



**BUFFALO NIAGARA PARTNERSHIP  
POSITION STATEMENT  
October 5, 2007**

**Support for the adoption – by resolution – and implementation of the Framework for Regional Growth by the 64 municipalities throughout Erie and Niagara Counties.**

**The Buffalo Niagara Partnership representing 2,500 businesses with over 200,000 employees, supports the adoption by resolution and implementation of the Framework for Regional Growth by city, town and village elected officials throughout Erie and Niagara Counties, as well as continued implementation and oversight of the Framework by both counties.**

For decades, important decisions about the location and pace of development, investments in economic development, the extension of sewer and water service, improvements to parks and major public facilities, and investments in transportation infrastructure throughout our region have been made without a clear sense of how individual actions influence the area's livability and economic vitality.

Born from the need for coordination and consistency, the Framework for Regional Growth establishes basic policies and principles regarding all matters concerning future growth and land development. It was developed by Erie and Niagara counties through a process that included all affected parties - planners, developers, municipalities, preservationists, environmentalists and business. The goal is to provide a shared vision for growth while removing uncertainty from the development process.

The Framework provides much-needed clarity related to "what is wanted where." This offers developers, and the businesses they represent, certainty regarding the political viability of projects. Without the guidance provided by the Framework, they dedicate resources to getting zoning ordinances, attending public meetings and obtaining permits rather than having pre-permitted land available.

In addition, poorly-planned growth carries great costs to taxpayers. At present, Niagara and Erie counties are on course to pay over \$900 million for new infrastructure over the next 20 years. Coordinated and strategic infrastructure investment as steered by the Framework will save regional taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Finally, clarity leads to strategic alignment of vital economic development tools such as IDA incentives. With the Framework as a guide, public investment can be better focused on where infrastructure already exists, and where it makes sense for target industries to move and expand.