

Roundtable 1: Infrastructure, Community & Capacity

Addressing Aging Infrastructure Roundtable Facilitator: Matt Andrews

Priority City “Infrastructure” Improvements

- Streets, Sidewalks & Lighting
- Water & Sewer Improvements
- Brownfields & Environmental Cleanup

Priority Funding Options for Infrastructure Improvements

- City Bonding
- Grants
- Section 108 HUD Loans (CDBG-guaranteed low interest)

Priority Transportation Enhancements

- Complete Streets Program (coordinated infrastructure, sidewalks, bike lanes, etc.)
- Pedestrian Walkability
- Enhanced Bus Routes & Schedules
- New Bike Infrastructure (with committed City cash match funding)

Priority Rome Trail Connections

- Mohawk Trail
- Canalway Trail
- Sculpture Garden Trail (Griffiss)

63% of participants have used the new trails

Areas in Rome that need enhanced broadband

- Downtown
- Waterfront
- Targeted Residential Neighborhoods

Growing the Community Roundtable Facilitator: Michael Brown

Three words that describe Rome now . . .

- Historic
- Aging
- Rundown

Three words to describe Rome in the future . . .

- Exciting
- Vibrant
- Thriving

Rome’s Top Priorities for a “Residential Recruitment Strategy”

- A targeted recruitment campaign for professionals, employees & families
- Targeted business incentives
- A Rome City School District recruitment campaign for parents, students & teachers

City Assets that Best Define Rome

- Griffiss Business & Technology Park and International Airport
- Erie Canal & Mohawk River Waterfronts and Trails
- Fort Stanwix National Monument

Ways to Invigorate Rome's Extensive Parks and Recreation Program

- Provide new & innovative programming – appropriate for all ages
- Build or expand existing facilities to meet community needs

Do you think a "legislated" arts district (with potential tax and other incentives) is necessary to bring attention to Rome's cultural assets and to provide opportunities for new art producers and community appreciation?

- 80% - Yes
- 15% - No
- 5% - Not sure/No answer

DOWNTOWN business and entrepreneurial development priorities

Development of a Business/Arts Incubator in the W. Dominick Street REACH Center

- 40% - think this is a priority

Should the City encourage its arts and cultural venues to participate in the proposed regional Oneida County Arts, Culture and Entertainment Authority?*

**roundtable discussions focused on a need for more information*

- 65% -Yes, Rome should support
- 20% -No, Rome should NOT support
- 15% -Not sure

Improving Capacity & Community Perceptions Roundtable Facilitator: Rick Wertz

One Way the City can Help Improve the Perception of the School System

- Celebrate, highlight and publicize accomplishments of students & schools on the City website and Social Media

Other Ways the City can Assist

- Award & Honor exceptional educators
- Provide internships, mentorships & employment
- Engage students, teachers & administrators in civic projects
- Find shared service opportunities
- Partner with schools on special events

Ways to Foster Better Connections between Griffiss and the Rome Community

- Use City's website & social media to highlight the economic benefit to Rome and the region
- Connect employees to local businesses (i.e. Griffiss employee discounts, Restaurant week, etc)
- Provide walking, biking and sculpture trail tours
- Provide housing assistance for Griffiss employees
- Support community events at Griffiss (i.e. community picnic, open houses and business scavenger hunt, etc.)

Ways to Capitalize on the Growth of MVCC

- Identify workforce pipelines to keep an educated workforce in Rome -stop the brain drain (job shadowing, internship, mentoring & employment opportunities)
- Develop nearby housing for students
- Provide student discounts at local businesses
- Provide tuition incentives, student loan payback programs & scholarships

Ways Utica & Rome Can Collaborate

- Market our cities and economic assets as a REGION
- Joint planning –connect projects & engage experts to leverage funds & resources
- Include in-between towns to be part of the solution
- Identify shared service opportunities -avoid duplication to save money

Ways Rome can be a LEADER in the Mohawk Valley Region

- Mayor needs to be personally involved in region
- Don't act in isolation –promote openness
- Encourage residents to engage in “regional” initiatives and volunteerism
- Market Griffiss Business & Tech Park as a “regional” asset
- Help develop a “regional” marketing plan

Roundtable 2: Housing, Healthcare & Public Services

Meeting Housing Demands Roundtable Facilitator: Steve Darman

Priority Housing Needs in Rome

- Downtown market rate apartments –young professionals
- George Street Corridor –stop erosion of historic district
- Senior Housing -Affordable & efficient ranch houses & condos
- New Construction -single-family housing
- Safe and Affordable housing -lead-safe & energy efficient
- Emergency shelter & transitional housing

Areas with Immediate Housing Issues

- Downtown & Inner City
- Woodhaven (former military housing)
- South Rome

Other Housing Priorities

- Acquisition /demolition/rehabilitation of vacant, blighted and unsafe properties
- Multi-family housing rehabilitation
- Rental housing assistance

Public Housing Needs

- More housing vouchers
- Public-private partnerships to upgrade units
- More one-bedroom units
- Additional handicapped accessible units
- Case management -to ensure sustainability wrap-around services

Housing Incentives to Attract New Residents

- Residential façade grants
- Rehab incentives for zombie properties
- Special incentive programs (i.e. police, fire & public service employee homebuyer assistance)
- Historic District incentives to buy and rehab homes -assist owners to apply for Historic Preservation Tax Credits

Improving Access to Healthcare Roundtable Facilitator: Adrienne Chavalier

Barriers to healthcare access in Rome

- Lack of Primary and Specialty physicians
- Limited hours for non-emergency medical
- Access to affordable insurance
- Limited Medicaid service providers
- Transportation

Healthcare Service Needs in Rome

- Primary & Urgent Care facilities and public health clinics that take all patients with extended hours
- Specialty Care options within the City
- Behavioral & mental health, substance abuse, psychiatric services and medication management

Measures to Address Chemical Dependency and Addiction in Rome

- Expand Resources –funding, facilities, therapists & hours
- Community Schools Initiative –engage families
- Follow-up Care –services between appointments
- Supportive Behavioral Health Services –dual diagnosis
- Public Education –focus on prevention
- Support “Tobacco Control” Measures

Critical “Behavioral Health” Needs

- Emergency room follow-up
- Psychiatric services for children and adolescents
- Inpatient and outpatient therapist services
- Depression and anger management care & services
- Mobile crisis services

Programs Needed to Address Obesity & Chronic Disease

- Early “Prevention Education” in Schools
- Community, Student and Employee Health & Wellness Information and Incentive Programs
- Farmers Market Vouchers & Offerings
- School and Community Cooking Classes and Competitions
- Expanded Walking and Biking Infrastructure (to engage families in active lifestyles)

Strengthening Public Services Roundtable Facilitator: Donna Burch

Top Public Service Priorities for Rome

- Neighborhood development organizations
- Homebuyer and housing services
- Job training
- Childcare services
- Education programs

Priority Actions to Improve “Public Services” in Rome

- Identify transportation needs to enable access
- Promote “211” as the public services clearinghouse
- Improve communications with City CDBG representatives -more resident input
- Improve responsiveness by public service providers
- Coordinate services to cut costs

Community Policing to Reduce Crime

- Increase police visibility in neighborhoods –positive “outdoor” interactions
- Strengthen community as the front line –educate the eyes and ears to identify issues
- Create an environment that is preventive NOT punitive
- Confidential whistleblower incentive policy
- Help clean & beautify neighborhoods –the broken window concept

Ways to Improve Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Outreach

- Clearly explain CDBG and its benefit to Rome
- “Invite” residents to community meetings in neighborhoods (not City Hall) with food – at reasonable times and presented by neighborhood leaders.
- Enhance media campaigns to include traditional and social media outlets

Roundtable 3: Employment, Education & Economy

Expanding Employment Roundtable Facilitator: Joe Caruso

Meeting Emerging Career Needs

- Implement high-level curriculums enabling students to plan, design, manufacture and market products and services
- Create more partnerships with local manufacturing and technology firms
- Work with local firms to develop and promote “off-hour” training programs and paid internships for high school students at their facilities

Top Job Search Resources in Rome

- Networking & Business Associations
- Word-of-Mouth
- Internet

Most Effective Local Employment Resources

- NYS Working Solutions
- Business/Organization/Agency Websites
- Internet Sites: indeed.com, Monster & government job sites

Ways the City can Attract New & Existing Employees to Make Rome Home

- Make strategic and highly “visible” changes (remove litter, improve streetscapes, walkability, building rehabilitations, etc.)
- Create “relocation motivation” (down payment assistance, tax incentives and rehab assistance)
- Identify, package and promote the City’s assets and provide “recruitment” packets to businesses, hotels, restaurants & real estate offices

Employment Barriers for Rome Residents

- Lack of training and basic employability skills
- Education level
- Lack of affordable, quality childcare assistance
- Poor job search skills

Programs Building Pipelines to Real Jobs

- BOCES & MVCC Trades
- Commercialization Academy -internships & mentorships
- Working Solutions

Adapting to Changes in Education Roundtable Facilitator: Ernest Grey

Priority Needs to be Addressed by the “Community Schools” Initiative

- Literacy
- Health & Wellness
- Food Access & Nutrition
- Academic Support

Ways Rome Schools Can Use Technology

- Provide training and software for all educators so they can track progress and consistently communicate to teachers, students and parents.
- Provide digital instructional materials for K-12 to enable educators to personalize student engagement and responsiveness and keep content updated and current.

Ways Schools Can Help All Students Pursue and Complete a Traditional College Education – if so desired

- Free or affordable college credit classes in high school
- Access to college prep programs focused on the success of low & middle-income students
- Scholarships, student loan reimbursements and other incentives to motivate students to graduate and to keep them “local” after graduation

Vocational Training in Rome

- Address the stigma attached to vocational education –deliver modern marketing campaigns to highlight existing vocational and alternative education opportunities that are affordable, adaptable and rewarding
- Foster enhanced partnerships between educational institutions, government, and businesses to develop career-apprenticeship models that enable students to spend time at work and in the classroom

Ways to Attract Students & Encourage Colleges to Provide Classes in Rome

- Create “recruitment” packages to interest students to learn and colleges to educate in Rome
- Support MVCC to promote and expand its curriculum in the community
- Provide incentives and investigate opportunities for new student housing options for MVCC and other college students who may be learning and/or working in the City

Enhancing Economic Development Roundtable Facilitator: *Tim Rosbrook*

Top Downtown Issues to be Addressed

- Increase the number and variety of shops & restaurants
- Beautify streetscapes, greenspace & buildings
- Define the boundaries of “Downtown” - including wayfinding signage

Barriers to Sustainable Economic Development in Rome

- Local Taxing Structure
- Aging Infrastructure
- Local “Brain Drain”

Should a committee be established to study taxes, fees and other funding sources for the city?

- 100% Yes

Actions the City can take to raise revenues without raising taxes

- Special Taxing Structure
- Shared Services
- Development Incentives

Ways the City Can Inform the Community About Griffiss Business & Tech Park

- Business information, maps and virtual tour on the City’s website
- Assign City liaisons to GLDC & EDGE to follow progress and participate in projects

Are you familiar with MV Regional Economic Development Council (MVREDC)?

44.4% Yes

Have you ever attended an MV Regional Economic Development Council meeting?

88.8% No

MVREDC Strategies that are Most Critical for Local and Regional Growth

- STEM Intensive Industries
- Vibrant Communities
- Agribusiness

City Priorities for Small Business and Entrepreneurial Development

- Commercial Façade Programs with Design Guidelines
- Connections from Downtown to the Waterfront
- A National Main Street Program 4-point Approach – organization, promotion, design and economic restructuring
- Small Business Grants

Roundtable 4: Arts & Culture

Arts Roundtable Facilitator: John Zogby

Top responses to make the Rome Art and Community Center building and grounds suited, accessible and welcoming for meetings and events

- Provide technology resources (projectors, screens, whiteboards, Wi-Fi music etc.)
- Upgrade the carriage house for new/expanded uses
- Provide updated kitchen facilities for event catering
- Make improvements to the grounds for diverse outdoor special events

Types of classes to offer

- Painting
- Jewelry Making
- Drawing
- Pottery
- Drama
- Technology and Art

Times classes should be available

- Weekday evenings
- Saturday Mornings and Afternoons
- Sunday Mornings
- Online at your own pace

Other events to consider for art related venues

- Annual Fundraisers & Holiday Events
- Music Festivals
- Engagement Parties, Weddings & Receptions
- Corporate Events
- Art & Craft Fairs
- Community Forums
- Showers & Birthday Parties
- Antique Shows

Interested in volunteering for an arts organization (RACC)

- 42% Yes

The recent Rome Community Needs Assessment Roundtables identified a need for affordable, quality childcare. A Creative Arts Academy (for 3-5 year old children) is in the planning stages for the Center. The Academy might offer premium half-day or full-day childcare as qualified instructors prepare children for Kindergarten with an intensive focus on the arts and exploration as part of everyday activities.

Indicated that there would be interest by families in this program

- 68.5% Yes

Would pay to sponsor additional arts programming for a pre-k child (\$10 a day)

- 86% Yes