
BUILDING A CULTURE OF COLLABORATION

REFLECTIONS FROM LGV LEADERSHIP ON HOW THE INITIATIVE HAS SHIFTED THEIR WAY OF THINKING TOWARDS A SHARED IDENTITY THAT ENABLES DEEPER COLLABORATION AND STRENGTHENS REGIONAL ASSETS ACROSS MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES.

Working with the LGV initiative over the last three years has enabled me to see the benefits of working regionally instead of just by county, town or village. I see a new identity for our region emerging: The Genesee Valley! As a result, I see new community pride and collaboration gathering around this identity in ways that I haven't seen previously. This initiative has strategically identified next steps for economic growth and more people are now able to see this vision.

**Louise Wadsworth, Downtown Coordinator,
Livingston County Economic Development**

Living in Mount Morris, I was used to seeing other nearby towns as competition. Being a part of Letchworth Gateway Villages, I now understand that all our communities are similar in the problems we face and that each one of our towns has different things to offer. I now see more people working together, from mayors sharing information with each other to businesses encouraging people to visit places in other towns. Instead of feeling like I only belong in Mount Morris, I now feel that our three communities are a little metropolitan area with everything I need in it. I am now excited when places open up in Geneseo and Perry and can even see myself investing in businesses in these other communities. I now see these other towns as cousins, not competition.

**William D'Angelo, President of the Mount
Morris Partners for Progress**

Being part of LGV has certainly steered me to an improved understanding about how a focus on destination tourism is an analog for how to think regionally and build a sustainable economy..it's an important vehicle for helping everyone recognize the authentic assets along with the deficits, and work on filling the gaps.

Rick Hauser, Mayor of the Village of Perry

LGV is a remarkable tool for our small communities because it allows us to leverage a small amount of capital that in turn, generates a new pool of resources that we can use for professional services or new projects - things tight municipal budgets can't always accommodate. It allows our villages, towns and community-based organizations to participate in regional economic development in ways we couldn't do before.

Mary Rutigliano, Village of Geneseo Trustee

The most significant impact LGV has had on my thinking is that when looking at Village decisions, I am acutely aware of the impact they will have on the region. We live in a beautiful area and maintaining that is important. Working closely with other communities on one vision solidified that. The data shared regarding growing economies in outdoor recreation and food tourism has also contributed to the change. As a Village Board, we agreed to keep the vision of LGV in mind when looking at the Comprehensive Plan, code revisions and any other decisions that impact the landscape of the Village.

**Margaret Duff, Mayor of the Village of
Geneseo**

Being part of LGV changed the way I was used to thinking about development in the Village of Mount Morris. I realized this shift in my thinking during one of our more recent projects - the Route 36 Corridor Study. Initially the scope was fairly limited to Mount Morris, however we ended up expanding it to the Town and Village of Leicester because we could see they were part of this larger system and transportation issue we needed to address. I don't know if I would have seen this in the same way a year or two ago.

**Frank Provo, Mayor of the Village of Mount
Morris**