



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING # 12 - March 1, 2013, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Innovation Center, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, 640 Ellicott Street, Room 4A, 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), James Bragg (City of Niagara Falls), 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), Bradshaw Hovey (University at Buffalo Regional Institute), Mike Riegel (Belmont Housing Resources), Supervisor Ross Annable (Town of Hartland), Matt Hartrich (Buffalo Niagara Partnership), Jenny Laughlin (Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority)

1. Welcome & Introductions

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

2. One Region Forward Working Teams

- Hal Morse from GBNRTC opened discussion on this topic and asked the partners from UB Regional Institute to provide an update.

UBRI's update is as follows:

- Since last meeting, most nominees have been identified and most have been contacted about their potential participation. March 28th, tentative 1st meeting. 1st meeting would be orientation meeting and collectively introduce everyone to the project. Finalizing location details. A more refined overview of each of these groups missions and scopes were detailed.
- The Chairs, LGC and PSC representatives for each groups were detailed, and existing gaps were identified and discussed. Specifically, Food Access and Justice and Climate Change Action are missing Working Team Chairs.

Kelly Dixon from GBNRTC's update on Transportation and Mobility team:

- Approach for the Transportation and Mobility team will ensure connectivity between 1RF and BufNia Transportation 2050 plan. Great opportunity to link the two together, how we are going to be planning our infrastructure and what strategic developments we can implement in terms of walkable, livable areas.



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Other discussion on the agenda item:

- Bob Shibley, discussed how the Working Team content will be supported by subject matter research experts from UBRI and the School of Architecture and Planning. They will support the work with research.
- Anthony Armstrong, LISC asked if people will be allowed to self-select if they feel they are in the wrong group and asked for a clarification about the term “all infrastructure types” in the transportation team’s description.
- Kelly provided clarification that it is referring to all “transportation modes.”
- A broader discussion was had on how infrastructure in general plays into this plan, and it was determined that each of the groups will be focusing on infrastructure.
- It was also discussed the need for this planning effort to break down traditional silos and make the connections across each of the working teams.
- Darren Kempner: move to accept the nominees as they are.
- Hal: Second motion
- Hal: Move to accept nominees with exception to find SC leaders for groups that are mission one. Motion Accepted.

3. Preferred Sustainability Status (PSS)

- Darren: Because of this award, HUD will give extra “points” to certain grant applications, if they ask for acceptance from NFTA and meet requirements for sustainability and 1RF principles.
- First applications started coming in within the last few weeks.
- Refers to 2 handouts with 2 applications so the SC can see what the application looks like.
- Up for vote today as to whether or not these grant applications are acceptable. In the future, applications in the future will most likely be emailed to SC members for quick approval.
- Laura: Is it possible to get the grant amounts on the application? And also how many \$\$ they will bring to the region? Can we tell the applicants to place a 1RF link on their website to promote our initiative.
- Ben: Does PSS require each application be accepted by SC? It is most democratic way but is it necessary?
- Kelly: Sending out the emails will be a courtesy but do not want to bog down or bother SC members.
- Bob: One of the difficulties with the Framework was that it limits our authority. PSS gives us an edge, if someone applies but is not in compliance, it gives us a way to account for the returns we get.



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- Brenda: Can there be a “success story” component besides having the applicant spreading our name around.
- Laura: HUD has so much grant reporting so something can be done with that.
- Bradshaw: Story of “what they did” so we can continue to flesh out a cumulative practical definition of sustainability. Part of what we are doing is aimed at big policy, part is fostering a movement that has many participants and reporting that back to the region. Inviting them to share their story back with us.
- Mike Ball: Applications will take a while, we should let the applicants know we will be following up and asking how their process is going and if there is anything they would like to report.
- Tom: What if two applicants are seeking the same funding source?
- Hal: What next? If there is a metrics reporting request, who will collect info and measure progress.
- Darren: Final authority will rest with the NFTA, in that they will sign off on grant requests because they have that authority.
- Ben: Can we have an explanation about the goals of 1RF so SC knows how to relate and rate application to the goals of 1RF?
- Bill: We should emphasize if we are giving the 2 points and make a big deal they are on our team.
- Bob: Preamble: what we are looking for (what Ben asked for), some ability to give reporting.
Hal: Motion to give NFTA the ability to sign off on grant applications. Motion passes.

4. Economics of Sustainability Update

- Matt: Event, series of four annual. One larger smart growth session, 4 then are being dubbed technical sessions. Attempting to engage private sector who are traditionally harder to reach.
- SC members pointed to the success of a similar series in Rochester as a model.
- Breakdown: March 15th: urban centers/core revitalization. Developer from Asheville, NC gave presentation on the economic and tax benefits to high density. Also Mayor Kulpa, Trustee Duquin “Picture Main Street” initiative, walkability, re-do of zoning code, Howard Zemsky will talk about urban core development/placemaking and transit, speak to Larkinville. March 15th.
- Ben: Think the program sounds really great, excited to participate.
- Hal: These talks will help us quantify how to change the way we develop and how it impacts economic development and tax revenue.
- Bob: is there an agenda for the entire series?



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- Laura: Gave out topic areas for consideration 2 months ago. Topics are all around the built environment, still building the events and still building the topics. Didn't get any feedback on it so don't know how to take that.
- Bradshaw: Citizen planning school curriculum should be coordinated with the series.
- Ben: Didn't get a clear picture of the agenda series.
- Laura: Is there a similar series for Public Sector players? BNP would be willing to put it together, someone else may need to "host" it.
- It was discussed that we should involve our local government and private sector stakeholders in determining the type of events we should host.
- There was also agreement that we should look to bring together both of these stakeholder types at these events.
- Ben, Laura, Bart & Matt were tasked to discuss and plan for integrating these events into a broader conversation on community learning for the initiative.

5. One Year in Review Discussion *Who have we engaged, and what do we need to do moving forward?*

- Hal opened this agenda item by thanking everyone for one year of hard work and commitment to the One Region Forward effort.
- UBRI provided an overview on engagement to date, and opened it up for discussion about what it is we need to do better, adjust, fine-tune, etc.
- To a large extent, done largely what we've promised to do in terms of meeting the grant requirements, but is what we've designed sufficient to get us to a critical level of public support from stakeholders, etc.
- Bradshaw stated that going back to the application for this grant, it was driven by a desire to really do something that would make a difference, beyond where we got with the Regional Framework, basic assumption is that it had to have really broad shoulders for people's engagement. Influenced the way we designed the process.
- The design of the LGC and PSC, SC, wide and secure stance, good institutional reach.
- Community Congress was good way to reach out to the dense organizational infrastructure.
- Gotten off to a good start, initial Congress meetings had good reach, VnV also, growing number of people, good spread in terms of places throughout the counties and organizations.
- Very pleased with the website, will get richer and deeper as we go along, making inroads with social media. Working teams appear to be a really good mix.
- Good opportunity to think about what other types of tactics we can employ to have broad-based collaboration.



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- What else do we need to do? This seems like a “success,” but are we doing anything? Could say “10,000 reached” and still not matter.
- Bradshaw: Some participation is extremely underrepresented: Minorities, Suburban Areas, etc. We need to get these groups involved.
- Anthony: Citizen planning participation would be a great opportunity.
- Bradshaw, Anthony and Linda Schneekloth were tasked with meeting to drill down on ways to better engage diverse citizens.
- Tom: Website is great. Product is difficult to understand and explain. Excited about the working group phase and scenario planning.
- What are citizens being asked to engage in?
- Bob: If not a new plan, at least a significant update to the Framework, four categories of project, get last check when we are done. Web, tools, plan, education.
- Kelly: Education, bringing back the implications to our tax base and incomes as part of the education, bringing awareness up so that people do care about what we are doing.
- Bob: We are not addressing every problem, i.e. poverty. But we are connected to it through other working teams. A particular issue may not be explicitly named but is still linked into the broader sustainability goal.
- Anthony: Defining what sustainability is NOT may be a good way to get our message across.
- Bob: Few other first year experience critiques:
 - How do we “activate” PSC and LGC? Get more invested participation
 - Working Teams should have Two layers: each one (PSC and LGC) is in each work group, with a SC member making the push.
 - There should be someone who views themselves as leader of PSC and LGC as well as leader of each working group. Part of the governance of a council or team and so part of the governance of the SC.
 - Where are the big sustainability CBOs and how are they part of the process? WNYEA is one, RiverKeeper. They do not feel like they are a large enough part of the process.
- Anthony abstains from discussion on WNYEA as he is on the board.
- Darren: Leadership on Council and Workgroups will really help. CBOs need to be included.
- Ben: What about a “Sustainability Pledge?”
- Bart: It was discussed as part of the plan implementation. It is difficult now, because they may not have a clear idea of what we are doing.



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- Bradshaw: There is an example from Chicago, where individuals and organizations signed on as partners, but not sure how that was framed
- Hal: Action item: SC should have members of WNYEA and RiverKeeper
- Motion: Include representatives from WNYEA and RiverKeeper on the SC. Electronic ballot within two weeks to make sure they are represented in time for the WT. Passes. Anthony abstained.
- Laura: Reason we are doing this is because these groups are very passive right now, a chair/leader would provide energy and be proactive, to get these groups engaged.
- Hal: Motion to create Chair of LGC and PSC and have them be represented on the SC, with an electronic vote within 2 weeks.
- Motion passes.

6. Good of the Order

- Congrats on one year of hard work

7. Adjournment