The time is now for Buffalo Niagara.

We’re working together to build a more sustainable region. Our many efforts to grow our economy and build livable communities are coming into alignment. We have an opportunity to carry this momentum toward a prosperous future and move the region forward.

Welcome and thank you for participating in the Housing and Neighborhoods Team

Your participation will help us build the guiding roadmap of this broad-based, collaborative effort to promote more sustainable forms of development in Erie and Niagara counties.

Supported by a multi-year grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of the federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities, One Region Forward will develop a regional plan that builds on the work of the Erie-Niagara Framework for Regional Growth and the WNY Regional Economic Development Plan A Strategy for Prosperity.

This plan will make our region more competitive by giving us priority status for Federal funding opportunities today and into the future. More importantly, it will allow us to come together to chart a path for a more sustainable future and solve the problems we collectively face, but cannot effectively tackle individually.

But One Region Forward is more than a plan. It will work to promote strong coordination among regional leaders, create a robust community engagement and learning program around moving sustainability to action, develop tools to promote effective implementation, and construct clear measures of our ongoing progress.

You and your fellow Working Team Members and Working Team Contributors will play a leading role in crafting the nuts and bolts of our guiding planning documents. We thank you again and look forward to your continued involvement as we move One Region Forward together.

Sincerely,

Hal Morse
Executive Director
Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council
This group will work to create a sustainable regional approach to housing development within the context of accessible, complete neighborhoods. To this end, the working team will set goals for this overarching strategy and will develop specific implementation steps that can be adopted by various stakeholders (from public, private, nonprofit sectors) and across the various types of communities in our region (urban, suburban, rural, etc.).

Over the course of six meetings during the remainder of 2013, the working teams will be asked to help us with the following tasks:

1. **Establishing Goals**
   - Meet goals we set, what are the broad strategic initiatives we can take to achieve them? Starting with our May meetings, we will ask working teams to brainstorm these strategic approaches at a conceptual level – understanding that some participants will want to jump ahead to concrete action steps while others will want to continue to think at the broader level. Working Team chairs and staff support will work to sort it all out and represent the discussion to the members as discrete strategies for action.

2. **Frame Strategies**
   - Focused on the goals and strategies, and starting with the June meetings, Working Team members will be asked to identify specific policies, programs, or projects to implement the strategies and achieve the goals. This will give members a chance to drill down, not only to specifics of what needs to be done, but also to who will do what and where the resources will come from.

3. **Identify Actions**
   - Framed by the goals and strategies, and starting with the June meetings, Working Team members will be asked to identify specific policies, programs, or projects to implement the strategies and achieve the goals. This will give members a chance to drill down, not only to specifics of what needs to be done, but also to who will do what and where the resources will come from.

4. **Construct Indicators**
   - Framed by the goals and strategies, and starting with the June meetings, Working Team members will be asked to identify specific policies, programs, or projects to implement the strategies and achieve the goals. This will give members a chance to drill down, not only to specifics of what needs to be done, but also to who will do what and where the resources will come from.

**1 Establishing Goals**

- **June meetings:**
  - Working Team members will be asked to advise staff on the construction of performance indicators. This will give members a chance to drill down, not only to specifics of what needs to be done, but also to who will do what and where the resources will come from.

**2 Frame Strategies**

- **Summer 2013:**
  - Council and Community Congress meetings

**3 Identify Actions**

- **Fall 2013:**
  - Council and Community Congress meetings

**4 Construct Indicators**

- **Early 2014:**
  - Staff will refine indicators and perform baseline measurements over summer and fall, updating Working Teams as they go. Working Team members who want to play a more active role in indicator development can help through our online Teamwork site.

**5 Review and Refine**

- **Spring 2014:**
  - DRAFT plan

**6 Review and Refine**

- **Summer 2014:**
  - DRAFT plan

**Review and Refine**

A strategy document for pursuing a sustainable approach to housing for our region.

A "Fair Housing Equity Assessment" that looks at disparities in housing opportunities at a regional level.

Capacity building tools and educational modules that can help regional leaders advance sustainability.
Get Started as a Working Team Member or Contributor

Visit us online at oneregionforward.org to:

**Recruit Working Team Contributors**
Your friends and colleagues can feed into the work of our Teams by contributing comments and suggestions to this process online. As Working Team Members and Contributors, their ideas and input can feed directly into the nuts and bolts planning occurring through our One Region Forward Working Team planning process.

**Provide Feedback on our Regional Vision and Values**
If you did not attend one of our Community Congress meetings in early 2013, we ask you as Working Team members to check the Regional Vision & Values Feedback Tool to make your voice heard. This online conversation will be available until May 31, 2013.

**Bring One Region Forward to your Community**
We want to hear from citizens and organizations across Erie and Niagara County to guide the vision and participate in the development of the plan. If you have an organization or group in your community you would like us to give a presentation to, let us know and we will arrange for a member of the One Region Forward project team to come out to your community.

**Feature your work in Sustainability on our website**
If you’re involved in a project or a program that you believe helps define what sustainability means for the future for our region, tell us about it and we will feature it on our website’s interactive map “Sustainability in Action.”

**Help us promote One Region Forward online**
Sharing One Region Forward on your website is an easy and effective way to show your support and involvement with the initiative. Let us know if you are interested and we will be happy to assist you with sharing One Region Forward on your organization, business, or personal website.

**Sign up for eNews and join our online community**
We’re on Facebook, Twitter and Google+. Follow us on social media, or even better, sign up to receive our newsletter and bulletins that will chart the progress of our work, report on major findings, and let you know the dates of upcoming events.

To stay up to date on materials from the Working Team Meetings, please visit us at http://oneregionforward.org/data-tools/resources-documents/

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:
- **Bart Roberts** at the UB Regional Institute/Urban Design Project at bjr8@buffalo.edu
- **Teresa Bosch de Celis** at the UB Regional Institute / Urban Design Project at tboschde@buffalo.edu