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 Transportation and Mobility 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

One Region Forward is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities. The effort is guided by a broad-based consortium of public, private and nonprofit sector organizations including: Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC), Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA), New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT), Erie County, Niagara County, City of Buffalo, City of Niagara Falls, Association of Erie County Governments, Niagara County Supervisors Association, University at Buffalo Regional Institute and Urban Design Project (UBRI/UDP), Daemen College Center for Sustainable Communities and Civic Engagement (CSCCE), VOICE Buffalo, Local Initiatives Support Corporation Buffalo (LISC), Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, Western New York Environmental Alliance, The John R. Oishei Foundation, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (BNMC), Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc. (Belmont), Buffalo Niagara Partnership (BNP), Empire State Development, Niagara County Department of Social Services, and Niagara Falls Housing Authority.
The Transportation and Mobility Working Team will work to identify core strategies and solutions to address the long term efficiency and effectiveness of our region’s transportation system. Emphasis will be placed on creating strategies to maintain existing infrastructure of all modes and to identify and prioritize necessary investments in transit and other modes to achieve strategic enhancements and modernization of the transportation system. The work of this team will be strongly coordinated with the housing and land use teams, as well as the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council’s Buffalo Niagara 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan to ensure that transportation investments encourage choices that result in livable, walkable, transit-supportive communities.

**OVERALL PROCESS**

**TEAM** where we want to go

Meetings.

May final draft goals by our Working Teams will agree on as appropriate. We hope to jump ahead to concrete ideas for action.

Recent and past plans of regional issues, a review of ongoing research on strategies and solutions to address the

Regional plans of draft goals synthesized team will consider a series, each

Starting in April

suggest what our goals might be. **Starting in April**, each team will consider a series of draft goals synthesized from ongoing research on regional issues, a review of recent and past plans of regional scope, and citizen feedback to statements of “vision and values” at the Winter 2013 "Congress" meetings. Working Teams will confirm, revise, amend, or expand these goals as appropriate. We hope Working Teams will agree on final draft goals by our May meetings.

**ESTABLISHING GOALS** guide where we want to go

We aren’t starting from scratch. We have research, a history of planning, and recent participation that suggest what our goals might be. **Starting in April**, each team will consider a series of draft goals synthesized from ongoing research on regional issues, a review of recent and past plans of regional scope, and citizen feedback to statements of “vision and values” at the Winter 2013 "Congress" meetings. Working Teams will confirm, revise, amend, or expand these goals as appropriate. We hope Working Teams will agree on final draft goals by our May meetings.

**FRAME STRATEGIES** for action

Given the 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.

**IDENTIFY ACTIONS** and who will act

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.

**CONSTRUCT INDICATORS** to measure progress

Starting in June and continuing into the fall, Working Team members will be asked to advise staff on the construction of performance indicators. This work will borrow from indicators established during the NYSERDA-funded WNY Sustainability Plan and be based on best practices research and available data. 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.

**REVIEW AND REFINE** to prepare for public meetings/feedback

At two more meetings in early 2014 the working teams will consider feedback from the fall meetings and refine all of the draft plan material.

**ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY**

A collaborative, community driven process to develop a unified vision.

**Working Team Members**

Community Congress

Local Gov’t Council

Private Sector Council

**Sustainable Region**

Our Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

Our region’s long range transportation plan – Buffalo Niagara 2050

Capacity building tools and educational modules that can empower civic leaders and citizens to 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.

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