

# DRI Round 8 and NYF Round 3 Application

WESTERN NEW YORK REGION  
VILLAGE OF CATTARAUGUS  
CATTARAUGUS COUNTY  
PRO-HOUSING COMMUNITY AWARDED

## HISTORIC

## CATTARAUGUS

## REVISITED



EST.  1882  
**CATTARAUGUS**  
NEW YORK

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## Section 1

# GEOGRAPHIC AREA & JUSTIFICATION

Though located within three hours of 30 million people, the Village of Cattaraugus is protected and tucked away, perched as it is on a steep incline and sheltered by surrounding hills, productive farmlands, and mature verdant forests. It's an authentic and welcoming town that is not currently on the map for tourists that visit Cattaraugus County from Canada, Ohio and Pennsylvania. But that is about to change.

The revitalization of Cattaraugus will turn this historic town into one of the finest and most unique rural redevelopments in New York State, attracting visitors from out-of-state and new residents to the small village in this idyllic location in Western New York.

The sense of history is palpable in Cattaraugus. It conjures up a bygone era of frontier-pushing railroads and exuberant entrepreneurship—a time of limitless possibilities. It's not hard to imagine Teddy Roosevelt's 1898 visit campaigning from the back of his railway car to be Governor of New York.

The original 19th century brick heart of the village, amazingly intact and a designated National Historic District, imbues a sense of history and character that has too often been eclipsed elsewhere. Stores and businesses are locally owned, and the surrounding area abounds with hundreds of creative artists and artisans who relish working with their hands, perfecting their craft, and creating useful and beautiful goods.

The catalyst for the transformation is already underway right in the heart of the Village. The former rail line that extends from the Village into Zoar Valley is currently being restored for a railbike tourist attraction that will be fully operational in Spring 2025. Revolution Rail (Rev Rail) is projecting a conservative estimate of an initial 10,000 riders based on their locations throughout the Northeast with a similar profile.

From the area at One Main, a gateway to the Village where the rail-bike ride will begin, the Village stretches southward 4 blocks by 2 blocks full of potential for redevelopment as tourists discover the community. It starts with RocketCup Coffee, which will offer railbike tickets along with coffee, sandwiches, pastries, and community. Within this area are buildings that have begun, or are ready for renovation, and welcoming



businesses that will serve the new tourists. There are buildings within the village and just outside that are ready to be sold or redeveloped into light manufacturing and affordable housing, providing both jobs and housing for those who choose to live their life within the village. Local non-profit organizations are planning for the needs of residents bringing childcare, healthcare, retail, and hospitality options.

And plans are ready, as well as funding identified, for the culminating project—the restoration of a luxury hotel and restaurant on Main Street in the heart of the Village.

Today, Cattaraugus is poised for great change and positive growth. The business community and residents are engaged. The contract with the catalyst project, Rev Rail, has been signed. The next step is to utilize planning and targeted investment to build on the progress that has just begun

The Village's boundary includes downtown gateways, its Business District, historic buildings, and its most trafficked corridors. The boundary shown highlights Cattaraugus' buildings and spaces that have the potential to be key assets as well as already existing, thriving businesses that will benefit and support new activity and revitalization efforts.





## Section 2

# VISION STATEMENT

**The Village of Cattaraugus** is a **vibrant community** that attracts residents, businesses, and visitors. The historic red brick Main Street is a communal gathering place where our **natural beauty, cultural heritage, and small-town character** converge to foster economic growth and enhance quality of life. **The Village** seeks to be a **regional attraction** for dining and lodging using our industrial rail heritage to encourage outdoor recreation on our trails that will attract visitors and new residents to stay and enjoy the welcoming nature of **the Village**.





## Section 3



# PAST INVESTMENT AND FUTURE POTENTIAL

The Village of Cattaraugus has seen numerous examples of past investment. Community members, long-standing partners, and business owners devote themselves to continuously improving the downtown to increase tourism, draw new residents, and provide diverse gathering spaces, amenities and services.

**Revolution Rail Initiative** – Revolution Rail (Rev Rail) transforms historic railways into scenic rail biking pathways, inviting people of all ages and abilities closer to nature, history, and each other. With seven current



locations in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maine, and Colorado, they have a robust business model that draws tourists to unique locations. Locations feature stunning scenery and that is the reason that Rev Rail signed a contract to start running bikes along the rail line that extends from the heart of the Village of Cattaraugus into the stunning vistas of Zoar Valley in the Spring of 2025. The County, the Town, and the Village are currently funding the restoration of the lines so that the railbikes can run on the tracks.

Rev Rail is the catalyst project that was needed to start drawing in the tourists that will provide the justification for the revitalization of the Village and renovation and opening of the former Crawford Hotel just one block from the Rev Rail launch.

**RocketCup Coffee Development** – RocketCup Coffee may seem like just another small-town café, but it is so much more. Since opening their Headquarters in October of 2023, it has become the heart of the Village at its location on the center of Main Street. They have created a coffee experience not available anywhere else. The cafe offers specialty coffee, pastries, and sandwiches with plenty of seating and Wi-Fi, and it serves as a meeting place for private and public gatherings.



The magic continues as you walk through the beer garden, past the speakeasy and into the working coffee roastery. This is where guests do a tasting, roast coffee, and make their own blend to take home.

Residents and visitors come to the roastery and speakeasy for a lively and fun experience.

RocketCup is a manufacturer, roasting and wholesaling coffee to businesses across the United States. Currently employing 25, the chance to expand the business and increase the workforce is dependent on the increase in foot traffic from the commencement of Rev Rail operations.



**Crawford Hotel Restoration & Revitalization** – the former hotel site only a few doors down from RocketCup Coffee, has been vacant since the 1970's. Once a bustling attraction for overnight stays or dinner, the imposing brick building looms over Main Street full of possibilities.

The Vision for the new Crawford Hotel will be a luxury hotel so welcoming, gorgeous, and experiential that it will



attract visitors from all over the region to Cattaraugus, NY, jumpstarting a renaissance for the Village and, indeed, the whole surrounding area.

Plans for the hotel were completed in 2020 and endorsed by Empire State Development with a \$2M grant in 2021. Further funding for the \$10M project though is dependent on increasing the number of visitors to the Village first, therefore, the effort by the Village and the County to bring Rev Rail and 10,000 riders into the Village.

**Complete Streets Planning** – the Village has partnered with GOBike Buffalo, a non-profit and regional leader in Complete Streets policy and design, to develop plans for the redesign of Main Street. Informed by a community workshop and site tours, the plans address the needs of residents and enhance walkability, bikeability, and the safety of all road users.



Residents expressed a desire to slow vehicles down as they approach the village center, encourage greater compliance with traffic control measures, prioritize safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, improve street crossings for safety and accessibility, and establish greater connectivity between Main Street and other areas of the village. Threading all of those elements together was an overall desire by residents and the Village leadership to make the Main Street corridor a more vibrant destination to support new and existing local businesses while celebrating the historic character of the community.

Recommended conceptual designs include new features to address resident desires and concerns. These include the addition of a roundabout along Main Street just north of the Village Center to slow traffic as they approach the village and improve crossing safety for pedestrians.

Improved crosswalks with accompanying signage, raised crosswalks, curb extensions to daylight intersections and reduce crossing distances, a reduced speed limit of 25 mph, back-in angled parking, and painted bike lanes. The design accommodates future potential connectivity to the extension of the Pat McGee Trail, which would cross Main Street at the northern edge of the Main Street business corridor.

Bank of Cattaraugus is the oldest business in the Village of Cattaraugus. The bank was started in 1882 by local businessmen to serve the community, and it continues this mission 142 years later. This independent bank is led by Colleen Young, who continues her father and grandfather's commitment to serving the Village and the region. It was instrumental in forming the local Historic Cattaraugus Corporation and has invested millions of dollars into improving properties and homes in Cattaraugus.

Although there have been countless investments within the Village, potential remains, and the spirit of entrepreneurship is present.

Business owners and those who are looking to start a business are engaging. The Village has hosted a monthly meeting of business owners since early 2023 and attendance is strong. Business owners, such as Jon Willard, are purchasing properties in the Village with an eye towards the future. Mr. Willard has purchased the building that runs adjacent to the old rail line across from the One Main property. He envisions a two-story mixed-use building that offers small stalls for businesses, a potential brewery with up to 6 studios and 1-bedroom apartments for workforce housing on the upper floor.

The Historic Cattaraugus Corporation, HCC, was incorporated in 2002 as a Not-For-Profit Corporation for the purpose of acquiring, maintaining and preserving historic and significant buildings. This organization has been a major catalyst for the development and improvement of the Village of Cattaraugus. HCC has invested in many of the proposed projects.

Recently several businesses have opened or expanded: 48 Kids, a clothing consignment shop, opened last year and recently added a second storefront; Perky's opened last year as a much-needed grocery store, and Pritchard Hardware, under new ownership, now offers U-Haul rentals, UPS services, and a country crafts store. Residents and business owners continue to invest time, money, and creativity in an effort to draw more visitors and patrons.





# RECENT AND IMPENDING JOB GROWTH

The Village of Cattaraugus has been poised at the top of a wave of growth. The wave is the welcoming of Rev Rail to the Village that will attract visitors, up to 10,000 a year, to ride the rails and stay to enjoy other amenities on Main Street. Rev Rail trail runs have been successful, and full operations are starting in Spring of 2025; business owners are excited to expand to meet the expected increase in visitors.

Those investments are expected to attract and retain the visitors which will then spur other expansions and continue the positive spiral of economic growth.

**Rev Rail** – The rail line that begins at One Main in the Village and then winds into Zoar Valley will be a significant attraction, as demonstrated by the success in similar communities in New York and Massachusetts. Rev Rail anticipates hiring 15 individuals to run operations.

But it is the power of the spin-off economic development and job creation that is the true impact of Rev Rail as they start full-time operations in the Spring of 2025. When Rev Rail begins operations, 3-4 additional businesses are ready to open doors within walking distance of the bikes. Each business is planning on the tourism created by Rev Rail to begin sustainable operations. The grocery

store, Perky's Market, has been operating since 2023 and has 12 employees. A to-go sandwich shop and flower shop are both in the midst of renovation and could open within a month or two, employing owners first and adding jobs within the next quarter. Additionally Azalea Park Decor and 48 Kids are both thriving commercial businesses within the Village and provide employment to 6 community members. In addition to the 12-15 seasonal and two full-time jobs at Rev Rail, an additional 17+ jobs will be added by next summer by additional businesses on the horizon. And that is only Phase 1.

The development and opening of the luxury hotel will drive employment in the Village and will eventually bring 25 year-round hospitality jobs to Cattaraugus.

**RocketCup** – The coffee shop on Main Street employs several employees in café operations currently. That number will increase with the start of Rev Rail. In addition to the Café, RocketCup is also a roastery, sending their product to locations throughout the United States. The potential for job growth in the wholesale operation is bolstered by cash flow generating from the retail operations. 15 jobs are forecasted within the next year between both the retail and wholesale operations at RocketCup.



## Section 5



# QUALITY OF LIFE

The Village of Cattaraugus is a historic community that sits in the heart of Cattaraugus County. It boasts 19 architecturally significant buildings located along brick streets that were built prior to 1880 and have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Due to the Village's history, The American Museum of Cutlery, AMCUT, was opened in 2005 at 9 Main Street after a complete renovation by the Bank of Cattaraugus, including interactive exhibits, archival storage, and an upscale boardroom for community meetings. Many cutlery companies were headquartered in the region, and the museum honors this heritage by preserving artifacts and sharing their stories. Thousands of people have visited the museum, and it is open four days a week.

As a booming center of commerce located along an important rail corridor at the turn of the 20th century, the community has shed over 400 manufacturing jobs since 1980. Today, the Village is looking to reinvigorate its economy. With a population of 952 people and a significant percentage either under 18 (31%) or over 60 (20%).

Cattaraugus Little Valley Central School instructs students from nearly 200 square miles and is located in a premier facility in the Village of Cattaraugus. Approximately \$59 million was invested in the buildings and property when Cattaraugus annexed Little Valley School System, and

the campus includes modern classrooms, science labs, music rooms, gyms, library, turf field and running track, agriculture learning spaces, and an auditorium. The Village is also home to two swim clubs that provide local children with free summer swim programs and transportation.

The Village offers a diverse and often historic housing stock with a low cost of living. The average home value in Cattaraugus is \$154,699. According to RentData.org the average cost for a 2-bedroom apartment in Cattaraugus is \$734/month. But a search shows that there is a lack of options currently available. Adding rental options will be an attractive option for those that work in Ellicottville which is only 20 minutes away and offers much higher housing costs.





The Village has opportunities to build on the natural beauty of Zoar Valley to attract new visitors and residents to the area when expanded housing options, a diversity of new business and recreational options are created in Cattaraugus.

With the local Cattaraugus State Forest, Nature Conservancy, and Snowmobile trail traversing within the Village, there exists unrivaled opportunities for year-round access for existing residents and an opportunity to bring in additional recreational tourism opportunities. A key component of this is the extension of the Pat McGee Trail. Extension of the Pat McGee Trail has the ability to support existing residents and drive recreational tourism alike. Parks and Trails NY commissioned a study examining the economic impacts of the Erie Canalway Trail and found that visitor spending generated \$253 million in sales, 3,440 jobs, and \$28.5 million in taxes per year. Since the pandemic began, trails have become even more popular than ever, not only providing places for recreation but also used as routes to work and shopping. According to the polls that the Mayor posted on Facebook, outdoor recreation in the natural beauty of the Village and the surrounding areas are a reason that people choose to both live in, and visit the area.

With recent work with partners such as the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and GOBike to connect trail networks in PA and NYS, the Village of Cattaraugus can be the nexus between Buffalo and Pittsburgh along a multi-state trail network. By adding hospitality options and recreational activities to the Village center more individuals will plan a trip centered around staying in the Village and enjoying recreation both outdoors and with the new businesses. And the traffic created by these attractions then leads to the viability for the luxury hotel that will welcome visitors from throughout the Northeast and Canada to stay for a night or more creating a second hub for tourism in the County of Cattaraugus.

The Rev Rail project and the completion of a Complete Streets survey and plan by GOBike, along with the Village leadership and residents, take full advantage of the potential of the trail connection to draw tourists to the

Village. This tourism draw will, in turn, bring businesses back to Main Street and the surrounding Village streets. These actions will bring the investment needed to start the renovations on the Hotel. Each of these exciting opportunities will bring back the historic feel of the Village as an important draw from the surrounding region – but with a new twist. This will attract visitors and new residents alike to the Village .







## Section 6

# SUPPORTIVE LOCAL POLICIES

**Housing** – The Village of Cattaraugus was designed by NY State as a Pro Housing Community in September, 2024.

**Zoning** – The Village Business District permits and promotes opportunities for retail businesses and services that meet the needs of the residents of the Village of Cattaraugus and the surrounding area, as well as providing services for visitors to the area. Development in this district shall be consistent with the historic character of the Village’s downtown. Emphasis shall be pedestrian-oriented, rather than automobile dependent, development.

The Business Light District allows for commercial, service, and industrial uses to promote balanced employment and diversified tax base.

**Complete Streets** – The Village is working with GOBike Buffalo under a grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Legacy Funds to create a plan for Complete Streets in the downtown Village area. This will include walkability, traffic calming, and access to trails from the Village Main Street. The Village is in discussions with the State Department of Transportation about potentially reducing the speed limit on Main Street to 25 MPH.

**Sustainability** – The Village is in discussions with National Grid about the possibility of installing electric vehicle charging stations at the Village lot across from One Main. A contractor is being chosen.

**Economic Development** – The mission of the Cattaraugus County Land Bank Corporation (CCLBC) is to restore and build value in the community by returning underutilized properties to productive use, preserving and creating quality housing, enhancing the quality of life within neighborhoods, and encouraging private sector investment in cooperation with stakeholders who value responsible land ownership.

The CCLBC accomplishes this by strategically acquiring, developing, improving, assembling, and selling distressed, vacant, abandoned, and/or tax delinquent properties. It is the goal of CCLBC to return improved properties to the tax roll and productive use, with an emphasis on providing quality homes at an affordable price for low to moderate income families.

CCLBC acquired 209 South Main Street in Cattaraugus in the spring of 2021. The property needed a complete interior and exterior rehabilitation. The CCLBC developed a scope of work that included a new roof system,



insulation, siding, and windows. The interior was reconfigured along with gutting all of the walls and replacing with new drywall and new flooring throughout.

A new kitchen and two new bathrooms were installed. All plumbing, electric and heating systems were either repaired or replaced as well as reinforcing the basement with new supports.

The total project was completed for \$215,000. CCLBC was able to use grant funds to complete this rehabilitation which in turn allowed them to sell the property to a low/moderate income family for \$85,000.

**Beautification Efforts** – Each Spring the Village hosts cleanup events throughout the Village and leaf pickup throughout the Fall. The Green Thumb Group is a volunteer organization that takes responsibility for planters, plantings, and holiday wreaths throughout the village.



**New Albion Comprehensive Plan** – The Town of New Albion is embarking on a new comprehensive plan that could coincide with a DRI/NYF investment. The current Comp Plan, authored in 2017, offers direction that supports DRI/NYF investments including:

- Clearly stating efforts should be made to encourage a greater range of housing options
- Emphasis on stimulating new and entrepreneurial establishments, businesses, and enterprises
- Promoting new development and higher density including housing, commercial, and industrial
- Stating that the Village should enhance its historic character

- Capitalize Route 219 to increase tourism traffic and businesses
- Create artistic historic signage
- Expand into alternative modes of transportation and trails
- Provide access to community facilities







## Section 7

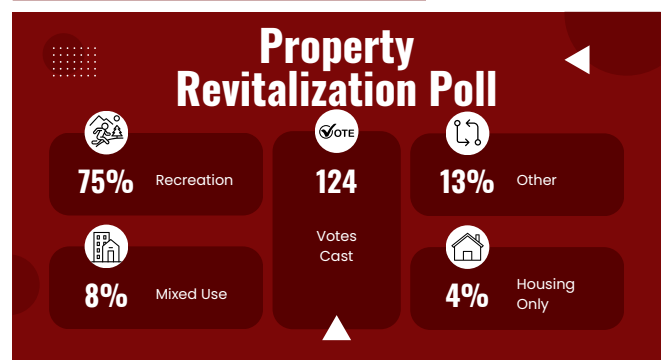
# PUBLIC SUPPORT

The Village of Cattaraugus recognizes the importance of community-backed planning, projects, and policies. The Village has been actively engaging with community members through GoBike Buffalo's Complete Streets Planning. The development of the DRI/NYF Application was built upon previous planning and countless outreach efforts.

Three general community meetings were held regarding the application to gauge the community's interest in a DRI/NYF application and what they view as priorities for the future of the village.

The public meetings were held on August 15th, 21st and 27th and an additional Business Owners meeting was held on August 28th. The four meetings came after the public had already been invited to participate in GoBike's work to bring a Complete Streets proposal to the Village of Cattaraugus.

In addition to the public meetings, a survey circulated on social media. Three survey questions were posted on Facebook by Mayor Anthony Nagel and hundreds of people responded to the polls. Results showed that 24% of the respondents when asked what business they would like to see open in the Village responded with a Gym/Fitness Center followed closely by a Bakery at 17% (97 votes). 52% of residents wanted to see a fitness



August 2024 Community Meeting Presentation



or walking circuit in the Village as part of the complete streets work (109 votes). And an overwhelming 75% of residents thought that the most important improvement in the Village was Green Space/Park/Recreation areas (127 votes).

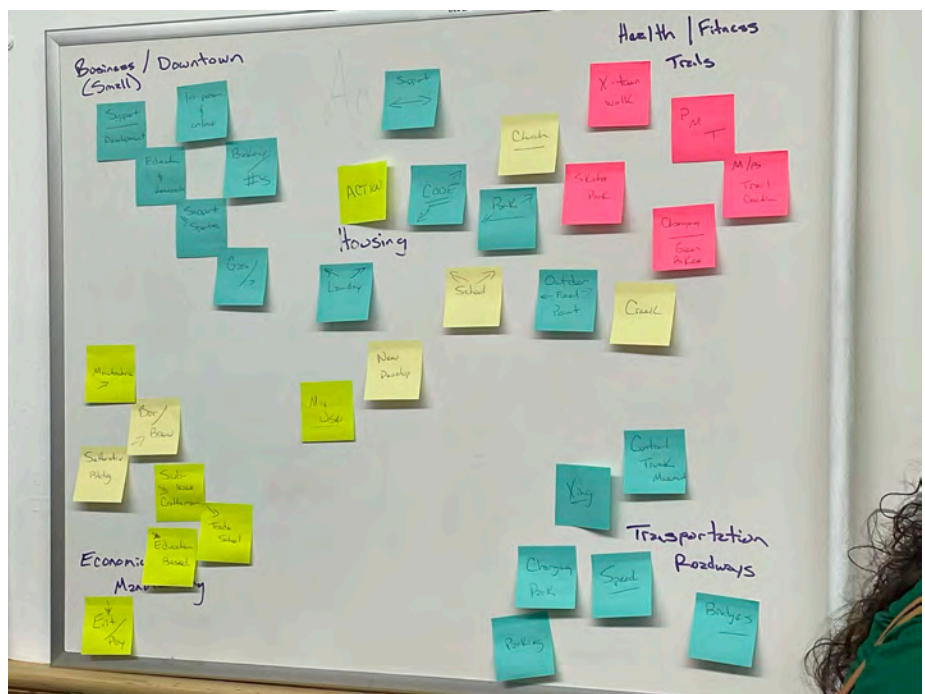
Community members are enthusiastic about focusing efforts on revitalizing the Village. The residents love the village's small town charm and the rich history of Cattaraugus. From the brick Main Street and the heyday of rail transportation, through to the current focus to bring business and services back to Main Street. Community members expressed the need to balance the small town welcoming atmosphere with the understanding that in order to thrive, the Village and community would have to invite others in.

Additional key desires and priorities included:

- **Attracting new businesses while supporting the existing businesses**
- **Adding recreational and community gathering places such as playgrounds, dog parks, pavilions, and/or trail connections and accessibility**
- **Attracting or expanding basic services such as bakeries, laundromats, and grocery stores**
- **Utilizing the trail network for recreation and also to attract visitors to the Village**
- **Creating more housing options for those that want to locate in the Village with the good schools and family hometown atmosphere.**

Community members also noted the desire for “local places so people don’t have to leave town” and “things for the kids to do.”

Other discussion included the ideal of Complete Streets and increasing walkability. Ideas from lowering the speed limit on Main Street and limiting truck traffic to issues of accessibility, walkability, and bikes and e-bikes as desired modalities were also discussed.





## Section 8

# TRANSFORMATIVE PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

1

### REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CRAWFORD HOTEL

**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$10,000,000

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
ESD Grant Funds (already  
committed), Private Investment

**Project Sponsor –** Historic  
Cattaraugus Corporation

**Location –** 25 N. Main Street

Historic Cattaraugus Corporation is developing the former Crawford Hotel into a world-class destination. The project preserves the historic 1890 brick structure and adds 15,000 square feet in new construction to form a 26-room luxury hotel complete with fine dining, concierge, spa, and event space. The Crawford will welcome international guests looking for an experience that includes hiking, fly fishing, equestrian, shooting sports, and more. Each room is at least 600 square feet with a fireplace and bathtub. This luxury resort plans to be a part of the Relais and Châteaux hotel group with its focus on culinary and hospitality excellence. Plans were endorsed by Empire State Development with a \$2MM grant award, and a feasibility study by hotel consultancy RevPar International concluded "The Crawford Hotel will be again an indispensable cornerstone of the community, and the beating heart of a vibrant social, arts, and business district."



2

### DEVELOPMENT OF THE CATTARAUGUS SCHOOL APARTMENTS

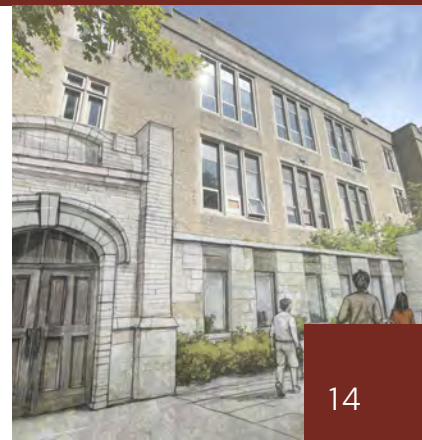
**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$7,750,000

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
NYS HCR, Private Investment

**Project Sponsor –** Peak  
Development Partners

**Location –** 51 Washington Street

The elementary school that sits in the heart of the Village of Cattaraugus was built in 1936. The building has been vacant since the early 1990's and Peak Development Partners is interested in creating affordable housing in the building that would also feature storage, laundry, and exercise facilities for residents. The 3-story building spans 35,000 square feet. 18 to 22 one- and two-bedroom apartments will be created for a total project cost of \$7,750,000. Apartments will be available for workforce housing for individuals and families working throughout the County, including in Ellicottville where there is a shortage of worker housing available.





### 3

## IMPROVEMENTS TO ONE MAIN EVENT SPACE

**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$2,250,000

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
NYS Council on the Arts, ESD  
Grant Funds, Private Investment

**Project Sponsor –** Bank of  
Cattaraugus

**Location –** 1 N. Main Street

The Historic Cattaraugus Corporation plans to further develop this iconic Teddy Roosevelt site at One Main Street into a public attraction that will serve residents, draw visitors, and make passersby's stop and take notice. This is currently a major outdoor community and event space for the village. It overlooks the Village and the surrounding hills and sits at the northern border of the commercial district. Historic Cattaraugus Corporation owns the 5-acre property, and this year alone the Bank of Cattaraugus invested over \$30,000 to clear, grade, and surface a large portion to serve as a community and tourist event space. It currently hosts the Village's weekly Farmers Market and serves as the trailhead for Revolution Rail's railbike tourist destination.

Future plans include the development of an outdoor event venue that will host the Village and school's seasonal events, including the Forever Fest Music Festival, Rib-a-Palooza, Trick-or-Treat Trunk Party, and Santa's Visit, new market shops and a pavilion as well as a new gateway that will institute place-making strategies.



### 4

## DAYCARE EXPANSION AT COMMUNITY CARES CENTER

**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$700,000

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
NYS Office of Children and Family  
Services, Foundation Donations

**Project Sponsor –** Saving Grace

**Location –** 26 Mill Street

Saving Grace is a faith-based community center located at the North end of the Village. It currently provides programming in the building including a food pantry, thrift store, youth center and gym, and afterschool and summer programming for children. The third floor is available for rehabilitation that would add a daycare operation that is needed for the community. The rehabilitation project includes a need for new glass, new flooring, new walls, demolition, and reconstruction as well as a new lift for accessibility and the build out of a kitchen that will serve the daycare and as a community kitchen.



### 5

## RESTORATION OF THE CATTARAUGUS PALACE THEATRE

**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$1,000,000

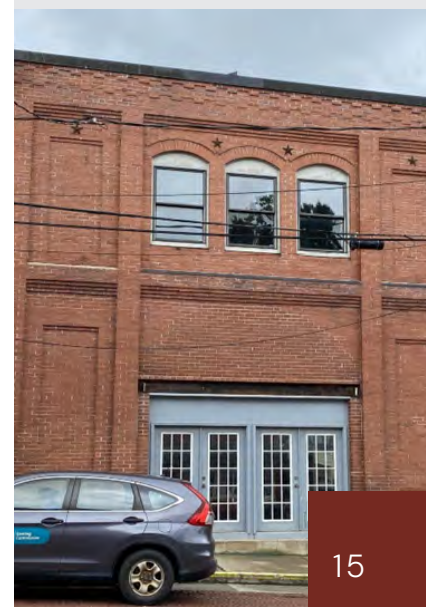
**Potential Funding Sources –**  
NYS Council on the Arts - Arts &  
Cultural Facilities Improvement  
Program, ESD Grant Funds,  
Private Investment

**Project Sponsor –** Historic  
Cattaraugus Corporation

**Location –** 14 Washington Street

The Cattaraugus Palace Theatre was built in 1909 and served as a vibrant center of entertainment in the region with films, theatre performances, and school plays. After closing in 1959, the 350-seat theatre fell into disrepair, but the front facade was secured and restored with the help of an emergency grant from State Senator Cathy Young. The Theatre is currently owned by Historic Cattaraugus Corporation.

The Historic Cattaraugus Corporation proposes a multi-use facility that serves the community year-round by hosting movies, stage performances, dances, concerts, town meetings, art fairs, craft shows, and children's programs. A significant amount of work is required to rebuild the theatre from the ground up, but the original balcony is still intact and provides a starting point for revitalization. There is strong community desire for an arts and entertainment center, and a restored Palace Theatre would meet this need and promote music and culture for the area.





## 6

## RENOVATION OF THE LARKIN BUILDING

**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$500,000

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
NYS HCR New York Main Street  
Program, Private Investment

**Project Sponsor –** Historic  
Cattaraugus Corporation

**Location –** 11-13 N. Main Street

11-13 Main Street is a vacant mixed-use building at the heart of the Village's commercial district. It consisted of two storefronts on the street level and an office unit on the second level. Historic Cattaraugus Corporation has invested over \$80,000 to acquire this Village centerpiece, stabilize the structure, point up the brick facade, and contract plans for a complete rehabilitation. Further work consists of completing structural improvements, renovating the two street-level storefronts, and building out a two-bedroom residence on the 2nd floor. The renovated storefronts will serve as a hub for visitors to the nationally recognized Amish Trail. It will consist of an antiques and furniture store, a dry goods general store, and an informational tourism center.



## 7

## RESTORATION AND RENOVATION MILL STREET MARKET

**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$1,500,000

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
Restore NY, Private Investment

**Project Sponsor –** Jon Willard

**Location –** 1 Mill Street

The Mill Street Market is a 12,500 square foot building located near the Pat McGee trail in the Village across from the starting point for Rev Rail at One Main Street. The building which has been vacant for many years has a planned mixed-use renovation that will bring opportunities for a brewery, local micro-businesses, and housing. Plans include twelve (12) 300-square foot first floor retail spaces with an 8-foot walkway in front of the building with room for customers to sit outside and enjoy the scenery. Mill Street Market will also act as a continuation of the Farmers Market located at One Main. The second floor would consist of 5-6 market rate studio and one bedroom loft apartments with a rooftop deck for tenants to enjoy. The end of the building will consist of a 2,500 square foot brewery or tap room with a large deck/patio area for customers to sit outside and enjoy the stunning views of the Village and hillsides.



## 8

## 42 MAIN STREET APARTMENT RENOVATIONS AND BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$150,000

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
Private Investment

**Project Sponsor –** Anthony Nagel

**Location –** 42 S. Main Street

The three-story building has three apartments on the top floor, three commercial units on the main floor, and a 2,500 sq ft vehicle storage facility on the lower floor. In Summer 2023, 48 Kids renovated a 700 sq ft commercial space converting it from a leased office into a retail location offering new and consigned pre-owned clothing and toys. In the spring of 2024, the second commercial space (900 sq ft) was renovated, and 48 Kids expanded to 1,600 square feet and now hosts a baby shower gift shop and locally themed clothing. Future plans include the renovation of the unoccupied two-bedroom unit on the upper level, upgrading parking and replacing the siding on the building exterior.



## 9

## REDEVELOPMENT OF BOWLING ALLEY INTO BIKE LANES: BIKE SALE AND RENTAL SPACE

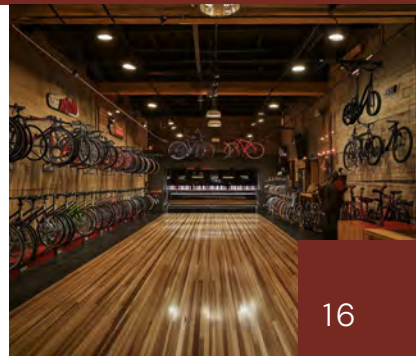
**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$250,000

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
Private Investment

**Project Sponsor –** Anthony Nagel

**Location –** 10 Waverly Street

Redevelopment of the building at 10 Waverly, a mid-century manual pin set bowling alley into a bike/e-bike sales and rental location. The original wood lanes and fixtures will create a unique showroom for bikes, biking accessories, and outdoor gear. Project scope includes renovating the former bowling alley and converting a workshop space into a bike maintenance facility. Sales or rental of bikes and e-bikes was expressed as a need at the community meetings as a way for people of all ages and abilities to access the trail systems in and around the Village.





10

## JENNY LEE/FEED MILL ENHANCEMENTS

**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$300,000

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
Private Investment

**Project Sponsor –** Ashley and Nick Rhinehart

**Location –** 15-17 N. Main Street

The Jenny Lee Country Diner and Store and Feed Mill Restaurant and Bar, a beloved store in the heart of the Village, has been a regional hub for dining and entertainment. Following its successful expansion into the adjacent building, which involved a large rehabilitation of the restaurant and bar, the establishment is seeking to further enhance other areas in its mixed-use facilities. This includes a facade renovation of the last section of the building and the addition of a private dining room. Renovations will add an outdoor dining space that will overlook the Pat McGee trailhead. Conversion of a street level apartment into business use to incorporate private dining, local meeting space, and retail space for local merchandise. Renovations of 4 upstairs apartments include updating plumbing and electrical service. And the relocation of deliveries and employee parking off Main Street to the rear alleyway will increase parking for the tourists who will be coming to the Village.



11

## RAISE OF HOPE CONVERSION TO COUNSELING CENTER AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$350,000

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
NYS Office of Mental Health,  
Foundation Donations, Private  
Investment

**Project Sponsor –** Rebecca Ellis  
and Nancy Hurst

**Location –** 12 Washington Street

Two local women own 12 Washington have begun to invest and convert the space to a multi-use counseling center and housing for youth transitioning out of foster care. The building currently requires structural improvements, including the front and side of the building. The building will include a community center and two offices for social work and individual mental health counseling, group therapies for all ages, recovery groups and linkage for resources including as a place to host various community health and wellness events. Upstairs will convert to two apartments for transitional housing for young adults.



12

## ROCKETCUP COFFEE IMPROVEMENTS

**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$100,000

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
Private Investment

**Project Sponsor –** RocketCup  
Coffee

**Location –** 18 N. Main Street

RocketCup Coffee Company and Roastery is headquartered at 18 N Main Street with a cafe open daily, a production roastery offering gourmet tastings and hands-on tours, and a speakeasy serving coffee-inspired cocktails paired with a farm-to-table food menu. This anchor business has grown to 25 employees in the past twelve months and is positioning itself to meet projected demand. Strategic plans include building an improved shipping and receiving dock to enable increased production, renovating the brick facade and patio to improve aesthetics and amenities, and commissioning public art to create a welcoming gateway to the roastery and speakeasy. These improvements will increase operational capacity, enhance customer experience, and provide a unique and attractive destination for visitors.





13

## RESTYLE SALON BUILDING REHABILITATION

**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$250,000

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
NYS HCR, Private Investment

**Project Sponsor –** Historic  
Cattaraugus Corporation

**Location –** 12 N. Main Street

12 Main Street is a mixed-use building with historic landmark designation and consists of a storefront and seven apartments. This former hotel was renovated in 2005 with the help of \$100,000 in private funding as well as a grant from the Federal Home Loan bank. The storefront has hosted the “Restyle” beauty salon for over 17 years, and six of the seven apartments are currently occupied at “affordable” rent levels. Historic Cattaraugus Corporation is planning building improvements to continue preserving and utilizing this historic landmark including rehabilitation work on the brick facade and balcony, structural improvements including handicap accessibility for the salon, remodel of the blighted seventh apartment, and fixing the residential exterior and improving safety access.



14

## DEVELOPMENT OF MAPLE RETAIL STOREFRONT

**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$400,000

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
Private Investment

**Project Sponsor –** Timothy and  
Melissa Ulinger

**Location –** 17-19 Washington  
Street

Timothy & Melissa Ulinger own and operate Ulinger’s Maple Farm, a 14,000-tree farm, sugarhouse, and kitchen producing 4,000 gallons of pure maple syrup annually for local stores and regional distributors. The family owns 17-19 Washington Street that they propose to rehabilitate into a mixed-use development, adding storefront locations for their maple syrup while also improving the overall building infrastructure. Project components include a retail operation, a regional showroom and supply store to sell maple syrup production equipment as well as syrup production demonstrations and sample kitchen that will offer educational demonstrations and sampling of maple syrup production. The project also includes residential rehabilitation of two upstairs apartments.



## PUBLIC PROJECTS

15

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Estimated Project Cost –** \$850,000

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
Private Philanthropic, Cattaraugus  
County, Capital Improvements Grant  
for Pro-Housing Communities, NYS  
HCR New York Main Street Program

**Project Sponsor –** Village of  
Cattaraugus

**Location –** 53 Washington Street

The County anticipates acquiring the property and the plan would be to turn it over to the Cattaraugus County Land Bank Corporation (CCLBC). The church provides an ideal location for a community center with the possibility of meeting space, gymnasium, outdoor green space, and possibly a dog park. All of these are desires expressed by those that attended the community meetings.



16

## IMPLEMENTATION OF STREETSCAPING ENHANCEMENTS

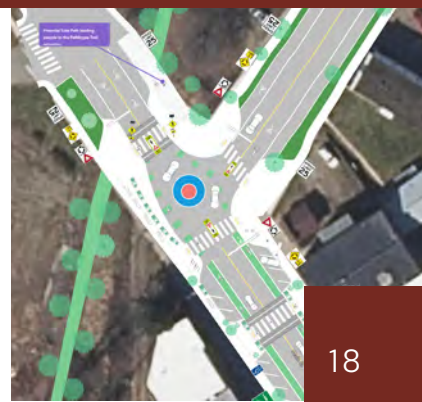
**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$2,540,565

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
NYS Department of Transportation  
TAP, Federal BUILD funds, Safe  
Streets for All

**Project Sponsor –** Village of  
Cattaraugus

**Location –** Main Street

Building on plans that are about to be completed by GOBike, the Village would like to embark on improvements in the downtown streetscaping and placemaking improvements. This would include elements of the Phase 1 Complete Streets Plan that will be released for public comment soon. Ph 1 would include improvements on Main Street between Waverly and Jefferson in the Business District.





## 17

## PAT MCGEE TRAIL EXTENSION

**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$2,350,403

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic  
Preservation Recreational Trail  
Grant Program, Wilson Foundation

**Project Sponsor –** Village of  
Cattaraugus

**Location –** Railbed from County  
Rte 6 to NYS Rte 353/Main Street

The existing Pat McGee Trail runs for roughly 12 miles from the City of Salamanca to Leon Road in the Town of New Albion, just 1.6 miles short of the former railroad's intersection with Main Street in the Village of Cattaraugus. GObike was tasked by the Village of Cattaraugus and Historic Cattaraugus to explore the feasibility of extending the trail from its current terminus at Leon Road into the Village and beyond. Recommendations envision continuing the trail along the former railbed into the Village of Cattaraugus at the intersection of Main Street and continuing further north to connect with the Cattaraugus-Little Valley Central School.

Initial assumptions are that the trail would run from Leon Road to Main Street, with stone dust surface, several hundred feet of privacy fencing, two access points and one trailhead, and crosswalks with signage at each roadway crossing.



## 18

## EAST ALLEY IMPROVEMENTS

**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$150,000

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
Community Placemaking Grants,  
Capital Improvements Grant for  
Pro-Housing Communities

**Project Sponsor –** Village of  
Cattaraugus

**Location –** Alley accessed at 16  
Washington St, bordered by  
Washington, Main and Jefferson

The existing alley serves as the service access for eight buildings on Main, Washington, and Jefferson Streets, including Restyle Salon and Apartments, RocketCup Coffee and Roastery, Bank of Cattaraugus, Raise of Hope, and Perky's Market. This project would expand the main alley to accommodate deliveries, construction, waste management, fire, and handicap access. It would move idling commercial traffic from public streets and develop an inviting pedestrian side alley with an iron archway, lighting, and public seating. By improving accessibility, safety, and aesthetics, this project will foster a more sustainable, inclusive, and thriving commercial district and allow for future development on Washington Street.



## 19

## ADMINISTRATION OF A SMALL PROJECTS FUND

**Estimated Project Cost –**  
\$400,000

**Potential Funding Sources –**  
NYS HCR New York Main Street  
Program, Private Investment

**Project Sponsor –** Village of  
Cattaraugus

**Location –** DRI-wide

The Village will administer a fund to finance interior and exterior building improvements and improve the aesthetic appeal of downtown's historic buildings. Improvements can include façade improvements, installation of new exterior lighting, replacement windows, code and safety updates and handicapped accessibility improvements. Businesses already interested include Pritchard Hardware, Brick Lane Speedway, and Perky's.





## Section 9

**Village of Cattaraugus Inc.**  
INCORPORATED OCT. 25 1882

# ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY

The County of Cattaraugus has offered to help support the Village of Cattaraugus with administrative capacity to support a DRI or NYF award. Crystal Abers is currently a member of the Local Planning Committee in Gowanda, which recently won a NYF award. As the Director of Economic Development, Planning and Tourism for Cattaraugus County, Ms. Abers has a deep knowledge of the process and planning that it takes to move an award through to project completion. She will assist and guide the Village leadership team of Mayor Anthony Nagel and Clerk Darrell Klute in the administrative functions that will be needed post-award.



Mayor  
Anthony Nagel

The Mayor and the Village Board are all active and engaged members of a community that comes together easily for planning. The community meetings were well attended for such a small locale, and the survey had immediate responses. As a business owner himself, Mayor Nagel has a clear understanding of the needs of both the business community and the residents. The business community hosts monthly meetings that are very well attended and the desire to participate in these sessions has only grown over the past year.

The Village has undertaken numerous community improvement projects including updates to the water system, relocation of lighting poles and improvements for fire access for local businesses in conjunction with National Grid and Department of Transportation.



# LETTERS OF SUPPORT

**Note:**

Sen. Schumer will be sending his letter of support directly to Empire State Development.





JOSEPH M. GIGLIO  
Assemblyman 148<sup>th</sup> District  
Allegany, Cattaraugus, and  
Steuben Counties

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
Committee on Standing Committees  
Correction Committee  
Ethics and Guidance Committee

COMMITTEES  
Racing and Wagering  
Rules

October 7, 2024

Western New York Regional Economic Development Council  
95 Perry Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear REDC Council Members,

Please accept this as my letter of strong support for the Village of Cattaraugus' application to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and New York Forward (NYF) programs.

As the Assemblyman who has represented the 148<sup>th</sup> District for more than 19 years, I know this project will foster economic growth in the Village of Cattaraugus and across our community.

Surrounded by natural beauty, the Village of Cattaraugus has a rich and cultural heritage. Revolution Rail will start operations this fall, drawing visitors to this unique rail-bike attraction from throughout our Western New York, acting as a catalyst to drive growth.

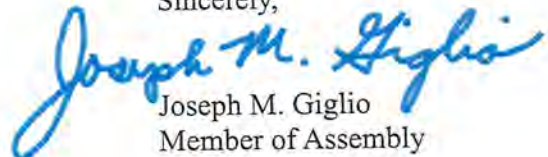
The rail bikes will in turn complement the many changes that we have seen on the Main Street of the village including the opening of Rocket Cup Coffee and several other small businesses. Plans are ready and funding identified for the culminating project – the restoration of a boutique hotel and restaurant on Main Street in the heart of the village.

Today, Cattaraugus is poised for great change and positive growth. The plans have been drawn up. The business community and residents are engaged. And the contract with the catalyst project, RevRail, has been signed. The next step is to utilize planning and targeted investment to build on the progress that has just begun.

The proposed projects have the potential to make a significant positive impact on the community and region. I urge you to give this application your full consideration. The Village of Cattaraugus is a deserving candidate for funding from the DRI and NYF programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you would like to further discuss my support for the Village of Cattaraugus' application for DRI and NYF Funding, please call me at: 716-373-7103, or email me at: [giglioj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:giglioj@nyassembly.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Joseph M. Giglio  
Member of Assembly





RULES  
OVERSIGHT  
AGRICULTURE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3223**

October 18, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz  
Regional Director  
Western New York Regional Economic Development Council  
95 Perry Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear Ms. Utz,

I write to express my support for the Village of Cattaraugus' application to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and New York Forward (NYF) programs. As the Congressman for New York's 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, I am committed to fostering economic growth and revitalization in the communities I serve.

The Village of Cattaraugus has a long history of resilience and a bright future. Their application clearly demonstrates a comprehensive vision for downtown revitalization. The proposed projects, as outlined below, align with the goals of both the DRI and NYF programs, focusing on strategic investments in infrastructure, public spaces, and economic development initiatives.

- Restoring the former rail-line extending from the village into Zoar Valley into a rail-bike tourist attraction with plans to be fully operational in early 2025. This attraction is estimated to draw thousands of visitors to the area annually.
- Redevelopment of at least one building within the village which will offer potential for light manufacturing and jobs.
- The revitalization of several village buildings and businesses to entice visitors to the area for the railbikes and other attractions.

By awarding the Village of Cattaraugus a DRI and NYF grant, Empire State Development will be investing in a community with a proven track record of success. Please give their application full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable statutes and regulations. Should you have any questions, please contact my Clarence District Office at (716) 547-6844.

Sincerely,

NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY  
Member of Congress



**RANKING MINORITY MEMBER**

AGRICULTURE  
BANKS  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS

**COMMITTEES**

AGING  
FINANCE  
INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



GEORGE M. BORRELLO  
SENATOR  
57TH DISTRICT

**ALBANY OFFICE**

ROOM 406  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG.  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
PHONE: (518) 455-3563  
FAX: (518) 426-6905

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

2-6 E. SECOND ST.  
FENTON BLDG., STE. 302  
JAMESTOWN, NY 14701  
PHONE: (716) 664-4603  
FAX: (716) 664-2430

**SATELLITE OFFICE**

WESTGATE PLAZA  
700 W. STATE STREET  
OLEAN, NEW YORK 14760  
PHONE: (716) 372-4901  
FAX: (716) 372-5740

October 2, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, WNY Regional Director  
Empire State Development Corp.  
95 Perry Street, Suite 500  
Buffalo, NY 14203-3030

Dear Regional Director Utz,

I write today in strong support for the Village of Cattaraugus' application to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and New York Forward (NYF) programs. Funding will allow the village to revitalize their historic town into a unique rural destination.

The former rail-line that extends from the village into Zoar Valley is under contract to begin restoration for a rail-bike tourist attraction that will be fully operational in Spring 2025. Their partner, Revolution Rail, is projecting a conservative estimate of thousands of riders in the first full year based on their locations throughout the Northeast with a similar profile.

Starting at One Main, where the rail-bike ride will begin, the village stretches southward four blocks by one block. It has great potential for redevelopment as tourists discover the community. A coffee shop, Rocket Cup Coffee, will offer railbike tickets at their place of business, and several other businesses along in the same block will serve the tourists coming for the railbikes and staying for new attractions. Additionally, at least one location within the DRI area could offer the potential for light manufacturing and jobs. Plans are also underway for the restoration of a boutique hotel and restaurant on Main Street in the heart of the village.

Much is happening to bring this village back to life and make it a destination for visitors and new businesses. Cattaraugus is positioned to change and grow. The next step is to utilize planning and targeted investment to build on the progress that has just begun.

I commend the Village of Cattaraugus for being directly instrumental in making Western New York a better place to live and work and wish them much success with their endeavor.

Please accept my best wishes. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George M. Borrello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "G".

George M. Borrello  
Senator, 57th District





*Mailed  
10/2/24*

**CATTARAUGUS COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**M. Andrew Burr, Chairman**

**303 Court Street**

**Little Valley, NY 14755**

**Business: 716.938.2386**

October 1, 2024

Western New York Regional Economic Development Council  
95 Perry Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear REDC Council:

I am writing to express my full support for the Village of Cattaraugus' application to the Empire State Development for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and New York Forward (NYF) Program for their planned initiatives to boost their local economy and create a prosperous community.

As the Chairman of the Cattaraugus County Legislature, I have witnessed firsthand the Village's dedication to revitalizing its downtown area. The Legislature has provided funds to restore the rail line so that Revolution Rail can start operations of their popular rail bike attraction that will take tourists into the heart of beautiful Zoar Valley.

We hope that these funds will be the start of a directed program of economic development that is already supported by the residents, the business community and local, county and state government officials to revive this historic town as a tourism destination.

The Village of Cattaraugus is a valuable asset to our County, and I am confident that these DRI and NYF funds will help them achieve their vision of a thriving downtown. I urge you to give their application your strongest consideration.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

M. Andrew Burr  
Chairman

MAB/dkg



Thomas Cullen  
Director, St. Bonaventure University Entrepreneurship Center  
CEO, RocketCup Coffee Company

October 8, 2024

Western New York Regional Economic Development Council

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Village of Cattaraugus in their application for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and New York Forward (NYF) programs.

As both the Director of the St. Bonaventure University Entrepreneurship Center and the Founder and CEO of RocketCup Coffee Company, I have a unique perspective on the transformative potential of this investment in our local community. These grants would catalyze economic development, entrepreneurial growth, and community revitalization in profound ways.

RocketCup Coffee Company, with our headquarters proudly located in the Village of Cattaraugus, has experienced significant growth over the past few years. We have expanded our operations quickly and now distribute internationally creating about 25 jobs. With the support of these grant initiatives, we are confident that our company will continue to thrive and that other businesses will be inspired to establish roots here, contributing to the economic sustainability of the region.

I would like to also highlight my role as founding director of Cattaraugus County's Laine Business Accelerator. The Accelerator is an incubator for growing businesses and an integral part of the entrepreneurial ecosystem. These grants would amplify the impact of the Accelerator by providing infrastructure (especially at One Main St) for these burgeoning businesses to succeed right in Cattaraugus.

The Village of Cattaraugus is poised to become a regional hub for business and innovation. I wholeheartedly support this application and believe it will unlock important opportunities for current and future generations of entrepreneurs, innovators, and community members. Thank you for considering the Village of Cattaraugus for this critical funding. I look forward to seeing the continued growth and success of our village with your support.

Sincerely,

Thomas Cullen  
Director, St. Bonaventure University Entrepreneurship Center  
CEO, RocketCup Coffee Company



# Town of New Albion

Patrick Murphy, Supervisor

Cynthia Eaton, Councilwoman  
Michael Weishan, Councilman  
Sherry Rupp, Clerk

Daniel Goss, Councilman  
Norman Kazmark, Councilman  
George Borrowdale, Highway Superintendent

October 10, 2024

Western New York Regional Economic Development Council  
95 Perry Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear REDC Council,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support as the Supervisor of the Town of New Albion for the Village of Cattaraugus's application to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and New York Forward (NYF) programs.

The catalyst for this transformation is already underway with the restoration of the former rail-line into a rail-bike tourist attraction. This visionary project, spearheaded by Revolution Rail (Rev Rail), will not only enhance the Village's appeal but also attract visitors from throughout the region and beyond. Rev Rail's past successes suggest that thousands of riders will use the service in its first full year, generating a substantial economic boost for the Village and surrounding communities.

The projected thousands of riders in the first full year of operation, based on Rev Rail's successful experiences elsewhere, highlight the significant economic impact this attraction will have on the Village and our surrounding communities.

The rail-bike attraction will serve as a powerful anchor for the Village of Cattaraugus, drawing visitors to the downtown area and stimulating local businesses. The influx of tourists will create demand for restaurants, shops, and lodging, leading to job creation and increased revenue. Moreover, the project will enhance the Village's quality of life, providing residents and visitors alike with a unique recreational opportunity.

By securing funding through the DRI and NYF programs, the Village of Cattaraugus can leverage its current momentum to implement a comprehensive revitalization plan. This plan would include improvements to public spaces, infrastructure upgrades, and support for local businesses. By investing in the Village's future, we can create a vibrant and thriving community that benefits residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

P.O. Box 265  
Cattaraugus, NY 14719  
Phone: 716-257-5677 Fax: 716-340-2121  
Town Highway Garage: 716-257-3331

As the Supervisor of the Town of New Albion, I am committed to supporting the Village of Cattaraugus's efforts to revitalize its downtown area. The Town Board and I believe that a thriving Village will benefit not only its residents but also the entire region. We urge you to consider the Village's applications for the DRI and NYF programs favorably and to provide the necessary support to ensure the success of this transformative project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Patrick Murphy, Supervisor



COUNTY OF CATTARAUGUS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

P.O. Box 1749 • 9 East Washington Street • Ellicottville, NY 14731  
(716) 699-2005 FAX (716) 699-2942



Web: [www.cattcoida.com](http://www.cattcoida.com)  
E-mail: [info@cattcoida.com](mailto:info@cattcoida.com)

October 10, 2024

Western New York Regional Economic Development Council  
95 Perry Street  
Buffalo, New York 14203

Dear REDC Councilmembers,

Cattaraugus Community Action is pleased to express our enthusiastic support for the Village of Cattaraugus' application to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and New York Forward (NYF) programs. As a community-based organization dedicated to improving the lives of our residents, we wholeheartedly endorse the Village's vision for a revitalized downtown.

The Village of Cattaraugus plays a vital role in the heart of our community. A thriving downtown is essential to attracting new businesses, creating jobs, and enhancing the quality of life for our residents. The DRI and NYF programs would provide the necessary resources to revitalize the downtown area, improve infrastructure, and support local businesses.

We are particularly impressed by the Village's proposed projects, which align with our organization's goals of promoting economic development and community well-being. By investing in the rail-bike line, the restoration of a boutique hotel and restaurant on Main Street in the heart of the Village, the Village can create a more attractive and welcoming downtown, stimulate economic activity, and improve the overall vitality of the community.

Cattaraugus Community Action collaborates with scores of public and private partners to offer marginalized people hope, opportunity, and the tools to overcome adversity and to thrive. The Village's initiatives will not only boost our economic state, but also provide our residents with a better quality of life through new jobs and a vibrant community.

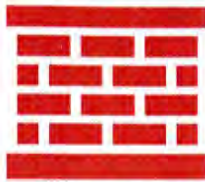
Please give the Village of Cattaraugus' application your full consideration for funding, as these proposed projects will truly transform the Village in a very positive way, while securing its rich history!

I sincerely thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

By: Corey R. Wiktor

Executive Director, County of Cattaraugus Industrial Development Agency



CATTARAUGUS  
Business Coalition

October 7, 2024

Western New York Regional Economic Development Council  
95 Perry Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear REDC Council,

The Cattaraugus Business Coalition offers our strong support for the Village of Cattaraugus' application to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and New York Forward (NYF) programs. As a dedicated organization representing the interests of local businesses, we wholeheartedly endorse the Village's vision for a revitalized downtown.

The DRI and NYF programs would provide the necessary resources to enhance our downtown area, attract new businesses, and improve the overall economic vitality of our community. We believe that these initiatives are essential to the continued growth and prosperity of Cattaraugus.

As local business owners, we fully endorse the Village's vision and proposed projects, which align with our goal of creating a more vibrant and welcoming downtown. By investing in the projects listed below, the Village can enhance public spaces, preserve the historic Main Street, and help us transform our downtown into a hub of economic activity in the region.

- Revitalize our historic Village buildings to help grow successful businesses and provide affordable housing for new residents
- Enhance public spaces for residents and the influx of visitors to the new Rail Bike experience
- Fuel economic activity using existing resources to provide locations for a range of businesses, from entrepreneurs to established manufacturing operations
- Adapt our former schoolhouse into beautiful apartments near the village center

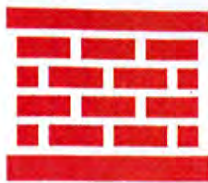
The Cattaraugus Business Coalition is committed to working closely with the Village to ensure the success of these initiatives. We believe that the DRI and NYF programs offer a valuable opportunity to transform our downtown into a thriving hub of activity and economic growth.

We hope you will consider the Village of Cattaraugus' application for funding. We are confident that these initiatives will have a lasting positive impact on our community and create a vibrant center for people to live, work, and visit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.


Sincerely,  
The Cattaraugus Business Coalition






CATTARAUGUS  
Business Coalition

  
Pritchard Hardware

  
Brick Street Bistro

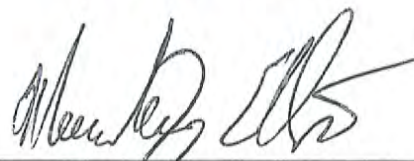
  
48 Kids


  
ReStyle/Raise of Hope

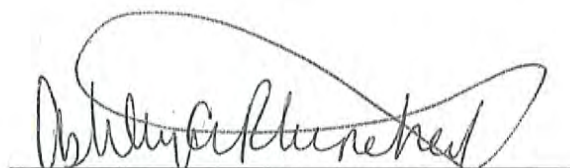
  
Cattaraugus Free Library

  
Perky's Market

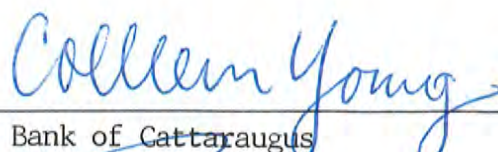
  
Saving Grace


  
Bloomin in the Boons

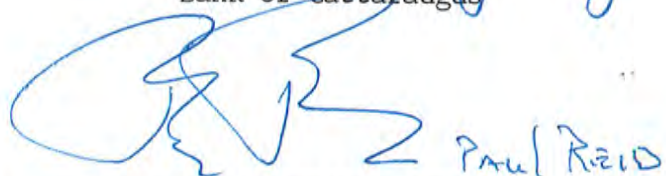
  
Jenny Lee/Feed Mill

  
Jenny Lee/Feed Mill

  
Weishan Photography

  
Bank of Cattaraugus

  
RocketCup Coffee

  
Paul Reid  
American Museum of Cutlery



October 11, 2024

Western New York Regional Economic Development Council  
95 Perry Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203-3030

Re: Letter of Support for the Village of Cattaraugus

Dear REDC Council,

Peak is an organization dedicated to promoting economic development and community revitalization in Western New York, we are pleased to offer our full support for the Village of Cattaraugus' application to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and New York Forward (NYF) programs.

The Village of Cattaraugus has a long-standing commitment to enhancing its downtown area, and their application clearly outlines a comprehensive and ambitious plan to achieve this goal. The proposed projects align perfectly with the objectives of both the DRI and NYF programs, focusing on strategic investments in infrastructure, public spaces, and economic development initiatives.

We are particularly impressed by the Village's initiative to restoration the former rail-line extending from the Village into Zoar Valley into a rail-bike tourist attraction. Once this is operational in Spring 2025, it is estimated to draw thousands of visitors to the area annually. This project will not only create a destination for this area, but the overall appearance and functionality of the downtown area will create a more welcoming and inviting environment for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Peak believes that the Village of Cattaraugus has the potential to become a thriving and vibrant community. By awarding them a DRI and NYF grant, Empire State Development will be investing in a community with a bright future. We urge you to consider their application favorably and provide the necessary support to ensure the success of their revitalization efforts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lee Crewson".

Lee Crewson  
President





October 1, 2024

Western New York Regional Economic Development Council  
95 Perry Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear REDC Council,

Historic Cattaraugus Corporation is pleased to offer our full support for the Village of Cattaraugus' application to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and New York Forward (NYF) programs. As a dedicated organization committed to preserving and promoting the rich history and heritage of our community, we wholeheartedly endorse the Village's vision for a revitalized downtown.

The Village of Cattaraugus possesses a unique blend of historical significance and natural beauty. Our downtown area, with its charming architecture and vibrant atmosphere, has the potential to be a thriving cultural and economic hub. The DRI and NYF programs would provide the necessary resources to restore and enhance our historic buildings, revitalize public spaces, and attract new businesses.

Historic Cattaraugus Corporation is deeply involved in many of the projects proposed in the application. As a non-profit organization that has a focus on revitalizing the community while maintaining the historic character of the Village, we have a unique perspective and ability to move these projects along. We believe that the Village can preserve our community's heritage, create a more attractive and welcoming downtown, and stimulate economic activity with the support of the DRI/NYF funds.

Historic Cattaraugus Corporation is committed to working closely with the Village to ensure the success of these initiatives. We believe that the DRI and NYF programs offer a valuable opportunity to transform our downtown into a vibrant and sustainable destination for residents and visitors alike.

We urge you to give this application your full consideration and support. The Village of Cattaraugus is a deserving candidate for funding through the DRI and NYF programs, and we are confident that these initiatives will have a lasting positive impact on our community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Colleen Young".

24 MAIN STREET  
CATTARAUGUS, NY  
14719

Qui • Plantavit • Curabit

"If we have it, we must care for it"

Theodore Roosevelt

...from a speech delivered at  
Cattaraugus, New York, November 7, 1898





Cattaraugus County

# Department of Economic Development, Planning & Tourism

Crystal J. Abers, Director

October 16, 2024

Western New York Regional Economic Development Council  
95 Perry St.  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear REDC Council,

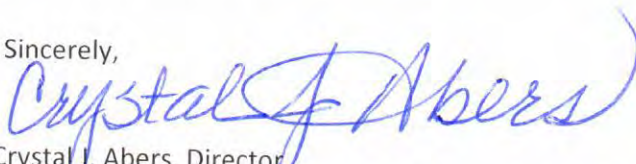
I am writing to express my support for the Village of Cattaraugus' application for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and NY Forward programs. As the Director of the Cattaraugus County Department of Economic Development, Planning and Tourism, I am confident that this initiative will have a significant positive impact on the county's economic development and tourism efforts.

The former rail-line that extends from the Village into Zoar Valley is currently being restored for a rail-bike tourist attraction that will be fully operational in Spring, 2025. The County is committing funds to repair the tracks, which is a strategic investment in the Village's future prosperity. Revolution Rail (Rev Rail) is projecting a conservative estimate of thousands of riders in the first full year based on their locations throughout the Northeast with a similar profile. This, in turn, will generate a ripple effect throughout the local economy, benefiting residents, businesses, and communities alike.

I believe that the Village of Cattaraugus' DRI and NY Forward application presents a compelling case for the focused, strategic revitalization of the Village project. The project's alignment with our county's strategic goals, its potential economic benefits, and the demonstrated community support make it a worthy recipient of these grants.

Please consider this letter as a strong endorsement of the Village of Cattaraugus' application. I am confident that this initiative will contribute greatly to the continued growth and prosperity of our county.

Sincerely,



Crystal J. Abers, Director

Cattaraugus County Department of Economic Development, Planning & Tourism

*Naturally Yours to Enjoy*

Address: 303 Court St., Little Valley, NY 14755 – Phone: (716) 938-9111, Fax: (716) 938-2779 – Website: [www.CattCo.org](http://www.CattCo.org)







October 1, 2024

Western New York Regional Economic Development Council  
95 Perry Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear REDC Council,

The Bank of Cattaraugus is pleased to offer our full support for the Village of Cattaraugus' application to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and New York Forward (NYF) programs. As a longstanding member of the Cattaraugus community, we are committed to the growth and prosperity of our town.

We believe that the revitalization of the Village of Cattaraugus' downtown area is essential to the economic health and vitality of our community. The proposed DRI and NYF projects align perfectly with our vision for a vibrant and thriving downtown. By investing in this community, the Village can create a more attractive and welcoming destination for residents and businesses alike.

The Bank of Cattaraugus is confident that the proposed projects will have a positive impact on our local economy. By creating new destination appeals, attracting new businesses, creating jobs, and enhancing the overall quality of life, these initiatives will benefit not only the Village of Cattaraugus but also the entire region.

As a financial institution deeply rooted in this community, we are committed to supporting the Village's efforts to revitalize its downtown. We are prepared to provide the necessary financial resources and expertise to help these projects succeed.

We respectfully request you to give this application your full consideration and support. The Village of Cattaraugus is a deserving candidate for funding through the DRI and NYF programs, and we are confident that these initiatives will have a lasting positive impact on our community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Colleen Young Douglas Achley Charles Coppellano*  
*Marc Pritchard Jonathan Cullen JAC*