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**MOHAWK VALLEY REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PRESENTS
DRAFT SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC PLAN**

Council discusses Implementation

The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council today at its fifth meeting presented its draft Strategic Plan summary, which is guided by the region's vision statement and focuses on the following five strategies: enhance regional concentrations; workforce alignment and education; innovation enabling infrastructure; increase spatial efficiency; strengthen government and civic effectiveness. The Council held a public workshop during the meeting to gather input on the Draft Plan. The plan will be posted on the council's website at www.nyworks.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley.

Council members were also provided an update from its Public Participation workgroup and discussed its future public engagement strategy for the long-term implementation of the final plan. The meeting, held at SUNY Oneonta, was attended by Lt. Governor Robert Duffy, and led by Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council co-chairs Bjong Wolf Yeigh, President of the SUNY Institute of Technology, and Larry Gilroy, President of Gilroy, Kernan & Gilroy, Inc.

"At this, our fifth formal meeting, the Council was able to share with the public a preview of the strategy that will enable us to successfully compete for vital economic development resources," said President of the SUNY Institute of Technology and Council co-chair Bjong Wolf Yeigh. "With this process rapidly drawing to its conclusion, public participation in the upcoming forums is critical. On behalf of the Council, I urge those who care about the future of this region to attend the nearest forum in the weeks ahead."

“Our economic development strategies, while still a work in progress, are the direct result of the dedicated work of our council and work groups members as well as the public input and feedback we’ve received over the weeks,” and said Larry Gilroy, President of Gilroy, Kernan & Gilroy, Inc. and Council co-chair. “We look forward to sharing these strategies at our public forums and continue to encourage community participation across our region.”

In addition, the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council detailed three upcoming community forums designed for residents to review and offer suggestions on the Council’s draft Strategic Plan. The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council has been gathering input during a series of public forums and workshops throughout the region’s six counties and via the council’s web site. This second round of forums is intended for the public to aid in the creation of the council’s final, five-year strategic economic development plan for the Mohawk Valley, which includes Herkimer, Oneida, Otsego, Schoharie, Montgomery and Fulton counties.

The community forums are scheduled as follows:

Rome: Tuesday, November 1, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Griffiss Institute
725 Daedalian Drive
Rome, NY 13441
Oneida County

Johnstown: Wednesday, November 2, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Johnstown Senior Citizens Center
109 East Main Street
Johnstown, NY 12095
Fulton County

Cobleskill: Thursday, November 3, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Cobleskill/Richmondville Central School - Library
155 Washington Avenue
Cobleskill, NY 12043
Schoharie County

Each of these public meetings will begin with an overview of the purpose of the regional council and the strategic planning process. There will be a presentation of the draft Strategic Plan, followed by a public question and answer session.

In addition to these community forums, the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council continues to encourage all residents from the region to submit suggestions and comments at www.nyworks.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley to maximize public input on this important initiative. The deadline for comments will be Friday, November 4. The final Strategic

Plan will be presented to the Council at its last meeting on November 9 at SUNY IT in Utica. The final Strategic Plan will be submitted on November 14.

Created by Governor Cuomo, the Regional Economic Development Councils represent a fundamental shift in the state's approach to economic development—from a top-down development model to a community-based approach that emphasizes regions' unique assets, harnesses local expertise, and empowers each region to set plans and priorities.

The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council is one of 10 regional councils across New York that will serve as a single point of contact for economic activity in the region. Through their strategic planning process, the councils will identify and expedite priority projects that demonstrate the greatest potential for job growth. As part of the initiative, up to \$1 billion in state resources will be accessible to eligible economic development projects through existing program grants and tax credits.

Each regional council will draft a strategic plan for the development of their region, which will provide a regional vision for economic development, address critical issues and opportunities, and lay out an implementation roadmap for future growth. The state will work with the regional councils to align state resources and policies, eliminate unnecessary barriers to growth and prosperity, and streamline the delivery of government services and programs to help the Regional Councils carry out their plans for development.

To learn more about each regional council and their economic development plans, visit www.nyworks.ny.gov.

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