



2012 Regional Agenda

*A collaborative effort of the cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls,
counties of Erie and Niagara, and the Buffalo Niagara Partnership*



BUFFALO NIAGARA
PARTNERSHIP



2012 REGIONAL AGENDA

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.....denotes items that were included in *A Strategy for Prosperity*, the WNY Regional Economic Development Council’s strategic plan


.....denotes items that were included in the *Accelerate Upstate Action Agenda*



2012 Regional Agenda
Regionally Transformative Initiatives

- **Peace Bridge U.S. Customs Renovation Project** 
 - Renovation at the port of Buffalo designed to ease congestion, improve efficiency, and remedy longstanding issues at the border crossing including:
 - Rescission of Peace Bridge Expansion Project review process by the federal government
 - Receipt of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and General Services Administration (GSA) approvals of plaza renovation
 - Receipt of approval for commercial vehicle pre-inspection on the Canadian side of the border at the Peace Bridge

- **Proceeds Legislation Implementation** 
 - Passage and implementation of S.5835/A.8538 – the strengthened “proceeds bill” – to ensure the proceeds from the sale of local hydropower is used for the greatest economic impact with 30 miles of the Niagara Power Plant


- **Recommit to Roswell Park Cancer Institute** 
 - Adequate state funding or amendment of public benefit corporation legislation, which will make available the necessary resources and management tools to allow Roswell Park to sustain its growth trajectory and to enhance patient care through innovative clinical research


 - Enabling state legislation:
 - for greater local input regarding the needs of employees and the employer
 - to improve management of Board of Directors appointments, notification of membership modifications, and flexibility to appoint out-of-state subject matter experts
 - to recognize the unique characteristics of a healthcare-related public authority

- **UB2020 Phase I**
 - Gubernatorial approval of the plan to relocate the UB School of Medical and Biomedical Sciences to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus

2012 Regional Agenda
Target Industry Sectors


- **Agribusiness**
 - **Agribusiness Park**
 - Additional infrastructure build-out to create a site that can be marketed for value-added food preparation and processing projects – \$2MM state


- **Life Sciences/Tech**
 - **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program** 
 - Long term reauthorization of federal Small Business Innovation Research program
 - Reinstatement of a competitive NYS program to provide matching awards – up to \$50,000 – to companies which have received federal SBIR grants


 - **Extension of Qualified Emerging Technology Company (QETC) Tax Credits** 
 - Extension of the current New York State Qualified Emerging Tax Company (QETC) facility, operations and training credits through January 1, 2017

 - **Erie Community College (ECC) Center for Excellence Academic Building**
 - Construction of a building to facilitate ECC's expansion of its high demand health sciences programs – \$15 MM state

 - **Niagara University Center for Integrated Sciences**
 - Construction of a new science facility which will help Niagara University prepare the next generation of talent to assume critical life & health sciences positions in the region – \$10 MM state

- **Logistics**
 - **Bethlehem Steel Site** 
 - Initiation of Phase I, relocation of rail adjacent to Route 5, track improvements, acquisition of intermodal yard, of development of a water-rail-truck facility on the former Bethlehem Steel site – \$10 MM state





 - **Ballast Water** 
 - Adoption of a uniform federal-state ballast water standard to protect the aquatic environment of the Great Lakes while balancing the need for large commercial ships to use ballast to maintain stability as they move between ports

- **Tourism**
 - **Niagara Experience Center** 
 - Site Acquisition, Design and Beginning Phases of Construction of Niagara Experience Center – \$20 MM federal/\$5 MM state

 - **Erie Canal Flight of Five Locks Restoration Project**
 - Restoration of Erie Canal Locks 67-71 to their 1842 condition – \$6MM federal

- **Small Business**
 - **Buffalo State Business & Community Engagement Center**
 - Design and construction of a business and community engagement center that will anchor the west end of the Buffalo State campus – \$28 MM state

2012 Regional Agenda
Transportation Projects


- **Federal Transportation Infrastructure Reauthorization** 
 - Passage of a multi-year transportation bill that will modernize and reform the nation's transportation systems in a way designed to accelerate economic recovery and create jobs
- **Niagara Falls International Airport - Master Plan** 
 - Completion of an airport master plan to direct long-term development of both air and landside facilities and assess growth-related needs – \$1.355 MM state
- **Cars on Main Street** 
 - Design and reconstruction of the Main Street Multi-Modal Access and Revitalization Project to return automobile traffic to Main Street – \$32 MM federal
- **Niagara Falls Heritage Area Access and Park Restoration Project**
 - Reconstruction of Whirlpool Street and construction of a new pedestrian access along a 2-mile segment of the Robert Moses Parkway – \$10 MM federal/state
- **Olcott Harbor Breakwater Project**
 - Planning and construction of a breakwater or other wave attenuation system for the Olcott Harbor to protect the Lake Ontario shoreline - \$8 MM federal/state
- **Continental 1** 
 - New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) replacement of federal funds needed to complete the Route 219/Continental 1 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) – \$6.5 MM state

***2012 Regional Agenda
Regional Planning***

Federal Action

- **New Markets Tax Program**
 - Reauthorization of the federal New Markets Tax Credit program before the program's sunset on December 31, 2011
- **EPA Brownfield Revitalization Fund**
 - Increase the amount of EPA Brownfield Revitalization funds and their ability to be used within NYS Brownfield Opportunity Areas
 - Increase cap for individual remediation grants to \$2MM

State Action


- **Support for Asbestos Remediation** 
 - Inclusion of asbestos as a criterion for eligibility for admittance of properties located in a "distressed census tract" into the NYS Brownfield Clean-Up Program (BCP)
 - Creation of Asbestos Remediation Tax Credits for Downtowns and Urban Centers
 - Abolishment of the state Asbestos Notification Fee
- **Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Reform**
 - Amendment of original TIF legislation in a way that would make TIF financing more attractive for economic development investors with significant redevelopment projects by:
 - allowing school districts to opt-in
 - the flexibility to use TIF for brownfield remediation
- **Restore NY and Environmental Restoration Programs**
 - Recapitalize the Restore NY Clearance and Demolition Program and the Environmental Restoration Program – \$50 MM state

Shovel-ready Site Development

- **Durez Incubator Development**
 - Co-development of the Durez property on Walck Road into a 50,000 square foot incubator building – \$2 MM federal
- **Niagara Falls Highland Area Renewable Energy Commerce Park**
 - Development of an 80-acre shovel-ready commerce park in the NYS designated Highland Area Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) – \$5 MM state
- **North Youngmann/Riverview Industrial Park**
 - Complete infrastructure build-out to make these sites shovel-ready and attractive to potential solar technology production projects – \$3MM state


2012 Regional Agenda
Regional Planning


Land Development

- **Reuse of Niagara Falls Army Reserve Center** 
 - Demolition and rehabilitation of existing structures and infrastructure to prepare site for redevelopment – \$5 MM state

- **South Park Avenue Reconstruction (RiverBend Phase)**
 - Reconstruction of approximately 3,400 linear feet of road and related right-of-way infrastructure as South Park Avenue is the regional connector to 200 acres of developable land at RiverBend – \$6.7 MM state

Community Revitalization

- **City of Buffalo Community Revitalization Initiative**
 - **Fruit Belt Community Redevelopment** 
 - Redevelopment and stabilization of 204 High Street as future site for a fresh market, wellness center, dental practice and office space for lease – \$1.5 MM state

 - **Buffalo Promise Neighborhood** 
 - U.S. Department of Education support for the “Promise Neighborhoods” planning grant to improve the health, safety and stability of neighborhoods and boost family engagement in student learning

 - **Better Schools, Better Neighborhoods**
 - Development of a comprehensive model for neighborhood revitalization with prioritization for façade and infrastructure improvements along Fillmore Avenue commercial strip, maintenance of E. Delavan & Humber memorial garden, implementation of housing plan for new construction and demolition, Phase II reconstruction of 60 Hedley Place, residential façade improvements on E. Parade Avenue, and infrastructure improvements for Genesee Street from Reed to Moselle Street – \$7.5 MM federal/state

2012 Regional Agenda
Energy Policy

State Action

- **Grid Infrastructure**
 - State prioritization of effective infrastructure investment in the energy delivery (transmission and distribution) system in order to modernize the grid to account for improved reliability, diversity in generation supply, clean energy sources and overall supply accessibility

- **New York State Power Purchase Agreement**
 - Execution of a power purchase agreement by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) for use as a business development incentive for renewable energy companies