

PREVIOUS PLANS AND PARALLEL INITIATIVES SUMMARY



**REGION
CENTRAL**

May 2021

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Places and team*

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Key findings

After an extensive review of previous plans and parallel initiatives addressing and affecting Region Central, we have developed these primary three findings.

Strong planning foundation to build on.

There have been dozens of plans and studies conducted over the past couple decades which cover most parts of the corridor.

Few past plans encompass the full study area and none focused specifically on Region Central.

Diverse perspectives but ample common ground.

The discourse includes a broad variety of perspectives, ideas, and priorities but our review did not reveal clear conflict or contradiction between voices – instead, values and goals were generally shared or complementary between stakeholders.

Willingness to collaborate.

Key stakeholders tend to have clear visions but also publicly state their willingness to collaborate with the GBNRTC and each other toward an outcome that benefits the broader community. None characterize the dialogue as a zero-sum game.

01. Previous plans: Process overview

The process

The previous plans review process involved these three primary steps.

Gather and index

The previous plans review process began with an extensive search for documentation of relevant plans, studies, and reports addressing portions or all of the Region Central area published over the past decade or two.

As documents accumulated, we sorted and indexed the material by type and/or topic.

Review and summarize

We reviewed all documents we considered relevant to the Region Central planning process and systematically summarized each in a standardized format for efficient macro analysis and future reference.

Summary documents are available as an appendix to this overview presentation.

Distill and synthesize

Our review concludes with an overall analysis of the discourse and findings designed to inform subsequent phases of the Region Central plan process.

In particular, we intend this exercise to provide a contextual foundation for the public engagement stages of this project.

The process: Gather and index

Our review process focused on these three types of documents and sources.

Previous plans

Most of the reviewed documentation consisted of previous plans, studies, and reports pertaining to parts or all of Region Central and published within the past 10-20 years.

Documents include City-led plans, institutional master plans, transportation and mobility studies, neighborhood plans, economic development reports, and more.

Position statements

We collected several published statements from prominent Region Central stakeholders which articulate their official position regarding the future of Region Central and especially the Scajaquada Expressway.

Media articles

Our review also included a representative sample of news media articles covering important developments, perspectives, events, and progress related to the Scajaquada Expressway and the Region Central planning process in general.

The process: Review and summarize

Each plan summary extracted these fundamental plan elements in standardized format for streamlined review and comparison.

Source and scope

What organization, agency, entity, or group created the plan?

What was the plan's stated purpose and core considerations.

Was the plan focused on a specific place or geographic area?

Stakeholder and community involvement

Who advised the plan's authors and informed the process?

Was there a community process – and if so, how extensive was it?

Stated goals and priorities

What were the plan's stated vision, goals, priorities, and/or positions?

The process: Distill and synthesize

As we conclude our inventory and analysis, these questions shape and structure our findings.

Recurring goals?

While we expect to find myriad ideas and goals across the planning discourse, are there some that are voiced repeatedly and echo across the inventory?

Common themes?

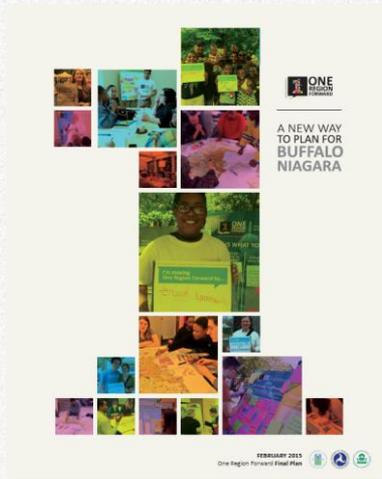
To what extent do previous plans' visions and priorities share themes that might represent common ground to build consensus from?

Opportunities to collaborate?

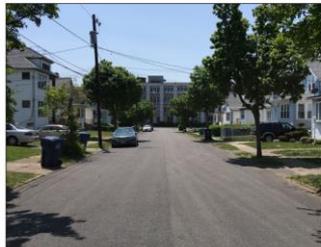
Based on their public statements relative to the corridor and this planning initiative, are key stakeholders entrenched in their positions or open to collaboration and compromise?

02. Previous plans: Gather and index

Plans reviewed



Northland Neighborhood Strategy



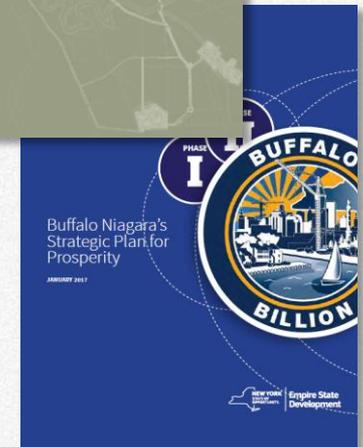
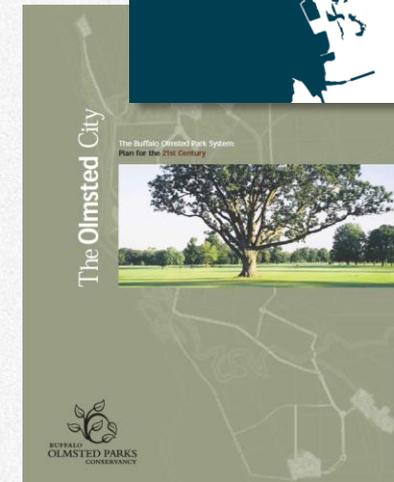
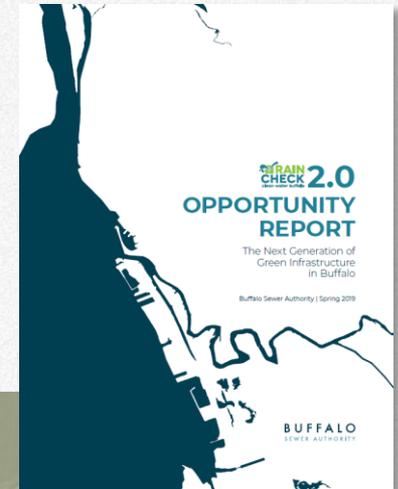
Byron W. Brown, Mayor, City of Buffalo
Brendan P. McElaffy, Executive Director, Office of Strategic Planning
Rose B. Watson, Executive Director, Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency
June 1, 2016

Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency

Scope of our review

We reviewed dozens of plans across numerous types and categories, including:

- Neighborhood plans
- Comprehensive plans
- Mobility plans
- Parks and open space plans
- Zoning and other regulatory documents
- Bicycle and pedestrian plans
- Riparian and ecological reports
- Economic development reports and studies
- Infrastructure plans
- Institutional plans
- Preservation plans
- Traffic studies
- Environmental impact reports



Chronological index

Year	Category	Type	Lead Entity	Document
Ongoing	Economic	Plan	Visit Buffalo Niagara	Visit Buffalo Niagara's 10-Year Destination/Tourism Master Plan (ongoing)
	Community	Plan	Buffalo Urban Development Corporation	<u>Northland Corridor Redevelopment Plan</u>
	Mobility	Plan	NYS DOT	Re-Connecting Humboldt Parkway (ongoing)
	Mobility	Plan	Preservation Buffalo Niagara & GObike Buffalo	Reimagine Grant Street (ongoing)
	Mobility	Plan	NFTA/GBNRTC	Rail-Volution 2020 Delegation (Ongoing)
	Mobility	Plan	NFTA/GBNRTC	Metro Rail Expansion Project
	Mobility	Report	University at Buffalo and UBRI	Informing Electric Micromobility Policy (Ongoing)
	Parks	Plan	City of Buffalo / The Trust for Public Land	<u>Buffalo Parks Plan</u>
	Institutional	Plan	Buffalo Zoo	Buffalo Zoo Master Plan (Ongoing)
	Institutional	Site	Buffalo State College	166-170 Dart Street (Ongoing)
2020	Institutional	Study	Albright-Knox Art Gallery	Impacts of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and its AK360 Expansion Plan – Part 2 Project Impacts (Ongoing)
	Economic	Report	Mobile Safety-Net Team	Numbers in Need Buffalo Niagara (2020)
	Economic	Report	Partnership for Public Good	Evicted in Buffalo: The High Cost of Involuntary Mobility (2020)
	Mobility	Plan	City of Buffalo	The Future of Mobility: Remaking Buffalo for the 21 st Century (2020)
	Mobility	Plan	GBNRTC	GNBRTC Regional Bicycle Master Plan (2020)
	Mobility	Plan	NYS OPRHP	Statewide Greenway Trails Plan (2020)
	Waterways	Study	University at Buffalo	Scajaquada Creek: Existing Conditions and the Future (2020)
2019	Equity	Study	University at Buffalo	Buffalo Turning the Corner Report (2019)
	Equity	Study	Cornell Industrial Labor Relations Buffalo Co-Lab	Erasing Red Lines Part 1 & Part 2 (2019)
	Economic	Report	NYS ESD	State of the Region: Western New York 2019 Progress Report (2019)
	Economic	Study	University at Buffalo	There Goes our Family Friendly Neighborhood, Residents Perceptions of Institutionally Driven Inner-city Revitalization in Buffalo (2019)
	Parks	Report	Olmsted Parks Conservancy	The Olmsted City: 5-Year Plan 2020-2024 (2019)
	Parks	Plan	City of Buffalo / Buffalo Public Schools	<u>City of Buffalo & Buffalo Public School Facilities Design</u>

Chronological index

Year	Category	Type	Lead Entity	Document
2018	Parks	Plan	City of Buffalo / Buffalo Public Schools	City of Buffalo & Buffalo Public School Facilities Design Development Plans
	Infrastructure	Plan	Buffalo Sewer Authority	Raincheck 2.0 (2019)
	Institutional	Plan	Buffalo State College	Buffalo State College Facilities Master Plan (2013), Update (2019)
	Equity	Study	Partnership for the Public Good	A City Divided: A Brief History of Segregation in Buffalo (2018)
	Equity	Study	Homeless Alliance of Western NY	Racial Disparities and Homelessness in WNY (2018)
	Economic	Study	University at Buffalo	Perceptions of Residential Displacement and Grassroots Resistance to Anchor Driven Encroachment in Buffalo (2018)
	Economic	Study	Partnership for the Public Good	Rental Housing Costs in Buffalo (2018)
	Community	Plan	City of Buffalo	City of Buffalo Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) (2018)
	Mobility	Plan	NYS DOT	(Previous) Scajaquada Corridor Project (2018)
	Mobility	Plan	GBNRTC	Comprehensive TOD Plan (2018)
	Mobility	Plan	NYS Empire State Trail	Empire State Trail Plan (2018)
	Infrastructure	Plan	Buffalo Sewer Authority	Raincheck 1.0 (2018)
	Institutional	Study	Albright-Knox Art Gallery	Impacts of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and its AK360 Expansion Plan – Part 1 Baseline (2018)
	2017	Institutional	Plan	Canisius College
Equity		Report	Cornell University	Equity Preservation Workshop, Buffalo (2017)
Equity		Report	Next City	Gentrification Can't be the Theme of Rust Belt Recovery (2017)
Equity		Report	Partnership for the Public Good	Why Buffalo Needs Inclusionary Zoning (2017)
Economic		Plan	NYS ESD	Buffalo Niagara's Strategic Plan for Prosperity – Buffalo Billion Phase II (2017)
Economic		Plan	City of Buffalo	Buffalo Housing Opportunity Strategy (2017)
Economic		Report	Invest Buffalo Niagara	Buffalo Niagara Labor Market Assessment – How Competitive Are Payroll Costs? (2017)
Economic		Report	Invest Buffalo Niagara	Buffalo Niagara Labor Market Assessment – Who's Our Economy? (2017)

Chronological index

Year	Category	Type	Lead Entity	Document
2016	Economic	Report	Invest Buffalo Niagara	Buffalo Niagara Labor Market Assessment – Who’s Our Economy? (2017)
	Economic	Report	Partnership for the Public Good	Affordable Housing Strategies for the City of Buffalo (2017)
	Mobility	Plan	GBNRTC	Moving Forward 2050: Regional Transportation Plan (2017)
	Waterways	Study	Buffalo State College	Scajaquada Creek Stream Assessment (2017)
	Equity	Report	UBRI and Make Communities	The Racial Equity Dividend: Buffalo’s Great Opportunity (2016)
	Equity	Report	Buffalo Inclusionary Housing Coalition	Inclusionary Zoning, Creating Equity and Lasting Affordability in Buffalo (2016)
	Community	Plan	City of Buffalo	Buffalo Green Code - Land Use Plan (2016)
	Community	Law	City of Buffalo	Buffalo Green Code - Unified Development Ordinance (2016)
	Community	Plan	Scajaquada Coalition	Black Rock Harbor – West Scajaquada (2016)
	Community	Plan	Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency	Northland Neighborhood Strategy
	Mobility	Report	City of Buffalo	Redesigning the Scajaquada Expressway (2016)
	Mobility	Plan	City of Buffalo	Buffalo Bicycle Master Plan Update (2016)
	Mobility	Plan	City of Buffalo	Niagara Street Now (2016)
	Mobility	Study	NYSERDA & NYS DOT	Measuring the Impacts of Complete Streets projects (Buffalo Focused) (2016)
2015	Mobility	Study	GBNRTC	Local Impact, Strategies to Promote Mobility (2016)
	Institutional	Plan	Richardson Center Corp.	Richardson Olmsted Complex Master Plan (2009), Update (2016)
	Institutional	Plan	Buffalo State College	Buffalo State College Strategic Plan (2016)
	Community	Plan	GBNRTC	One Region Forward (2015)
2014 - 2005	Institution	Plan	Burchfield Penney Art Ctr	Burchfield Penney Art Center Strategic Plan (2015)
	Equity	Report	City of Buffalo	Equal Opportunity Zones (unknown year)
	Equity	Study	University at Buffalo	Chasing a Paper Tiger – Evaluating Buffalo’s Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (2013)
	Equity	Study	University at Buffalo	William Worthy’s Concept of “Institutional Rape” Revisited - Anchor Institutions and Residential Displacement in Buffalo (2014)

Chronological index

Year	Category	Type	Lead Entity	Document
2014– 2005 Cont.	Equity	Study	University at Buffalo	William Worthy's Concept of "Institutional Rape" Revisited - Anchor Institutions and Residential Displacement in Buffalo (2014)
	Economic	Plan	NYS WNY REDC	WNY Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan (2011)
	Community	Plan	City of Buffalo	Tonawanda Street Corridor BOA Nomination Study (2014)
	Community	Plan	Elmwood Village Association	A Vision for Elmwood Village (2014)
	Community	Plan	Consortium	Western New York Regional Sustainability Plan (2013)
	Community	Study	UBRI	Buffalo Promise Neighborhood Needs Assessment (2011)
	Community	Plan	Black Rock-Riverside Good	Historic Black Rock – War of 1821 Bicentennial Community Plan (2008)
	Community	Plan	Neighbors' Planning Alliance	Neighborhood Plan for the Riverside Planning Community (2007)
	Community	Plan	City of Buffalo	City of Buffalo Comprehensive Plan (2006)
	Mobility	Study	NYS DOT	Humboldt Parkway Deck: Economic Impact Study (2014)
	Mobility	Study	NYS DOT	Kensington Expressway Concept Design Study (2012)
	Mobility	Study	NYS DOT	Scajaquada Corridor Study (2005)
	Infrastructure	Study	Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper	Green Infrastructure Solutions to Buffalo's Sewer Overflow Challenge - Draft Feasibility Study (2018)
	Waterways	Plan	Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper	Healthy Niagara: Niagara River Watershed Management Plan (2014)
	Parks	Plan	Olmsted Parks Conservancy	Olmsted City: Plan for the 21st Century (2008)
	Institutional	Plan	Buffalo State College	Buffalo State College Facilities Master Plan (2013), Update (2019)
	Institutional	Plan	Albright-Knox Art Gallery	AK360 Campus Development and Expansion Project (2014)
	Institutional	Plan	Burchfield Penney Art Center	Burchfield Penney Art Center Strategic Plan (2015)
	Institutional	Plan	Richardson Center Corp.	Richardson Olmsted Complex Master Plan (2009), Update (2016)
	Institutional	Report	Buffalo Niagara Tourism Initiative	A Cultural Tourism Strategy: Enriching Culture and Building Tourism in Buffalo Niagara (2005)
Institutional	Report	University at Buffalo	Sustaining Arts and Culture in Buffalo Niagara (2006)	
Institutional	Study	University at Buffalo	Buffalo: the Dynamics of Race, Place and Land Use	

Position statements

These published statements reflect recent official positions held by key stakeholders on the future of Region Central, many focused specifically on the Scajaquada Expressway.

Organization	Document title	Date
Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy	BOPC Position Statement on Route 198 Scajaquada Expressway	July 2020
Partnership for the Public Good	Urban Expressway Removal in Buffalo: The Historical Context	March 2018
NYSDOT Region 5	Statement on the Scajaquada Corridor Project	January 2018
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper	Waterkeeper Comments on the Scajaquada Expressway Route 198 FEIS	December 2017
The City of Buffalo Common Council	Golombek, Wingo, Wyatt, Franczyk – Request NYSDOT Halt Scajaquada Expy Plans	November 2017
The Scajaquada Corridor Coalition	Re: Draft EIS for NYS Route 198 (Scajaquada Expressway)	July 2017

Previous articles reviewed



THE BUFFALO NEWS

[Virtual Scajaquada Stroll](#) (Buffalo Rising, 2020)
[Before the Expressway: Delaware Park Lake & Scajaquada Creek in the mid-1950s](#) (The Buffalo News, 2020)
[Olmstedian Scajaquada: A Scajaquada Valley Ramble](#). (Buffalo Rising, 2018).
[Olmstedian Scajaquada: Man of the Scajaquada Tour](#) (Buffalo Rising, 2019).
[Olmstedian Scajaquada: Scajaquada Arboretum?](#) (Buffalo Rising, 2019)
[Olmstedian Scajaquada: The Scajaquada that Was and Wasn't](#) (Buffalo Rising, 2019)
[Olmstedian Scajaquada: Timber!!](#) (Buffalo Rising, 2019)
[The People's Recap of the Scajaquada Corridor Redesign, Round One](#) (Buffalo Rising, 2019)
[Scajaquada Design Competition: An Idea Whose Time Has Come. And Gone](#) (Buffalo Rising, 2019)
[Editorial: Raise the speed limit on the Scajaquada](#) (Buffalo News, 2019 pdf)
[Cuomo hits reset on the 198, pushing planning in new direction](#) (Buffalo News, 2019 pdf)
[Council members seek 40 mph on Scajaquada, design competition](#) (Buffalo News, 2019 pdf)
[Giambra push to restore speed limit on 198 gains Byron Brown's support](#) (Buffalo News, 2019 pdf)
[State drops contested plan to convert Scajaquada into lower-speed boulevard](#) (Buffalo News, 2018 pdf)
[Cry Olmsted and Let Slip the Dogs of Planning](#) (Buffalo Rising, 2018, pdf)
[Scajaquada Farce 1](#) (Buffalo Rising, 2017)
[Analysis: Scajaquada Not Yet Ready for Prime Time](#) (Buffalo Rising, 2017).
[A New Waterfront Vision for Buffalo State](#) (Buffalo Rising, 2017)
[Scajaquada: Higgins and Ryan fight for people-friendly design features](#) (Buffalo Rising, 2017)
[Expressway Planned for Delaware Park, You Can Stop It](#) (Buffalo Rising, 2017)
[Redesigning the Scajaquada Expressway](#) (Partnership for the Public Good, 2016).
[Reinventing Buffalo](#) (City Journal 2015)
[Buffalo Stories Blogs tagged "Scajaquada"](#) (Buffalo News)
[Congress for New Urbanism: Scajaquada Expressway](#)
[New York State Department of Transportation Scajaquada Corridor Project Website](#)
[Buffalo Advocates Convince New York DOT to Rethink a Half-Baked Highway Removal](#) (Streetsblog 2018)
[A Deadly Expressway in the Middle of an Olmsted Park](#) (City Lab 2015)
[East Side neighborhood wants Scajaquada evaders slowed](#) (Buffalo News 2018)
[From tired to trendy: Inside Chandler Street's transformation](#) (Buffalo News 2019, pdf)
[Termini plans swim club on Chandler Street](#) (Buffalo News 2019, pdf)
[Welcome to Chandlerville, Buffalo's fledgling eating-and-drinking district](#) (Buffalo News 2020, pdf)
[Upper Niagara Street is Hot](#) (Buffalo Rising 2018)
[New film studio to be built on Niagara Street](#) (WIVB 2020)
[How Buffalo's Niagara Street Is Quickly Changing](#) (Spectrum News 2020)
[Niagara Street Now design process, University of Buffalo Regional Institute](#)
[Watts Engineering Niagara Street Project](#)
[\\$400,000 in grant money given to revitalize Grant Street](#) (WKBW news)
[Reimaging Grant Street](#) (GOBike Buffalo)
[Grant Street Global Voices](#) (National Endowment for the Arts)
[Landlocked Buffalo State looks to expand footprint](#) (Buffalo News, 2019)
[The 19th Century's "Best Planned City" Tries Again](#) (Vice, 2020)
[Group plans reuse of John Kam Malt House on Hertel](#) (Buffalo News 2020)
[Our Favorite City Walks: North Buffalo](#) (Visit Buffalo Niagara, 2020)

03. Previous plans: Review and summarize

Plans summary format

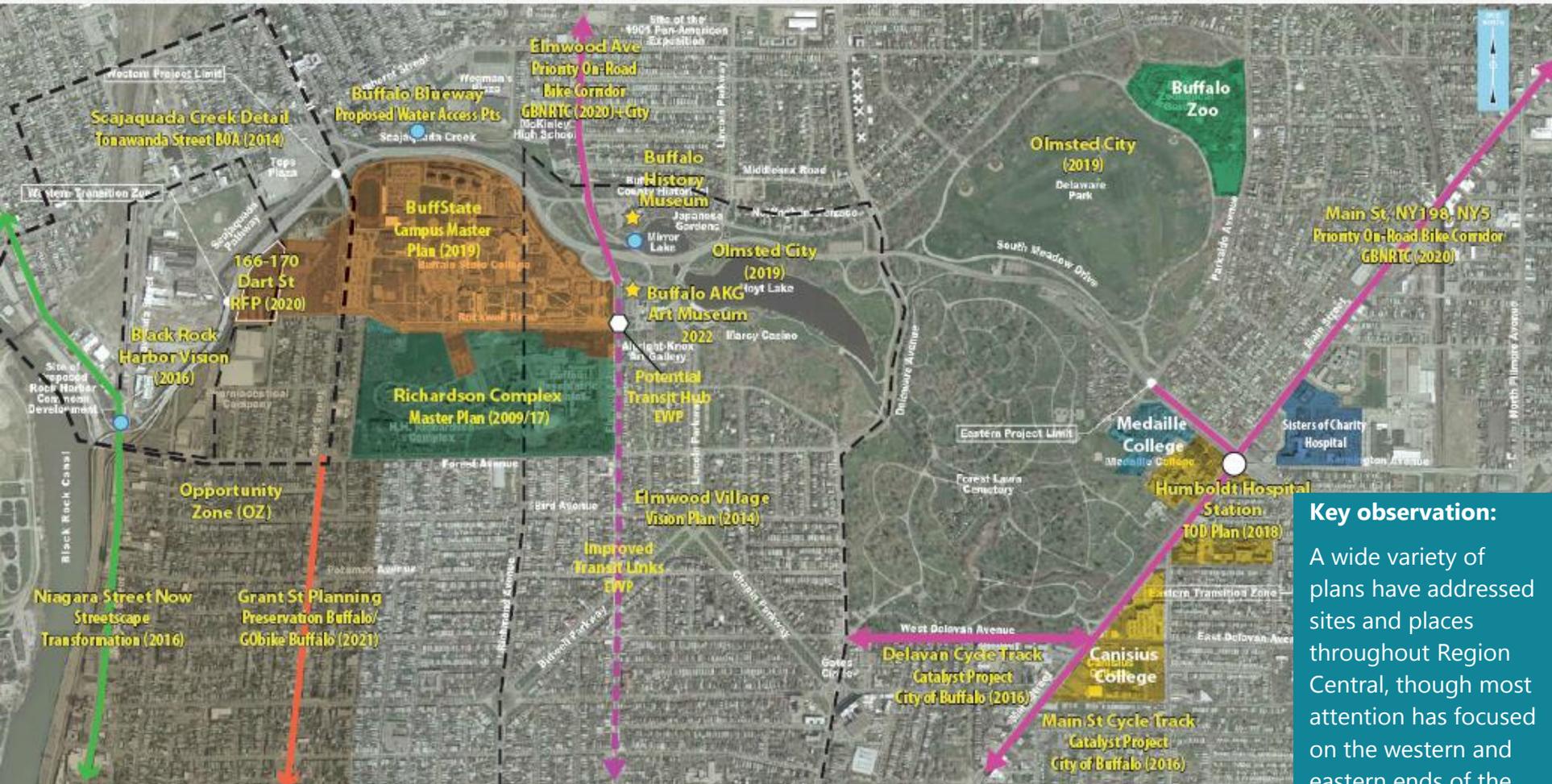
The previous plans summary compilation tabulates the following characteristics for each plan reviewed:

- Hyperlink to the plan document itself
- Date
- Sponsor
- Committee members
- Study area
- Synopsis
- Vision statement
- Goals
- Extent of community engagement
- Level of community engagement detailed in report
- Mobility-related goals
- Mobility-related observations
- Mobility-related recommendations

Link	http://www.buffalony.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3276/Land-Use-Plan
Date	2016
Sponsor	City of Buffalo
Committee Members	Timothy Ball, City of Buffalo Law Department Gary Bennett, Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority Peter Cammarata, Buffalo Urban Development Corporation David Comerford, Buffalo Sewer Authority Martin Doster, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation David Grundy, Department of Permit & Inspection Services Peter Klemann, Department of Permit & Inspection Services David Krug, Department of Permit & Inspection Services Frank Manuel, Buffalo Planning Board Brandy Merriweather, Buffalo Urban Development Corporation Hal Morse, Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council Andrew Rabb, Department of Public Works, Parks & Streets David Stebbins, Buffalo Urban Development Corporation Steven Stepniak, Department of Public Works, Parks & Streets Maria Whyte, Erie County
Study Area	City-wide
Synopsis	The Green Code is a revision of Buffalo's land use and zoning policies that will promote investment, facilitate job creation, and improve the environment.
Vision Statement	No specific Vision Statement. Per the plan, the Goals below set the vision.
Goals	Establish clear and simple rules, fairly and consistently applied, respectful of the diversity of communities. Encourage investment by making rules for development predictable, setting aside land for job creation in key districts and corridors. Promote land use and transportation patterns that encourage compact development and promote a full array of transportation choices to help conserve energy and support green infrastructure. Respect the traditional pattern of the city and help repair existing neighborhood fabric, or help citizens reinvent urban neighborhoods where the fabric is beyond repair, and preserve our architectural heritage. Create the conditions for Buffalo to grow again, making the city attractive to newcomers by meeting the aspirations of those who live here now...prioritize equity. <u>Objectives:</u> Grow the Economy: Accelerate downtown's momentum Strengthen anchors along the Knowledge Corridor [Main St Metro Rail, incl Medaille and Canisius Colleges and Sisters Hospital] Create great places on the waterfront [LWRP area incl Black Rock Harbor and Scajaquada Creek] Leverage and repurpose former industrial assets [incl Tonawanda St Corridor BOA] Strengthen Neighborhoods: Promote diversity and affordability Reinforce neighborhood centers Encourage transportation choice Reclaim vacant buildings and land Repair the Environment: Protect natural assets Enhance open spaces Conserve energy and water
Extent of Community Engagement	Over 4,000 individuals, including residents, employers, developers, and students; and 80 groups, including block clubs, business districts, trade associations, and non-profits shared their knowledge, expertise, and insights in a variety of forums: Kick-off meetings at 3 locations Planning workshops in 9 Planning Areas Citywide Planning Day open house Zoning workshops in 9 Planning Areas Citywide Zoning Day open house 11 Community Advisory Committee meetings

Previous plans study areas

Many of the plans reviewed focused on specific sites or areas within Region Central. This map consolidates the geographic focus or extents of each of these local efforts to illustrate where activity and focus has and has not concentrated.



Key observation:

A wide variety of plans have addressed sites and places throughout Region Central, though most attention has focused on the western and eastern ends of the corridor.

Position statements and media articles summary format

For each statement and article, our summary document compiles basic bibliographic information as well as a concise synopsis of the key takeaways and/or topics covered.

Position statement summaries

Our review of recent position statements summarized each according to the following characteristics and content:

- Organization name
- Statement title
- Date
- Position (relative to Region Central process)
- Representative excerpt
- Notes

Media article summaries

For each media article reviewed, we compiled the following:

- Article headline
- Hyperlink to the article
- Publication source
- Year of publication
- Brief synopsis of article content

04. Previous plans: Distill and synthesize

Recurring goals and ideas across the discourse

Key observation:

Each plan offers a distinct perspective and specific set of priorities but goals across all are complementary with each other.

Diverse but complimentary ideas

Reviewing the synopses, vision statements, and goals of all plans we reviewed, the following ideas appeared repeatedly.

While these ideas may reflect different perspectives, they are fully complimentary and could and should resonate in our plan for Region Central.

- Neighborhood connectivity
- Workforce development and access to jobs
- Waterfront access
- Watershed ecology and green infrastructure
- Strengthen and revitalize neighborhoods
- Diverse housing choices and affordability
- Support existing businesses and foster new
- Promote equity in access to housing and opportunity
- Expand mobility options and enable car-free lifestyle
- Preservation and restoration (of buildings, parks, communities)
- Parks and amenities as economic development engines
- Fostering connectivity and engagement between institutions and surrounding community
- Upgrade aging infrastructure and redevelop underutilized sites

Comparing themes from select plans

We assessed and compiled core themes from many of the reviewed plans to compare emphases across the discourse.

Key observation:

Though each plan represented a partial mix of the total themes considered, collectively they addressed each in numerous ways.

PLAN	THEME				
	Economic Devel.	Placemaking	Multi-modal Mobility	Equity	Health/ Wellness
GBNRTC Regional Bicycle Master Plan (2020)	X		X	X	X
Future of Mobility Charrette (2020)	X	X	X	X	
Buffalo State Facility Master Plan Update (2019)					
Olmsted City: 5-Year Plan (2019)					
City of Buffalo LWRP (2018)	X			X	
GBNRTC Moving Forward 2050: Regional Transp Plan (2018)	X		X		x
GBNRTC Comprehensive TOD Plan (2018)	X	x	X	x	
Buffalo Niagara's Strategic Plan for Prosperity (2017)	X	X			
Draft EIS - Final Scoping Document (2016)					
City of Buffalo Land Use Plan (2016)	X	X	X	X	
Redesigning the Scajaquada Expressway (2016)			X		
Buffalo Bicycle Master Plan Update (2016)	X		X	x	x
Niagara Street Now (2016)	x	x	X		
Vision for Black Rock Harbor (2016)	x				
Richardson Olmsted Complex Master Plan Update (2016)					
One Region Forward: Regional Sustainability (2015)	X		X	x	x
Tonawanda Street BOA (2014)	X				
Elmwood Village Master Plan (2014)	X	x	X	x	
Humboldt Pkwy Deck: Economic Impact Study (2014)	X				
Healthy Niagara: Niagara River Watershed Mgmt Plan (2014)					x
Green Infrastructure Solutions to Buffalo's Sewer Overflow Challenge (2011)					x
Black Rock-Riverside Neighborhood Plan (2007)			x		
	14	6	11	8	6

Prominent stakeholder positions

This table summarizes several prominent stakeholders' stated positions regarding the future of Region Central. Generally focused on the Scajaquada Expressway conversation, each indicates stakeholders' attitude and priorities relative to the Region Central planning process.

Key observation:

Though each key stakeholder brings their unique perspective to the dialogue, all voiced openness to collaboration and compromise on the condition their priorities are addressed during the process and reflected in the outcome.

Organization	Position relative to Region Central process	Date
Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy	New design should be in harmony with historic landscape.	July 2020
Partnership for the Public Good	Redesign offers an opportunity to undo damage from the past.	March 2018
NYS DOT Region 5	Corridor design needs community support.	January 2018
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper	This is the "opportunity of the century" to right past damage done. – <i>this was the only statement that did not explicitly express potential to compromise</i>	December 2017
The City of Buffalo Common Council	Plan should reflect consensus of community stakeholders.	November 2017
The Scajaquada Corridor Coalition	Plan needs to respond to the community's concerns.	July 2017

Conclusions for the Region Central planning process

Past planning and public dialogue present a strong foundation to build on, but success will require maintaining a complex coalition of stakeholders, interests, and ideas.

Diverse voices but complimentary goals – can we connect the dots?

Recent plans, studies, and reports have different foci and priorities but are generally compatible in terms of their goals with minimal if any conflicting ideas.

Our challenge might be demonstrating the relationship between mobility scenarios and these diverse goals so stakeholders and communities understand how the plan embodies their interests and priorities.

Stakeholders generally ready to collaborate – can we craft an effective compromise?

According to recently published positions, many of Region Central's prominent stakeholders are prepared to collaborate with GBNRTC and this planning process even if that means the outcome does not fully reflect their ideal vision.

That said, each expects their priorities and goals to be incorporated and advanced to a meaningful degree in the final plan.

Community views Region Central Plan as a fresh start – can we maintain the public's confidence?

News media coverage generally portrays the Region Central planning process as an opportunity to restart the discussion around the Scajaquada Corridor and attempt to build stronger community support behind the outcome.

Our challenge in this regard might be maintaining the process's perceived integrity and adequately reflecting the area's diversity and complexity in our results.

05. Parallel initiatives and investment

Incorporating ongoing projects into the review

To compliment the previous plans review, we also inventoried current planning, development, and other activity within Region Central that may influence policy and community dynamics during our planning process.

Planning, policy, and public investment

Presently active and upcoming projects focused on community planning, public-private partnership development, public realm improvement, and other efforts led by public or institutional agents.

In an effort to use this exercise as an opportunity to extend collaboration and coordination with the City, this inventory was based on conversations with the City of Buffalo's Office of Strategic Planning.

Real estate development

Recent, current, and pipeline development projects within the Region Central area as well as rehabilitation and other investment activity addressing existing properties.

This inventory was informed by media reporting on ongoing and upcoming developments as well as the City's database of building permit activity.

Parallel initiatives

Key observation:

Numerous agencies, institutions, organizations, and developers are active throughout Region Central. The planning process should include coordination with these entities to incorporate their objectives into our dialogue and mitigate conflicts where possible.

Informed by conversations with the City of Buffalo's Office of Strategic Planning, this list includes significant initiatives across agencies, stakeholders, and geographies within Region Central.

166-170 Dart Street development

- Lead: Buffalo State College

308 Crowley development

- Lead: Buffalo Urban Development Corporation (BUDC)

Humboldt Parkway Restoration

- Lead: Restore Our Community Coalition

Parks Master Plan

- Lead: City of Buffalo Parks Department collaborating with Office of Strategic Planning

Public Works streets improvements (misc.)

- Lead: City of Buffalo Public Works

Niagara Street Complete Streets

Reconstruction

- Lead: City of Buffalo Department of Public Works

Northland Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Plan

- Lead: Office of Strategic Planning with BUDC

Northland Corridor Development Project

- Lead: BUDC

Kensington Heights Vision

- Lead: Erie County Medical Center Corporation with University of Buffalo Planning and Architecture Department

Richardson Olmsted affordable housing development

- Lead: Savarino Companies

RiverRock Community Plan

- Lead: City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning

Sewer Authority Long Term Control Plan

- Lead: Buffalo Sewer Authority

Shaffer Village public housing redevelopment

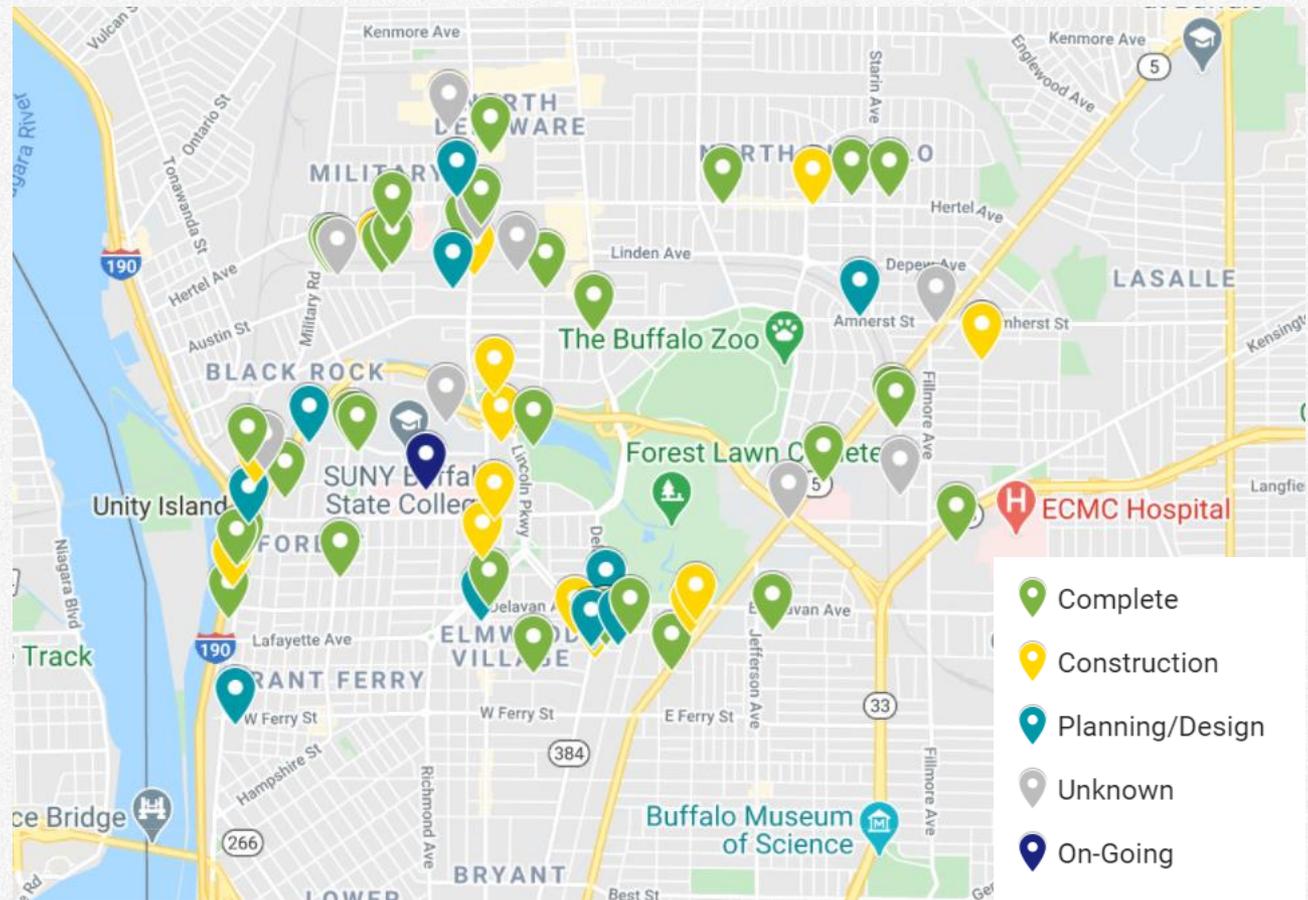
- Lead: Buffalo Metro Housing Authority

Current development activity

Key observation:

While development is occurring throughout Region Central, most activity is concentrated along north/south corridors in the western half of the area such as Niagara Street and Elmwood Avenue.

Based primarily on an in-depth review of media coverage, this map reflects today's recent, ongoing, and planned real estate development within Region Central. The link below connects to an interactive version of this map with notes for each project.

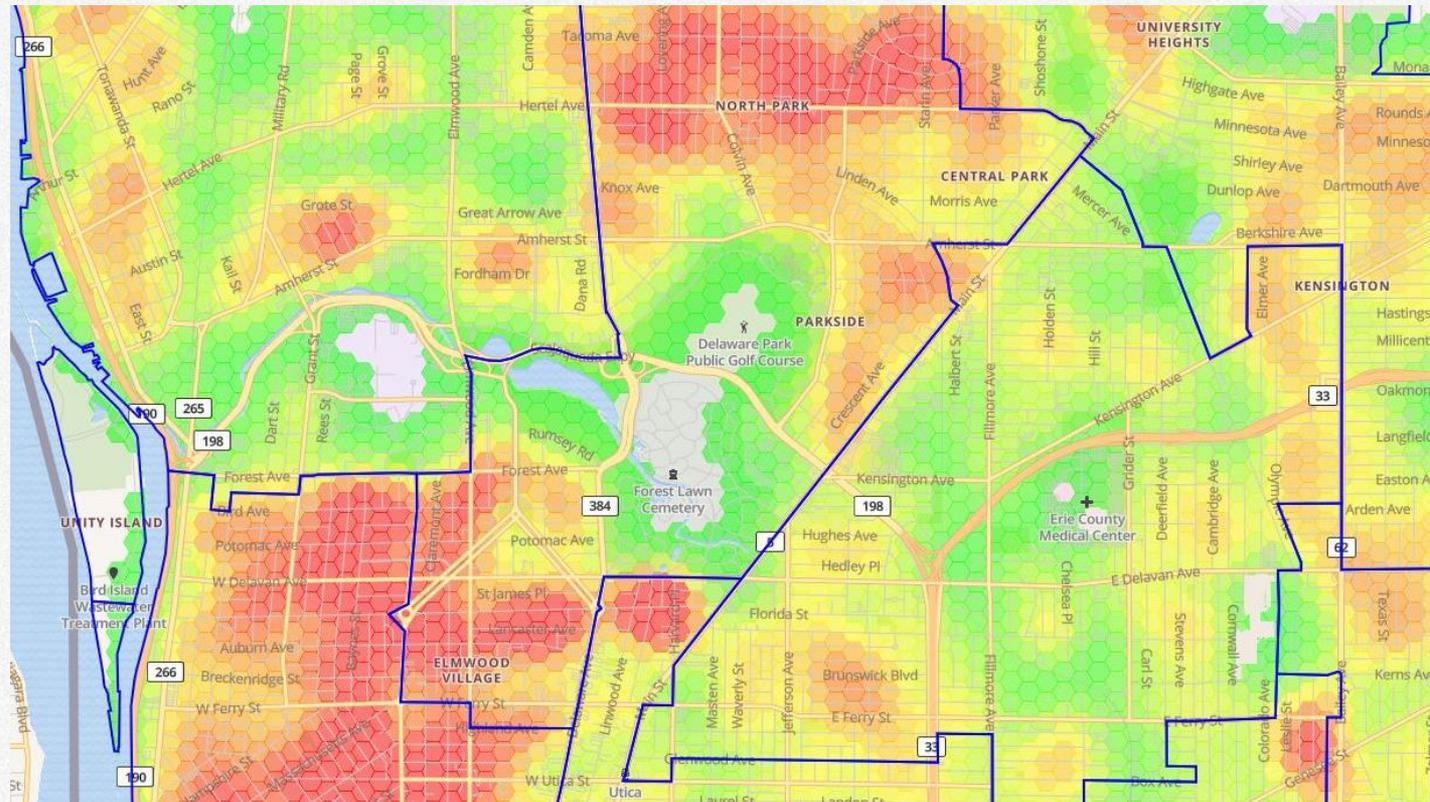


Recent building permit issuances

The City of Buffalo maintains a database of recent building permit issuances. Areas of extensive building rehabilitation and construction are indicated in red and orange whereas areas of little real estate reinvestment are shown in green. Unfortunately, the data does not distinguish between major and minor construction and rehab projects which might somewhat distort interpretation.

Key observation:

Most real estate reinvestment is currently occurring in Elmwood Village and North Park. Black Rock and Parkside are also somewhat active while areas east of Parkside are much less so.



[My Neighborhood Buffalo \(https://my.buffalony.gov/\)](https://my.buffalony.gov/)

Conclusions for the Region Central planning process

Region Central is undergoing significant change and reinvestment which offer opportunities for synergy and collaboration that our planning process should take advantage of. However, this activity is not evenly distributed across the area and impacts may vary by neighborhood due to systemic forces of inequity that we must recognize and confront.

Opportunities for coordination

Because many of the initiatives and developments captured in this part of our review remain in progress, our team may have the opportunity to interface with the agencies and organizations behind them before outcomes are finalized. Where appropriate and possible, we will pursue collaborative relationships with these entities to promote alignment between their project goals and our planning objectives.

Uneven patterns of planning, development, and reinvestment

Some areas of Region Central are undergoing significant change and/or have received more planning and policy attention than others. We need to recognize this gap as we begin to engage with the community and consider likely reasons for the disparities, especially to the degree they represent systemic challenges our process and plan can help address and possibly start to mitigate.

Understand the role of inequity and racism

Given Buffalo's history of racial inequity and housing segregation, we understand many of Region Central's past and current development patterns and policy trends have been shaped by deep-seeded socioeconomic injustice that cannot be easily undone and must not be overlooked or underestimated.

The Region Central planning process offers the community, Buffalo, and the GBNRTC an unparalleled opportunity to address these issues in our plan for the future of this complex and critical corridor.