

TOWN OF AMHERST EARNS WNY AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION AWARD

Boulevard Central District Plan Recognized for Excellence in Comprehensive Planning

(Amherst, NY) – The Town of Amherst's <u>Boulevard Central District (BCD)</u> planning efforts have been awarded a 2022 Planning Award for Comprehensive Planning from the Western New York Section of the American Planning Association (APA). Honored on May 18 at the WNY APA Section Annual Awards Event, the Town's Planning Department and its consultants were recognized for contributing to the advancement and elevation of planning in the WNY APA Section and the steps to make communities stronger and more resilient.

"I am very proud of the work of our Planning Department under the direction of Dan Howard and Project Manager Kimberly Amplement. The Boulevard Central District planning effort was a large undertaking that re-envisions Amherst's largest commercial area. This plan establishes a vision for revitalization and implementation actions to achieve that vision. Now, developers can work within mixed-use districts where before we had restrictive zoning districts. We'll see 'complete streets,' improved walkability and pedestrian access, and to replace big box shells of a bygone era," said Supervisor Brian Kulpa.

The BCD is the Town's largest and most vibrant commercial area and the Town's focus over the past several years has been to prioritize the area and prepare for its revitalization. The Town worked with various consultants on different elements of planning for the district, including Code Studio, Clough, Harbour & Associates, LLP and Dover Kohl & Partners. Because this effort won a Section APA Award, it will now be forwarded on to the New York Upstate Chapter of the APA for consideration of a Comprehensive Planning Chapter Award.