


INTRODUCTION





This section summarizes the planning process and explains the Comprehensive Plan's role in local decision-making.

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Overview

The 2024 Comprehensive Plan is the official guide for the Town's planning efforts and decision-making over the next decade. This plan outlines our community vision, defines clear and actionable goals, and recommends specific projects to shape Cicero's future.

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A Comprehensive Plan is more than a policy document; it is a community's collective vision for its future. For the Town of Cicero, this plan serves as a critical roadmap for guiding land use, development, and infrastructure decisions that will foster a safe, vibrant, and economically sustainable environment. The Comprehensive Plan process engages residents and stakeholders, ensuring that all voices contribute to a unified vision for the Town's future growth, addressing key areas such as housing, transportation, and public services.

This plan comes at a pivotal moment for Cicero. The construction of Micron Technology's semiconductor facility in nearby Clay will be one of the largest economic drivers in the region, bringing thousands of jobs and catalyzing infrastructure development. This major investment, along with Cicero's proximity to the Syracuse Hancock International Airport and key transportation corridors, presents opportunities to enhance the Town's attractiveness as a place to live, work, and invest. However, these opportunities come with challenges, such as the need for expanded transportation networks, diverse housing options, and updated public services to support the anticipated growth.

In accordance with New York State Town Law, Section 272-a, the Comprehensive Plan provides the legal foundation for land use regulations, infrastructure investments, and public-private partnerships. This document will serve as the framework for managing growth and development over the next decade, ensuring that Cicero can effectively respond to both immediate and long-term changes. This plan will also serve to equip the Town with the leverage needed to influence regional planning initiatives and secure funding for community-driven projects that align with Cicero's priorities.

As Cicero prepares for this next chapter of development, the Comprehensive Plan will guide decision-making and promote balanced growth and sustainability while ensuring the community retains its unique character and quality of life.

"One of our most important initiatives is the development of a comprehensive plan and additional zoning code updates. The town completed a draft plan in 2006 that was never adopted. Upon adoption, this will be the Town's first Comprehensive Plan. The plan will articulate a vision and policies to guide future public and private investment in the community over the next decade. [...]

As I have said previously, the Micron announcement and the anticipated growth that may come with this facility represents an unprecedented opportunity to re-shape the future of the place we call home. This plan will articulate what that future should look like."

- Michael Aregano
Town Supervisor

The Update Process

The 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update for the Town of Cicero builds upon the foundation of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan, reflecting the evolving needs of the community. This update accounts for significant changes in economic conditions, demographic shifts, land use patterns, infrastructure status, and projected trends. These factors, combined with new opportunities like the Micron facility, have shaped the Town's strategy for sustainable growth and development.

At its core, the comprehensive planning process involves three major phases:

1. Assessing the current state – understanding the existing conditions of the Town, including its strengths, challenges, and key opportunities.
2. Envisioning the future – defining the community's long-term goals and aspirations, guided by resident input and stakeholder collaboration.
3. Charting a path forward – determining the most effective strategies, policies, and actions to achieve the Town's vision.

This plan leverages Cicero's existing assets while addressing challenges to create a more resilient and thriving community.

Plan Approach

- Build on previous plans and studies – Ensuring continuity by integrating past planning efforts and incorporating relevant data and findings.
- Foster collaboration with Town staff, advisory board members, and elected officials – Maintaining strong relationships with Town personnel to ensure seamless plan implementation.
- Incorporate best practices – Applying proven land use and development strategies to support sustainable and equitable growth.
- Leverage public input – Engaging residents and stakeholders throughout the process to ensure the plan reflects the community's values and priorities.



MICRON TECHNOLOGY INVESTS IN CNY

Overview

Micron Technology is set to build a cutting-edge semiconductor manufacturing facility in Clay, New York, representing one of the largest private investments in U.S. history. With a commitment of up to \$100 billion over the next 20 years, the project is supported by significant funding from both the state and federal government. New York State has pledged \$5.5 billion in incentives, including tax credits and infrastructure support, while federal backing comes through the CHIPS and Science Act, aimed at revitalizing domestic semiconductor production. This facility will not only boost the local economy but also strengthen national supply chain resilience for critical technology.

Economic Impact

The Micron semiconductor manufacturing facility is expected to generate a significant number of jobs and have a substantial economic impact on the central New York region. The plant will create approximately 9,000 direct high-tech jobs over the next 20 years, with positions ranging from engineering and manufacturing to maintenance and administrative roles. In addition to these direct jobs, the construction phase alone is projected to support around 5,000 temporary jobs.

Beyond direct employment, the Micron facility will also create tens of thousands of indirect jobs across various sectors, including suppliers, logistics, construction, and service industries that will support both the plant and the growing workforce. The influx of workers will likely boost local demand for housing, retail, and services, leading to further job creation in these sectors.

The broader economic impact is expected to be transformative for the region. An estimated \$16 billion in economic activity could be generated annually once the plant is fully operational. The long-term benefits include increased tax revenue for local municipalities, higher household incomes, and an overall increase in regional economic development. Micron's partnerships with local educational institutions to develop workforce training programs will also strengthen the local talent pool and enhance job readiness, further amplifying the region's economic potential.

Impact on the Town of Cicero

- **Economic Growth:** The Micron plant will act as a catalyst for broader economic growth in Cicero. Increased demand for housing, retail, and services will likely spur new residential and commercial development, particularly along major corridors like I-81, Route 11, and Route 31.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Cicero will need to consider upgrades to infrastructure to accommodate population growth and increased traffic. This could include improvements to roads, utilities, and public services.
- **Housing Market:** With the expected influx of new residents, Cicero is well-positioned to become a desirable place to live for Micron employees and their families. Planning for diverse housing options, including affordable housing, will be crucial to meet this demand and maintain a balanced community.
- **Community Services:** As the population grows, Cicero will need to expand its community services, including schools, healthcare, and recreation. Planning for sustainable growth will be key to ensuring that the Town remains a welcoming place for both existing and new residents.
- **Long-Term Vision:** Micron's plant is a long-term investment, and the Town of Cicero will benefit from aligning its growth strategies with this development opportunity. The Town should emphasize resiliency in future investments and decision-making to maximize the benefit of the Micron project to the community and its residents.



Micron Facility Rendering (Source. mircon.com)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement, support and ownership are important ways to ensure successful implementation of the Comprehensive Plan Update. Providing opportunities for residents to contribute feedback and ideas encourages investment in the future direction of the community and long-term support of the Plan itself. To that end, the planning process for the 2024 Update included a variety of opportunities for engagement, summarized below.

This project took place in concurrence with the Town's Zoning Code Update and as a result, some engagement activities were joint efforts including a strategic visioning workshop and a future land use workshop. A final community open house and a Town Board public hearing will be held in Fall 2024.

Steering Committee Meetings

The Town of Cicero convened a Steering Committee to help guide the planning process and provide expertise on a variety of issues and topics identified during the planning process. The Committee was comprised of representatives from businesses, local and regional government, as well as individuals from the community. Committee members represented diverse perspectives from within the Town and served as means of building a supportive group for the planning process by promoting the project, assisting in identifying key stakeholders, and inviting colleagues, neighbors and friends to the public meetings.

The committee was involved in all aspects of the development of the Comprehensive Plan, including identifying key issues to be addressed, facilitating public input, and providing continuous review of all components included in the Plan. The Committee met seven times over the course of the comprehensive planning process.

Community Preference Survey

On April 18, 2023, a Community Preference Survey (CPS) was launched online. It was advertised at the Strategic Visioning Workshop, as well as on the project website, the Town's social media outlets, and via email lists. The CPS was available for responses from April 18 (after the Workshop) through May 18. The intent of the CPS was to introduce the Cicero community to a variety of development types, understand the types of development they feel is appropriate for future Cicero, and determine the level of regulatory oversight they feel is adequate for the design of buildings, site and streetscapes based on their appropriateness for the Town of Cicero. A total of 134 individuals participated in the CPS and most participants were homeowners in the Town of Cicero.

Public Meetings

Two workshops were provided for community participation in the comprehensive planning process.

Public Meeting #1 - April 18, 2023

On April 18, 2023, the Town of Cicero hosted a Strategic Visioning at the Cicero Volunteer Fire Department for the Town's Comprehensive Plan & Zoning Code Update project. During the Workshop, the consultant team introduced the public to the project and proposed process, provided an overview of the basics of comprehensive planning and zoning, and conducted breakout visioning sessions. At the end of the Workshop, a Community Preference Survey (CPS), available online, was launched and attendees at the Workshop were invited to participate.



Public Meeting #2 - January 29, 2024

The Future Land Use Workshop for the Town of Cicero, held on January 29, 2024, engaged 58 stakeholders, including officials and residents, to discuss future development patterns in the Town. The Town was divided into four areas for focused discussion:

- Area 1: Hamlet of Brewerton and Waterfront – Emphasis on mixed-use waterfront development, improved public access, and enhancing pedestrian infrastructure while maintaining local character.
- Area 2: Route 11 Corridor – Focused on enhancing business variety, regional-scale commercial development, and improving transportation connections, including bike and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Area 3: Town Center and Route 31 Western Segment – Prioritized mixed-use development with a transition from larger-scale to neighborhood-scale developments, emphasizing traffic calming and improved pedestrian access.
- Area 4: Hamlet of Bridgeport and Route 31 Eastern Segment – Advocated for commercial and mixed-use development, improving recreational facilities, and enhancing agricultural and waterfront character.

SUMMARY OF EXISTING PLANS & STUDIES

Introduction

The Town of Cicero has a long history of community and resource planning. The plans listed below are those completed since the Comprehensive Plan mostly recently updated in 2006. The 2024 Comprehensive Plan is a continuation of these planning efforts and uses the findings in these studies to frame and justify conclusions and recommendations.

Plan Onondaga County Comprehensive Plan (2023)

The Plan Onondaga Comprehensive Plan outlines a strategic framework for future growth in Onondaga County, focusing on five key themes: Strong Centers, Housing and Neighborhoods, Community Mobility, Greenways and Blueways, and Agriculture. The plan emphasizes the development of walkable, mixed-use centers, enhanced mobility through better transit and bike infrastructure, and the protection of natural resources and farmland. The Micron semiconductor facility project in the Town of Clay is highlighted as a significant economic driver, expected to create thousands of jobs and reshape local growth patterns. The plan also stresses collaboration across municipalities to ensure sustainable development and attract further investment.

These themes and objectives can be integrated into Cicero's Comprehensive Plan, particularly in addressing future growth related to economic opportunities, housing needs, transportation, and the preservation of open spaces.

DRAFT Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (2023)

The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) for the Hamlet of Brewerton focuses on revitalizing the waterfront area through sustainable development, public access, and enhancing recreational opportunities. Key goals include improving walkability with streetscape and sidewalk enhancements, increasing public access to the waterfront for activities like fishing and boating, and promoting tourism through signage and wayfinding. The plan emphasizes community identity, historical preservation, and creating vibrant spaces that serve both residents and visitors, while protecting environmental resources and supporting economic growth. These themes align with broader goals for sustainable development in Cicero's comprehensive plan update.

Town of Cicero: Farm-Friendly Assessment (2021)

The Cicero Farm-Friendly Assessment evaluates the Town's regulations and their impact on local agricultural operations. Key goals include supporting agriculture by updating zoning laws to reflect modern trends like direct farm marketing, agri-tourism, and renewable energy, while also preserving farmland. Objectives include adopting a Right-to-Farm law, revising zoning definitions, allowing accessory uses like farmworker housing and farmers' markets, and promoting conservation subdivisions to minimize land fragmentation. The assessment highlights the need to balance development with the protection of Cicero's agricultural resources.

U.S. 11 Corridor Study (2020)

The U.S. 11 Corridor Study for the Town of Cicero, conducted by the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council, aims to guide future land use and transportation needs along the highly-traveled U.S. 11 corridor. The study's primary goals are to:

- Ensure the corridor remains viable for both current and future development.
- Improve safety and mobility for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists.
- Enhance the aesthetic appeal of the corridor.
- Support mixed-use development and access management.

Recommendations include adding pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, improving traffic flow, and promoting mixed-use town center development.

Hamlet of Brewerton Strategic Revitalization Plan (2008)

The September 2008 Brewerton Strategic Revitalization Plan for the Town of Cicero outlines a comprehensive approach to revitalize the Hamlet of Brewerton. Key goals include transforming Brewerton into a vibrant waterfront community with enhanced public spaces, improved infrastructure, and a distinct identity that leverages its historical and natural assets. The plan emphasizes mixed-use development, pedestrian-friendly streetscapes, and better access to the waterfront, including a focus on recreational and cultural activities. Strategies for economic growth focus on attracting businesses that align with the area's character and encouraging private and public investment.

Cicero Comprehensive Plan Update (2006)

The 2006 Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Cicero outlines a strategy for addressing growth, land use, and infrastructure improvements while preserving the community's character. Key goals include promoting balanced development, particularly along key corridors like Route 11 and Route 31, managing traffic and infrastructure impacts, and encouraging commercial and industrial growth. The plan emphasizes the need to revise zoning codes, enhance pedestrian and traffic connectivity, protect natural resources, and develop hamlet centers to create a sense of identity. These goals remain relevant to the current comprehensive plan update.

