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SOUTHERN TIER REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RELEASES DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY AND ENCOURAGES PARTICIPATION AT FORUM

Council seeks public input as it prepares its 5-year economic development Strategic Plan

The Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council today announced it has released its draft Strategic Plan summary online at www.nyworks.ny.gov/content/southern-tier. The Council used its vision statement and public input to guide in the draft plan summary creation. The summary includes an outline of the region's opportunities, issues, and strategies for regional economic development moving forward as well as action items to aid in the implementation of these strategies.

The Council welcomes and encourages all members of the public to review the draft Strategic Plan summary and offer their input either online or by email to region9@exec.ny.gov. In addition, the Council announced earlier this week details of a community forum designed for residents to review and share ideas on the draft Plan.

The community forum will be held:

Binghamton: Monday, October 24, 6 – 8 p.m.

Binghamton University

University Union, Room 120

Main Campus

4400 Vestal Parkway East

Vestal, NY 13850

**please park in the Visitor's paid lot near the library*

The forum will include a presentation of the draft Strategic Plan summary and an opportunity for the public to comment and offer input on the Plan. To register for the workshop, visit www.nyworks.ny.gov/content/southern-tier, email Debbie at dfortner@empire.state.ny.us or call (607) 721-8605. Seating may be limited so please register early.

The Council continues its work in developing a final, five-year strategic economic development plan for the Southern Tier Region, which includes Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Schuyler, Steuben, Tompkins and Tioga counties. The Strategic Plan submission deadline is 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 Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council is one of ten 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 develop a 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 the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council please visit www.nyworks.ny.gov/content/southern-tier. To learn more about each region and their economic development plans, visit www.nyworks.ny.gov.

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