towards a more sustainable Buffalo Niagara

Community Congress Workshop
Amherst Central High School
Nov 12, 2013
Where We’ve Been

A Good Place to Start

What do our plans say?

Community Weighs In

Regional Vision & Values
Community Feedback

A working draft

Regional Vision & Values
What We’ve Heard

A competitive, creative, equitable economy
Build where we already have infrastructure
Make it easier for people to get around without a car
Repair, renew and redesign housing for a changing population
Protect farmland and support farmers
Use less energy and promote green energy
Restore and protect water and natural resources
Embrace culture and heritage
Invest in and connect our parks
Foster collaboration, transparency and diverse perspectives
What We’ve Heard

One Region Forward in the Community
What would you invest in?

What would you protect?

Where would you locate our homes, jobs and attractions?

What would you change?

Testing Our Values

Mapping a future approach to land use, development, housing and transportation for our region
We have important choices to make.

Scenario Planning allows us to:

- A way to think about what might happen
- Explore alternative futures
- Express our values about great places to live
- Measure the impacts

What we want for our region 40 years from now.

How would you create a more sustainable future for Buffalo Niagara?
Measure the impacts

Costs

Land Consumption

Abandonment

Agricultural Lands

Transportation Systems
The game is based on several important assumptions

- Buffalo Niagara population 1.4 M by 2050
- That’s 265,000 more people
- 110,000 new households
- 40,000 replacement homes
- 130,000 new jobs – and space to house them
Why can we expect growth?

- The nation is going to grow
- We may get climate change refugees
- We can’t lose the jobs we lost again
- We are investing in future economy
- Population has already bottomed out

But ultimately we don’t know what will happen
You will have a map of our region.
Mapping choices for Buffalo Niagara

WHAT WILL YOU KEEP?

What will you protect and maintain?
Which communities will we keep as they are today?

WHAT WILL YOU CHANGE?

Where will you locate homes, jobs and attractions?
How will we get around?
What will we protect and maintain?

Mapping what you value
Which communities will we keep as they are today?

Mapping what you value
How will we get around?

Mapping what you value

Blue = pedestrian/transit corridors

Green = trails and bikeways

Red = highways for cars
Where will we locate homes, jobs and attractions?

CHIPS = “PLACE TYPES”

- UC: Urban Centers
- VC: Village Centers
- TN: Traditional Neighborhoods
- SF: Single Family Residential
- XR: Exurban Residential
- OI: Office/Industrial
- SS: Suburban Strip
Place types for... homes and jobs

Urban Centers

5,000
25,000

Village Centers

5,000
2,500

Traditional Neighborhoods

7,500
500
Place types for... just homes

Single Family Residential

Exurban Residential

DWELLINGS

2,500

500

#1RF
Place types for jobs...

Suburban Strip 5,000

Office Industrial 5,000
What type of places? And where would you create them in our region?

WHAT WILL YOU CHANGE?

MAKING CHANGE WITH CHIPS

I think it’s important to...

...revitalize?

...re-imagine?

...create new?

Mapping what you value

#1RF
I think it’s important to...

...bring new jobs and people to places that are not as bustling as they once were.

PLAY YOUR CHIPS WHERE THESE PLACE TYPES ALREADY EXIST

REVITALIZE?
I think it’s important to...

...transform the character of developed places as something different than they are today.
I think it’s important to...

...focus new investment on land that is currently undeveloped.
What will you protect and maintain?

Which communities will we keep as they are today?

Where will you locate homes, jobs and attractions?

How will we get around?
Your packet of 73 chips reflects...

Recommendations from the Erie Niagara Framework for Regional Growth to put new housing...

- Mostly in urbanized areas (70 percent)
- Some in “developing” areas (15 percent)
- Some in rural areas (15 percent)
TRADING CHIPS

Trading chips allows you to express your vision

Make it more urban
...trade for Traditional Neighborhoods, Village and Urban Centers.

Strike a balance
...keep the chips you have and play out the Framework scenario.

Let it spread out
...trade for low density housing and campus-style employment.

All the trades are between roughly equivalent amounts of housing and jobs
Trading chips allows you to express your vision. Make it more urban...trade for Traditional Neighborhoods and Village Centers.

All the trades are between roughly equivalent amounts of housing and jobs.
Trading chips allows you to express your vision.

Let it spread out...

...trade for low density housing and campus-style employment.

All the trades are between roughly equivalent amounts of housing and jobs.
Getting started...

You are leading yourselves but you’ll have a “guide”
Getting started...

Introduce yourselves and talk about what you value
A few rules...

Work together, respect others, and seek common ground.
Ask for help along the way.
Playing the game...

Write, write, write: Capture the good ideas that come up in your conversation.
Before you are done...

Use all of your chips, draw with your markers. Title your map and write what principles guided you.
Let’s get to work!

HOW WOULD YOU CREATE A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR BUFFALO NIAGARA?