

REIMAGINE THE CANALS
COMPETITION INFORMATION SESSION

**Reimagine
the Canals**



**NY Power
Authority**

**Canal
Corporation**

November 6, 2017

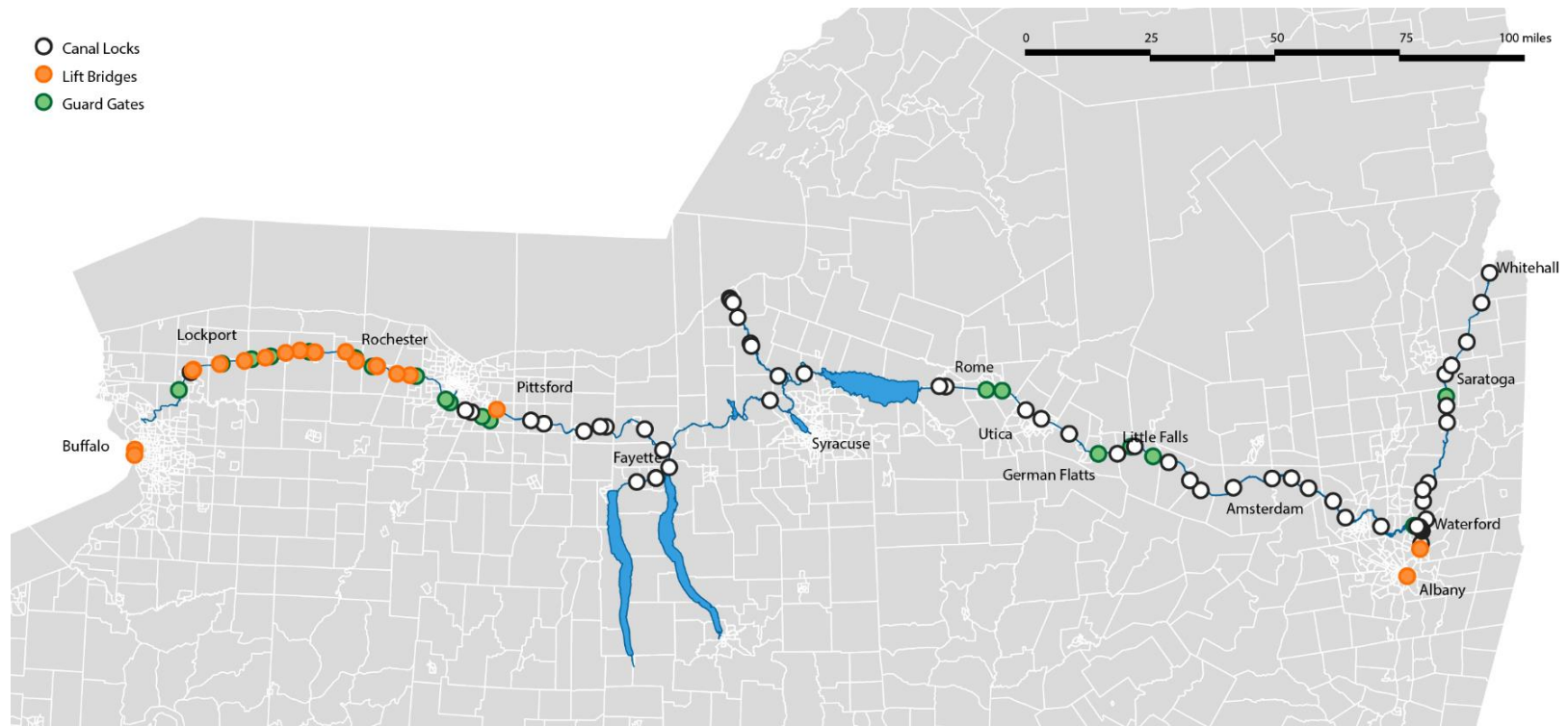
CONTEXT – LOCATION

The New York State Canal System is a 524-mile network comprised of the Erie Canal, the Oswego Canal, the Cayuga-Seneca Canal, and the Champlain Canal.

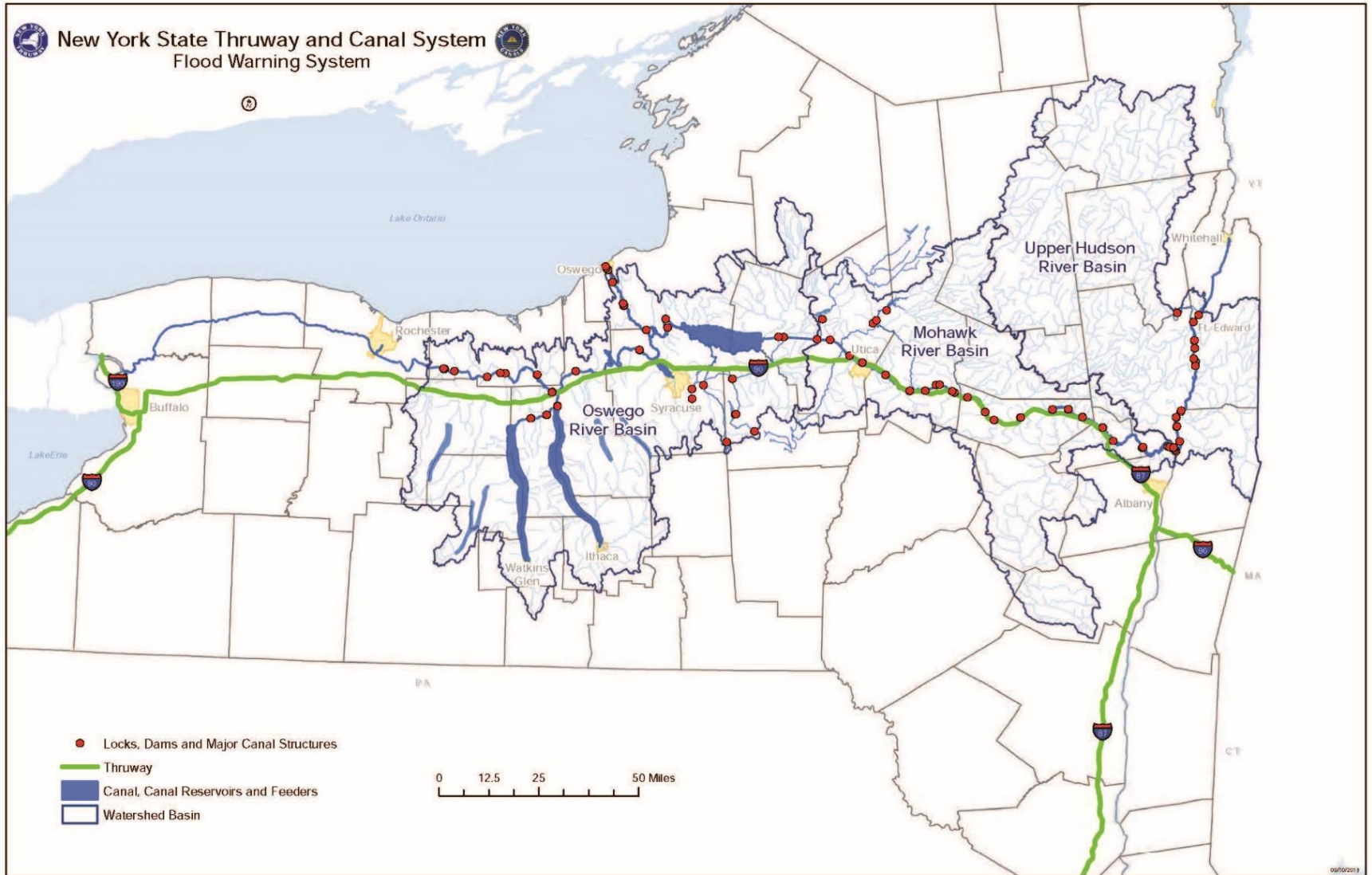


CONTEXT – CANAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Canal System has 56 locks, 20 lock bridges, and 20 guard gates.



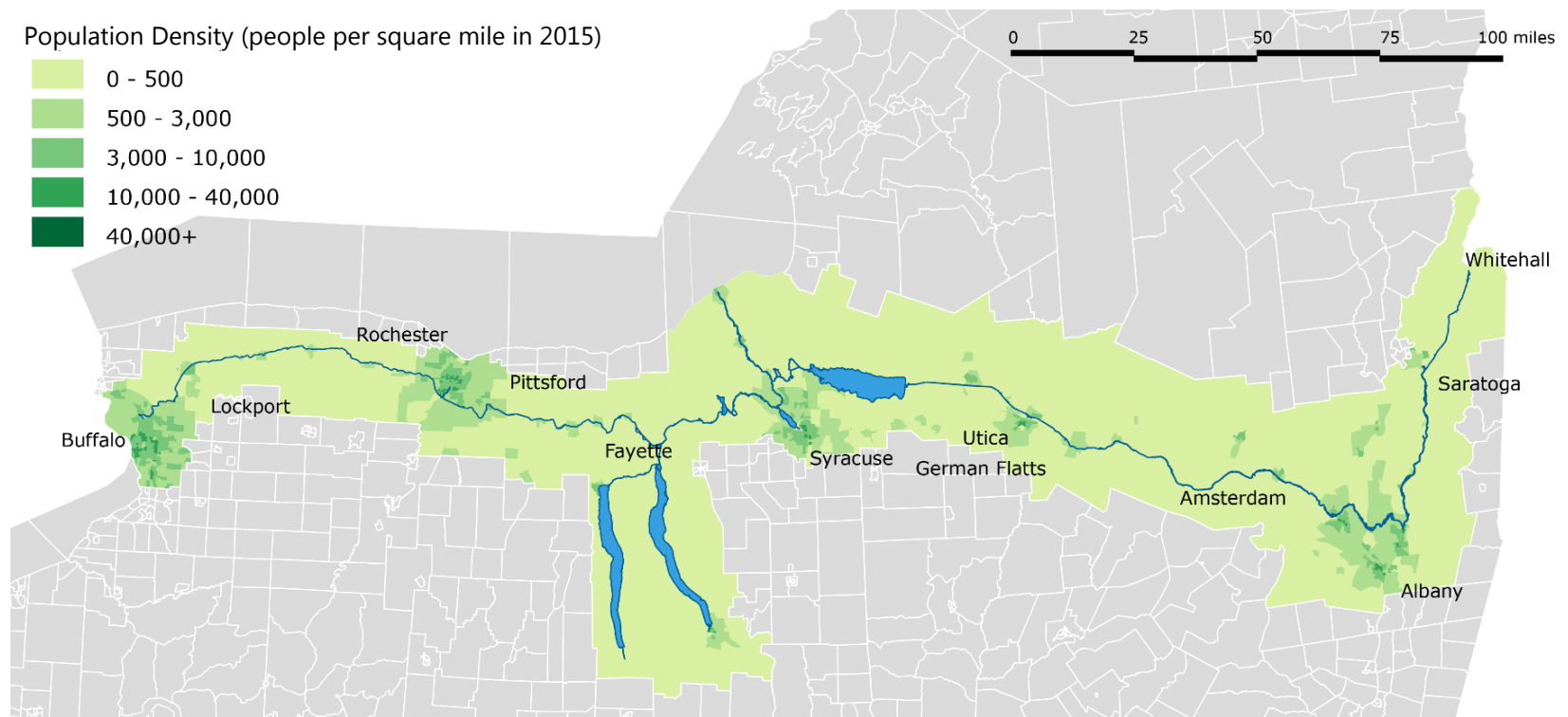
CONTEXT – WATERSHEDS



CONTEXT – POPULATION

Major urban areas along the Canal System by population (2016):

- Albany City: 98,100
- Buffalo City: 256,900
- Rochester City: 208,900
- Syracuse City: 143,400
- Utica City: 61,700

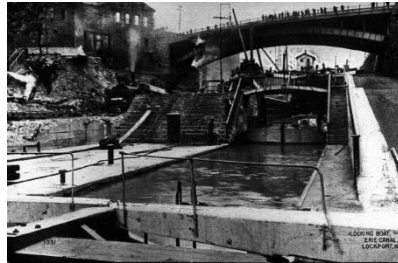


CONTEXT – BRIEF HISTORY



Construction of Erie Canal started

1817



Three other branches of the canal opened (Oswego, Champlain, Cayuga-Seneca)

1910-1920



The Canal System was listed as a national historic district on the National Register of Historic Places

2014



NYPA assumed control of the NYS Canal System

2017

1862 & 1903

System enlarged to accommodate increased shipping needs



1992

Ownership of the Canal System moved to the Thruway Authority



2017

The Canal System was designated as a National Historic Landmark



COMPETITION – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Challenges

- Commercial shipping has declined since the 1950's
- Recreational boating peaked in 1989, but has declined by over 50% since
- Enormous amounts of maintenance and investment in canal infrastructure are required



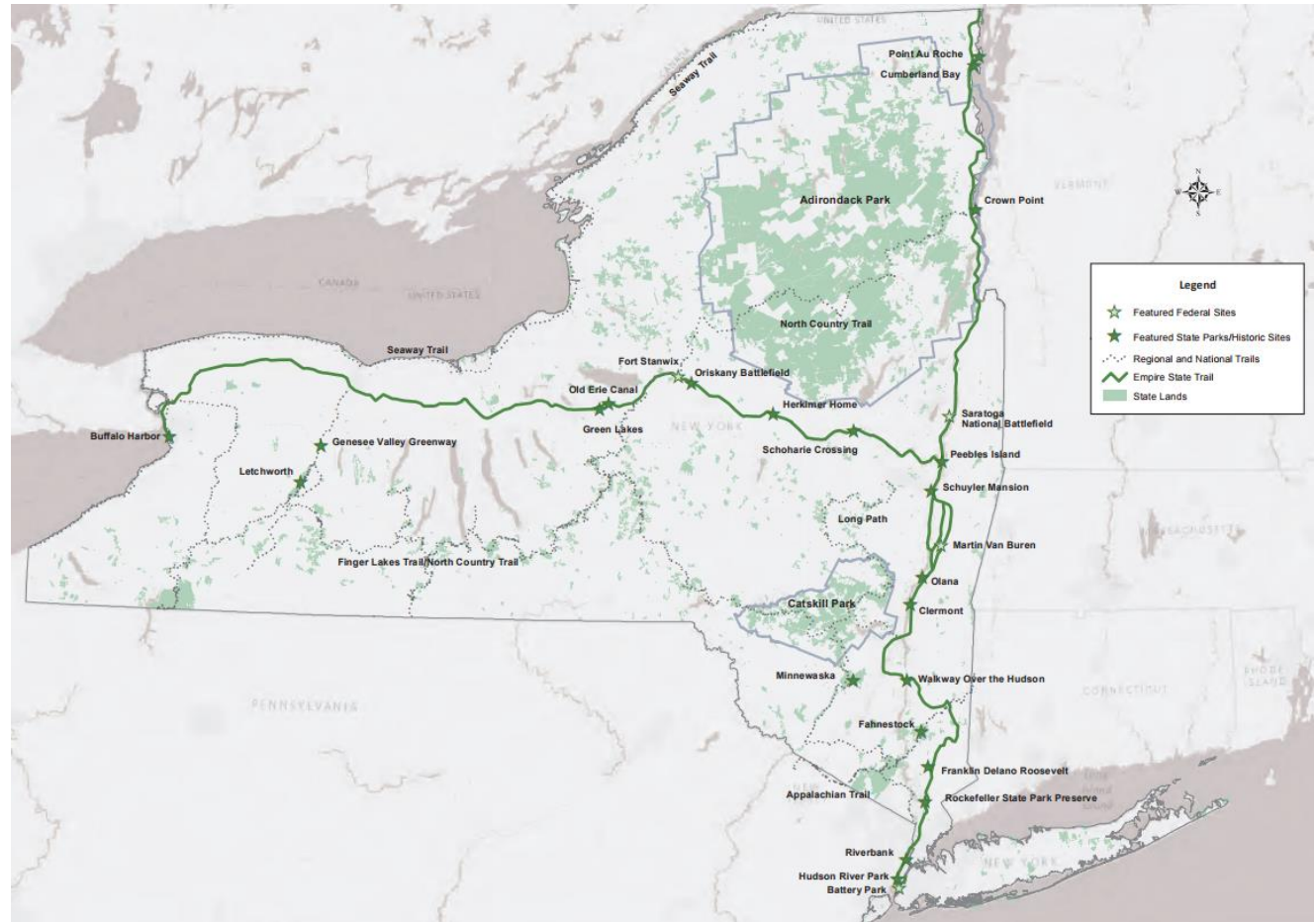
Opportunities

- Recreational uses along the canal have grown in popularity (hiking, bicycling, skiing, and ice fishing)
- The Empire State Trail from NYC to Canada and Albany to Buffalo is expected to be completed in 2020
- The Canal System's potential to stimulate tourism and economic activity has not been fully explored



EMPIRE STATE TRAIL

- The **Empire State Trail** proposed by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo earlier this year will connect the Hudson River Valley Greenway and Erie Canalway trails, by 2020
- Altogether, it will include 750 miles of pathways for hiking and biking along scenic vistas and historic communities



COMPETITION – GOALS

Proposals should aim to promote:

- the Canal System as a tourist destination and recreational asset
- sustainable economic development along the canals and beyond
- the heritage and historic values of the Canal System
- the long-term financial sustainability of the Canal System



COMPETITION – TWO TRACKS

Physical Projects or Concepts

- Involve a physical intervention to address the Competition goals
- Examples include
 - improving connectivity between communities and the Canals
 - creating a new tourist destination
 - transforming existing structures along the Canal System for other purposes

Programming Initiatives

- Involve interventions that would increase the use of the Canal System and/or the Canalway Trail
- Examples include
 - an event or series of events
 - the use of technology to enhance the visitor experience
 - other concepts designed to attract tourists

Proposals considering specific sections of the Canal System are encouraged, however submissions may also be site-specific or address the Canal System in its entirety.

PHYSICAL CONCEPTS – EXAMPLES



The Kelpies, Scotland

- a public art piece on the banks of the Forth & Clyde Canal by famous artist Andy Scott
- pay homage to the working horses of Scotland which used to pull barges along the canals
- project has helped transform 350 hectares of underused land into a vibrant parkland, a visitor attraction, and marine hub



Hamilton Canal Innovation District, Lowell, MA

- an in progress, transit-oriented, waterfront development consisting of 17 parcels of land in the heart of Lowell
- aims to strengthen residential and commercial markets, expand the City's employment base, and broaden the population base of creative professionals
- sites around the canal walk will be developed that will make the waterfront more inviting and interesting

PHYSICAL CONCEPTS – EXAMPLES



Canalside Cottages, Scotland

- former lock-keeper and canal workers' cottages have been restored into high quality self catering holiday accommodation
- third party funding was secured for the restoration
- cottages are available to rent for holidays through Natural Retreats



oTENTik accommodations, Saint-Ours Canal, Canada

- a cross between a tent and rustic cabins
- a unique outdoor experience for people wanting to visit the canals
- accommodations are strewn all across sites along the Canadian waterways

PROGRAMMING INITIATIVES – EXAMPLES



Lock 'n Paddle, Canada

- a canoeing event in celebration of the National Canoe Day
- canoers were invited to create a new record for the Peterborough Lift Lock
- 138 paddlers from all across Ontario, neighboring states, the UK and Australia took part in the experiment



Floating Cinema Barge, UK Canals

- an award-winning structure designed by Duggan Morris Architects
- some events take place inside the barge
- programming also involves outdoor screenings, canal tours, workshops and events along the waterways of East London and beyond

PROGRAMMING INITIATIVES – EXAMPLES



Winterfest, Lowell, MA

- a park by the canal is transformed into a winter beer-garden with food trucks, craft brewers, wine merchants and live music with the backdrop of illuminated canals



Open Days, UK

- each year free events are held that invite people to take a look at the inner workings of the canals' infrastructure
- one of these events included '*gig in a lock*' at which an international contemporary music composer and sonic artist, Kaffe Matthews, performed at the bottom of a 14-ft-deep brick lock chamber in London

COMPETITION – ELIGIBILITY

- The Competition is open to individuals, businesses, non-profits, and municipalities
- Respondents are encouraged to form multidisciplinary teams
- Teams may include, but are not limited to:
 - urban designers and architects
 - planning and community specialists
 - hydrologists and infrastructure engineers
 - artists, curators, recreation, and sport consultants
 - real estate developers and economic development specialists
 - local officials
 - financing partners
- Teams should include all the individuals/firms required for the implementation of the proposals

COMPETITION – PROCESS



COMPETITION – STAGE ONE

Proposals

- Proposal needs to describe how it relates to the aims of the Competition and addresses specific challenges
- Partnering with a local jurisdiction or non-profit is not required, but it is encouraged

Finalists

- The jury will recommend up to eight finalists
- Finalists will receive feedback from NYPA and the Canal Corporation about their initial proposals
- They will receive an award of up to \$50,000 each to develop their ideas for submission in Stage Two

COMPETITION – STAGE TWO

Guidelines

- Finalists will be asked to include information about the feasibility, cost, potential funding sources, economic impact, and projected financial impact on the Canal Corporation
- They may be asked to partner with a local jurisdiction or other canal-related non-profit organization

Awards

- The jury, taking into account a public vote on the finalists' proposals, will recommend two or more winners to receive awards between \$250,000 and \$1,500,000 for project planning and implementation
- Actual award amounts will be based on the nature of the winning proposals
- NYPA expects to enter into contracts with the winners that will set forth, among other things, the terms for receiving the awards

COMPETITION – SITE TOURS

The following site tours along the Canal System are being offered for interested participants:

- **Monday, November 13:** The Capital Region
- **Tuesday, November 14:** Mohawk Valley
- **Wednesday, November 15:** Central New York
- **Thursday, November 16:** Buffalo & Western New York
- **Friday, November 17:** Rochester & Finger Lakes Region

Attendance at one or more site tours is NOT a requirement to take part in the Competition.

COMPETITION – TIMELINE



COMPETITION – STAGE ONE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

For Stage One, applicants need to provide the following:

- **Proposal:** A brief narrative (approx. 5 pages) describing the overall vision of the proposal and how it relates to the Competition goals
- **Team qualifications:** Resumes of team members and a portfolio of prior projects that demonstrate the experience of the team as it relates to the purposes of the Competition
- **Support for implementation:** Local jurisdiction or non-profit partnership description (not a requirement for submission)

Deadline: 5:00 p.m. EST January 12, 2018

COMPETITION – EVALUATION

For Stage One, applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Competition goals:** the extent to which the idea addresses the goals of the Competition
- **Feasibility:** the extent to which the idea is implementable and financially sustainable
- **Economic/Financial impact:** the idea's potential to stimulate economic growth in the surrounding communities or promote financial sustainability of the Canal System
- **Innovation:** the extent to which the idea is novel and brings new thinking to current challenges
- **Team qualifications:** the quality of the team, its experience, and its ability to implement

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

For general inquiries and questions about the competition and site tours, please email info@reimaginethecanals.com.

Answers to all questions asked via email and at this information session will be posted on a rolling basis on the Q&A section of the website. **Deadline for questions is 5:00 p.m. EST December 5, 2017.**

Reimagine the Canals



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY.

**NY Power
Authority**

**Canal
Corporation**

www.canals.ny.gov/reimaginethecanals