

# Don't Forget About Transit

CNU22: The Resilient Community

**Open Innovations Session**

Saturday, 8 June 2014

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CITIZENS *for* REGIONAL TRANSIT

# We Can Agree on What We Are Trying to Achieve



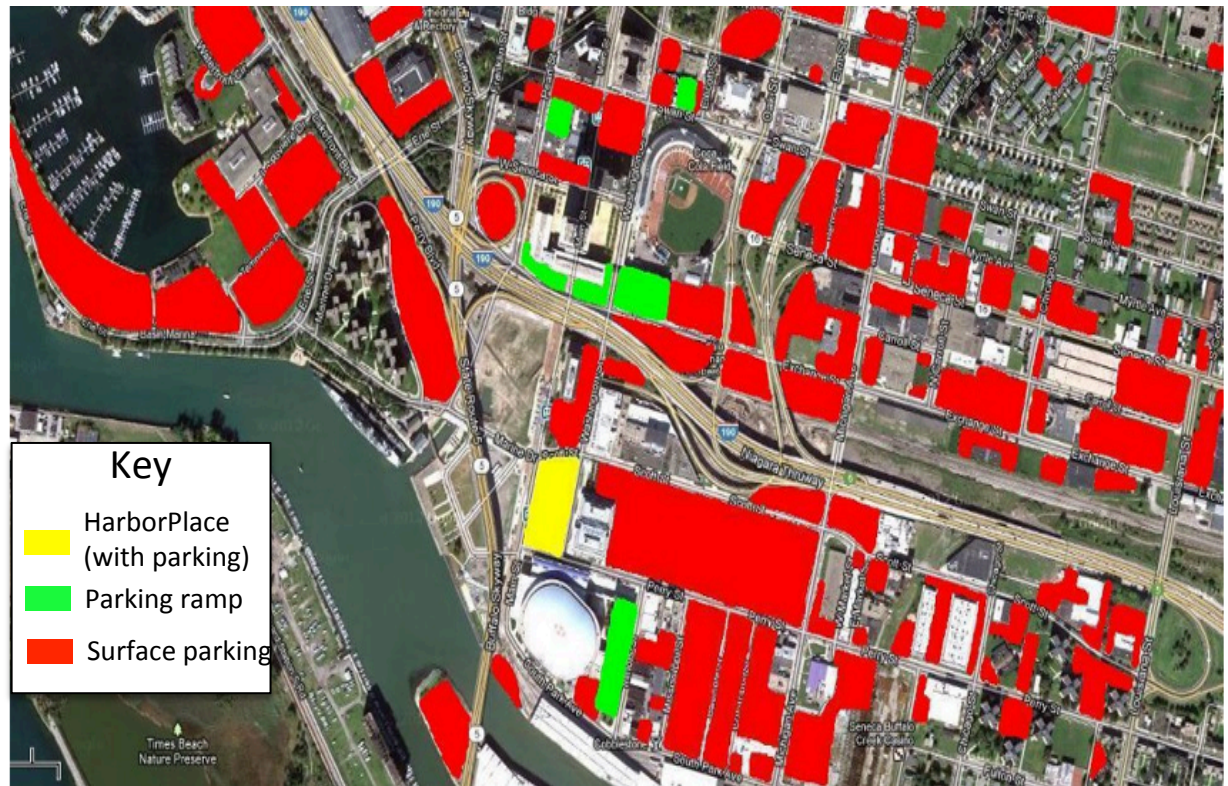
# Buffalo Has Some Wonderful People-Ready Spaces



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# But Without a Transit We End Up With Parking Lots



Courtesy of Mark Paradowski from the Preservation-Ready Sites



# The Math Is Simple

**What does it take to move 1000 people?**

**1 train (eight carriages)**



**15 buses**



**Anywhere from 250 to 1000 cars**



This would then require 3.4 acres of parking space in the Sydney Central Business District.



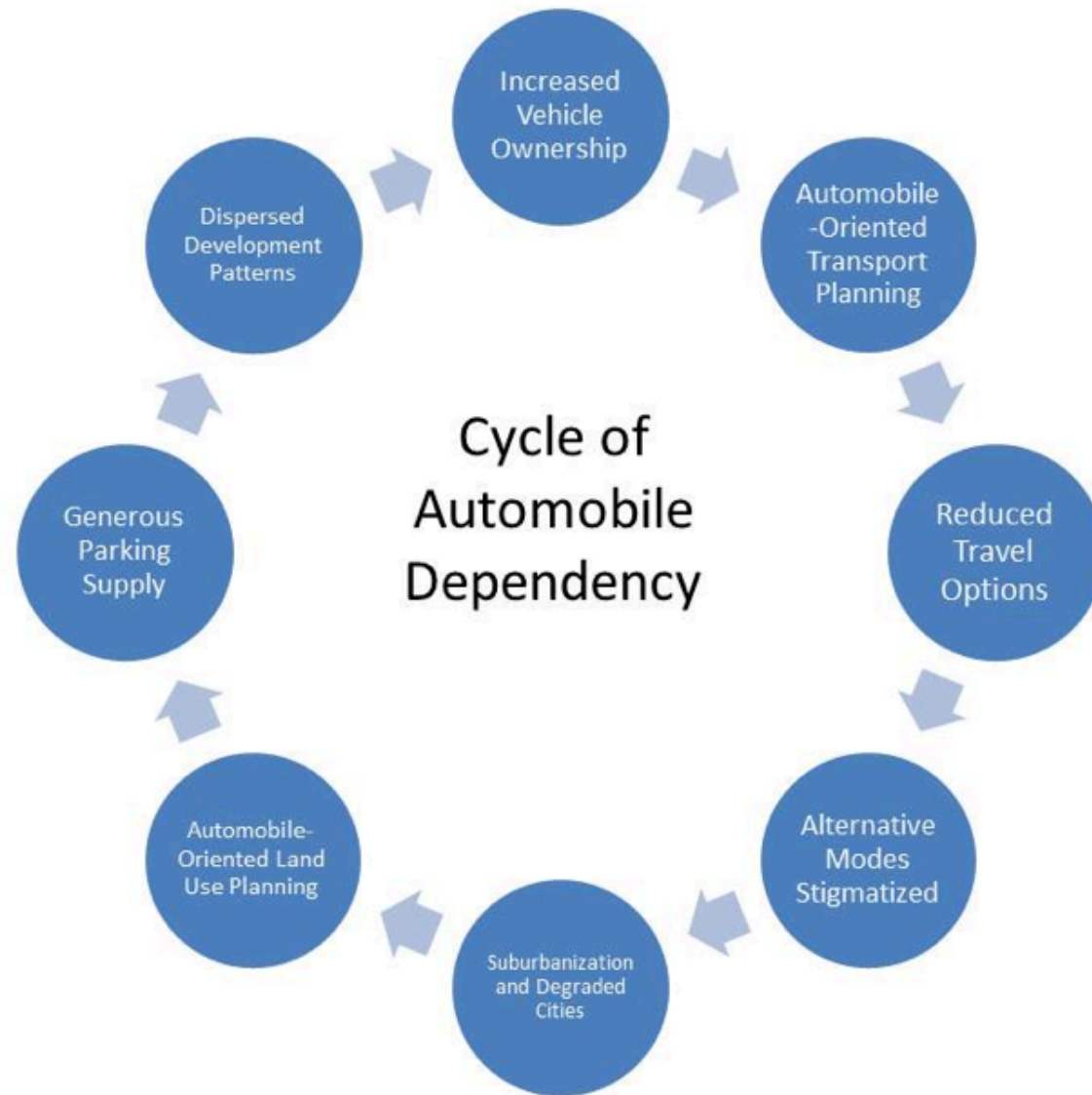
# Transit Provides more Capacity



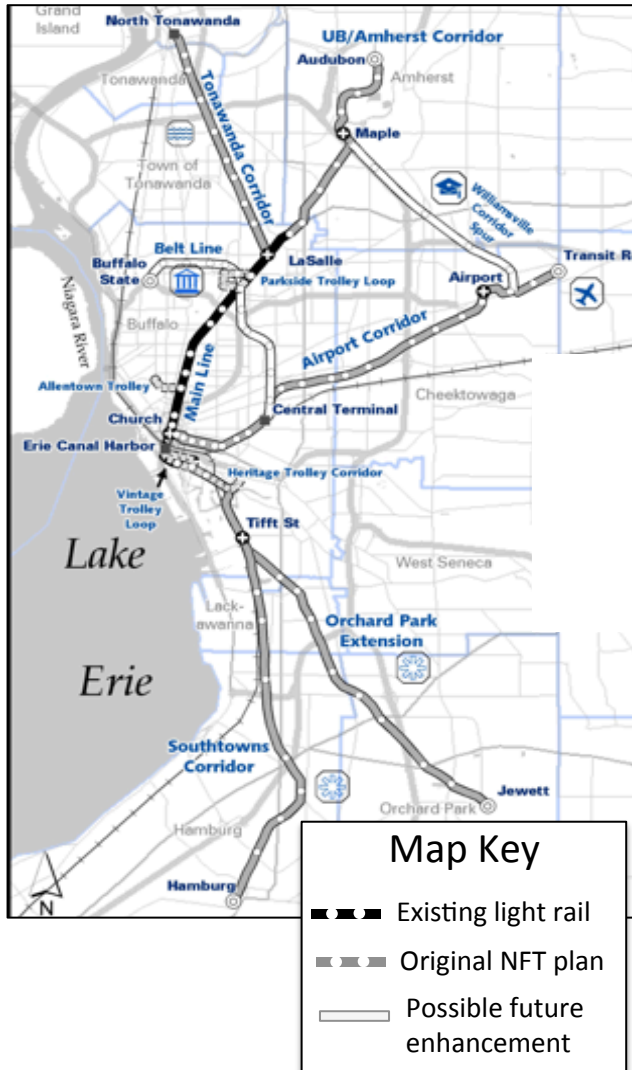
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# We Need to Break the Cycle



# Buffalo's Transit Plan Was Developed Many Years Ago but Never Completed





# Transit Planning Must Start Early

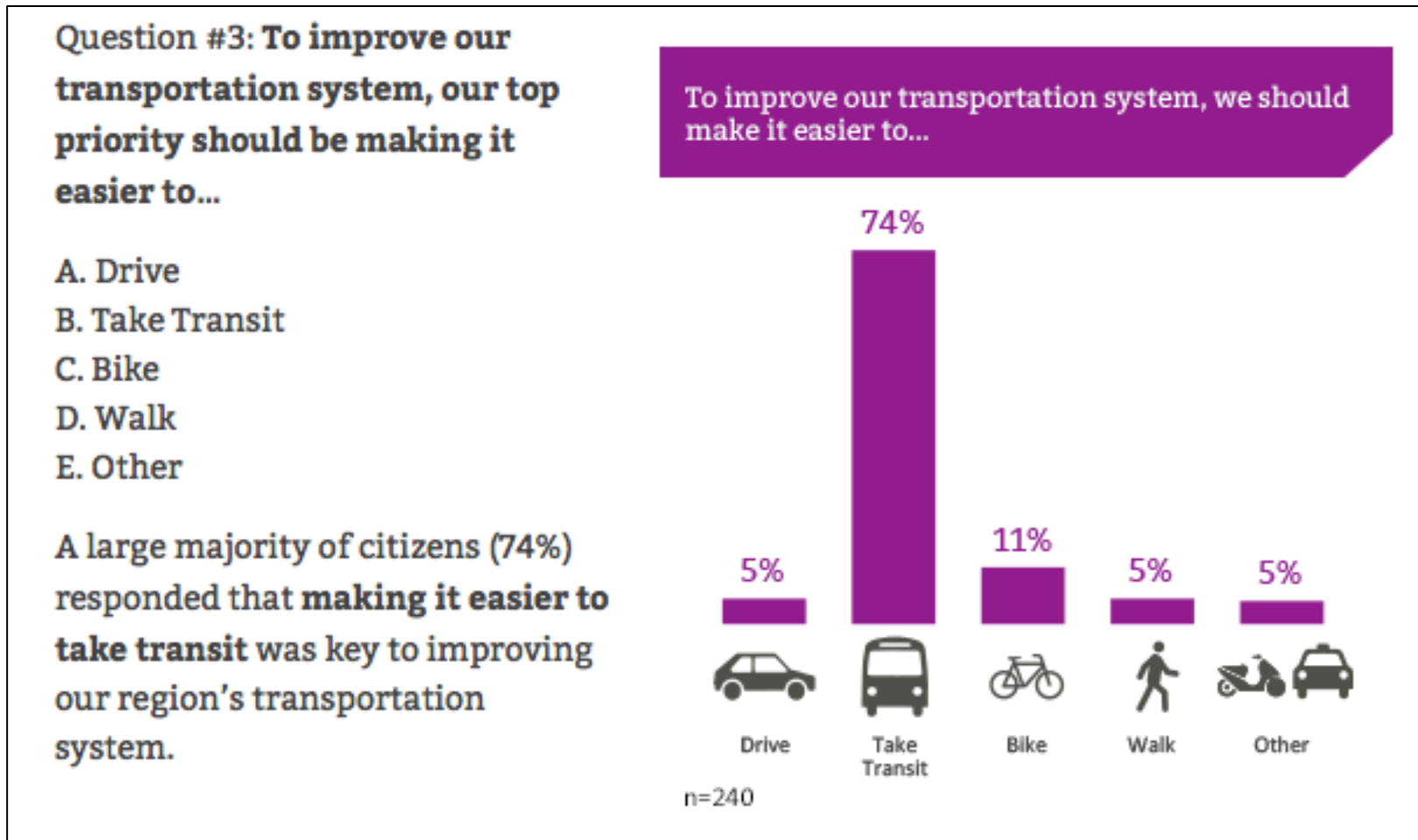


- Transit requires long lead times
  - Planning
  - Engineering
  - Financing
- Transit Oriented Development (TOD) stimulates organic growth



# Buffalo-Niagara Citizens want Transit

## GBNRTC One Region Forward Results:





# We Live in Difficult Financial Times

Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) Blog (8/28/13)

“... it is up to the citizens and MPOs to figure out an answer to the question - How will we pay to sustain and improve our local infrastructure? Since our gas dependency has decreased, it is necessary we come toe-to-toe with this question and figure out a solution, together.”

## **We Need to Find New Ways to Fund Transit**

### Local and State Solutions

- Tax Incremental Financing
- Dedicated local taxes for transit
- Apply parking fees to fund transit
- Ballot initiatives where needed
- Increase State tax support

### National Solutions

- Raise Federal gas tax (indexed to inflation)
- Advocate for Improved transit funding in Federal Transportation Act (current act expires Sept 2013)



# We Need to Bring back the Future

