The council designated 28 projects, including the planned mixed-use building on Court Street and the redevelopment of 50 Front St. The Collier Street Commons project, however, was excluded.

The Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council on Thursday approved its list of 28 priority projects, totaling $25 million.

The projects, to be reviewed by the state’s economic development agency in the next couple of months, span the entire Southern Tier region, which consists of Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins counties.

This region is competing against nine other economic development councils in New York for a share of up to $750 million in state funding.

Binghamton University President Harvey Stenger, co-chairman of the Southern Tier council, said the state could announce the awards as early as October this year.

If the Southern Tier is designated a “top performer” by the state, as it was last year, Stenger said he expects the region to receive a total award of $80 million to $90 million. The list of 28 priority projects gives the Southern Tier the best chance for a repeat performance in the fourth annual competition for economic development funds, council members said.

Notable Broome County projects include the approximately $4 million mixed-use building planned for the vacant lot at 70-72 Court St. in the City of Binghamton, the redevelopment of 50 Front St., a six-story former hotel and senior housing facility and a Security Mutual Life Insurance parking facility.

Priority projects farther west in the Southern Tier include a Corning Hospital redevelopment, Schuyler County’s Project Seneca and a kiln expansion project at Tioga Hardwoods, an already growing company in Berkshire, Tioga County.

Absent from the list was the $38.5 million Collier Street Commons project, a mixed-use structure that would replace the current parking ramp, which is nearing the end of its useful life, according to a structural analysis released in May. In early June, the City of Binghamton selected Vestal-based Newman Development Group as the preferred developer.

The city submitted a proposal to the Southern Tier council at the June 16 deadline asking for $7.7 million to construct the project.
million for the Collier Street Commons project.

While Binghamton Mayor Rich David said he was encouraged that the redevelopment of 70-72 Court Street was included, he was disappointed that the Collier Street project was excluded from the list of priority projects.

“I don’t frankly know why the project wasn’t included at this point, but despite the fact that it wasn’t included, it’s a top priority for the City of Binghamton and it’s something that I will continue to push and advocate for until it becomes a reality,” David said.

If the project does not receive funding, David said the city could either apply to the council again next year or choose to bond, borrow or come up with money for Collier Street Commons itself.

A project that was included on the list: the BU Global Center Nexus of International Activities.

Stenger said BU will renovate the old computing center on campus and turn it into a global center, where the university will house its international student services office and some language departments.

BU has been growing its international student population by about 200 each year, Stenger said, and the center will help maintain that growth.

Other business

• Robin Alpaugh, senior project manager at Empire State Development, said the council recently disbursed $300,000 to the Rural Initiative Program and another $300,000 to the Community Revitalization Program.

• The Southern Tier council also voted to reallocate funds from a round three award. The Roberson Museum and Science Center requested a reduced scope of work to restore essential operations, including HVAC and mechanical upgrades, which reduced the Empire State Development capital funding from $500,000 to $50,000. The council voted to reallocate the remaining $450,000 to the Rural Initiative Program.

How has the Southern Tier fared in the first three rounds?

$49.4 million: 2011

$91.1 million: 2012

$81.9 million: 2013

The state is expected to award its fourth round of economic development funds this fall, possibly as soon as October.

The Southern Tier council’s list of 28 priority projects
• HP Hood

• Emhart Glass Manufacturing

• Fourth Bay Project 2, Pacemaker Steel and Piping, Inc.

• Precision Filters Inc. Job and Export Growth Plan

• Buck 3, Buckingham Manufacturing

• Kiln Expansion Project, Tioga Hardwoods

• Security Mutual Life Parking Facility

• Project Seneca, Village of Watkins Glen

• AVRE Sheeter Development Project

• Veterinary Class Expansion, Cornell University

• Mixed-Use Development 70-72 Court St., City of Binghamton

• Incubator Works, Alfred Technology Resources Inc.

• Hotel Study, Village of Sidney

• Waterfront Entertainment Study, Village of Sidney

• West Water Street Rowhouse Project, Southern Tier Economic Growth

• Watkins Glen International Modernization Project

• Painted Post Trail Improvements, Village of Painted Post

• Heritage Block Renewal, Shelter Planning Development Inc.

• Corning Hospital Redevelopment

• Sportsfield Expansion, Sportsfield Specialities Inc.

• 50 Front St., Broome County Land Bank

• Food Business Incubation Program, TCAD Foundation

• BU Global Center Nexus of International Activities

• Big Flats Water Department Improvements

• Granite Works Addition
• SUNY Broome Revitalization & Workforce Development
• Cayuga Nature Center Facility Enhancement Project, Paleontological Research Institution
• Delaware Broadband Initiative, Heart of the Catskills Communications, MTC Cable