

Delaware Avenue NY Forward

Public Meeting

September 13, 2022
American Legion



Welcome

- **LEARN:** What Delaware Avenue NY Forward is about.
- **SHARE:** Ideas about improvements to the Delaware Avenue corridor.
- **LISTEN:** Collaborate with your neighbors on a shared vision.

Advisory Committee Members

- Gregg Biche, Quality PM, Inc.
- Terri Egan, Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce
- Judi Gabler, Gabler Realty
- Jim Giacone, My Place and Company
- Dave Gordon, Resident
- Mark Kelly, Resident
- Debbie Nolan Murray, Delaware Plaza
- Pete Tryon, Blue House Companies, LLC

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Project overview
3. Strengths, challenges, vision for Delaware Avenue
4. Break-out Group Discussion
5. Questions / Next Steps

Project overview

- NY Forward goals, funding, competitive process
- Delaware Avenue corridor
- Advisory committee, public engagement
- Application process
- Vision and potential projects

Delaware Avenue NY Forward IS:

- Focused on outside of the roadway.
- Strengthening and enhancing corridor assets.
- Addressing challenges.
- Overall achieving an even stronger business district.
- Assisting business and property owners.
- Supporting residents' needs.

Delaware Avenue NY Forward is NOT:

- Focused on the internal roadway (e.g. travel lanes).
 - Attempt to reintroduce road diet project.
-

- NYSDOT road improvement funds remain (\$2.9M):
 - As a community, need to set a path forward to utilize the funds to address complete streets improvements.
 - Sidewalk improvements
 - Curb cuts, access management
 - Gateway improvements

Strengths

Examples from Survey and Advisory Committee

- Small, locally-owned businesses
- Lots of businesses with a variety of goods and services
- Convenience of businesses close to home for many residents
- Sense of community, feel of “old-fashioned Main Street”

Weaknesses

Examples from Survey and Advisory Committee

- Business facades could be improved
- More landscaping needed, too much asphalt and concrete
- Accessibility issues to/from businesses for vehicles and pedestrians
- Lacking coordination, cohesiveness

Vision

Five years from now, what words/phrases/statements would you like to be able to use to describe the Delaware Avenue corridor to your friends, families, colleagues, and customers?

- Safe, accessible for all
- All my needs can be met
- Easy access to businesses
- Inviting and unique
- Functional and well-appointed
- Clean, attractive
- Coordinated, cohesive
- Family friendly
- A welcoming entrance to Town

Vision Statement (DRAFT)

Delaware Avenue serves as Bethlehem's main street. Building on its greatest asset—a community of locally-owned small businesses offering a wide range of goods and services—Bethlehem's Delaware Avenue business district is a cohesive, unified corridor that is attractive, welcoming, lively, safe, and convenient for all residents, customers, and visitors. A vibrant Delaware Avenue meets community needs and supports business growth and job creation.

Project ideas

Project examples could include (but not limited to):

- Major redevelopment/rehab of individual commercial properties
- Public space/parks/recreation
- Commercial & multifamily grant fund – smaller grants for façade improvements, energy efficiency, landscaping, safety, etc.
- Branding banners and wayfinding signage throughout corridor
- Additional access points to Albany County Rail Trail and business wayfinding from Rail Trail

Breakout Group Discussion

- Find number on bottom of your agenda – this is your group number
- Discussion
 - VISION for Delaware Avenue.
 - PROJECTS to achieve the vision.
- Group Report Out

Group	Facilitator/Recorder
1	Robert Leslie
2	John Taylor
3	Leslie Lombardo
4	Nate Owens

Contact

- John Taylor, Senior Economic Developer

jtaylor@townofbethlehem.org

518-439-4955 ext.1189