

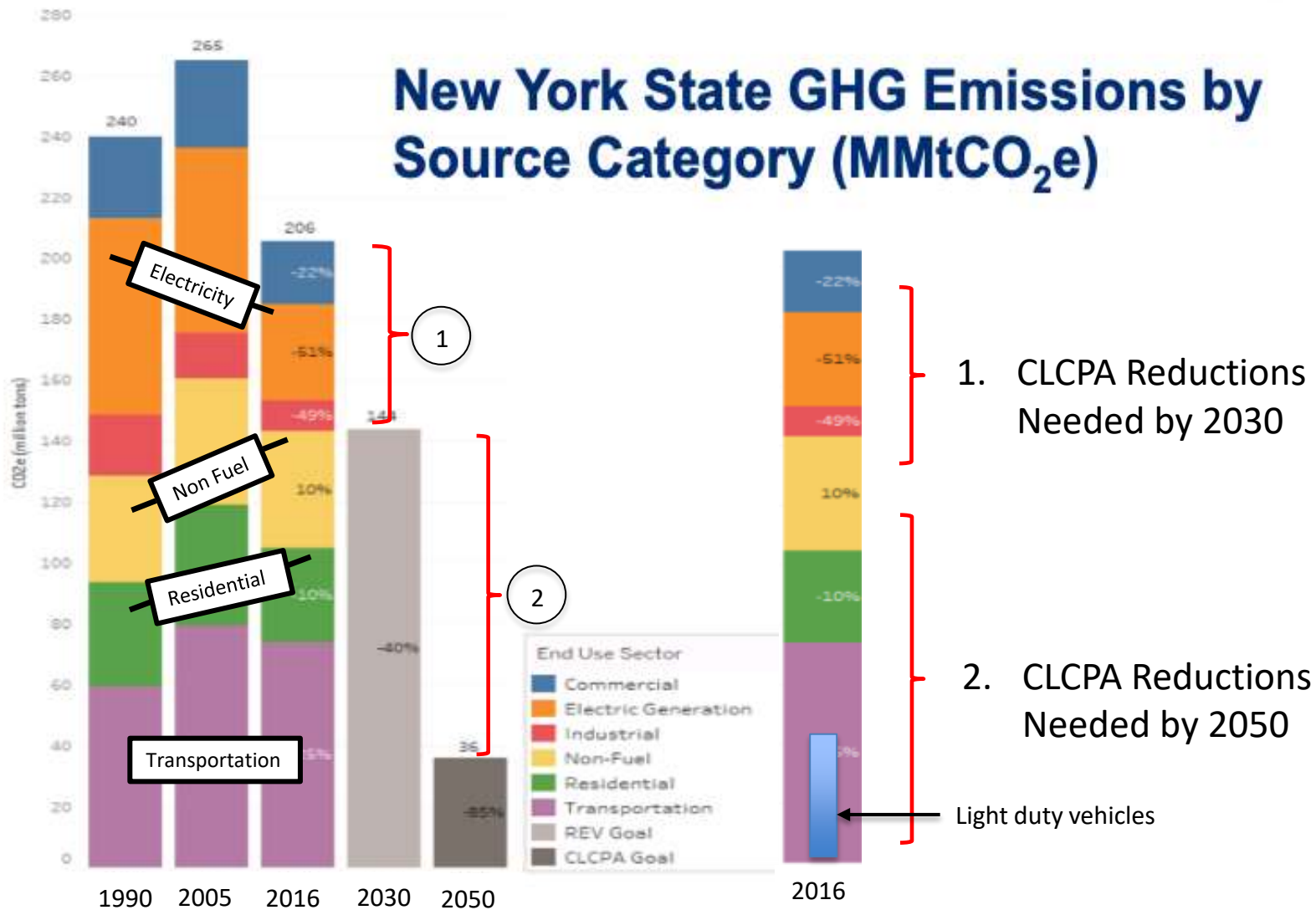
# Buffalo-Niagara Priority Transit Investments

**NY for TCI Teach In  
1 December 2021**

**By Douglas Funke**

**President, Citizens for Regional Transit**

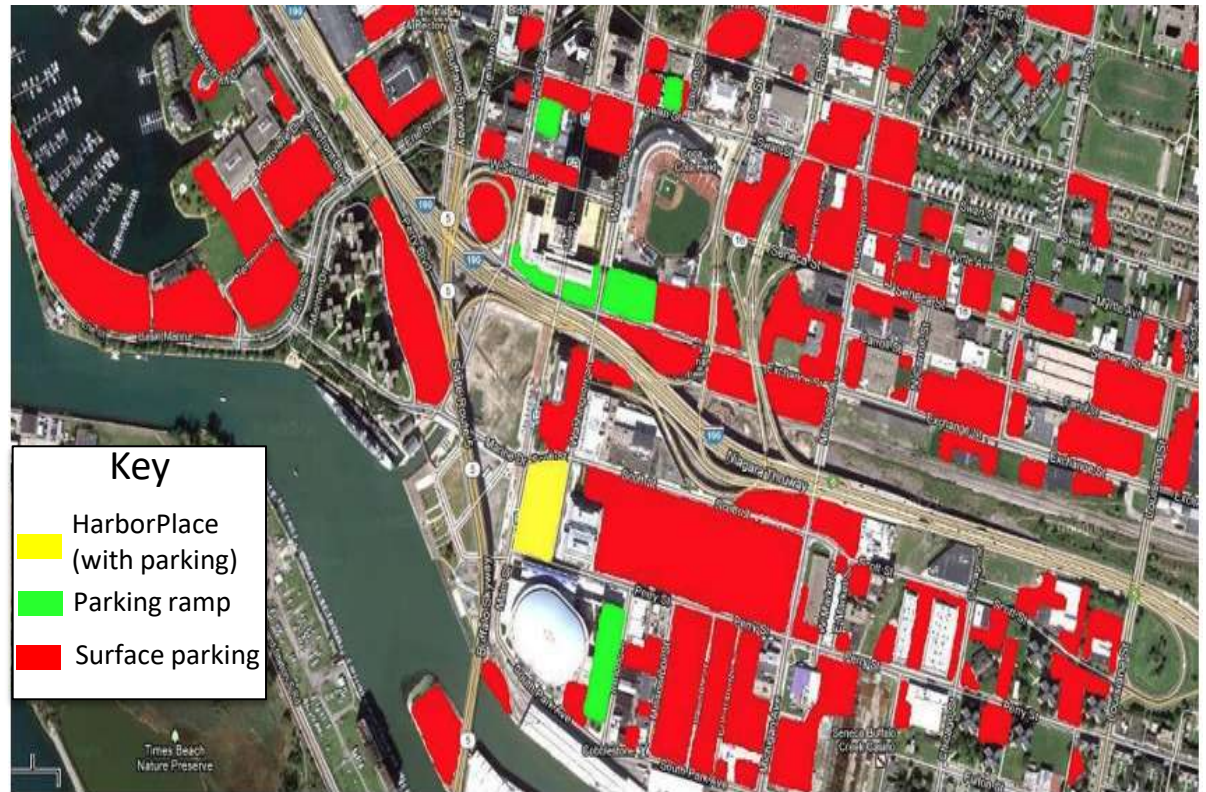




Sources: Climate Action Council meeting (3/3/2020). <https://climate.ny.gov/Climate-Action-Council/Meetings-and-Materials>;  
<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/documents/us-ghg-inventory-2020-main-text.pdf>



# Buffalo's Waterfront (Zoomed-Out): without transit, a congestion and parking magnet



Picture courtesy of Mark Paradowski from the Preservation-Ready Sites 3

Pictures by: Doug Funke, CRT President



CITIZENS *for* REGIONAL TRANSIT

# CRT Mission: Connect Buffalo-Niagara with an Integrated Transit System

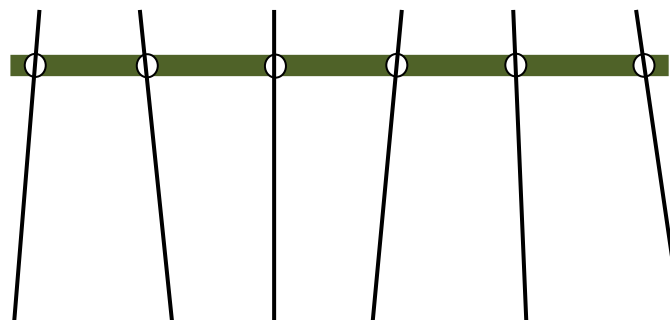


# Robust Bus & Bike Networks Interconnected with **Fast** Metro Rail Spine



## Light Rail Rapid Transit<sup>1,2</sup>

600 – 700 passengers per 4-car train  
Approx. 4,000 per hour  
50 mph between stops  
Dedicated ROW  
5.2 million passengers / year (23%)



## Bus<sup>1</sup>

50 passengers per bus  
300 per hour per route  
1,800 per hour across 6 routes  
35 mph between stops  
Shares with traffic  
17.5 million passengers / year (77%)

Note: Kensington Expressway carries over 60,000 cars per day  
peak load just under 8,000 per hour<sup>3</sup>

1. NFTA. Service Guidelines & Deliver Standards. 2021 Revision
2. RAILFAN GUIDES of the U.S.”> Todd’s Railfan Guide to the Buffalo, NY NFTA Light Rail System.
3. New York State Traffic Volume Viewer, 5/13/2021.



# The Math Is Simple

What does it take to move 700 people?

1 train (Four cars)



14 buses



Anywhere from 140 to 700 cars\* (270 shown here)



**Every 10 minutes!  
In each direction  
of service!**

Adapted from: Transport Sydney Trains (<http://www.sydneytrains.info/about/environment/>)

\* From NFTA Service Design Guide – 2021 Update



CITIZENS *for* REGIONAL TRANSIT

# Switching to Electric Cars Alone Won't Solve the Problem!



National Archives at College Park, Public Domain, via  
Wikimedia Commons

- Every ton of cement generates 1 ton of CO<sub>2</sub> \*
- 50% of cars (by volume) are plastic\*
- An estimated 4 billion tires are already in landfills and stockpiles\*\*
- Tire wearing generates micro-plastic particles that pollute soil, streams and waterways\*\*\*

\* Gates, Bill. How to Avoid a Climate Disaster. 2021

\*\* World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 2008

\*\*\* Matt Simon. Wired Magazine – Science . 7.14.2020 11:08.  
Your Car Is Spewing Microplastics that Blow Around the World



# Conclusion

- The Solution Must:
  - Reduce VMT!
  - By providing **attractive** high-capacity transit
- Our Proposal:
  - Statewide: Provide ongoing transit operations and maintenance funding to make transit as effective and attractive as driving
  - Buffalo-Niagara:
    - Support local share for extending Buffalo Metro
    - Provide operational funding to support 10-minute headways on bus routes
  - Fix the federal transit local discrepancy

