



Catskill DRI Open House – Summary of Public Input

At the Catskill DRI Open House held on Monday, **September 29, 2025**, at the Catskill Senior Center, community members had the opportunity to learn about and provide feedback on all the proposed DRI projects. Nearly 200 people attended the Open House. General overview stations allowed the community to revisit the DRI process, review the DRI vision and goals and public engagement input to date, and learn about the DRI criteria for project evaluation. At interactive display stations around the room, participants were asked to leave sticky note comments for each project and could choose to prioritize up to 5 proposals by placing a sticky dot next to a project’s description. Table I below shows the proposed DRI projects grouped by “higher,” “medium” or “lower” community priority as determined by the “dot voting.”

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

TABLE I. VILLAGE OF CATSKILL DRI PUBLIC MEETING TWO – PROPOSED DRI PROJECTS GROUPED BY OPEN HOUSE “DOT VOTING”	
Higher Priority (47+ dots)	
• Renovate The Historic Catskill Library • Transform Bridge Street Theater • Catskill’s Advancement for New Downtown Opportunities (CANDO) Fund (Small Project Fund) • Enhance Village Streetscape • Develop Mixed Use Waterfront Housing and Commercial Space At 506 Main Street • Connect Ferry Service to Catskill by Installing a Gateway Boat Dock on Water Street • Activate Live Performances at the Community Theater	
Medium Priority (15-30 dots)	
• Renovate 455 Main Street to Facilitate Expanded Services by the Mental Health Association of Greene County • Improve Inclusion, Accessibility and Recreation for the Hop O Nose Community with a New Playground and Perimeter Fencing (<i>Note: project withdrawn after Open House</i>) • Convert 104 Water Street to Mixed-use Creative Space and Art Studios • Renovate Subversive Malting and Brewing • Activate The Village with Wayfinding and Signage • Enhance Water Access from Creekside Restaurant • Develop an ADA Accessible Small Craft Launch • Beautify and Expand Operations at Return Brewing Outpost • Create Housing and Commercial Space at 95 West Bridge Street	
Lower Priority (10 or fewer dots)	
• Redevelop 479-483 Main Street for Mixed Use (<i>Note: project withdrawn after Open House</i>) • Improve Waterfront Resilience and Public Access at 70 West Main Street • Renovate and Build New Facilities at Lumberyard Studios • Transform 199 West Main Street into Six-unit Workforce Housing Townhomes • Establish an Outdoor Destination Space with Three Studio Housing Units at 472 Main Street • Restore the Historic Brick Façade at 342 Main Street • Renovate Commercial Space and Expand Housing Options at 437 Main Street	



COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Table II below shows feedback, support, concern and suggestions for improving project implementation provided by Open House participants for each project. In some instances, comments that are similar in nature have been folded in or grouped together.

TABLE II. VILLAGE OF CATSKILL DRI PUBLIC MEETING – PROJECT COMMENTS & PRIORITY			
#	Project Description	Priority (# Dots)	Comments
PUBLIC REALM AND NONPROFIT PROJECTS			
1	Enhance Village Streetscape	H (59)	- Public projects like this will help businesses and community all at once. - Reduce speed limit in the village. - Need better sidewalks to make the village more pedestrian friendly. - Regulate noise pollution on Main Street. - Need bike parking and e-bikes. - Will businesses have input on sidewalk expansion in front of their building? - I fully support this but ran out of stickers.
2	Activate The Village with Wayfinding and Signage	M (19)	- Love this. Signage is critical for creating cohesion. - This is so important for every business on and around Main Street. When people come here let's make it easy and show them around. - Cohesive signage throughout the village increases access & success for all. - Have signage and posted schedules at bus stops. - Maps of signage are definitely needed in multiple languages; also spoken for people with visibility challenges. - I support this but ran out of stickers.
3	Connect Ferry Service to Catskill by Installing a Gateway Boat Dock on Water Street	H (47)	- Water as transportation for locals and visitor. - Brings people who visit and spend money. - Coupled with wayfinding and streetscape project this is a huge step in bringing people to Catskill and increasing the customers for businesses and ensuring access and travel while maintaining status as a destination. - Let's open Catskill to Hudson River neighbors. - This would be good for use of our water.
4	Develop an ADA Accessible Small Craft Launch	M (18)	- It's only \$250,000. - More accessibility - Why doesn't everyone vote for this? - Yes to all projects with use of the creek facilities on the water. - Great recreation projects for locals who have been here for generations.
5	Renovate The Historic Catskill Library	H (81)	- Library is a vital and invaluable community asset allowing them to serve even more of us by expanding spaces and accessibility; expanding green space seems like terrific use of DRI funds. - Please do this one! - Making the bathrooms and elevator historically compatible will be a challenge but worth it. - Definitely needs a face lift. - We need this space in our community. A gathering space and a place for education for all ages. It's a community center and a resource to support and ensure it will flourish.



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			• More kids programming and space without screens. Accessibility to the second floor. • We pay taxes for the library - why do they need DRI money? • Clarification that this is for the public library not school tax. • Now that the community center is gone this grant would make the library into more of a community center. • Absolutely essential to keep learning through books.
6	Renovate 455 Main Street to Facilitate Expanded Services by the Mental Health Association of Greene County	M (30)	• Mental health services are essential to a healthy community. • There are a lot of troubled and traumatized people in our community. We must help them. • So important and very necessary. • This is the one community center style place kids still have in our community. We need to fully fund this.
7	Improve Inclusion, Accessibility & Recreation for Hop O Nose Community with New Playground & Perimeter Fencing	M (24)	• I'd like to see planting of native species along the creek for the riparian edge. • Current fencing is ugliest thing seen in this town. Let's make it beautiful. • Long overdue! • Please expand to include all - especially on the waterfront. • As the waterfront is made more beautiful we need to be sure the children know how to swim. Water safety is very important. Many parents I have met can't swim either.
HOUSING AND MIXED-USE BUILDING PROJECTS			
8	Develop Mixed Use Waterfront Housing and Commercial Space At 506 Main Street	H (50)	• Loss of greenspace and parkland: Loss of greenspace and viewshed. / This means the loss of 100-year-old park and open space along the Creek. / Keep as a park / This has been a park for 100 years. / How come there is no mention of this destroying a park? / Improve the park. / I love the park where it is. This project should be further out from downtown. / The loss of a public park along the creek would be unfortunate and would benefit a small number of people. Add a public park to this that attracts residents and tourists to the Creek frontage. • Support for affordable housing: This would add lots of affordable housing. Great! /We need more housing, and this project has the best chance of filling that need. /Creating 70 units of cost-controlled AMI/statutorily designed affordable housing right in the heart of downtown Catskill seems like the highest use of Catskill DRI funding. / 70 units is highest of all proposals. / More housing! • Where is the rest of the funding coming from? We need more info/a plan. • Bring people to downtown to live and support downtown businesses. • Yes to affordable but – 1) Who will property manage? Will rents remain affordable? 2) How long will construction take? • Super skilled professional development. Housing – yes! Mixed-use.



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			• Why does the dev. only need 31 – do they need any % at all? • How can we ensure architecture is in keeping with the charm of Catskill?
9	Redevelop 479-483 Main Street for Mixed Use	L (10)	• Apartments made affordable! • This would be a great housing project if it requested \$1 M rather than \$3.0M.
10	Transform 199 West Main Street into Six-unit Workforce Housing Townhomes	L (5)	• Looks great. Much needed housing. • Sensitive and appropriate to the community. • Great project! • Improves diversity of Village housing stock. Would like more affordability.
11	Create Housing & Commercial Space at 95 West Bridge Street	M (16)	• Would create jobs and bring people to that end of Bridge Street. • Don't buy into this. • Affordable housing? • W. Bridge is a happening spot, let's keep it going.
12	Establish an Outdoor Destination Space with Three Studio Housing Units at 472 Main St.	L (5)	• Yes! Please activate Upper Main Street.
13	Renovate Commercial Space and Expand Housing Options at 437 Main Street	L (1)	• No comments.
COMMERCIAL PROJECTS			
14	Restore the Historic Brick Façade at 342 Main Street	L (4)	• This is a moderate and reasonable request by an enduring Main Street business.
15	Activate Live Performances at the Community Theater	H (7)	• Live performances would be incredible. • More activities for children. • Yes please!



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16	Convert 104 Water Street to Mixed-use Creative Space and Art Studios	M (24)	• A key project to develop our art or creative community. • I've lived in the Village since 2007 but really only since Cone Zero opened do I feel like I'm part of the community. • Water Street Art Studio already does this. Fund them! • This project will help foster the artistic community in Catskill and bring more people. • Ran out of stickers but love this project! • The soda kiln will be a destination for potters, bringing in out of town visitors for workshops – Oki Doki in Germantown sells out their workshops for the year in one weekend.
17	Transform Bridge Street Theater	H (70)	• We're actually a non-profit organization. • This will also divide two performance spaces so they can be used simultaneously, expanding opportunities for classes & community meetings. • Yes! Love the green wall in courtyard. • BST benefits the school, community, students, & visitors. Definitely a must. • Cultural growth is as important as business. Support BST! • Live theater always brings people to the area. Having a comfortable environment would make it more enjoyable. • Theater has brought more people into the area & helps businesses flourish. • Such an important community presence. • Best art & culture we've had – need to expand for more children & families. • BST is a community gem! We need to support and enhance it! • Bridge Street Theater has been a great community asset! • Proven track record! Great theater with soul! • The Bridge Street Theater is a brilliant, marvelous, visionary organization. Please give them every penny they requested.
18	Enhance Water Access from Creekside Restaurant	M (19)	• Yes! All water access points drive increased recreation. • A riparian planting of native shrubs would be a better approach than a retaining wall. • Investing public money in private property? Hmm...
19	Improve Waterfront Resilience and Public Access at 70 West Main Street	L (7)	• No comments.



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20	Renovate and Build New Facilities at Lumberyard Studios	L (7)	• This company should receive no further public money, for a project that has already been proposed and has failed to be completed. Also, please take into site control by the project sponsor before considering this as a valid project. • Who even owns Lumberyard now?
21	Beautify and Expand Operations at Return Brewing Outpost	M (18)	• Developing here makes that area safer for everyone! • Definitely community friendly project. • Appreciate the support for hiring local & bringing people together in the village. • Supports manufacturing and local jobs. • Encourage food trucks here and elsewhere (e.g., Dutchman's Landing?)
22	Renovate Subversive Malting and Brewing	M (24)	• Subversive is already a community hub – enabling them to strengthen that status, grow their employees, expand their offerings and community use seems great. • If recreating 95 West Bridge having a pleasant new place across the road where people can eat and drink after shopping. • Subversive has invested so much into Catskill and proven its commitment. Deserves to have this grant. • Everything Subversive does, they do it well. They are an asset to Catskill and worth supporting. • Yes!!! Subversive does so much for Catskill, we should give more to make them bigger and better!
SMALL PROJECT FUND			
23	Catskill's Advancement for New Downtown Opportunities (CANDO) Fund (Small Project Fund)	H (67)	• The goal of the DRI is to fund transformational projects for small businesses. Any investment offers the potential for transformational changes. Not only for the business but the community. • Pooling resources helps more people. • We need a new place for our food pantry that serves the community. • Upgraded, safer sidewalks please! • Catskill Food Pantry needs a walk-in cooler. / Please take note we need a new walk-in freezer for the pantry that serves our community. • Having small businesses get some of this support would be awesome! • Small businesses in Catskill are constantly struggling. They should be main beneficiaries of any economic development in our town. We need to ensure DRI funds support the businesses that put our town on the map – and they are all small businesses that desperately need these funds. • Support the wonderful small businesses. • CONE ZERO KILN