

2006 Regional Agenda

FEDERAL PRIORITIES

- ◇ Federal funding is sought to support major economic development projects of regional significance, including Buffalo/Lackawanna Sewer System Consolidation, “Cars on Main Street,” Niagara Falls International Airport, Olcott Harbor breakwall, Main Street Buffalo River bridge and Peace Bridge northern plaza “gateway”.....page 1
- ◇ Federal funding is also needed for individual projects that reinforce the region’s commitment to strategically focused growth in our urban centers.....page 2
- ◇ The most critical federal policy issues facing the region are those relating to our border with Canada and the promotion of bi-national trade and tourism.....page 3
- ◇ The competitiveness of our region is dependant on federal policies that improve our life science cluster, manufacturing productivity and workforce training.....page 4

STATE PRIORITIES

- ◇ State funding for downtown redevelopment, strategically marketing our region’s natural assets and developing an inventory of shovel-ready sites in our urban centers will support key regional revitalization efforts.....page 5
- ◇ Albany should provide continued funding for life science cluster development in Buffalo.....page 6
- ◇ The priority state policy initiatives are those that reduce the cost of doing business in New York State, including those identified in the “Unshackle Upstate” agenda, and that dedicate Buffalo casino revenues to economic development projects and initiatives while recognizing the increased cost of gaming to local government.....pages 7-8
- ◇ Regional economic development efforts require the reform of brownfield redevelopment and empire zone policies, continued improvement of SUNY institutions and timely completion of our region’s Transportation Bond Act projectspage 9



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FEDERAL PRIORITIES
FUNDING

The following projects support major economic development efforts in Buffalo Niagara that, in aggregate, can have a significant regionwide impact.

Buffalo/Lackawanna Sewer System Consolidation in support of waterfront project

- Relocation of sewer station in support of Bass Pro Outdoor World development project; increase sewer capacity to support needs of Outer Harbor development projects - EIS and design and construction of sewer station relocation - \$8 million, design and construction of capacity enhancements - \$14 million

Cars on Main Street

- Exchange St. to Scott St. in support of Inner Harbor/Bass Pro Outdoor World development - \$10 million
- Theater district portion of project - \$7 million (FY07)

Niagara Falls International Airport

- Terminal apron improvements - \$2.470 million
- Terminal circulatory roadway improvements - \$530,000 (would complete the federal AIP share)

Main Street Buffalo River bridge

- Preliminary work, including the required environmental reviews - \$1.7 million

City of Buffalo Border “Gateway”

- Enhancements complementary to Peace Bridge northern plaza; funding and construction phased in over several fiscal years; Phase 1 design - \$1 million

Olcott Harbor Breakwall

- Breakwall to provide the only sheltered harbor for larger transient pleasure vessels between Wilson and Rochester, N.Y. - \$4.7 million

Erie Community College downtown campus

- ECC downtown campus expansion to improve bus circulation and handicapped and student access - \$1 million

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FEDERAL PRIORITIES
FUNDING

The following projects support commercial and industrial efforts for urban redevelopment by making more land available for development or by supporting access and infrastructure for development projects recently completed, underway or envisioned.

City of Buffalo Fruit Belt neighborhood

- Strategic business district and community development - \$3 million

Erie Canal Harbor, South Basin

- Army Corps of Engineers allocation for construction completion - \$3 million

Spaulding Fibre

- Demolition - \$500,000
- Road construction - \$500,000

Bethlehem Steel

- Railroad track relocation - \$3.85 million
- Smokes Creek relocation - \$750,000

Niagara Experience Center

- Phase I - \$10 million

Robert Moses Parkway South/Niagara Reservation Road

- Reconfiguration and restoration - \$7 million

City of Lockport

- Ramp renovation - \$4 million

City of North Tonawanda

- Buffalo Bolt Access Road - \$2 million

Buffalo Lakeside Commerce Park (the former Union Ship Canal)

- Waterfront access - \$593,000

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FEDERAL PRIORITIES
POLICY

This region depends on the efficient flow of people and goods across the border with Canada. The following policy changes are needed to prevent unacceptable delays in Buffalo and Fort Erie bridge plaza construction and more broadly, to avoid serious economic losses to the local economy.

Shared Border Management

- Obtain final decision on Shared Border Management between the US and Canadian Governments that moves Peace Bridge customs facilities from both countries to the Canadian side of the border

“Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative”

- Departments of Homeland Security and State need to implement the WHTI to accept the new driver’s license required by the Real ID or other ID that is inexpensive, easily attainable and has more than one use as appropriate identification
- Reconcile the WHTI with the Real ID Act, and fully fund state implementation of the Real ID Act

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FEDERAL PRIORITIES
POLICY

The competitiveness of our region is dependant on federal policies that improve and support important industry sectors and job centers.

Workforce Development

- Passage of the House version of reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) providing greater flexibility in employer based training

Health and Life Sciences

- Increase funding levels for National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF)

West Valley Nuclear Service Center

- Passage of H.R. 3101, the West Valley Remediation Act (WVRA) which directs the Department of Energy (DOE) to take possession of the Service Center at West Valley and perform and pay for its remediation

Manufacturing

- Restore \$67.4 million funding (increase the administration's proposed base of \$39.2 million to \$106.6 million) for the Manufacturing Extension Programs (MEP), the federal program that provides technical and productivity improvement to small manufacturers

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STATE PRIORITIES
FUNDING

Blighted industrial sections of urban Buffalo Niagara need to be made shovel-ready to attract new facility development. Along with this, understanding the advantage of our region's access to fresh water may enhance our ability to promote that resource in regional marketing efforts. Expanding E.C.C.'s downtown campus will add to the "24/7" vitality of Buffalo and increase its accessibility.

Shovel-Ready Land

- Provide funding to create shovel-ready space for new projects in Buffalo and other urban centers within Erie County (total \$40 million)
 - Brownfield site redevelopment in Buffalo - \$10 million
 - Brownfield site redevelopment in other urban areas - \$10 million
 - Strategic demolition in Buffalo - \$10 million
 - Redevelopment of downtown Buffalo sites - \$10 million

Great Lakes fresh water business attraction study

- Funding for a study of whether and how the availability of Great Lakes fresh water can impact industry-specific site selections in the region - \$1 million

Erie Community College downtown campus

- Increase the capital budget to allocate sufficient funding from the SUNY construction fund for the ECC downtown campus expansion - \$20 million
- ECC downtown campus Metro Center transportation center and related facilities - \$20 million

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STATE PRIORITIES
FUNDING

The following priorities are required to maintain cutting edge research in our region's life science cluster and to facilitate commercialization.

Phase II of IMPACT-NY

- This program provides state matching funds to small life sciences companies for equipment purchases, facility improvements, salary support, and intellectual property protection - \$10 million (statewide program)

Hunter Kelly Research Institute

- Approve Executive Budget appropriations - \$7.2 million

Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (BNMC)

- Operational funds - \$1.4 million (approve Executive Budget appropriations)

Pioneers of Science

- Complete funding for recruitment, equipment and new facility land preparation by the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus partner organizations - \$5.2 million (gap)
(\$14.8 million of pledged \$20 million already committed from Adelpbia money)

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STATE PRIORITIES
POLICY

The priority policy initiatives for the state legislature are those that reduce the cost of doing business in New York State, improve the allocation of taxpayer-funded economic development spending and thoughtfully dedicate Buffalo casino revenues.

Unshackle Upstate

- Economic development policy and funding allocation needs to be grounded in a detailed understanding of each region's strengths and weaknesses
- Economic development expenditures should promote long-term economic expansion, not short-term consumption, and be reflective of regional priorities
- Shift spending authority to the regions; The NYS Science, Technology and Innovation Foundation (NYSTIF), established during the 2006 budget process, should be expanded and implemented
- All of New York State would benefit from the reform of onerous laws and the reduction of taxes, but if statewide reform is impossible, the NYS Legislature should enact legislation exempting Upstate separately from certain laws and policies

City of Buffalo Casino Revenue Distribution

- Enactment of state legislation on City of Buffalo casino revenue distribution over the full life of the New York State-Seneca Casino Gaming Compact, no later than the end of the 2006 session, to include:
 - "Off the top" funding to the City of Buffalo and the County of Erie for the extended public services that will be provided to, and because of, the casino (e.g. water, sewer, public safety, fire)
 - All remaining revenue to be designated to the following categories per a formula to be determined by Buffalo and Erie County: brownfield redevelopment in Buffalo, Buffalo waterfront development, downtown ECC campus development, regional cultural institutions, Buffalo's neighborhood revitalization and gambling addiction
 - Designate the City of Buffalo as the "host community" consistent with the above conditions

Power Allocation

- Ensure 70 MW of Replacement Power (RP) – so-called "loose juice" – that 2005 Replacement Power Legislation "shared" with the whole of New York State is "returned" for economic development exclusively within the 30 mile radius of the Niagara Power Project (NPP)
- Maximize the flexible use of the 445MW of RP and 250 MW of Expansion Power (EP) generated at the NPP for economic development within the 30 mile radius of the NPP

Power Allocation (continued)

- Amend the Public Authorities Law and Economic Development Law to require any and all proceeds that may be derived from unallocated or unused RP and EP power be utilized (in a manner consistent with the allocation criteria) within the 30 mile radius of the NPP
- Amend the same laws to strengthen the project recommendation role of the Western New York Advisory Group
- Amend the same laws to permit the use of Rural and Domestic Power for industrial and economic development purposes using the same criteria as permitted under RP and EP

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STATE PRIORITIES
POLICY

Policy changes are needed to open more urban land - much of which already has infrastructure in place - to development, provide more flexible access to workforce training, improve SUNY institutions and complete transportation infrastructure projects in a timely manner.

Empire Zone Reform

- Permit alternative eligibility criteria to include capital investment scaled to company size and enhanced flexibility to support local development priorities

Brownfields

- Change DEC policy to provide expedited approval for small clean up projects not seeking tax credits
- Change DEC policy such that once a site has been accepted into the program it cannot exclude portions of the site from tax credit eligibility or require a voluntary clean up participant to demonstrate contamination in all parts of the site
- Modify state brownfield redevelopment regulations to take into account urban usage

Education

- Enact a rational and predictable tuition policy for SUNY institutions linked to stable, sufficient state funding

Workforce Development

- Provide WIB's more flexibility in meeting training needs of employers so more workers may be trained for jobs that exist

Transportation/Logistics

- NYSDOT must meet the timing commitments in the Transportation Bond Act and coordinate them with the five year Transportation Infrastructure Program of the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council so that Bond Act projects may begin as scheduled