Air and Waste Management Association Niagara Frontier Section Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists & The Erie Institute of Law







Regional Projects Update





Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council

MPO History

- Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Created in Federal Law during the 1960s
- Bring Local Governments to the table of transportation decision making

Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC)

A Cooperative Association of Area Governments and Agencies















GBNRTCMetropolitan Planning Organization



- THE GBNRTC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for all of Erie and Niagara Counties in the State of New York.
- Focus on Transportation Investments to Leverage Regional Transformation
- Major Planning Products
 - Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
 - Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Partners in the Process

















Transportation/Land Use struggle

Douglas Development faces harsh criticism over proposed expansion of Elmwood-Bidwell project

Jonathan D. Epstein Jan 10, 2023 Updated Jan 11, 2023 🗪 32

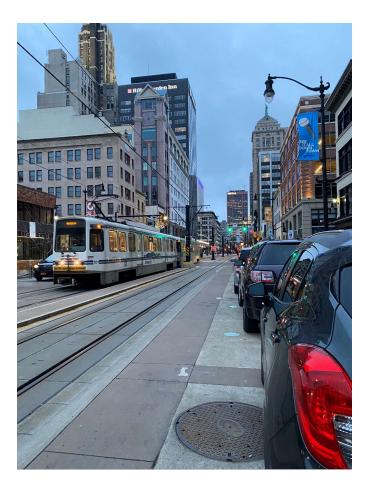
However, Millstein said the developer is also counting on most of the new tenants not having cars or not driving that often, saying that Buffalo's driving culture needs to change, and that younger tenants — especially those coming from out of town — don't want to drive as much. "We're going in a different direction," he said. "You may think that may not work, but we think it will, and we'll take that chance."

He said the firm has done many such projects, especially in other cities. And he noted that the city's Green Code deliberately seeks to encourage alternative transportation and walkability by removing parking requirements for projects. "The hope is that we have 50 people that rent here that don't have cars and don't need them," Millstein said, to laughter. "Buffalo is a car city. I get that. But Buffalo has to progress."

But that was met with ridicule by many in the crowd. "So you expect a bunch of people to pay \$1,800 to \$2,000 to not have cars and drive?" said one man.

Success Stories – Cars Sharing Main St

- Most 'complete' of Complete Streets
- Successful for economic development
- Work to continue
 - \$20M NFTA
 - \$55M City of Buffalo



Success Stories – Hamburg Roundabouts

- Started with local advocacy
- Traffic calming drove economic development

Hamburg is still accessible by car AND more accessible for walking

and biking

- Visitors are accommodated
- Locals are accommodated
- Both aren't competing for parking (lowest form of land use)



Success Story in Development: Region Central

PLANNING HISTORY REVIEW

20-year history of planning for the Scajaquada corridor and surrounding neighborhoods provide crucial insights and context



BASELINE ANALYSIS

Past plans review and existing conditions assessment



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Public meetings, stakeholder interviews, pop-up events, and supporting public outreach

COMMUNITY GOALS

Planning framework defines the Region Central community's goals through 3 lenses:

- Enhanced equity and inclusive development
- Replenished parks, parkways, waterways, and places
- Effective local and regional mobility

MOBILITY SCENARIOS + EVALUATION

4 distinct scenarios derived from the 20year planning history, our analysis, and what the community has told us



Evaluation process generates a preferred or hybrid scenario that best meets community goals

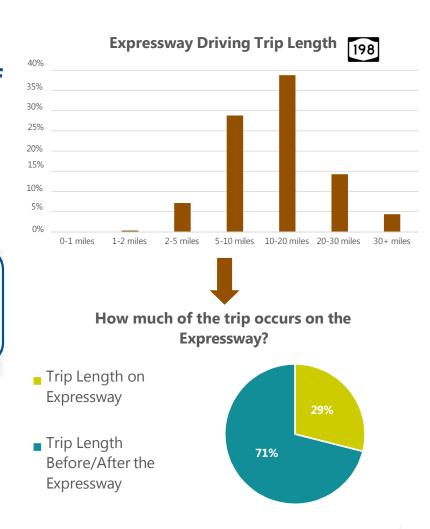


For trips on the Expressway, most of the trip (71% of the miles) occurs on roads other than the Expressway.

Changes to the Expressway may have a smaller effect on an overall trip, because the Expressway is generally a small part of a longer journey.

Streetlight Data Parameters:

- Average vehicle trips
- Daily trips
- Average day (including weekdays and weekends)
- Average day based on May 2019

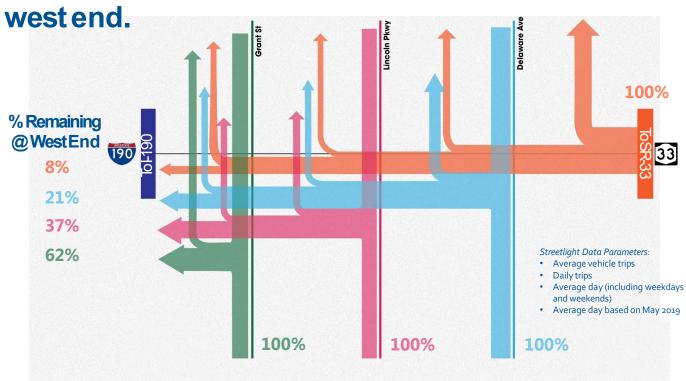




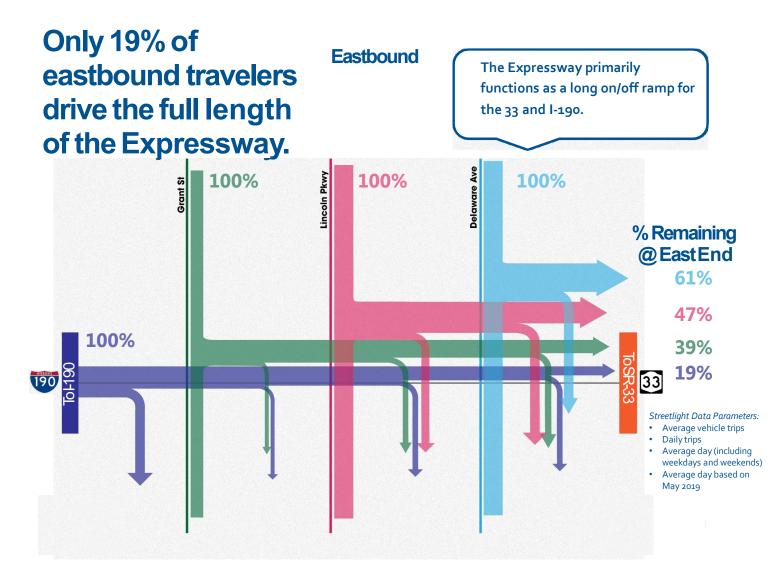
Only 8% of vehicles at the east end of the Expressway travel all the way to the

Westbound

The Expressway primarily functions as a long on/off ramp for the 33 and I-190.







The Region Central Process

Where Does This Process Go Next

- Assemble full report and documentation
- Prepare more detailed traffic analysis to support the environmental review process

More info: www.gbnrtc.org/regioncentral

Success Story in Development: NY Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project

- NYSDOT moving to EIS
- Scoping document completed Dec 2022
- Multiple alternatives analyzed

More info:

kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov



Photo 1 Center of Humboldt Parkway (bridle path) at Girard Place (1935) Source: Buffalo History Museum



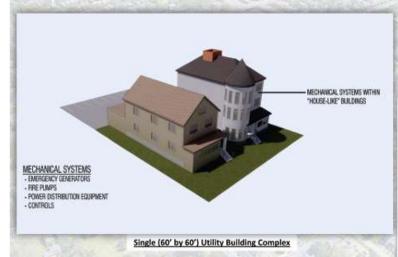
LEGEND:
REPLACEMENT BRIDGES
NEW BRIDGE CONNECTIONS
VENTILATION STRUCTURE
SEE RELATED SECTION RENDERING

NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project

Project Concept 6 - Kensington Reconstruction with a 6-Lane Tunnel for Improved Community Connections, including a Tree-Lined Parkway Setting



Ventilation Option 1





Air Ventilation Structures
5 locations
located between
Eastbound and
Westbound tunnels
spaced at approx. 600'



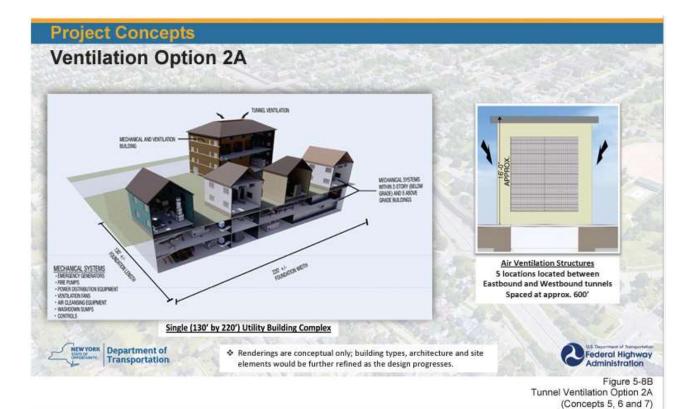
Air Intake Grating 14 locations (20' by 5') spaced @ 500', both sides of Humboldt Pkwy

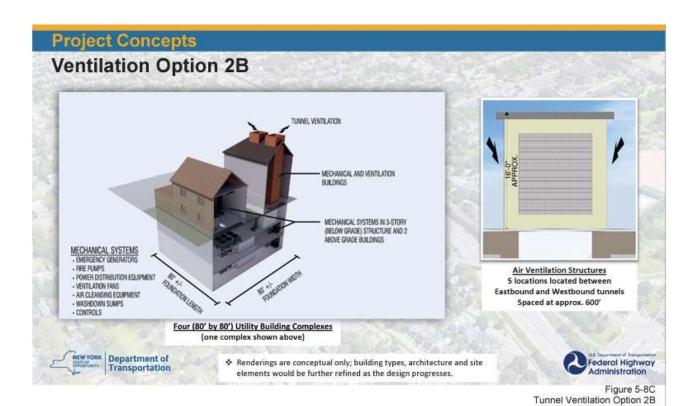


 Renderings are conceptual only; building types, architecture and site elements would be further refined as the design progresses.



Figure 5-8A Tunnel Ventilation Option 1 (Concepts 5, 6 and 7)





(Concepts 5, 6 and 7)

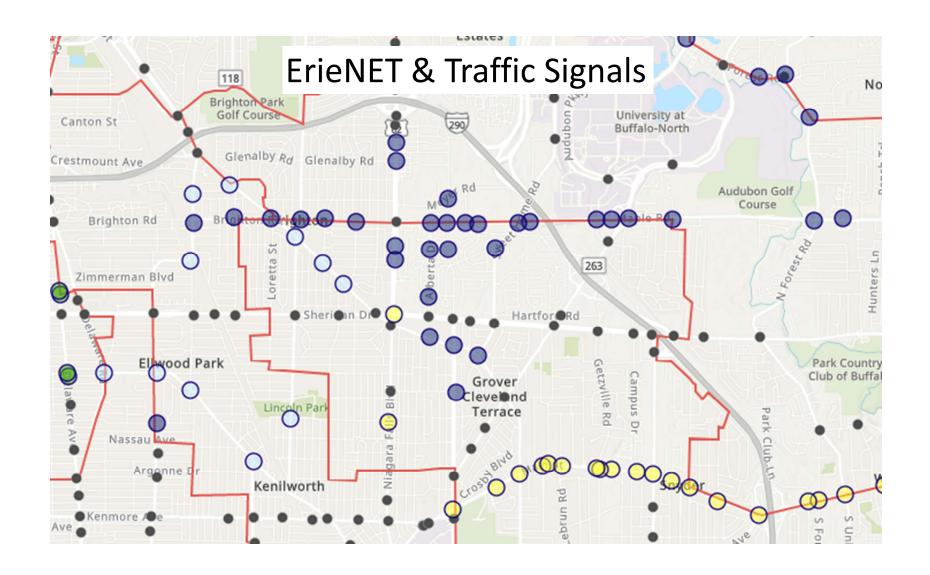
Developing Success Story: Smart Signals

 Over 1400 traffic signals in Erie County operated by 25 different agencies

Stuck at red: Buffalo's unsynced signals

2 On Your Side travels to Pittsburgh to see what Buffalo can learn from a city that's investing in new technology to improve citizens' commutes.





Conclusion

- Patience!
- Thoughtfulness

Thank you!