



In attendance: Bart Roberts (UBRI), Kelly Dixon (GBNRTC), Darren Kemper (NFTA), Bill Parke (City of Buffalo), Bob Shibley (UB), Andy Dearing (UBRI), Hal Morse (GBNRTC), Ben Bidell (Niagara County), Laura Smith (Buffalo Niagara Partnership), Ross Annable (Town of Hartland – Niagara County Supervisors Association), Maria Whyte (Erie County Department of Environment & Planning), James Bragg (City of Niagara Falls), Bradshaw Hovey (UBRI), Michael Clarke (LISC), Jill Jedlicka (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper), Glenn Nellis (Town of Eden – Erie County Association of Governments), Mike Riegel (Belmont Housing), Brian Conley (UBRI), Anthony Armstrong (UBRI)

1. Welcome & Introduction – K. Dixon

2. Events & Planning Activities Update –B. Roberts

a. Citizen Planning School Recap

- i. 184 people enrolled in total
- ii. 4 sessions at the EOC building (77 Goodell)
 1. Session 1: Sustainability-- The Big Picture
 2. Session 2: Coping with a Turbulent Age (transportation and climate change)
 3. Session 3: Building blocks for sustainability (Food Planning and Land Use)
 4. Session 4: Organizing and Planning for a more sustainable future (local planning process and community involvement)
- iii. 2 levels of training: citizen planning school & Champions for Change
- iv. 23 Champions for change: intensive track to learn about the planning
- v. 2 ways to participate with the Citizen Planning School: In-person & online
 1. Open enrollment through the end of September to enroll and participate.
- vi. B. Shibley: The discussion produced during the Q&A portion of the program was rich with insights and creativity. They can be found online.
- vii. Citizens agree that the networking opportunity of this program has been a highlight.
- viii. Champions For Change Action Summit: Large event celebrating the end of the Champions for Change and Citizen Planning School program at the North Park Theatre on October 4th will feature individual citizen projects through posters, presentations, and videos. The event is meant to display what citizens have learned about the planning process as well as attract potential partners, local funders, and elective officials for support of their project.
- ix. HUD has been interested in the development of this portion of the grant project.
- x. Discussion:



1. Digital files will be made available to help the steering committee promote participation, specifically Young Professional Groups.
2. What was the geographic diversity? Can we improve?
 - a. “Champions for Change” was a very precise selection process aiming to have diverse participants geographically, culturally, professionally, and project focus.
 - b. We have lost a couple participants but geographic diversity remains. Although diversity is represented through the planning school, it could always be better.
3. L. Smith: Rotary Clubs in the region could be a great resource for future support and networking of this program.

b. Community Congresses Scheduled for July 21 & 22

- i. Steering committee is encouraged to help spread the word and participate
- ii. Monday, July 21st, 5PM at the Palace Theater 2 East Ave, Lockport, NY 14094
- iii. Tuesday, July 22nd, 5PM at ECC City Campus 121 Ellicott Street Buffalo, NY 14203
- iv. Running Time: 5pm-9pm
- v. Two presentations for each Congress: 5:30pm and 7:00pm
- vi. UBRI has been hard at work digitizing maps to present findings and recommendations for this Congress.
- vii. This presentation will be given and people will be encouraged to come out and participate either online, or offer it in their community:

Where we are in the process

1. Developing vision and values
 - a. extensive community mapping
 - b. community engagement at a variety of venues with a variety of mediums
2. What have we heard?
 - a. How does the public want to see the direction of our region?
 - b. Past and future values are different.
3. Scenario Planning (3 Scenarios and Business as Usual)
 - a. A Region of Villages
 - i. Walkability is the prevailing approach technique, infill development in abandoned already developed land
 - ii. New Jobs: Jobs and homes a lot closer together
 - iii. New Homes: abandonment not as concentrated
 - b. Back to the City
 - i. City centered approach where all development happens on already built land with decreased abandonment.



- ii. New Jobs: major condensed jobs centers
 - iii. New Home: abandonment decrease
 - c. Sprawling Smarter
 - i. More walkable, more traditional, more condensed, mixed use, abandonment would slow, transit still difficult, home still developed on undeveloped land
 - ii. New Homes: spread out but more condensed
 - iii. New Jobs: job centers throughout the region and in city centers
 - d. Business as Usual
 - i. Regression mapping model representing:
 - ii. 50% jobs would be dispersed
 - iii. Abandonment in central city and spreads out
 - iv. 2 of 3 new homes on undeveloped land
 - v. Increased roads
- 4. Measuring the Impacts of each scenario by using local data and interactive online tools (each scenario is fully represented in .ppt)
 - a. Envision Tomorrow Software, an online regional planning tool, helped establish indicators found in each scenario.
 - i. Importance of ensuring fiscally sound local government; Grow where we've already grown: Growth on Undeveloped v. Developed Land: where do you fall on the spectrum; Build Walkable livable communities: common situations across the three scenarios; New Development as single-use and dispersed v. mixed uses and compact; Connect out Region by Expanding Transportation Options: realistic; A transportation system that is automobile oriented v. transit oriented; Protect Farmland and Parks; Development of farmland v. preservation of farmland and open space; Maintaining fiscally sound local governments: tax revenue
- 5. Taking maps from workshops on the road and community engagement and turning into data
- 6. Common Findings: Core values expressed in maps
 - a. Grow where we've already grown
 - i. Traditional neighborhoods, Office Industrial, walkable community centers, Village center chip was the most popular



- b. Connect our Region by Expanding Transportation Options
 - i. Improve transit, new roads should only alleviate bottlenecks
 - c. Protect Farmland, Parks, and Natural Areas
 - 7. What are the moves we need to make to get us there?: planning interventions reflecting citizen region planning scenario
 - a. Rehab development
 - b. Infill Development
 - c. Transit oriented development
 - d. Make suburbs more walkable
 - e. Creating new places
 - viii. Discussion:
 - 1. M. Whyte: best conceptual presentation so far of 1RF, Consider maintain a fiscally sound local government as a core value; ensure consistency with number of scenarios represented in this presentation.
 - 2. Possibility of engagement by asking people to weigh in by indicating where they fit on a spectrum.
 - 3. K. Dixon: There will be a connection between scenario and fiscal association in the final product.
 - 4. B. Shibley: The plan will create a dialogue between citizen values and professional input. The plan is a tool for every municipality in this reason. We need more professional feedback upfront.
 - 5. L. Smith: Consider reintroducing people to the scenario planning workshop and game.
 - 6. B. Bidell: Strategies versus scenario terminology are in question: are strategies the “moves” being represented?
 - 7. Playing without impact is a risk when not talking about fiscal responsibility and should be reminded in plan/ report.
 - 8. Four extreme ways to move forward and these are presented as a method to get feedback on these discovered trends.
 - 9. Doesn't presume to control development but provide future possibilities and trends. Business as usual is a possible reality not to be hidden or discouraged.
 - 10. Terminology in question: “A Region Villages,” to “A Region of Cities and Village”
 - 11. Scenarios are stories and creating a narrative could further connect citizens to the specific implications of each scenario.
- 3. Implementation – R. Shibley/ B. Roberts**
- i. Recap of May 6th Implementation meeting discussion* (Bradshaw handout)



- ii.* Implementation should reflect the immediate action needed for the developing regional plan.
- iii.* Solicit Adoption or endorsement of the One Region Forward plan.
- iv.* Infrastructure for Action: creating convening capacity/ regional dialogue
- v.* Key Principles for Implementation: its voluntary, its incremental, its recursive
- vi.* Discussion/ Questions:
 - 1.** The tool emerging allows municipalities to reflect on their master plan and draw a map indicating where and how they will be participating. Developing into a tool-based plan.
 - 2.** Two major points: (1) infrastructure like the citizen planning school to sustain ongoing research and data collection in line with the plan of One Region Forward. (2) Implementation in the form of common corridors to both Erie and Niagara Counties.
 - 3.** Where is the private sector representation in implementation of this plan?
 - 4.** Who tells us how to implement?
 - a.** Hope that a successor of this steering committee will continue to meet and sustain this regional dialogue and form additional regional partnerships.
 - b.** B. Parke: City of buffalo would like to be involved in the conversation about shared bi-county corridors. The city can be a litmus test.
 - 5.** Long-term v. short-term
 - a.** of a detailed implementation agenda is coming
 - 6.** important to get this data to date report out to people before implementation strategies are established
 - 7.** Final plan comes in October (see schedule below)
 - 8.** Bart: looking for a blessing to release this report to the public (in December, see schedule)
 - 9.** No Press Release but a communications/ outreach strategy to get feedback. Show peoples how to review via online or in-person.
 - 10.** Question about obligation of adopting the plan and role of municipalities.
 - a.** Strategies are interpretable among municipalities.
 - b.** B. Bidell: “The phase out of fossil fuels” is not an acceptable concept in Niagara County. Strategies need to work so that municipalities don’t disregard all the great work having gone into the plan. A revised version could be, “As a region we need to push for renewable sources of energy.”



- c. Careful rephrasing to appeal to a broader audience (tax-base, municipalities)
 - d. Professional feedback and stakeholder representatives
 - e. Transitions are important to address while saving a tax base
 - b. Planning Network**
 - i. Feedback for final plan will be coming from: steering committee, working teams and, public input.
- 4. Draft Report Feedback- R. Shibley/ H. Morse and Group**
 - a. Discussion and feedback on 1RF Draft Report of the Work Thus Far & Work to Come**
 - i. Refer to (2. _b. _viii.)
 - b. Final Products**
 - c. Review Schedule**
 - i. 7/14_ last chance to request changes prior to public release
 - ii. 7/16_ Released on Website for public release
 - iii. 8/12_ final working team meeting
 - iv. 8/30_ public commitment period for draft report closes
 - v. 10/15_ Final draft plan release
 - vi. 12/5_ Plan Approved by Steering Committee
 - vii. Strategy for Approval of the draft plan: To be discussed at the next meeting
 - viii. Recognition of Brian Conely for his hard work and research.
 - d. Plan Approval Mechanism**
 - i. Joint meeting private and public council meeting suggested in September
 - ii. Association of county governments meet in August
 - iii. More presentations to local government leaders for final release
 - iv. Disclaimer
- 5. Good of the Order – H. Morse**
- 6. Adjournment - H. Morse**