



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING # 11 - February 8, 2013, 9:00 – 11:00 AM
Empire State Development, 95 Perry St., Buffalo, NY

In attendance: Ben Bidell (Niagara County Economic Development), Bill Parke (City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning), Hal Morse (Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council), Kelly Dixon (Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council), Brenda Stynes (University at Buffalo Regional Institute), Michael Ball (Empire State Development), Bart Roberts (University at Buffalo Regional Institute), Darren Kempner (Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority), Laura Smith (Buffalo Niagara Partnership), Anthony Armstrong (Buffalo Local Initiatives Support Council), Tom Dearing (Erie County Department of Environment and Planning), Bill Smith (Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus), Bob Shibley (University at Buffalo Regional Institute), Tyra Johnson (Daemen College/BlueSky Design), Bradshaw Hovey (University at Buffalo Regional Institute), Tom DeSantis (City of Niagara Falls), Mike Riegel (Belmont Housing Resources), James Bragg (City of Niagara Falls), Kiersten Minnick (University at Buffalo Regional Institute), Jenny Laughlin (Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority).

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Greater-Buffalo Niagara Transportation Council (GBNRTC) welcomes everyone to the meeting.

2. One Region Forward & WNY Regional Economic Development Council (REDC)

- GBNRTC announced that now that the Community Congresses have been held, today is the start of the next phase, which will be creating the Working Groups.
- Get goals, set measurable objectives and then create actionable steps. Develop a process to guide the decisions.
- GBNRTC states that Working Teams will be focused around the five themes from One Region Forward (1RF).
- There will be six Working Group meetings over five months, starting in March.
- GBNRTC asked if everyone was clear on the mission and that we have the right construct.
- A Committee member from Empire State Development (ESD) gave a PowerPoint presentation on ESD and how it relates to the REDC and the Buffalo Billion.
 - Described ESD's mission as the State's economic development arm, their job is to help business grow by partnering with regional economic development agencies.
 - There are 30 members across the five counties and developed Plan for Prosperity with assistance from UB Regional Institute (UBRI).
 - There will be a streamlined application process for economic development projects through a Consolidated Funding Application (CFA).
 - Three primary themes: Prepare Our Workforce, Foster a Culture of Entrepreneurship, and Implement Smart Growth.



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING # 11 - February 8, 2013, 9:00 – 11:00 AM
Empire State Development, 95 Perry St., Buffalo, NY

- For the Buffalo Investment Development Plan (Buffalo Billion), it is defined by two sectors and six strategies: Priority Sectors: Life Sciences (Buffalo Science Productivity and Research Center [SPaRC]), Manufacturing (Buffalo Niagara Institute for Manufacturing Competitiveness), Tourism (Buffalo Niagara Tourism Program); Key Enablers: Workforce (1. Buffalo Skills Partnership 2. Rapid Right Skilling for Buffalo 3. Say Yes), Revitalization (Better Buffalo Funds), Entrepreneurship (Buffalo Breakthrough Business Challenge). All of these create sustainable economic growth.
- The REDC monitors ESD to ensure that funding is going towards the correct strategy, and also by monitoring the progress.
- ESD Working Groups are now becoming Implementation Councils.
- A Committee member wonders if the geography for the Buffalo Billion will be focused on Buffalo solely
- UBRI states that it will mostly be focused there but a big portion of Tourism will go to Niagara Falls.
- Buffalo Niagara Partnership (BNP) wonders where the Revitalization Fund money will go?
- ESD states that it is still being worked out.
- UBRI states that Revitalization Fund money will be more like a competitive process, for example whoever has the best pro-forma.
- ESD mentions the importance of leverage this brings to the project; a lot of time and energy is going into streamlining the process and putting together initiatives to provide the best possible application process.
- UBRI mentions the Score Card to rate Smart Growth.
- BNP asks on timing of completion of the Score Card, and if members should meet to discuss?
- UBRI agrees discussion is good, and informs the Committee that they are still working on the criteria, although they have a basic understanding. They are working on creating a tie-in to GIS and technology to be more user-friendly so hoping for activation within the next six months.
- A Committee member asks about the Smart Growth Working Group
- UBRI states that they are working on it.



**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING # 11 - February 8, 2013, 9:00 – 11:00 AM
Empire State Development, 95 Perry St., Buffalo, NY**

3. Buffalo Niagara Partnership (BNP) – Economics of Sustainability Workshop #1

- BNP mentioned that two of their members went to Rochester to see a presentation on how different types of development, density of development in particular, can assist in economic development and economic growth. They want to bring the presentation here.
- A Committee member mentions that they did not attend the presentation but saw part of it online. The presentation details how different types of development have different impacts on local government revenue.
- BNP asks for feedback, should anyone else be a part of this? They stated it was broad based and should include some citizen participation.
- BNP spoke about the Sustainability workshops, stating that there are a total of 8.
- A Committee member stated that the presentation sounded like a technical session, where the panelist will explain how their ideas can be implemented locally
- BNP then mentioned that The Urban Land Institute (ULI) is bringing in a speaker to discuss their annual Infrastructure Report and will include some local participants.
- UBRI wonders if 1RF can have a presence there?

4. Community Congress Debriefing

a. Review of meeting results

- Committee members agreed; there was excellent attendance between the two meetings with over 300 people represented.
- UBRI mentioned that it was a great culmination of events, and represented how the public is coming to grips about each of the themes from the 161 plans. It also was an opportunity to see how much smarter we can be about getting all of that information across.
- A Committee member stated that they took away from it that there are not enough local government representatives involved, and that the process is somewhat disorganized.
- UBRI mentioned that from their viewpoint, it appeared that only 30%-40% of those in attendance strongly agreed with the themes of the 161 plans. The discussion after the presentation brought up other needs, representing the fact that things are different today than when the plans were written. We have some work to do.
- UBRI mentions that communicating the 1RF message is a learning process, and that people might have an idea of what it is but not how it relates to the Buffalo Billion and REDC.
- A Committee member mentioned that most comments were positive, but that there will continue to be detractors for the process and a strategy to better educate everyone is needed, in particular, defining sustainability.



**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING # 11 - February 8, 2013, 9:00 – 11:00 AM
Empire State Development, 95 Perry St., Buffalo, NY**

- LISC mentioned the lack of diversity represented in the Congresses and stated that we are not reaching enough people, particularly those of lower income, that we need to go “where the people are.”
 - UBRI notes that the Buffalo Green Code was very successful in doing this type of outreach, but that they needed massive amounts of time and funding.
 - BNP wonders if members of the Steering Committee can help by reaching out to their contacts.
- b. Continuing the conversation online
- UBRI mentions the online portal and how it can help diversify participation. It is a tool to help continue the conversation.
 - A Committee member brings up a good point that the location of the meeting acts as a magnet.
- c. Building on this work through our working teams
- GBNRTC mentions technical resources, and agrees that the right people in the community need to be included.

5. Working Teams

- a. Review of nominees
- BNP thanks those who submitted nominees and speaks about the list of those nominated.
- b. Are there any gaps?
- The Committee wonders when they should decide?
 - A Committee member brings up that the names and themes of the groups continue to be in flux and that is somewhat confusing. They wonder if group members will be allowed to move around if groups morph after they are formed?
 - UBRI states that it is because of the interconnectedness of the buckets, and so flexibility is important until it gets fine-tuned. It is also stated that leadership we be extremely important in the success of the Working Groups, the REDC groups that did well had strong leadership.
 - A Committee member agrees, leadership needs to coalesce, the labels of each group keep changing and that makes focus difficult, in particular the Climate group.
 - UBRI suggests that each Working Group have a member from the Steering Committee, a member from the Local Government Council (LGC), a member from the Private Sector Council (PSC), a local legislator, and a member from a Community-Based Organization (CBO). Too much structure will create redundant efforts.



**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING # 11 - February 8, 2013, 9:00 – 11:00 AM
Empire State Development, 95 Perry St., Buffalo, NY**

- A Committee member states that it seems communication across groups will be very important.

c. Next steps

- GBNRTC mentions that invitations will be sent out after nominations, and first Working Team will meet in March. It is also noted that from the discussion, it does not seem ready to launch. Nominees must see the presentation and see the show so that they understand what their participation is about.
- Committee members discuss the time frame needed between notifying a nominee and having them attend a Working Group meeting.
- A suggestion is made that each group should have at least 20 nominees to get quality participation.
- A Committee member suggests that if the group needs more dimension, they can bring in a specialist for presentations without making them a group member.
- It is agreed that there should be one consolidated session first, so that everyone starts from the same place on the launch of the Working Groups.
-

6. Good of the Order

- The next Steering Committee meeting will vote on the nominees, meanwhile, Committee members are asked to review the nominee list.

7. Adjournment