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.NFTA-MetroRailExpansion.com
railx@nfta.com

Mail comments to:
Metro Rail Expansion Project
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
181 Ellicott Street
Buffalo, NY 14203
The **purpose** of the Metro Rail Expansion project (Proposed Action) 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:

- **Provide high-quality service to key activity centers**
- **Service increased transit demand**
- **Improve service for transit-dependent populations**
The “Purpose” defines the transportation problem to be solved. The “Need” provides data to support the problem statement (Purpose)

Sets a foundation for environmental review process

Provides rationale and justification for undertaking the Proposed Action

Includes Goals and Objectives:

- Develop a cost-effective, attractive and high-quality transit service
- Provides reliability and convenience to riders in order to improve mobility
- Mitigate the growth of traffic congestion on study area roadways
- Improve the accessibility of transit in the study area
- Increase the effectiveness of the regional transit system
- Support sustainable future economic growth in the study area
- Avoid or minimize adverse community and environmental effects
Anticipated Benefits

METRO RAIL EXPANSION

- Campus Connections: 22 Minutes from I-990 to University Station
- 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
- 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
- One Seat Ride: No transfers while riding the line
- Sustainability and Reliability: Zero on-site air emissions, and is safer and more reliable than cars or buses, especially in the winter
- 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)
What is Scoping?

Affords an opportunity for agencies and the public to provide input on:

- Purpose and Need
- Goals and Objectives
- Locally Preferred Alignment (LPA)
- Environmental Analysis Methodology
- Potential Environmental and Social Impacts

Scoping is the initiation of NEPA planning
NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act

Meets SEQRA and NEPA Requirements
SEQRA: State Environmental Quality Review Act

Encourages Agency and Public Comments by:

- Written Comments
- Online
- Transcribed by Stenographer
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared in accordance with SEQRA

EIS will also be prepared in accordance to NEPA

NFTA is designated Lead Agency

- Lead Agency coordinates the SEQRA process and is responsible for making key SEQRA determinations during the review process
- NFTA has issued Positive Declaration for the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
- Positive Declaration starts the EIS process and is a determination by the lead agency that an action could result in one or more significant environmental impacts and requires the preparation of an EIS before agency decisions are made regarding the Proposed Action

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JANUARY</td>
<td>JANUARY / FEBRUARY</td>
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<td>Establish Lead Agency</td>
<td>Scoping Comment Period Begins / Scoping Meeting</td>
<td>Scoping Comment Period Ends</td>
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<td>MARCH</td>
<td>APRIL - AUGUST</td>
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<td>Scoping Comment Period Ends</td>
<td>Prepare DEIS</td>
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Evaluate Potential Effects on:

- Land Use
- Community Character
- Non-Motorized Transportation
- Construction
- Wetlands
- Ecology & Endangered Species
- Water Resources
- Visual Resources
- Historic/Cultural Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Traffic
- Air Quality
- Noise & Vibration

Environmental Methodology Analysis
Transportation Methodology Analysis

**Vehicular Traffic**
- Evaluate traffic conditions in year 2040 with and without Proposed Action

**Transit**
- Evaluate existing Metro Rail and fixed bus routes
- Project future ridership projections with STOPS model

**Safety**
- Assess safety of all modes (vehicles, transit, pedestrian, and bicycles)

**Complete Streets**
- Consider complete street opportunities (bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.)
Noise and Vibration Analysis

Model LRT operations during construction and operation
Utility Analysis

Determine effects on utility conflicts due to LRT construction
Potential Construction Mitigation Measures

- Maintain travel through work zone
- Maintain pedestrian connectivity
- Maintain access to properties and parking
- Maintain communications and utilities
Next Steps

Scoping Comments
- Formal Scoping comment period closes March 10, 2019 @ 5PM

Scoping Document
- Finalize Scoping Document
- Addresses Comments received during Scoping

Conceptual Engineering
- Develop engineering designs and capital cost estimate to support EIS

Prepare DEIS
- Conduct numerous outreach efforts

Release DEIS
- Hold public comment period
- Conduct Public Hearing

Develop FEIS
- Coordinate with FTA
- Conduct Public Hearing
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

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