



In attendance: Bart Roberts (UBRI), Kelly Dixon (GBNRTC), Darren Kemper (NFTA), Bill Parke (City of Buffalo), Bob Shibley (UB), Tom Dearing (ECDEP), Hal Morse (GBNRTC), Ben Bidell (Niagara County), Laura Smith (Buffalo Niagara Partnership), Ross Annable (Town of Hartland), Jen Gregory (Empire State Development), James Bragg (City of Niagara Falls), Brenda Stynes (UBRI), Bradshaw Hovey (UBRI), Tom DeSantis (City of Niagara Falls), Donna D. Owens (City of Niagara Falls), Willie C. Dunn (Niagara Falls Housing Authority), Anthony Armstrong (UBRI)

1. Welcome & Introduction – H. Morse

2. Events & Planning Activities Update – A. Armstrong/ B. Roberts/ L. Smith/ K. Dixon

a. Fair Housing Equity Assessment (FHEA) Update

- i. Our purpose is to attempt to understand the context which made us a segregated region.
- ii. Integrating what we have learned into action plans for One Region Forward
- iii. DRAFT SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS:
 1. Increase diversity, focus on public investment, Ensure new affordable housing, integrate transportation investment with neighborhood improvement, neighborhood specific investment strategies, participatory budgeting, focusing job training, focus the gross inequities in education, ensuring external accountability, changing public perception of equity and opportunity, strengthen fair/ affordable housing structure, reform the local framework for development, monitor and regulate finance and real estate transactions and practices
- iv. Discussion
 1. Will the work from FHEA reflect working groups?
 - a. Research from FHEA is meant to compliment working groups by providing data which supports action plans and initiatives of One Region Forward.
 2. Is there a single document draft?
 - a. It is in the works. Predicted completion is in a week and a half.
 3. Local communities that can use this:
 - a. data can be used but not replace documents specifically needed by HUD
 4. Mobile Safety net Team relationship:
 - a. Economic hardship trends seem to expand beyond urban areas; particularly in second ring suburban areas.
 5. How does this research address access to opportunities in the region?
 - a. increased concerned for second ring suburban areas are recognized, which reflects research from HUD



b. Local Gov't council & Private Sector Council Meeting Briefing

- i. B. Roberts – about 40 people in attendance. There was a presentation of One Region Forward's work-to-date. We are considering this meeting a success in opening the door for more collaboration and practicing good plan implementation.
- ii. Discussion/ Observations:
 1. Pleasantly surprised about people being candid about regional planning concepts. In the future it will be important to provide tactics which public/private leaders may use to support a regional plan.
 2. People were asking how we can do these things. Acknowledging that they need help doing this. Open mindedness to a regional vision.
 3. Supervisor Walters comment: We need to figure out how to do this.
 4. Further discussion to make implementation a more attainable reality among municipalities

c. Citizen Planning School Recruitment

- i. About 50 people will be accepted into the program
- ii. Citizen champion tract: an additional 20 people
 1. Champion for change is a more intensive program with technical assistance from One Region Forward staff members
 2. Looking for diverse leaders across the community. Asking them what/ where they want to see change in their community.
- iii. Application for both programs will end March 31st.
- iv. An event will be held in the FALL for an opportunity to presenting projects and ideas generated from this program.
 1. Meeting attendees will include local municipality leaders to present ideas and results from citizen planning school
- v. 47 applications have already applied for citizen planning school
- vi. 20 have signed up for citizen champion tract
- vii. Four Saturdays in the spring
- viii. A room at 77 Goodell Street, Buffalo, NY will be rented out for the spring
- ix. A videographer to capture the event and promote the program
- x. Discussion:
 1. Funding opportunities: inviting potential funders on a private and state level to presentation will be a good idea
 2. It sounds like there are already too many applicants: committee to sift through applications looking for ideal candidates.
 3. Current applications are from all across the region.



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4. Committee members are encouraged to suggest “citizen champion” applicants. They will lead to service learning opportunities by directly engaging the communities which they live in.
5. Thoughts on expanding the program to accommodate more applicants. *Leadership Buffalo* is an organization in the city which could potentially be interested.
 - a. Expanding the program is an option but discussion of getting a bigger room would be needed.
6. Having citizens and elected official involvement is catalyst in sustaining a mentality brought forth through the leadership of One Region Forward.

d. BNP Transportation Summit – 5/2/14

- i. All day session
 1. Morning breakout session, lunch, and afternoon free open session
 2. Lunch key note speaker
 3. No charge to municipal leaders except for lunch (\$20)
 4. Afternoon session: funding and investment implementation to reflect objectives of BNP
- ii. Potential Reschedule of Steering Committee meeting to accommodate BNP Transportation Summit on 5/2/14

e. Niagara County Town Supervisors & Erie County Association of Governments Joint Meeting – 5/22/14

- i. K. Dixon: asked to do a presentation during this annual meeting. Welcome input as we prepare this presentation. Great opportunity to address leaders of both counties. Committee members are encouraged to come.
 1. Facts from yield analysis. Sales tax data from the state.

3. Joint working team meeting update – R. Shibley/ Working Team Chairs

- a. R. Shibley: There were 5-8 working team meeting on Wednesday (3/5). All 5 core chapters presented on implementation and identification of actors. Identification of governance seems to be a common issue among the different chapters. Working teams were asked about course directions as we enter the final chapter of this project. How we shape this in a way which reflects governance and implementation of plans and concerns in different communities.
- b. Formalize what we are doing after the grant and how to address needs over time.
- c. Polling question about general direction and vision of One Region Forward: sounds good depends on the detail.
- d. Discussion/Comments/Implementation Strategy
 - i. Brand of One Region Forward makes it easier to rally around singular idea. Actions we take should take us to a shared goal.



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- ii. The vision of our regional goals is evolving over time.
- iii. Developing vision about how communities work together to attain common vision/principles.
- iv. Tasks which reflect a crisp idea identify funding streams, and relating them in implementation. These tasks promote ways for communities to visualize their place in a regional goal.
- v. We can articulate a regional vision which has been in the works for a decade
- vi. Plan as a document: opportunity to carry out best practices, successes, and make a prototype for standard operating procedure.
- vii. Poverty of imagination leads to a lack of community vision.
- viii. Bring architects into the conversation and demonstrate what it is like to live in new urban landscapes.
- ix. There is a benefit of a holistic approach to combat unwanted urban development.
- x. Concern about best practices on a large scale. How will the developed regional vision be passed on to new developers?
 1. Local governments want to update land use codes but consider it to be a low priority. Finding a large source of money available to local governments who wish to update master plans and land use ordinances in union with One Region Forward's mission. This could also create competition among the region for the money and updated codes.
 2. Ideas about leaving behind a professional monitor to continue one region forward principles. Currently there is nothing to prevent municipalities to go against One Region Forward principles. The main central problem in eliminated housing construction.
 3. Creative ways to encourage people to stay/move to urban areas – possible fees for moving.
 4. Promote the building of a greener community by allocating municipal funds specifically.
 5. Funding of Master Plans of municipalities could come through a CFA source.
 6. Cheaper to build new than retrofit the old equals a false economy.
 7. Put a price tag on areas in an attempt to emphasize a regional need for development and residence.
 8. Opposing views between developers and planners should be addressed in order to have the largest impact.
 9. Manage the cost of public services, including education.
 10. Tackling education at a regional scale can help promote regional principles.



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4. Scenario Planning & Modeling – B. Roberts

a. Emerging Work of the scenario modeling

- i. To date we have: 18 workshops, 81 maps, 575+ participants
- ii. 10 more upcoming workshops and predicting to engage 200 more participants
- iii. Upcoming: Lockport Main Street Association, United Way of Buffalo, UB performing economies colloquium, Parkside communities, UB educational opportunities, Niagara country planning board, WNY environmental alliance, Southtowns Planning and Development group, Self-advocacy association of WNY, Niagara Falls Housing Authority, City of Niagara Falls, and Community Missions
- iv. 72 maps narrowed down to 3 preliminary scenarios
 1. Reinvest into central cities
 2. Revitalize and creating new strong village centers
 3. Dispersed growth throughout the region
- v. Three scenario summary:
 1. Where new housing would go, where would jobs go, what would be protected, job density in urbanized areas
 2. Strong demand for transit connections to the airport, buffalo/Niagara falls connection, university at Buffalo
- vi. Key Points
 1. Modeling Indicators Under Construction
 - a. % of homes built by type
 - b. % of home infill and greenfields construction
 - c. # of abandoned housing
 2. Potential food production and access
 3. Transportation access analysis: daily mile travels
 4. Environmental and energy indicators: flood risks, greenhouse gas
 5. Fiscal impact: cost of new infrastructure, operation and maintenance cost, local municipality revenue to spending ratio
- vii. Next Steps:
 1. Text it Forward Campaign: A now live community survey through cell phone texting. Advertisements throughout NFTA buses and stations.
 2. Further exploration of map data from central tendency and applying them to practical and best practices in different municipalities
 3. All of the tendencies across the maps were more sustainable rather than the last 40 years.
 4. Business as usual with a growth scenario
 5. Cost analysis of housing abandonment/ demolish as well as empirical data. Making an opportunity lost analysis.



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- b. March round of “on the road” workshops**
 - i. University at Buffalo Undergraduate Academies; Hamlin Park Taxpayers Association; Tapestry Charter School; United Way of Buffalo; Lockport Main Street Association; UB Performing Economies Colloquium; Parkside Community Association; Southtowns Planning and Development Group; Niagara Fall Housing Authority
- 5. Comprehensive housing grant opportunity -- TABLED**
 - a. Opportunity for municipal housing organization funding
 - i. Require attendance or participation in upcoming public events/host a presentation/congress with constituents – discussion has been tabled
 - b. Grants will be awarded to work reflecting the vision of the housing grant program
- 6. Implementation Discussion – R. Shibley/ H. Morse**
 - a. Sitting agenda item
 - b. Conversation of implementation was outlined in discussion of the recent Working Team meeting.
- 7. Good of the order – H. Morse**
- 8. Adjournment – H. Morse**