towards a more sustainable Buffalo Niagara

A Plan to Move One Region Forward
First Rough Draft Review
March 5, 2014
What we are doing today...

1. Welcome, Introductions and Review
2. Project-wide update
3. Working Team Progress Report, Discussion and Feedback
4. Open House
5. Next Steps & Update
What we’ve heard from the community

We Should Grow Where We’ve Already Grown

**Focus development and reinvestment where infrastructure exists**

Participants placed 95% of new jobs & 87% of new homes in the developed areas (brown areas on map).

**Revitalize neighborhoods in decline**

Participants placed “Traditional Neighborhood” chips in areas to revitalize homes and businesses in these places.

**Bring jobs back to large former industrial sites**

Many participants placed “Office Industrial” chips on former brownfields in...

- Niagara Falls
- Tonawandas
- Buffalo
- Lackawanna

[Map showing locations and distribution of development and revitalization efforts]
We Should Build Walkable, Livable Communities and Preserve Those that Are Vibrant and Working

Preserve the character of villages with strong Main Streets

Invest to make strong village centers throughout the region

Promote a transportation system sensitive to pedestrians and bicyclists

What we’ve heard from the community

Village Centers

Most Popular Place Type!

Participants placed 25% of new homes & 14% of new jobs in this place type

Communities participants chose include:

- Youngstown
- Lewiston
- Williamsville
- East Aurora
- Orchard Park
- Hamburg
- and others...

At least 8 maps used bicycle-pedestrian infrastructure as a guiding principle for future development
We Should Connect Our Places by Expanding and Diversifying Our Transportation Options

- Make and improve transit connections across the region.
  - 53 out of 57 maps noted that making and improving transit connections so that people are able to get around without a car was important to them.

- Highway investment should only focus on alleviating major bottlenecks.
  - 41 out of 57 maps of all maps added no highways and roads at all.

- Leverage trails to connect parks, waterfront areas, rural communities and natural assets.
  - Citizens added an average of 55 miles of multi-use, recreational trails per map to connect waterfronts, parks and other natural assets to rural communities.
We Should Protect Farm Land, Parks and Natural Areas to Ensure a Good Quality of Life

*Conserve open space and land*

- 93% of maps drew areas where they do not want to see future development.

*Preserve and protect farmland*

- 40 maps wrote about the need to protect farmland.

- Others emphasized a priority to promote agriculture including urban agriculture and improve access to locally-sourced food.

*Make waterfront access and development a priority*

- Half of maps put recreational trails along the Erie and Ontario lakefronts.

- 19 maps had waterfronts as a guiding principle for future.
Begin the survey by answering this question:

Is Buffalo Niagara moving in the right direction?

A = Yes
B = No
C = Other

Text the letter of your answer to:

716-791-5140

You’ll get 3-5 follow-up questions.

New follow-up questions each month!
Don’t miss the chance to turn your ideas into action through One Region Forward’s Citizen Planning School!

PLAN A CHANGE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Get the know-how to address change head-on and create a vision for your community’s future

Turn your ideas into action to improve your community
Fair Housing Equity Assessment

* a comprehensive examination of the current state of racial and ethnic inequality within the region.*

- **Understand** the historical, current and future context for segregation and discrimination, equity and opportunity in the region and the data and evidence that demonstrates those dynamics.

- **Engage** regional leaders and stakeholders on findings and implications of analysis.

- **Integrate** knowledge developed through the Regional FHEA exercise into the strategy development process (e.g., priority setting and decision making).
Fair Housing Equity Assessment

*a comprehensive examination of the current state of racial and ethnic inequality within the region.*

- A host of **systemic factors** have led to the extreme geographic segregation and racial and ethnic disparities in educational attainment, wealth, and quality-of-life throughout the region.

- These factors have included local, state and federal policy and investment decisions, discriminatory practices within the private sector and individual actions and biases.
Some of these policies have been outlawed or overturned, but there is not a systemic response to overcoming generations of inequality.

The decision-making framework within the region needs to be more intentionally inclusive and reflective of the pervasive challenges of geographic, racial and ethnic disparities.
A Working Definition of Equity

Buffalo Niagara will be an equitable community when:

all people – regardless of how they look, who they know or who they love, what language they speak, what they believe, whatever their level of means or ability, when or where they were born, where they live, where they go to school or why or how long they’ve called this place home – have the opportunity, resources and tools needed to achieve their potential, to lead healthy and fulfilling lives with rewarding work, and to access, experience, and participate in all our region has to offer while ensuring others – now and in future generations – can do the same.
A first review of a first draft

- Are the shape and direction right?
- Are there some glaring omissions?
- Is there a major idea that needs clarification?
- Is there something that doesn’t belong?
- What are your “big picture” concerns?

There will be lots of time later to fine tune the details. We don’t need to get down into the weeds right now.
Our approach today...

- We’ll present the whole draft straight through
- Then we’ll go back through section by section
- We’ll take your temperature by “clicker”
- We’ll talk about your reactions
- And capture your ideas and suggestions

You’re not giving your approval. You’re giving an initial impression to guide the continuing work.
There are a lot of details to fill in

- We are working on a plan that will make the case and back it up with strong data.
- We want a plan that brings forward precedents and best practices from here and around the nation.
- We are creating a plan that will specify who does what, when and where – is the money.

We’ll get there. But right now what we have is the outline of a plan, the contents, and the shape of the argument. Have we got that right?
We have kept all the pieces...

- The HUD livability principles
- Community-tested vision and values
- Working team goals
- Strategies and actions

But we are working to wrap it all into a single, compelling story about how we achieve greater sustainability as a region.
One thing we have added:

A work ethic for One Region Forward

- **Collaboration** – not a buzzword; a modus operandi
- **Participation** – bedrock of support for the plan.
- **Learning** – essential for doing things a different way.
- **Informed decision-making** – dealing with reality.
- **Stewardship** – for us and the next generations.
- **Community wealth** – assets that stay here.
- **Full cost accounting** – no such thing as an externality.
- **Equity** – it’s in everyone’s interest.
The big pieces:

Promote a more compact pattern of development for economy, mobility, quality of place, energy, food, environment.

Strategically invest and develop our transportation system to align with land use, save energy, and make everyone mobile.

Use less energy and immediately transition to renewable energy, get off carbon, and prepare for climate change.

Foster neighborhoods that are great places to live and promote housing choices for everyone.

Improve health, economy, security through the food system, forging links between farms and tables.

Implement, monitor and revise the plan through a collaborative network process.
Promote a more compact pattern of development, using land more wisely to reduce the costs of transportation and other infrastructure services, conserve energy, promote mobility, encourage mixed-use development, foster the redevelopment of great neighborhoods, protect our water and watersheds, save natural areas and farmland, grow jobs and prepare for the negative impacts of climate change.
1. Define a land use pattern to achieve multiple goals.
2. Manage the cost of public services.
3. Redesign revenue-raising structures to promote land use goals.
4. Establish mechanisms to manage brownfields and declining neighborhoods.
5. Promote a more compact pattern of development
6. Protect and restore natural places and farmland.
7. Protect and restore water quality and quantity.
Define a land use pattern to achieve multiple goals.

- Concentrate most development within the existing urbanized area.
- Focus development in existing urban centers and villages.
- Redevelop brownfields for job creation.
- Connect land use to transportation, especially public transit.
- Protect farmland, watersheds and natural areas.
Manage the cost of public services.

- Implement the Erie Niagara Regional Framework for Growth recommendation to **prevent the extension of water and sewer districts** and service.

- Pursue **shared service agreements, public-private partnerships and consolidations** in the provision of water, sewer, police, fire, parks, highway maintenance and other services.

- **Address education needs regionally** to manage costs and improve performance.
Redesign revenue-raising structures to promote land use goals.

- Review local revenue-raising structures toward the design of fundamental reforms.
- Consider tax increment financing as a means to support targeted redevelopment efforts.
- Target IDA incentives to “smart growth” projects.
Establish mechanisms to manage brownfields and declining neighborhoods.

- Strengthen the land bank.
- Redouble brownfields efforts.
- Continue to promote “shovel ready sites.”
- Expand use of historic preservation tax credits.
- Create a regional “Main Street” organization.
Promote a more compact pattern of development.

- Urge municipalities to revise zoning codes.
- Promote form-based codes.
- Locate new public facilities strategically.
Protect and restore natural places and farmland.

- Complete the inventory of natural places and farmland.
- Quantify the economic impact of parks and open spaces.
- Update or create local open space and farmland protection plans.
- Preserve land through a variety of voluntary mechanisms.
Protect and restore water quality and quantity.

- Remedy Combined Sewer Overflows.
- Address Federal Areas of Concern.
- Promote green infrastructure development and green development practices.
- Plan with the watershed and water use in mind and review land use practices for water impacts.
Strategically invest and develop our transportation system so that it provides convenient and efficient access to the places people need to go by expanding choices for travel and aligning transportation infrastructure and service with land use to enhance mobility for workers, students, children, seniors, the disabled – everyone.
1. Develop a regional “hub and corridor” transportation system in which road network, transit system and land use are closely aligned.

2. Create innovative financing mechanisms to raise the revenue we need to keep up with the transportation needs of a modern society and economy.

3. Create a Buffalo Niagara International Trade Gateway to build our logistics economy and support growth in manufacturing.
Develop a regional “hub and corridor” transportation system.

- Promote **high quality transit** thru maintenance and modernization to provide reliable service and grow ridership and revenue.

- Proactively **develop and promote station area planning and land use policies** that lead to more TOD and **Joint development** opportunities.

- Develop **complete streets** to promote alternative modes of travel – walking, cycling, transit, etc.

*(MORE ON THIS ON THE NEXT SLIDE)*
Develop a regional “hub and corridor” transportation system (continued).

- Conduct **corridor makeovers to transform suburban districts** from single-use, single-access areas to walkable, mixed use districts.

- Develop the **infrastructure necessary to promote transportation by bicycle** – bike lanes, bike racks and more.

- Establish **transportation management associations** to help districts manage transportation demand and provide alternative ways to commute.
Create innovative financing mechanisms to keep up with the transportation needs of a modern society and economy.

- Advocate for **highway trust fund reform** for increases in revenue for transportation and to **carve out a larger proportion of revenue for transit, cycling, and redesign of transportation corridors**.

- Advocate for **increased state investment** in transit and roads.

- Examine **public private partnerships** which are showing promise in **reducing costs and shortening the duration of project development and construction**.

- Examine **options for regional financing** in the absence of adequate state or federal support.
Create a Buffalo Niagara International Trade Gateway to build our logistics economy and support growth in manufacturing.

- Secure funding to establish an International Trade Gateway Organization as the dedicated organization needed to develop the trade gateway concept.

- Build the physical infrastructure for trade including international crossings, airports, railway bridges and more.

- Advance key policy initiatives for border crossing procedures, workforce “pipeline” for logistics specialists, and overall federal funding for transportation infrastructure.

- Research key issues in logistics such as rail use, bottlenecks, warehousing, workforce needs, market demand.
Use less energy and immediately transition to renewable energy to power our economy while transitioning from dependence on fossil fuels to reduce our carbon footprint. Prepare for climate change that will increasingly impact our region.
Use **less energy** and immediately transition to renewable energy, get off carbon, and prepare for climate change

1. Achieve greater energy efficiency and conservation in our buildings and transportation systems
2. Promote renewable energy production through policy changes, market innovation, capital investments.
3. Make renewable energy development an economic development priority.
4. Phase-out fossil fuels as rapidly as possible.
5. Begin preparing now for climate change impacts and anticipate adaptive responses.
Achieve greater energy efficiency and conservation in our buildings and transportation systems

- Mount a broad-based program to provide energy audits, energy efficient technology and weatherization for more than 400,000 homes.

- Encourage climate action planning by local governments, major institutions, and companies.

- Expand the electric vehicle recharging infrastructure, working with governments, major institutions, and companies.

(MORE ON THIS ON THE NEXT SLIDE)
Achieve greater energy efficiency and conservation in our buildings and transportation systems (Continued).

- Modernize building codes to meet efficiency standards and incorporate renewables.
- Embed conservation and green energy requirements in public funding review processes.
Promote renewable energy production through policy changes, market innovation, capital investments

- Improve the regional power infrastructure for better distribution and storage.

- Move all municipal and public buildings onto renewable energy

- Extend and mandate the NYS Renewable Portfolio Standard.

- Support new pricing mechanisms for sale of power from distributed renewable generators to grid operators.

(MORE ON THIS ON THE NEXT SLIDE)
Promote renewable energy production through policy changes, market innovation, capital investments (Continued).

- Advocate for on bill financing and PACE.
- Expand NYSERDA programs to fund solar energy projects and same for wind.
- Streamline permitting for wind, solar, and other renewable.
- Expand collaboration between NYPA and Ontario Power
Make renewable energy development an economic development priority.

- Train workers for clean energy jobs in the manufacture, installation, maintenance of renewable energy and efficiency technology.
- Give renewable energy projects priority in CFA funding at REDC
- Expand education and training for carbon accounting like LEED and green building certificates

(MORE ON THIS ON THE NEXT SLIDE)
Make renewable energy development an economic development priority. (Continued)

- Promote the development of renewable energy manufacturing for renewables
- Develop distributive energy systems and coordinate with energy cooperatives
- Create a green energy sector in Buffalo tapping university research and development resources
Phase-out of fossil fuels as rapidly as possible.

- Begin planning now to decommission coal, gas, and nuclear powered electricity generation stations
- Oppose extraction methods that threaten aquifers and pose other environmental threats
- Advocate for regulation or pricing of carbon emissions to discourage fossil fuel use.
Begin preparing now for climate change impacts and anticipate adaptive responses.

- Counties and municipalities should develop community risk assessments.
- Review, expand and maintain disaster and emergency preparedness plans and programs.
- Review and revise land use policies to address foreseeable climate impacts.
- Update flood maps and use the 500-year flood plane for site planning review.
Foster neighborhoods that are great places to live and provide housing choices for a changing population – choices that are affordable, accessible, well-served, energy efficient, and suited to the needs of a diversity of residents throughout the lifespan.
Foster neighborhoods that are great places to live and promote housing choices

1. Develop the data and analytical resources for informed decision-making for housing and neighborhoods.

2. Anticipate, accommodate and embrace demographic shifts in housing development and neighborhood revitalization through design, demonstration projects, and regulatory reform.

(MORE ON THIS ON THE NEXT SLIDE)
Foster neighborhoods that are great places to live and promote housing choices (Continued).

1. Pursue neighborhood-specific asset-based strategies for redevelopment to build on strong neighborhoods, leverage existing assets, engage residents and help housing markets work again.

2. Improve the housing support delivery system to achieve greater productivity while retaining its responsiveness to local conditions and contexts.
Develop the data and analytical resources for informed decision-making for housing and neighborhoods.

- Develop a Regional Property Information System including open source data on housing, land, neighborhoods and municipalities to support ongoing planning and policy-making around housing and neighborhoods.

- Conduct a current analysis of housing supply and demand as a starting point for discussion of planning and development strategies for neighborhoods.
Anticipate, accommodate and embrace demographic shifts in housing development and neighborhood revitalization.

- Develop a housing toolbox for municipalities, developers, non-profits and residents to design and produce sustainable housing types and neighborhoods.

- Deploy housing models to meet the changing needs and preferences of residents and prove new concepts in the marketplace, and coordinate strategies to create complete communities.

- Relieve regulatory roadblocks to housing innovation through zoning adjustments and code changes.
Pursue neighborhood-specific asset-based strategies for redevelopment.

- Emphasize community-based planning to maximize participation, leverage diffuse resources and focus on quality of life improvements.
- Focus public investments in neighborhoods with strategic assets and coordinate policy and capital investments with local plans.
- Identify and recruit demographic groups to push revitalization in specified neighborhoods.
- Design alternative long-term strategies for areas where disinvestment has few assets, anchors and actors needed to power successful neighborhood revitalization.
Improve the housing support delivery system to achieve greater productivity while retaining its responsiveness to local conditions and contexts.

- Reconsider the scope and scale of the system to increase region-wide capacity and share expertise across the system while remaining responsive to local constituencies.

- Develop better opportunities, supports and protections for renters and home buyers, particularly from traditionally vulnerable groups.

(MORE ON THIS ON THE NEXT SLIDE)
Improve the housing support delivery system to achieve greater productivity while retaining its responsiveness to local conditions and contexts. (Continued)

- Cultivate a positive image of housing aid to enhance community support and improve participation in programming.

- Improve the code enforcement system and link it to education and support programs.
Improve the health and security of our population and our economy by developing our local food supply, protecting the land where food is grown, strengthening farm economies, improving the links between farms and family tables, and promoting a culture of healthier eating.
1. Make the region’s food system a policy priority.
2. Improve access to healthy food to residents who lack transportation, proximity to stores, or income.
3. Promote urban farming and community gardens.
4. Ensure a reliable supply of labor for the food system.
5. Strengthen regional farm to table links.
6. Preserve agricultural land
7. Promote sustainable agriculture methods
8. Promote a culture of healthier eating

Improve health, economy, security through the food system, forging links between farms and tables.
Make the region’s food system a Buffalo Niagara policy priority.

- Create Niagara County Food Policy Council to match the recently created body in Erie County.
- Establish a regional food policy board to coordinate planning for food throughout Western New York.
- Emphasize food system projects in the Consolidated Funding Application.
- Increase awareness about food system issues across the board.
Improve access to healthy food to residents disadvantaged by lack of transportation, proximity to stores, or lack of income.

- Develop and implement a Healthy Corner Store program.
- Encourage the use of mobile food trucks to deliver healthy, locally-produced foods.
- Improve transportation access to food with improved transit, van or taxi supports.
- Support and enhance public food assistance – access to SNAP and “double up” programs.
Promote urban farming and community gardens.

- Provide security of tenure to farmers and gardeners with long-term leases.
- Facilitate access to land for urban agriculture with data, testing, remediation.
Ensure a reliable supply of labor for food production and processing.

- Promote workforce development in all food systems sectors and create fare-wage food jobs.
- Create pathways to legal residence for immigrant agricultural workers.
- Address issues in the federal farm-worker fair wage act that impact labor availability.
Strengthen regional farm to table links.

- Prioritize New York State goods in State purchasing to build demand for local food.
- Make CSAs more affordable and accessible to low income residents.
- Create a brand for specialty products from each County to improve marketing.
- Promote links between local farmers and ethnic food markets.
- Create a regional “food hub” to help farmers share resources and aggregate products for more efficient sale to the market.
Preserve agricultural land.

- Identify farmable soils.
- Protect valuable farmland through purchase and transfer of development rights programs.
- Offer low-cost retirement planning services to farmers to keep farmland in farming.
Promote sustainable agricultural methods to use less water, energy, pesticides, and protect natural resources.

- Use less water through metering and rainwater harvesting.
- Protect streams and watersheds.
- Facilitate Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification for local farmers
- Prepare for climate change through crop planning, diversification.
Promote a culture of healthier eating.

- Transform the food environment in K-12 schools.
- Increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables.
- Encourage breast-feeding for the youngest members of the region’s population.
Ideas that cut across all the work

Establish the structure and process to adopt, implement, monitor, and revise the plan as we go forward, relying on a model of network collaboration, shared accountability and mutual problem-solving and supported by tools for broad communication, informed decision-making, and continuous community-wide learning.
Formalize the Buffalo Niagara Regional Planning Network

- An extension of One Region Forward’s broad-based stakeholder steering committee
- A voluntary association of local governments, state and regional agencies, community based organizations, advocacy groups, and anchor institutions
- Committed to share information, solve problems, hold one another accountable, monitor the results and otherwise “work the plan.”
- Participants retain their autonomy but agree to seek the common interest.
Supporting the regional planning network.

- Neutral convener and facilitator of the proceedings of the network.
- Regional public data gathering, indicator analysis and maintenance, capacity linking on existing resources and building on them.
- Function to provide best practices information and technical assistance.
- Conduct and promote programs of public education on sustainability, including managing website and social media.
1. Define a land use pattern to achieve multiple goals.
2. Manage the cost of public services.
3. Redesign revenue-raising structures to promote land use goals.
4. Establish mechanisms to manage brownfields and declining neighborhoods.
5. Promote a more compact pattern of development
6. Protect and restore natural places and farmland.
7. Protect and restore water quality and quantity.
The outline for land use and development is:

1. Complete and on target
2. Okay depending on the details
3. Missing some crucial content
4. Includes some things that don’t belong
5. Missing things/ wrong things
6. Other comment
1. Develop a regional “hub and corridor” transportation system in which road network, transit system and land use are closely aligned.

2. Create innovative financing mechanisms to raise the revenue we need to keep up with the transportation needs of a modern society and economy.

3. Create a Buffalo Niagara International Trade Gateway to build our logistics economy and support growth in manufacturing.
The outline for transportation and mobility is:

1. Complete and on target
2. Okay depending on the details
3. Missing some crucial content
4. Includes some things that don’t belong
5. Missing things/ wrong things
6. Other comment
Use less energy and immediately transition to renewable energy, get off carbon, and prepare for climate change

1. Achieve greater energy efficiency and conservation in our buildings and transportation systems
2. Promote renewable energy production through policy changes, market innovation, capital investments.
3. Make renewable energy development an economic development priority.
4. Phase-out fossil fuels as rapidly as possible.
5. Begin preparing now for climate change impacts and anticipate adaptive responses.
The outline for Climate Change is:

1. Complete and on target
2. Ok depending on the details
3. Missing some crucial material
4. Includes some things that don’t belong
5. Missing things/ wrong things
6. Other comment
Foster neighborhoods that are great places to live and promote housing choices for everyone

1. Develop the **data and analytical resources** for informed decision-making for housing and neighborhoods.

2. Anticipate, accommodate and **embrace demographic shifts in housing development and neighborhood revitalization** through design, demonstration projects, and regulatory reform.

3. Pursue **neighborhood-specific asset-based strategies** for redevelopment to build on strong neighborhoods, leverage existing assets, engage residents and help housing markets work again.

4. Improve the **housing support delivery system** to achieve **greater productivity** while retaining its responsiveness to local conditions and contexts.
The outline for Housing and Neighborhoods is:

1. Complete and on target
2. Okay depending on the details
3. Missing some crucial content
4. Includes some things that don’t belong
5. Missing things/ wrong things
6. Needs to be rethought from the start
7. Other comment

![Bar chart showing percentages of comments]

- Complete and on target: 53%
- Okay depending on the details: 37%
- Missing some crucial content: 5%
- Includes some things that don’t belong: 0%
- Missing things/ wrong things: 3%
- Needs to be rethought from the start: 3%
- Other comment: 0%
1. Make the region’s **food system** a policy priority.
2. **Improve access to healthy food** to residents who lack transportation, proximity to stores, or income.
3. **Promote urban farming** and community gardens.
4. Ensure a **reliable supply of labor** for the food system.
5. Strengthen regional **farm to table links**.
6. Preserve **agricultural land**
7. **Promote sustainable agriculture** methods
8. Promote a **culture of healthier eating**
The outline for Food Access and Justice is:

1. Complete and on target
2. Okay depending on the details
3. Missing some crucial content
4. Includes some things that don’t belong
5. Missing things/ wrong things
6. Needs to be rethought from the start
7. Other comment
Ideas that cut across all the work

Establish the structure and process to adopt, implement, monitor, and revise the plan as we go forward, relying on a model of network collaboration, shared accountability and mutual problem-solving and supported by tools for broad communication, informed decision-making, and continuous community-wide learning.
The general direction for implementation is:

1. Complete and on target
2. Okay depending on the details
3. Missing some crucial content
4. Includes some things that don’t belong
5. Missing things/ wrong things
6. Other comment

19% 17% 0% 6% 0%
TELL US MORE WITH YOUR DOTS...

- In your packet, you have **10 dots and post-it notes**
- Use your **stickers to emphasize your support for a strategy outside your working team**
- If you would like to **object to content from another working team**, draw an “x” on your **sticker** and place it on the corresponding **poster**
- If you have **questions**, ask staff