



NEW YORK STATE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE

ROUND 9

DOWNTOWN ROME BOA WATERFRONT

ROME

WATERFRONT



Mohawk Valley REDC

City of Rome

Oneida County

Pro-Housing Certified

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GEOGRAPHIC AREA & JUSTIFICATION

The City of Rome DRI project area is focused around the 2021 NYS designated Downtown Rome Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA). This area is defined by Rome's cradle of industry formerly known as the General Cable Complex and its East Rome residential area, which are joined together by the East Dominick Street corridor. East Dominick Street serves as both a local main street designated area and a primary thoroughfare which transitions to NYS Routes on each end. This area is partially encircled by 2 miles of waterfront along the NYS Canal and Mohawk River and sits at the doorstep of one of Rome's industry powers, Revere Copper Products Inc.



PROJECT BOUNDARY

The boundary area border, which is less than half a square mile or ~340 acres, includes the Mohawk River, NYS Canal, East Dominick Street, McAvoy Ave, Sixth Street, and East Bloomfield Street. Beginning at the confluence of the Mohawk River and the NYS Canal and heading east, the boundary travels along the banks of the canal for ~1 mile, including the railroad overpass on Mill Street. The boundary then turns north and at Dominick Street heads west connecting to McAvoy Ave. Much of the land between the canal and East Dominick Street has been heavily industrialized. However, the area is undergoing a major shift in redevelopment and land use, transitioning, as allowed through updated zoning, into a more mixed-use hospitality and recreation area immediately fronting the canal.

The boundary continues along the entirety of McAvoy Ave, then turns north onto Sixth Street and connects to East Bloomfield Street at the former Staley Elementary School and follows the former athletic fields to their connection to the Mohawk River. This area is comprised of a main street district with mixed-use buildings, smaller commercial storefronts and shops, a compact residential neighborhood known as the “Little Italy” district and East Rome Residential area, and a centralized public park and expanse of open space included as part of the former Staley Elementary School property.

The boundary then follows the Mohawk River south and returns to the starting point at Bellamy Harbor Park.

JUSTIFICATION

The DRI boundary is presented to comprehensively address a number of catalytic projects within an identified Disadvantaged Community area. The synergy of these projects will transform longtime vacant and underutilized properties into recreation, tourism, and waterfront related destinations that will support each other and further establish the downtown waterfront area as a hub of housing, recreation, tourism, and industry.

This DRI area is the focus of the Downtown Rome BOA implementation strategy, with a number of identified strategic sites and viable reuse and redevelopment scenarios under active consideration and progress. There are several large, publicly controlled properties that are serious candidates for inclusion in the DRI Strategic Investment Plan for their potential economic development impact when redeveloped and improved. These sites include the City Public Works Facility located on Mill Street, Bellamy Harbor Park, and 530 Harbor Way known as Copper City Square.

As part of the Chobani infrastructure readiness, the wastewater treatment plant will be expanding and additional adjoining land will be acquired. This would make it possible to relocate the existing Public Works facility off of the waterfront and open the property up for large indoor space use, such as a court-style recreation facility, to further anchor the waterfront district as a recreation destination. The City has conducted a relocation and reuse strategy for the facility and the project concept dates back to the adoption of the City's Comprehensive Plan in 2004. The site includes 10 acres of shovel-ready land including the 54,000 s/f existing building.

Bellamy Harbor Park is Rome's connection to the NYS Canal system, and it serves as a hub for canalway trail users. Bellamy has the highest user counts of any park facility within the City at just under 100,000 total visitors in 2024 – 10,000 more visitors than Fort Stanwix National Monument and 20,000 more than the next highest attended local park. Bellamy includes 15 acres of land and provides immediate docking facilities for boaters traveling the canal system. It is also home to the Navigation Center Pavilion (which offers showers and bathrooms for boaters), Hamilton College's rowing facility, and the SFM Skatepark.

Recently the City acquired a 3.5-acre waterfront parcel adjoining the park, 530 Harbor Way, which includes an existing 50,000 sf building connecting to the waterfront brewery site. The City is looking to attract an end-user or developer for the parcel to take advantage of the site's location on the canal, including the 18,500 annual canalway trail users, thousands of boaters, and the approximate 11,000 average annual daily vehicle traffic.



VISION STATEMENT

Rome's Waterfront District has evolved from industry-only into a vibrant, mixed-use regional recreation asset that elevates the community's quality of life and offers a memorable tourist experience. The district is well-rounded, offering the quintessential live, work, play balance while drawing a unique sense of place from a bygone era of waterfront industry along the canal system.



PAST INVESTMENT & FUTURE POTENTIAL

To realize Rome's downtown waterfront district vision, public and private partnerships and investments are critical. More than \$15 million has been invested in public/private projects to progress the area into a more livable and vibrant neighborhood.

The strategic planning groundwork of the Downtown Rome Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) through the NYS Department of State program has led to more than an 80:1 return on investment ratio with over \$35 million in public and private investments since 2007, much of which was a direct result of the BOA program revitalization strategy. Over the past 10 years, more than \$15 million has been used to undertake strategic site shovel readiness, public realm enhancements, and private developments within this targeted area.

Main Street commercial and mixed-use building rehabilitations have been steady and supported through the City's Façade Improvement Program. These projects complement the public realm and complete street investments which have been made along Dominick Street and the NYS Canal, contributing to the character and grittiness of the district. Over \$5 million in industrial and job-based investments have also been made, resulting in a new East Rome industrial skyline that defines the transition area from residential to prominent waterfront-based developments. Since 2015, over \$7 million has been utilized to improve recreational and waterfront assets within the DRI target area that focus on canal navigation and comfort, public water access, and water recreation.



As the downtown waterfront area is exquisitely prepared and perfectly situated to support the City's housing growth and economic impact of the \$1.1 billion investment from Chobani, this DRI request provides the financial and directional final push that will lead to true community transformation. The estimated 1,000 direct new jobs of the Chobani project will generate \$113 million in annual wages and \$1.1 billion in annual sales. These workers and related industry spinoffs will require additional housing units. The DRI will allow the massing of resources and investments to concentrate the repurposing of underutilized downtown properties, elevating the user experience and realizing the downtown vision.

This economic impact is a watershed moment for Rome's downtown waterfront to capitalize and refocus on the longtime underutilized properties that hold immense community development opportunity and showcase the uniqueness and quality of downtown Rome. The DRI will leverage an estimated \$30 million in a total neighborhood reestablishment within the former Columbus School property to reactivate the area into a thriving sought-after location to live and visit. Total potential investment includes over \$60 million of leveraged funds in addition to the \$10 million of DRI investment.

RECENT & IMPENDING JOB GROWTH

At a surface level, Rome did not experience dramatic job growth between 2020 and 2025—there was a respectable 4% net gain of 678 jobs. A more detailed look at this data, however, reveals concentrated growth in the manufacturing sector. Industries that saw particular growth are: Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical, and Control Instruments Manufacturing; Aerospace Product and Parts Manufacturing; Agriculture, Construction, and Mining Machinery Manufacturing; and Other General-Purpose Machinery Manufacturing.

To meet the demands of the manufacturing workforce, Rome saw corresponding growth in the following jobs, among others: Accommodation and Food Service (21% growth, or 195 jobs); Retail Trade (7%, or 145 jobs); and Taxi and Ridesharing Services (698%, or 268 jobs). This 698% increase is possibly an anomaly due to better rideshare employment tracking, but it could also be read as a desire to supplement income with gig work, pointing to a need for higher paying jobs and/or flexible work options.



Top Anticipated Growth Occupations from Chobani Investment (Direct & Indirect)



With construction already underway at a new Chobani plant in Rome, the manufacturing sector is set to grow by more than 50% by 2030, with an anticipated 1,000 jobs at Chobani and an additional 500 indirect jobs in other sectors. By 2030, Rome will have experienced a significant job growth, especially across sectors related to dairy product manufacturing and indirect sectors, such as Accommodation and Food Service and Retail Trade, needed to support this ballooning workforce. Regional job growth will also include Semiconductor and Other Electronic Component Manufacturing and Computer Systems Design and Related Services. This rapid influx of manufacturing jobs to an already growing manufacturing sector, and the induced jobs needed to support these workers, makes for an exciting period of economic growth in the City of Rome.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Rome's oldest thoroughfare, Dominick Street, evolved out of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy's Great Carrying Place trade route, growing from a well-worn track into a quintessential American neighborhood. It thrived as East Rome's industry grew itself along the banks of the Erie Canal, and workforce neighborhoods bloomed to complement a vibrant downtown that ran parallel to the factories that employed them. Like many northeast industrial cities, Rome did not escape the future unravaged — factories shuttered as industries transitioned, and the downtown neighborhood grew tired. But years of quiet, targeted reinvestment have yielded a path forward, where Romans can easily enjoy every urban comfort alongside the tremendous beauty and recreational possibilities of the Erie Canal.

Rome's downtown waterfront DRI target area has the framework needed for a sustainable and successful downtown. It is highly walkable, with city sidewalks for local foot traffic and is home to the Mohawk River Trail and Empire State Trail systems teeming with Romans and travelers alike. Historic neighborhoods and mixed-use apartments run throughout district, creating a strong sense of home for those residents. The district's outdoor recreation is anchored by Pinti Field and Bellamy Harbor Park, boasting the highest annual visitor counts in Rome at 40,000 and 100,000 visits respectively. The East Dominick Main Street area, affectionately referred to as Rome's Little Italy, is on the verge of reestablishing itself as a thriving mixed-use district by leveraging the progress and popularity of the areas transition from industry-only to a fully complemented community.

What truly sets Rome's downtown waterfront apart, is more than two miles of Mohawk River and Erie Canal waterfront and the overwhelming natural beauty of Bellamy Harbor, a recreation destination on the Erie Canal. To meet the demand of more than 100,000 annual visitors, Bellamy Harbor has undergone serious investments and improvements. Hamilton College has invested in a state-of-the-art boathouse for their rowing teams. SFM Skatepark, a grassroots organization, has sparked the fundraising for and construction of a new, massively popular waterfront skatepark and pumptrack to complement the evolving waterfront.

Since Chobani's announcement to build a 1,000-job dairy production facility within Rome over the next 2 years,



development interest has spiked for housing and commercial space. With the City undertaking shovel readiness activities over the past decade around the waterfront area, the stage is set for a synergy of public and private investment to realize the community's dreams and visions within the BOA plan. The City has undertaken the heavy-lifting of acquiring and remediating strategic properties ranging in size from 2 to 20 acres, and is seeking development teams to bring high-quality infill redevelopments to life.

Rome's downtown waterfront, bolstered by strong partnerships between the City and development teams, will deliver a variety of housing options and mixed-use buildings with food, retail, and other services, along with an abundance of entertainment and recreation options. The district revitalization is one that can quickly rise to meet the demands of expanding industries, as well as those companies and sectors who are looking for communities to provide the quality places that help attract and stabilize a diverse workforce.

The Rome community is primed for this investment and growth, and is rising to new possibilities of success. Rome's success in delivering its Round 2 DRI grant has pushed the community over the edge of skepticism and into understanding what work can be accomplished and how the community can elevate itself to one of the strongest quality of life communities in the state. A DRI award to Rome's downtown waterfront delivers on the vision and dreams of the community and region, proving that vibrant communities are produced through sound comprehensive planning and partnerships.

SUPPORTIVE LOCAL POLICIES & PLANS

The City of Rome has adopted a broad range of policies to enhance quality of life, sustainability, and community well-being. Its accredited Police Department, strong nuisance laws, and award-winning Fire Department underscore a commitment to public safety. As a NYSEDA Clean Energy Community, Rome also promotes environmental stewardship through renewable energy projects, parks, trails, and Complete Streets initiatives. Near-term efforts focus on expanding clean energy use, updating property maintenance standards, and advancing housing and economic development programs to build a more vibrant, resilient city.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Police Department: Accredited Law Enforcement Agency, cannabis enforcement, DARE program, K-9 unit, and a Trail Team
- Fire Department: 2024 Oneida Fire Chiefs Association Fire Department of the Year for tornado response
- Animal Control, Public Works, and Codes Enforcement Departments
- Robust public nuisance laws and Public Nuisance Committee
- Community Court for on-site accesses to services

PUBLIC REALM & SUSTAINABILITY

- Parks and playgrounds, trails and open space
- Youth recreational programs
- Recreation facilities and park rentals
- Complete Streets- Right-of-Way and Access Standards
- Maintenance and improvement of the urban tree canopy
- Designated NYSEDA Clean Energy Community
- Renewable energy efforts: Wastewater biodigester and solar farms

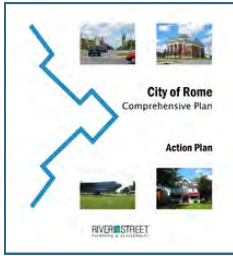
HOUSING

- Property maintenance standards
- Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank (GMVLB) / Real Property Committee
- ARPA Residential Rehabilitation Grant Program
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) First-Time Homebuyers Grant & Demolition Program
- Blight Reduction
- Building Code Enforcement

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Designated Parks & Trails New York Empire State Trail Town
- CDBG Entitlement 5- Year Consolidated Plan Guidance & Annual Action Plan
- 2018 Zoning Update
- Bellamy Harbor Park Waterfront District Form-Based Code
- Storefront Design Manual
- Local incentive programs
- Community Events
- Vacant property registration
- Rome IQ/ 311 reporting app
- City's webpage Romeny.gov
- Occupancy Tax; revenue into Rome Entertainment Arts Culture History Fund
- RISE (Rome Invests in Startups and Expansions) incubator
- Brownfield cleanup & reuse





COMPREHENSIVE PLAN & SUSTAINABILITY APPENDIX

The Comprehensive Plan is focused on enhancing the City's tax base by encouraging green, sustainable investment in infrastructure and commercial and residential properties. The City will establish access to supportive services in a healthy community and protected natural environment for a modern workforce.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (2025-2029)

This five-year plan is a planning and budgeting tool which provides information about the City's infrastructure needs over a five-year timeframe. Projects are determined by the CIP Committee, a City-wide group of employees representing the major departments involved in the construction, improvement, operation, and financing of capital facilities.

PARKS & OUTDOOR SPACE & TRAILS (FORTHCOMING 2026)

Currently in progress, this plan will contain comprehensive inventory of the City of Rome's parks, trails, and other outdoor spaces. It will utilize public feedback and market research to make a comprehensive roadmap of parks, outdoor space, and trails (POST) improvements, increasing accessibility, and providing nature-enhanced recreation to the entire city.

CITY OF ROME URBAN DESIGN PLAN (2006)

This plan focused on creating a beautiful, pedestrian-friendly environment through wayfinding, creating gateways to the City, implementing design guidelines, focusing revitalization on main street corridors, and connecting the waterfront areas to downtown.



ONEIDA COUNTY MAIN STREET PLAN (2023)

Covering key nodes and corridors within the City's inside district, this plan creates a framework to create multimodal streetscapes that are safe, accessible, business friendly, and beautified through connective greenspace.

ADA TRANSITION PLAN

This plan addresses improvements to sidewalks and crosswalks within the existing City of Rome pedestrian network.

ROD MILL REUSE STRATEGY

Located on the East side of Harbor Way, this vacant, city-owned parcel is a key gateway and link between the City's Waterfront and East Dominick Street retail corridor. This strategy provides a robust review of the current property and utilizes a full market analysis to create conceptual site redevelopment plans.

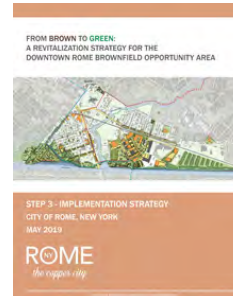
CITY YARD REUSE STRATEGY (2010, UPDATES FORTHCOMING 2025)

Located in the Mill Street Corridor, the City Yard property currently occupies a 10-acre parcel of Rome's waterfront. This plan, with in-progress updates, will provide a comprehensive site review and outline potential redevelopment strategies, including recreation-focused adaptive reuse.



ONEIDA COUNTY HOUSING STUDY

Analyzing the current housing stock, this study determined that Rome needs to expand its stock of affordable housing and adapt to shifting demographics. With significant workforce-age population growth anticipated by 2030 and continuing into 2040, this study suggests several ways to increase housing stock with affordable, sustainable options.



DOWNTOWN ROME BROWNFIELD OPPORTUNITY AREA IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY (2019)

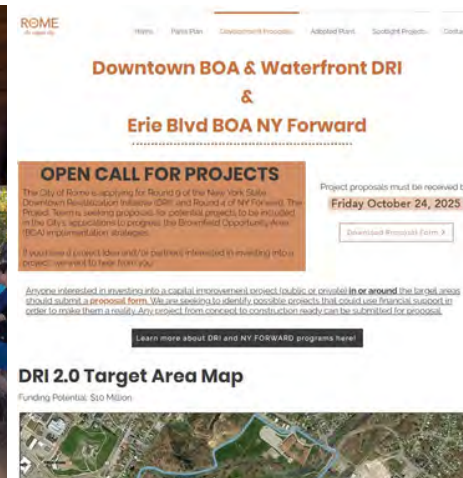
The proposed DRI boundary is within the Downtown BOA boundary. The Downtown BOA provides a roadmap for redevelopment in this area based on robust public and stakeholder engagement, environmental assessments, and market trends and reports.

BELLAMY HARBOR WATERFRONT DISTRICT FORM-BASED CODE (2018)

The purpose of the waterfront district is to create a vibrant, pedestrian friendly waterfront with a variety of building types that offer retail, service, employment, hospitality, entertainment, and housing options, as well as public access to the waterfront. The district also intends to protect and enhance water quality within the Mohawk River and Erie Canal.

PUBLIC SUPPORT

Public support for the projects dates back to the Brownfield Opportunities Area (BOA) strategic planning process. The public was actively involved in creating a vision and identifying priority projects for the BOA via numerous steering committee meetings, public workshops, stakeholder meetings, and online presence. Many of the same or similar projects that were outlined in the BOA are proposed in this application for implementation.



CURRENT EFFORTS

To engage the community in discussion around the current application, the City created a webpage, had pop-up information tables at City Hall, hosted an open house, and offered one-on-one staff time.

- **Webpage:** The landing page romerises.com/2025-dri-nyforward was created to provide information to potential developers, stakeholders, and the general public.
- **Pop-up:** Interactive displays were set up in the lobby of City Hall to capture feedback from visitors for several weeks throughout the application process. While the tables were not monitored, information gathered from this method indicates several people provided input. Additionally, staff was present at the tables during the Common Council Meeting on October 22nd.
- **Open House:** Held in the evening of November 3rd, 2025 in the lobby of City Hall, a contingent of curious citizens and developers dropped in to the open house to learn about the applications and provide input.
- **Open Call for Projects:** A proposal form was released along with a public call for interested developers and project ideas for consideration. Dozens of proposals were submitted ranging from small projects to multimillion dollar developments.

INPUT RECEIVED

Public engagement revealed two key themes: mixed-use development and much needed recreation enhancements to Bellamy Harbor and Pinti Field. Many developers are interested in making use of underdeveloped, post-industrial parcels for recreation, food, and retail. Local feedback also signaled an interest in continuing to establish Bellamy Harbor as a recreation destination.

TRANSFORMATIVE PROJECTS

1. Bellamy Harbor Seawall & Docking

Estimated Project Cost: \$10 million

DRI Request: \$1 million

Project Sponsor: NYPA / Canals

Location: Bellamy Harbor Park, 324 Harbor Way



Rome has an untapped potential to harness boaters in the local tourism industry. Current seawall and docking facilities are in poor condition, making it difficult and unenticing for boaters on the Barge Canal to stop and spend time in Rome. Rehabilitating the seawall and providing appropriate docking facilities, along with other Bellamy Harbor Park upgrades, would greatly increase boater appeal.

2. Rome Canal Terminal Welcome Center

Estimated Project Cost: \$700,000

DRI Request: \$600,000

Project Sponsor: City of Rome

Location: Bellamy Harbor Park, 324 Harbor Way



The Terminal Building at Bellamy Harbor Park will be transformed into the new waterfront Welcome Center serving boaters, cyclists, and other tourists year-round. The existing building will be built out to include a lobby, two bathrooms, an ADA entrance and signage on the building. As part of the Welcome Center upgrades, a harbor loop trail will be completed that starts at the Welcome center, crosses the Barge Canal at the Mill St bridge, travels the south side of the canal and crosses back over to the north side.

3. Canal Amphitheater

Estimated Project Cost: \$500,000

DRI Request: \$175,000

Project Sponsor: City of Rome

Location: Bellamy Harbor Park, 324 Harbor Way



The small-scale amphitheater will be situated at the water's edge with tiered seating facing the canal. Designed as an informal recreational facility, it will provide seating while watching the activity of the canal, as well as providing a stage for local events. It is not envisioned as a major performance space that sits vacant when there is no programming. Rather, the amphitheater forms an informal central gathering space.

TRANSFORMATIVE PROJECTS

4. Regatta Facility & Waterfront Promenade

Estimated Project Cost: \$1 million
DRI Request: \$700,000
Project Sponsor: Hamilton College
Location: Bellamy Harbor Park, 324 Harbor Way



Building on Hamilton's recent investment in the boathouse, the regatta facility will include a viewing plaza and pavilion, tiered stone wall seating, expanded boat launch access, an extended rowing dock, and extended public access docks for viewing, and a promenade. The facility will support collegiate and City-hosted regattas, and other waterfront events.

5. Immigrant Memorial

Estimated Project Cost: \$500,000
DRI Request: \$250,000
Project Sponsor: City of Rome
Location: E. Dominick St at the Mohawk River



Downtown Rome has historically been home to immigrant communities that helped build Rome into the resilient and ambitious city we see today. The Immigrant Memorial will be a public space improvement and placemaking element that will provide public access to the water with a memorial element that will pay homage to history of Rome's immigrant population.

6. Railroad St Complete Street Reconstruction & Connection

Estimated Project Cost: \$1 million
DRI Request: \$600,000
Project Sponsor: City of Rome
Location: 530 Harbor Way



Outdated or non-existent infrastructure is holding back revitalization of the waterfront. In order to make waterfront sites ready for rehabilitation, reuse, and growth, the City will reconstruct Railroad Street as a complete street while simultaneously providing sewer, water, electrical, and fiber upgrades to make sites redevelopment-ready.

TRANSFORMATIVE PROJECTS

7. City Yard Relocation & Redevelopment

Estimated Project Cost: \$9 million
DRI Request: \$1 million
Project Sponsor: City of Rome
Location: 132 Race Street



The City of Rome's Public Works Facility (City Yard) currently occupies 10 acres of Mohawk River Waterfront along the Mill Street corridor. The facility's 53,400 square foot primary structure is the most prominent building on the site. Relocation of the facility operations to an alternate location has been under consideration since 2010 as part of an overall plan for waterfront redevelopment. The City is seeking to attract a development team to adaptively reuse the existing building into a year-round indoor court-sport facility and bike park.

8. E. Dominick Streetscape & Connectivity Improvements

Estimated Project Cost: \$1,250,000
DRI Request: \$250,000
Project Sponsor: City of Rome
Location: East Dominick Street



Connecting residents and tourists to the waterfront from downtown Rome, and vice versa, is an important component of redeveloping the City's waterfront. East Dominick's streetscapes will be enhanced and pedestrian and cyclist improvements will be made on East Dominick and streets connecting to the waterfront to provide safe passage.

9. Regional Recreation Park

Estimated Project Cost: \$1 million
DRI Request: \$750,000
Project Sponsor: City of Rome/Rome School District
Location: 201 Sixth Street



Pinti Field will be connected to Staley School grounds via a pedestrian bridge over the Mohawk River in order to create a regional park of approximately 70 acres. Both properties contain many acres of special flood hazard areas that limit their development potential. The school building on Staley's grounds will be demolished to make way for park amenities.

TRANSFORMATIVE PROJECTS

10. Mill Street Gateway

Estimated Project Cost: \$500,000
DRI Request: \$250,000
Project Sponsor: CSX Railroad / City of Rome
Location: Tunnel on Mill St near Martin St intersection



Mill Street serves as a main entrance to the waterfront district from the south and is highly used by cyclists as an on-road section of the Empire State/Erie Canalway Trail. The Mill Street overpass, overgrown with a deteriorated façade though still actively serving the rail system, is one of the first landmarks that people encounter when entering the City. Through the lens of placemaking, the City will upgrade the façade and surroundings of the Mill Street Overpass and improve pedestrian and cyclist movement under the overpass to create a welcoming southern gateway to the city.

11. Copper City Square

Estimated Project Cost: \$5 million
DRI Request: \$2 million
Project Sponsor: Private Developer
Location: 530 Harbor Way



The City recently acquired the 3.6 acre site with a 42,000 square foot building which was previously owned and operated by General Cable Corporation. The site has long been included as part of waterfront redevelopment plans and ideas, and is slated for selective demolition, renovation, and new construction in order to allow for commercial and recreational uses on the site. Among many proposed uses, the site has been identified for the relocation of the Rome Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, as well as a bike and sports park.

12. 401 Mill Street Industrial Re-set

Estimated Project Cost: \$300,000
DRI Request: \$200,000
Project Sponsor: Hubbard Tool & Die Corporation
Location: 401 Mill Street



401 Mill Street is currently owned and operated by Hubbard Tool & Die Corporation and is adjacent to the waterfront, commercial development at 720 Railroad St, and near Bellamy Harbor Park. This site will receive interior renovations to expand manufacturing activities, and exterior renovations to enhance the visual appeal and safety of the site.

TRANSFORMATIVE PROJECTS

13. Mixed-Use Brewery Buildout

Estimated Project Cost: \$1 million
DRI Request: \$650,000
Project Sponsor: Cayo Industrial LLC
Location: 720 Railroad Street



720 Railroad Street was previously a vacant industrial building and was recently purchased with the plan to transform it into a mixed-use commercial space to activate the waterfront. The building will be renovated to include a brewery/restaurant facility, a fitness center, a seasonal tourism production, and art studio space.

14. Recycling & Refuse Facility Upgrades

Estimated Project Cost: \$2.5 million
DRI Request: \$1 million
Project Sponsor: Bliss Environmental Services Inc.
Location: 730 Railroad Street



Bliss Environmental owns and operates a recycling and refuse facility on 5.4 acres of land at 730 Railroad Street. Upgrades to the facility include a 12,000 square foot addition, interior office renovation to increase efficiency, and exterior improvements to fit in with the waterfront revitalization aesthetic.

15. E. Dominick Street Cornerstone Redevelopment

Estimated Project Cost: \$500,000
DRI Request: \$200,000
Project Sponsor: EMB Enterprises Inc.
Location: 701 & 611 East Dominick Street



Currently vacant commercial parcels, 701 and 611 East Dominick Street are in a prime location for redevelopment with approximately 6,000 square feet total. While 701 East Dominick is slated for general mixed-use renovations, the building at 611 East Dominick Street will be renovated to support the relocation of an existing coffee shop, roastery, and printing/screen shop that employs people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

TRANSFORMATIVE PROJECTS

16. Columbus Neighborhood Infill

Estimated Project Cost: \$31 million
DRI Request: \$2 million
Project Sponsor: Pivotal Housing Partners
Location: 112 Columbus Avenue



The site of a former elementary school that has since been demolished, 112 Columbus Avenue is a blank slate for future development. Housing has been identified as the most feasible future use of the site, although the exact type and design have not yet been selected. Developers have already proposed to work with the City to design housing that meets the community's needs.

17. Mill Street Lofts

Estimated Project Cost: \$2 million
DRI Request: \$1 million
Project Sponsor: 201 Mill Street LLC
Location: 201 Mill Street



Mill Street Lofts is a mixed-use apartment renovation project for an existing 40,000 square foot building in the waterfront district. Currently, the building is partially leased to a business while the east wing sits vacant. Renovations would include adding apartments and renovating commercial space to provide quality housing options near the waterfront.

18. Residential Unit Development & Rehabilitation Fund

Estimated Project Cost: \$625,000
DRI Request: \$500,000
Project Sponsor: The Homeownership Center
Location: Throughout boundary

The Oneida County Housing Study revealed the need to add 6,000 new units by 2030 in order to keep up with projected overall population growth due to recent economic development activity. Along with new construction, improving the existing housing stock is included in the County's strategy to meet this goal. This fund will capitalize on existing SLFRF American Rescue Plan Act funding to support improving and creating residential dwelling units within the existing neighborhoods of East Rome.

19. Business Assistance Fund

Estimated Project Cost: \$625,000
DRI Request: \$500,000
Project Sponsor: Mohawk Valley EDGE
Location: Throughout boundary

The Business Assistance Fund (BAF) will provide funding to strengthen and make necessary improvements for downtown businesses and buildings within the target area. It will provide support for businesses by assisting them in making key investments in their properties including interior and exterior renovations or improvements, marketing and soft costs, and capital purchases, such as machinery. Properties with projects already proposed include building improvements at a local auto garage on Mill Street, and minor renovations for the build out of a new lighting, design, and production business.

TRANSFORMATIVE PROJECTS

20. Waterfront Art Placemaking

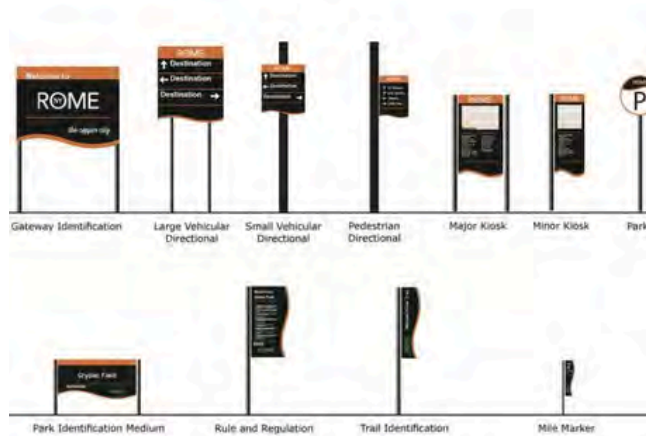
Estimated Project Cost: \$200,000
DRI Request: \$200,000
Project Sponsor: Oneida County Tourism
Location: Throughout boundary



This project will allow for the creation and installation of waterfront art that is unique to Rome. The artwork will serve as a placemaking element and local landmark that will give the area a visual identity to assist with branding and marketing efforts. In combination with elements listed in this plan, the artwork will help transform the waterfront to a more attractive and vibrant place to visit.

21. Implement Downtown BOA Wayfinding Plan

Estimated Project Cost: \$75,000
DRI Request: \$75,000
Project Sponsor: City of Rome
Location: Throughout boundary



As part of the Rome Downtown BOA, the Downtown and Waterfront Wayfinding Strategy and Design Plan was created as a unified design strategy that outlines specific standards for signage based on location, type, and intended user. Implementation of the Wayfinding Plan will improve navigation, overall aesthetics of the streetscape, and create dynamic and vibrant Downtown and Waterfront Districts.

22. Implement E. Dominick Business Attraction Strategy

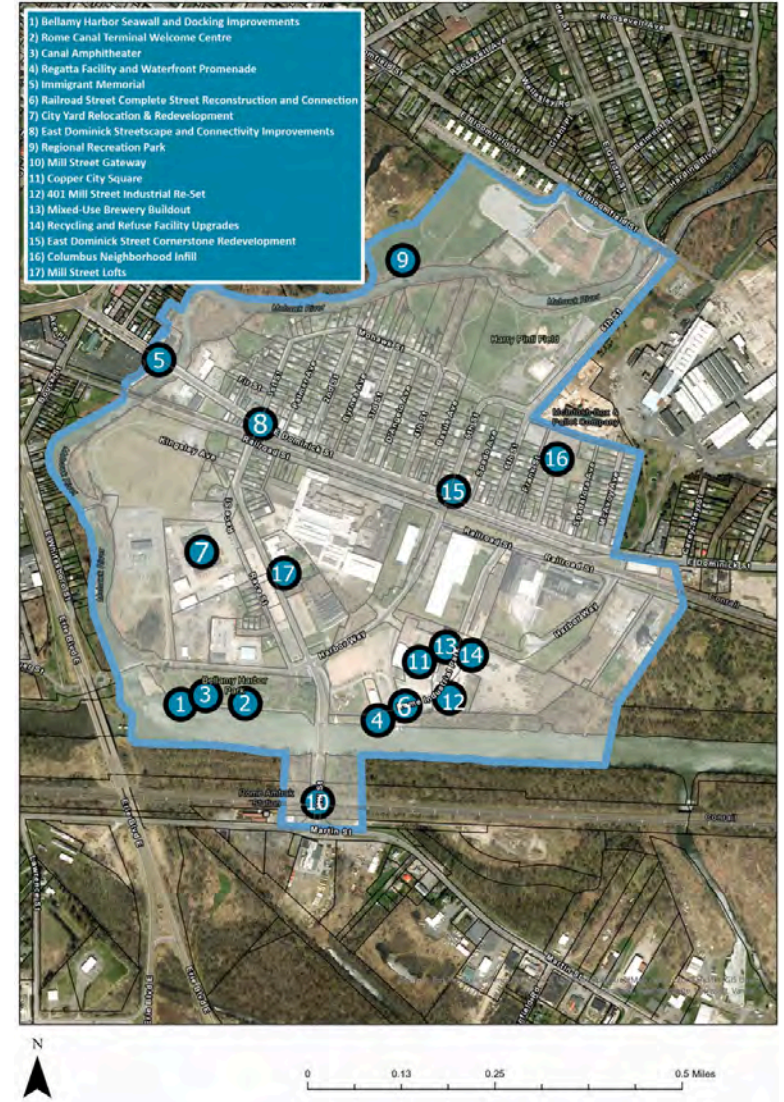
Estimated Project Cost: \$500,000
DRI Request: \$250,000
Project Sponsor: City of Rome
Location: Throughout boundary



A business attraction strategy for East Dominick Street was developed as part of the Downtown Rome BOA to draw new businesses to the corridor. The strategy focuses on creating an attractive and marketable corridor, while also providing guidance on recruiting businesses in target categories. Funding would support recommendations from this plan including, but not limited to, creating a Business Improvement District or Merchants Association, a recruitment information package, and connecting growing industries with available, turn-key facilities.

TRANSFORMATIVE PROJECTS

Project Type	Project Name	Estimated Project Cost	DRI Request
Public Projects	1. Bellamy Harbor Seawall & Docking	\$10,000,000	\$1,000,000
	2. Rome Canal Terminal Welcome Center	\$700,000	\$600,000
	3. Canal Amphitheater	\$500,000	\$175,000
	4. Regatta Facility & Waterfront Promenade	\$1,000,000	\$700,000
	5. Immigrant Memorial	\$500,000	\$250,000
	6. Railroad Street Complete Street Reconstruction & Connection	\$1,000,000	\$600,000
	7. City Yard Relocation & Redevelopment	\$9,000,000	\$1,000,000
	8. E. Dominick Streetscape & Connectivity Improvements	\$1,250,000	\$250,000
	9. Regional Recreation Park	\$1,000,000	\$750,000
	10. Mill Street Gateway	\$500,000	\$500,000
Private Projects	11. Copper City Square	\$5,000,000	\$2,000,000
	12. 401 Mill Street Industrial Re-set	\$300,000	\$200,000
	13. Mixed-Use Brewery Buildout	\$1,000,000	\$650,000
	14. Recycling & Refuse Facility Upgrades	\$2,500,000	\$1,000,000
	15. E. Dominick Street Cornerstone Redevelopment	\$500,000	\$200,000
	16. Columbus Neighborhood Infill	\$31,000,000	\$2,000,000
	17. Mill Street Lofts	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000
Funds	18. Residential Unit Development & Rehabilitation Fund	\$625,000	\$500,000
	19. Business Assistance Fund	\$625,000	\$500,000
Marketing	20. Waterfront Art Placemaking	\$200,000	\$200,000
	21. Implement Downtown BOA Wayfinding Plan	\$75,000	\$75,000
	22. Implement E. Dominick Business Attraction Strategy	\$500,000	\$250,000
TOTAL INVESTMENT		\$69,775,000	\$14,400,000



ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY

The City of Rome administrative, planning, and engineering staff is currently working on more than 40 active grant funded projects that range from assessment and planning projects, to environmental remediation, to public facilities capital improvement projects across the 75 square miles of the City of Rome. The City successfully completed a DRI Round 2 program award while balancing grant-awarded projects of all sizes.

Demonstrated success with large-scale grant programs includes, but is not limited to: NYS Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Program, RESTORE NY, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation's Green Innovation Grant Program, American Rescue Plan Act State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation, and NYS Department of State Brownfield Opportunity Area and Local Waterfront Revitalization Strategy programs.

OVERSIGHT & COMMUNICATION

The Mayor will act as the project lead, supported by the Chief of Staff. The Chief of Staff will help facilitate communication and engagement with the public and stakeholders, along with the Common Council. The Mayor, with support from the administration staff, will work directly with the consultant to ensure that goals are met and reporting and other requirements are completed in a timely fashion.



Mayor Jeffrey Lanigan



PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

The Department of Community and Economic Development will support the Mayor in planning and implementing the projects. The Deputy Director has 15+ years of professional planning and project management experience with local, state, and federal grant projects, and successfully saw the previous DRI Round 2 project from application to completion.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance will be provided internally from several departments. The Department of Public Works, including the Engineering Department, will provide oversight on public realm project implementation. The Treasurer's Office will assist with financial oversight, and Corporation Counsel will assist with GML procurement, contracting, and grant account establishment.

CITY PARTNERSHIPS

The City has established strong community, agency, and organizational partnerships that allow for powerful collaboration in planning and implementation of projects, as shown in the successful completion of the DRI Round 2. Partners include Mohawk Valley EDGE, Oneida County Industrial Development Agency, Oneida County, Oneida County Tourism, Rome Community Brownfield Restoration Corporation, and the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties.



LETTERS OF SUPPORT





MARIANNE BUTTENSCHON
Assemblywoman 119th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Small Business
COMMITTEES
Agriculture
Education
Higher Education
Veterans' Affairs

October 30, 2025

New York Department of State
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12231-0001

RE: Letter of Support—City of Rome DRI & NY Forward projects

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the City of Rome's Downtown Revitalization Initiative and NY Forward applications.

Following the City of Rome's 2016 DRI award, I saw two important things firsthand. First, Rome has the energetic and creative capacity to successfully complete a high-profile, transformative project. Second, Rome's many years of targeted investment yielded a transformed and thriving downtown community. This energy and renewed vitality have inspired stakeholders to continue elevating Rome's quality of life through job creation, business development, and engaging recreation opportunities. This momentum is perfectly primed to spread through Rome, reinvesting our present success into an extraordinary future.

I am especially eager to see this revitalization in the Waterfront DRI and Main Street NY Forward target areas. Tired storefronts and the remains of industrial decay can and should be transformed into beautiful areas where Romans can work, live, and recreate—especially alongside the beauty of the historic Canal waterfront and within the heart of a walkable city.

I urge your support of the City of Rome's DRI and NY Forward projects.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Marianne Buttenschon
Assembly member of the 119th District
buttenschonm@nyassembly.gov



Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc.

26 West Main Street, PO Box 69, Mohawk, NY 13407-0069

Phone: (315) 866-4671, Fax: (315) 866-9862, Web: mvedd.org, Email: info@mvedd.org

Serving Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties

Lawrence Gilroy III, Co-Chair
Dr. Marion Terenzio, Co-Chair
Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council
207 Genesee Street, #1604
Utica, New York 13501

October 29, 2025

Re: Letter of Support for the City of Rome's DRI and NY Forward Application

Dear Co-Chairs Gilroy and Terenzio:

On behalf of the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc (MVEDD), I am writing to express our support for the City of Rome's application to be designated as a DRI or NY Forward community within the Mohawk Valley. The city is looking to build on the momentum of their revitalization efforts already underway to further enhance the area.

Through earlier efforts, Rome has shown that it has the energy and capacity to complete high-profile projects and through its targeted investments, has transformed its downtown community. The city has been inspired to continue elevating Rome's quality of life through job creation, business development, and engaging recreation opportunities. This momentum perfectly aligns with an additional DRI/NY Forward award, continuing their forward momentum.

I'm especially excited to see new life brought to the Waterfront DRI and Main Street NY Forward areas. Old storefronts and leftover industrial sites have the potential to become vibrant places where Rome residents can live, work, and enjoy themselves, especially near the historic Erie Canal and in the walkable downtown area.

MVEDD's vision for the Mohawk Valley is to create a thriving region through inclusive economic development practices that provide lasting solutions for our communities. We work to foster the economic well-being of the communities we serve. We fully support this application and will assist Rome throughout the process to ensure project completion.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Smith
Executive Director



October 24, 2025

New York Department of State
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12231-0001

RE: Letter of Support—City of Rome DRI & NY Forward Projects

To Whom It May Concern:

As a proud member of the Rome community for 30+ years, and currently the Chair of the Rome Waterways & Trails Advocacy Group, I am writing in strong support of the City of Rome's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and NY Forward applications.

As a result of the 2017 DRI award to Rome that focused on its Downtown Arts District, I personally witnessed that Rome has:

- the energetic and creative capacity to successfully complete high-profile, transformative projects; and,
- parlayed those years of targeted investment into a transformed and thriving downtown community.

That energy and renewed vitality inspired stakeholders to elevate Rome's quality of life through job creation, business development, and expanded recreational opportunities. This momentum is perfectly primed to spread through Rome, reinvesting our present success into an extraordinary future.

I am especially eager to see this revitalization in the Waterfront DRI and Main Street NY Forward target areas. Tired storefronts and the remains of industrial decay can and should be transformed into beautiful areas where Romans can work, live, and recreate especially alongside the beauty of the historic Erie (Barge) Canal waterfront and within the heart of a walkable city. In 2023 Rome was awarded the designation of a Parks and Trails NY Trail Town. This particular DRI area will enable the waterfront and sections of the Erie Canalway Trail to draw in more community members and visitors alike who will take advantage of the upgraded amenities with an eye toward ensuring accessibility for all.

I urge your support of the City of Rome's DRI and NY Forward projects. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bobbie O'Brien".

(Ms) Bobbie O'Brien, Chair
Rome Waterways & Trails Advocacy Group
Mobile: 315-571-8729



Economic Development Growth Enterprises Corporation
584 Phoenix Drive • Rome, NY 13441
315-338-0393 • Fax 315-338-5694

November 6, 2025

New York Department of State
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12231-0001

RE: Support for City of Rome Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application

To Whom It May Concern:

As President of Mohawk Valley EDGE and a committed partner in Rome's economic resurgence, I am pleased to express our full support for the City of Rome's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) application. State investment in this project will accelerate a decade of transformational progress and ensure Rome continues its trajectory as a vibrant, competitive, and welcoming urban center in the Mohawk Valley.

EDGE has worked alongside the City for many years, including extensive collaboration on major redevelopment efforts stemming from the closure of Griffiss Air Force Base and our shared work on Rome's 2016 DRI award. That partnership gives us firsthand experience with the City's proven capacity to structure, manage, and deliver complex revitalization projects that drive private investment, expand housing options, and strengthen commercial corridors.

The proposed DRI target area encompasses neighborhoods poised for catalytic growth and represents one of the most important remaining opportunities to reconnect Rome's downtown, waterfront, and surrounding communities. This funding will activate storefronts, support mixed-use redevelopment, enhance public spaces, and expand walkable, livable districts. These are all essential components for attracting talent, fostering innovation, and retaining families.

We are proud to support the City's vision and stand ready to assist in executing these initiatives. We respectfully encourage your full consideration of Rome's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawna Papale". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Shawna Papale
President, Mohawk Valley EDGE



Griffiss Local Development Corporation
584 Phoenix Drive • Rome, NY 13441
315-338-0393 • Fax 315-338-5694

November 6, 2025

New York Department of State
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12231-0001

RE: Support for City of Rome's Downtown Revitalization Initiative

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Griffiss Local Development Corporation (GLDC), I am writing to offer strong support for the City of Rome's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) application.

For nearly three decades, GLDC has worked in partnership with the City of Rome to transform Griffiss from a decommissioned Air Force installation into a modern, diversified innovation hub that now supports thousands of jobs and anchors regional economic growth. The success at Griffiss is proof of Rome's ability to steward public investment responsibly and deliver projects that strengthen the regional economy.

The downtown core, much like Griffiss once was, is a critical opportunity area where strategic investment will unlock long term potential. The City's DRI vision complements ongoing economic expansion by creating the urban amenities, housing, and public spaces that today's workforce seeks. Revitalizing the historic canal waterfront and surrounding neighborhood represents the natural next step in Rome's evolution into a dynamic live, work, and play community.

GLDC strongly endorses this proposal and remains committed to supporting Rome's continued growth and redevelopment. We respectfully request your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawna Papale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shawna" and last name "Papale" clearly distinguishable.

Shawna Papale, MPA
Authorized Representative, Griffiss Local Development Corporation

Oneida County Tourism
321 Main St.
Utica, NY 13501

October 31, 2025

New York Department of State
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12231-0001

RE: Letter of Support—City of Rome DRI & NY Forward projects

To whom it may concern:

As President of Oneida County Tourism, and as someone who has spent my entire career championing this region's growth and vitality, I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the City of Rome's Downtown Revitalization Initiative and NY Forward applications.

Rome has long been a cornerstone of Oneida County's story. From the historic Erie Canal to Griffiss Business Park, the city has continually reimagined itself while staying true to its roots. Following Rome's 2016 DRI award, I witnessed firsthand the community's determination and creativity come to life. The transformation of downtown Rome was more than a physical revitalization—it was a renewal of pride and possibility.

That energy continues to ripple through the city, inspiring new investment, small business growth, and a stronger sense of place for both residents and visitors. The proposed Waterfront DRI and Main Street NY Forward projects represent the next exciting chapter in that story... Connecting Rome's heritage to its future and enhancing the city's appeal as a destination where people can live, work, and explore.

As someone who works every day to attract visitors to Oneida County, I know the impact that a vibrant, welcoming downtown and waterfront can have - not just on tourism, but on community identity and economic resilience. Rome's potential is immense, and these projects will only strengthen its role as a key gateway to the region.

I urge your support of the City of Rome's DRI and NY Forward projects.

Thank you,

Sarah Foster Calero
Sarah Foster Calero
President, Oneida County Tourism

☐ **Main Office:**
Parkway Center
220 Memorial Parkway
Utica, New York 13501
P: (315) 223.3973
F: (315) 223.3975



☐ **West Side Utica Location**
717 Court Street
Utica, NY 13502
P: (315) 917-3317
F: (315) 223-3973

October 24, 2025

New York Department of State
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12231-0001

RE: Letter of Support—City of Rome DRI & NY Forward projects

To whom it may concern:

As a proud member of the Rome community, and Executive Director of 50 Forward Mohawk Valley, I am writing in strong support of the City of Rome's Downtown Revitalization Initiative and NY Forward applications.

Following the City of Rome's 2016 DRI award, I saw two important things firsthand. First, Rome has the energetic and creative capacity to successfully complete a high-profile, transformative project. Second, Rome's many years of targeted investment yielded a transformed and thriving downtown community. This energy and renewed vitality have inspired stakeholders to continue elevating Rome's quality of life through job creation, business development, and engaging recreation opportunities. This momentum is perfectly primed to spread through Rome, reinvesting our present success into an extraordinary future.

I am especially eager to see this revitalization in the Waterfront DRI and Main Street NY Forward target areas. Tired storefronts and the remains of industrial decay can and should be transformed into beautiful areas where Romans can work, live, and recreate—especially alongside the beauty of the historic Canal waterfront and within the heart of a walkable city.

I urge your support of the City of Rome's DRI and NY Forward projects.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kelly Walters'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Kelly' and last name 'Walters' clearly legible.

Kelly Walters

Executive Director

315-223-3973 x 111

kwalters@50forwardmv.org



Oneida County Industrial Development Agency
584 Phoenix Drive • Rome, NY 13441
315-338-0393 • Fax 315-338-5694

November 6, 2025

New York Department of State
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12231-0001

RE: Support for City of Rome's Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application

To Whom It May Concern:

As Executive Director of the Oneida County Industrial Development Agency (OCIDA), I am pleased to express our strong support for the City of Rome's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) application.

OCIDA's mission is to drive economic investment and job creation throughout Oneida County. Rome's continued revitalization is essential to that mission. New York State's DRI investment will further position Rome as a competitive location for talent, entrepreneurship, and advanced industry investment by expanding mixed use redevelopment, supporting local business growth, and enhancing quality of life amenities.

Rome has demonstrated exceptional capability in successfully managing large-scale state and federal projects. Most notably through redevelopment at Griffiss and the implementation of its 2016 DRI award. Their leadership team has the track record, vision, and commitment necessary to deliver results that benefit both the City and greater Oneida County.

OCIDA strongly endorses this application and encourages full funding consideration.

Sincerely,

Shawna Papale
Executive Director, Oneida County Industrial Development Agency



Board of Directors

Nadine Lemmon, Chair
Robert Basch, Vice Chair
JP Laqueur, Secretary
Jeffrey P. Bender, Treasurer

Julie Blackburn
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Advisory Council

Kent L. Barwick
Ramón Cruz
Frances Gotcsik
Mary Beth Kelly
Frederick Osborn III
Enrique Peñalosa
Drew Raines

Paul Steely White
Executive Director

1 Steuben Place
Albany, NY 12207
518.434.1583
www.ptny.org
ptny@ptny.org

November 3, 2025

New York Department of State
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12231-0001

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of Parks & Trails New York (PTNY), I write to express my strong support for the City of Rome's Downtown Revitalization Initiative and NY Forward applications.

Following the City of Rome's 2016 DRI award, I saw two important things firsthand. First, Rome has the energetic and creative capacity to successfully complete a high-profile, transformative project. Second, Rome's many years of targeted investment and continued planning work have yielded a transformed and thriving downtown community. This energy and renewed vitality have inspired stakeholders to continue elevating Rome's quality of life through job creation, business development, and engaging recreation opportunities. This momentum is perfectly primed to spread through Rome, reinvesting our present success into an extraordinary future.

For 40 years, PTNY has helped to expand, protect and promote a network of parks, trails, and open spaces throughout our state for use and enjoyment by all. In 2023, PTNY selected the City of Rome to participate in the Empire State Trail Town program. This program recognizes and supports New York's exceptional trailside communities who've committed to going above and beyond in offering a high-quality trail user experience. Throughout the year, PTNY worked with a steering committee in Rome to identify opportunities to leverage the economic benefits of the trail tourism to the Empire State Trail and ensure that the trail meets its full potential as a community amenity.

These grants would support the City's long-standing commitment to enhance and activate local trail systems; a commitment recognized by PTNY through the Empire State Trail Town certification process. These efforts directly align with the Empire State Trail Town mission to encourage trail-friendly development and enhance the user experience along the Erie Canalway Trail (ECT) and the Empire State Trail (EST). The proposed projects will strengthen connections between the trail, waterfront, and downtown districts—creating a more vibrant, accessible, and welcoming environment for residents, visitors, and trail users alike. Potential improvements such as mixed-use building renovations and docking upgrades at Bellamy Harbor Park could not only enhance recreational opportunities and visitor amenities but also stimulate local economic activity. Together, these initiatives represent a significant step toward realizing Rome's vision as a model Trail Town community that celebrates its historic waterfront while embracing a connected, trail-oriented future.

I am especially eager to see this revitalization in the Waterfront DRI and Main Street NY Forward target areas. Tired storefronts and the remains of industrial decay can and should be transformed into beautiful areas where Romans can work, live, and recreate—especially alongside the Erie Canalway/Empire State Trail, the beauty of the historic Canal waterfront and within the heart of a walkable city.

I urge your support of the City of Rome's DRI and NY Forward projects.

Sincerely,

Paul Steely White
Executive Director



Our Business is Helping Your Business

143 W. Dominick Street ~ Rome, NY 13440
Ph (315) 337-1700 ~ Fax (315) 337-1715

October 24, 2025

New York Department of State
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12231-0001

RE: Letter of Support—City of Rome DRI & NY Forward projects

To whom it may concern:

As a proud member of the Rome community, and Executive Director of the Rome Area Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in strong support of the City of Rome's Downtown Revitalization Initiative and NY Forward applications.

Following the City of Rome's 2016 DRI award, I saw two important things firsthand. First, Rome has the energetic and creative capacity to successfully complete a high-profile, transformative project. Second, Rome's many years of targeted investment yielded a transformed and thriving downtown community. This energy and renewed vitality have inspired stakeholders to continue elevating Rome's quality of life through job creation, business development, and engaging recreation opportunities. This momentum is perfectly primed to spread through Rome, reinvesting our present success into an extraordinary future.

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I urge your support of the City of Rome's DRI and NY Forward projects.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Bruce Hairston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style and is enclosed within a large, horizontal oval shape.

Bruce Hairston
Executive Director
Rome Area Chamber of Commerce
315-337-1727



Hamilton

*Vice President,
Administration and Finance*

October 24, 2025

New York Department of State
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12231-0001

RE: Letter of Support—City of Rome DRI & NY Forward projects

To whom it may concern:

Hamilton College is a proud member of the Rome community and I am writing in strong support of the City of Rome's Downtown Revitalization Initiative and NY Forward applications.

Following the City of Rome's 2016 DRI award, I saw two important things firsthand. First, Rome has the energetic and creative capacity to successfully complete a high-profile, transformative project. Second, Rome's many years of targeted investment yielded a transformed and thriving downtown community. This energy and renewed vitality have inspired stakeholders to continue elevating Rome's quality of life through job creation, business development, and engaging recreation opportunities. This momentum is perfectly primed to spread through Rome, reinvesting our present success into an extraordinary future.

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I urge your support of the City of Rome's DRI and NY Forward projects.

Thank you,

Karen Leach
Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance
Hamilton College

