



CAPITALIZE ALBANY  
CORPORATION

For Immediate Release  
January 17, 2017  
Media Contact: Michael Bohne – (518) 434-2532 Ext. 23

## **Planning Funded for Region’s First Highline Park to Repurpose I-787 Ramp and Improve Waterfront Connectivity**

*Round VI New York State Regional Economic Development Council CFA Initiative Provides \$375,000 Parks, Preservation and Heritage Phase I Project Grant Funding*

ALBANY – Capitalize Albany Corporation’s Round VI awarded CFA project is the first phase of a multi-phase proposed project that will ultimately result in the conversion of the I-787 northbound exit ramp from Quay Street to Clinton Avenue—into the Region’s first and only highline park—the Albany Skyway. With support from Governor Cuomo’s Regional Economic Development Council initiative and New York State, the Albany Skyway’s Phase I will entail a feasibility study including assessments, planning, preliminary design and other related activities to begin this year.

“The current exit ramp is underutilized, redundant to other exits, and could offer more to the City, and Region,” said Capitalize Albany Corporation president Sarah Reginelli. “In alignment with the Impact Downtown Albany strategic plan and Albany’s waterfront master plan, completion of the Skyway would provide visitors and residents necessary additional waterfront access that is safe and encourages pedestrian and bicycle use. Not only serving as a multi-use waterfront connection between downtown and its surrounding neighborhoods such as Arbor Hill and Sheridan Hollow, the Albany Skyway will reclaim, reinvigorate and restore underutilized vehicular infrastructure and surrounding properties.”

Phase 1 is estimated to cost approximately \$500,000 in total. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation awarded the project a \$375,000 Environmental Protection Grant for Parks, Preservation and Heritage. Capitalize Albany Corporation is planning to fund up to 25 percent through a cash match and in-kind services. Phase I is anticipated to take 9–12 months to complete once it is started. This will include securing a work permit, issuing an RFP for professional services and selection of consultant to complete phase I work.

The proposed conversion of the exit ramp would transform the underutilized space into a landscaped multi-use connection, from downtown Albany and surrounding neighborhoods including Arbor Hill and Sheridan Hollow, to the Corning Riverfront Park. Upon conversion—the former ramp would serve as a fully ADA compliant promenade, bike route and linear park

21 LODGE STREET  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207  
(T) 518-434-2532 ★ (F) 518-434-9846  
[www.CapitalizeAlbany.com](http://www.CapitalizeAlbany.com)



CAPITALIZE ALBANY  
CORPORATION

making valuable connections to the Hudson River—dramatically increasing accessibility to both downtown and the waterfront. In addition to serving as a waterfront connection the Skyway would be an amenity for downtown, creating an experience for its users and becoming a regional destination.

The project’s sustainability impact will be an additional benefit. Once completed, the project would function much like a green roof, absorbing, filtering and diverting storm runoff that would otherwise enter the City’s combined sewers and eventually the Hudson.

The property is owned by New York State Department of Transportation. Capitalize Albany is coordinating with NYSDOT and received a commitment to work with the Corporation. NYSDOT will provide a work permit to access and perform site assessment, planning and related activities on the site. After evaluation of Phase I it would continue to work with the Corporation and the City of Albany to provide permanent ownership or occupancy of the ramp to facilitate the construction and maintenance phases. The completion of the project’s Phase I will allow for the progression into final design, Phase II.

The Impact Downtown Albany strategic plan, the City’s comprehensive plan, LWRP and waterfront master plan show demand for, and an economic need to increase connections from downtown to the waterfront. Currently, I-787 presents an imposing barrier disassociating downtown and surrounding neighborhoods from the river.

The Regional Economic Development Council Round VI initiative awarded 17 City of Albany projects with \$5.58 million (\$5,587,650) in funding. Overall, the Capital Region was awarded a total of \$83.1 million in funding—as a top performer—for 116 projects.

-30-

**About Capitalize Albany Corporation:** *A catalyst for economic growth, Capitalize Albany Corporation facilitates transformational development projects, serving as the City of Albany’s economic development organization. A registered 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization implementing programs and resources to create, retain, and attract business in the City of Albany.*

21 LODGE STREET  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207  
(T) 518-434-2532 ★ (F) 518-434-9846  
[www.CapitalizeAlbany.com](http://www.CapitalizeAlbany.com)