The information below reflects the ideas and comments collected from members of the community during two public meetings:

- A Virtual Public Meeting held on March 1, 2022 from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., which was attended by 71 members of the public. The meeting was held via the Zoom platform, and "Miro" white boards were used to facilitate the discussion.

- An In-person Public Meeting on March 30, 2022 from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., which was attended by 30 members of the public. The meeting was held in an "open house" style format where participants visited each station at their own pace. Facilitators guided the discussion at each station where participants were asked to use and sticky notes to respond to questions.

Both sessions were designed to provide insight on the challenges and opportunities in Monroe County with respect to the following topics:

- Economic & Workforce Development
- Environment
- Health
- People & Communities
- Infrastructure

ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

What are your concerns about economic and workforce development?

1. Governing Boards include members of large businesses which may sway the decision making process.

2. Workforce development and training needs to be aware of the firms that it works with and is careful not to subsidize, or pick and choose winners or losers, instead it should raise all individuals.

3. We should do an analysis of companies that want to return back to US shores and recruit them back to Monroe County with an incentive to expand and grow.

4. The key for me in economic development is resilience, growth beyond the usual suspects, expand workforce development to be more inclusive, develop more public private partnerships to mentor younger companies without a history but has the capability. Build into the resiliency newer tech company. Encourage entrepreneurship of students run and new graduate run companies, active recruit from national incubators, tech universities, and hubs to build companies here.

5. Grand slams and jackpots are valuable to drive economic development however steady and slower growth, singles, doubles, and good baserunning, is more reliable.

6. Focus needs to be on training people to fill required jobs (e.g. local trade) rather than desired jobs (e.g. theater arts which have very little demand in Rochester).

7. Information is key. Broad professional skills needed. Use six-step problem solving process. Check out: -Tennessee - broad members -Arizona - events -Texas - events -Ohio – events.

8. We have a hugely valuable resource in our access to plentiful fresh water, many interests need this and we should focus on advertising that resource.

9. Invite adjacent companied that augment our manufacturing and biomedical leaders. This will shorten supply lines, increase diversification of jobs, and create a unique regional profile.

10. Increase the low to medium housing stock that is augmented with renewable energy to lower housing cost and provide starter family and graduates the ability to stay in the area.

11. Would it make sense to implement a county-wide microloan program to help small businesses and startups get off the ground? (Forgive me if something like this already exists.)

12. To improve our main streets we need to focus on unique franchises that are not found anywhere in upstate. By building a unique franchise proposal we halt the cookie cooker approach to building where our towns look exactly alike,

13. Invite adjacent companies that augment our manufacturing and biomedical leaders. This will shorten supply lines, increase diversification of jobs, and create a unique regional profile.

14. We should seek to bring Fiber optics to every corner of Monroe County to expand knowledge capacity and manufacturing capability, a ready for business backbone.

15. Improve infrastructure roads, utilities, develop micro grid for the county to build resilience.

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting:

16. Who would most benefit from workforce development?

17. What occupational areas have been identified as the fastest growing employment opportunities?

18. Has training been linked to the fastest growing employment opportunities where there currently are none?

19. Big Economic development projects / promises without accountability.

20. Teachers needs.

21. Tech - plumbers, electrical, etc. Aging workforce.

22. Afraid we are not going to have skilled workers to do jobs. Need to bring back career days so kids can see options of different careers.

23. Segregated school districts lead to inequitable readiness for the workforce.

24. Brain drain – College grads from the 16+ local colleges don't stay in the region after graduation.

25. Graduates of local higher education are not staying to work.

26. Opportunities that help college grads stay local.

27. Workforce /Job Geographic Mismatch – that is, many of the biggest employers are located in the suburbs, and the greatest concentration of (potential) employees are in the city, this requires cars and longer commutes.

28. Good paying jobs and sustainability of employment.

29. More entry level jobs for graduates that do not require 3-years of experience.

30. Rochester became a great city because of Kodak, Bausch and Lomb, and Xerox. We need to replace those businesses with new technology.

31. Monroe County cannot afford to continue to be one of the latest paying employers out of the neighboring counties, we need to do right by our employees and pay them fairly and a LIVING wage.

Where are the opportunities associated with the economy and workforce development?

1. We have a hugely valuable resource in our access to plentiful fresh water, many interests need this and we should focus on advertising that resource.

2. Equitable workforce development and mentorship programs that can be designed to break negative cycles of economic favoritism based on race.

3. Taking advantage of local resources and educational institutions as wells of business and innovation for the county. These should be utilized to grow the county and small businesses.

4. The key for me in economic development is resilience, growth beyond the usual suspects, expand workforce development to be more inclusive, develop more public private partnerships to mentor younger companies without a history but has the capability. Build

into the resiliency newer tech company. Encourage entrepreneurship of students run and new graduate run companies, active recruit from national incubators, tech universities, and hubs to build companies here.

5. Manufacturing and agricultural sectors dominate the GDP of the state and municipalities. Most of the firms making up these sectors are small, less than 20 individuals and yet they benefit the community greatly.

6. Invite adjacent companied hat augment our manufacturing and biomedical leaders. This will shorten supply lines, increase diversification of jobs, and create a unique regional profile.

7. Increase the low to medium housing stock that is augmented with renewable energy to lower housing cost and provide starter family and graduates the ability to stay in the area.

8. We do have a huge supply of highly-educated and qualified workers. We don't have enough jobs to keep them in the region. We need more technology employers. Keeping these skilled workers in Monroe County is a huge lost opportunity.

9. Yes, we need companies that sell goods and services outside of the region. Often a lot of the discussion is about retail jobs, but that is not a primary source of employment and economic growth.

10. To improve our main streets we need to focus on unique franchises that are not found anywhere in upstate. By building a unique franchise proposal we halt the cookie cooker approach to building where our towns look exactly alike,

11. Would it make sense to implement a county-wide microloan program to help small businesses and startups get off the ground? (Forgive me if something like this already exists.)

12. We should do an analysis of companies that want to return back to US shores and recruit them back to Monroe County with an incentive to expand and grow.

13. Focus needs to be on training people to fill required jobs (e.g. local trade) rather than desired jobs (e.g. theater arts which have very little demand in Rochester).

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting:

14. Businesses/industries that can use water from Lake Ontario – renewable resource!

15. More skilled trade programs offered in downtown Rochester.

16. Bring back more skilled trades in high school.

17. More internships for student and jobs within the county and city.

18. More Co-op experience for High School Students.

19. More training opportunities for trade, agriculture, food processing for High School students, underserved community and minority groups.

20. If you cannot afford to pay people more, offer them other opportunities such as flexible schedules and telework, opportunities to keep our workforce from leaving.

21. More restaurants on East Main Street.

22. Small business development.

23. Support locally owned businesses.

What are your highest priorities?

1. Taxation is essential and good but requires entities with incomes to tax and contribute to their community.

2. As economic and workforce development policies are implemented we need to be aware of environmental concerns

3. Recovering lost jobs from previous Rochester business powerhouses, and more recently the pandemic.

4. We should seek to bring Fiber optics to every corner of Monroe County to expand knowledge capacity and manufacturing capability, a ready for business backbone Improve infrastructure roads, utilities, develop micro grid for the county to build resilience and to enable businesses to serve their community.

5. A large percentage of the manufacturing in our region is low-volume manufacturing, which is very difficult to automate. So we need to move away from the notion that manufacturing jobs are going away due to technological change.

6. Vital for employees to more readily move to better jobs is accessible childcare, not just prices, terms, and conditions to make childcare more affordable, but also care locations near economic centers for ease of transportation.

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting:

7. Support small businesses!

8. Do everything possible to help small businesses to navigate NYS. And protect them from NYS Overreach requirements.

9. We need to offer competitive wages and benefits to keep people in this county. We are losing people in droves.

10. Stop subsidizing large corporations with tax breaks and other incentives and then they out of town labor or break their agreements with no consequences.

11. Better links between all these issue areas: promote area as livable and affordable for economic development.

12. Provide job opportunities: entry level through senior level. Ensure people can progress through their whole careers in Monroe Co.

ENVIRONMENT

What are the most pressing environmental issues or challenges facing Monroe County?

1. Flooding: shoreline flooding, media overdoes it. People are living in unsuitable places. Adapt to reality.

2. Increasing temperature = impacts on plants, animals,

3. Permeable pavements helps with flooding, which I hear they have problems in Greece

4. Buffering solar farms

5. Erosion in Webster

6. organic waste - odor, GHG

7. solar farms taking good farmland

8. Invasive species

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting:

9. Make Durand Eastman Park handicap accessible.

10. Support more urban farms, community gardens, and homesteading.

11. Making our natural waterways cleaner and more healthy.

12. Keep the lake levels reasonable for business and shoreline preservation.

13. Clean access to Lake Ontario Beaches.

14. Green spaces instead of gas stations, do smaller, local parks.

15. Clear bike trails and park trails from snow.

16. More electric chargers for cars.

What things in our natural environment do we need to consider for protection in the future?

1. Drinking water

2. Concern for Sugar Maples

3. Having the infrastructure to accommodate more climate migrants

4. Tree planting, tree planting and tree planting eats carbon, absorbs water, cools ....

5. I am also worried that the water in lakes (Lake Ontario and the Finger Lakes), Erie Canal, etc. are being negatively affected by runoff. Toxins, pesticides, etc. are limiting one of the basic needs that we have as human beings -- access to fresh, clean water. As climate changes continue, we cannot take for granted that we will always have enough fresh, clean water. We need to plan for a time when this is not going to be the case.

6. Protect the wildlife habitat and natural ecosystems in the county parks

7. Farmland

8. What does the county have purview over? Does the county own many roads to add bike lanes (for transportation, not just recreation)?

9. Ecoducts! Animal bridges!

10. If we don't say under 1.5 degree increase we will lose 30% of birds

11. Climate migration is a concern for me at many levels: how will we be prepared to provide enough housing, water, education, food, etc. as people move here? I am also concerned that we will not address the various dimensions of resilience (transportation, energy, food, water, education, housing, environment, etc.) in a holistic but siloed manner. For each to be truly resilient, they need to be coordinated as a whole. Pulling on one dimensions impacts the others.

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting:

12. Reducing plastic contamination.

13. Return to natural shorelines.

14. More boating stations that inspect for invasive species.

15. Water – We are a water haven and will see "climate refugees" flocking to Monroe County. Howe can we plan for and protect?

16. Preserve and improve the natural ecosystem in our parks so they remain good wildlife habitat.

17. Intentional policies to support pollinators on county land such as parks and green spaces.

18. Bugs, Ash Borer.

19. Encourage more pollinator friendly native plant landscapes, reduce monoculture lawns.

20. Open green spaces, parks, protect from flooding along the lake.

21. Survey County for suitable solar sites and preserve prime agricultural land. E.g. Use parking lots, industrial areas, and brown fields.

22. Solar Energy is not sustainable, especially in Monroe County (no sun!). Natural Gas, oil, and gas, are essential.

23. Climate Change is NOT an issue. Do not waste resources on!

24. Protect and plant more trees. Cooler, and trees are carbon sinks.

25. More pollinator trees and flowers.

26. Potted (maybe Rotted) trees above ground electric.

27. The County should do whatever possible to protect Riparian families from the 2014 Plan which has caused flooding in 2017 and 2019.

28. What happens to the EV batteries when they are no longer useable? No landfills can take them.

What are some sustainable practices you would like the County to adopt or achieve?

1. Is there an opportunity to connect the compost that gets produced to the farmers? Avoiding costs of chemical inputs?

2. Energy Retrofit homes with either BlocPower (who is doing all of Ithaca) or Sealed or some organization in all of county

3. Solar facility tour for legislators

4. Wind is more efficient, we should put it in the Lake.

5. In LA they paying some roads white? UHI

6. Paint Eastman Kodak roof white! Helps with urban heat island

7. Composting facility that will allow us to comply with the CLCPA and the diversion of organics out of the waste stream.

8. Work with school districts to make Solar siting on school roofs possible.

9. Make a plan for invasive plant species

10. ID suitable solar sites: greyfields, rooftops, brownfields

11. Policy that would support solar and wind development that also enables farmers to make a living and have an additional source of income.

12. Composting.

13. Make Monroe County an Audubon bird friendly region! Plant native plants and trees in parks!

14. Replace aging infrastructure with eye toward growth (growth due to climate immigrants)

15. Solar over canals and on large box stores airports and Eastman park buildings!

16. Sewer Water management, like adding bio swales.

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting:

17. County vehicles to be electric.

18. Geothermal for new/old county buildings.

19. RG&E get engaged in geothermal and provide water pipes in neighborhoods.

20. Clean up Durand Park.

21. Station to recharge electric cars.

22. Wind farms / solar.

23. Park Master Plans that incorporate improved trails network.

24. Why don't we have glass recycling? Too much glass in trash.

25. County recycling guidance.
    a. Make it less of a changing, moving target.
    b. Mandate that refuse haulers provide covered recycle totes in size comparable to trash totes.

26. Post water levels of bacteria daily for the lake.

27. Free Carousel

28. Legislation against two-stroke gas powedered lawn equipment (leaf blowers, mowers).

29. Legislation against chemical weed killers on public and private properties, esp. in the watersheds.

30. More fruit / edible bearing trees.

31. As stewards of our county, we should all be concerned about climate change, intentional and accidental introduction of invasive species, and fracturing the green spaces making it difficult for the species that rely on them to survive. The parks need to be brought back to health, so that the pollinators and other species that contribute both to our enjoyment and food chain can flourish. Pollinator gardens and native trees and shrubs are not just for the birds and butterflies.

32. Better transit access to all County Parks.

33. Electric Trolley.

34. Incentives for EV Stations at buildings.

35. County vehicles should be electrified.

36. Reduce County Govt's carbon footprint in other way – heat pumps in buildings, LED street lights and other lighting, encourage employees to use transit and active transportation.

37. No free parking for county employees. Free bus passes.

38. Covered bike storage areas.

39. Keeping improving bike routes.

40. Increase food resilience.

41. More compost stations.

42. Create more green spaces. The Town of Irondequoit just secretly changed the code allowing second garage on a property. This means more blacktop for a second driveway and hard spaces for the roof, Not very climate friendly!

What are your highest priorities?

1. Food waste

2. Clean energy

3. Has brownfield clean up been mentioned?

4. Countywide organic waste collection. And distribution

5. Habitat

6. Ecosystem Restoration - ecosystem can change weather

7. Reduce sprawl - how do we get towns to agree. This would protect environmental settings.

8. Ecoducts! Animal bridges!

9. Native plants

10. Countywide composting

11. I'm also worried about the risk of illness and death due to extreme heat

12. For sprawl, some resources: form based codes, smart codes, transects studies, retrofitting suburbs

13. Electric cars are way better than gasoline-powered cars, but they still come with lots of problems (parking, traffic, etc.)

14. Transportation and land use have a large impact on emissions. We have sprawling job sites and very poor transit service. As a result, the majority of employees have to drive cars across the county to get to jobs.

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting

15. Encourage more use of Transit and active transportation and less car use.

16. Clean air, clean water.

17. Smart growth, i.e. incentivizing dense development @ the core of the county and putting limits on sprawl (see, Portland, OR).

18. Renewable clean energy.

19. Expand county parks to preserve open space.

20. For every County decision ask:
    a. How does it make MC more equitable, especially for BIPOC?
    b. How does it lower greenhouse gas emissions?

21. More people gardening and using manual tools instead of companies with heavy noise industrial equipment.

22. ↓ (less) reliance on cars.

23. ↑ (more) walking, biking, and public transit and carpooling for employers and residents.

24. Food security – I'm very concerned about all the development of agricultural land. The bread basket out west is drying up and in the east the good farmland could be under pavement or solar panels. Reuse previously disturbed land.

25. Keeping raw/partially treated sewage out of fresh water during storm events.

26. Offer other options at the beach for bus travelers.

Other

1. Protect Lake Ontario watershed for the basin's drinking water

2. I'm new to the room and don't know if I have anything "new" to add, but I am in support of several things I see in the post-it notes: compost, renewable and clean energy including solar power/wind/water

3. If wind on the lake is doable, I'd be in favor of it

4. Just saying statistically the biggest threat to birds are cats.

5. What are people's opinions about investment in infrastructure for limited-passenger electric vehicle vs investment in mass transit systems?

6. If you paint one blade black, fewer bird strikes, anticipating that critique

7. Wind farms on the lake have a negative impact on birds that migrate
   would love to sit down and eat a picnic lunch out on Webster Park and look out over the wind farm

8. There was a plan in 2006, would have made them about the size of a toothpick from the shore. But the shore line property owners were still opposed.

9. Microstransport and 15 minutes cities/communities

10. My preference would be for electric mass transit over electric cars

11. Would love to sit down and eat a picnic lunch out on Webster Park and look out over the wind farm

HEALTH

What factors contribute to a "Healthy Community"? For example, low crime/safe neighborhood, clean environment, affordable housing, healthy behaviors and lifestyle, etc.

1. Food security. Health, Education, Income and work. Peace and justice. Political voice, Social equity, Gender equality, Housing, Networks, Energy, Water. See https://www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/,https://www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/

2. Promote pollinator habitat in community and county parks

3. Lack of high quality trail experiences

4. Complete streets, multi-modal transportation options/networks

5. Adoption of inclusive/universal design standards (not just accessibility) for playgrounds, transportation, and public amenities

6. County support/guidance for smaller towns looking to support community and home gardening

7. The county could provide regulatory guidance on community gardens though increasing longer term support for resettled refugees, immigrants and displaced persons

8. Equitable access to healthy, culturally inclusive food

9. Protect the natural environment and wildlife habitat in the county parks

10. Safe quality water

11. Municipal trails connecting with County trails

12. Protect the natural environment and wildlife habitat in the county parks

13. Supporting and expanding library services

14. Two of the major YMCAs in the city permanently shut down during the pandemic. I'd love to see the county support more public spaces for communities to gather, exercise, and learn.

15. There aren't as many low-income gyms, swimming pools, and community centers as there used to be. Two of the major YMCAs in the city permanently shut down during the pandemic. I'd love to see the county support more public spaces for communities to gather, exercise, and learn.

16. Increasing longer term support for resettled refugees, immigrants and displaced persons

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting

17. Having access to healthy food.

18. Having a fitness center in downtown Rochester. Focus on holistic approach to health (mind, body, and soul).

19. More education about living a healthy lifestyle.

20. Affordable healthy food.

21. Having a safe environment to socialize, indoor and outdoor.

22. Put more emphasis on the natural environment of our parks instead of active recreation only.

23. Desire to be better.

24. Provide training in crafts such as ceramics and boat building which would help people build self-esteem.

25. Working our hearts out in Brighton, Fairport, Irondequoit, Henrietta, Penfield, and Pittsford to establish Pollinator habitats. The Parks Department could help with intentional policies to support pollinators in County Park through the following:
    a. Maintenance adjustment
    b. Reduce or don't use pesticides
    c. Enhance, restore, create habitats
    d. Plant native perennials and trees
    e. Provide natural nest sites for bees
    f. Provide shelter for butterflies / moths
    g. Plant host and nectar plants
    h. Use signs to inform educate the public

26. Bullshead revitalization Program – What is the plan? Buildings going down in a Brownfield area?

27. "Safety" is more than just crime – it should also include streets that are safe to walk in, bike in, and play near.

28. Maintain park trails for just pedestrian use, no bikes. We have a large deaf population and many seniors who can't share trails with bikes.

29. Sidewalks, natural landscapes, butterfly gardens, JOBS, trails and outdoor activities, Veg. gardens, patience and understanding of one another.

30. Easy access to parks and open space.

31. More mixed-use zoning in villages and hamlet areas.
    a. Encourage walking and biking.

32. Having a safe neighborhood.

33. More affordable housing to increase home ownership.

34. Workshops in community on how to maintain a home.

35. More community gardens.

What are the most pressing health problems facing Monroe County? For example, aging problems, mental health, food security, etc.

1. Most pressing health problems facing Monroe County: prioritizing growth and wealth before or above wellbeing.

2. Food insecurity, and neighborhoods/geographies with low food access (don't call food desert
   there aren't as many low-income gyms, swimming pools, and community centers

3. Monroe County use the wellbeing measures

4. Not enough trails

5. Promoted by the OECD well-being framework https://www.oecd.org/wise/measuring-well-being-and-progress.htm,https://www.oecd.org/wise/measuring-well-being-and-progress.htm

6. There aren't as many low-income gyms, swimming pools, and community centers

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting

7. Mental Health – lack of service and support, Violence.

8. Racism is a public health issue:
   a. Address this in housing and public safety, especially.
   b. Antiracist training and cultural humility training
   c. Especially, for Sheriff's Department, District Attorney, D.S.S

9. Train doctors to believe in the pain that their patients say they are feeling.

10. Increase in staying at home and not wanting to connect.

11. Increase gun violence interventions.

12. Increase mental services – All families, all people need services.

13. Food Disparity: Distribute food in locations not based on zip code and need of ID.

14. Provide a local site for food waste composting.

15. Social disparity: ↑ (Increase) Ability to get to health appointments, via FREE bus service.

16. Air pollution sickens and kills more people than is generally realized. The County should do everything it can to reduce it.

17. Lack of therapist and psychologist and social workers for teens and children.

18. Too many programs act in silos, need more collaboration more accountability.

19. This community is about to enter crisis mode in regards to DHS / financial assistance / CPS / Child Family Services because WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH WORKERS!!!! People are going to fall between the cracks.

20. It is absolutely unacceptable the amount of money that flows through this community in the form of grants / non-profit / assistance but this city remains to have the highest child poverty rates in the country. Nonprofit is a big business here. It's sickening.

What types of facilities or amenities would you like to see more of in the County?

1. Continue to add to county parkland to meet the demand for outdoor recreation

2. Health-adjacent, but: business incubators, esp. for refugee and immigrant entrepreneurs

3. Not a facility, per se, but a county-level food policy council that could work with the Rochester Food Policy Council

4. More high quality shared-use trails in the woods (singletrack)

5. Incentives for recreation providers to be inclusive of people with disabilities - 26% of our pop is living with a disability -- impacting an even larger # of people

6. More nature-based play areas like the adventure zone at highland park

7. Accessibility at beach/water access sites e.g., beach mats that got to the water, adaptive kayak launches, boardwalks on trails for birding/hiking

8. Banning anti-homeless design of park benches and other public facilities

9. A broader, regional approach to addressing community (feral) cat populations is desperately needed.

10. Strongly in favor of programs that provide actual long-term housing for homeless individuals.

11. Some resources for municipalities and counties adopting universal design: http://designforall.org/ and https://thisisud.com/

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting

12. State of the art technology centers.

13. Preserve more open space and keep it wild and natural.

14. Etech Sports Park.

15. More community centers with with social workers and therapists.

16. Safe walking and bicycling routes.

17. Farm to school programs to provide healthy lunches for the kids.

18. We need more investment into Public facilities / staffing. The state started pulling money out of public funded beds / facilities and moved then to nonprofit / private facilities who pick and choose who they service. The worst cases got sent back to the public sector who can't deal because now they are unfunded.

19. More trails in the suburban areas – public parks v. private properties.

20. Teams of emergency social workers to supplement sheriff's patrols.

21. Homelessness, hunger, and hopelessness increase crime. More engagement by social workers is needed to prevent the creation of future criminals.

22. Capacity for adolescents is extremely limited, particularly for OCD / Anxiety.

23. Youth violence is a huge problem in our community. We don't have enough room at the current youth detention centers to hold low level offenders who return to the community and escalate crimes. The schools are limited in what they can do. We need bigger facility to accommodate the different populations that come in.

24. Right now the younger population or less violent population could benefit from mentorship / restorative intervention to stop them from escalating but those types of programs are not being offered to them.

What are your highest priorities?

1. Accessibility is important, as are equity issues in this domain.

2. Lens of disability needs

3. More attention of Monroe county to the parks master plan.

4. Systemic and systematic approach to food planning (see Western NY Region Food System)

5. Planning Initiative

6. Equity/health/food in every policy

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting

7. Address trauma early on to people/ families in crisis.

8. Programs for addictions that people can afford or have grants to cover their recovery including alcohol/gambling/drugs.

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

What challenges do communities in Monroe County face as it relates to housing and neighborhoods?

1. Significant issues with segregation in the County, it is necessary to address this issue for the County's future.

2. Need to build more dense communities with smaller footprint housing that are more walkable, affordable, and with transit access to help address the climate crisis.

3. Racial and income equity are critically important to making the community more equitable and resilient.

4. Need more mixed-use zoning within the County.

5. Housing footprints have increased as family sizes have decreased.

6. There is a lack of regional coordination in the County to focus on coordinating development patterns this would be helpful to face challenges of affordability.

7. All of the subsidized housing in the County is full. The section 8 housing list is full. The need for housing is 10 times the availability of affordable housing options.

8. One challenge Monroe County will face: segregation. I've been reading Justin Murphy's new book about the history of Rochester schools and segregation, and a clear trend is that segregation poses huge barriers to making a better, more just Monroe County

9. For question 1, challenges, as a long-time renter in the Neighborhood of the Arts, I am terrified of the increasing rents. I am afraid I will have to leave my neighborhood and home because I will no longer be able to afford living there and don't want to live in an unsafe

affordable neighborhood.

10. Neighborhoods with mixed residents (renters and homeowners) need to work together instead of being at war. As a new homeowner in a mixed area I would like to address this divide.

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting

11. Affordable Housing.

12. Lack of Community Involvement.

13. The County should try to reduce housing segregation.

14. Affordable Housing.

15. How to maintain a home.

16. Reduce housing segregation.
17. Lack of affordable housing.

18. Consideration for the value that local libraries add to a neighborhood, community or town – planning to retain value.

19. Recognition of the need over the next decade to repair / enhance / strengthen / the actual libraries themselves – repair, rebuild, enlarge.

20. More community spaces in neighborhoods.

21. Some areas of the County continue to be deeply segregated based on race and income.

22. Affordable housing.

23. Adequate senior housing.

24. Rent is TOO expensive for most families right now and is increasing at an alarming rate. A lot of people can no longer afford to live here.

25. Systematic Racism and implicit bias of white people in suburban towns of BIPOC -> Esp. BIPOC families.

26. Legacy of redlining.

What challenges do you see to strengthen housing, neighborhoods, and communities throughout the county?

1. City residents need better access to the greenspaces in the county. They lack transportation options to be able to get to these spaces that provides door to door service.

2. As the population is aging, it is important to provide options for downsizing - these options are lacking in the City for people who are looking to age in place and are interested in one floor living, this would be outside of apartment buildings and should include for sale housing.

3. There are few options for renters and rental prices are increasing. Need to increase affordable rental housing within the County and City.

4. You can strengthen housing by really having mixed affordable housing.

5. We are missing middle market housing that provides a wider range of housing choice to people of various income levels, life-styles/stages, and those looking for different living environments. There is resistance to varied, mixed density neighborhood developments in a lot of places. However, there is an opportunity for the County to help direct sustainable development, balancing environments and guiding communities struggling to respond to new development trends.

6. Rent for a single person income has approached barely affordable.

7. Rents/housing costs are increasing significantly within the County which is compounding issues with poverty and credit, affordability is an increasingly important concern.

8. Housing options for seniors and "empty-nesters" that live in the City of Rochester and want to stay in the City are limited to rentals or multi-story homes, for the most part. A focus on housing options (like the Corn Hill development in the 80's

9. Also-- I think the historic and persistent segregation in our County is a huge hindrance to our collective vibrancy, health, and prosperity. It is a dubious distinction that our county is the home of the two most disparate bordering school districts in the entire nation (Rochester City School District and Penfield School District). Although I'm sure many people across the county would be very upset and aggressively resist this idea, I often think about redistricting Monroe County's School Districts so that each one includes urban, suburban, and rural students. I know this idea is likely to go nowhere, but this needs to be a priority County issue.

10. Our "county" needs a way to enable easier access to green space for folks that do not have appropriate green space in their yard or neighborhood. A transportation system that enables door to door access to public parks and other shared space is critical.

11. I just read a fascinating article about pop up light rail systems - where communities can use existing rail lines and acquire refurbished train equipment... because the price tag of light rail development is a deal-breaker for many communities and regions... maybe this pop up concept could work here

12. I chose People and Communities over Environment (despite the fact that Environment includes a discussion of agriculture). My reasoning follows: The Town of Rush is a self-proclaimed rural and agricultural committee. We consistently face the claim that development cannot be stopped. We want development that is consistent with our character. Our concern is that this desire of our people be acknowledged by the County. I am currently Coordinator of the Town of Rush Comprehensive Plan Update Committee.

13. Also, some complexes need repair, repainting, etc.

14. The county needs a better public transportation system

15. Cars shouldn't be a necessity to live in the County.

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting

16. Solar power crosswalk near schools.

17. Sidewalks to schools.

18. Provide the funding to keep neighborhood libraries in good repair, well-staffed, and with adequate materials to some patrons.

19. Stop the gentrification of inner city neighborhoods and invest in home ownership opportunities.

20. Lack of affordable family housing in towns near opportunity areas.

21. Exclusionary zoning renders many suburban communities car dependent and unwalkable to access basic services and amenities.

What opportunities do you see to strengthen housing, neighborhoods, and communities throughout the county?

1. Greentopia has a program that employs youth in an urban farm that grows flowers and learn to market the flowers to build employment and entrepreneurship skills. This is a program that could be transferred to other parts of the county.

2. Add bathrooms and benches into parks throughout the county to support the needs of older adults.

3. Age friendly community plan was recently published - 86 recommendations, including support for older adults to access bike and pedestrian infrastructure, walkable communities and neighborhoods. The plan supports aging in place (Monroe County Aging Alliance)

4. The County can foster more conversations and coordination between Towns/Villages, recognizing the varying needs and differences in character and environment. These communities need not to be in competition with each other, but benefit from smart growth strategies that support sustainable, compatible development patterns that benefit both.

5. I know there grants for 1st time home owners for both City and County homes; also, I know there are grants for individuals in the Co. (most municipalities) to use to fix up things in their home (i.e. roof, bath, etc...). Are there any monies for owners with complexes to fix up that can be used to make the complex more attractive to potential renters. Between cost and apartments that may be affordable but need work, that really limits options

6. Question: Are there any apartments in Monroe County that are based on income? I think it was Rochester Highlands that use to accept people based on income which use to be a HUD program. I believe HUD held the mortgage. This wasn't through DSS. Once they paid the mortgage off, the complex was purchased and that was the end of that program.

7. I also support a mix of housing types in one community: single homes and duplexes and apartment complexes all sharing a neighborhood

8. Another opportunity exists for the County to foster better relationships with various municipalities to strengthen local understanding of what a great resource county planning can be, beyond the standard (often clerical) required County Referral (NYS GML 239-m)

9. (I notice, when I visit city/development meetings and things, that proposed apartment complexes often get HUGE amounts of pushback - I am hugely in favor of apartments! People in apartments or renters or condos or whatnot can be wonderful neighbors who love their communities too!)

10. Speaking of climate change-- electric vehicles are not the solution! :) EVs are still vehicles, which cause lots of problems well beyond the way they are fueled. Auto-oriented development is massively unsustainable-- not only for environment, but for governments and taxpayers

11. Housing options for seniors and "empty-nesters" that live in the City of Rochester and want to stay in the City are limited to rentals or multi-story homes, for the most part. A focus on housing options (like the Corn Hill development in the 80's).

12. Opportunities for home ownership for all. Set a goal to reverse the trend that is increasing the percentage of rental properties in the City of Rochester

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting

13. Teach home repair skills to people so that they can fix the places where they live.

14. Geodesic domes. Choose a standard geodesic dome then mass produce the parts to enable people to build homes.

15. Old library on Hudson Ave. to become a neighborhood market.

16. People who reside in the County to have first bids on vacant buildings / homes. That would minimize slum lords.

17. If nothing else COVID has demonstrated how important access to natural spaces are to our mental/emotional wellness. I would like to see Monroe County encourage communities to not encroach on its natural spaces and to provide parking and trails with inclusivity in mind.

18. Teach young people how to repair homes and offer volunteer service for elderly / disabled.

19. Create a better public transportation system, or at least give people bus shelters so they don't have to wait in the elements so long.

20. Enforce code violator's owners/tenants/businesses to improve our community.
21. Clean up neighborhoods.

22. Build a community for "New Americans" "the minor ties these are (writing unclear) hardworking and seeking opportunities in starting a small business = economic growth.

23. Offer County employees' money to buy homes in the inner city as the City does for its employees. It is just as beneficial for a social worker / sheriff to live in the city as a teacher or RPD.

24. Start County Legislature meetings with a land acknowledgement.

25. To engage volunteer groups in an effective way to help support the services and spaces MC provides – MOU (memorandum of understanding) with volunteer groups.

26. Use housing rehab dollars for retrofitting homes of low-med income families so they are more energy efficient and closer to net zero.

27. Denser family housing within ½ mile of opportunity areas, town centers, public transit corridors, schools, bus centers, and shopping. Make a substantial percent of this housing affordable for families.

What are your highest priorities?

1. The County should support the creation of a State Park at High Falls.

2. And here are what I consider to be highest priorities: As long as our structure and politics make any kind of substantial/impactful regional, cooperative planning difficult in Monroe County, we are going to have a lot of trouble achieving economical, ecological, equitable, and aesthetically congruent development in all the urban, suburban, and rural municipalities and areas in the County. We absolutely must try--despite the huge challenge--to establish some regional, cooperative land use and development planning. As long as municipalities act in silos and even competitively with one another rather than cooperatively, we are going to suffer the economic, environmental, equity, and aesthetic consequences of inefficient land use and development.

3. The County should support the ability of older residents to age in place, this includes affordable housing for populations on fixed incomes.

4. Need low-rise affordable housing for seniors and families to ensure affordability.

5. Priority: Support the construction of the Susan B Anthony visitor center to raise awareness of the incredible connection Monroe County has to the fight for human rights. The location of both the museum and future center are in a neighborhood that needs this.

6. Kind of generally: I support mixed-use neighborhoods and communities - I love being able to live in my home, and have a hardware store, book store, grocery store, dentist, doctor, the church, the tea shop, the playground, the library, all within a fifteen-minute walk!

7. So yes, we need to stop build single family homes and address this issue.

8. Need to develop a housing land trust to improve and ensure affordable housing options

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting

9. I am very concerned about property taxes making it impossible to stay in my home. When purchasing, I allowed for fluctuations, but based on current demand the rise of these tax assessments are terrifying.

10. Libraries – RPL Branches and libraries in the Monroe County Library System (MCLS).

11. More home ownership opportunities in the City.

12. Affordable senior developments – patio home, independent living.

13. Better transit service to shared (i.e. tax payer funded) amenities schools, colleges, libraries, ALL county parks.

INFRASTRUCTURE

What are the infrastructure issues and needs within the County?

1. Investment in dedicated bicycling, walking and public transportation ask for County DOT to improve communication with public

2. One challenge I've seen across the county is safety for all road users. Drivers are often in a hurry, and they're not necessarily thinking about their responsibility to keep bikers, pedestrians, and other drivers safe from traffic accidents.

3. From a bike point-of-view: I'm okay with bike lanes on roads that are less than 30 mph, and I love the city's bike boulevards. Bike lanes in the suburbs on roads 40 mph or more are super-uncomfortable and feel intensely unsafe

4. Add bike stops and broader ride sharing capabilities

5. Bike lanes exist in the city but end at county lines - particularly in Henrietta where people work

6. Streets dedicated for electric vehicles, bikes and pedestrians would be good - in villages and city.

7. Lack of effective public transportation effects people's daily lives and does not support people with accessibility needs

8. Public transport would be more useful if we would encourage smart growth: more businesses closer to transit stops, more frequent buses. It's also bad for the climate to drive so much, and so there should be more incentives to take public transit.

9. Improved focus on (a) public transit, and (b) pedestrian-friendly and bike-friendly design

10. Improving public transportation, more bus lines, running more frequently, more affordable - focusing on the last mile issue

11. Things are often very far apart, which makes it harder to make things easy to walk/bus/transport to - if I want to go to a large department store for example, I have to go out to the suburbs; there isn't one near my home in the city.

12. Add public composting locations throughout the communities

13. Add EV charging stations in public locations

14. We need a recycling program dedicated to organic waste.

15. Gaps in trail systems

16. Add rooftop solar options - in general add more sustainable energy options

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting

17. Need ample internet access throughout Monroe County.

18. More EV charging stations.

19. More public transportation to suburbs.

20. Public transit
    a. More in the suburbs
    b. Make it a true transportation choice, not last resort.

21. Prioritize COMPLETE STREETS infrastructure on all County Roads.

22. Restore water quality in the river, lake and streams and improve public access to waterbodies.

23. Transportation system is too car-centric. Planning should encourage use of transit and active transportation and discourage car use.

24. We need continuous bike lanes from city to suburbs.

25. Having proper lighting throughout Monroe County.

26. Repairing all roads and bridges.

27. High-speed internet connectivity (fiber to home).

28. Implemented / sponsored by Monroe County to keep costs down.

29. Bridge safety.

30. More attention should be given to micro plastics in the water

31. More porous pavement.

32. Need sidewalks to schools.

33. East and cheap access to broadband should be available everywhere in the County, not just where it's profitable for providers.

34. Long distance bus station is a disgrace (currently converted trailers).

35. Permanent bus facility must be constructed and integrated with rail station.

36. Long distance bus is primarily used by low-income and POC.

37. Trails are great, but not maintained.

38. Encourage people to use cars less and public transportation more:
    a. Sidewalks along public transit corridors.
    b. Adding bike lanes and bike racks.

39. Concern for the aging infrastructure and need to repair / enhance / upgrade library branches, particularly in the RPL System, to better serve the patrons in their local neighborhoods – priority given to libraries in general. COVID especially proved libraries value!

40. More handicap accessible shelters in County Parks.

41. Electric Trolley.

What are the opportunities?

1. It's time to develop a county-wide food waste composting facility in the county (rather than sending it to Geneva

2. Broaden bike and pedestrian trails - will help with agro-tourism and overall economy

3. Create a pilot project (Alfred university) on recycling glass focus more on additional recycling options to focus our efforts more deliberately

4. The branding of the bicentennial celebrations could be broadened to include the towns and villages

5. Boost tourism for the region - we have a lot to offer that can be marketed better

6. Develop new housing and retrofit housing without reliance on gas - instead heat pumps

7. Some infrastructure I've found really helpful are: (a) the Highland Crossing trail between Brighton and the city, (b) the improved railway trail from the city to Pittsford, (c) the railway

trail from Genesee Valley Park to Henrietta (I think both B and C are different parts of the old Lehigh Railway trails? I might be wrong)

8. There's an opportunity for the county to bridge the digital divide by providing broadband access for individuals and small businesses.

9. County should create a comprehensive plan that can be used to spend funding effectively

10. I believe there is an opportunity for the county to create a series of example or guiding typologies for street designs depending upon their environment and intended users. For example, rural communities may not need a full complete street, but there may be roads that connect to denser activity centers, such as villages and neighborhoods near to commercial/recreation, etc. Not all the municipalities have the resources to undertake their own Active Transportation Plans or other transportation studies.

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting

11. Bring Greenlight throughout Monroe County.

12. Food waste diversion with curbside compost countywide.

13. Recycle and reuse storm water. Create hydroelectric.

14. Increase capacity of sewage treatment to handle 99% of storm events.

15. Improved access to WIFI.

16. Check and post bacteria level daily for the Lake.

17. Increase the frequency of water samples and Check daily for RNA of COVID in water sample.

18. We have a great trail system but it could be improved with a minimal investment (repaving, additional trails).

19. Putting fiber cables in all sewer and water conduit projects could allow county to provide broadband where companies find it un profitable.

20. Schools with electric bus / vehicles

21. Plant shade trees along county roads, especially at bus stops.

22. Shelters at bus stops.

23. Identify suitable sites in the county for solar projects on roof, parking lots, brown fields, and industrial areas. Preserve open space and prime agricultural land from solar project use.

24. Improve recycling with more education of households and more markets for recycled materials.

25. Transit use can be much more attractive with a relatively small investment.
    a. Sheltered bus stops.
    b. More frequent service.

What are the challenges?

1. Funding is always a major challenge

2. The last mile on the trails which is complicated due to the multi-jurisdictional nature of ownership

3. Not enough young employees in the trades - County should help build this pipeline

4. A challenge, frankly, is some of the County's current DOT policies with respect to on-street multi-modal facilities. In my experience this has limited the best use in certain scenarios. Some of these should be revisited looking at other communities' successes both in and out of NYS.
potential impact of home rule

5. It would be wonderful to have a certain baseline of digital/internet access throughout the county. Internet access is a necessary utility and should be treated like one.

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting

6. Finding qualified people to work on infrastructure.

7. Shortage of skilled workers.

8. Raging against the MUTCD! When residents / towns ask for complete streets amenities and other pedestrian / bike safety, MCDOT prioritizes vehicle flow.

9. Biking between the City and Suburbs on marked bike lanes.

10. Transportation – More public, safe transportation.

11. Clean and maintain downtown area with loss of "boutique spaces?"

12. Free E-Garbage for everyone, pick up and recycling.

What are your highest priorities?

1. Public transit

2. Trail connectivity

3. Multi-modal access

4. Alternative energy-solar

5. Create a master plan for development of ev stations throughout the county

Comments from March 30 Public Meeting

6. Trails need to be inclusive for all abilities.

7. The current parking lots in the parks and the connection between those parking lots and many trails ARE NOT wheelchair accessible.

8. Reduce the amount of deaths and injuries while using a bicycle on Monroe County roads.

9. Public Transit that goes everywhere and is so effective it's the preferred choice.

10. Prioritize decreased auto use and increased walking, biking, public transit, carpooling.

11. Encourage smoother traffic patterns to decrease stop and go, i.e. traffic circles.

12. Future proof roads, bridges, etc. against natural hazards, especially flooding.

13. Streets must be safe and accessible to ALL users, not just car drivers.

14. Install lights for bikes on the roads.

15. Increase buses in suburbs that do not come every 1 hour.

16. Expand and better connect trail network.

17. Better links between land use and transportation infrastructure.