



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING # 7 ~ October 10, 2012, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Niagara County Center for Economic Development, 6311 Inducon Corporate Drive, Sanborn, New York

In attendance: Ben Bidell (Niagara County Economic Development), Darren Kempner (NFTA), Bill Parke (OSP), Bob Shibley (UB), Hal Morse (GBNRTC), Bradshaw Hovey (UDP), Kelly Dixon (GBNRTC), Laura Smith (BNP), Brenda Stynes (UBRI), Bart Roberts (UBRI), Matt Hartrich (BNP), Derek Moody (BNP), Bradshaw Hovey (UDP), Frank Billittier (NYS DOT), Anthony Armstrong (LISC), Tim Horanburg (Niagara County Association of Supervisors), Jennifer Gregory (ESD), Jason Knight (Erie County DEP)

1. Welcome and Project State Update

- Steering Committee members were invited to re-introduce themselves.
- Local Initiatives Support Coalition (LISC) motioned that Duane Diggs, President of VOICE Buffalo, be added to the Steering Committee due to his smart growth work with VOICE, the fact that he sits on the Citizen Advisory Committee for the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA), and his extensive collaborative work between urban and suburban communities. Motion carries unanimously.

2. Communications Update

- Committee members mentioned the role of communications and outreach and how important it will be to have evidence and fact-based policy and advice.
- UB Regional Institute (UBRI) members gave a preview of the full website. Sustainability 101 section was discussed. That section will contain:
 - Data stories
 - Sustainability portraits
 - Case study modules which will be user generated content of sustainable projects around the region
- UBRI stated that the ideas brainstormed for the video will be good first candidates to be featured on the case study module. UBRI has already reached out to Steering Committee members who identified such projects. UBRI will follow up with an additional email to all Steering Committee members containing a form for sustainable projects they can send to their contacts to fill out and be added to the website.
- Urban Design Project members (UDP) explained that these sustainability portraits will grow in number throughout the project and will help ground the concept of “sustainability” with concrete examples.
- The importance for more projects, not less, was stated.
- UBRI quiz modules that will be included on the website to help understand the initiative and sustainability.



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- Web site will be placed in a staging environment to solicit feedback from Steering Committee members before going live.
- The interim site can be used for pointing people to what's going on with the project until the new website launches in November.
- The video was discussed, as well as some of the initiatives mentioned including: the Hamburg roundabouts, the Niagara Falls Brownfield Opportunity Area, People United for Sustainable Housing's (PUSH) NetZero House, Promiseland Community-Supported Agriculture and the downspout disconnection project in Hamlin Park.
- The addition of someone from the business world to the video was discussed. It was suggested that a representative of Health Now could speak on building their headquarters on a brownfield in downtown Buffalo.

3. Presentation and Outreach

- UBRI explained that an "on the road" presentation kit was available for members to use on the teamwork website. A sign in sheet is to be available at the presentation to collect people's names, email, zip, and organizations to better quantify public outreach and involvement. Presenters will be asked to email UBRI with a paragraph summary of their impressions and feedback they received from the audience. The sign-up sheets should have a flexible format and will be used to keep participants engaged in the process by sending follow-up correspondence.
- Upcoming presentations will be on the team work website's calendar.
- Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) members spoke about the presentation at the Brownfield conference – it was a very receptive audience primarily made up of elected officials. The presentation at Daemen College's Environmental Summit was successful as well, with roughly 100 people in attendance. It presented a good partnership building opportunity. Presentations were also given to Preservation Plus, which meet with a lot of students, and the Upstate American Planning Association (APA) conference.
- UBRI explained that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) representative from our region expressed their excitement about how well the group has been coordinating different planning initiatives and would like to share some of the group's cross-collaboration info with other regions.
- The economy of taking advantage of other's events to engage the broadest range of people was mentioned.
- UBRI mentioned a number of upcoming presentations/meetings including: Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) smart growth working group, GIS advisory group which is set to meet



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on October 22nd, Western New York Environmental Alliance (WNYEA) Congress in November, and Local Association of Governments in October.

- Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning (OSP) stated there would be an opportunity to disseminate One Regional Forward (1RF) info at the upcoming city-sponsored planning day.
- It was mentioned that the group should present to the NFTA board before the initiative is rolled out to the public.
- UBRI requested ideas for other organizations to reach out to before the public rollout in January. Interest was expressed in meeting with the newest nominated steering committee member Duane Diggs to learn how he may be able to help advise the committee on outreach opportunities.

4. Local Government Council and Private Sector Council Inaugural Meetings

- Buffalo Niagara Partnership (BNP) members explained the work the Partnership had done on the Private Sector Council (PSC). This Council will have overlap with their existing Development Advisory Council and will also include Executives from area Chambers of Commerce. The first PSC is scheduled to meet on November 14th at 8:00am at the offices of the BNP. The group consists of about 58 individuals.
- LISC recommended that Sarah Bishop from Buffalo First! be added to the PSC. The group concurs.
- The intent is to have several cross over meetings between the PSC and LGC to help find opportunities for collaboration. Even if an individual isn't on the council they will still be reached and have an opportunity for input through meetings.
- Additional representation for Niagara County was encouraged, and BNP asked members from Niagara County to forward suggestions to be added to the PSC.
- The LGC meeting is scheduled for November 13th at 8:00am with location TBD. This hopefully will include every county legislator and a representative from each municipality. Invitations via mail and email will go out on October 22nd. They will be signed and sent from the 1RF email. Follow ups on these invites from committee members' work emails are strongly suggested, to encourage people to attend.

5. Implementation Council Proposal

- Implementation Council's intent would embrace the idea that planning and action are circular, and would also be focused on the reflection of practice. Instead of emphasizing the "shovel in the ground" the Implementation Council would examine how knowledge is captured and carried forward. This would involve tool building like alternative scenario modeling. The Council would provide guidance through experience by bringing together key actors, subject matter experts, and



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1RF staff. Essentially a “think tank,” the Council would choose projects based on REDC and 1RF focus areas and those that subscribe to the “core, corridor, and systems” concept.

- Committee members expressed excitement at the prospects of a proactive approach to influence projects by helping to steer investment and foster a collaborative process.
- The inclusion of performance metrics would increase the success of the alternative scenario modeling.
- UBRI motioned that the Steering Committee accept the framework for the Implementation Council so they could flush it out further. Motion carries.

6. Good of the Order/Adjournment

- The meeting is adjourned