

Section II. Community Participation Plan

A. Public Participation Plan

A public participation plan was developed to identify a variety of forums and outreach mechanisms to engage all parties interested in the development of the Endicott-Johnson BOA Nomination Study. The plan consists of four elements: steering committee meetings, property owner interviews, public informational meetings, and agency involvement. Figure II-1 illustrates how each element feeds into the nomination study recommendations. Following is a summary of each element of the process.

1. Steering Committee

Committee members representing a spectrum of interested parties gathered periodically throughout the nomination process. A series of Steering Committee meetings was held to discuss key topics related to the Nomination Study. The Steering Committee has provided perspective and experience to help guide the planning process, and is involved in the review of Nomination Study documents. A total of seven Steering Committee meetings were held between November 2007 and October 2008.

2. Property Owner Interviews

The purpose of stakeholder interviews is to inform and solicit comments from BOA property owners whose involvement is important to the project's success. A total of fifteen private interviews were held between the project consultant and local property owners.

3. Public Meetings

Two public meetings were held in March 2008 and March 2009 to solicit and obtain community input regarding elements of the Nomination Study. Community members were invited to forums designed to inform the public of the purpose, benefits, and recommendations of the BOA program. Public input was recorded and considered throughout the planning process. Public meetings were publicized using various media, including direct mailings to study area property owners, fliers, press releases, email, and announcements posted to community websites, in order to encourage participation in the public meetings.

4. Public Agency Involvement

Input was sought from the DOS, DEC, and various county and municipal departments. Consultation with public agencies is ongoing, and representatives from public agencies are involved in steering committee activities.

B. Techniques to Enlist Partners

Partnerships were formed with key municipal, community, and agency stakeholders in order to obtain valuable guidance and experience from these resources, and to ensure communication between the involved parties as they work toward a mutual goal of improving the community.

The E-J BOA planning process has fostered connections among the County and local governments, businesses, residents and public agencies that have committed their support and effort towards the revitalization of the former E-J Industrial Spine.

Broome County Planning and Economic Development initiated the E-J BOA Nomination Study process, and has assumed a leading role in project coordination and management. Local government representatives including the Village of Johnson City and the City of Binghamton are represented on the Steering Committee. A revitalized E-J BOA will affect each of these municipal parties, and the inclusive planning process ensures that the area's redevelopment will align with County, Village and City interests.

United Health Services and the Goodwill Theatre are key institutions located in the heart of the study area, and these uses will play major roles in the revitalization of the E-J BOA. For this reason, leadership from each of these institutions will be involved in the planning process for the area. All parties recognize the mutual benefit in considering the growth and participation of these institutions in redevelopment of the E-J BOA, as well as the significance of neighborhood revitalization to the ongoing success of these key institutions. The partnerships formed between Wilson Hospital, the Goodwill theatre and the numerous public entities involved in planning will allow these institutions to actively participate as community stewards, while defining their roles in the area's revitalization and helping to support their goals.

As State-level partners, representatives from the NYS Department of State (DOS) and Department of Environmental Conservation provide program knowledge and experience that is essential as local and private partners plan and implement the area's revitalization.