A discussion with the local government and private sector community

February 11, 2014
One Canalside Building, Buffalo, NY

What can we do together?

Thank you for joining us
What can we do together?
believing that the *Framework* still had relevance in today’s region

What we’ve already been doing together

Working Group
Erie & Niagara County

Federal Program
What we’ve already been doing together

Great partnerships → Great Region
About 20 miles south of Buffalo along Lake Erie are the Southtowns of Erie County, including the towns of Grand, Eden, Evans and North Collins, and the villages of Angola, Farnham and North Collins. The area holds onto its heritage as an agricultural center for the Western New York region — Grand, Eden and North Collins have from 20 percent to 46 percent of their land dedicated to agriculture. More than 150 farms dot the four towns, representing one of New York State’s most diverse concentrations of commodities including dairy, fruits and vegetables, forage crops, nursery and greenhouses, horses and other livestock.

The region’s agricultural assets are enhanced by the broader tourism appeal of the Southtowns, a rural region rich with natural resources, parks and beaches, historic sites and small-town charm. The Southtowns Farm Trail is a new and unique way to experience all that Southern Erie County has to offer. We invite you to come down for the day and pick-up some farm-fresh produce, or come for the weekend and check out the many restaurants and bed and breakfast establishments. Stop by to slow down. And stay awhile!
What we’ve already been doing together
...the region’s work on One Region Forward

PLANNING PROCESS TO DATE

Regional Vision and Values
Winter 2013
Shaped by many voices and 160+ plans

100+ Members from Our Communities
Spring 2013 - Present
Working Teams
Developing the substance of the plan

Mapping Workshops
Fall 2013 - Present
What citizens want, 57 maps and counting

LOOKING AHEAD

A Roadmap for Planning
Fall 2014
Tools for Action
Created through an unprecedented collaborative effort

Resources for the community beyond the plan
What we’ve already been doing together

...exploring practical solutions to economic challenges facing our region’s business community and local governments

**One Region Forward Event**

- JAN 2013
  - Examining Models of Sustainable Development

- MARCH 2013
  - Village Centers and Urban Core Revitalization

- JUNE 2013
  - Resources for Proactive Preservation and Redevelopment

**Economics of Sustainability Series**

- DECEMBER 2013
  - A Curbside Chat with Chuck Marohn
What we’ve already been doing together

gathering feedback on what citizens want for their communities and the region
We Should Grow Where We’ve Already Grown

Focus development and reinvestment where infrastructure exists

Participants placed 95% of new jobs & 87% of new homes in the developed areas (brown areas on map)

Revitalize neighborhoods in decline

Participants placed “Traditional Neighborhood” chips in areas to revitalize homes and businesses in these places.

Bring jobs back to large former industrial sites

Many participants placed “Office Industrial” chips on former brownfields in...

Niagara Falls
Tonawandas
Buffalo
Lackawanna
We Should Build Walkable, Livable Communities and Preserve Those that Are Vibrant and Working

Preserve the character of villages with strong Main Streets
Communities participants chose include:
- Youngstown
- Lewiston
- Williamsville
- East Aurora
- Orchard Park
- Hamburg
- and others...

Invest to make strong village centers throughout the region
Most Popular Place Type!
Participants placed
- 25% of new homes
- 14% of new jobs
in this place type

Village Centers

Promote a transportation system sensitive to pedestrians and bicyclists
At least 8 maps used bicycle-pedestrian infrastructure as a guiding principle for future development
We Should Connect Our Places by Expanding and Diversifying Our Transportation Options

- Make and improve transit connections across the region
  - 53 out of 57 maps noted that making and improving transit connections so that people are able to get around without a car was important to them.

- Highway investment should only focus on alleviating major bottlenecks
  - 41 out of 57 maps of all maps added no highways and roads at all

- Leverage trails to connect parks, waterfront areas, rural communities and natural assets
  - Citizens added an average of 55 miles of multi-use, recreational trails per map to connect waterfronts, parks and other natural assets to rural communities.
We Should Protect Farm Land, Parks and Natural Areas to Ensure a Good Quality of Life

Conserve open space and land

93% of maps drew areas where they do not want to see future development

Preserve and protect farmland

40 maps wrote about the need to protect farmland

Others emphasized a priority to promote agriculture including urban agriculture and improve access to locally-sourced food.

Make waterfront access and development a priority

19 maps had waterfronts as a guiding principle for future

HALF of maps put recreational trails along the Erie and Ontario lakefronts
What’s already happening in our communities
Build Walkable, Livable Communities and Preserve Those that Are Vibrant and Working

What’s already happening in our communities

Picture Main Street (Williamsville)

Hamburg Main Street

Bike Infrastructure/lanes in Bflo
Growing Where We’ve Already Grown

Riverbend, Niagara County Brownfield

Remington Lofts

Downtown Buffalo Revitalization

Springville’s Center for the Arts

What’s already happening in our communities
Connect Our Places by Expanding and Diversifying Our Transportation Options

What’s already happening in our communities

Niagara River Greenway

Bike infrastructure for Complete Streets

Buffalo Carshare

Amherst-Buffalo Transit Corridor
Protect Farm Land, Parks and Natural Areas to Ensure a Good Quality of Life

What’s already happening in our communities

Stella Niagara

Mill Road Scenic Bypass

Olmsted Parks Conservancy

Oles Farms CSA

Clarence Greenprint

Waterfront Park Development
What the Working Teams are thinking about

Working from...

vision and values...
to goals...
to strategies...
to action items...
each with...
lead agency...
source of support...
objective metrics.
Ideas for land use and development

- Economize the provision of basic public services (water, sewer, roads but maybe other things).
- Preserve farmland, natural areas that provide environmental services, open space.
- Manage vacant and damaged land to meet economic, neighborhood goals.
- Promote a more efficient land-use pattern to lower costs, improve mobility, and quality of place.
Ideas for transportation and mobility

- New ways to **finance** needed investment in infrastructure and services in an increasingly interdependent environment
- Use **transportation management associations** to promote alternatives, parking solutions, lower VMT.
- Promote an **international trade gateway** to leverage location, infrastructure, skills to support the resurgence of manufacturing, logistics.
- Work to fit **transportation** system to **land use** pattern with (hubs and corridors, TOD, etc.)
Ideas for housing and neighborhoods

- Devise a strategic approach to neighborhood revitalization that builds on assets.
- Meet the new household demographics with analysis, strategy, new models, new programs
- Reform the housing support delivery system to build capacity but preserve local intelligence.
Ideas for food access and justice

- Improve **access** to healthy food with farmers markets, better stores, transportation, financial support.
- Strengthen links between **local farms** and **local tables** with a food hub, CSAs, locally-sourcing restaurants.
- **Protect farmland** from development through land use management and strengthening farm economies.
Ideas for climate change action

- Promote **renewable energy** development through policy, market mechanisms, regulatory reform.
- Push **energy conservation** through home weather-ization, building retrofits, code revisions and more.
- **Speed our transition** from fossil fuels – including the replacement of coal and gas power plants.
- **Improve planning** to anticipate negative impacts of climate change and respond.
Ideas that cut across all the work

- Devise and implement a land use concept that will help us do almost everything else in the plan.
- Create a shared public data base to support fact based decision making to implement the plan.
- Develop a “tool-kit” of precedents and best practices across a range of sustainable development topics.
- Promote public education on sustainability planning issues for elected officials and citizens in general.
What do you need from a plan like this?

How do we make it work?