



WARREN COUNTY

2040

PAG MEETING 2

October 24, 2023



AGENDA

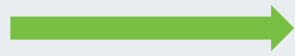
- I. Meeting Review
- II. Draft Plan Organization & Key Theme Areas
- III. What We Do: Department Interviews
- IV. How We Collaborate: Partner Organization Outreach
- V. Next Section to Tackle: The Built Environment
- VI. Next Steps for Public Engagement
- VII. Public Comments

MEETING REVIEW

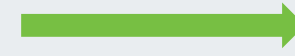


PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting 1



Meeting 2



Meeting 3

- Introduced the project team
- Reviewed the project scope and schedule
- Discussed demographic trends & related planning efforts
- Discussed the public engagement approach
- SWOT analysis

- Discuss & finalize the plan theme areas/organization
- Review the County Operations study fundings
- Review the partner interview findings
- Feedback on the “Built Environment” theme area analysis
- Discuss next steps for public engagement

- Discuss issues and opportunities related to the “Built Environment” theme area
- Finalize details of the public workshop

PLAN ORGANIZATION/ THEME AREAS





BACKGROUND & INTENT

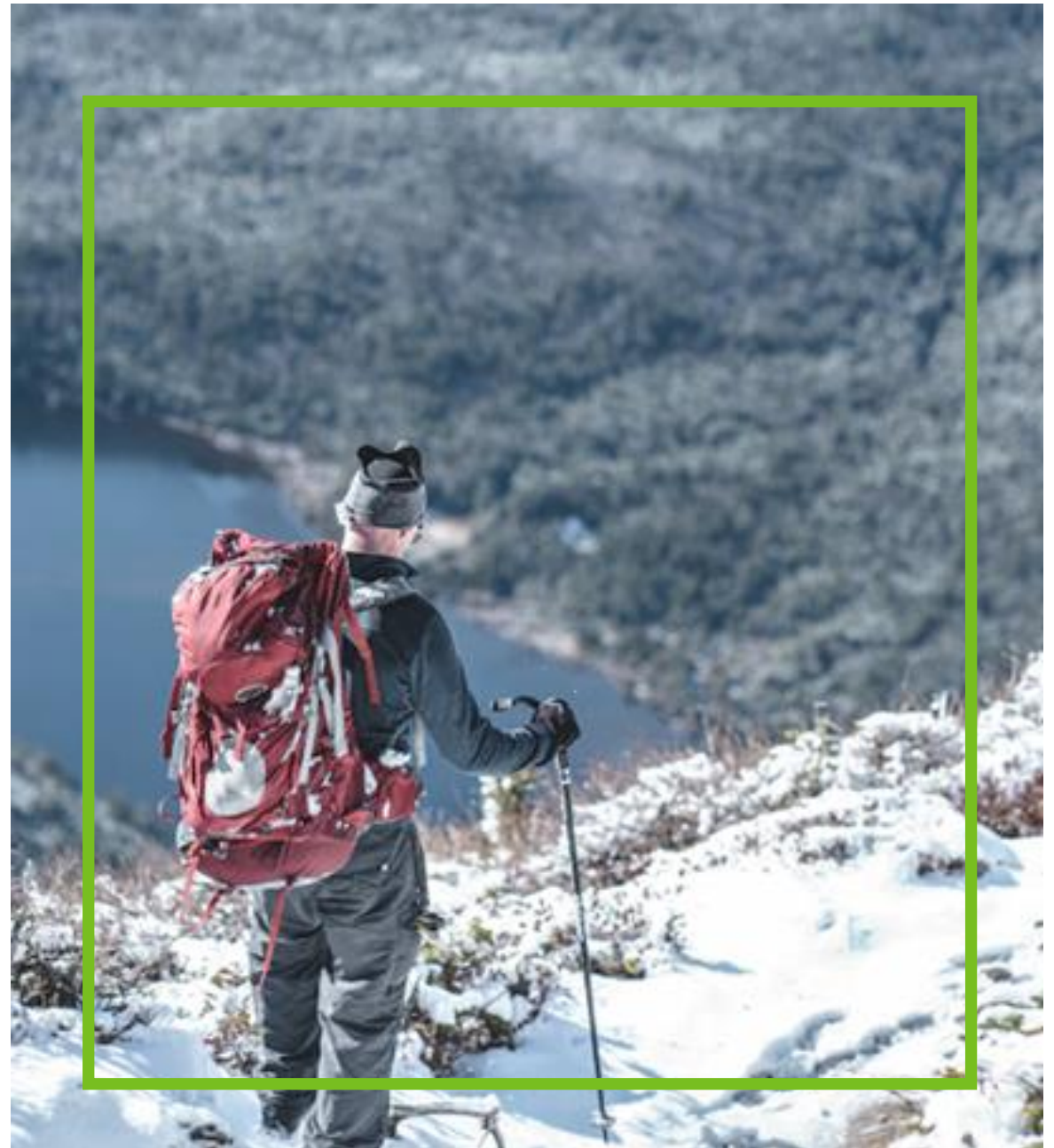
- Preliminary focus areas discussed at PAG Meeting #1
- Focus areas refined based on PAG Meeting #1 and partner outreach feedback
- Intent is to serve as organizing structure for both final plan and the planning process

DRAFT PLAN ORGANIZATION & KEY THEME AREAS

Plan Section	PAG Meeting
1. Introduction	Meeting 1
2. Who We Are	
3. What We Do	Meeting 2
4. How We Collaborate	
5. The Built Environment - Housing, Infrastructure, Transportation	Meeting 3
6. The Natural Environment - Water Resources, Land Resources, Outdoor Recreation	Meetings 4, 5, and 6
7. Our Economy - Local Employment & Job Sectors	
8. Quality of Life - Schools, Health Care, Arts & Culture, Volunteer Organizations	

CLIMATE CHANGE & RESILIENCY

- The NYS Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Program provides guidance & funding to undertake local actions to mitigate the contribution of GHG and adapt to the impacts of climate change
- Warren County is certified as a Bronze-level CSC
- CSCs can undertake certification actions to achieve higher levels; one action is adopting a Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements



WHAT WE DO: DEPARTMENT INTERVIEWS



PROCESS

- Interviewed of all County department heads in Spring/Summer 2023
- Additional feedback from County departments through Fall 2023
- CGR drafted report, which was shared with the PAG
- Goals:
 - Understand how the County currently operates & how this compares to other comparable counties
 - Identify potential issues and opportunities looking to the future
 - Serve as a reference document for County staff

ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES, & TRENDS

- General satisfaction with current staffing
- Concerns around recruitment, aging staff, and future staffing
- External trends, such as declining volunteerism & aging population will have impacts on demand for County services
- Opportunities to improve workforce development and continued education and training to meet evolving needs
- Need for continued capital and IT investments to provide high quality services

PEER COUNTY COMPARISON

Peer Counties for the Analysis:

- Clinton
- Columbia
- Essex
- Hamilton
- Saratoga
- Ulster
- Washington

Selected based on population, geographic size, population density, median age, household income, tourism revenue, recreation spending, & proximity

Key Differentiators:

- Warren Co. generates the largest % of its revenue from sales & use tax (41%)
- Employee Benefits are a top three expense for most peer counties, with exceptions of Warren & Washington Cos.
- High visitor spending per resident (\$11,508; only Essex & Hamilton higher)
- Higher police employment & arrest rates

HOW WE COLLABORATE: PARTNER ORGANIZATION OUTREACH



INTERVIEWED PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- Adirondack Glens Falls Transportation Council
- Adirondack Park Agency
- Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Capital Region Economic Development Council
- CDTA
- Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board
- Lake George Association
- Lake George Association/Waterkeeper
- Lake George Land Conservancy
- Lake George Park Commission
- Northern Forest Center
- Saratoga, Warren, & Washington County Workforce Development Board
- Northern Border Regional Commission
- Warren County Economic Development Corporation
- Warren Washington Industrial Development Agency
- Warren County Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Warren County Department of Workforce Development
- Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District

HOW THEY COLLABORATE

- Varying levels of collaboration with Warren County, but generally positive sentiments
- Opportunities to further involve and leverage these partner organizations at the County
- Concerns around increased polarization that highlights differences, rather than unifying around the County's strengths and resources
- Varying levels of collaboration between partner organizations, with some improved coordination since COVID
- Opportunities to better align partner organizations' efforts to present a unifying front

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Housing:

- Current issue of supply, rather than affordability, but concerns around continued rising prices
- Opportunities for zoning updates, but restrictions within the blue line and concerns around community pushback
- No single entity charged with tackling the issue and lacking some of the tools that are needed

Transportation & Infrastructure:

- Continued need to fill cell/internet access gaps
- Challenge of County's dispersed population and rural nature
- Many smaller communities lack the information or capacity to administer Federal transportation projects
- Many employees do not know that they are transit accessible
- Optimism around the CDTA merger

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Diversity of natural resources and recreational opportunities is one of the County's greatest resources
- Concerns around climate change and environmental threats
- Lake George stands out as a unique benefit and opportunity, as a regional draw and with best practices that can be replicated
- The County has made good progress advancing initiatives to address climate change and the area holds the potential of being a climate haven

THE ECONOMY

- Great workforce development initiatives are underway
- Longer term concerns about how much of current programming is tied to temporary Federal funding
- Need to ensure that workforce training is future focused and attuned to needs of a resilient economy
- Opportunities to increase local internship and apprenticeship program
- Concerns around the long-term viability of the County's major manufacturing businesses point to the need to diversify the manufacturing base
- Need to expand the local employment pool to "outside of the box" groups
- Capital Region location is a draw for workers, even if working outside of Warren County
- Opportunities to continue to attract remote workers
- Support for small businesses and a growing entrepreneurial culture
- Occupancy taxes are an asset that could be further leveraged to support County residents
- Concerns about impact of converting small hospitality businesses to residences on occupancy tax revenue

QUALITY OF LIFE

- County's community services are an asset and differentiator that could better highlighted
- Balance of living experiences that should be promoted
- Concerns around to workforce gaps and social services with the aging population
- Need to track emerging social trends and invest in the County's youth

**NEXT SECTION
TO TACKLE:
THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

KEY TOPIC AREAS

HOUSING

2023 Housing Needs Study & Market Demand Analysis

- Developed throughout 2023
- Demographic & economic data review
- Housing inventory, shortage, and gaps
- 27 stakeholder interviews
- Recommendation & implementation strategies

INFRASTRUCTURE

County Capital Project Inventory

Warren Co. EDC Broadband Study

Infrastructure stakeholder outreach

TRANSPORTATION

Rural Workforce Transportation Study

Re-engage CDTA in a focus group discussion/align with their Transit Development Plan efforts

NEXT STEPS FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



NEXT STEPS FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Public Survey to launch November 1 and remain open through November (potential extension through December)
- Presentation to the County Economic Development Committee on 11/21
- Public Workshop to be held in January
- Next PAG Meeting to be held in mid-December – “The Built Environment”

PUBLIC COMMENTS
