One Region Forward

Regional Sustainability Planning in Action

Citizens for Regional Transit (CRTC) Quarterly Meeting

January 16, 2020
Collaboration Pays Off

Public, private sector and nonprofit partners from the Framework for Regional Growth working group worked together to pursue funds from the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program.
We are the only urban region in Upstate New York without a regional planning council.

Counties covered by a regional planning council.
Changing the regional conversation on smart growth and collaboration through planning.

WNY REDC makes smart growth a regional priority for economic growth.
NYSERDA supports WNY Sustainability Plan to guide policies, projects, and programs that reduce GHG emissions and advance sustainability.
Changing the regional conversation on smart growth and collaboration through planning.

One Region Forward develops a plan and vision for growing Buffalo Niagara toward a sustainable future.
Together, we’ve built a foundation for regional thinking.

Data and analysis for data-driven solutions

Broad-based community engagement

Collaboration & decision-making
NYS investments are putting this vision for a more sustainable Buffalo Niagara into motion.
What has One Region Forward uniquely brought to the table?

Alignment of regional, state, and federal investments with local priorities.
What has One Region Forward uniquely brought to the table?

Strategies, toolkits, and implementation approaches around 5 Big Ideas.
What has One Region Forward uniquely brought to the table?

Metrics to measure how we are doing and if we’re moving our region toward a more sustainable future.
One Region Forward Performance Base

Are we keeping the finances of local governments in balance?

HOW IT AlignS WITH OUR VALUES
Keeping costs and revenues aligned indicates we are living within our means.

WHERE WE Are TODAY
Total revenues are 0.3% less than total costs for all local governments.

WHERE WE WANT TO GO
We’ll be making progress if our total governmental revenues and costs are in balance.

Are we reducing the miles we travel in cars?

HOW IT AlignS WITH OUR VALUES
By driving less, we save time, money and contribute to a cleaner environment.

WHERE WE Are TODAY
17.9 daily vehicle miles traveled per person.

WHERE WE WANT TO GO
We’ll be making progress if we decrease the daily miles we travel by car.

Are more workers commuting via alternative modes of transportation?

HOW IT AlignS WITH OUR VALUES
Travel to work by walking, biking, public transit, and carpooling makes our communities and our environment healthier.

WHERE WE Are TODAY
18% of the region’s workers commute via alternative modes of transportation.

WHERE WE WANT TO GO
We’ll be making progress if we increase the share of workers commuting via alternative modes of transportation.

Are we building new homes and job centers that are connected by public transit?

HOW IT AlignS WITH OUR VALUES
Energy is conserved and our communities become more walkable if we don’t have to depend on cars for travel.

WHERE WE Are TODAY
26% of region’s homes are within areas accessible to transit stops.

WHERE WE WANT TO GO
We’ll be making progress if we increase the share of homes and jobs accessible to transit.
How we are implementing One Region Forward
Supported by a dedicated group focused on achieving the performance we want as a region.

Promote implementation of the plan by:
- Measuring progress across metrics
- Community learning and local capacity support
- Facilitate and promote collaboration
Moving Forward 2050

Smarter, aligned planning

How we are implementing One Region Forward
https://www.gbnrtc.org/movingforward2050
Erie County Comprehensive Plan updates

Smarter, aligned planning

How we are implementing One Region Forward
How we are implementing One Region Forward

Embedded in Buffalo Niagara Partnership’s advocacy agenda

How we are implementing One Region Forward
How we are implementing One Region Forward Capacity support for local communities

Clean Energy Communities Program
Citizen Planning School
5 years running

Empowered citizens
How we are implementing One Region Forward
How we are implementing One Region Forward

Mapping

Metrics

Plan

Library

Data

Stories

Tools and Resources
Connect Our Places by Expanding and Diversifying Our Transportation Options
WHAT WE COULD DO DIFFERENTLY
RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Develop a regional “hub and corridor” transportation system.

Recommended Strategies & Actions

- High Quality Transit
- Transit Oriented Development (TOD)
- Joint Development as Value Capture Strategy
- Complete Street
- Corridor Makeovers
- Bicycle Infrastructure and Incentives
- Innovative Parking Programs & Management
- Establish Transportation Management Associations (TMAs)
- Embrace Emerging Technologies
WHAT WE COULD DO DIFFERENTLY
RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Create innovative financing mechanisms.

Recommended Strategies & Actions

• Advocate for Highway Trust Reform
• Advocate for Increased State Investment
• Develop Options for Regional Financing
WHAT WE COULD DO DIFFERENTLY
RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Create a Buffalo Niagara International Trade Gateway.

Recommended Strategies & Actions

• Advance International Trade Gateway Organization
• Build Physical Infrastructure for Trade
• Advance Pre-Clearance & Other Key Policy Initiatives
• Research Key Issues in Logistics
What has One Region Forward uniquely brought to the table?

Metrics to measure how we are doing and if we’re moving our region toward a more sustainable future.

How we’ll know if our actions are aligning with our values

TODAY → FUTURE
### Transportation and Mobility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are we reducing the miles we travel in cars?</td>
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<td>Are we building new homes and job centers that are connected by public transit?</td>
<td>↓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are we becoming more bike-friendly?</td>
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Housing and Neighborhoods

- Are we reducing the number of vacant homes and businesses in our region? 
  - Down

- Is the new housing we build walkable to services and amenities? 
  - Up

- Are we less burdened by the costs of housing and transportation? 
  - Down

- Are we reducing concentrated poverty? 
  - Down
## Land Use and Development

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<td>Are we concentrating new development where we already have infrastructure?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are we focusing job growth around our main streets, downtowns and former industrial areas?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are we conserving natural, open spaces?</td>
<td>↑</td>
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<td>Are we increasing public access to our waterfronts?</td>
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<td>Is our regional economy becoming more competitive?</td>
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The parties that shaped this plan do not, individually, have the power and authority to direct actions beyond their distinct borders or missions. With that in mind, this document is designed as a tool to measure progress against shared community values and recognizes that there are multiple approaches to achieve the regional performance to which we aspire.
Moving sustainability principles, projects and programs forward