

# **APPENDIX B**

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR THE UTICA MASTER PLAN**

**Anti-Gentrification Guards**

Sometimes when neighborhoods are improved, they become more in demand, causing housing rates to rise. Often times this occurrence forces lower income residents out of their homes. Anti-gentrification guards are meant to prevent this from occurring.

**Association of Block Coalitions**

The Association of Block Coalitions (ABC) is an umbrella organization, which assists interested homeowners, tenants, and neighborhood business to organize a Block Association. The ABC forms the residential component of Weed and Seed. Empowerment is the key to community revitalization and organization. The old adage, "if you give a man a fish he eats for a day, but if you teach him how to fish he eats for a lifetime," holds true for working with community residents and revitalization

**Bateaux**

A shallow, flat bottomed boat.

**Blighted Area**

An area characterized by deteriorating and/or abandoned buildings; inadequate or missing public or community services; and vacant land with debris, litter, lack of utilities, accumulation of trash and junk and impacted by adverse environmental nuisances, such as odor, noise and heavy traffic.

**BOCES-NYSED Literacy Zones**

Literacy Zones are a reform initiative developed by the New York State Board of Regents and the State Education Department to close the achievement gap in urban and rural communities of concentrated poverty and high concentrations of families and individuals with limited literacy or English language proficiency. Literacy Zones are intended to provide a systemic focus on meeting the literacy needs of communities, from birth through adulthood.

**Brownfields**

Sites that are underutilized or not in active use, on land that is either contaminated or perceived as contaminated.

**Business Improvement District**

A defined area within which businesses pay an additional tax or fee in order to fund improvements within the district's boundaries. Grant funds acquired by the city for special programs and/or incentives such as tax abatements can be made available to assist businesses or to recruit new business. BIDs may go by other names, such as business improvement area (BIA), business revitalization zone (BRZ), community improvement district (CID), special services area (SSA), or special improvement district (SID). BIDs provide services, such as cleaning streets, providing security, making capital improvements, construction of pedestrian and streetscape enhancements, and marketing the area. The services provided by BIDs are supplemental to those already provided by the municipality.

**Centers for Disease Control's Healthy Communities Program**

CDC's Healthy Communities Program works with communities through state and national partnerships to improve community leader's skills and commitments of establishing, advancing, and maintaining effective population-based strategies that reduce the burden of chronic disease and achieve health equity. Through this program, communities are able to implement policies that sustain environmental and systems changes that address the major risk factors: tobacco, physical inactivity, and unhealthy eating. Currently, 306 communities and 50 state health departments have been funded. Additional communities will be added each year.

**Citizen Advisory Committee**

A committee comprised of citizens representing each area of the city. Their insight would be used in decision making, related to proposed plans.

**Citizen Police Academies**

Law enforcement agencies use a variety of methods to build relationships with the community. One popular program is the citizen police academy. It can be used to train volunteers, recruit volunteers or simply introduce community members to functions and activities in a law enforcement agency.

**Collaboration**

The act of working together and combining forces to produce something that is bigger and better than an organization could do alone. The Utica Master Plan recognizes that effective communication with regional interests is essential to successful collaboration.

**College Town**

A college town or university town is a community (often literally a Town, but possibly a small or medium sized Specialized City, or in some cases a neighborhood or a district of a city) which is dominated by its university population. The university may be large, or there may be several smaller institutions such as liberal arts colleges clustered, or the residential population may be small, but college towns in all cases are so dubbed because the presence of the educational institution(s) pervades economic and social life. Many local residents may be employed by the university - which may be the largest employer in the community, many businesses cater primarily to the university, and the students' population may outnumber the local population.

**Combined Sewer Overflow**

Combined sewer systems are sewers that are designed to collect rainwater runoff, domestic sewage, and industrial wastewater in the same pipe. Most of the time, combined sewer systems transport all of their wastewater to a sewage treatment plant, where it is treated and then discharged to a water body. During periods of heavy rainfall or snowmelt, however, the wastewater volume in a combined sewer system can exceed the capacity of the sewer system or treatment plant. For this reason, combined sewer systems are designed to overflow occasionally and discharge excess wastewater directly to nearby streams, rivers, or other water bodies.

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

Grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the State Department of Housing and Community Development. Grants must primarily be used to benefit very low- and low-income households with emphasis on housing and public improvement projects. The City of McKinney is an entitlement city that receives an annual funding grant from HUD.

**Community Improvement District**

A community improvement district (CID) is the most powerful public-private partnership today and has been used successfully around the country to revitalize center cities. It is an effective tool for financing improvements that directly enhance property values by allowing property owners to determine how funds are spent in their area. CID funds can augment existing services such as public safety and they can also be used to leverage additional public and private funds. Conservatively, CID funds can be used to leverage such funds at a ratio of 4 to 1.

A CID is a geographically defined district in which commercial property owners vote to impose a self-tax. To enact a CID, a simple majority of affected property owners holding at least 75% of the assessed property value of the area must vote affirmatively. Funds are then collected by the taxing authority and given to a board of directors elected by the property owners.

### **Competitive City**

Cities across the globe are increasingly in a place in which they must successfully compete in order to survive. The Utica Master Plan recognizes that to be competitive in the global market, it is necessary to provide high quality of life amenities such as schools, parks and cultural experiences along with a skilled and ready workforce, an efficient delivery of government resources and quality, affordable housing in a safe environment.

### **Complete Street Policy**

Complete Streets are streets for everyone. They are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities must be able to safely move along and across a complete street. Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work. They allow buses to run on time and make it safe for people to walk to and from train stations. Creating complete streets means transportation agencies must change their approach to community roads. By adopting a Complete Streets policy, communities direct their transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right of way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation. This means that every transportation project will make the street network better and safer for drivers, transit users, pedestrians, and

bicyclists – making your town a better place to live.

### **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)**

Identification of three primary principles: access control, natural surveillance, and territorial reinforcement – as considerations to be used during the design process for the purpose of creating a safer built environment.

### **Creative Class**

The Creative Class is a socioeconomic class that economist and social scientist Richard Florida, identifies as a key driving force for economic development of post-industrial cities in the United States. Florida describes the Creative Class as comprising 40 million workers - 30 percent of the U.S. workforce and breaks the class into two broad sections, derived from Standard Occupational Classification System codes:

**Super-Creative Core:** This group comprises about 12 percent of all U.S. jobs. It includes a wide range of occupations (e.g. science, engineering, education, computer programming, research), with arts, design, and media workers forming a small subset. The Super-Creative Core is considered innovative, creating commercial products and consumer goods. The primary job function of its members is to be creative and innovative.

**Creative Professionals:** These professionals are the classic knowledge-based workers and include those working in healthcare, business and finance, the legal sector, and education.

### **Dark Sky Principles**

The dark-sky movement is a campaign by people who want to reduce light pollution so people can see the stars, to reduce the effects of unnatural lighting on the environment, and to cut down on energy usage. The movement started with professional and amateur astronomers alarmed that nocturnal sky glow from urban areas was blotting out the sight of stars. For example, the Griffith observatory in Los Angeles is useless for astronomy, because of the daytime smog and nighttime light pollution, while world-famous Palomar Observatory is threatened. The movement has since spread with groups like the International Dark-Sky Association, as other concerns have been raised. For example, nocturnal animals can be harmed by light pollution. The dark sky movement works to encourage the use of full-cutoff fixtures that cast little or no light upward in public areas and generally to encourage communities to adopt lighting regulations.

### **Department of Environmental Conservation**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) was created on July 1, 1970 to combine in a single agency all state programs designed to protect and enhance the environment.

Mission: "To conserve, improve and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being."

DEC's goal is to achieve this mission through the simultaneous pursuit of environmental quality, public health, economic prosperity and social well-being, including environmental justice

and the empowerment of individuals to participate in environmental decisions that affect their lives

### **Entrepreneur**

One who organizes, manages, and assumes the risks of a business or enterprise

### **Environmental Conservation Law**

Laws and Regulations mandated by the state to preserve and protect the environment.

### **Food Policy Council**

FPCs bring together stakeholders from diverse food-related sectors to examine how the food system is operating and to develop recommendations on how to improve it. FPCs may take many forms, but are typically either commissioned by state or local government, or predominately a grassroots effort. Food policy councils have been successful at educating officials and the public, shaping public policy, improving coordination between existing programs, and starting new programs. Examples include mapping and publicizing local food resources; creating new transit routes to connect underserved areas with full-service grocery stores; persuading government agencies to purchase from local farmers; and organizing community gardens and farmers' markets.

### **Gateway District**

Also known as the "Gateway Historic canal District" (Gateway District) and includes Whitesboro Street near the Utica Memorial Auditorium, here currently the City is completing a NYSDEC-funded Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) at Potter Street (adjacent to the ERP site) and Seneca Streets to the west and east, has been made "shovel ready" for future development under a federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant.

**Geographic Information System**

A computer system capable of assembling, storing, manipulating, and displaying geographically referenced information.

**Green Spaces**

Land shown on a development plan, master plan, or official map for conservation, preservation, recreation, landscaping or park within a particular geographic area.

**Heat Islands**

The term "heat island" describes built up areas that are hotter than nearby rural areas. The annual mean air temperature of a city with 1 million people or more can be 1.8–5.4°F (1–3°C) warmer than its surroundings. In the evening, the difference can be as high as 22°F (12°C). Heat islands can affect communities by increasing summertime peak energy demand, air conditioning costs, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, heat-related illness and mortality, and water quality.

**HOME Grant Funding**

HOME is authorized under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended. Program regulations are at 24 CFR Part 92. HOME provides formula grants to States and localities that communities use-often in partnership with local nonprofit groups-to fund a wide range of activities that build, buy, and/or rehabilitate affordable housing for rent or homeownership or provide direct rental assistance to low-income people.

**Incubator Program**

Business incubators are programs designed to accelerate the successful development of entrepreneurial companies through an array of business support resources and services, developed and orchestrated by incubator management and offered both in the incubator and through its network

of contacts. Incubators vary in the way they deliver their services, in their organizational structure, and in the types of clients they serve. Successful completion of a business incubation program increases the likelihood that a start-up company will stay in business for the long term: Historically, 87% of incubator graduates stay in business.

**Land Bank Program**

A land bank is a public authority created to efficiently hold, manage and develop tax-foreclosed property. (1) Land banks act as a legal and financial mechanism to transform vacant, abandoned and tax-foreclosed property back to productive use. Generally, land banks are funded by local governments' budgets or the management and disposition of tax-foreclosed property. (2) In addition, a land bank is a powerful locational incentive, which encourages redevelopment in older communities that generally have little available land and neighborhoods that have been blighted by an out-migration of residents and businesses. (3) While a land bank provides short-term fiscal benefits, it can also act as a tool for planning long-term community development. Successful land bank programs revitalize blighted neighborhoods and direct reinvestment back into these neighborhoods to support their long-term community vision.

**Land Use Plan**

A coordinated collection of data, programs, and activities related to existing and potential uses of land and resources within a defined area. Commonly associated with local units of government trying to anticipate and organize uses of space so as to meet defined goals. For producers, conservation plans are a type of land use plan.

### **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design**

LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO2 emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), LEED provides building owners and operators a concise framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

### **Mixed-Income Housing**

Housing units with different levels of affordability, typically with market-rate housing and some housing that is available to low-income occupants below market rate.

### **Mixed Use**

Multiple land uses in the same structure or same general area of a community.

### **Mixed Use Development**

Development that is created in response to patterns of separate uses that are typical in suburban areas. Mixed use developments include residential, commercial, and business accommodations in one area.

### **Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees**

An institution designed to help meet the needs of refugees of the greater Utica area.

### **Mohawk Valley Water Authority**

The MVWA was created to deliver superior potable water that meets or

exceeds all water quality standards. The company continually strives to operate, maintain, and improve its water distribution system in a manner that supports regional economic development and provides customers with cost effective, reliable, and professional water services.

### **Mule Teams**

This is in reference to a potential canal festival activity.

### **Multicultural Association of Medical Interpreter (MAMI)**

Provides trained interpreters for speakers of limited English in medical, legal, mental health and domestic violence/sexual abuse situations.

### **Multi-Modal Transportation Network**

A system that supports and allows for many different modes of transportation; including travel by bus, walking, biking and private automobile.

### **Multi-Way Boulevards**

An alternative to the current arterials that bisect the city; multi-way boulevards are more like a parkway, with slower traffic in single lane one-way streets on either side of a two lane center for more rapid traffic. Multi-way boulevards are also more pedestrian oriented, with sidewalks and lined with trees.

### **Municipal Housing Authority**

The MHA serves the lowest-income persons who are often the neediest. For this reason, supporting the production and management of public housing is perhaps the single most important strategy for meeting the needs of extremely low-income renter households.

### **Neighborhood Block Association**

An association meant to strengthen the bonds between neighbors and foster positive developments within the neighborhood of a designated area.

**Olmsted Report (1908)**

A report composed in 1908 by famed landscape designer Fredrick Law Olmstead Jr. regarding a plan for the redesign of Utica.

**Oneida County Sewer District**

The Oneida County Department of Water Quality and Water Pollution Control (WQ&WPC) is responsible for administering the operations of the Oneida County Sewer District (OCSD). The District includes 13 member municipalities and services the Village of Holland Patent and portions of the Towns of Frankfort and Schuyler in Herkimer County via inter-municipal agreements. District facilities include 45 miles of interceptor sewers, the Sauquoit Creek and the Barnes Avenue Pumping Stations and the Oneida County Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP), the 4th largest facility of its kind in upstate New York and the 17th largest in the state. In addition to the services provided to the member municipalities, the District also provides disposal of septage, contaminated water from groundwater remediation sites and landfill leachate from other locations within Oneida County - The Department is also responsible for insuring compliance with Federal pretreatment regulations that apply to all significant industrial users (SIU's) of the WPCP. The Department inspects samples and regulates discharges to the WPCP that have the potential to be detrimental to the sewer system, operating facilities or personnel. It is also responsible for enforcement of the Oneida County Sewer Use Rules and Regulations as contained in Local Law No. 1 of 2006.

**Open Space**

Used to describe undeveloped land or land that is used for recreation. Farmland as well as all natural habitats (forests, fields, wetlands etc.) is lumped in this category.

**Overlay District**

A zoning district, applied over one or more other districts that contains provisions for special features or conditions, such as historic buildings, affordable housing, or wetlands, in addition to the requirements of the underlying zoning.

**Parent Teacher Association**

As the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation, Parent Teacher Association (PTA) reminds our country of its obligations to children and provides parents and families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of every child while providing the best tools for parents to help their children be successful students.

**Partnership**

Webster's Dictionary recognizes a partnership as, "A relationship between individuals or groups that is characterized by mutual cooperation and responsibility, as for the achievement of a specified goal". Partnerships are often the result of a successful collaboration effort. The Utica Master Plan recognizes that the success of Utica will only come from partnerships among the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

**Public Safety and Visitor Assistance Program**

An assistance program for downtown to build an atmosphere of safety, friendliness and goodwill.

**Quasi-Governmental**

Supported by the government but managed privately.

**Regional**

The Mohawk Valley faces challenges in transportation, infrastructure, 21st Century workforce development, housing and open space protection that cannot be adequately addressed by traditional political boundaries. The Utica Master Plan recognizes that its own success, and the communities surrounding Utica, must work collectively, where economic, environmental and social concerns all come together, to be competitive in the global economy.

**Restaurant Row**

Is a proposed plan to create a cluster of restaurants to celebrate the city's ethnic diversity.

**Right-of-way**

The strip of land over which certain transportation and/or other public facilities are built, including roads, railroads and utility lines.

**Rust to Green New York State**

Is an emerging network and action research initiative. R2G NYS is an academic, citizen and community partners collaborating to explore and advance green futures for New York's rust-belt cities. Rust to Green NYS identifies and designs innovative ways to assist cities in realizing their potential to become livable and resilient places.

**Rust to Green Utica**

Is engaged in identifying and advancing strategies and projects particularly related to greater urban livability, sustainability and resilience. The aim is to widen local participation, involvement and inclusion in shaping and guiding Utica's transition from rust to green.

**Safescapes**

The concept that public safety and quality of life must be collectively addressed through planning and design of an urban built environment that respects humans needs, as a way to address crime and fear of crime, to increase livability.

**Saturday in the Park**

A plan to encourage community groups to better utilize the city's parks by creating festivals, sports competitions, celebrations etc.

**Sculpture Trail**

A sculpture trail is, most often, a permanent series of large, outdoor sculptures located in a woodland or parkland settings, with public walkways giving access to the sculptures. It is larger than a sculpture garden, and the sculptures may be sited out-of-sight of one another. There is often wheelchair access, and also a sculptor-in-residence creating new, temporary works.

The name sculpture park is more properly applied to a larger area, especially those with roads that give primacy to the motor car and/or to viewing sculptures from a car.

**Slow Food Movement**

A non-profit member-supported association, Slow Food was founded in 1989 to counter the rise of fast food and fast life, the disappearance of local food traditions and people's dwindling interest in the food they eat, where it comes from, how it tastes and how our food choices affect the rest of the world.

**Sprawl**

Development patterns where rural land is converted to urban/suburban uses more quickly than needed to house new residents and support new businesses, and people become more dependent on automobiles. Sprawl defines patterns of urban growth that includes large acreage of low-density residential development, rigid separation between residential and commercial uses, residential and commercial development in rural areas away from urban centers, minimal support for non-motorized transportation methods, and a lack of integrated transportation and land use planning.

**Sustainability**

This term can be applied to various subject matters, including society as a whole, industry, agriculture, or the environment. The traditional definition of sustainability calls for policies and strategies that meet society's present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The Utica Master Plan recognizes sustainability as a way to approach local and regional needs from a whole systems perspective, including environment, economy and social values.

**Tourism Marketing Plan**

A plan geared towards marketing the area as a tourist destination. This may include the promotion of historic points of interest, or recreational facilities.

**Tourism-Readiness Training Program**

The training is for tourism/hospitality businesses and entrepreneurs in Utica, and will focus on hospitality and tourism marketing, community organization, and improving service quality. The goal of the training is to educate and prepare the city of Utica to be a tourism friendly destination and to help make the tourism initiative successful.

**Transportation Demand Management**

(Mobility Management) refers to various strategies aimed at changing travel behavior. TDM strategies influence these factors to encourage more efficient travel patterns, such as shifts from peak to off-peak periods, from automobile to alternative modes, and from dispersed to closer destinations.

**Trolley Line Trail**

A bike and Pedestrian trail which would follow the path of the old West Shore rail tracks. The existing path intersects the central portion of the city in an east-west direction.

**Urban Sprawl**

Low-density land-use patterns that are automobile dependent, energy and land consumptive, and require a very high ratio of road surface to development served. A haphazard and disorderly form of urban development. There are several developments that characterize sprawl: Residences far removed from stores, parks, and other activity centers; scattered or "leapfrog" developments that leaves large tracts of undeveloped land between developments; commercial strip development along major streets; large expanses of low-density or single-use development, such as commercial centers; major form of transportation is the automobile; uninterrupted and contiguous low to medium density urban development.

**Utica Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee**

The UBPC in cooperation with the city, will develop, publish & distribute bicycle and pedestrian route maps to city residents and adjoining communities to encourage exercise. The UBPC will coordinate with local transit companies to facilitate access (ex. Bike racks installation on transit vehicles, bus route coordination) to bicycle/pedestrian trails.

**Vacant Building Registry**

The purpose behind this registry is to establish a program for identifying and registering vacant buildings and structures; and to speed the rehabilitation of the vacant properties.

**Way Finding Signage:**

Wayfinding signage provides valuable information at optimal decision points, helping users find their way through the built and natural environment.

**Wireless Utica**

A long-term initiative to make Downtown Utica a Wi-Fi hot spot for the convenience of business patrons, residents and visitors.

**Zoning Districts**

Classification of land in a community into different zone with different permissible uses in each zone. Requires the community to adopt a zoning map showing the boundaries of the areas.