



Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council
438 Main St, Suite 503 | Buffalo, NY 14202 | 716-856-2026 | www.gbnrtc.org

Transportation Projects Subcommittee (TPS) Meeting

Wednesday, August 16 2023 9:00 AM

In-Person: Edward H. Small Conference Room (438 Main St. Buffalo Suite 503)

Reminder: Please use new Zoom Login for TPS Meeting

Zoom Invite:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82454720614?pwd=b3hXNGFlb1FJWEIIN0QxbmFFOFFsQT09>

Meeting ID: 824 5472 0614

Passcode: 404173

Phone: (929) 205-6099 US (New York)

Draft Agenda

1. Approval of June 21, 2023 TPS Meeting Summary
 2. 2023-2027 TIP – Action Requests
 - a. PIN 5763.57 City of Tonawanda Pedestrian Bridge – Let Delay (Approve)
 - b. PIN 5763.17 Allen St - Phase 2; Wadsworth - Delaware (BNMC) – Add Funds (Approve)
 - c. PIN 5815.65 N. Adam St Bridge over Erie Canal – New Project (Initiate Public Review)
 3. Old Business
 4. New Business
 - a. RPPM Action Report
 - b. 2020 Urban Boundary Update
 - c. Regional Bicycle Master Plan Implementation Contract - Project Requests
 - d. 2023 Draft Public Participation Plan Update – Public Review Period Policy
 - e. Pilot TOD Planning Program
 - f. NY State Freight Plan Update – State Freight Core Network
 5. Next Meeting – Wednesday September 20, 9:00 AM
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TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS SUBCOMMITTEE (TPS) MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, June 21, 2023
9:00 A.M. via Zoom Meeting

Attendees: G. Szewczyk, J. Michniewicz, H. Ismail, K. Forma, J. Boser, B. Roth, A. Smith, M. Finn, K. Stilwell, N. Skipper, A. Weymouth, D. Svilokos, K. Smith, N. Allen, and R. Guarino.

1. Approval of May 17, 2023 TPS Meeting Summary – *Motion for approval: Forma/Roth. Approved.*
2. 2023-2027 TIP Discussion
 - a. PIN 5763.58 Niagara Falls Connection Trail (CMAQ) – This is a NYSDOT request to modify an existing project. The C&CI phases will be increased by a total of \$2.366M. A portion of the C&CI increase (\$1.676M) pertains to work in PIN 5760.75 (Great Lakes Seaway Trail River Rd Corridor; Wheatfield, NC) which will be transferred into this project for constructability and ease. Detailed Design and ROW-A funds will be transferred to the C&CI Phases to cover the remainder of offset. The non-federal match source will be switched from local to state. Fiscal constraint is maintained. C&CI match funded by the Ralph C Wilson Foundation. *Motion to recommend as a Minor Scope Change to PCC for approval as AdMod #30: Svilokos/Allen. Approved.*
 - b. PIN 5764.81 Twin City Memorial Highway Improvements (Study) – This is a NYSDOT request to add a new project (study) to the TIP at a total cost of \$0.625M. The study will examine the redesign of the Twin City Memorial Highway (NY Rt 425) located in the City of North Tonawanda, Niagara County. The objective of the study is to look at options that will increase connectivity, increase mobility, and create a thriving and resilient community while addressing inequities and barriers to opportunity. The total project cost is \$0.625M. The \$0.625M offset will be provided by Federal Earmark – Community Project Funding/Highway Infrastructure Programs; Demo ID = NY794. The proposed Air Quality conformity exemption code will be C3 (Planning and technical studies that do not involve or lead directly to construction). *Motion to initiate a 20-day public review: Roth/Allen. Approved.*
 - c. PIN 5814.07 Bridge Rehab – 3 EC Bridges – This is a NYSDOT request to modify an existing project. A Detailed Design Phase was not carried over from the previous TIP/STIP and will need to be added back to the project. \$0.875M will be added to the new Detailed Design phase. The \$0.875M offset will be transferred from PIN 5V24.11 (I-86 Shoulders, U-Turns and Gore Areas; Cattaraugus Co). Fiscal constraint is maintained. *Motion to recommend changes to PCC for approval as AdMod #31: Svilokos/Forma. Approved.*
3. Old Business
 - a. BRIDGE NY – Still no announcements made about awarded bridges. NYSDOT Main Office has stated that they expect an announcement from the Governor soon.
4. New Business
 - a. RPPM Change Report – 1. PIN 5763.81 2021 BRIDGE NY Program: Bridge Replacement; East Canal Rd Bridge (BIN 3329070): Added \$0.163M of 100% local funds. Fiscal constraint is maintained. Approved 5/18/2023. 2. PIN 5045.27 NY 104 (Ridge Rd) @ NY 93 (Lockport Junction-Warrens Crn) Intersection: Moved FFY for Detailed Design from 2022 to 2023. Transferred \$0.004M from Detailed Design to ROW ACQ. Approved 5/30/2023. 3. PIN 5512.56 Lancaster; Genesee St (Rt 33) – Harris Hill Rd: TAP: Moved Prelim Design FFY from 2024 to 2023. Approved 5/31/2023.
 - b. FFY23 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program (MPDG) – The NOFO is expected to be published in the Spring 2023. Three funding opportunities are included in this program: The National Infrastructure Project Assistance grants program (Mega); The Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grants program (INFRA); and The Rural Surface Transportation Grant program (Rural). Funds for these funding opportunities will be awarded on a competitive basis for surface transportation infrastructure projects including: highway and bridge; intercity passenger rail; railway-highway grade crossing or separation; wildlife crossing; public transportation; and marine highway, and freight projects. Mega Program: “Megaprojects” are projects that will likely generate national, regional, economic, mobility, or safety benefits. \$1B was available in FFY22. 50% of the funding awarded to projects greater than \$500M and 50% awarded to projects between \$100M and \$500M. Max 60% grant cost share, Max 80% federal. Eligible projects include: a highway or bridge project on the National Multimodal Freight Network; a highway or bridge project on the National Highway Freight Network; a highway or bridge project on the National Highway System; a freight intermodal (including public ports) or freight rail project that provides public benefit; a railway highway grade separation or elimination project; an intercity passenger rail project; and a public transportation project that is eligible under assistance under Chapter 53 of title 49 and is a part of any of the project types described above. INFRA Program: For multimodal freight and highway projects of national or regional significance to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of freight and people in and across rural and urban areas. \$1.55B was available in FFY22. Maximum of 85% of the funding will go towards projects larger than \$100M and a minimum of 15% of the funding will go towards projects smaller than \$100M. \$25M award minimum for projects larger than \$100M and \$5M award minimum for projects smaller than \$100M. Max 60% grant cost share, Max 80% federal. Eligible projects include: a highway freight project on the National Highway Freight Network; a highway or bridge project on the National Highway System; a freight intermodal, freight rail, or freight project within the boundaries of a public or private freight rail, water (including ports), or intermodal facility and that is a surface transportation infrastructure project necessary to facilitate direct intermodal interchange, transfer, or access into or out of the facility; a highway-railway grade crossing or grade

separation project; a wildlife crossing project; a surface transportation project within the boundaries or functionally connected to an international border crossing that improves a facility owned by Fed/State/local government and increases throughput efficiency; and a project for a marine highway corridor that is functionally connected to the NHFN and is likely to reduce road mobile source emissions; a highway, bridge, or freight project on the National Multimodal Freight Network. Rural Program: Provides funds to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas to increase connectivity, improve the safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth and improve quality of life. \$300M was available in FFY22. \$25M award minimums will be given for \$270M of the \$300M available and there is no award minimum for the other \$30M. Max 80% grant cost share, Max 100% federal. Eligible projects include: a highway, bridge, or tunnel project eligible under the National Highway Performance Program, Surface Transportation Block Grant, or Tribal Transportation Program; a highway freight project eligible under National Highway Freight Program; a highway safety improvement project, including a project to improve a high risk rural road as defined by the Highway Safety Improvement Program; a project on a publicly-owned highway or bridge that provides or increases access to an agricultural, commercial, energy, or intermodal facility that supports the economy of a rural area; and a project to develop, establish, or maintain an integrated mobility management system, a transportation demand management system, or on-demand mobility services. NC was awarded \$959,304.80 in FFY 22 for Hartland Rd Bridge over Golden Hill Creek Rehabilitation.

- c. Bridge Condition Database Demo – This database was created in-house with Microsoft Access. It combines two bridge condition databases. The first database is the National Bridge Inventory Database (2015-2022) which contains over 100 fields and has historical condition ratings – overall and sub-categories (Deck, Super, Sub, Channel and Culvert). And the second database NYSDOT Local Bridge Priority Index scores and data from last round of BRIDGE NY reviews. This database can be customized to show any information such as: tables, forms, queries and reports; sorting and filtering (BIN, Owner, Condition, ADT, LBPI, etc.); New data can be easily joined when available; or bridge geographic location via Google Maps (lat/long).
5. Adjourn: The next TPS meeting will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday July 19, 2023 – Format will continue to follow the hybrid model (Live and Zoom options). *Motion to adjourn: Boser/Svilokos. Approved.*

Transportation Projects Subcommittee

August 16, 2023



Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council

1. Approval of 6-21-23 Minutes

2. Action Items

a. PIN 5763.57 City of Tonawanda Pedestrian Bridge

- This is a request to modify an existing project
- The project includes a (potentially) historic bridge next to the Erie Canal and is expected to need 13 months for an individual 4(f) review.
 - Section 4(f) refers to the original section within the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 which established the requirement for consideration of park and recreational lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites in transportation project development
- Let will be delayed from 4/24 (FFY 24) to 4/25 (FFY 25)
- Fiscal constraint is maintained as funding is unchanged
- **Today's action will be to approve this change as AdMod #34**

b. PIN 5763.17 Allen St - Phase 2; Wadsworth - Delaware (BNMC)

- This is a City of Buffalo request to modify an existing project
- \$0.243M in matched earmarked federal HPP funds will be added to the the project
- Construction phase will increase from \$6.077M to \$6.320M
- As HPP funds are unallocated statewide federal funds, fiscal constraint is maintained
- Project let date was 6/1/21
- Today's action will be to approve this change as AdMod # 35

c. PIN 5815.65 N. Adam St Bridge over Erie Canal

- This is a NYSDOT request to add a new project to the TIP
- This project will investigate the removal of the North Adam Street bridge over the Erie Canal
- Total project cost is \$1.5M
- Offset will come from
 - \$0.060M Design funds (STBG Flex matched) and \$0.500M SDF will be transferred from PIN 5814.77 (Bridge MBC & Preservation Program)
 - Balance of project cost to be funded by state funding shared by NYSDOT and NYS Canal Corporation
- Transportation conformity exemption is being investigated
- **Today's action will be to initiate a 20-day public review period**

3. Old Business

4. New Business

a. RPPM Action Report

1. PIN 576414 N Bailey Avenue; Grover Cleveland – Maple
 - PREDES and DETDES Obligation Dates Advance from FFY 24 TO FFY 23
 - **Approved 6/28/23**
2. PIN 581503 ITS System Rehabilitation I-290; Erie Co
 - Increase PRELIM PHASE by \$0.069M
 - \$0.069M Transferred from C Phase
 - **Approved 8/2/23**

b. 2020 Urban Boundary Update

- Background:

- Once Decennial census is complete, census comes out with an Census Bureau Urbanized Area (UZA) Classification based on the Urban Area Definition

2010 Census Urban Area Definition

Census Bureau Urban Area Definition	Population Range
Urban Areas	2,500+
-- Urban Clusters	2,500-49,999
-- Urbanized Areas	50,000+

- FHWA uses the (UZA) as a starting point, allowing smoothing and adjustments of the UZA to a larger area to better suit transportation needs.

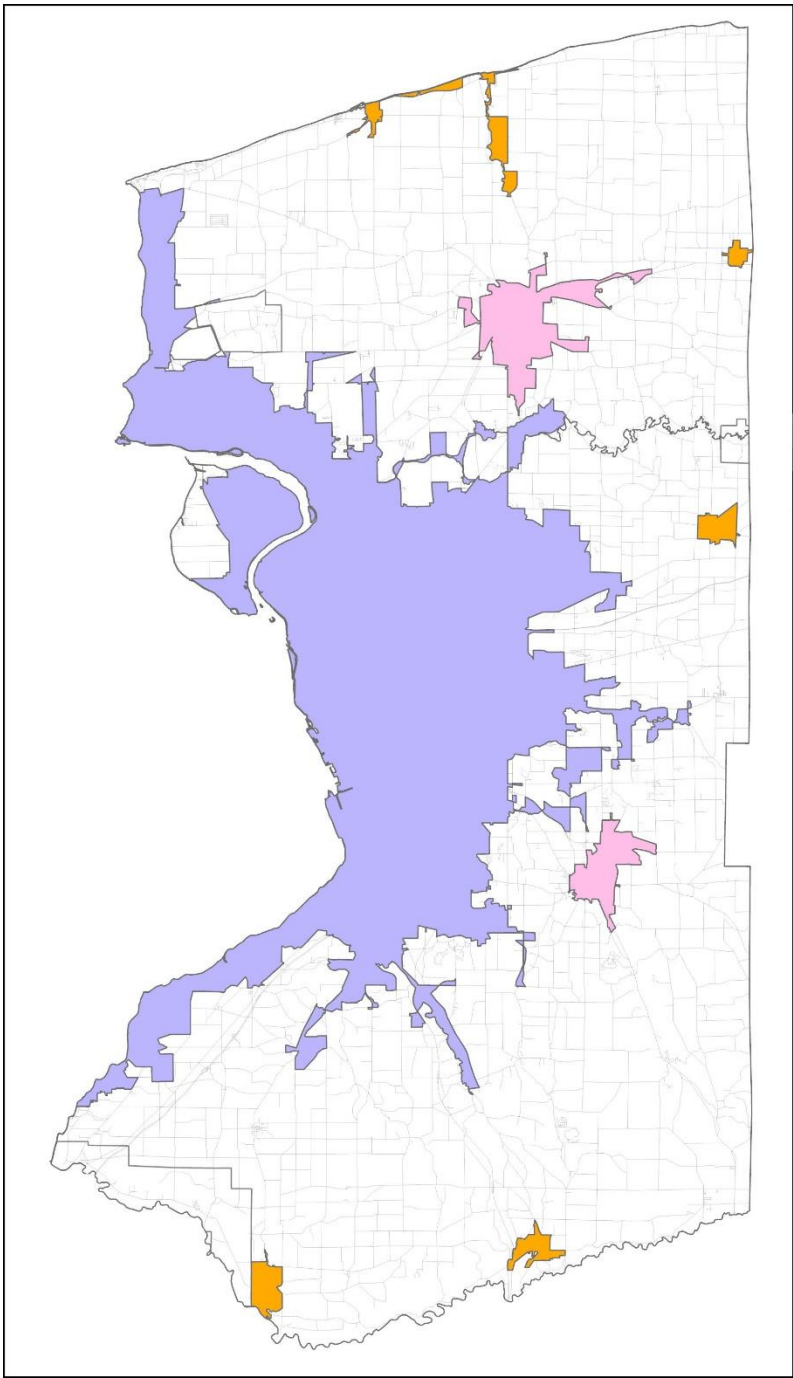
- For 2020 the Census Bureau Urbanized Area (UZA) Classification changed

2010 Census Urban Area Definition

Census Bureau Urban Area Definition	Population Range
Urban Areas	2,500+
-- Urban Clusters	2,500-49,999
-- Urbanized Areas	50,000+

2020 Census Urban Area Definition

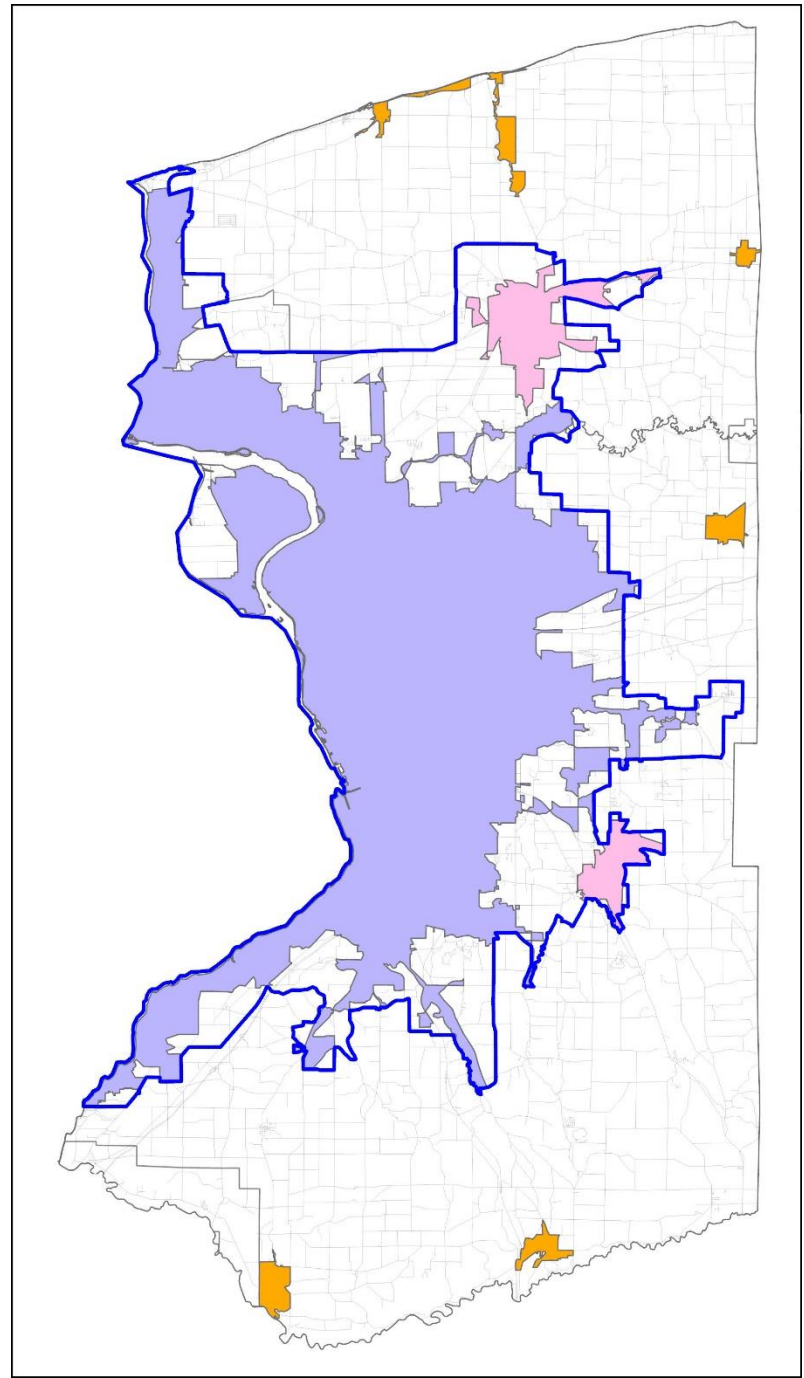
Census Bureau Urban Area Definition	Population	Housing Units
Urban Areas	5,000	2,000
-- Urban Clusters	No longer distinguishing between the two types of urban areas	
-- Urbanized Areas		

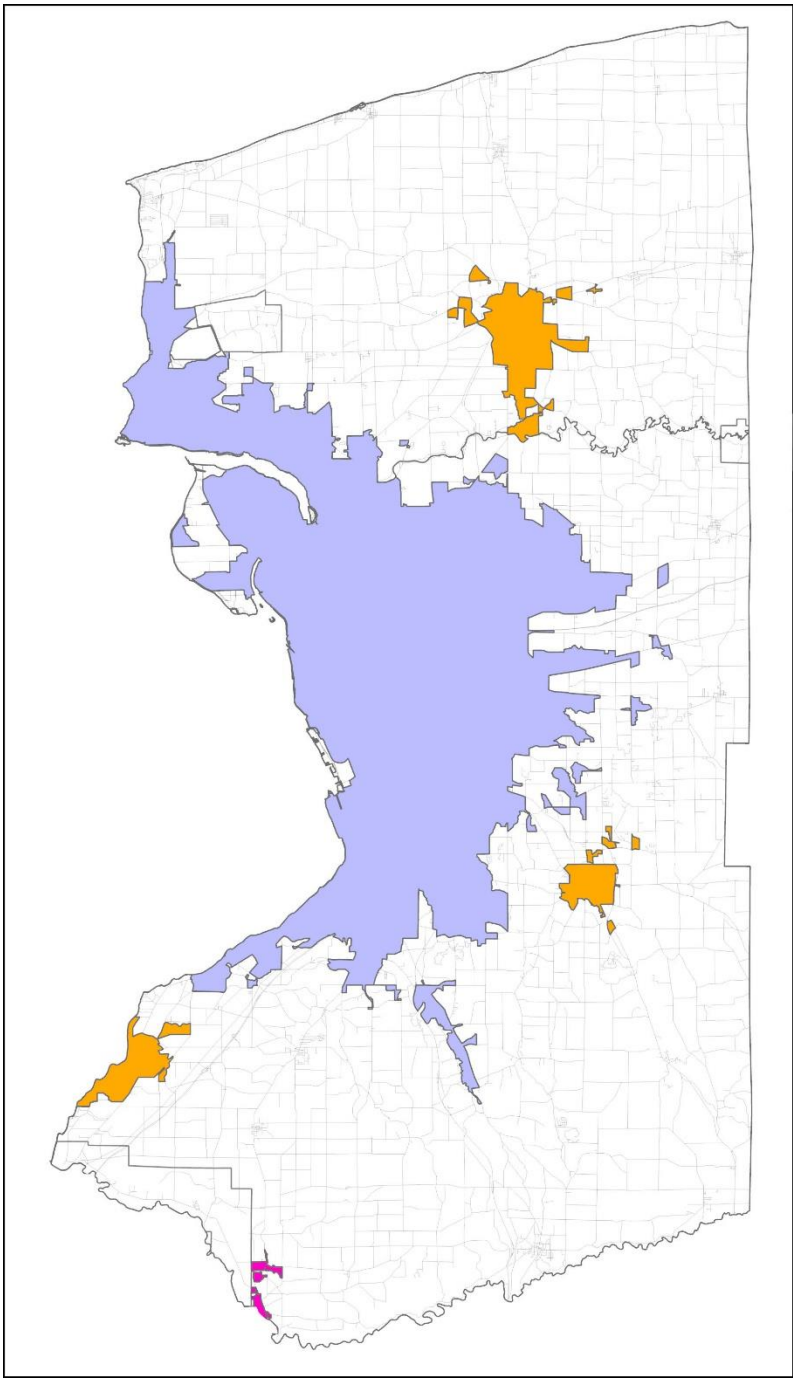


Census Urban
Area 2010



FHWA Urbanized
Boundary 2010

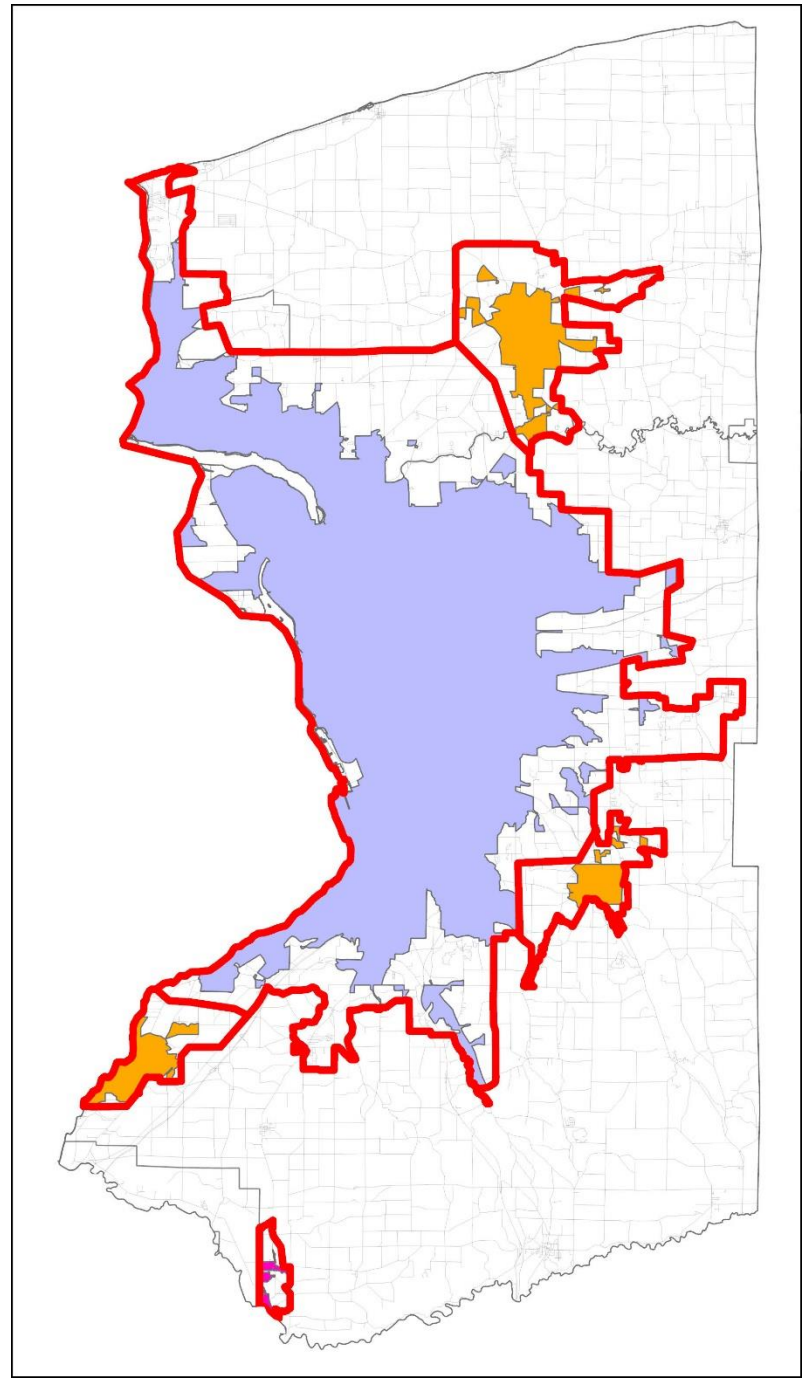


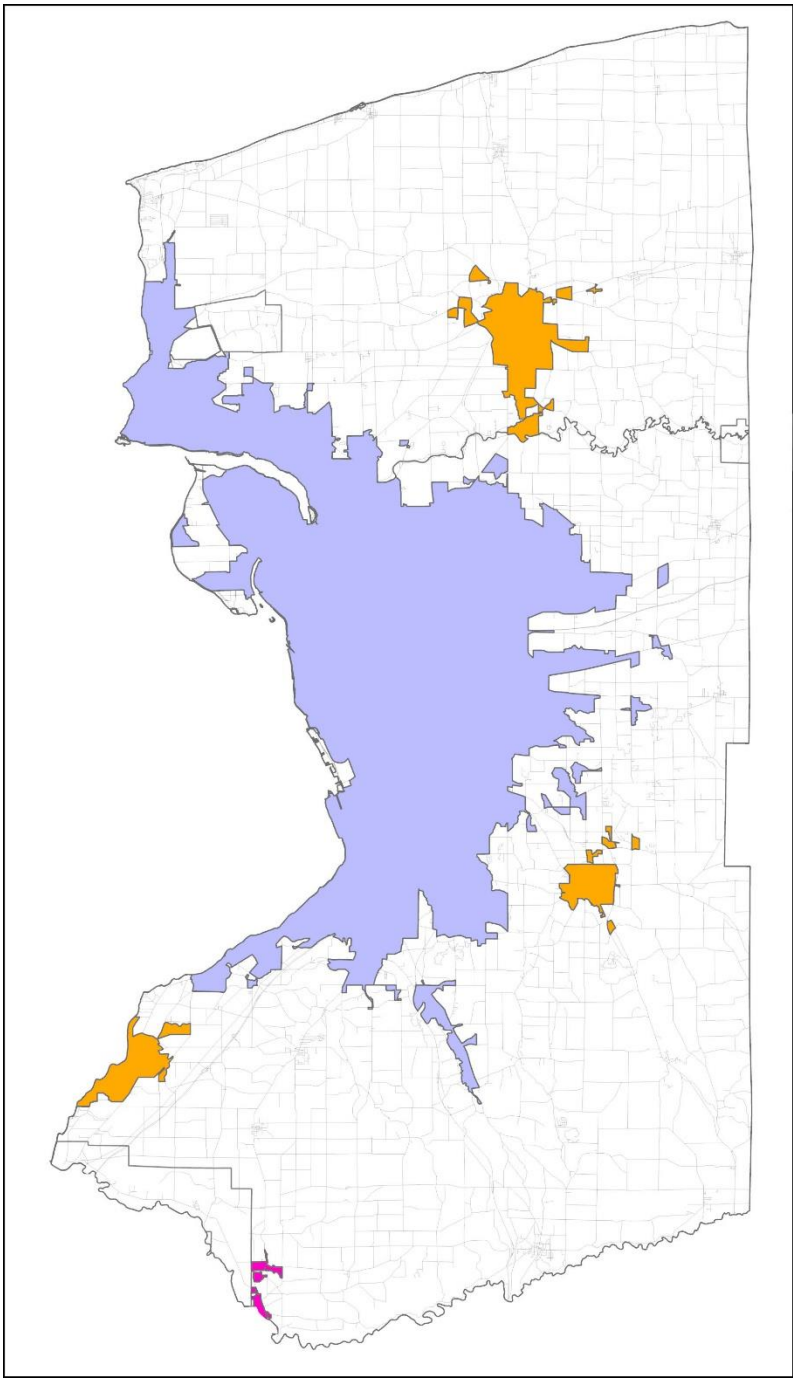


Census Urban
Area 2020



Proposed
FHWA Urbanized
Boundary 2020






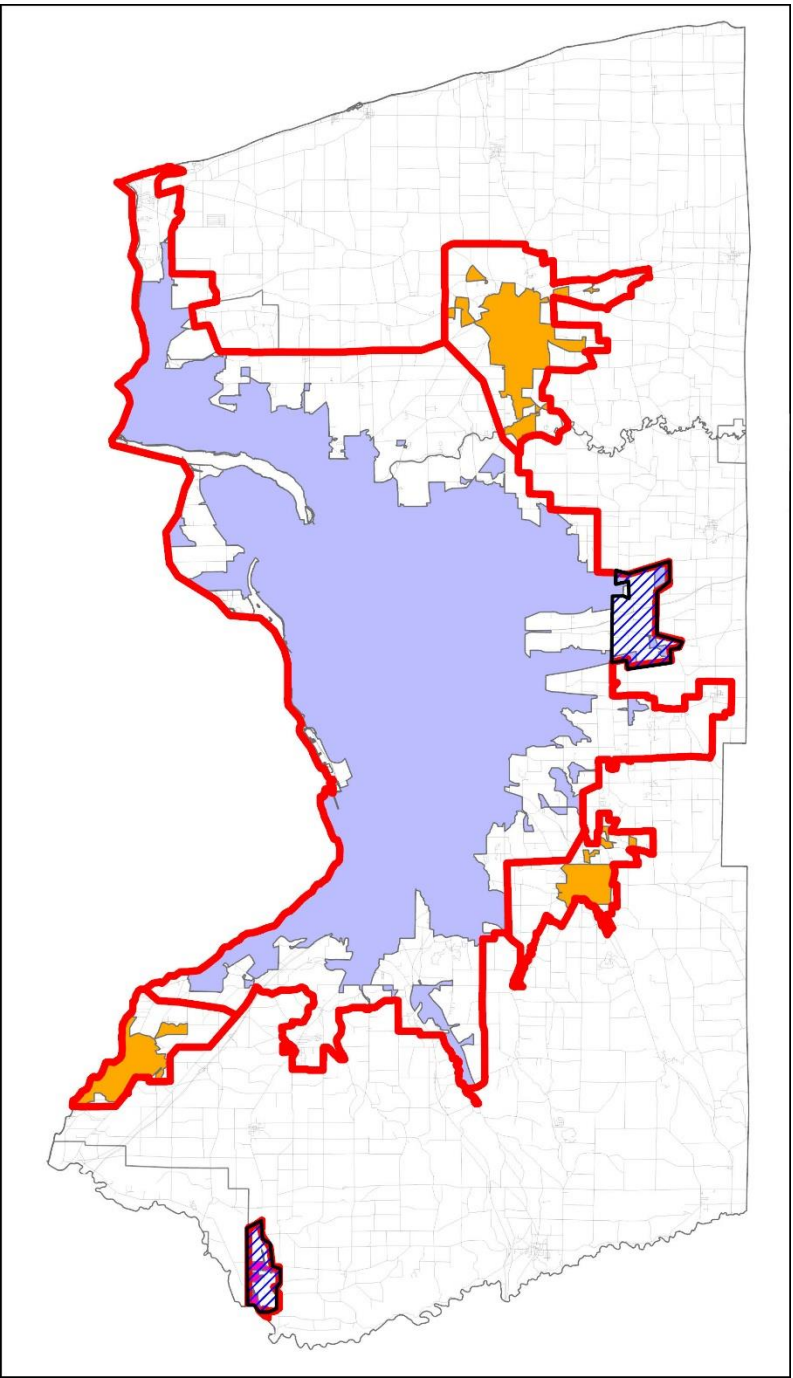
Census Urban
Area 2020



Proposed
FHWA Urbanized
Boundary 2020



 Addition to
the 2010
Urbanized
Boundary



- Schedule

- Sept PCC – approval to initiate public notice
- Oct PCC – Finalized PCC approval and electronic ballot Policy approval
- Week of Oct 16th, 2023 – Submission of approval to NYSDOT Main Office
- Week of Oct 30th, 2023 – NYSDOT submission of Final Adjustments to FHWA
- Week of Nov 27th, 2023 – FHWA acceptance
- Final FHWA approval no later than Dec 29th, 2023

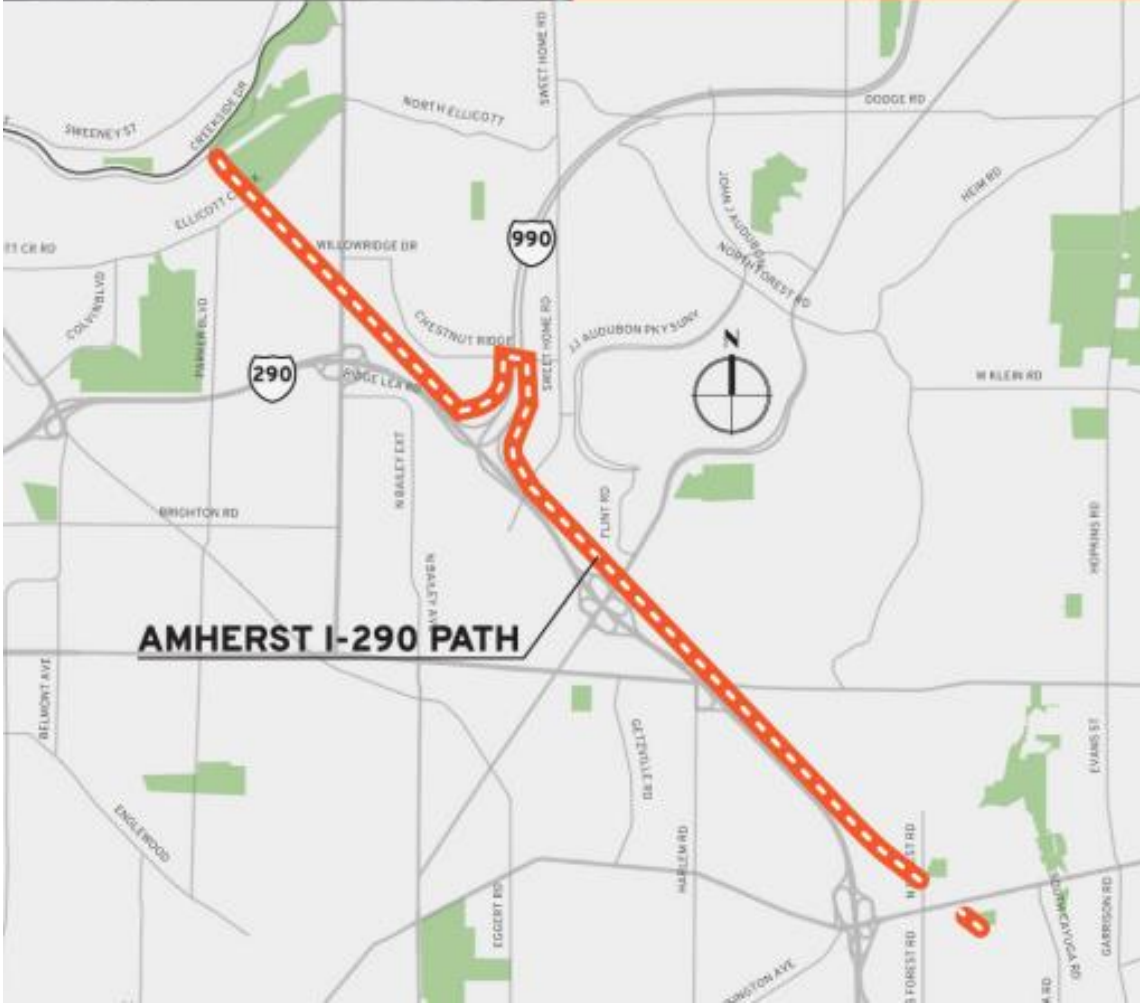
c. Regional Bicycle Master Plan Implementation Contract

- Request from the Town of Amherst to conduct feasibility studies on trails in Amherst.
 - Peanut Line Trail
 - Amherst 290 Pathway
- Request from Newfane Supervisor to conduct feasibility study on the Somerset Trail.
 - Support from surrounding municipalities and County
 - Initial conversation with the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area and Niagara Greenway Commission

Amherst I-290 Path



Municipality: Amherst,
Williamsville
Corridor Ownership: NYSDOT
Mileage: 6.4
Relative Cost: \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Phase: 6-10 years



Bike Buffalo Niagara

Greenway Trails

- The 6.4-mile Amherst I-290 Path would run along the eastern side of I-290, within the state's ROW.
- It would connect the shopping district along Main St in Williamsville with Ellicott Creek Park and the future Tonawanda Creek Corridor Trail in Tonawanda.

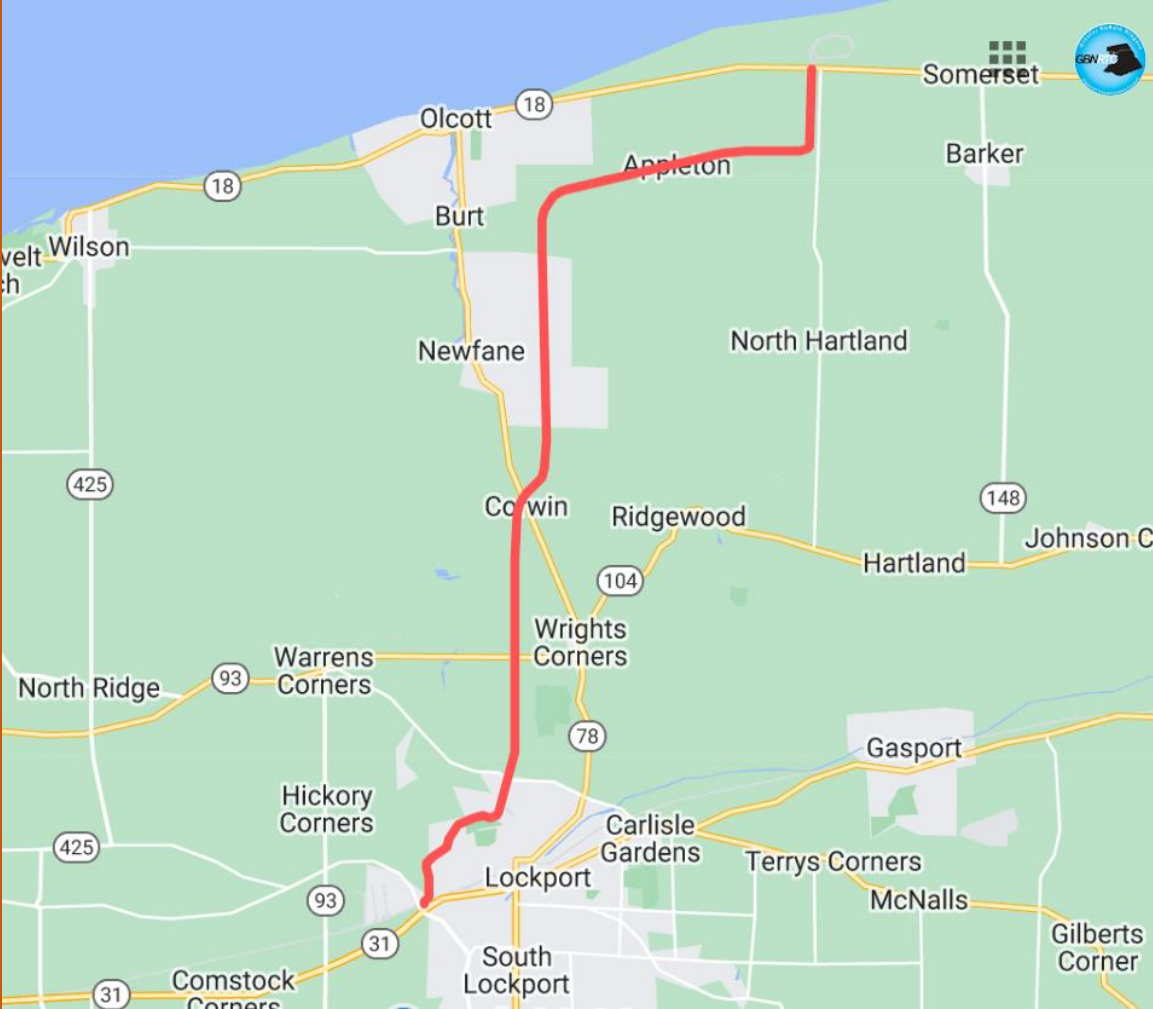


Municipality: Amherst
Corridor Ownership: Amherst
Mileage: 4.6
Relative Cost: \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Phase: 3-5 years



Bike Buffalo Niagara Greenway Trails

- This off-road corridor would extend 4.6 miles west from the existing Clarence Pathway Trails to North Forest Rd in Amherst.
- This is a critical abandoned rail corridor that local advocates have been working for many years to see implemented.
- It also aims to provide an improved pedestrian/bicycle connection to the various trails and bike paths that surround the UB campus.



Bike Buffalo Niagara

Greenway Trails

- 17.5 mile trail from Mill St to Quaker Rd along Railway Corridor through the communities of the City and Town of Lockport, Newfane and Somerset.



RBMP Implementation Contract

Scajaquada Creek Trail Cheektowaga Ext	\$48,230
Clarence Pathway Trail Cheektowaga Ext	\$67,060
Total Committed	\$115,290
Contract Total (UPWP)	\$208,800
Remaining Funds Available	\$93,510



RBMP Implementation Contract

Remaining Funds Available	\$93,510
Peanut Line Trail	\$76,000
Amherst 290 Pathway	\$105,773
Somerset Trail	\$152,407 - \$287,875



d. 2023 Public Participation Plan Update

- Close of 30 day member review and comment period on Friday, August 18th
- Two public meetings will be held both virtually and in person for those interested in attending
- 45 day public review and comment period scheduled to begin on September 7th

d. 2023 Public Participation Plan Update

GBNRTC Document	Public Comment Periods	Update Schedule
Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)	30 calendar days	Updated every five years
Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment	20/30 calendar days*	As needed
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	30 calendar days	Every three years
Transportation Improvement Program Amendment	20/30 calendar days*	As needed
Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)	30 calendar days	Every two years
UPWP Amendment	20/30 days*	As needed
Public Participation Plan (PPP)	45 calendar days	As needed
Public Meeting Notice	One week prior	NA

**20 days for FHWA projects and 30 days for FTA projects*

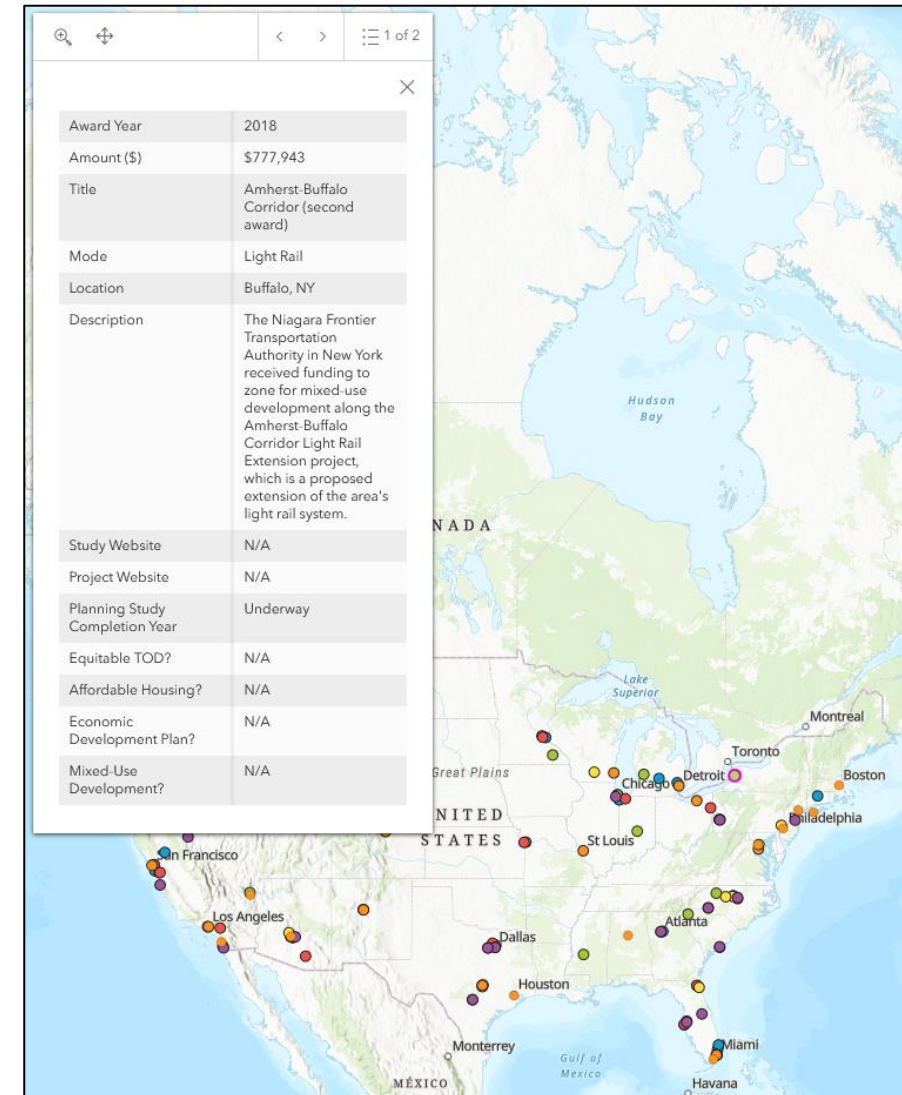
e. Pilot Transit-Oriented Development Planning Program

- FTA's Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning (Section 20005(b)) supports local planning and investment near transit hubs to promote sustainable, livable, and equitable communities
- Approximately \$13.4 million in competitive grant funds have been made available
- This year, applications for areas with a lower population density or lower average income compared to surrounding areas will receive a higher federal funding share. Additionally, applications with a substantial focus on affordable housing may receive up to 100% federal cost share support



e. Pilot Transit-Oriented Development Planning Program

- On January 20, 2022, FTA launched a TOD Planning Program GIS dashboard that showcases information on awarded proposals and the respective planning studies.
- To apply for funding, an applicant must be an existing FTA grant recipient – either a project sponsor of an eligible transit project or an entity with land use planning authority in the project corridor
- The application period will close on October 10, 2023
- For more information, got to <https://www.transit.dot.gov/TODPilot>



f. New York State Freight Plan Update

- NYSDOT seeks to update the 2019 New York State Freight Transportation Plan
- The plan will
 - Identify gaps and opportunities to improve New York State's multi-modal freight network and competitive position relative to goods movement and global trade
 - Review and incorporate the latest USDOT requirements to ensure compliance with IIA and other relevant state and federal laws and regulations
 - Develop a strategic framework to progress high priority freight strategies and projects in partnership with the Federal government, regional partners, Regional Economic Development Councils, the private sector, and national and international trade partners
 - Guide freight-related transportation investments and strategies in a way that supports NYSDOT's Mission to have a safe, efficient, balanced, and environmentally sound transportation system
- CPCS is the consultant under contract

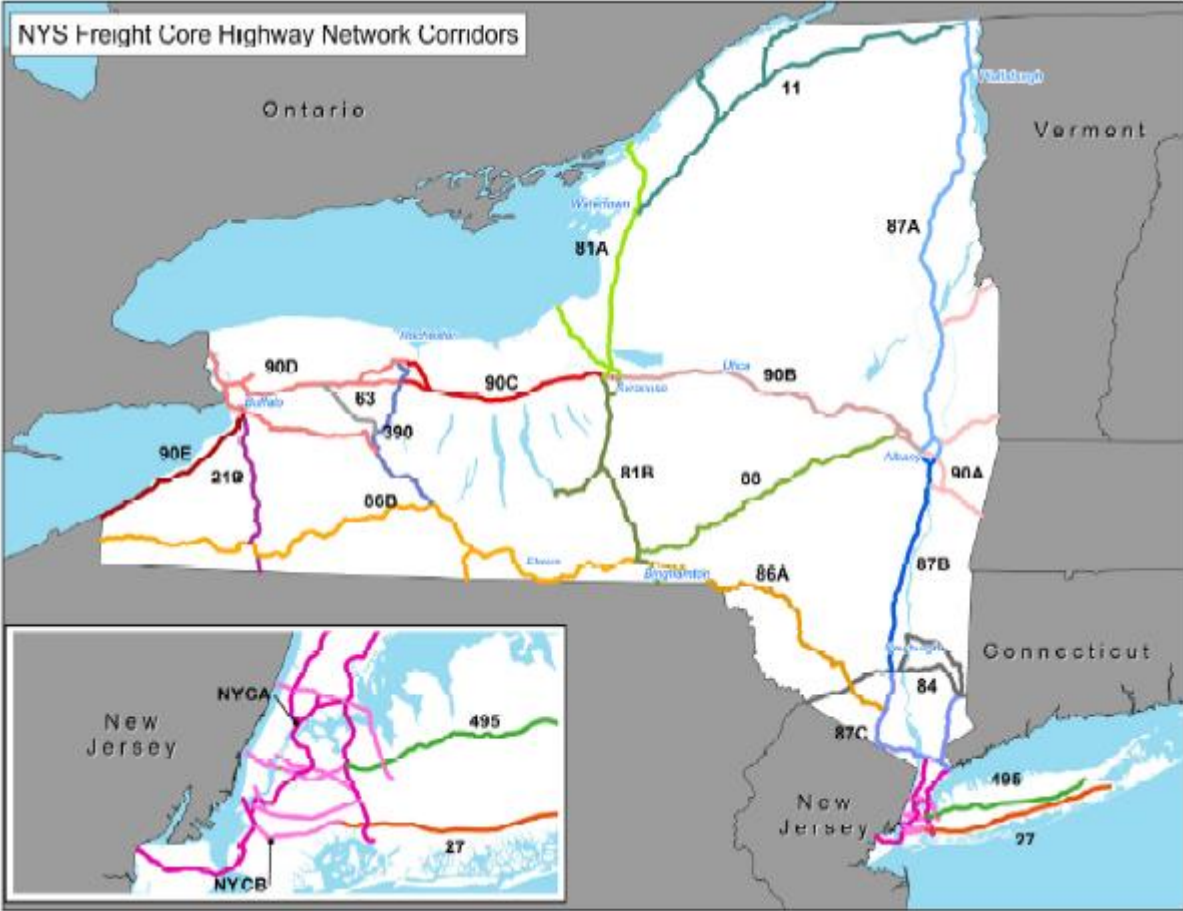
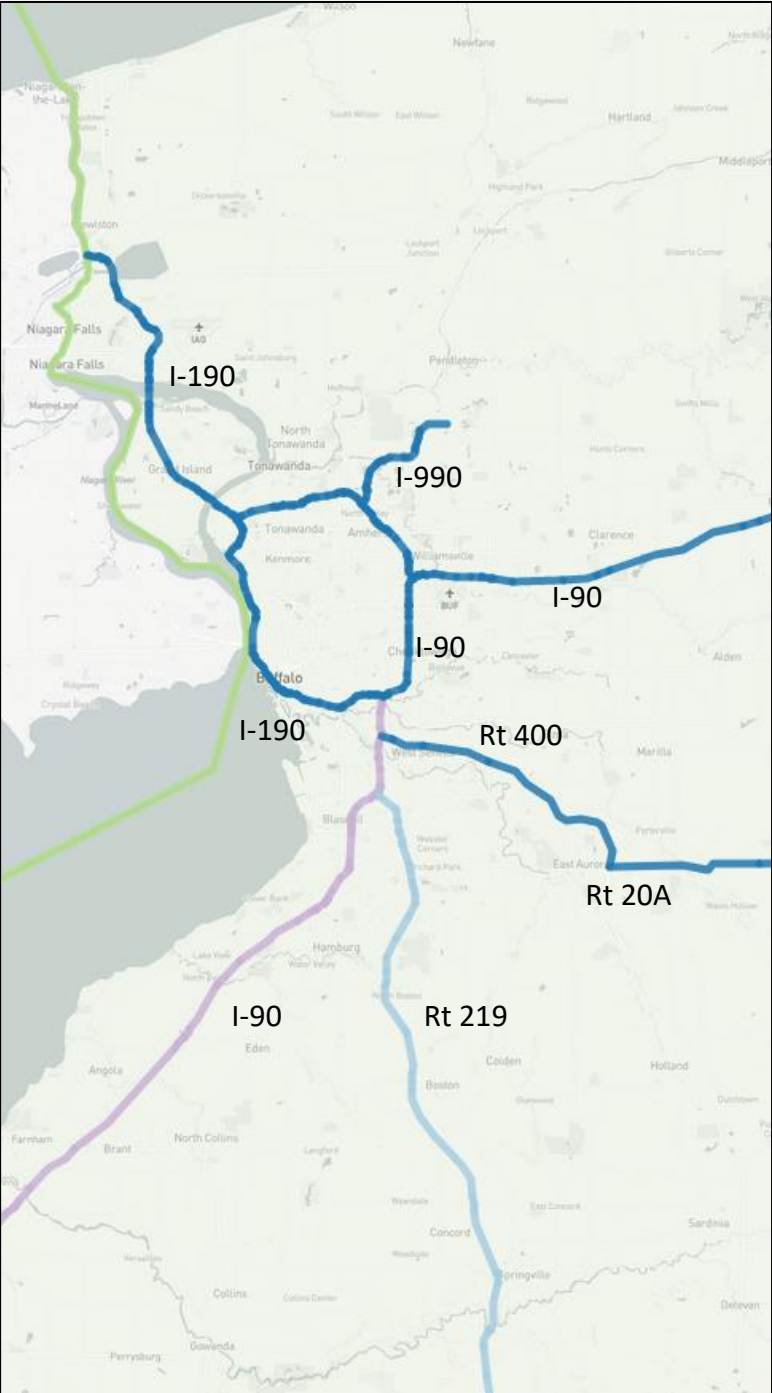
f. New York State Freight Plan Update

- A “State Freight Core Network” was identified in the 2019 plan to assess the infrastructure which most directly impacts the movement of truck freight on a statewide level
- Unlike the federal National Highway Freight Network, there is no mileage limitations
- Although there currently is no state dedicated funding, NYSDOT does look at this network when allocating National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) funding
- GBNRTC has been asked by NYSDOT MO if NY 16 from NY 400 to Erie County Line (proposed by consultant) should be added to the network

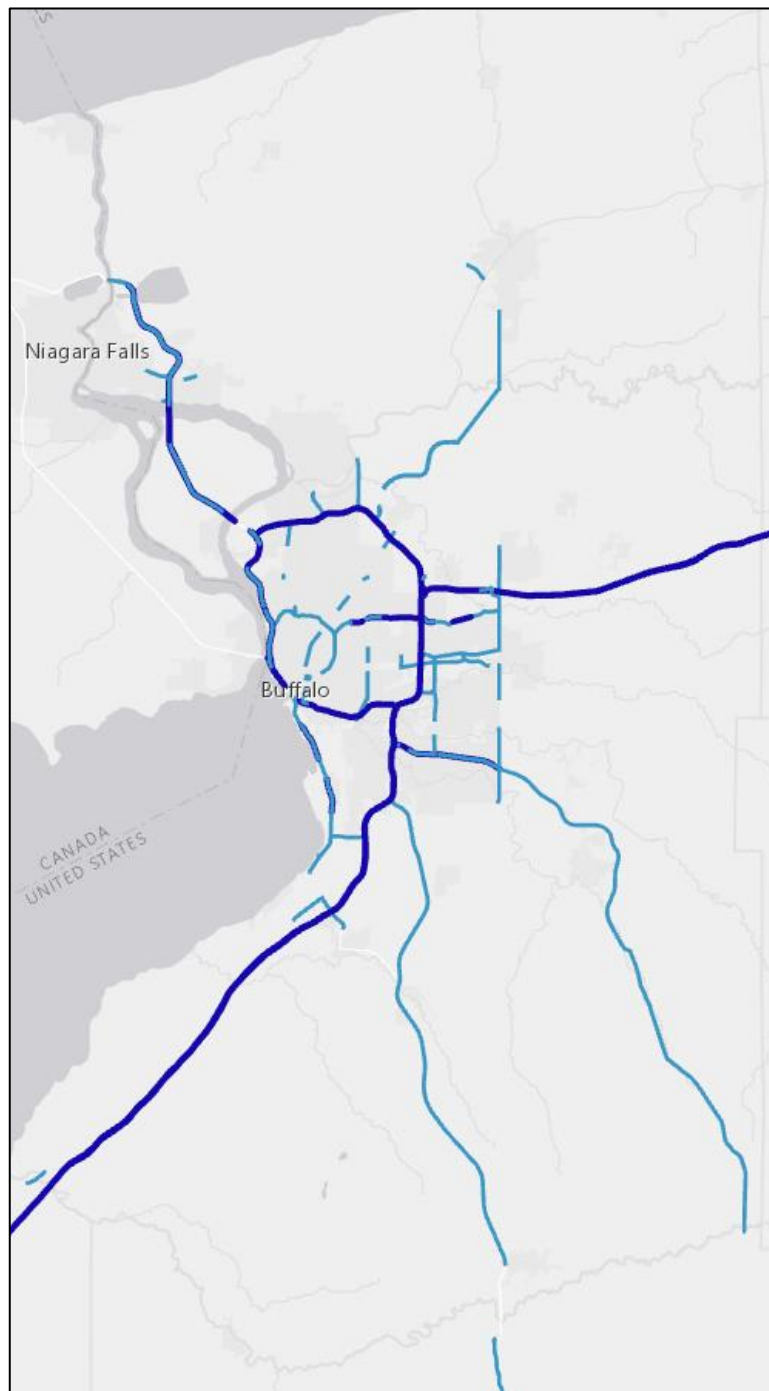
f. New York State Freight Plan Update

- Criterion for inclusion:
 1. All roads on the Interstate Highway System.
 2. Any facility on the NHS providing a land-based Port of Entry connection with Canada.
 3. Any roadway with a continuous segment (>15 miles) that carries a volume of more than 365,000 trucks each year, or 1,000 trucks each day.
 4. Any roadway segment required to provide connectivity along a corridor.
 5. Other important facilities identified by stakeholders
- Analysis completed by GBNRTC staff using NYSDOT Traffic Data Viewer to identify potential additions to network that meet stated criteria
 - Whirlpool and Rainbow Bridges in Niagara Falls do not allow trucks so a connection to them was not identified/included
 - Linkages between existing network and any proposed new routes were included for network connectivity

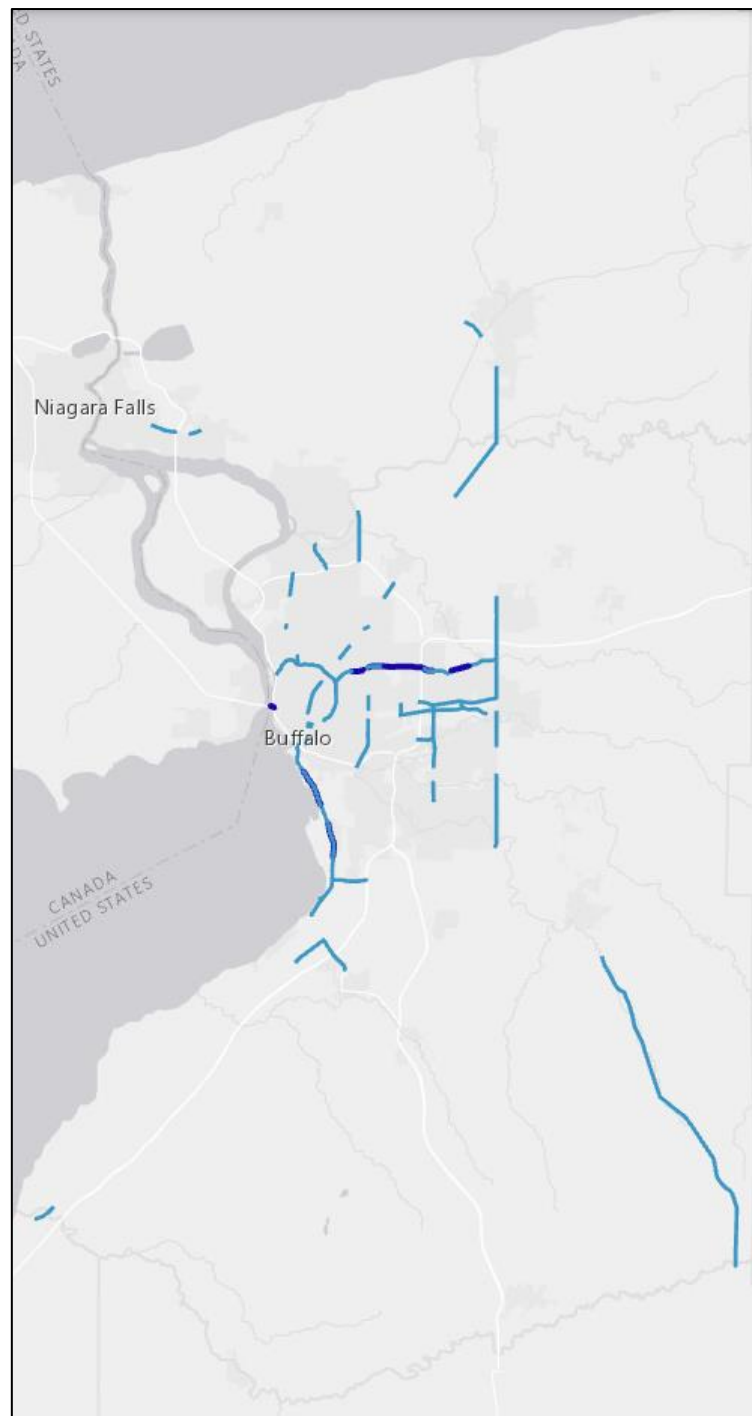
State Freight Core Network (2019)



NHS Roads with over 1000 Truck AADT

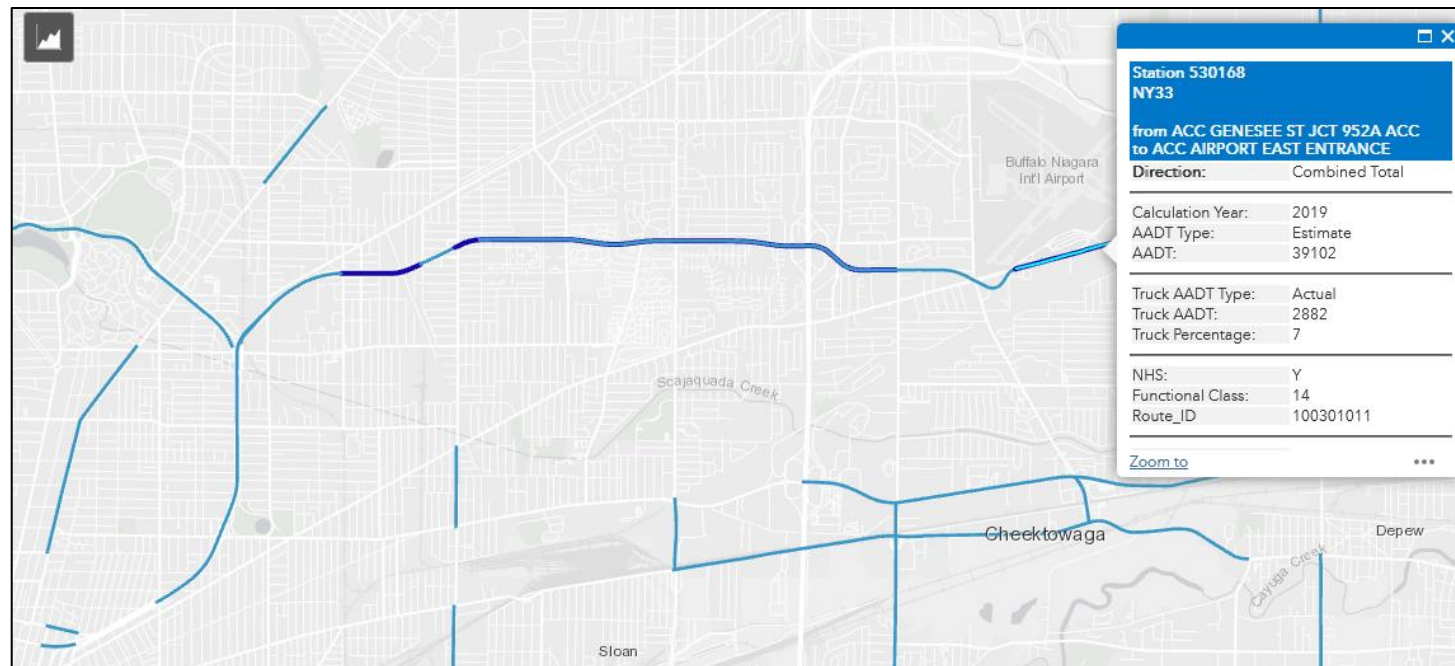


NHS Roads with
over 1000 Truck
AADT with State
Freight Core
Network removed



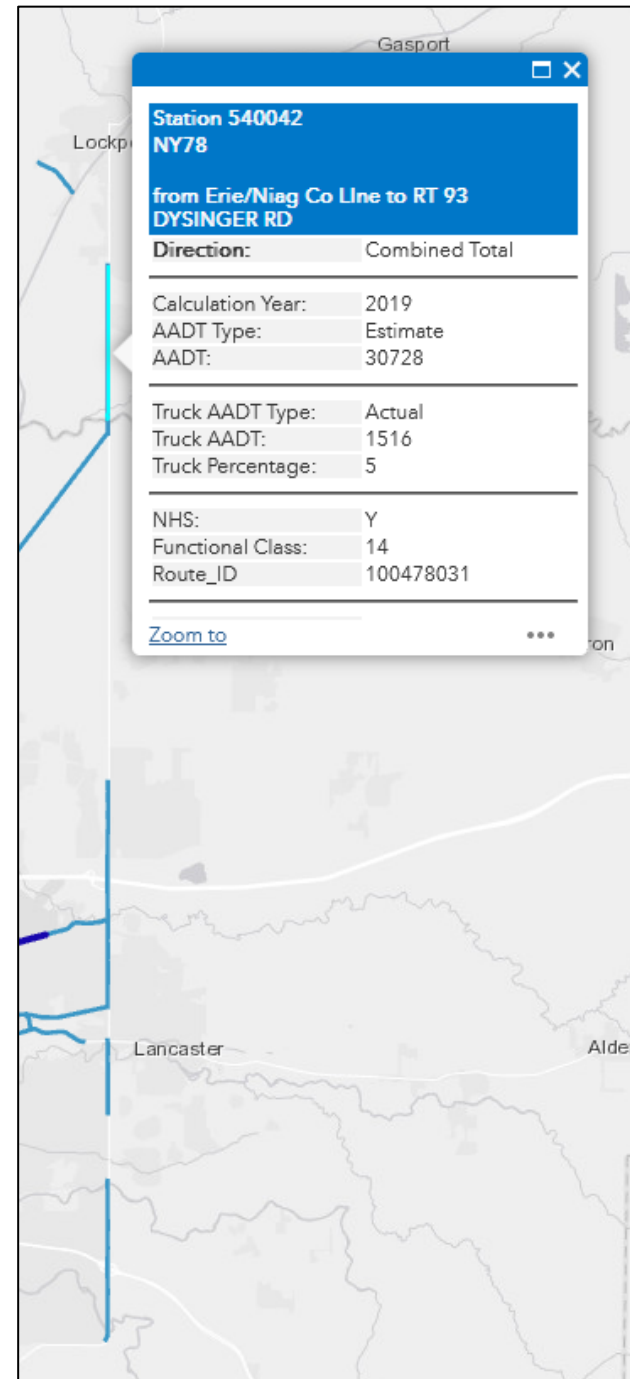
Possible Addition 1

- NY 33 (Kensington Expwy/Genesee St) from Elm/Oak (Downtown) to NY 78 (Transit Rd)
 - NHS
 - Approx AADT: 40,000 to 50,000
 - Approx Truck AADT: 1,300 – 3,000
 - Only 11 miles but provides truck connectivity to/from Downtown Buffalo (NY 78, Buffalo-Niagara International Airport, NY 277, I-90, NY 240, NY 62)



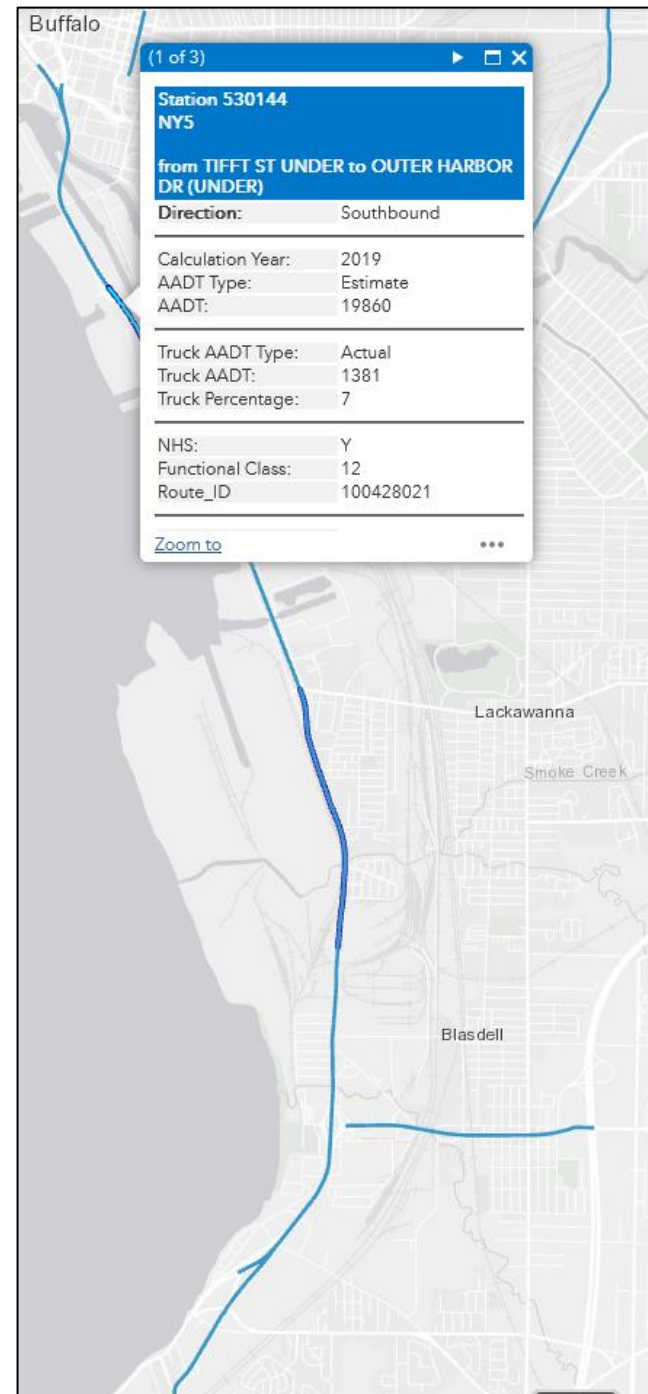
Possible Addition 2

- Transit Rd (NY 78) from NY 31 (Walnut St) to NY 400
 - NHS
 - Approx AADT: 35,000
 - Approx Truck AADT: 1,500
 - Approx 23 miles



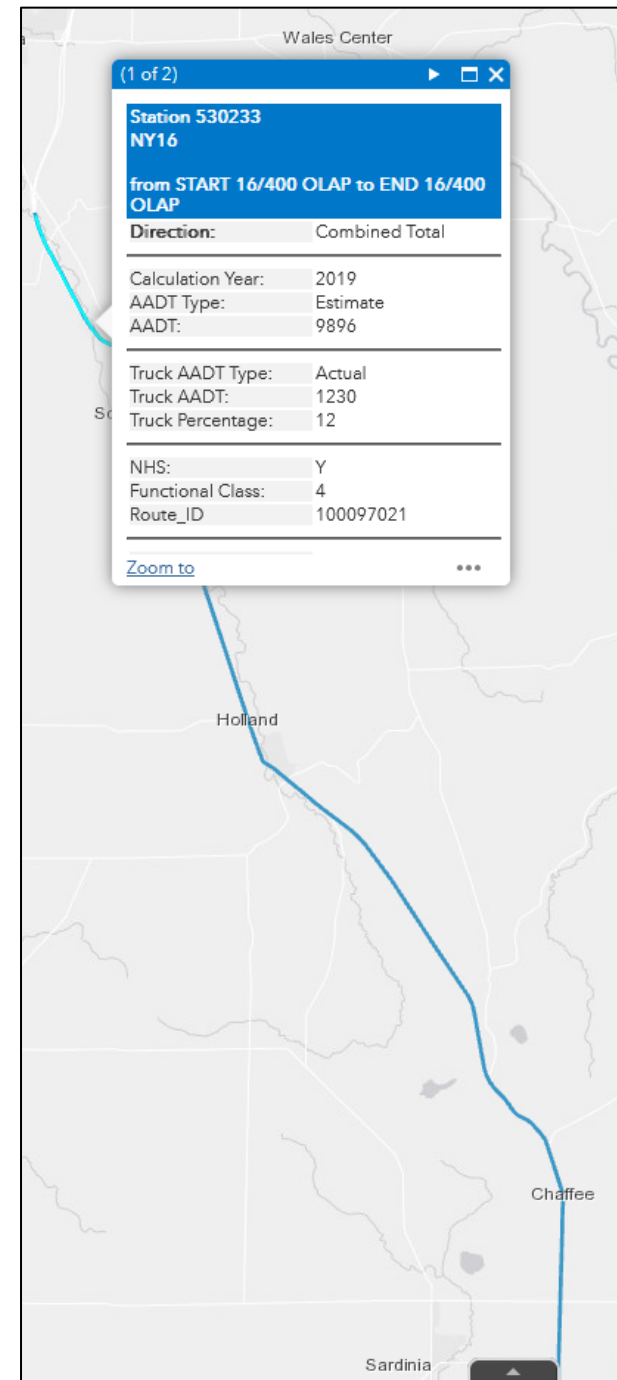
Possible Addition 3

- NY Rt 5 I-190 to NY 75
 - NHS
 - Approx AADT: 20,000
 - Approx Truck AADT: 1,200
 - Only 9 miles but serves many manufacturing/warehousing businesses including the Ford Stamping Plant, Port of Buffalo, CSX Intermodal Yard, Buffalo Lakeside Commerce Park and Bethlehem Business park



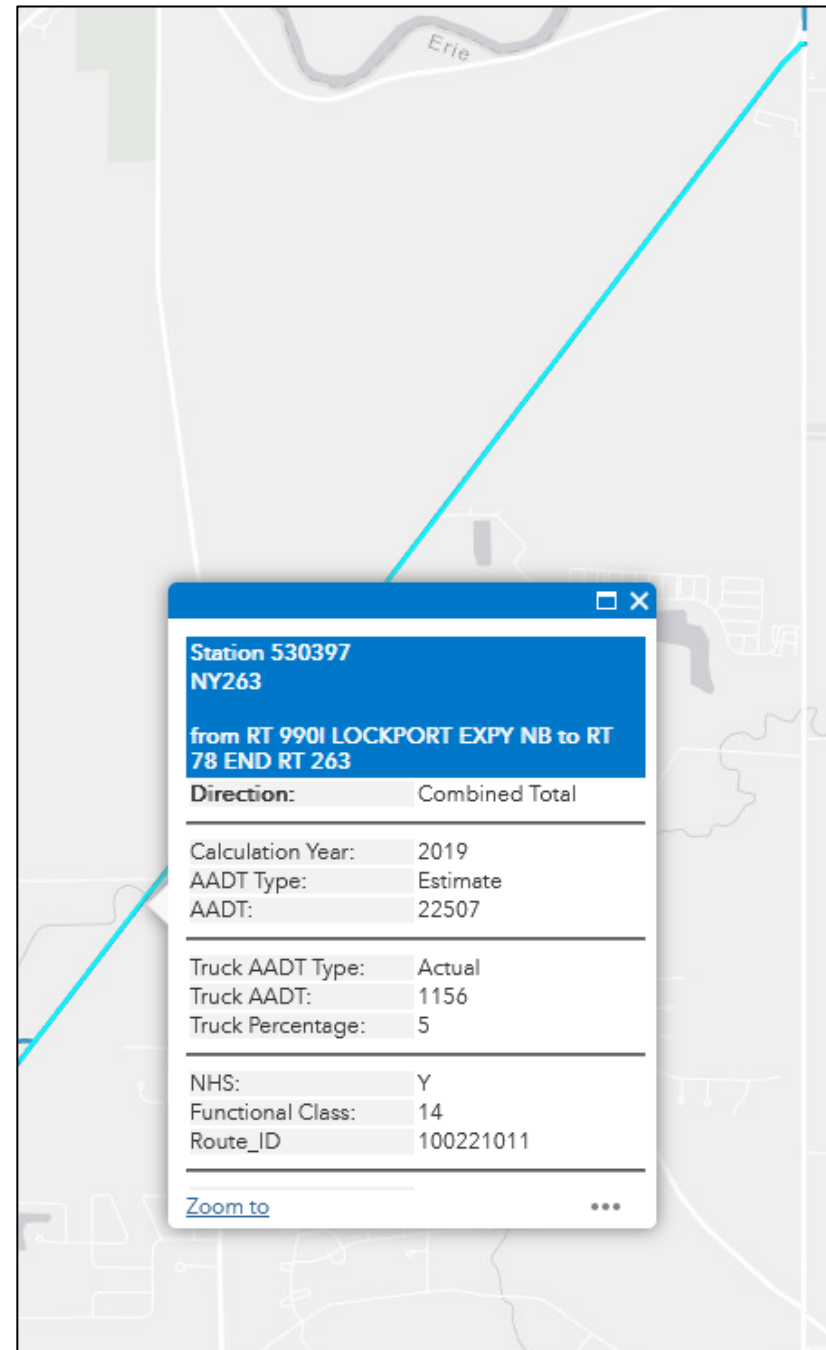
Possible Addition 4

- NY 16 from NY 400 to NY 39
 - NHS
 - Approx AADT: 10,000
 - Approx Truck AADT: 1,200
 - 16.5 miles



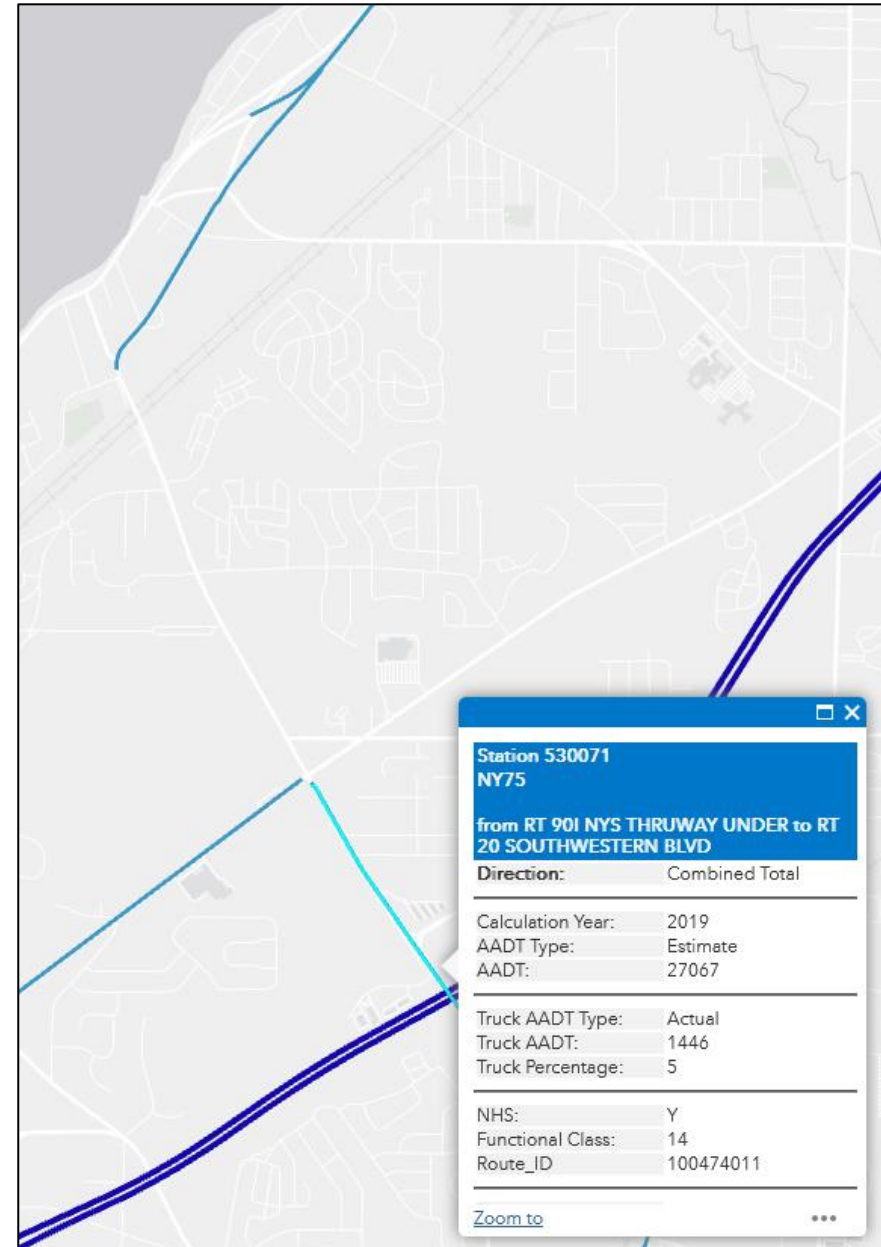
Possible Addition 5

- NY 263 (Millersport Hwy) from I-990 to NY 78 (Transit Rd)
 - NHS
 - Approx AADT: 22,500
 - Approx Truck AADT: 1,150
 - 3.1 miles – connects I-990 to NY 78 (Recommended Addition 2)

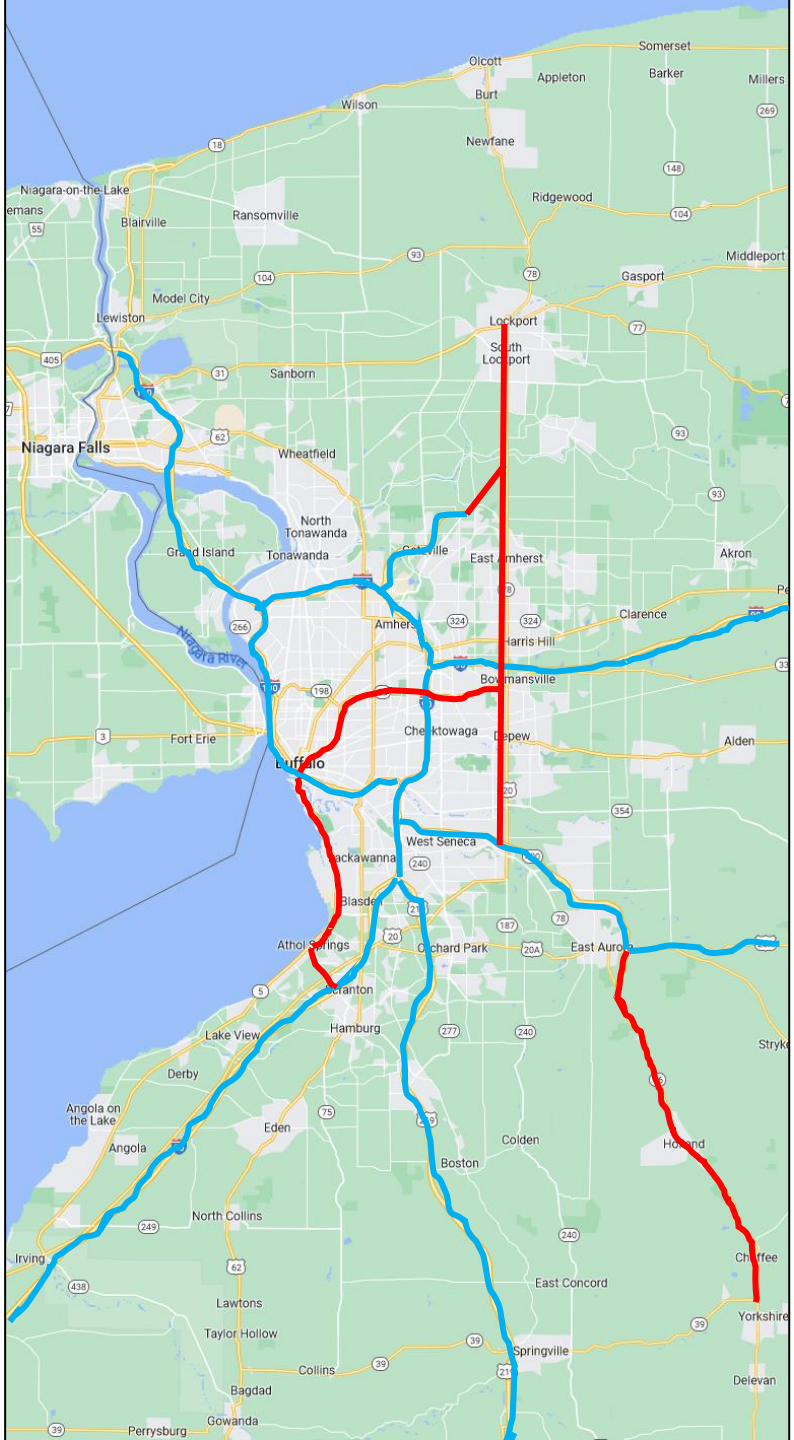


Possible Addition 6

- NY 75 from NY 5 to I-90
 - NHS
 - Approx AADT: 27,000
 - Approx Truck AADT: 1,400
 - 2.8 miles
 - Connects NY5 (Recommended Addition 3) to I-90



Existing (2019) State Freight Core Network
Possible Additions



Next Scheduled TPS Meeting

- Wednesday September 20 @ 9:00 AM