process, and offer educational workshops for homeowners on how to develop an ADU on their property.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Building/Code Enforcement
 - Support: Planning Board, Rural Outreach Center
- Funding Sources
 - NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR): HOME Local Program
 - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for homeowner rehab/ADU construction.
 - Federal Home Loan Bank of NY: Affordable Housing Program for small-scale rental units.
 - Local Community Foundations (e.g., Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo) for pilot ADU education/technical assistance.
- In-Kind Support
 - Housing advocates (e.g., affordable housing nonprofits) to offer homeowner education on costs, permitting, and potential rental models.

1.2 Encourage “Missing Middle” Housing

- Action: Amend zoning to allow more duplexes, triplexes, and courtyard homes near the Village core, hamlet centers, and along transportation corridors.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years) for code changes; Medium-Term (3–5 years) for project approvals
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Building/Code Enforcement
 - Support: Planning Board, Local Developers & Builders, Rural Outreach Center
- Funding Sources
 - Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) Middle-Income Housing Program (MIHP)
 - HCR Small Rental Development Initiative (SRDI)
 - HCR Affordable Housing Corporation (AHC)
 - HCR Housing Trust Fund (HTF)
 - Private foundations or local banks to create small “pre-development grants” for pilot missing-middle projects.
- In-Kind Support

- Local realtors or developers to host public info sessions on the financial feasibility of smaller-scale multi-family housing.

1.3 Facilitate Senior Housing Development

- Action: Identify and rezone targeted areas within or adjacent to the sewer district for senior living facilities; partner with developers to encourage a range of independent and assisted-living options.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years) for site identification; Medium-Term (3–5 years) for construction
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Planning Board & Town Board
 - Support: Senior Center, Housing Nonprofits, Potential Developers, Rural Outreach Center
- Funding Sources
 - NYS HCR: Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)
 - NYS HCR: Senior Housing Program for assisted-living or independent-living projects.
 - HUD Section 202 Grants for Supportive Housing for the Elderly (if a nonprofit developer is involved.)
- In-Kind Support
 - Senior Center volunteers to coordinate needs surveys, gather community input, and help with outreach.
 - Local service clubs (e.g., Rotary, Lions) to sponsor “senior-friendly” improvements or donate furnishings for new facilities.

1.4 Workforce Housing Near Commercial Centers

- Action: Amend zoning regulations to designate overlay zones or provide incentives (e.g., streamlined approvals) for developments that include workforce housing close to the Village, hamlet centers, and existing employment corridors.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years) to incorporate zoning changes; Medium-Term (3–5 years) to see projects built
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Building/Code Enforcement
 - Support: Planning Board, Local Employers, Aurora Housing Task Force (if established), Rural Outreach Center
- Funding Sources
 - NYS Empire State Development (ESD) Strategic Planning
 - Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
 - Enterprise Community Partners for workforce housing grants.
- In-Kind Support

- Planning students from local universities assisting in site inventories or feasibility analyses.

1.5 Adaptable and Universal Design Standards

- Action: Promote universal design features (ramps, wide doors, single floor living) by providing a permit fee reduction or faster review for accessible new construction or substantial rehabs.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years) for code updates; Medium-Term (3–5 years) for adoption and new builds
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Building/Code Enforcement
 - Support: Town Board, Planning Board, Local Builders
- Funding Sources
 - NYS HCR for accessible-home modifications (e.g., ramp installations).
 - HUD grants for accessible-home modifications (e.g., ramp installations).
 - AARP Community Challenge Grants for age-friendly home improvements.
- In-Kind Support
 - High school/university shops/trade classes building small ramps or specialized fixtures as community service.

1.6 Establish a Housing Rehabilitation and Preservation Support Fund.

- Action: Establish a locally administered fund, established through grant funding, to provide small grants or low-interest loans to income-qualified homeowners for home repairs, energy upgrades, and code compliance. Prioritize older housing stock and support aging-in-place for seniors.
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3–5 years)
- Responsibility
 - Lead: Town Board
 - Support: Building & Code Enforcement, Planning Board, Local Banks, Community Foundations, Rural Outreach Center, Housing Task Force (if established)
- Funding Sources:
 - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
 - NYS Affordable Housing Corporation (AHC)
 - New York Main Street Program (for Village-adjacent projects)
 - Private philanthropic grants or dedicated housing trust
- In-Kind Support
 - Assistance from local housing nonprofits (e.g., Habitat for Humanity WNY) for application processing or homeowner outreach

1.7 Housing Task Force

- Action: Establish a Housing Task Force (staff and volunteer-based) to conduct ongoing review of code changes, identify grant opportunities, and monitor rehab and preservation support fund distribution.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1 year) to form; Ongoing oversight
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board
 - Support: Planning Board, Senior Center, Housing Advocates, Rural Outreach Center
- Funding Sources
 - Philanthropic grants for training Task Force members or public outreach
- In-Kind Support
 - Local housing nonprofits provide training or templates for Task Force procedures and outreach.

GOAL 2: STRENGTHEN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND RESILIENCE

2.1 Establish a Town-wide Tree Management & Replacement Plan

- Action: Inventory street/park trees, prioritize replanting native species in areas impacted by removals and invasive species, and develop a maintenance schedule.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years) for plan development; Ongoing for implementation
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Highway Department
 - Support: Open Space Committee, CSC Task Force, Local Environmental Groups
- Funding Sources
 - NYS DEC Urban and Community Forestry Grants for tree inventories, planting, and management.
 - Arbor Day Foundation grants or corporate sponsors (e.g., utilities) for tree planting.
- In-Kind Support
 - Master Gardeners or local horticultural groups providing planting expertise.
 - Scouts or school environmental clubs volunteer for tree-planting events.

2.2 Expand Land Conservation Efforts by updating the Town's Open Space Plan

- Action: Review the Town's original Open Space Plan to identify new lands that have been conserved since and to identify new lands for future conservation. To conserve future lands, partner with the Western New York Land Conservancy, Genesee Valley Land Conservancy, and private landowners to place easements on critical agricultural or forested land.
- Timeframe: Ongoing; Evaluate priority parcels annually
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Open Space Committee
 - Support: WNY Land Conservancy, Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Funding Sources
 - NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets Farmland Protection Implementation Grants (if farmland is involved).
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Easement Programs.
 - Private land trust partnerships (e.g., Western New York Land Conservancy)
 - Philanthropic open-space grants.
- In-Kind Support
 - Land trust staff assisting with conservation easement paperwork at reduced or no cost.

2.3 Update Zoning for Micro-Farming & Homesteading

- Action: Revise code to more readily allow small-scale agriculture (poultry, crops, gardens), clarifying lot-size requirements and best practices.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years)

- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Building/Code Enforcement
 - Support: Planning Board, Local Farmers
- Funding Sources
 - NYS Department of State (DOS) Shared Municipal Services grant for code rewrites.
- In-Kind Support
 - Cornell Cooperative Extension staff advising on best practices for small-scale agriculture.

2.4 Support the Town's Climate Smart Communities Task Force

- Action: Complete and track actions required for Silver Ranking by the State's Climate Smart Communities program.
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3-5 years) for major actions; Ongoing for additional points
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: CSC Task Force
 - Support: Town Board, Building/Code Enforcement, UBRI
- Funding Sources
 - NYSEDA Clean Energy Communities Grants,
 - DEC Climate Smart Communities Grants (for advanced actions).
 - Philanthropic climate-related grants (e.g., The Nature Conservancy).
- In-Kind Support
 - University of Buffalo Research Institute (UBRI) and local environmental groups to provide research/data analysis for climate assessments.

2.5 Expand Community Gardens & Partnerships

- Action: Create or enhance garden sites in or near Town hamlets with support from Cornell Cooperative Extension and Grassroots Gardens WNY, focusing on food resilience and native pollinator plantings.
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3–5 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & CSC Task Force
 - Support: Grassroots Gardens WNY, Cornell Cooperative Extension, East Aurora Garden Club, Aurora Community Gardens
- Funding Sources
 - AARP Community Challenge mini-grants (gardens for seniors),
 - Philanthropic funders for food access programs.
- In-Kind Support
 - Master Gardeners offering free workshops, design help.
 - Churches, nonprofits, or youth groups providing labor to install raised beds.
 - Local corporate sponsors (e.g., hardware stores) donating supplies.

2.6 Develop Stormwater Runoff Policies in Growth Areas

- Action: Require stormwater impact assessments and green infrastructure measures for any new development over a certain size in designated growth zones.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Building/Code Enforcement
 - Support: Planning Board, Town Engineer, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
- Funding Sources
 - NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) Green Innovation Grant Program
 - FEMA Hazard Mitigation grants for flood reduction designs.
- In-Kind Support
 - County Soil & Water Conservation staff providing engineering guidance.
 - Local volunteers can assist with rain garden plantings or bioswale maintenance.

2.7 Limit Solar & Wind Farm Development with a Renewable Energy Siting Overlay District

- Action: Amend zoning and create a GIS-based overlay district to restrict large-scale solar/wind installations based on criteria such as agricultural soils ratings, proximity to transmission lines, and existing disturbances. The overlay should prohibit solar/wind farms on prime farmland land and direct developments instead towards brownfields, areas with less productive soils, and/or sites identified through the solar suitability analysis.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years) for code update
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Building/Code Enforcement
 - Support: Planning Board, CSC Task Force, WNY Land Conservancy, and Erie County DEP
- Funding Sources
 - NYS AG & Markets Farmland Protection Planning Grants
 - NYS DOS Smart Growth Planning Grant
 - NYSERDA Clean Energy Siting Program
- In-Kind Support
 - Agricultural Advisory Committees providing volunteer research on best practices for renewable-energy siting.

2.8 Promote Community-Scale and Agrivoltaic Solar Projects

- Action: Amend zoning to incentivize solar installations co-located with agricultural activity (agrivoltaics) and community-scale solar (under 5 MW) serving local residents. Provide design guidelines for fencing, pollinator habitats, and visual buffers.
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3–5 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Planning Board & Building/Code Enforcement

- Support: Agricultural Advisory Committee, CSC Task Force
- Funding Sources:
 - NYSERDA NY-Sun Community Solar Incentives
 - USDA REAP (Rural Energy for America Program)
- In-Kind Support:
 - Cornell Cooperative Extension for agrivoltaics best practices
 - Local farmers and solar developers for pilot projects

2.9 Complete a Town-Wide Stormwater Master Plan

- Action: Conduct a comprehensive stormwater assessment of major basins, prioritizing green infrastructure solutions (rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavements).
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years) to complete plan; Medium-Term (3–5 years) to implement priority fixes
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Engineer & Building/Code Enforcement
 - Support: Highway Department, County Soil & Water, CSC Task Force, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
- Funding Sources
 - NYS DEC Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) grants
 - NRCS Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention program
- In-Kind Support
 - University engineering departments assisting with watershed modeling.
 - CSC Task Force helping gather field data

2.10 Develop Solar Permit Streamlining and Inspection Protocols

- Action: Create clear permitting and inspection pathways for residential, farm, and commercial solar systems. Establish timelines and online forms for small-scale rooftop applications.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Building/Code Enforcement
 - Support: Town Board, NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program
- Funding Sources:
 - NYSERDA CEC Action Grants
- In-Kind Support:
 - Technical support from NYSERDA or DOS

2.11 Infrastructure & Tree Preservation Guidelines

- Action: Adopt rules mandating consultation with the Town's tree management plan prior to utility expansions or broadband line installations that involve large-scale tree trimming or removal in the public right-of-way or on public lands.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Highway Department
 - Support: Utility Providers, CSC Task Force, Tree Advisory Committee (if established)
- Funding Sources
 - NYS DEC Urban and Community Forestry Grants
- In-Kind Support
 - An established Tree Advisory Committee to draft guidelines or inspection procedures.

2.12 Become a member of FEMA's Community Rating System

- Action: Enroll the Town in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) or a similar replacement agency at the state level to earn flood insurance discounts for residents and improve local floodplain management practices. Establish a CRS Coordinator, submit a letter of interest, and implement credited activities such as public outreach, flood protection assistance, and stormwater planning.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years) to enroll; Medium-/Long-Term (3–5+ years) to achieve higher CRS classifications
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Building/Code Enforcement
 - Support: Emergency Management, CSC Task Force, Town Engineer
- Funding Sources
 - FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants
 - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Climate Smart Communities Implementation Grant
 - Town budget allocations for administrative costs
- In-Kind Support
 - Technical guidance from FEMA, UBRI, and NYS DEC regional floodplain staff
 - Volunteer support from CSC Task Force or a designated Floodplain Advisory Committee

2.13 Support Sustainable Waste Management Initiatives

- Action: Expand the Town's waste diversion efforts through initiatives such as composting programs, hazardous waste collection events, electronics recycling, and public education campaigns. Promote reduction, reuse, and recycling practices across households and small businesses.

- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years) to pilot programs; Ongoing implementation and education
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Highway Department
 - Support: CSC Task Force, Erie County Department of Environment & Planning, Local Environmental Organizations
- Funding Sources
 - NYS DEC Municipal Waste Reduction & Recycling State Assistance Grants
 - Climate Smart Communities Implementation Grant
 - Town budget for annual collection events or pilot programs
- In-Kind Support
 - Volunteer staffing for waste events and education drives
 - Partnerships with regional recyclers, compost processors, or environmental groups for training, bins, or marketing materials

GOAL 3: PRESERVE RURAL CHARACTER AND OPEN SPACES

3.1 Prohibit Flag Lots & Cul-de-Sac Developments

- Action: Amend subdivision regulations to prohibit new flag lots and cul-de-sacs; require connected or conservation-style layouts.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Building/Code Enforcement
 - Support: Planning Board
- Funding Sources
 - Municipal budget: Staff/board time.

3.2 Continue Right-to-Farm Law, Promote the Agricultural District Program & Incentivize Beginner Farmers

- Action: Provide property tax abatements or small grants for underutilized farmland when leased to small-scale or beginning farmers, promote farmers participation in the Agricultural District program, and explore partnership with Providence Farm Collective's incubator farms.
- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board
 - Support: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Erie County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board, Local Farmers
- Funding Sources
 - NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets
- In-Kind Support
 - Cornell Cooperative Extension staff offering free workshops on farmland preservation, best practices, etc.
 - Agricultural Advisory Board volunteering to review new incentives.

3.3 Map & Promote Rural Heritage Assets

- Action: Produce and distribute brochures or an interactive online map highlighting the Cazenovia Creek corridor, scenic drives, and heritage sites throughout the Town.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Historian & Tourism Committee
 - Support: Local Museums, Historical Societies
- Funding Sources
 - I LOVE NY Tourism grants
 - Erie County Cultural Funding
 - Local philanthropic or tourism-related grants.

- In-Kind Support
 - Historical societies providing historical research and writing for interpretive signs.
 - Volunteers from local scouting troops installing signage or kiosks.

3.4 Micro-Farming & Homesteading Workshops

- Action: Host seasonal workshops with Cornell Cooperative Extension on small livestock care, beekeeping, organic gardening, and orchard cultivation.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years) to launch; Ongoing
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: CSC Task Force
 - Support: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Town Board
- Funding Sources
 - USDA SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education)
 - Cooperative Extension mini-grants
 - Philanthropic support for workshop materials.
- In-Kind Support
 - Cornell Cooperative Extension educators donating time.
 - Local farmers and nursery professional volunteering as mentors or workshop hosts.

GOAL 4: INVEST IN SMART, SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

4.1 Explore Need for Targeted Sewer Expansions

- Action: Conduct feasibility studies to determine the demand and viability for sewer expansion in strategically selected areas near and adjacent to the Neighborhood Residential future land use, ensuring minimal sprawl.
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3–5 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Engineer & Town Board
 - Support: Building/Code Enforcement, Planning Board
- Funding Sources
 - NYS EFC Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grants for planning or capital costs of sewer expansions.
 - USDA Rural Development Water & Waste Disposal Loans/Grants

4.2 Adopt a Municipal Capital Facilities Plan

- Action: Develop a 5–10 year plan prioritizing upgrades government buildings and facilities
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Engineer & Highway Department
 - Support: Town Board
- Funding Sources
 - NYS DOS Local Government Efficiency Grants for multi-year capital planning.
 - Town's capital budget

4.3 Comprehensive Capital Improvements & Resiliency Planning

- Action: Incorporate climate resilience standards in the capital facilities plan (culvert upgrades, drainage channels, public EV chargers, etc.).
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years) for plan update; Medium-Term (3–5 years) for upgrades
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Engineer & Highway Department
 - Support: Town Board, CSC Task Force
- Funding Sources
 - FEMA BRIC for infrastructure upgrades.
 - NYSDEC resiliency grants for infrastructure upgrades.
 - State Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) consolidated grants for multi-benefit resiliency projects.
- In-Kind Support

- Climate Smart Community Task Force volunteers collecting data on critical infrastructure.

4.4 Expand Access to High-Speed Internet

- Action: Work with providers to extend fiberoptic lines to rural areas and promote grants or public-private partnerships to fund last-mile connections.
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3–5 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board
- Support: Broadband Providers, Economic Development Entities, ErieNet
- Funding Sources
 - Federal USDA ReConnect Program for broadband expansion in rural areas.
 - NYS Broadband Program Office grants (if coverage gaps meet criteria).
- In-Kind Support
 - Volunteer committees mapping underserved areas, surveying residents.

4.5 Expand EV Infrastructure

- Action: Install publicly available EV charging stations at libraries, parks, municipal parking lots, and offer incentives for commercial sites to add chargers.
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3–5 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Highway Department
 - Support: Private Sector, CSC Task Force
- Funding Sources
 - NYSERDA Charge Ready NY
 - DC Fast Charger grants.
 - DEC Climate Smart Communities grants for municipal EV chargers.
- In-Kind Support
 - Utility companies providing partial cost-share or free technical assistance for charging station installations.
 - Auto dealers or local EV clubs hosting demonstration events.

4.6 Define Battery Storage in Local Code and Develop BESS Use Standards

- Action: Add definitions for Battery Energy Storage Systems (Tier 1 and Tier 2) to the zoning code and develop siting, safety, setback, and screening requirements. Reference NYS Unified Solar & Storage Permit model. Prohibit battery storage in residential and conservation areas; encourage placement in the Industrial Innovation Zone.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Building/Code Enforcement
 - Support: Planning Board, CSC Task Force, Fire Districts

- Funding Sources:
 - NYSERDA Energy Storage Incentive Program
 - NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities Implementation Grant
 - FEMA BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities)
- In-Kind Support:
 - NYSERDA & NYS Fire Prevention and Control for safety training
 - Utility providers offering grid-interconnection advice

4.7 Permit Battery Storage in Industrial Zones as an Accessory or Standalone Use

- Action: Amend zoning to allow Tier 1 and 2 battery storage systems in the Industrial Innovation Zone. Coordinate permitting with utility and site readiness requirements.
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3–5 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Planning Board
 - Support: Erie County IDA, Regional Economic Development Councils
- Funding Sources:
 - Empire State Development Infrastructure Grants
 - NYS CFA Strategic Planning and Feasibility Studies
- In-Kind Support:
 - Engineering students or regional tech firms assisting with capacity assessments

4.8 Integrate Battery Storage into Emergency Preparedness and Resilience Plans

- Action: Work with emergency responders to assess the use of BESS at critical facilities (e.g., Town Hall, Senior Center). Explore microgrid feasibility to serve key community hubs.
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3–5 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: CSC Task Force & Emergency Management Coordinator
 - Support: NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities, National Grid or NYSEG
- Funding Sources:
 - FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
 - NYSERDA Microgrid/Resiliency Grants
- In-Kind Support:
 - University energy programs conducting feasibility analysis

GOAL 5: IMPROVE WALKABILITY, CONNECTIVITY, AND MOBILITY OPTIONS

5.1 Create a Town-Wide Sidewalk & Connectivity Plan

- Action: Develop a master plan identifying priority pedestrian routes (Center St to High School, Village border to Knox Farm, Mill Rd to 20A, Olean Rd from the Village to Lapham Rd).
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years) for plan; Long-Term (5+ years) for construction
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Planning Board & Highway Department
 - Support: Town Board
- Funding Sources
 - NYS DOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
 - Federal Safe Streets and Roads for All grants (SS4A) for planning-level connectivity studies.
- In-Kind Support
 - County planning staff or volunteer committees assisting with sidewalk inventories.
 - Local running/biking clubs collecting data on pedestrian needs.

5.2 Install Traffic Calming Measures

- Action: Explore use of roundabouts, raised crosswalks, speed humps, signals, and signage on roads such as Mill Rd, Center St, and Davis Rd where speeding is chronic.
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3–5 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Highway Department
 - Support: Building/Code Enforcement, Town Board
- Funding Sources
 - NYS DOT
 - Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).
 - County-level traffic safety funds or matching municipal capital budgets.
- In-Kind Support
 - Neighborhood groups supporting demonstration “pop-up” traffic calming to test designs.

5.3 Support Expansion of the Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail (ECRT)

- Action: Secure easements and funding to connect the ECRT to local parks and hamlets. Implement trailheads with signage and parking.
- Timeframe: Long-term (5+ years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board, ECRT Organization
 - Support: Highway Department, Local Landowners, ECRT
- Funding Sources

- NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) Recreational Trails Program.
- Private philanthropic grants for trail construction (e.g., Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation).
- In-Kind Support
 - Rail trail organizations or volunteers clearing brush, helping with signage.
 - Scout troops or local sports clubs doing routine trail upkeep.

5.4 Enhance the Town's Complete Streets Policy

- Action: Adopt a more robust Complete Streets Plan, including design standards for new roadway projects, crosswalks, and sidewalks.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Highway Department
 - Support: Planning Board, CSC Task Force
- Funding Sources
 - NYS DOT
 - DEC grants that encourage complete streets design (e.g.,
 - CSC funding if linked to GHG reductions).
 - AARP grants for age-friendly street improvements.
- In-Kind Support
 - Local organizations providing “walk audit” services to measure safety.

5.5 Develop a Senior & Youth Shuttle Program

- Action: Partner with NFTA and local schools to run an on-demand or fixed-route shuttle to major destinations: grocery stores, libraries, parks.
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3–5 years) to complete pilot program
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Senior Center Administration
 - Support: NFTA, Local Schools
- Funding Sources
 - NFTA partnership or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
 - Foundation grants targeting rural transit solutions (e.g., Community Foundation).
- In-Kind Support
 - Volunteer drivers or ride coordinators from senior center or youth groups.
 - Local service clubs fundraising for operating costs (fuel, insurance).

5.6 Improve Pedestrian Accessibility to Parks & Recreation

- Action: Provide safe crossings, ADA-compliant pathways, trails, and consistent signage to link neighborhoods and parks (e.g., Majors, Knox Farm, JP Nicely).
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3–5 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Highway Department & Building/Code Enforcement
 - Support: Town Board, Local Recreation Groups
- Funding Sources
 - NYS OPRHP Parks & Trails Grants for ADA-compliant access improvements.
 - Philanthropic grants i.e Ralph Wilson Foundation
 - Local capital budget lines.
- In-Kind Support
 - Disability advocacy groups advising on accessibility best practices, possibly at no charge.
 - Volunteer labor for trail clearing or small footbridge building.

5.7 Improve Accessibility with Paved, Stroller/Wheelchair-Friendly Paths

- Action: Identify priority segments around schools, parks, and older neighborhoods for smooth, accessible walking surfaces.
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3–5 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Highway Department
 - Support: Planning Board, Accessibility Advocates
- Funding Sources
 - Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for ADA path improvements.
 - State or county recreation grants, if these paths are near major recreation assets.
- In-Kind Support
 - High school shop classes or youth job programs assisting under supervision.

5.8 Safe Routes to School

- Action: Work with East Aurora Union Free School District to design and fund sidewalks, crosswalks, and traffic calming near schools in the Town and Village.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years) for planning; Medium-Term (3–5 years) for construction
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Highway Department & Town Board
 - Support: School Districts, Erie County DPW, CSC Task Force
- Funding Sources
 - NYS DOT - Federal Safe Routes to School grants
 - NYSDOT – TAP grants
 - SS4A grants for pedestrian safety near schools.

- In-Kind Support
 - School PTAs organizing “walking school bus” programs or volunteer crossing guards.

5.9 Neighborhood Greenways / Low-Traffic Streets

- Action: Identify local roads for reduced speed limits, shared-lane markings, and traffic calming to create safe “greenway” routes for walking/biking.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years) pilot; long-term (5+ years) expansion
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Highway Department & Planning Board
 - Support: Town Board, Local Residents
- Funding Sources
 - Municipal capital improvements budget
- In-Kind Support
 - Neighborhood associations helping design and install planters or signage.
 - Local artists designing creative crosswalks or street murals.

5.10 Support the development of dedicated bicycle infrastructure along Route 16 (Buffalo Road) and Girard Ave

- Action: Advance pedestrian and bicycle improvement recommendations made by the East Aurora Pedestrian and Bicycle Board along Route 16 and toward Knox Farm State Park. Additionally, Girard Ave was identified as a potential cross-village bike route that would remove bicycle and car conflicts along Main Street. Improvements may include new sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, and wayfinding signage to ensure safe, accessible routes connecting residential areas, the Village, and the Park.
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3–5 years) for planning and phased construction
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board
 - Support: Highway Department, Planning Board, East Aurora Pedestrian & Bicycle Board, Gobike, NYS DOT, Erie County DPW, CSC Task Force
- Funding Sources
 - Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grants
 - NYS DOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Programs
 - Erie County Complete Streets Implementation Support on County roads
 - Town Capital Improvement Funds
- In-Kind Support
 - Technical assistance and design input from the East Aurora Pedestrian & Bicycle Board and Gobike
 - Community volunteers for data collection, trail counts, or public outreach

GOAL 6: FOSTER A RESILIENT AND LOCALLY ROOTED ECONOMY

6.1 Support Small-Scale & Independent Businesses

- Action: Provide technical assistance and façade grant funding for local shops along key corridors (Rt 16, 20A, 240).
- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Building/Code Enforcement
 - Support: Chamber of Commerce, East Aurora Business Association
- Funding Sources
 - Empire State Development (ESD) Small Business Grants
 - Microenterprise Assistance
 - HCR NYMS Program
 - Local banks offering matching grants or micro-loans for storefront improvements.
- In-Kind Support
 - Chamber of Commerce or East Aurora Business Association providing free marketing or mentorship to new businesses.

6.2 Develop a Local Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) Program

- Action: Partner with business associations to survey local firms, identify challenges (workforce, permitting), and plan supportive solutions (micro-loans, training).
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board (Economic Dev. Liaison) & Chamber of Commerce
 - Support: Regional Workforce Boards, Local Businesses
- Funding Sources
 - Municipal budget: Staff/board time.
 - CFA grants from ESD for feasibility studies or marketing.
- In-Kind Support
 - Chamber or volunteer business councils conducting surveys and outreach.

6.3 Create a Local Food Hub or Farmers Market Pavilion

- Action: Work with small farmers and artisans to establish a covered market space near the Village or a hamlet.
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3–5 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Local Development Corporations
 - Support: Cooperative Extension, Local Farmers & Artisans
- Funding Sources
 - USDA Local Food Promotion Program
 - Farmers Market Promotion Program for building pavilions.

- Private philanthropic or corporate sponsors (e.g., grocery chains) supporting local food systems.
- In-Kind Support
 - Farmers or farm organizations volunteering oversight or management of the market.
 - Local carpenters or trade schools building market stalls.

6.4 Attract Remote Workers & Entrepreneurs

- Action: Market Aurora's lifestyle benefits; offer coworking zones with high-speed internet in public buildings. Provide business incubator grants or resources.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Chamber of Commerce
 - Support: Broadband Providers, Regional Economic Dev. Agencies
- Funding Sources
 - Municipal budget: Staff/board time.
 - USDA "placemaking" grant i.e. Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge (RPIC), Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG), etc.
 - ESD marketing grants to brand Aurora as "remote work friendly."
- In-Kind Support
 - Real estate boards, coworking operators, or librarians hosting co-working open houses or events.
 - Broadband providers donating promotional or Wi-Fi hotspots.

6.5 Leverage Tourism & Cultural Events

- Action: Expand or create new festivals and arts events to draw visitors to Main Street, promote local shops and recreational offerings (Knox Farm, ECRT).
- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Tourism Committee & Cultural Organizations
 - Support: Town Board, WNY Land Conservancy, Local volunteers, and cultural institutions
- Funding Sources
 - I LOVE NY tourism grants
 - Market New York (ESD) to promote festivals.
 - Arts Council grants for performance, music, or arts festivals (e.g., DEC decentralization grants).

6.6 Shared Commercial Kitchen & Maker Space

- Action: Identify a location near the Village or a hamlet center to develop a co-op kitchen for start-up bakers, caterers, or farm-based value-added producers.
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3–5 years) to secure site/funding

- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Local Development Corporations
 - Support: Cooperative Extension, Private Investors, Culinary Institutes
- Funding Sources
 - USDA Rural Business Development Grants
 - Private philanthropic
 - Regional economic dev. grants for “food innovation hubs.”
- In-Kind Support
 - Culinary schools/chefs volunteering to teach classes or provide equipment.
 - Local building owners donating underused space for pilot projects.

6.7 Coworking Corners

- Action: Repurpose space in the library, senior center, or municipal buildings into coworking stations offering reliable internet, desks, and meeting rooms.
- Timeframe: Short-Term (1–2 years)
- Responsibility:
 - Lead: Town Board & Library Administration
 - Support: Broadband Providers, Local Nonprofits
- Funding Sources
 - Libraries can apply for Library Construction Grants from NYS Education Department for expansions.
- In-Kind Support
 - Tech companies donating computers or Wi-Fi gear.
 - Volunteers staffing or cleaning coworking corners during off-hours.

6.8 Provide areas conducive to light industrial and manufacturing businesses

- Action: Promote the reuse and revitalization of the Town’s underutilized Industrial Zoning District by attracting light industrial and manufacturing businesses. Update zoning as needed to support clean, small-scale industry, improve infrastructure readiness, and actively market sites to site selectors and economic development agencies.
- Timeframe: Medium-Term (3–5 years) to complete zoning updates and begin recruitment
- Responsibility
 - Lead: Town Board & Planning Board
 - Support: Building/Code Enforcement, Erie County IDA, Chamber of Commerce, Regional Economic Development Councils
- Funding Sources
 - Empire State Development (ESD) Grant Programs
 - Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) Site Readiness or Infrastructure Programs

- NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)
- In-Kind Support
 - Site marketing support from economic development partners
 - Engineering/feasibility assessments provided by county or regional technical assistance programs