Project Background

- Statewide Planning Challenge Grant

- Project Goals:
  - Community Engagement
  - Economic Development and Viability
  - Identify Infill Opportunities
  - Define an Appropriate ‘Village Scale’
Project Scope

- Inventory public infrastructure and potential improvements
- Buildout Analysis
- Review local planning documents
- Conduct public workshops
  - Identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
- Develop ‘vision statement’ and policy directions
- Draft amendments to local regulations
March Meeting Discussion…

- Review of existing conditions
- Defining Issues
  - Protection/Enforcement of the Groundwater Protection Overlay District
  - Connectivity and circulation
  - Potential loss of land in agricultural use to residential use
  - Potential expansion of commuter rail service to West Kingston
  - Zoning Ordinance conformity
  - Future viability of industrial uses in area
Tonight’s Meeting

• Orientation to Meeting Materials

• Project Updates:
  ◦ Potential Commuter Rail Expansion
  ◦ URI Growth Issues
  ◦ RIDOT Route 138 Reconstruction Project
  ◦ Parking Issues at the Train Station

• Village Style Development

• Map Exercise:
  o Identifying Threats and Solutions
  o Identifying Opportunities and Strategies
Orientation to Meeting Materials
Potential Commuter Rail Expansion

- **Regional Transit Expansion at Kingston Station**
  - RIDOT is now looking at additional rail expansion along the Northeast Corridor (NEC) into Kingston and Westerly (Phase II): as part of an ongoing feasibility study, looking at potential Phase II ridership projections, and site logistics (parking, access, circulation) at and around the existing Kingston Station.
  - Separate, yet complementary project involves the U.S. Department of Transportation’s commitment of $25 million to fund plans by the RIDOT and Amtrak to make improvements at Kingston Station, including the construction of a third track (to allow the passing of high-speed through express Acela trains by trains stopped at the station) and the building of high level platforms (to permit the easier and faster boarding of passengers).
  - Separated out of the Route 138 Reconstruction is the replacement of the Route 138 Bridge (over the rail line). That project will likely ensue after Phase 1 of the Route 138 construction project.
URI Growth and Infrastructure Improvements

• URI Roadway Resurfacing/Subsurface Repair (Flagg Rd., Lower College and Upper College Rds.)
  ◦ Multimodal project that will benefit buses and bicycles, as well as automobiles, in improving access and circulation

• URI/South County Bike Path Connector/Extension
  ◦ Intermodal project (in RIDOT’s TIP) that enhances linkages among RIPTA service lines, the Kingston Station, and the South County Bike Path.

• Flagg Road Extension
  ◦ Extension will provide better traffic flow to/from perimeter parking lots and campus destinations day to day, and as well for special events via the Plains Road entrance on Route 138 (project adds parking areas, improves flow and safety around Ryan Center and will increase the importance and functionality of the University’s Plains Road entrance). The University and Town are working on an agreement for URI to assume general maintenance and upkeep responsibilities for the Plains Road segment from 138 into the campus.
Connectivity and Circulation

- **Route 138 Reconstruction Project**
  - Reconstruction of Route 138 between Route 108 and Route 2
    - First phase is from Route 108 to the Railroad Bridge, plans at 90% now seeking environmental permits, earliest construction start date is in 2015.
    - Second phase is from the Railroad Bridge west to Route 2.
  - The plan calls for a number of traffic calming and improved flow management features including the installation of roundabouts on Route 138 at the Route 2, Ministerial Road and Keaney Road intersections.
  - Project will include improvements to sidewalk system on Route 138, will provide continuous sidewalk from URI campus to West Kingston Park.
Connectivity and Circulation

- **Kingston Station Parking Lot Expansion**
  - Concurrent with the Route 138 Reconstruction, RIDOT is considering adding parking spaces (135 spaces) in the area of the detention basin. At present, construction is under way to add 45 spaces on the north side of the station near the signal tower.
  - The RIDOT is also looking into alternatives for a reconstructed tower adjacent to the existing Station, to include public restrooms for bike path users. This project is under a Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) project award in favor of the “Friends of Kingston Station”.
Questions
Village Style Development

What are “village patterns”?

Revisit the traditional forms to find out…
Village: single-family homes
Village: cottage community
Village: industrial

Himbas Village, Namibia

Photo by Yann Arthus-Bertrand
Village: multi-family

Village, Mali

Photo by Yann Arthus-Bertrand
Village: mixed-use/commercial

Madagascar

Photo by Yann Arthus-Bertrand
Similar in scale to West Kingston
Here today…

Historic Village of Cranbury, New Jersey
Gone tomorrow...

Cranbury, New Jersey – Present Day
West Kingston’s Village Pattern
Protected Open Space
West Kingston’s Zoning
Looking at the Village Center
R20 Zone on 138
Medium-High Density Residential (R20)

More than just small, single family homes
Are there options to grow?

Revisit the traditional forms to decide...
Village: single family
Village: cottage community

Danielson Grove, Seattle
Village: multi-family
Village: mixed use/commercial
Map Exercise – Part One

- Step One: Identify Specific Threats on the Map
  - Protection and Enforcement of the Groundwater Protection Overlay District
  - Connectivity and Circulation
  - Susceptibility of Agricultural Land Uses Converting to Residential Use
  - Potential Expansion of Commuter Rail
  - Potential Expansion at URI
  - Future Viability of Industrial/Commercial Uses in the Area
Map Exercise – Part One

- Step Two: Identify Next Steps
  - Potential Solutions
  - Questions that need to be answered
  - People that need to be contacted
  - Rules that need to be revisited
Map Exercise – Part Two

- Step One: Identify Specific Opportunities on the Map
  - Re-Launch of Courthouse Center for the Arts
  - New connections to the bike path from URI
  - Existing Agricultural (Turf and Dairy) Operations
  - RIDOT Route 138 Improvements
  - Proximity to URI
  - Provision of Sewer Service – Fairgrounds Road
Map Exercise – Part Two

- Step Two: Identify Next Steps
  - Potential Strategies
  - Questions that need to be answered
  - People that need to be contacted
  - Rules that need to be revisited
Stay Informed, Get Involved!

Please visit the project website at:

www.horsleywitten.com/skingstownvillagestudy