

Executive Summary:

Based on feedback from the Economic Development Policy and Strategy Committee (EDPSC) members, this CEDS has been designed as a framework for integrating efforts of the organizations that serve the region and facilitating collaboration for appropriate resilient development. The EDPSC would like to quantify and leverage existing resources to increase the impact of economic development projects in the Southern Tier Central Region. This CEDS update will help STC accomplish the good work prioritized by the strong agencies/partners that currently support our region (government, non-profit, and for profit alike). This can be achieved by collaborating openly with the local governments, nonprofits and quasi-governmental organizations serving Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben County, and giving strong consideration to developing a new mutual aid framework. After years of working collaboratively on increasingly significant projects, Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board is prepared to move forward with an integrated approach to regional development with the intention of promoting public-private-partnerships as well as the people, place, and profit conceptual framework.

Our region flourishes due to the interconnections between the people, the economy, and our natural resources. Additional information about the STC region is included in the companion StoryMap ([link](#)). Regions like ours thrive when residents are supported in their personal development and economic development goals, and where the local environment is able to support healthy people and resilient communities, with strong regional employment and job growth (particularly the growth of good paying jobs and small business innovation). This framework is called the “3 P’s”: people, planet/place, profit. The implementation of the 3 P’s and public-private partnerships is possible through collaborative action. This CEDS documents the purpose, partners, and procedure to achieve collective action. While the partner organizations that form our Economic

Development Policy and Strategy Committee each have their own goals and funders, the EDPSC is united in a fundamental desire to maintain and improve our community by: improving economic opportunity, quality of life, and human development. The STC Board Members, EDPSC Committee, and Human Services Committees’ members represent organizations that serve the region’s residents, businesses (small and large) and nonprofits. These committees, boards and active groups in the region deliver funding resources and support to projects that impact the landscape, human development and economic development in our community. These efforts are possible through: Board members ability to influence public policy, Grant writing an administration, business development funding, Private business perspective and first hand knowledge of the local economic environment. Project management, relationships with and sharing information from State, local, and regional organizations. grant writing assistance for non-profits, project development assistance from the Industrial Development Agencies (IDA’s) to for-profits, training for individuals seeking skill upgrades/a new career or job search assistance, planning efforts to maintain safety in our communities from potential environmental hazards. Brief highlights of a SWOT of STC’s role in the community:

STRENGTHS -Neutrality -Experience -Regional approaches -Well respected	WEAKNESSES -Inadequate grant resources for desirable projects -High grant match requirements
OPPORTUNITY -Leveraged partnerships -Aligned approaches -Shared resources and efforts	THREATS -Substantial changes to the federal funding structure -Disengagement

Notable Goals from areas of interest in the STC Region, NYS State, and the Nation:

After evaluating the content of many plans, STC's staff have identified several specific areas of significant alignment between the local partner organizations and the State/federal departments that influence policy and grant funding in this community. These significant areas of alignment can be grouped into several categories, listed below with links to the quoted strategy. These approved plans and strategies are the preferred approaches for improvement, as set forth by major funders and regulators. These goals are 'guide rails' for the CEDS projects and recommended actions that follow. Regional improvements will proceed in a more direct and predictable way, if development efforts are fully aligned with the approved goals of larger influential agencies (state/federal). **Overall Goal: STC demonstrably supports beneficial projects locally, within each county, and regionally through transparent and collaborative processes backed by best practices. STC will also promote and include Digital Infrastructure Access and Expertise into each of the following areas of interest.**

Job Retention, Wage Growth and Alleviating Poverty: ARC, EDA, NYS, HUD

Improving workforce participation and wages to reduce poverty has long been a keystone goal of the Appalachian Regional Commission. The Economic Development Administration has also funded substantial efforts to alleviate poverty by incentivizing job-creating projects. Upgrading electrical grid capacity will support future employment efforts. NYS, CSSWFNY, and STC's three county Social Services Departments are responsible for government-led antipoverty efforts directly for residents. The ARC, EDA, NYS, and IDA's also support new employment projects which can reduce poverty (by offering employment to individuals). cluster developments specifically as a "prioritized industrial/manufacturing investments"

Improve Health, Community and Transportation: HUD, ARC, NYS, USDOT

Healthy people, good transportation, childcare, and strong communities go hand-in-hand according to HUD, U.S. DOT, NYS, and ARC. Walkable communities (with education, employment, Childcare, and retail options), accessible for all, with varied transportation options are parts of a thriving community. These 'innovations' to support healthy residents are encouraged by HUD, ARC, and NYS. Funding for grid capacity upgrades is necessary for most community development projects in the region. As shown in prior CEDS, Public-Private Partnerships are the current best practice for integrating these varied ideas into the local landscape, for the betterment of the region's residents (and the economy). This CEDS will attempt to frame several upcoming projects through a loose public-private partnership framework.

CleanTech, Innovation, and Environmental Resilience: FEMA, NYS, EPA

The STC region is ready for increased economic potential through development of new technology to increase human health and leverage environmental resources. Addressing the current impacts of environmental contamination as well as working toward a Green/Clean energy future is a significant priority for

NYS and the U.S.. FEMA, NYS, EPA, EDA, and STC's three IDA's also support Clean Tech innovations in the STC region. Due to the industrial legacy in this region, some areas are impacted by actual or perceived contamination; therefore urban re-development efforts should integrate Cleantech/green tech, community engagement, and environmental remediation efforts, to ensure the benefits of new development are cultivated in the communities with the highest need.

Community Emergency Preparedness: FEMA, EDA, NYS DHSES

Areas throughout the STC region are impacted by flood and storm events with relative frequency. Efforts supporting preparedness, resilience, and grid stability/upgrades are important for STC. Places with stable resilient infrastructure are better able to resist the physical, economic, and social effects of a disaster. job retention is higher with strong and resilient local employers. A resilient community may be less afflicted by an event: local jobs will be retained and a stable community will be able to support neighboring areas that endured substantial impacts. Federal agencies like FEMA, EDA, and NYS DHSES support preparedness activities. FEMA, EDA, USDA-RD and NYS support rebuilding efforts after a disaster. Ensuring child care facilities are safe from disasters and can operate after a disaster will facilitate quick recovery in the community.

Rural Development and Supporting Agriculture: ARC, EDA, USDA, NYS

Increasing economic opportunity in the regions' rural communities, as well as supporting profitable and resilient agriculture has been a long term goal for STC. Ag partners can work together to support specialty crops and mitigate phosphorus concerns. Grid-scale upgrades are necessary for rural economic development and energy generation capacity increases. Grid capacity may be the highest priority for rural development in the next 5 years.

Groups of Projects Vital to the Region's Economic Growth: (What)

The following portion of the CEDS will include an overview of information about the 12 overarching vital projects in the STC Region between 2025 and 2030. Taken together, these large project ideas may be the most direct way to leverage investment to achieve resilient and durable community-wide improvements. These pages are meant to provide an attractive and 'easy to sell' overview of each constellation of interconnected projects. Each page will be filled with information about vital projects: the cost, impact, benefits, and implementation process. Similar details about other projects that support the vital project are also included. Community/infrastructure /housing projects in the vicinity of the vital project that will contribute to, or benefit from the vital projects have been incorporated. The inclusion of non-profit projects will support the development of public-private partnerships (as appropriate to incentivize or fund these vital projects). Workforce training projects and organizational interconnection projects that will support the overall constellation are also included. Place-based development /promotion projects are included to ensure broad-based improvements in the community are made possible by linking the vital project to other projects with the 3-P's framework (People, Planet, Profit). The full list of projects in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is in Appendix 1.

STC's proposed 12 overarching vital projects:

Regional Workforce Housing: Strategic housing development to attract new talent and workforce population.

Regional workforce integration for adults and youth (specifically for ONRAMP cleantech, and human services).

Regional Grid Capacity Upgrades.

Southern Tier Logistics Area strategic site improvements.

Strategic support for development in the Big Flats - Horseheads Highway corridor.

Strategic support for capacity and community development projects in downtown Elmira.

Schuyler: Strategic infrastructure investments.

Schuyler Agricultural Investments and redevelopment.

Southern Schuyler: Strategic Investments.

Corning-Erwin: Strategic Investments.

Greater Hornell: Strategic Investments.

Route 54 corridor community redevelopment (Bath- Urbana-Hammondsport).

Recommended Actions and Performance Measures: (How)

This CEDS is a guiding document for the actions of the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board, a non-regulatory organization formed in the 1960's through the joint efforts of Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties. Therefore, the activities recommended in this CEDS must be consistent with STC's enabling legislation, bylaws, and STC's role in the region's organizational ecosystem. STC's Board, committee members, and partner organizations can improve the regions' community and prosperity through 9 types of collaborative actions to support beneficial development:

- ① Information sharing/removing silos,
- ② Participate in collaborative project development,
- ③ Resource sharing (leverage match + staff),
- ④ Integrated program implementation/data-based follow-up,
- ⑤ Capacity building to facilitate innovative approaches,
- ⑥ Grant writing and collaborative project administration,
- ⑦ Sharing our comprehensive approach with regulatory bodies/ funders, across peer organizations, and with the public/clients,
- ⑧ Supporting the CEDS vital/constellation projects, and
- ⑨ Supporting all CEDS Listed projects (as appropriate).

Each of these mechanisms is beneficial in the short and long term; however, organizational culture and history can be a barrier to high levels of cooperation. STC also plans to "Partner for Collective Impact" by linking economic development with the regions' Human Service providers through the CEDS and an ARC Grants to Grow project. The three counties of the STC region are already very closely connected through workforce and the service/retail economy. Beneficial development in any of the STC counties will have positive effects in the other counties. As the continued benefits of collaboration become tangible, STC's staff expects a shift toward greater sharing of information and resources. Greater collaboration opportunities can be cultivated by creating beneficial opportunities for discussion, and building 'buy-in' from relevant regional entities. Whenever organizations and staff are asked to partner in a new way, there are likely to be some growing pains where collaboration opportunities are viewed as territorial disputes.

Goal: STC clearly supports beneficial projects locally, within each county, and regionally through transparent and collaborative processes backed by best practices. Community Planning, land use planning, grant writing, and staff assistance are the ways STC can support national, statewide, regional and local initiatives. Toward this end, the outcomes of this Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy are regional goals, projects that will move the region toward those goals, recommended actions to support those projects, and performance measures to evaluate the success of these efforts. Recommended Actions and (performance measures):

- 1) Add collaborative project development activities to STC's staff reports at STC Board meetings (Performance measure: # projects supported with data, analysis, mapping, grant assistance, ect.)
- 2) STC staff and Board Members will engage in at least 6 collaborative efforts each year across any/all of STC's program areas. (Performance Measures: # STC's networking events, # emails, social media communications, and collaboration opportunities).
- 3) Add inter-board reporting to STC's Board Agenda. Support Board Members with brief written summaries of relevant STC projects for inter-reporting to other Boards. (Performance measure: 10 Board Members inter-report the activities of other relevant organizations at STC Board meetings and report STC activities to their other Boards)).
- 4) Support the development of a consistent format for 'services offered' and 'referral' webpages among active partners in the region & 211. (Performance measure: # public engagement/website visits/Network map updates)
- 5) Convene grant development meetings to assist with the difficult task of developing a new program while respecting organizational boundaries. (Performance measure: two collaborative grants submitted per year).

Regional Organizations that engage with the development and support of local projects: (Who)

The proposals outlined in the prior 12 pages are of vital importance to the region. This section will explain "who" will play a role in facilitating collaboration around these projects and "who" will be directly involved in the development and execution of these projects. As the Economic Development District that serves Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties and as the author of this Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, STC's role in advising local entities, facilitating projects, completing reports, and developing grants will be explained first. Descriptions of the role of other organizations will follow.

STC is the Economic Development District (EDD) as well as the Local Development District (LDD) for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). STC's Economic Development Policy and Strategy Committee is intimately involved in STC's EDD and LDD decision making activities. STC facilitates EDA and ARC grant applications, and provides additional support during the review award, and reporting phases. STC's staff work collaboratively in a variety of topics and staff are subject matter experts in a few of these topics. The extensive network of STC staff connections to other organizations allows STC to provide feedback and advice throughout the development process of a project idea.

STC's staff engages closely with many local governments and county departments on issues of local concern like training needs, watershed protection, land use planning, GIS community projects, mapping, transportation planning, and housing programs. STC's GIS/mapping capacity can be used to promote smart growth in areas with complete infrastructure (public transport, high speed internet, Water/Sewer/electric, adequate social/economic systems, and housing). These activities are generally initiated by an invitation or expression of interest from the project partners and alignment with STC's core mission: to improve the capacity of local governments and nonprofits to serve the people of this community. Training activities held during the Regional Leadership Conference and during Evening Training events throughout the year are also opportunities to enhance regional understanding and collaboration. Each interaction with these local governments give STC a firsthand view of issues that arise in the

region, as well as insight into administrative barriers and potential solutions. STC is a reliable partner to discuss best practices and regional perspectives at public comprehensive planning meetings. STC's community connections are maintained through meetings with:

- Local governments (that have STC planning assistance contracts),
- Nonprofit project partners,
- Partner Counties and Departments, and
- Elmira Chemung Transportation Council.

Flooding is a fact of life in this region, and responsibly addressing the risks to current land use while guiding appropriate land use decisions is resilient economic development. Development decisions in the STC region are guided by existing floodplain regulations (through building permits and the flood map), as well as risk of levee de-certification by FEMA. A comprehensive approach to guiding development and upgrades could further improve flood resilience in the region. STC has staff dedicated to flood mitigation and floodplain management; these staff meet regularly with national, state, county, and local groups, including:

- [Association of State Floodplain Managers](#),
- [Army Corps of Engineers](#),
- [New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association](#),
- [Upper Susquehanna Coalition](#),
- [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#),
- [Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization](#),
- [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#),
- [New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services](#), &
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#).

STC's staff have been closely involved in broadband and fiber/high-speed internet deployment in the region for more than 15 years. Lately STC has had a role in educating about how state/federal broadband determinations (definitions) impact funding and potential grants. STC works on the infrastructure side of broadband by planning and grant writing for middle mile and last mile infrastructure. STC also provides support to the Southern Tier Library System and the newly created Southern Tier Digital Equity Coalition.

Regional Organizations that engage with the development and support of local projects: (Who)

STC's digital mapping activities have contributed to the regions' success with grant applications for broadband and other programs between 2015-2025. Further, STC has for two years worked with NYS ConnectALL office to submit challenges to ISP's submitted service areas, aiding in the region's served/underserved data's accuracy. STC's participation in broadband issues involves close relationships with: [USDA](#), [ARC](#), [EDA](#), [NTIA](#), [NYS Connect All Office](#), [Southern Tier Network](#), and Southern Tier Digital Literacy and Access Consortium.

STC's connections to the Human Services community are underpinned by Appalachian Regional Commission grant funding which was used to create many of the most impactful organizations operating in the region and through the regular Human Services meetings to promote the ARC grant cycle. This CEDS is part of an ongoing regional effort to bring a collaborative effort involving human service organizations into direct regional economic development processes, along with a traditional focus on grants/incentives/land use/infrastructure. This mutual approach is necessary to prepare the region's workforce and secure grant matching or programmatic resources. Following STC's success leveraging multiple sources of match/funding to benefit several large projects in the region, STC staff outreach to Human Services organizations includes promotion of collaborative grant development activities. The deepest engagement is between STC and the following: [United Way](#), [CSS WFNY](#), [Pro Action](#), [Institute for Human Services](#), [Arbor Development](#), [Economic Opportunity Program](#), [Comprehensive Interdisciplinary Development Services \(CIDS\)](#), [Southern Tier Library System](#), [Greater Southern Tier BOCES](#), and [Corning Community College](#).

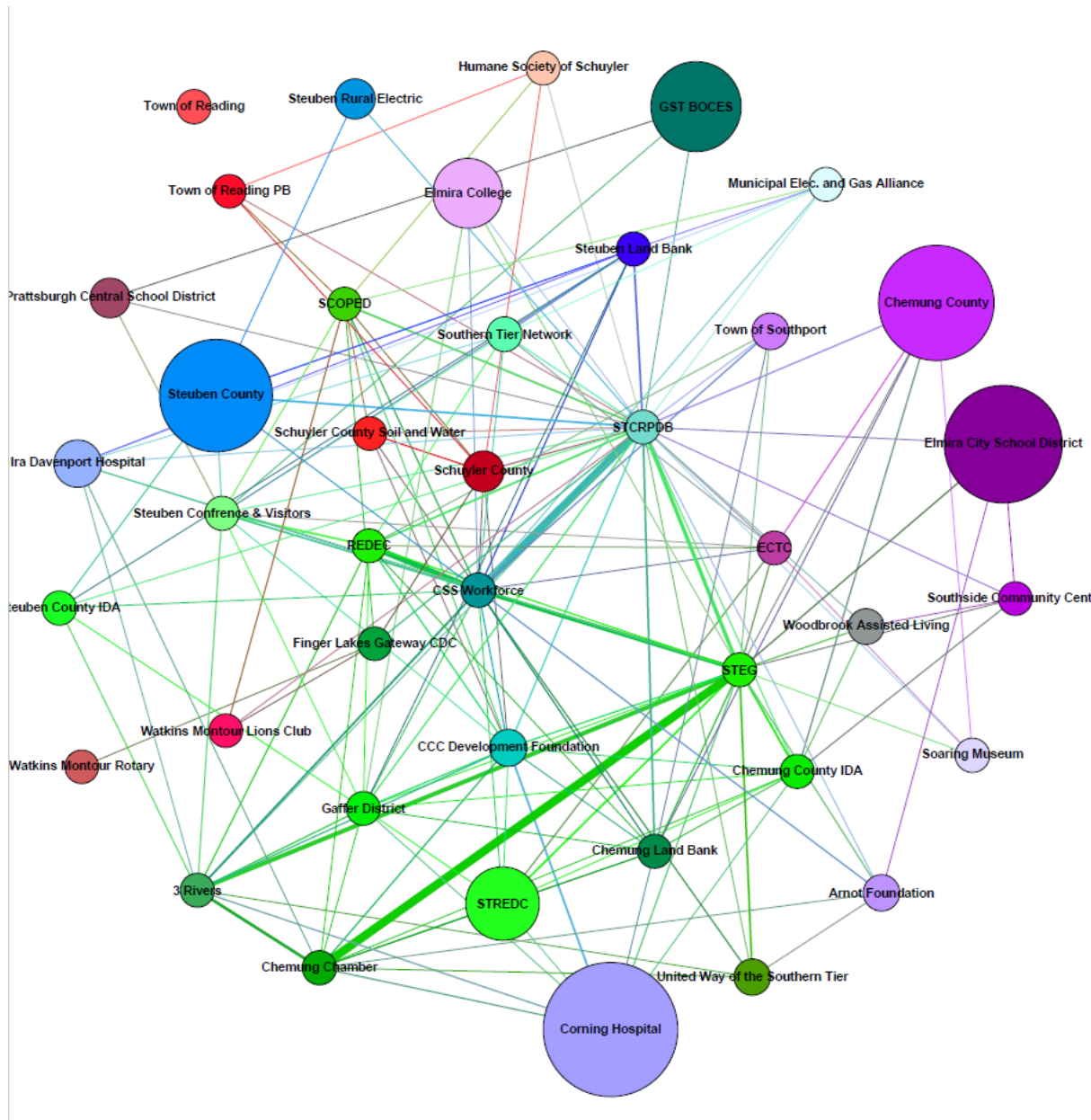
All of STC's Board Members are appointed to the STC Board to represent the interests of their County and the organization behind their appointment. STC's Board Members are qualified to assist in regional development activities through their areas of expertise: first through sharing knowledge, second through inter-organizational support (mutual aid?). As this CEDS is implemented over the next 5 years, there may be greater opportunities to consider sharing resources/capacity to support important regional development projects. STC's Board Members directly represent the interests of many regionally significant organizations; these partners are fully engaged in STC's

processes, through regular Board Meetings and Board actions. Board Members receive regular reports about STC's major activities: flood resilience, regional training (for governments, nonprofits and members of the public), Climate Smart Communities, ARC grant Cycles, EDA grants, EDPSC activities, broadband, land use planning, and more. Board Members create a direct connection through appointment between STC and the following organizations: Steuben County, Chemung County, Schuyler County.

STC's Board Members are well connected to other significant organizations in Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties, through mutual board service. STC's Board Members typically serve on several other boards or represent a regionally significant organization, like: Chemung Schuyler Steuben Workforce Development Inc, Southern Tier Network, Southern Tier Economic Growth Inc, Woodbrook Assisted Living Residence inc., Ira davenport Hospital, Integrity Partners for behavioral health, Chemung County Property Development Corporation, Scoped Inc, Watkins Glen Area Chamber Of Commerce Inc, Erie Canalway Heritage Fund Inc, Schuyler County Human Services Development Corporation, Corning intown District Management Association, Corning Gaffer District Inc, Market Street Restoration Corporation, Bethany Nursing Home And Health Related Facility Inc, Bethany Retirement Home Inc, Orchard Homes At Bethany Village Inc., Nysarc Inc — Chemung Schuyler Counties Chapter, Chemung County Historical Society Inc, Humane Society Of Schuyler County, Arnot Ogden Medical Center Foundation Inc., Elmira College, Redec Relending Corporation, Regional Economic Development & Energy Corporation, Locate Finger Lakes Inc., Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative Inc., Boy Scouts Of America — 375 Five Rivers Council, Corning Hospital, Alfred Technology Resources Inc., Corning Community College Development Foundation Inc, Community Foundation Of Elmira Corning And The Finger Lakes, Hornell Partners For Growth Inc, Steuben County Conference And Visitors Bureau Inc., Hornell Industrial Development Corporation.

Greater collaboration opportunities can be cultivated by creating beneficial opportunities for discussion, and building 'buy-in' from relevant regional entities. Whenever organizations and staff are asked to partner in a new way, some growing pains are possible where collaboration opportunities are viewed as disputes.

Local and Regional Boards that share members with STC's Board of Directors (data collected in 2020)



Chemung County,
 Steuben County,
 Corning Hospital,
 Elmira City School District
 GST BOCES,
 STREDC,
 Elmira College, Arnot Foundation
 Chemung County IDA,
 Soaring Museum
 Steuben Rural Electric,
 Prattsburgh Central School District,
 Town of Reading Planning Board,
 Town of Reading, Watkins Montour Rotary,
 Watkins Montour Lions Club,
 Humane Society of Schuyler County,
 Municipal Electric and Gas alliance,
 Town of Southport,
 Southside Community Center,
 Chemung Chamber, ECTC,
 Chemung Land Bank, Steuben Land Bank,
 Woodbrook Assisted Living,
 Southern Tier Network,
 SCOPED, Schuyler County,
 Schuyler County Soil and Water,
 CSSWFNY, Finger Lakes Gateway CDC,
 Steuben Conference and Visitors Bureau,
 Ira Davenport hospital,
 Steuben County IDA,
 3 Rivers Development Corporation,
 CCC Development Foundation,
 United Way of the Southern Tier,

Timelines for Project Support and Engagement: (when)

The 5- year timeline for the 2025- 2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is based on good planning practices, project development timelines, EDA regulations, and grant application cycles. The first activities undertaken after the adoption of STC's 2025 CEDS will be continued development of projects already in process. The recent regional successes of [let us list our favorites], will be leveraged into additional project successes with CEDS aligned projects. Finally, STC intends that the CEDS Collaborative process will guide the development of new projects specifically to achieve transformational regional successes.

Much of the upcoming development activity is rooted in the success of previous planning efforts, local infrastructure upgrades, and regional collaboration activities that have taken place across the region for the last 20 years. Positive developments in the next 5 years wouldn't be possible without the dedicated efforts of our regions' leading organizations, as well as the funding support from our county governments, state government, and federal agencies. For example, rail upgrades in Steuben have been a long- term focus of the Steuben County IDA, with multiple grants funding substantial infrastructure improvements to the rail system, which are now bearing fruit in the form of business investment and employment opportunities on sites with rail access. Chemung County led the nation in deploying ARC highway access funds through an \$18 million grant to develop the Horseheads Connector Road, which is now a vital access point for \$60 million in investment from Siemens and Southern Tier Logistics. Schuyler County's overwhelming success implementing Project Seneca (a place-based redevelopment approach that inspired this CEDS' project constellations) into a \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) has positively reframed the possibilities of leveraged investments and place-based development. Hornell IDA's collaborative work with Alfred State to access millions in federal grants is truly inspirational; for training and placement of 300 highly skilled welders to serve high tech/green technologies. This CEDS has set out 12 projects and 9 activities that will be supported by STC's staff, Board, and community partners over the next 5 years. The STC Board and EDPSC agree the project list will continue to be updated annually; a process that supports information sharing and outreach between the regions' development organizations.

SPartners working together to strategize the grant's scope and timeline as part of a regional effort can multiply the impact of grant awards to a project by increasing the grant-funded budget or by funding other efforts aligned toward the same goal. Specific project timelines are included in the 12 vital overarching efforts and the project list (appendix 1). Considering the timelines for these grant applications are important, because many of these grant funds can be leveraged as match to further improve the project or to support other grant applications for the overall 'project constellation'. These project timelines are based on pre-development work, leading to implementation and/or construction; before achieving an increase in employment. The importance of discussing grant-application deadlines and funding time frames has been incorporated into the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy through recommended actions 2, 3, 6, and 7.

Summary Background of Regional Conditions (Where)

The region's economy functions with moderate efficiency to deliver goods and services to the 190,087 residents of the three-county area. This region has been classified by the Appalachian Regional Commission as transitional: haven't achieved socioeconomic parity with the Nation and show impacts of poverty, poor health, and limited economic capacity. Rural and urban poverty occurs in the STC region; 15.6 % of people in the region are in poverty vs. the 14.2% poverty rate in New York State. Poverty in the STC region is higher than the Appalachian Poverty rate of 14.5% and higher than the 12.5% National poverty rate. Educational attainment in this region is comparable with other Rural NY communities: High School graduation attainment is 2-3% higher than NYS average(92.4% for Chemung, 90.8% for Schuyler, and 92% for Steuben, vs. 89.8% for NYS), and lower rates of attainment for Bachelors, Masters, or PHD degrees. The region's residents are primarily white (89%). African-Americans are 3.3% of the population, individuals of two or more races are 2.5% of the population, Hispanic individuals are about 2.7% of the population and Asian individuals are 1.4% of the region's population. Lightcast's population projections for 2030 indicate there will be small changes in the number of people by ethnicity: the population is expected to become more diverse.

The climate of this region is Dfb: warm summer, no rainy season, continental as classified by the [Köppen climate classification](#). For agricultural purposes, this area is prone to freeze between October and May; located almost entirely in [USDA zone](#) 5b and 6a, small portions of land adjacent to the Finger Lakes are classified as 6b. Cloud coverage is notable. Direct [solar energy \(solar for PV\)](#) is not high in this region, but [wind speeds](#) are adequate for some power generation. Regular precipitation and cloud cover support the region's forests, pastures, and field crops. This community is not

as a complement the [STC CEDS StoryMap](#)

prone to frequent droughts and municipal water is sourced from underground aquifers. The regions' terrain and riverine water resources shaped historical development in these communities. Agricultural land uses like field crops and pasture lands occur on gently sloping or flat terrain outside the urban areas. Steep slopes are generally left to forestry uses (open space, timberland, and hunting acreage). High intensity urban development is concentrated in the flat-lands adjacent to the rivers; these flat lands are historic floodplains. Flood control structures (local levees and regional structures like Cowanesque Dam in Pennsylvania) protect a significant portion of the region's residents from river-based flooding. The location, condition, and height of these structures is an ongoing topic of significant importance to the region. [STC's staff work](#) with local, State, and federal government to raise awareness of the risks of levee de-certification and to develop a long-term strategy to rectify the issues raised by FEMA.

Six types of infrastructure are common throughout the Region: road, rail, power, water, sewer, and internet. The entire area is covered by power following rural electrification in 1960's and the development of Bath Electric, Water and Gas (BEGWS). State or Federal highway infrastructure serves the entire region; every part of the region is within a 40 minute drive of an Interstate highway. Highways receive routine maintenance, although some culverts are at risk of deterioration. Rail lines cross our region and rail access to developable sites is possible. Water infrastructure (Water/Sewer systems) are prevalent in urbanized areas, and generally absent in the rural areas. High Speed Internet is generally available throughout the region; unfortunately, there are rural areas that do not have any broadband access at all and approximately 25% of the region only has access to broadband (not fiber optic) through one company.

Community Participation, Regional Stakeholders, and Public Comment

STC BOARD

Chair, Jack Wheeler, Steuben County Manager
Vice Chair, Shawn Rosno, Schuyler County Administrator
Jennifer Furman, Chemung Deputy County Executive
P. Michael Collins, City Manager for the City of Elmira
Kelly Fitzpatrick, Steuben County Legislature Chair
Carl Blowers, Schuyler County Legislature Chair
John Buckley, Mayor of the City of Hornell (represented by Heather Reynolds)
Marie Myers Shearing, Steuben County Planning Director
Joann Lindstrom, Schuyler County Planning Director
Kevin Meindl, Chemung County Planning / ECTC Director
Jenn Miller, City of Corning Planning Director
James Ryan, Mayor of the Village of Montour Falls
Aaron Dowd, Chemung County IT Director
Anita Lewis, Minority Rep.
Chad Hendrickson, Environmental Rep.
Ernest Hartman, Labor Rep.
Tom Hauryski, Agricultural Rep.
Judith Rowe, Small Business Rep.
James Johnson, Steuben County IDA, Commerce & Business Rep.
Joseph Roman, Chemung County IDA, Industrial Rep.
James Kuhl, Steuben County Legislature
Robert Nichols, Steuben County Legislature
Mark Rondinaro, Schuyler County Legislature
Judy McKinney Cherry, Schuyler County Member At-Large
G. Thomas Tranter, Chemung County Member At-Large

Economic Development Policy and Strategy Committee

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Carl Blowers, Private Sector
Ernest Hartman, Labor Representative
Chad Hendrickson, Environmental Representative
James Kuhl, Public Official
Jennifer Miller, Public official
Shawn Rosno, Public official
Jack Wheeler, Public Official

OTHER APPOINTMENTS:

Judy McKinney Cherry, Schuyler - SCOPEDA Agencies
Michal Nisbet, Hornell IDA
James Johnson, Steuben IDA
Jill Koski, Chemung, STEG
Joseph Roman, Chemung IDA
Kevin Meindl, Chemung
Marie Myers Shearing, Steuben
Joann Lindstrom, Schuyler
CSS Workforce Development, Phyllis Balliett
Local Government Bill Boland, City of Corning Elected Official
Mark Rondinaro, Town of Redding
Mark Rykman, City of Corning Manager
REDEC, George Miner
Three Rivers, Kamala Keeley
Corning Community College, Dr. William Mullaney
Childcare Representative, Margie Lawlor

The public comment period for this CEDS began on Sunday February 2nd, 2025 with a legal ad (online and print) posting in the The-Leader, the paper of record for STC. The legal notice also ran on Feb. 3rd, 20th, March 2nd and ran for the last time on March 3rd. STC's CEDS webpage referenced in the legal ad includes the CEDS draft narrative, draft project list, link to the draft Storymap, and a comment form for the public. STC also shared the CEDS website link with the public through LinkedIn, facebook, and an email campaign, starting on February 3rd. **(This section will change after public comments are reviewed by the EDPSC on March 7th).**

Online Reference Materials

[STC's 2016 CEDS](#), [STC's 2020 CEDS](#),

[2022-2026 HUD Strategic Plan](#), [NYS Consolidated Plan for HUD 2023](#),

[Appalachian Envisioned: ARC's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#), [NYS 2023 ARC Strategy Statement](#),
[New York State Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023](#),

[Chemung County 2019 Hazard Mitigation Plan](#), [Schuyler County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021-2026](#), [Steuben County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019](#),
[NYS Digital Equity Plan 2024](#),

[Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council 2023 Strategic Plan](#),

[ECTC Unified Planning Work program 2024-2025](#), [ECTC 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan](#),
[Statewide transportation plan](#),

[NY Smart Growth Law](#), [NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act CLCPA](#), [Cleaner Greener Southern Tier \(2012\)](#)

[Chemung County Comprehensive Plan is underway](#), [Comprehensive Plans in Chemung County Communities](#),

[Schuyler County Comprehensive Plan](#), [Comprehensive Plans in Schuyler County Communities](#),

[Steuben County Comprehensive Plan](#), [City of Corning Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan \(in development\)](#), [Steuben Co. planning assistance](#),
[Steuben County GIS Dashboard](#),

[NYS Solid Waste Management Plan NY](#), [Chemung Co. Solid Waste Management Plan](#), [Steuben Co. Solid Waste Management Plan](#),

[NYS Ed. Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures](#),

[Chemung Schuyler Steuben Workforce Development Area Local Plan](#), [CSSWFNY System Operational Plan](#),

[New York Statewide Plan for Higher Education](#),

[NYS DOL Apprenticeship website](#),

[NYS parks + outdoor recreation plans \(Chemung County Parks and Rec., Schuyler County Parks and Rec., Steuben County Parks and Rec.\)](#)

[STC's Regional Recovery + Resilience Plan](#), [Supply Chain Analysis](#), [Workforce Analysis](#), [Childcare Analysis](#), [Commercial/ Retail Analysis](#), [Industrial Real Estate Analysis](#), [Residential Housing Analysis](#),

2022 Census of Agriculture for [Chemung County](#), [Schuyler County](#), [Steuben County](#) and [New York State](#)

Census Reporter for [Chemung County](#), [Schuyler County](#), [Steuben County](#),

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