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MOHAWK VALLEY REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL VOTES ON STRATEGIC PLAN, ANNOUNCES PRIORITY PROJECTS

The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council today finalized and adopted the council's final five-year strategic plan for the region, which is composed of Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego and Schoharie counties. The Final Strategic Plan, which is guided by the region's vision statement and focuses on five strategies—enhance regional concentrations; workforce alignment and education; innovation enabling infrastructure; increase spatial efficiency; strengthen government and civic effectiveness—will be submitted in response to Governor Andrew Cuomo's challenge to stimulate real, regional economic development.

"Thanks to the course set by Governor Cuomo and the guidance of Lieutenant Governor Duffy, our Council has crafted a strategic plan that reflects the history, hope and aspirations of the Mohawk Valley," said President of the SUNY Institute of Technology and Council co-chair Bjong Wolf Yeigh. "All who played a part in the process deserve our thanks, and we look forward to seeing this plan brought to life in the months and years to come."

"The Council has conducted a tremendous amount of work and research over the last few months and gathered input from the public in all corners of the region," said Larry Gilroy, President of Gilroy, Kernan & Gilroy, Inc. and Council co-chair. "All of this has reaffirmed what we know to be true, that the Mohawk Valley has incredible assets—our people, history, natural resources, recreation, education and employers—who have found ways to be successful. With this final strategic plan, we are leveraging these assets to advance our region's economy, while addressing job creation and opportunity for all residents who love to call the Mohawk Valley home. I thank the Governor and Lieutenant Governor for creating this process that is changing the way we do business, the Council for its energetic collaboration and everyone who provided invaluable input. It has resulted in a plan that represents the vision of our communities for a prosperous and vibrant Mohawk Valley."

The Governor has made \$1 billion available for the 10 Regional Councils, including \$200 million in competitive funding. A Strategic Plan Review Committee will analyze and compare each region's

Strategic Plan. Based upon this review, four regions will be awarded up to \$40 million each in capital funding and tax credits to be applied toward the priority capital projects identified in their plans. The remaining allocations will be divided among the other six regions.

The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council Strategic Plan provides a roadmap for promoting and sustaining a diverse, integrated and dynamic regional economy. It puts forth ways to capitalize on the region's strengths and opportunities in its major industry sectors including agriculture and food processing; financial services, insurance and real estate; travel and tourism; healthcare and medical services; cybersecurity/information technology; semiconductors and nanotechnology; clean technology; manufacturing; and distribution.

The plan is the product of a planning process that involved Regional Council members, stakeholders from across the region and community input gathered through more than half a dozen public forums and workshops as well as comment submitted on the Council's website.

The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council also identified 13 priority projects that align with the Council's strategic plan that it recommends for immediate state support. The priority projects represent critical opportunities, across all six counties, to build upon the region's strengths and competitive advantages, and immediately accelerate job creation and growth. The projects collectively support direct creation/retention of more than 4,000 jobs, \$484.8 million in capital investment and \$63.5 million in state investment.

The Mohawk Valley's priority projects launch the region's transformation by focusing on advanced, high-tech manufacturing, supporting key workforce alignment through educational investments, helping to address the needs of small businesses, providing critical seed capital for entrepreneurial start-up businesses, leveraging our colleges and universities as key drivers of the economy, and promoting community development. The priority project list is:

- Business Investments
- Mohawk Valley Regional Revolving Loan Fund
- Mohawk Valley Microenterprise Grant Fund
- SUNYIT-CNSE Computer Chip Integration and Commercialization Center
- Mohawk Valley Community College
- Herkimer County Community College
- Hartwick College
- Milford School District Cooperative Rural Education Initiative
- Mohawk Valley Ventures
- Mohawk Valley Regional Sandbox Program
- Upgrades to the County Interceptor for the Marcy Nanocenter Project
- Create the Mohawk Valley Brownfield Opportunity Development Fund
- Establish the Mohawk Valley Waterfront Development Opportunity Fund

The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council's final plan will be uploaded by Thursday, November 10 to the MVREDC site at www.nyworks.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley. The Council reserves the right to edit the Strategic Plan until its submission date, at 4 p.m. Monday, 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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