WELCOME
Metro Rail Expansion Project Scoping Meeting

NFTA invites the public to comment on the draft scope for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement

Comment during the scoping meeting:
Record your comment with a stenographer and/or fill out a comment card

Submit comments online or by email:
www.NFTAMetroRailExpansion.com
railx@nfta.com

Mail comments to:
Metro Rail Expansion Project
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
181 Ellicott Street
Buffalo, NY 14203
METRO RAIL HISTORY

1985
Metro Rail opens as a 6.4 mile light rail line from Downtown Buffalo to University Station

1960s
NFTA proposes a 43-mile network of rapid transit rail lines, including a 14 mile line from Downtown Buffalo to Amherst

2010
NFTA updates Strategic Assessment to identify 4 corridors for future investment Amherst ranks highest

2012
NFTA initiates Transit Options Amherst-Buffalo Alternatives Analysis (AA) for Amherst corridor

2016
GBNRTC initiates comprehensive Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) study to support AA

2017
NFTA completes 3-tier screening evaluation to identify Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) Light rail ranks highest

2018
GBNRTC and NFTA hold stakeholder and community workshops to discuss TOD and smart growth opportunities along the proposed alignment

Locally Preferred Alternative is refined, based on stakeholder input

1985
Metro Rail Concept

2012
Strategic Assessment Update

2017
Transit-Oriented Development Study

2018
LPA Refinement

2017
LPA Identified

2018
LPA Identified

2018
LPA Identified

NFTA completes 3-tier screening evaluation to identify Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) Light rail ranks highest

1960s
NFTA proposes a 43-mile network of rapid transit rail lines, including a 14 mile line from Downtown Buffalo to Amherst
The Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA):

- Reflects stakeholder feedback
- Extends 7 miles from University Station to I-990
- Includes 9 proposed stations and a storage/maintenance facility
- Serves key activity centers
- Connects UB’s three campuses
- Travels underground for 0.8 mile between University Station and Niagara Falls Boulevard
- 40-minute one seat ride from I-990 to Downtown Buffalo

Study area extends 1/4-mile around alignment and 1/2-mile around proposed stations
PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the Metro Rail Expansion Project is to provide a fast, reliable, safe, and convenient transit ride in the Metro Rail Expansion corridor. This will link established and emerging activity centers along the existing Metro Rail Line in the City of Buffalo with activity centers in the towns of Amherst and Tonawanda.

The need of the Metro Rail Expansion Project is to:

- Serve increased transit demand
- Provide high-quality service to key activity centers
- Improve service for transit-dependent populations
ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

**Transit Access for Residents**
104,925 residents are forecast to live in the corridor in 2040 (68,084 live along the Metro Rail corridor today).

**Job Access**
143,288 jobs are forecast to be accessibly by Metro Rail, adding to the 84,133 jobs accessible today.

**Regional Investment**
$600 million of federal investment in our community.

**Sustainability and Reliability**
Zero on-site air emissions, and is safer and more reliable than cars or buses, especially in the winter.

**One Seat Ride**
No transfers while riding the line.

**Campus Connections**
22 Minutes from I-990 to University Station.

**More Space to Live, Work, and Play**
8.4 million square feet of residential, retail office and institutional offerings are projected along the corridor.

**A Growing Future**
Billions of direct, indirect, and induced economic impact.

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NFTA-METRO
SEQRA / NEPA PROCESS

- An Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)
- Niagara Frontier Metro System, Inc is the lead agency for SEQRA review
- EIS will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to allow future federal funding

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<td>Establish Lead Agency</td>
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**Public Involvement**

**Acronyms**
- **DEIS** Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- **FEIS** Final Environmental Impact Statement
- **NEPA** National Environmental Policy Act
- **SEQRA** New York State Environmental Quality Review Act
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

NFTA will evaluate potential effects of the Locally Preferred Alternative and identify mitigation measures in the following subject areas:

» Land Use and Community Character
» Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice
» Transportation
» Air Quality, Noise, Vibration
» Historic, Cultural, Recreational Resources
» Visual Resources
» General Ecology and Endangered Species
» Surface Waters and Wetlands
» Construction
TRANSPORTATION ANALYSIS

Determine the effects of the Proposed Action on:

- Vehicular traffic including 19 intersections within the street network
  - Model future worst-case traffic condition with and without the project
- Transit
  - Existing Metro Rail and bus routes
  - Future ridership forecasts with FTA’s STOPS model
- Station access
- Safety for people walking, taking transit, biking, and driving

Consider complete street opportunities:

- Pedestrian facilities, such as sidewalks and signalized crosswalks
- Bicycle facilities, such as a trail, bike lanes, or bike rack/shelters
NOISE AND VIBRATION ANALYSIS

• Analysis will follow Federal Transit Administration (FTA) *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment*, September 2018

• Identify sensitive receptors (e.g., residences, schools, places of worship, historic buildings, and parks) and monitor locations

• Collect noise measurements

• Model future conditions during construction and operation of light rail expansion

• Outreach to determine vibration-sensitive activities or equipment in buildings close to the LPA
POTENTIAL CONSTRUCTION MITIGATION MEASURES

- Air and noise monitoring to protect workers and the adjacent communities
- Adhere to City/Town noise codes
- Dust control measures
- Rodent and pest control
- Communication through an on-site community liaison, project office, website and social media
- Maintain travel through the work zone – bus routes, emergency service vehicles
- Maintain pedestrian connectivity throughout the corridor
- Maintain access to properties and parking
HOW CAN YOU COMMENT DURING SCOPING?

BETWEEN TODAY AND MARCH 10, 2019

Comment tonight during the scoping meeting:
Record your comment with a stenographer and/or fill out a comment card

Submit comments online or by email:
www.NFTAMetroRailExpansion.com
railx@nfta.com

Mail comments to:
Metro Rail Expansion Project
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
181 Ellicott Street
Buffalo, NY 1420

Draft Scoping Document is available on the project website
www.NFTAMetroRailExpansion.com

Comments received by March 10 will be considered and summarized in the Final Scoping Document, which will also be posted to the project website.

For more information, visit
www.NFTAMetroRailExpansion.com