

TRANSPORTATION Atlas



A visual guide to
Herkimer and Oneida Counties

Acknowledgements

This document was prepared with financial assistance from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation through the New York State Department of Transportation. Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Council (HOCTC) is solely responsible for its contents.



Anthony J. Picente, Jr.
County Executive



Vincent J. Bono
Chairman of the Legislature

Contents

1 Regional Overview 4
Our Region Herkimer County 8
Oneida County 10
Water Resources and Natural Environment ... 12

2 Who Are We 14
Our People Population Changes 14
Common Languages 14
Population Density 15
Community Facilities 16

3 Commuting 18
Our Transportation Infrastructure 18
Roads 19
Transit 20
Railroads 21
Walking and Biking 22
Trails 23

4 Household Income 26
Our Economy Industries 26
Land Use 27
Economic Development 28

5 Streetscape Improvements 32
Emerging Trends Vehicle Trends 34
EV Charging Stations 35
Intelligent Transportation Systems 36
Smart Infrastructure 37
Changes in the Region 38

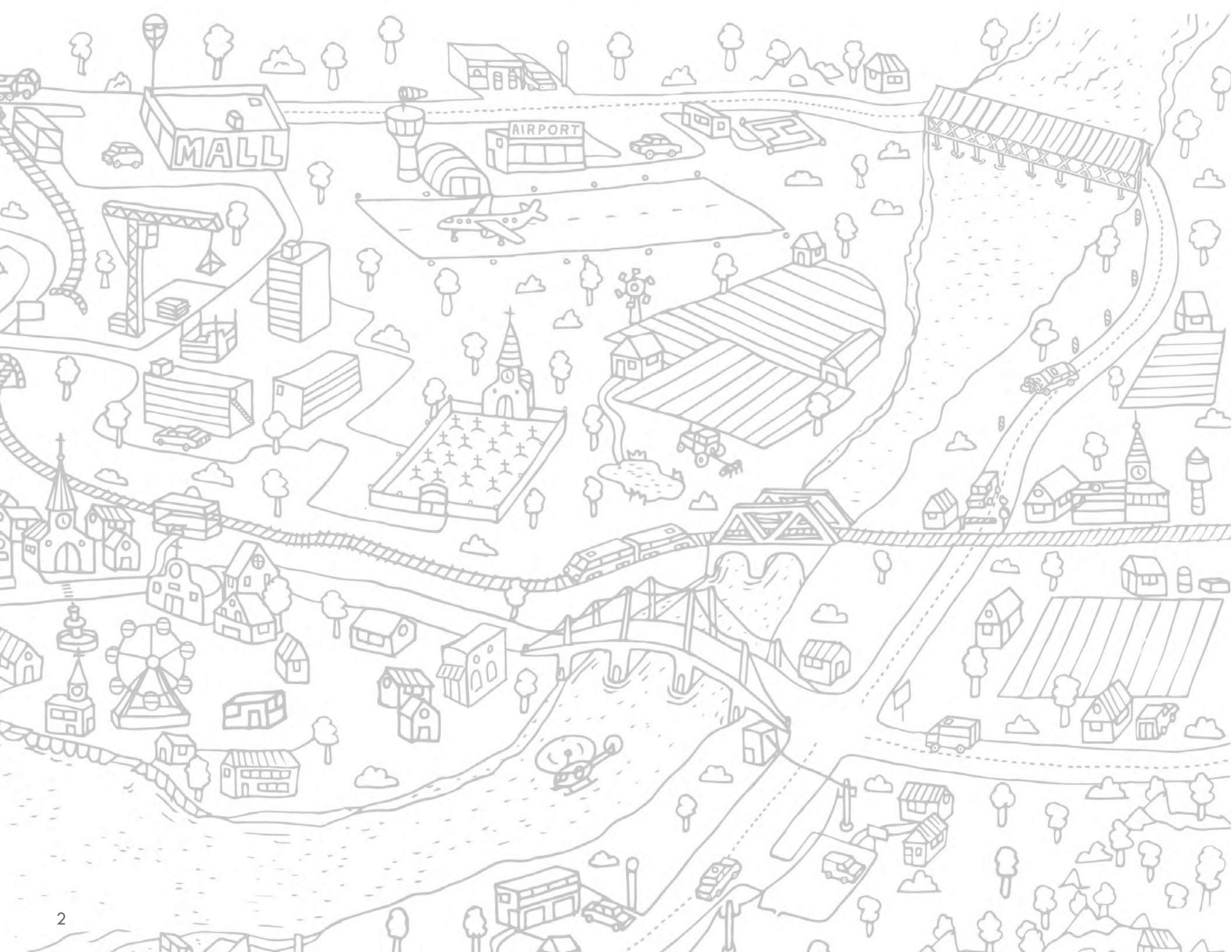


Foreword

The Transportation Atlas was born, in concept, from the need to make the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2020-2040 “Going Places” visible. The Transportation Atlas builds from Going Places to graphically present the transportation system to the public. The purpose of this document is to be a user-friendly resource for the historic, current, and build-out of the transportation network in Herkimer and Oneida Counties. This Atlas becomes the living document of Going Places and is planned to be updated the year after the adoption of the LRTP, based on the 5-year update cycle.

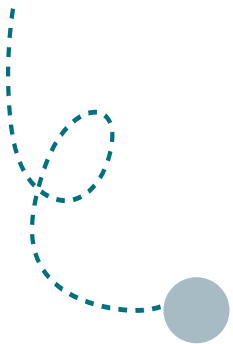
The Atlas provides a data-driven “snapshot” that assists HOCTC’s planning efforts and those of our regional planning partners. This document contains the most recent and available baseline transportation and land use data about Herkimer and Oneida Counties. In general, this Atlas highlights data attributes that will be important to all HOCTC’s planning efforts, including the LRTP, Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). In doing so, this document provides a valuable and unique perspective on our region’s transportation landscape. Supplemented by land use, population, employment, housing, and commuting data, the Atlas neatly depicts information about our roadways, transit systems, bicycle network, pedestrian facilities, and freight movements. The Atlas also highlights transportation’s relation to natural amenities, economic development, and emerging technologies.

The Atlas is to become a tool that vividly captures the two counties’ current planning and programming, recognizes their historical evolution, and informs for the future development of the entire region. Ultimately, it propels us to achieve our mission: to collaboratively plan, prioritize, and support the development of diverse transportation options within the two-county planning area. It will also help our partners effectively understand the historic development of the system and empower them to be a part of the collaborative decision-making process, progressing the system and ensuring safety and resiliency.





Our Region



What tourist attraction in upper
Herkimer County was ranked the
4th best of its kind in the nation?



Regional Overview

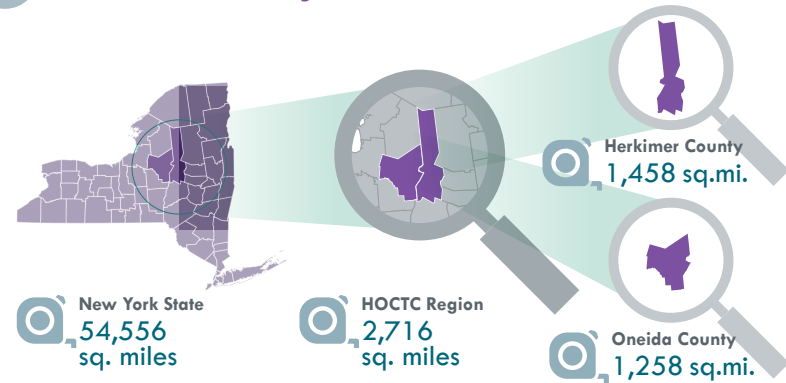
MOHAWK VALLEY

The Utica urbanized area and surrounding Herkimer and Oneida Counties are situated between Syracuse (approximately 50 mi. to the west) and Albany (approximately 80 mi. to the east). The two counties are nearly the same physical size; however, Oneida County has approximately three times the population of Herkimer County. The region surrounding the Mohawk river is predominantly rural, with vast tracts of farmland, wilderness, and other protected conservation areas.

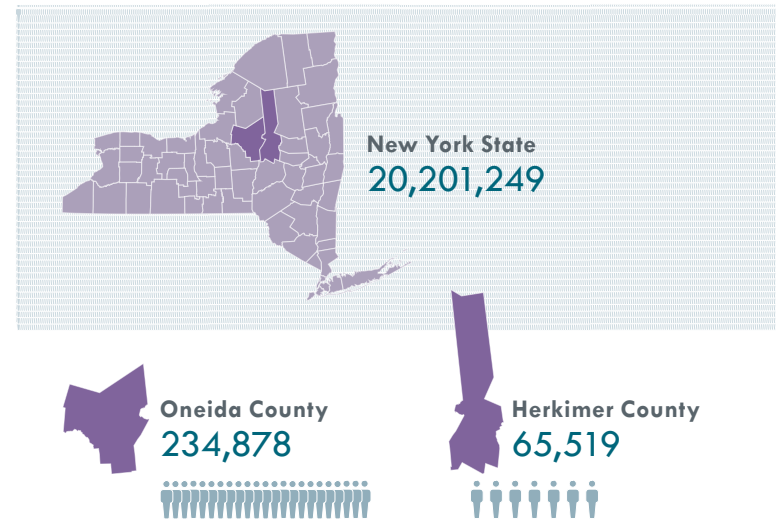
Historically, the Mohawk Valley served as a vital transportation corridor accommodating Native American footpaths, the Erie Canal, the New York Central Railroad, and early highways.

Since its completion in 1825, the Erie Canal has stimulated considerable trade and settlement in the Herkimer and Oneida Counties. The cities of Rome, Utica, and Little Falls and the villages of Whitesboro, Herkimer, and Ilion are all built upon the banks of the Mohawk and the towpaths of the Erie Canal.

LAND MASS by the numbers



POPULATION by the numbers

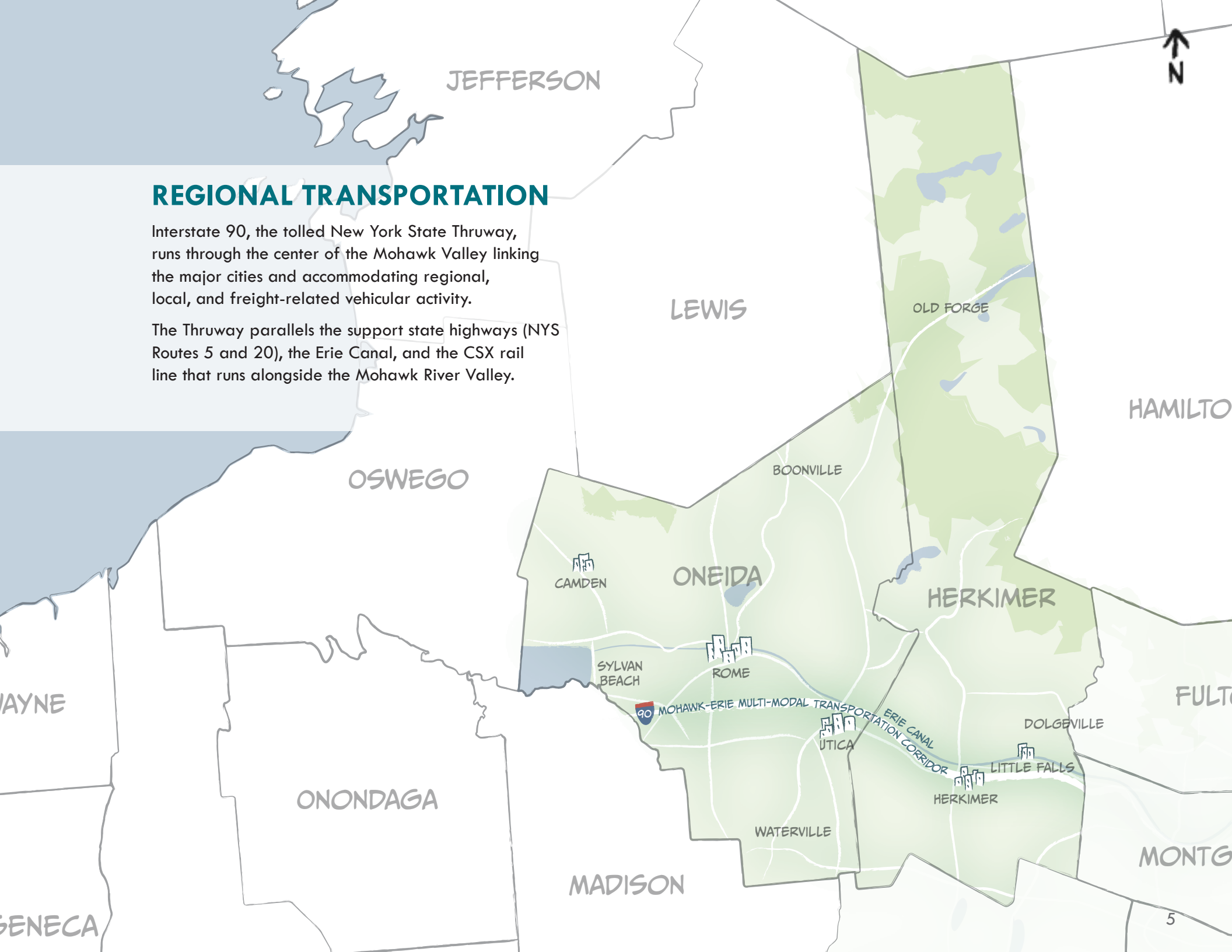


DID YOU KNOW the Erie Canal was completed in 1825 as the first commercial connection between the American East and West.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

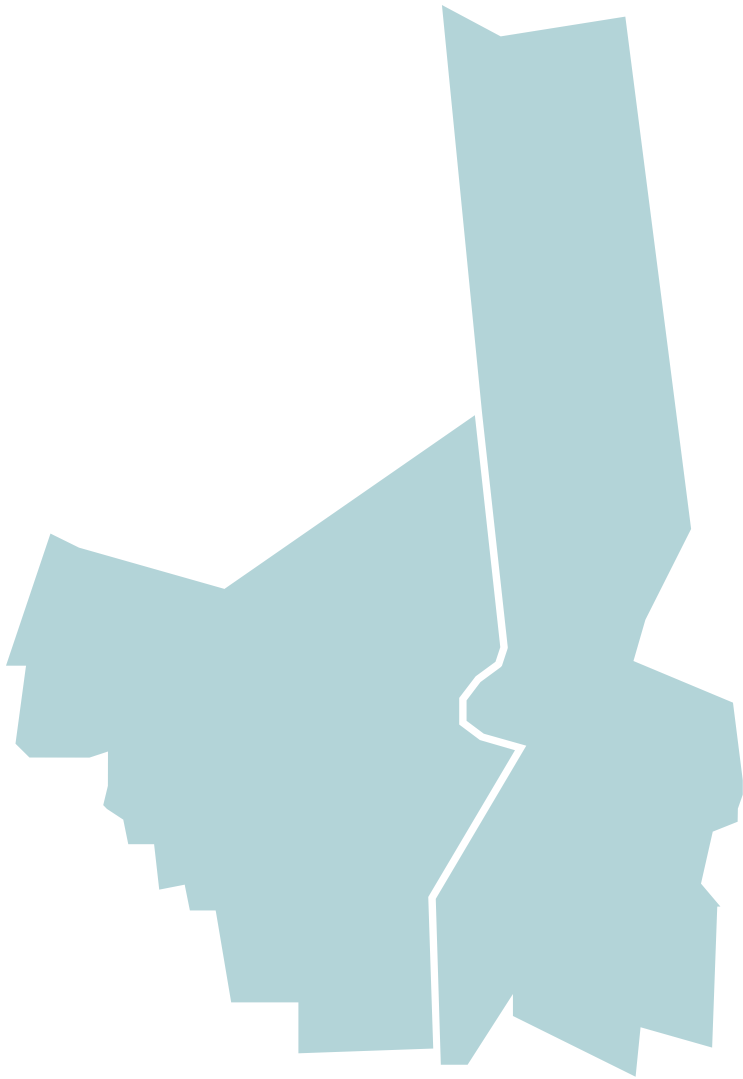
Interstate 90, the tolled New York State Thruway, runs through the center of the Mohawk Valley linking the major cities and accommodating regional, local, and freight-related vehicular activity.

The Thruway parallels the support state highways (NYS Routes 5 and 20), the Erie Canal, and the CSX rail line that runs alongside the Mohawk River Valley.



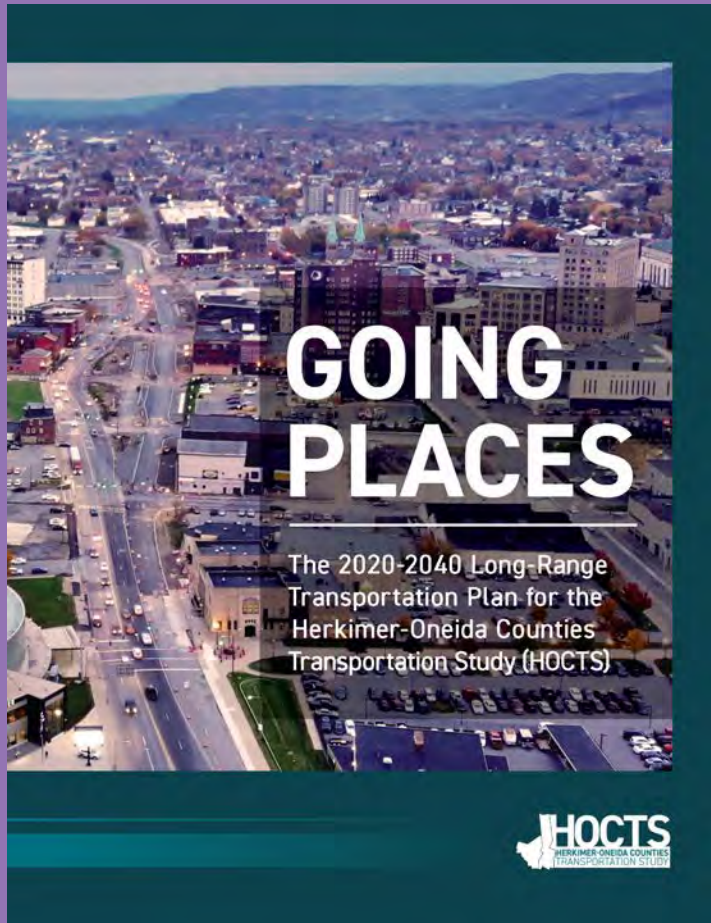


Regional Overview



The Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Council (HOCTC) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible for transportation planning in the two-county region's transportation system.

HOCTC engages in planning processes guided by the "Three Cs" (Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive), as outlined in the enabling federal law. HOCTC serves the Herkimer and Oneida Counties region through a broad set of ongoing transportation planning activities. HOCTC is charged with planning the region's transportation system, with specific focus on disbursing federal funding. HOCTC meets and goes beyond baseline federal requirements by interacting with stakeholders in various ways, both formal and informal, as well as routinely engaging with the wider public in Herkimer and Oneida Counties.



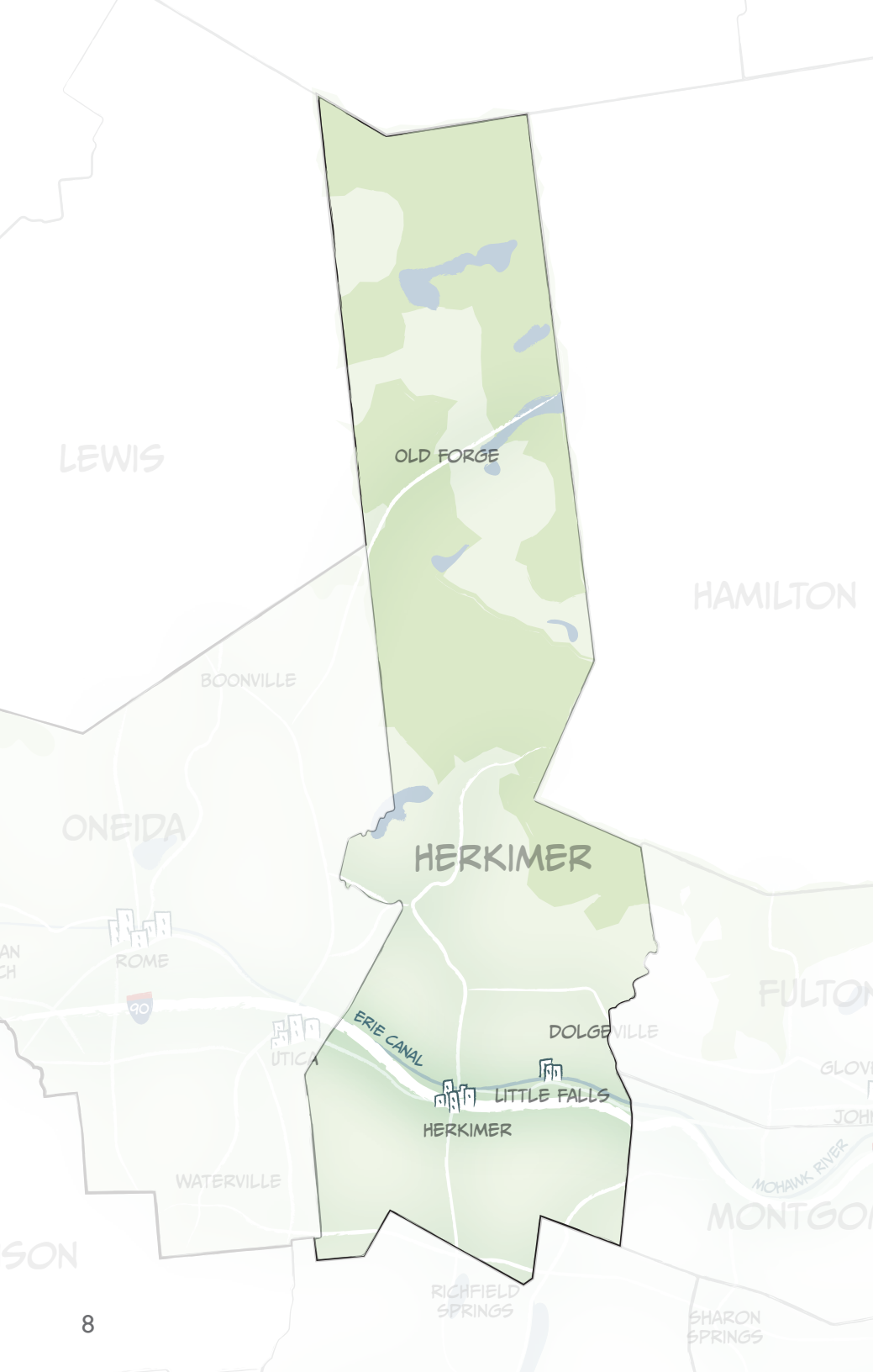
Going Places is HOCTC's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). It lays out a fresh vision for the region's transportation assets and services for the next 20 years, with a horizon year of 2040.

Going Places outlines a series of near-term in-depth studies to be undertaken, addressing emerging issues such as:

- The unique challenges raised by the on-road presence of Agricultural Vehicles in the HOCTC region
- How the region can best leverage the national trend of rapid development in micromobility
- Strategies to harden the region's infrastructure against the effects of extreme weather
- How to best prepare the region's infrastructure, including communications networks, for the build-out of Connected and Autonomous Cars.

Herkimer County

HERKIMER COUNTY is an area rich with historical heritage. Southern Herkimer County, in the Mohawk Valley, is the home to a number of area attractions including activities along the Erie Canal, historic sites, shopping, restaurants, hiking, biking, and rock climbing. Northern Herkimer County contains the Adirondack Park, with mountains, forests, and waterways offering a variety of outdoor activities year-round.



DID YOU KNOW? Herkimer County is named after General Nicholas Herkimer, who died from battle wounds in 1777 after taking part in the Battle of Oriskany during the Revolutionary War.

Home of...



Herkimer Diamond Mines



9 golf courses



Gems Along the Mohawk



More than 500 miles of groomed snowmobile trails



World-class trout fishing along West Canada Creek



Old Forge & Fulton Chain of Lakes



Erie Canal Lock 17 (largest lift lock)



Yale-Cady Octagon House and Yale Lock Factory Site



Herkimer Home State Historic Site



Hinckley Reservoir Day Use Area



Adirondack Park



McCauley Mountain Ski Center



Enchanted Forest Water Safari (4th best in the nation)



The Adirondack Canoe Classic



Beardslee Castle

Oneida County

ONEIDA COUNTY is home to the majority of people in our region, with Utica and Rome making up nearly one-third of the total population of Herkimer and Oneida Counties. Historically, Oneida County has been an important center of transportation, first via the waterways that flow along the Mohawk River, and then through the Erie Canal, which begins in Rome and connects Lake Erie to the Hudson River.



DID YOU KNOW? Oneida County is home to the Fort Stanwix National Monument, a historically significant fort due to its successful defense by American troops during an August 1777 siege.

Home of...

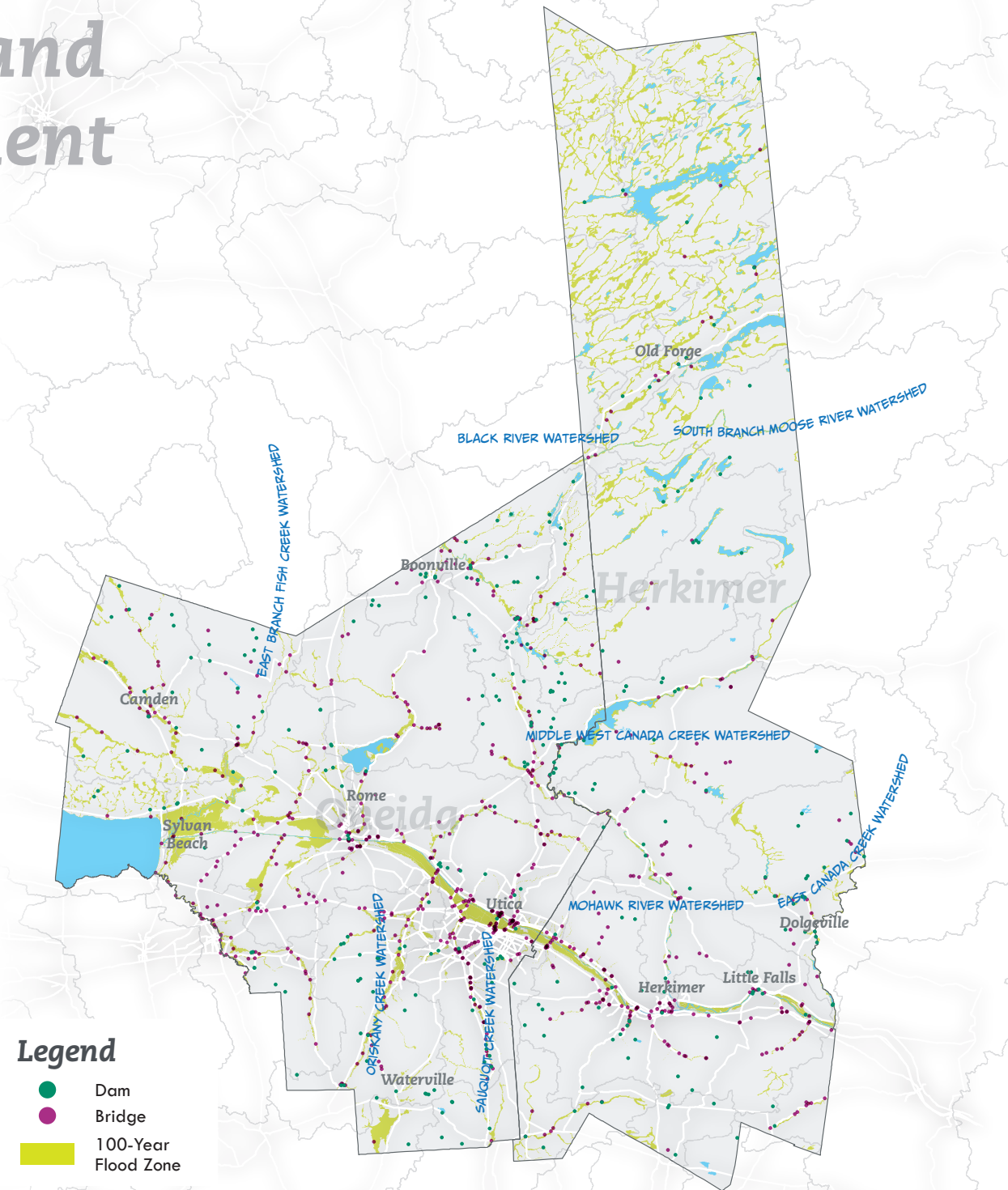


Water Resources and Natural Environment

Our region's water resources and natural features influence our transportation network and built environment. As part of this complex relationship, local waterways and ecosystems produce opportunities and limitations for infrastructure. The natural environment can also create destinations and sometimes hazards for travelers.

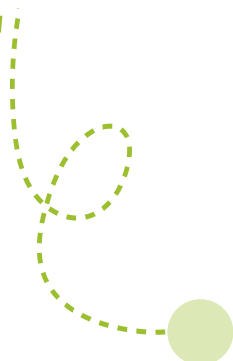
NYS DEC WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

- **Rome**
Forested wetland adjacent to the 1913 Barge Canal corridor
- **Oriskany Flats**
806-acre parcel in the Mohawk River flood plain
- **Utica Marsh**
Unique urban wetland with 213 acres, an observation tower, a wildlife viewing site, and several hiking trails
- **Plantation Island**
200 acres of Mohawk River floodplain in the Town of German Flatts, Herkimer County





Our People



What nickname was given to the City of Utica in honor of its refugee residents?

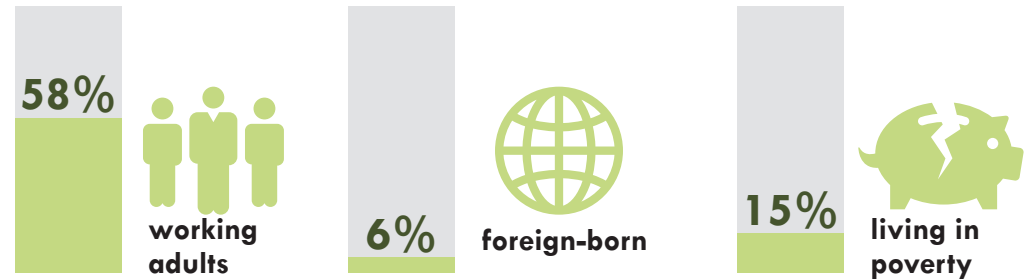
People

Population centers in Herkimer and Oneida counties are generally located along the Mohawk River and Erie Canal. Populations in both counties peaked during the 1970 decennial census at nearly 341,000. (The 2020 decennial census shows a notable decrease in the population of Herkimer County since 2010, while the population of Oneida County has remained stable.) *Note: the 2020 census was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Poverty in both counties is decreasing, while personal vehicle access is increasing.

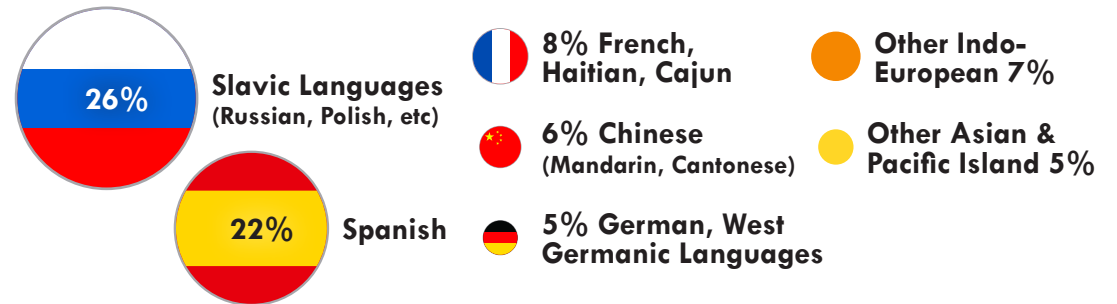
Utica is a U.N. designated refugee resettlement city, nicknamed "The City that Loves Refugees". Oneida County is home to sizable populations of foreign born individuals and those with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). The LEP population is decreasing, despite a growing presence of minorities, suggesting successful acculturation of immigrants to the area.

Who are we?

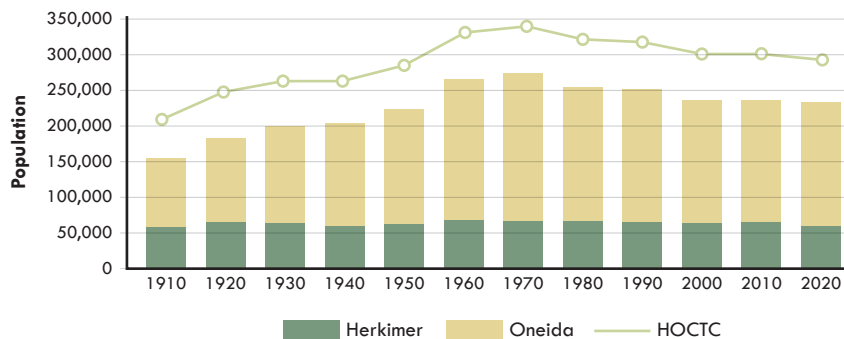


Common Languages Spoken

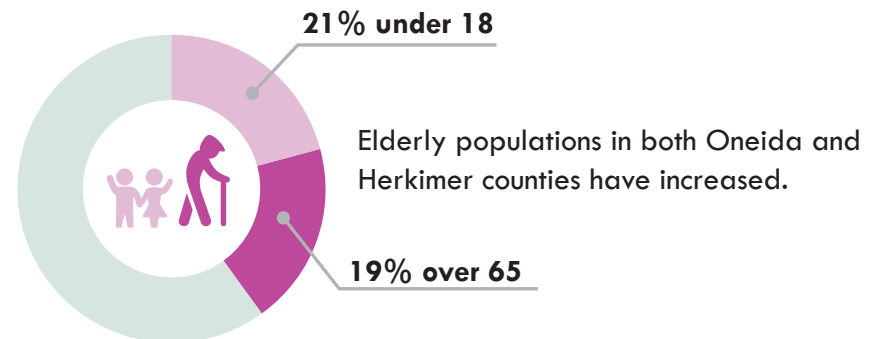
among residents with Limited English Proficiency



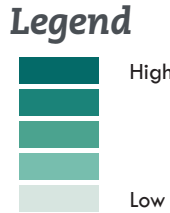
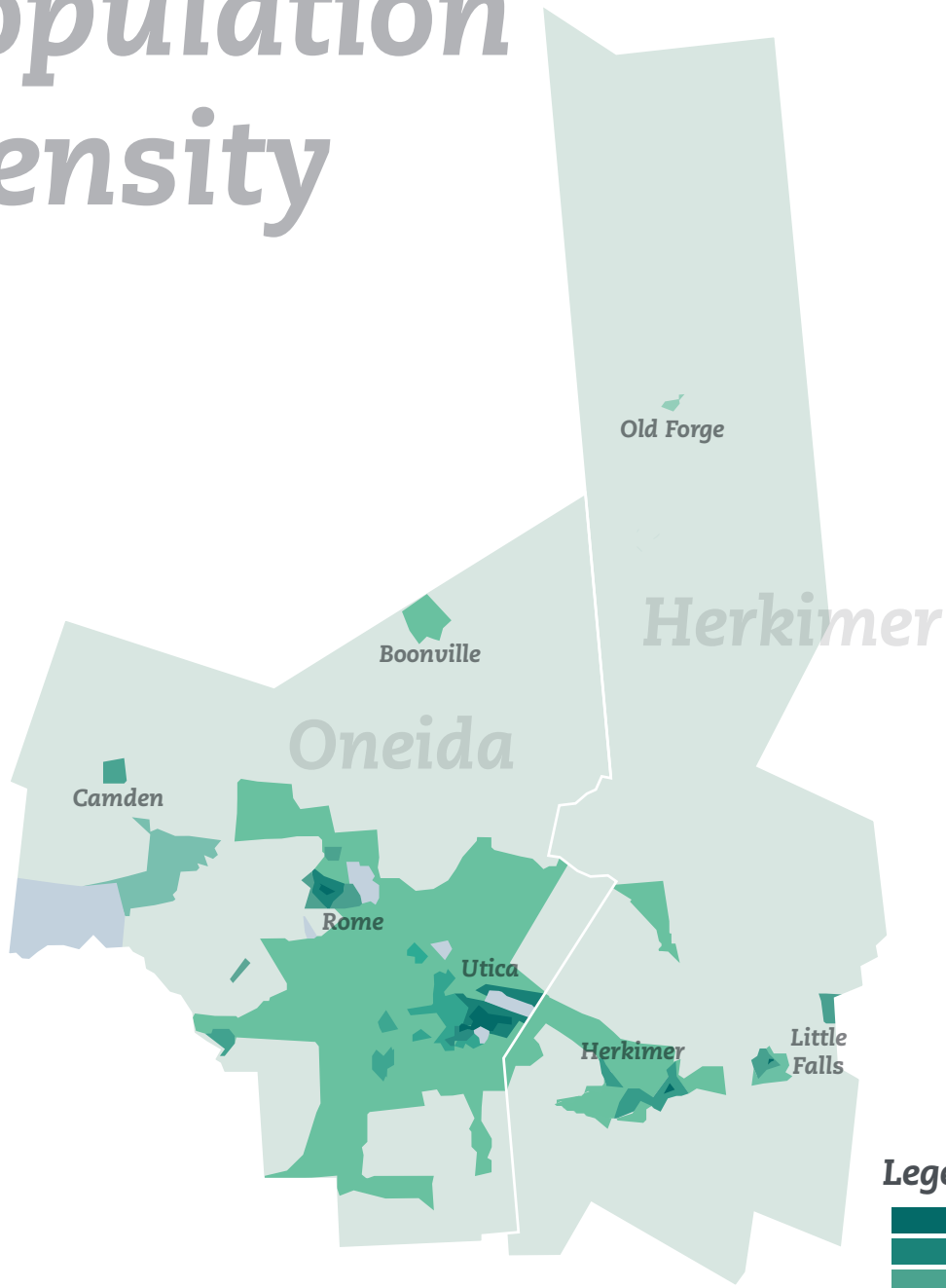
Population Changes



How old are we?



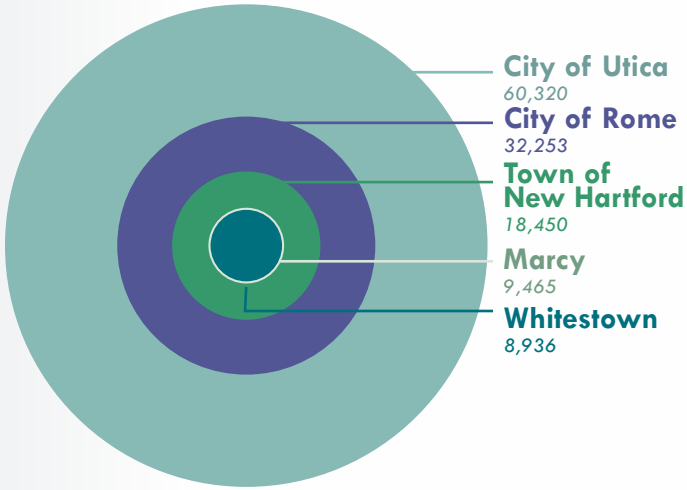
Population Density



Total County Population

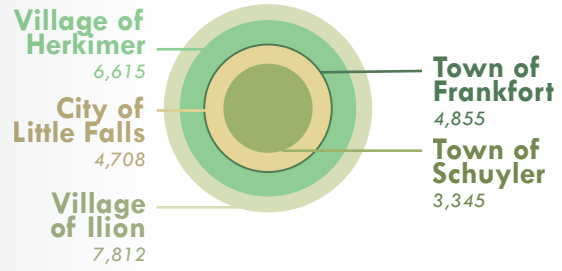
Oneida County

234,878



Herkimer County

65,519



Community Facilities

Community facilities such as hospitals, schools, and senior housing provide critical services for residents throughout the region. These places are frequently origins and destinations for populations in need of transportation assistance.

Legend



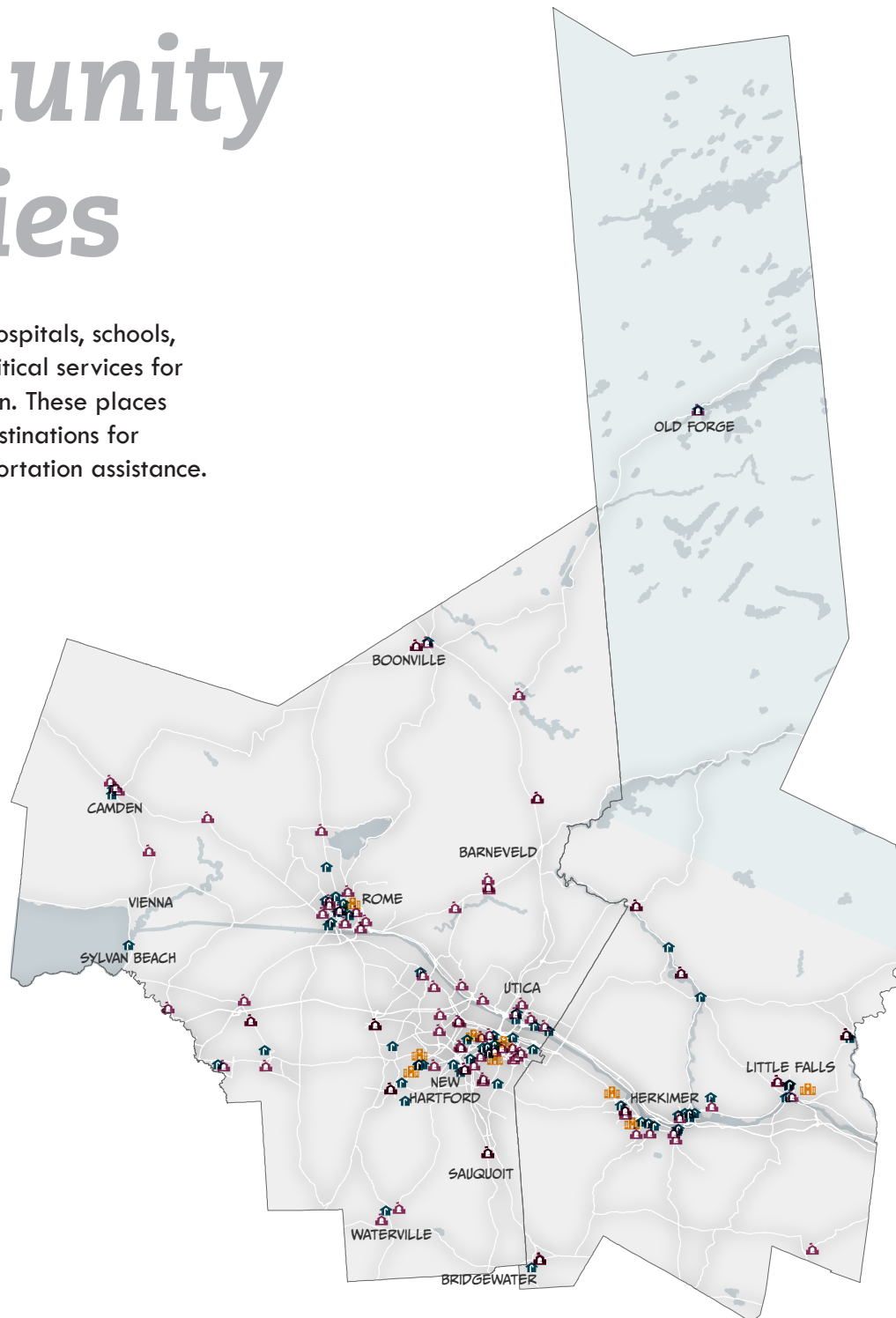
Senior Housing



School

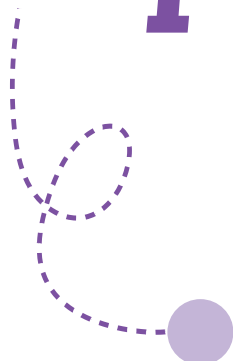


Medical Facility





Our Transportation



What unique mode of transportation is prevalent on roadways throughout our counties?

Transportation

Transportation in Herkimer and Oneida counties was historically based around the Mohawk River. Technological advancements eventually brought the Erie Canal, railroads, and the interstate highway system along this same corridor.

Today, personal automobiles are the primary mode of transportation in the region. Public transit, rail, and active transportation also enable residents to reach their destinations.

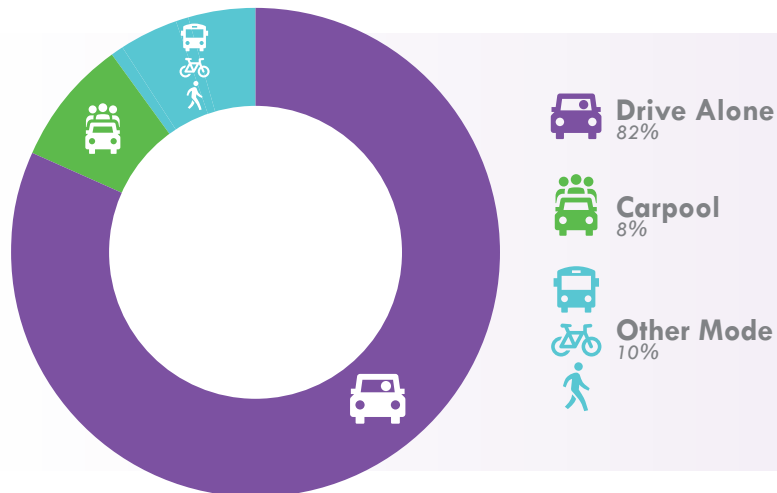
The region's extensive road and rail network facilitate freight movement and support of a variety of economic activity.




Infrastructure Overview

	Herkimer	Oneida
Miles of State Roads	302	546
Miles of County Roads	1,246	2,369

Getting to Work



82% 
of commuters drive to/from work alone

Roads

Traffic in Herkimer and Oneida Counties is concentrated in urbanized areas and along the I-90 Thruway. NYS Routes 5, 8, 12, 49 and 365 also facilitate significant freight movement in addition to passenger travel.



Roundabouts are increasingly common. There are now 7 throughout Oneida County.

Average Travel Time to Work
2015-2019



Oneida



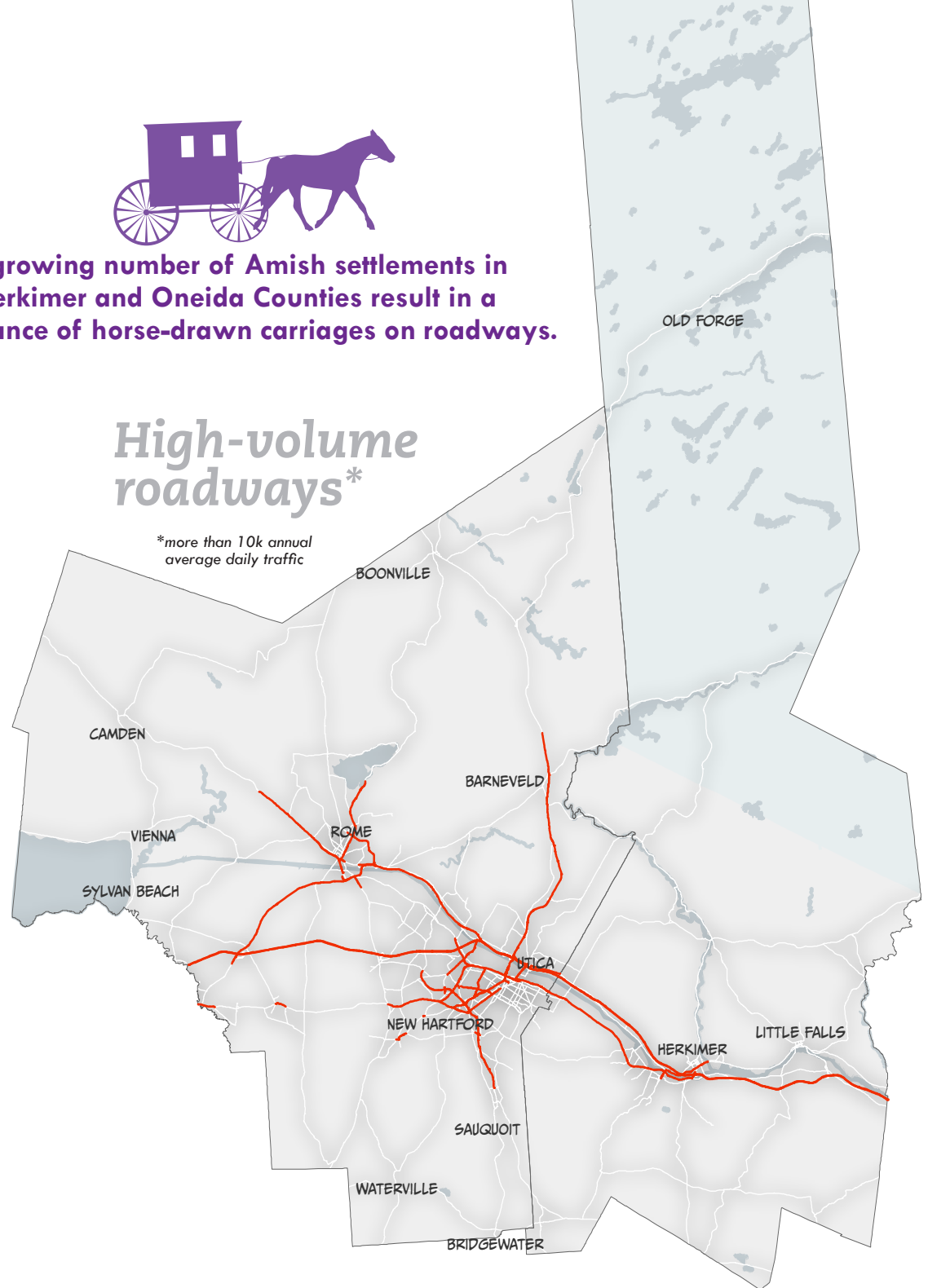
Herkimer



A growing number of Amish settlements in Herkimer and Oneida Counties result in a prevalence of horse-drawn carriages on roadways.

High-volume roadways*

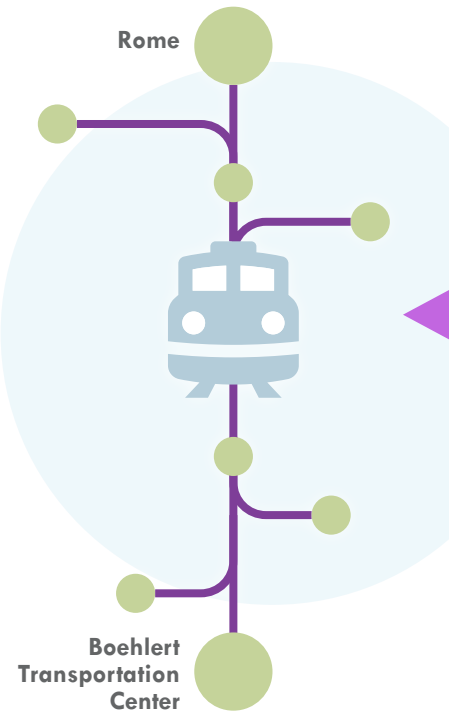
*more than 10k annual average daily traffic



Transit

Buses are the primary form of public transit in the region. Centro bus hubs in Utica and Rome facilitate local passenger travel.

Utica's Boehlert Transportation Center provides interregional bus and Amtrak passenger rail connections to points outside the region.

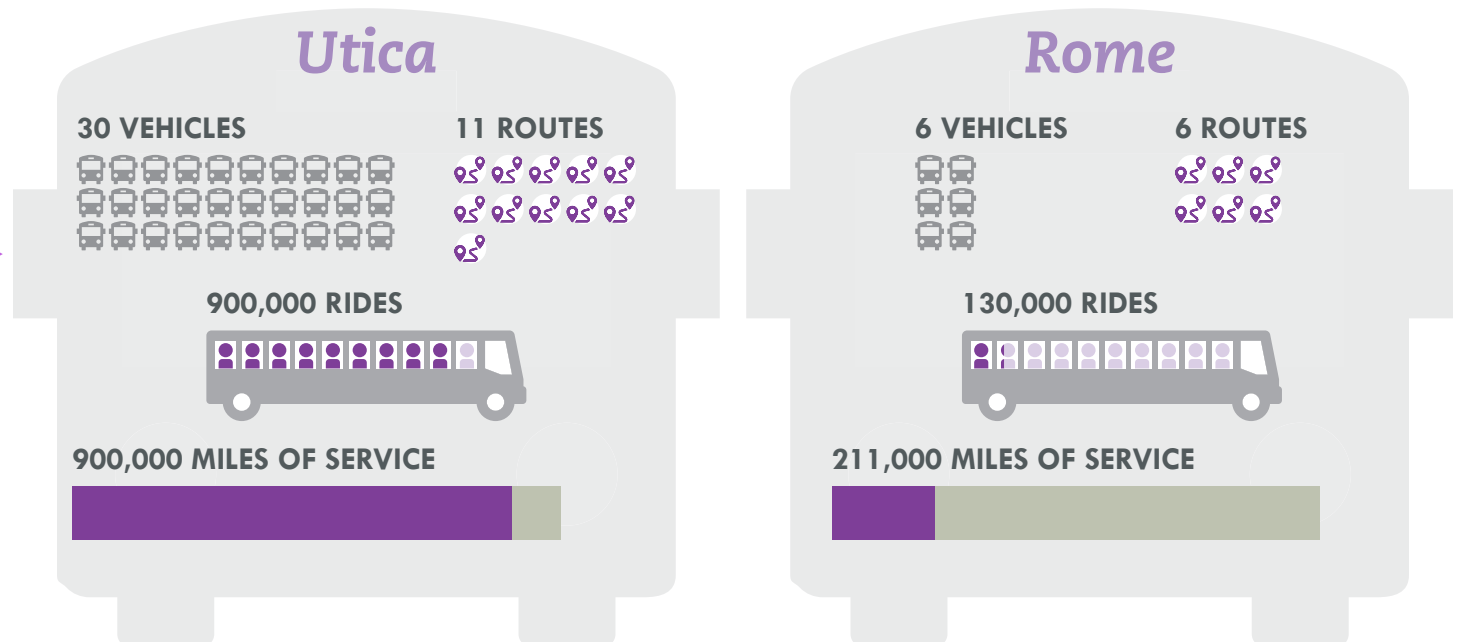


Amtrak

- Amtrak provides passenger rail service to stations in Rome (ROM) and Utica (UCA). From these stops along the Empire Service and Maple Leaf routes, passengers can connect to bus transit.
- Utica's Boehlert Transportation Center serves as a stop for Amtrak's Lakeshore Limited, features intercity bus connections via Birnie, Greyhound and Trailways, and provides tourist access to Thendara/Old Forge along the Adirondack Scenic Railroad.

Bus Service

- Human service agencies in both Counties provide transportation via purchased vehicles through the NYSDOT administered Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program.
- Centro operates a fleet of approximately 36 buses, with independent systems totaling 17 routes in Utica and Rome. Utica routes also serve the nearby towns of Kirkland, New Hartford, and Whitesboro
- In 2020, construction of a new Transit Hub in downtown Rome was completed.



Railroads

The combination of industrial heritage in cities such as Rome, Utica, and Little Falls and natural resources in outlying areas has created a strong rail presence in the Mohawk Valley.

In recent years, there has been renewed interest in rail access for freight movement in our region.

CSX freight and Amtrak passenger rail share track, however freight is prioritized due to CSK's ownership of the rail.



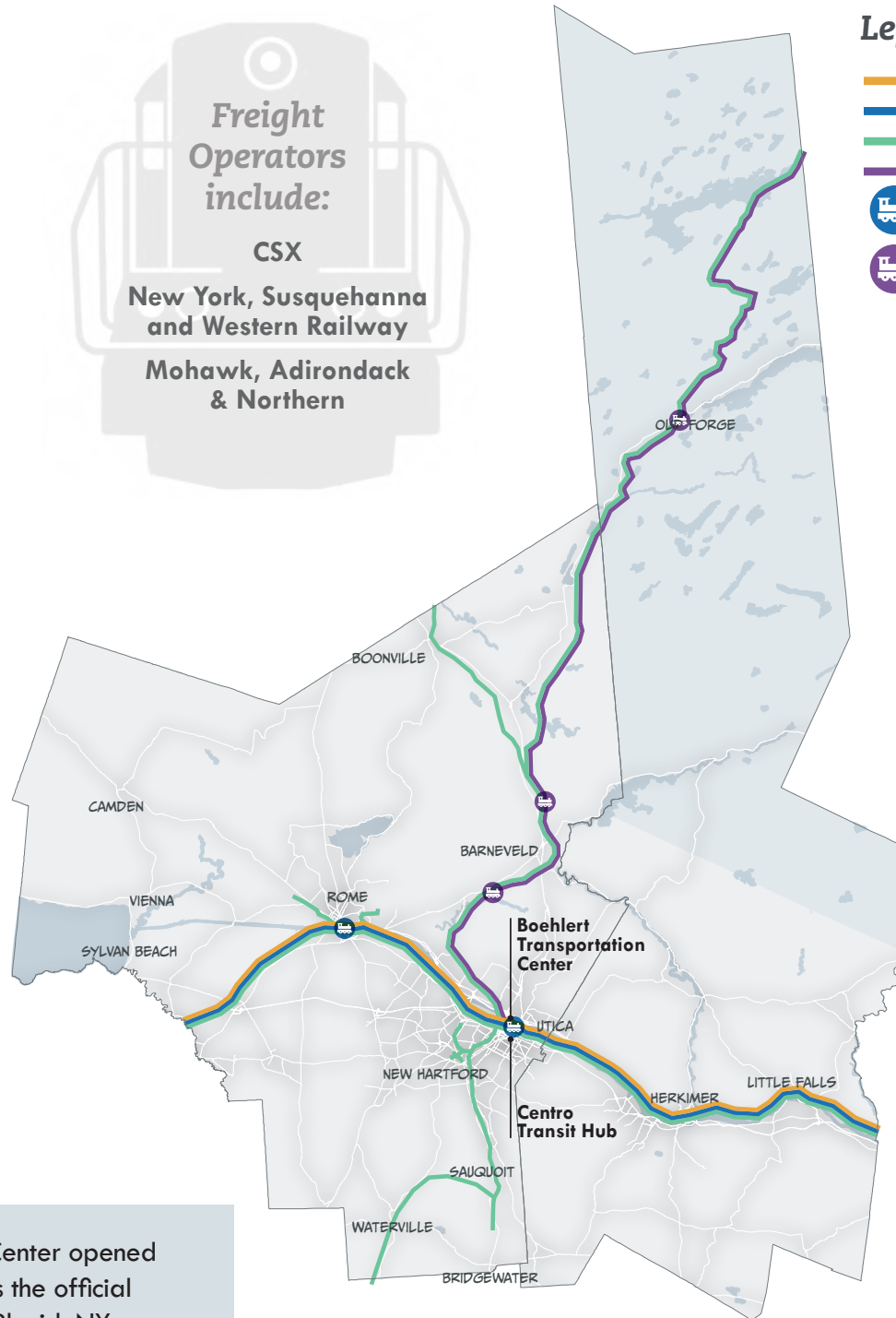
Legend

- CSX Chicago to NJ Ports
- Amtrak
- Short Haul Freight
- Adirondack Railroad
-  Amtrak Station
-  Adirondack Station



Annual Station Ridership (2020):

Rome	Utica
5,436	42,319



? **DID YOU KNOW?** Utica's Boehlert Transportation Center opened for the New York Central Railroad in 1914 and was the official rail terminal of the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, NY.

Walking and Biking

An expanding regional active transportation network provides opportunities for both recreation and commuting.

In recent years, historic transportation assets in Herkimer and Oneida Counties have been re-imagined to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. The existing connectivity of former railroad beds and canal towpaths makes them prime candidates for reuse as trails and maintains their status as catalysts of regional economic development.



The Erie Canalway Trail

passes through both counties with campgrounds at Locks 20 and 21, numerous parking areas, 15 boat launches and close proximity to many of the region's population centers.

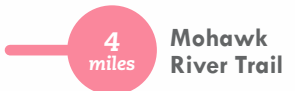
90+ miles of pedestrian and bicycle trails

traverse areas with flat and gently rolling terrain.



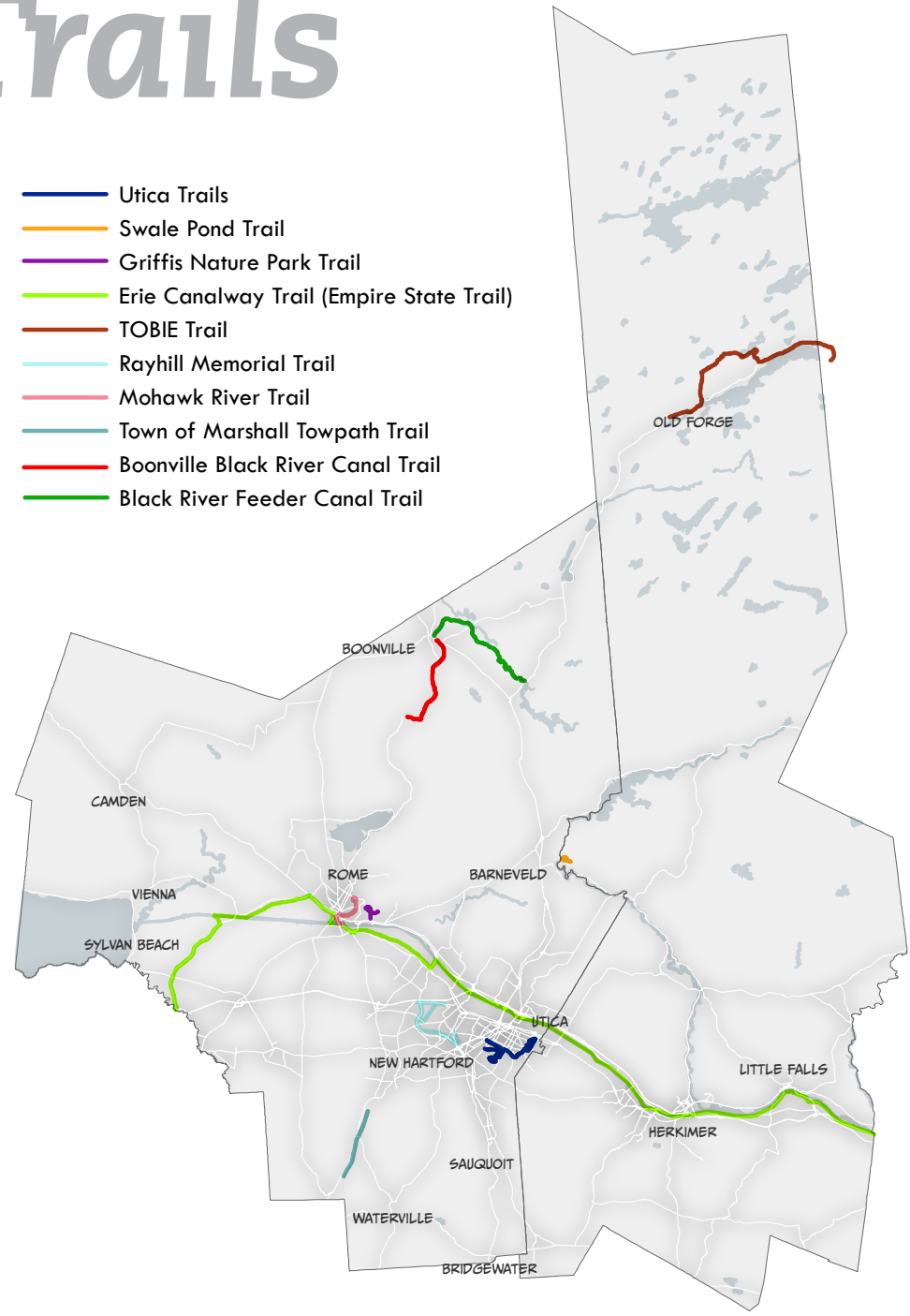
Are We There Yet?

Regional Trails by Length



Trails

- Utica Trails
- Swale Pond Trail
- Griffis Nature Park Trail
- Erie Canalway Trail (Empire State Trail)
- TOBIE Trail
- Rayhill Memorial Trail
- Mohawk River Trail
- Town of Marshall Towpath Trail
- Booneville Black River Canal Trail
- Black River Feeder Canal Trail



Trails Spotlight



Rome Sands Plains

- One of only a handful of inland pine barrens in the nation.
- More than six miles of marked trails amongst unique natural features, vegetation and wildlife
- High sand dunes, low peat bogs, pine barrens, hardwood forests, meadows, wetlands and one of the largest beaver ponds in the state.



Empire State Trail Upgrades

- \$1.2 Million Project
- 2.5-mile section of the Empire State Trail from Flint Avenue in the City of Little Falls to Herkimer Home State Historic Site
- Replaces aging asphalt and stone-dust surface with a 10-foot-wide paved bicycling and walking path, drainage improvements, new fencing and signage.



Our Economy



Who is the biggest employer in our area?

Economy

Our transportation network supports a wide variety of production and service industries across Herkimer and Oneida Counties. Our infrastructure brings raw materials and farm products to markets, accommodates tourism, provides access to healthcare and education, and allows commuters to reach centers of employment.

MAJOR INDUSTRIES



Entertainment/ Gaming

The Oneida Indian Nation operates Turning Stone Resort Casino and is the largest employer in Oneida County.



Healthcare



Insurance/ Financial



Manufacturing/ Distribution



Education

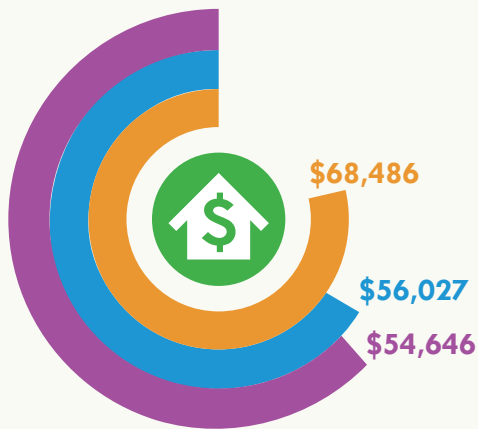
A total of 7 higher education institutions serve our communities.



Technology Boom

There is a growing presence of Technology and Advanced Manufacturing business, with continued development at Griffiss Tech Park and operations at the Wolfspeed NanoCenter expected to begin in 2022.

Household Income

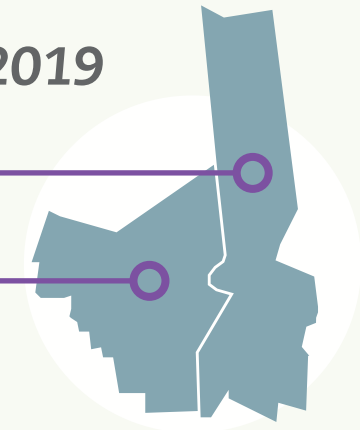


■ Herkimer County
 ■ Oneida County
 ■ New York State

TOTAL Employers 2019

1,108





4,874

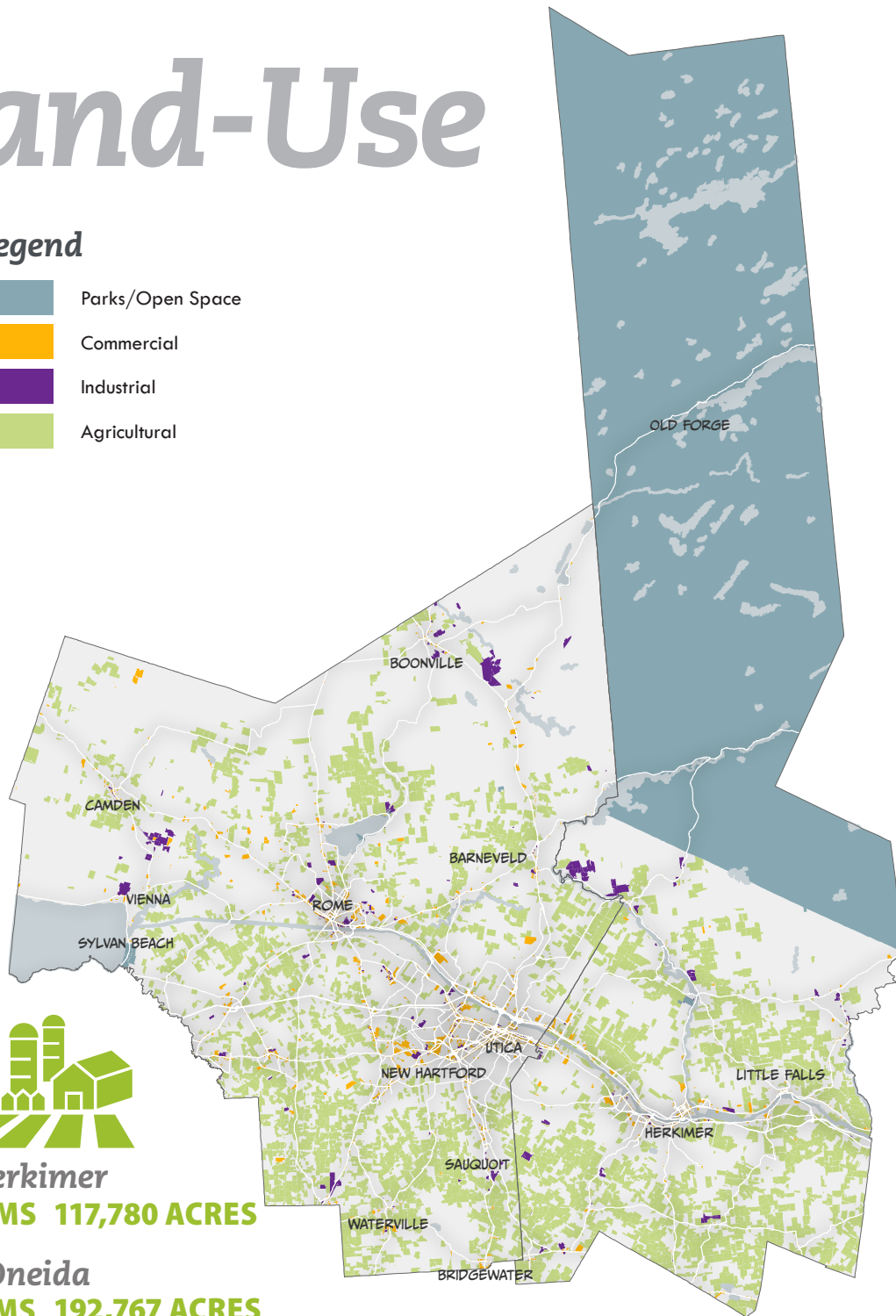


DID YOU KNOW? Agriculture and forestry are critical drivers of economic activity in rural areas of our region.

Land-Use

Legend

-  Parks/Open Space
-  Commercial
-  Industrial
-  Agricultural



Herkimer

596 FARMS 117,780 ACRES

Oneida

976 FARMS 192,767 ACRES



Key Industries



- | | |
|--|--|
|  Forest Products |  Business Park |
|  Industrial/Manufacturing |  Paper Manufacturing |
|  Outdoor Recreation |  Scientific/Engineering |
|  Brewing |  Warehousing/Distribution |
|  Insurance/Finance |  Entertainment/Gaming |

Major Economic Development Projects

Our varied transportation infrastructure has attracted new investment and allowed existing businesses to expand locally. Understanding where new jobs, commerce, and freight activity are located allows for strategic planning of future improvements to our transportation network.



MOHAWK VALLEY HEALTH CAMPUS

This \$550M investment will create a 702,000 sq. ft. state of the art hospital in downtown Utica. The 10 story, 373 bed facility will include an emergency department capable of treating 90,000 patients each year. An accompanying multi-story parking facility is also being developed in partnership with Oneida County.

NEXUS CENTER

These additions to downtown Utica build on recent development in the area, including \$20M in renovations to the Adirondack Bank Center at the Utica Memorial Auditorium (home of the AHL's Utica Comets) and the adjacent construction of the \$60M NEXUS Center, a tournament-based sports facility complete with three multipurpose playing surfaces.

WOLFSPEED

The North Carolina semiconductor manufacturer has constructed a \$1 billion factory near Utica, at the Marcy Nanocenter on the SUNY Polytechnic Institute Campus. It is the world's first and largest state of the art, automotive-qualified, silicon carbide wafer fab production facility.

The facility will house a workforce of over 600 full-time highly-skilled technician and engineering positions. Wolfspeed serves as the anchor for the Marcy Nanocenter and will be the catalyst for future emerging tech manufacturing facilities.



DID YOU KNOW? The Marcy Nanocenter at SUNY Polytechnic Institute is a premier 434-acre greenfield campus developed for semiconductor & advanced technology manufacturing facilities.



SYLVAN BEACH

Recent investments by the Oneida Indian Nation include the Lake House and Cove at Sylvan Beach with 70 vacation rental cottages opened in 2022.



GRIFFISS BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY PARK

Recent developments include a new mixed-use district at Air City Lofts, the Innovare Advancement Center research institute and quantum labs, Sky Dome drone testing and research facility, and 790,000 square foot Orgill Distribution Center.



HERKIMER COUNTY

The Route 5S business parks have attracted JBF Stainless, Adirondack Food & Fuel, a 930,000 square foot Tractor Supply Distribution Center that brought over 600 jobs, and an 80,000 square foot Amazon Last Mile Facility.



Emerging Trends



How many EV charging stations are in our region?

Streetscape Improvements

State, county, and local initiatives are transforming our built environment. Our streetscapes are increasingly accommodating multiple travel modes, improving environmental conditions, enhancing local business access, and promoting safe travel for visitors of all ages and abilities.

Complete Streets

A Complete Street is a roadway planned and designed to consider the safe, convenient access and mobility of all roadway users of all ages and abilities. This includes pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation riders, and motorists; it includes children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

Complete Street roadway design features include sidewalks, lane striping, bicycle lanes, paved shoulders suitable for use by bicyclists, signage, crosswalks, pedestrian control signals, bus pull-outs, curb cuts, raised crosswalks, ramps and traffic calming measures.



12 municipalities have adopted Complete Streets Resolutions in Herkimer and Oneida Counties.

? **DID YOU KNOW?** According to the National Complete Streets Coalition, creating Complete Streets means transportation agencies must change their approach to community roads and think about streets as places for people, not just cars.

ONEIDA COUNTY Main Street Guidebook



Oneida County Main Street Program

The Oneida County Main Street Program was unveiled in July 2021. The Main Street Program aims to improve safety, provide better access to local businesses, allow people to move safely on foot, accommodate bicyclists, support climate smart investments, provide a sense of place and enhance communities. The program administers funds for downtown revitalization and community investment.

Route 5S/Oriskany Street Project

Completed in 2021, this project was originally a safety project that expanded to include active transportation and underground utility infrastructure upgrades along a 0.8 mile route. It introduced a 0.5 mile shared-use pedestrian/bike path in downtown Utica and integrated separated cycle track in various locations. Ultimately, it has become a signature project for Complete Streets retrofit projects for the region.

? DID YOU KNOW? A complete street in a rural area will look quite different from a complete street in a dense, urban area, but both are designed to balance safety and convenience for everyone using the road (not just cars).

Vehicle Trends

Today's emerging vehicle technologies and transportation trends point toward tomorrow's increasingly smart, connected, and environmentally conscious mechanisms of transportation.

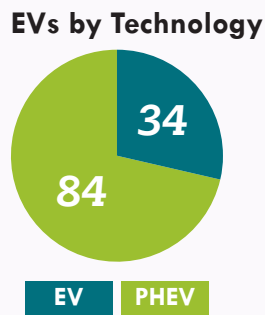
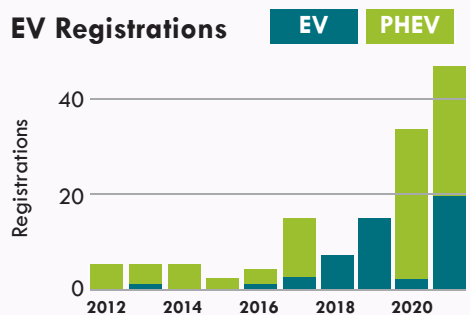
Climate Smart Communities

Ten communities in Herkimer and Oneida Counties are participating in Climate Smart Communities. This New York State program helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The program offers free technical assistance, grants, and rebates for electric vehicles and their infrastructure.

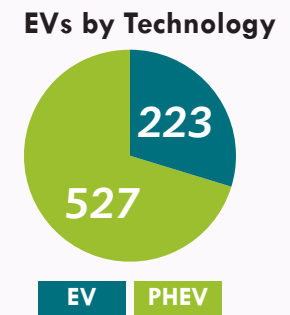
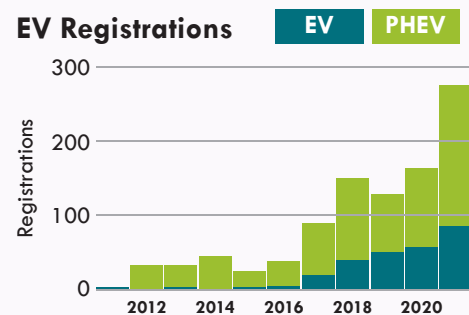
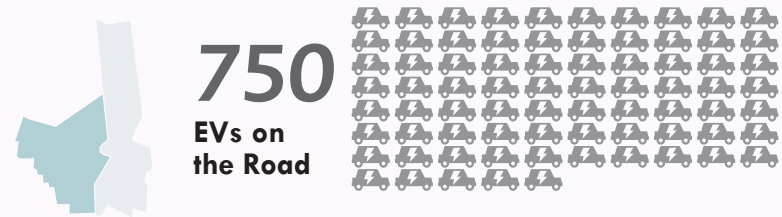


Electric Vehicle (EV) and Plug-in Hybrid Electric (PHEV) Adoption

Herkimer County

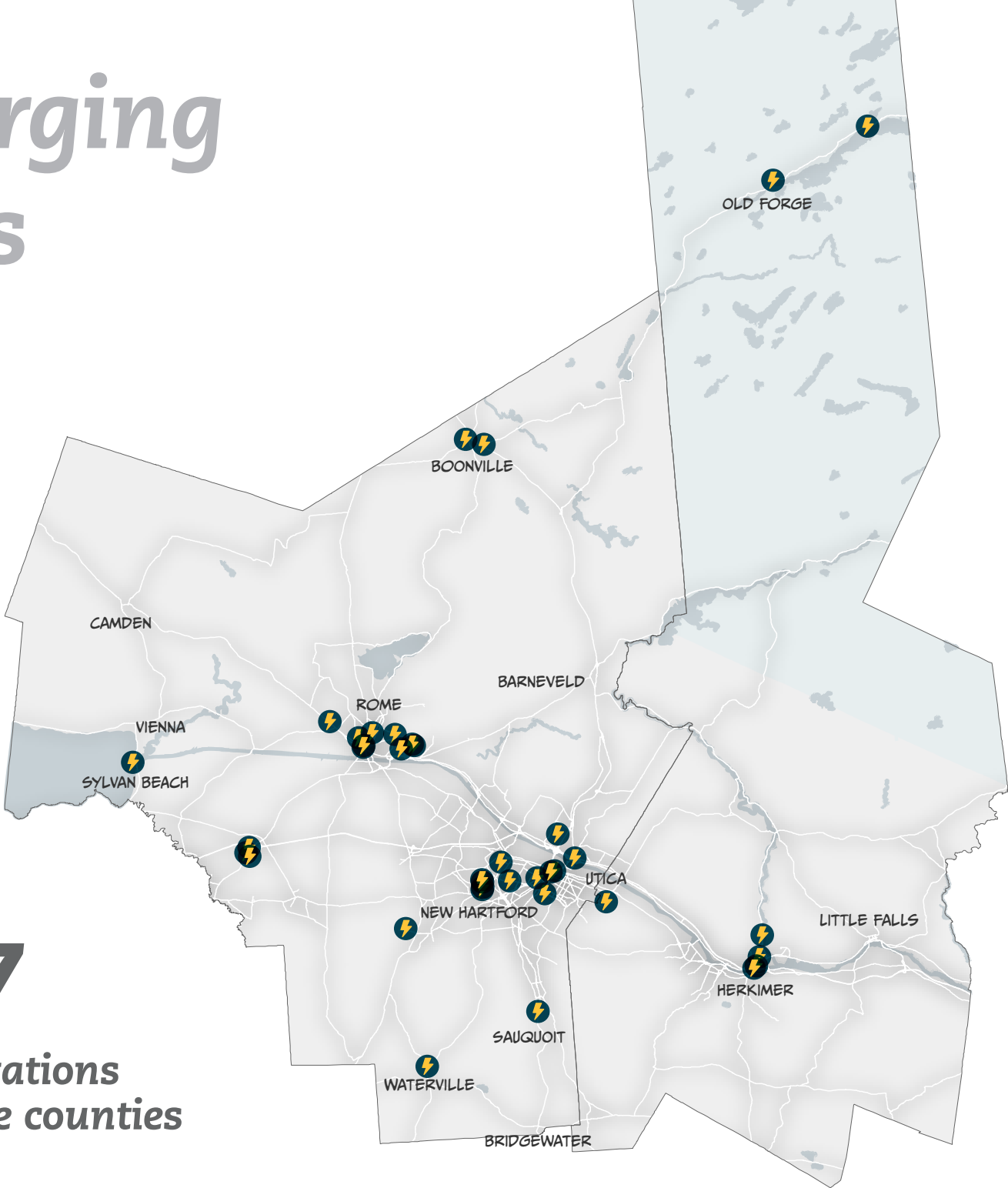


Oneida County



EV Charging Stations

Legend



37
charging stations
throughout the counties

Intelligent Transportation Systems

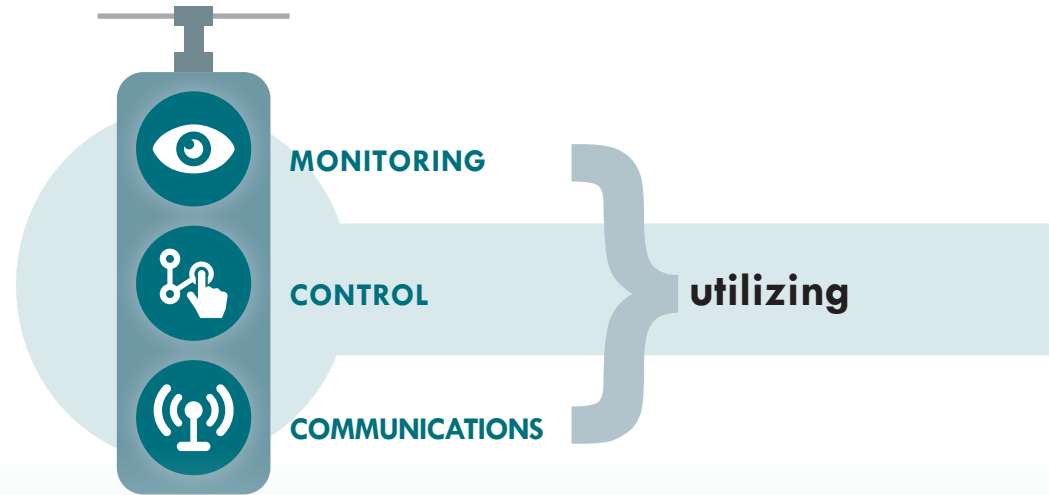
In 2019, Oneida County published Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS): A Technology Roadmap to recommend ways to integrate smart transportation infrastructure on Oneida County's local roadways with the New York State highway network. Seven priority corridors were identified including Floyd Ave., a critical connection to Griffiss Business & Technology Park.

Floyd Avenue • Rome, NY

Floyd Avenue is a 1.8 mile route linking Rome's downtown to residential neighborhoods and Griffiss Business & Technology Park. It is a Priority Corridor for proposed ITS Solutions such as upgraded traffic signals and cameras, as well as smart streetlights to offer connectivity with fiber, sensors, mobile devices and vehicles enabling possibilities for driverless vehicles, drone-delivery, community WiFi, real-time transportation data and remote lighting control.

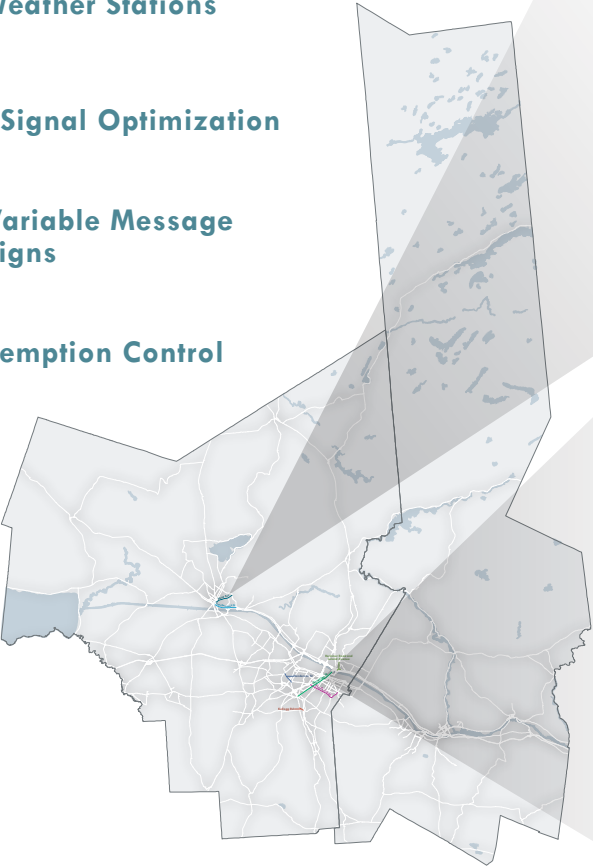
What is ITS?

A powerful integration of advanced technology:



Smart Infrastructure

-  Traffic Cameras
-  Weather Stations
-  Signal Optimization
-  Variable Message Signs
-  Preemption Control



Priority corridors in Rome and Utica identified for smart infrastructure





DID YOU KNOW?

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

- Broadband Assessment Survey will inform plans for improving internet access throughout the region and potentially influence transportation patterns.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station Plan inventories existing infrastructure and explores future possibilities for this emerging technology.
- Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for Herkimer and Oneida Counties includes priorities centered around new mobility and emerging transportation technologies such as:
 - Increase use of Mobile Technology
 - Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
 - Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
 - Smart Phone apps
 - Other emerging technologies to help in transportation coordination efforts and expanding mobility options for a seamless and more consumer friendly system.

Changes in the Region

The Mohawk Valley region continues to grow and adapt to the needs of our people and the technologies available to us. Here are just a few ways our area is growing and changing for the better.



Multi-use trail connectivity and recreational access



Complete Streets for users of all modes, ages and abilities



Electric vehicles and smart corridors



Public transit and alternatives to personal automobiles



Transportation infrastructure to support economic development



Hazard mitigation and natural resource protection





HOCTC
HERKIMER-ONEIDA COUNTIES
TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

