

The Case for Transit

Why We Need to Make Transit a Higher Spending Priority

April 2018

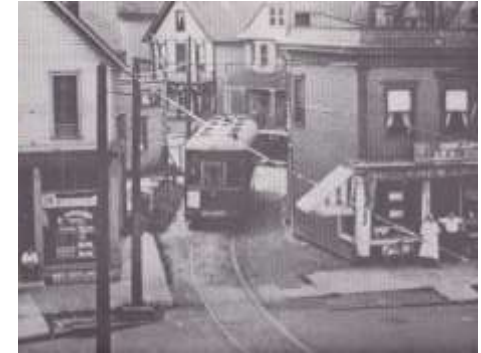
By Douglas Funke
President, Citizens for Regional Transit



What We Had and Lost



Shelton Square, Main Street, Buffalo, NY ~ 1932



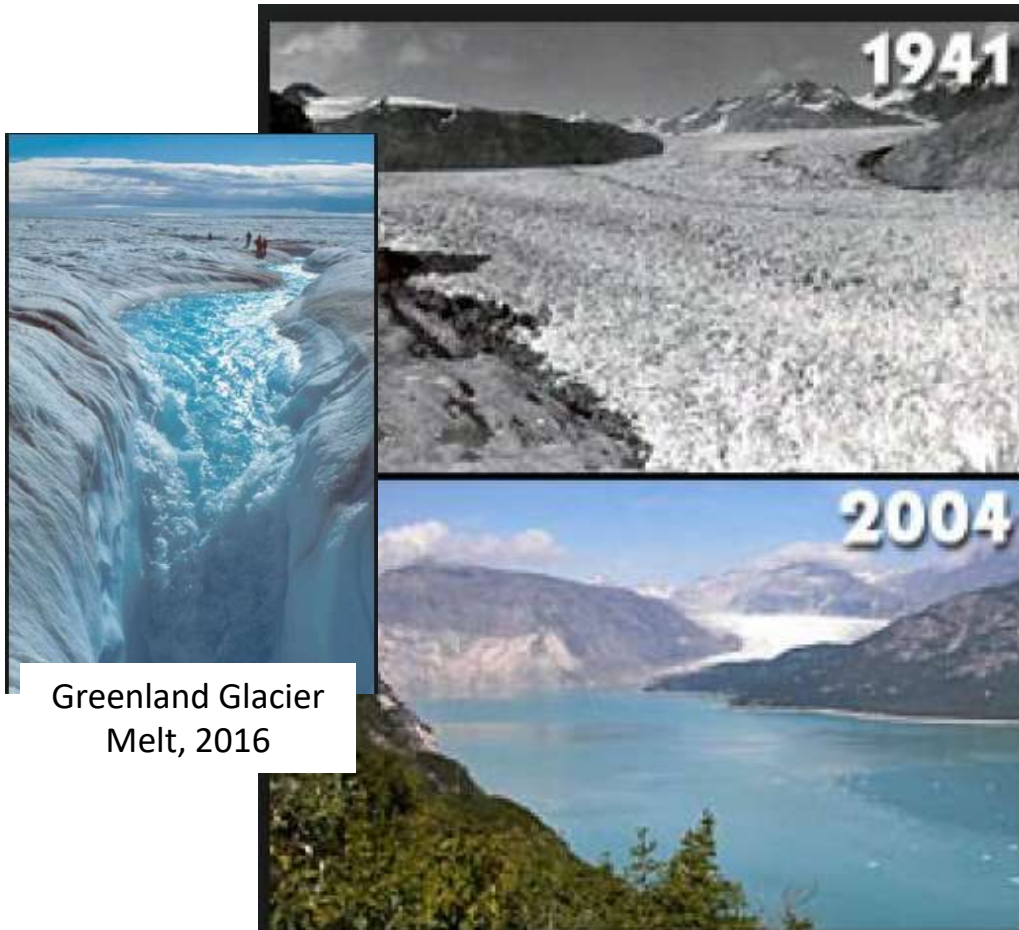
1939 Streetcar network



But We Had a Different Dream in the 1950s and 1960s



That Dream Has Become a Nightmare



Greenland Glacier
Melt, 2016

Muir Glacier, Alaska, NASA Climate 365

Hurricane Sandy

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Are the Problem

SCIENCE

Arctic Is Warming Twice As Fast As World Average

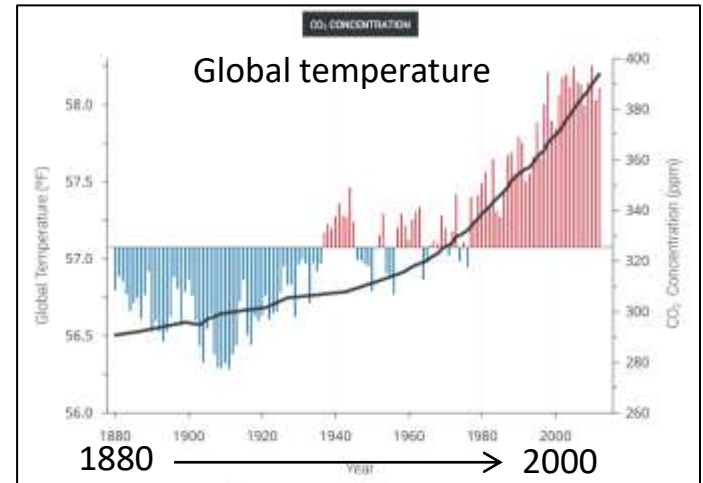
December 18, 2014 3:36 AM ET
Heard on Morning Edition

CHRISTOPHER JOYCE

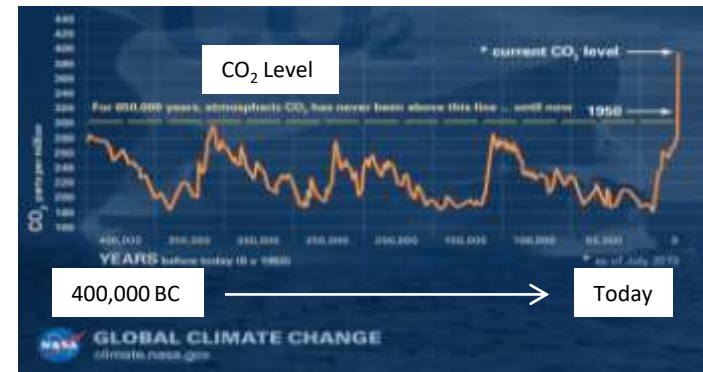


A lone polar bear poses on a block of arctic sea ice in Russia's Franz Josef Land.
istockphoto

Source: NPR. WBFO-FM88. December 18, 2014.
<https://www.npr.org/2014/12/18/371438087/arctic-is-warming-twice-as-fast-as-world-average>



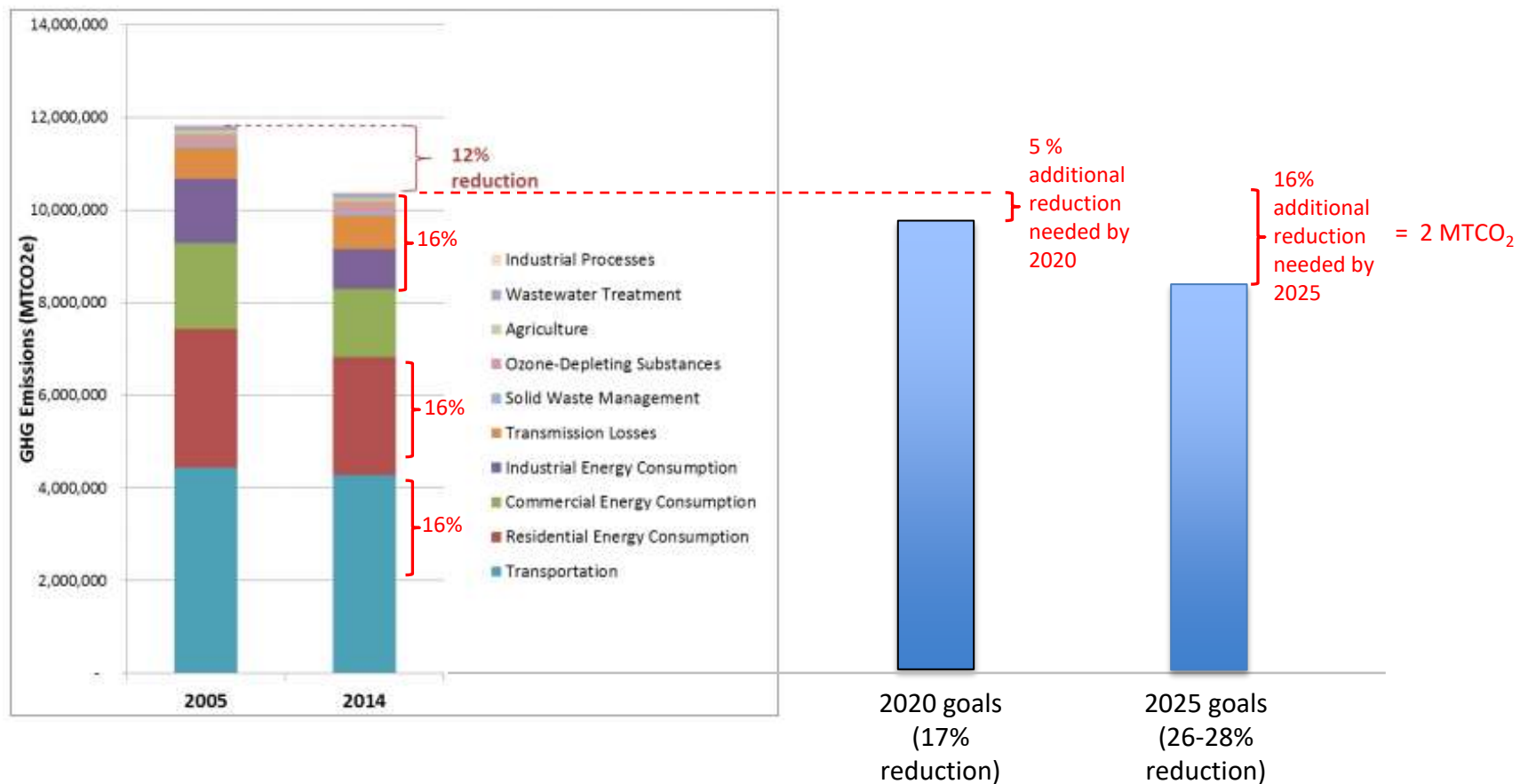
Source: **National Climate Change Assessment Report. 2014.**
<http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report/our-changing-climate/observed-change>.



Source: Climate.NASA.gov/evidence

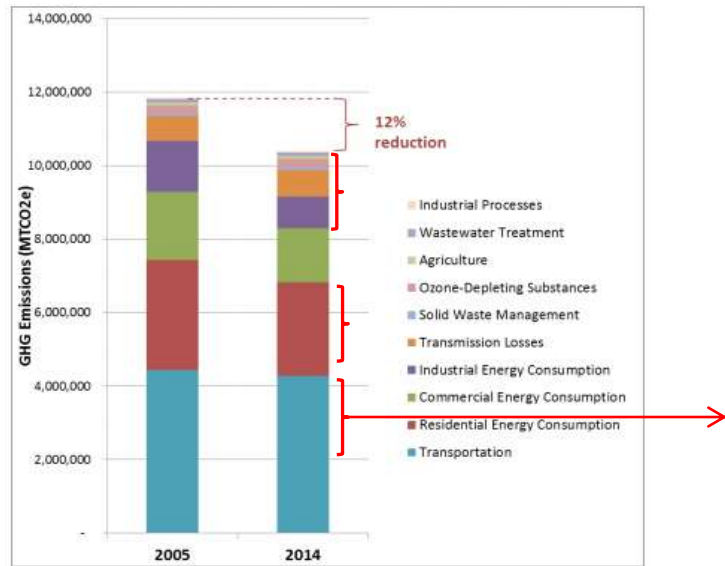
Largest GHG Contributing Sector is Transportation

Figure 3. 2005 and 2014 Community GHG Emissions by Sector



Opportunities for Reducing Transportation Energy Consumption

Figure 3. 2005 and 2014 Community GHG Emissions by Sector



Promote Transit



Encourage Biking



Promote Electric Vehicles

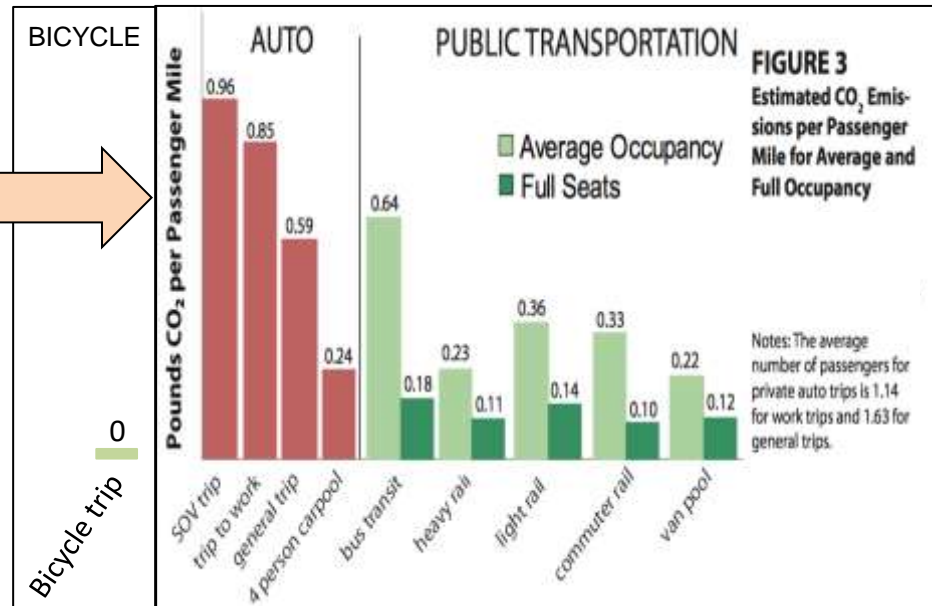
The Effect of Choosing Between Driving or Taking Transit

Choose Transit

Adds negligible CO₂

0
Bus or train

But avoids CO₂ from auto



Other Cities Are Investing in Transit



Cleveland, OH



Detroit!



Tempe, AZ



Minneapolis St. Paul, MN



San Diego, CA



Salt Lake City, UT

And... Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Denver, Galveston, Houston, Kansas City, Kenosha, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Newark, New Orleans, Oklahoma City, Oakland, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, Sacramento, Seattle, San Francisco, Tacoma, Tampa, Tucson, Honolulu, Washington DC, ...

Community Leaders Have Signed Our Petition for a Transit Revolution!

City of Niagara Falls
 (Aug 2016)
 - Mayor Paul Dyster
 - NF City Council



City of Tonawanda
 - Mayor Rick Davis
 (Mar 2015)



City of Buffalo
 - The Buffalo
 Common Council
 (Dec 2015)



Village of Hamburg
 - Mayor Tom
 Moses (Feb 2018)
 -- Village Council
 (Nov 2015)



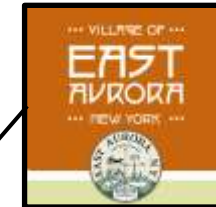
City of North
 Tonawanda
 - Mayor Arthur Pappas
 (Dec 2015)



Town of Cheektowaga
 - Town Council
 (Oct 2015)



Town of Lancaster
 - Town Council (Dec 2016)



Village of East Aurora -
 - Mayor Alan Kasprzak
 (Oct 2015)



Village of Orchard Park
 - Mayor Jo Ann Litwin
 Clinton (Oct 2015)



Business and Community Organizations Have Signed Our Petition for a Transit Revolution!

1. Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) 1342
2. Alpha Kappa Chi
3. **BBN Homes LLC**
4. **Bijou Grill**
5. **Buffalo Computer Graphics**
6. **Buffalo First, Inc.**
7. Buffalo Urban League
8. Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens
9. Buffalo Transit Central
10. Campaign for Greater Buffalo
11. Catholic Charities
12. **Carmina Wood Morris**
13. Cazenovia Community Resource Center
14. Central Terminal Restoration Corporation
15. Challenger Community News
16. **Ciminelli Real Estate Corporation**
17. Citizens 4 the Beautification of Lovejoy
18. Coalition for Economic Justice (CEJ)
19. Communications Workers of America (CWA 1133)
20. Concerned Ecumenical Ministry
21. Courtland Avenue Block Club
22. Daemon College Center for Sustainable Communications and Civic Engagement
23. **Douglas Development Corporation**
24. **Eco_Logic Studio, Architecture & Engineering, PLLC**
25. Earth Spirit Educational Services Inc.
26. Fillmore Corridor Neighborhood Coalition
27. Fillmore Forward
28. Friends of Times Beach
29. The Fruitbelt Coalition
30. Go Buffalo Niagara
31. Geo Operative
32. Global Villages Coalition
33. GoBike Buffalo
34. Greater Eastside – Field of Dreams Block Club
35. **Hostel Buffalo-Niagara**
36. Housing Opportunities Made Equal
37. **Human First Ergonomics**
38. Interfaith Peace Network of WNY
39. iT Garden
40. Journey's End Refuge Service
41. Latin American Cultural Association
42. League of Women Voters (Buffalo Niagara)
43. Lincoln Memorial Church (UMC)
44. Masten Block Club Coalition
45. The Merry-Wood Block Club Association
46. NAACP Buffalo Branch
47. Network of Religious Communities
48. Partners for a Livable Western NY
49. Partnership for the Public Good (PPG)
50. Prisoners Are People Too
51. PUSH Buffalo (People United for Sustainable Housing)
52. Re-Energize Buffalo
53. Restore Our Community Coalition (ROCC)
54. Riverside Salem UCC / DOC
55. Roebing Avenue Block Club
56. **Sail Buffalo**
57. Sierra Club (Niagara Group)
58. South Fillmore Block Club
59. University District Community Development Association
60. University Park Historic Block Club
61. VOICE Buffalo
62. Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo
63. Westside Stories
64. WNY Law Center
65. WNY Peace Center
66. **Young and Wright Architectural**
67. 21st Century Park on the Outer Harbor

Signers by Category

9 Municipalities

12 Business leaders

55 Community organizations

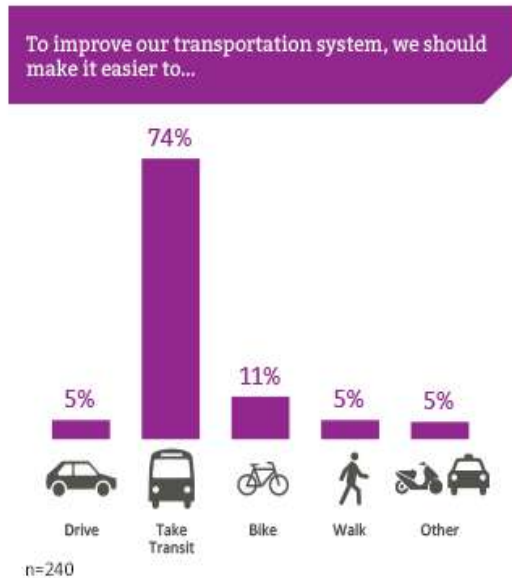
Broad Community Support for Transit Reflected in One Region Forward Outreach



Question #3: To improve our transportation system, our top priority should be making it easier to...

- A. Drive
- B. Take Transit
- C. Bike
- D. Walk
- E. Other

A large majority of citizens (74%) responded that **making it easier to take transit** was key to improving our region's transportation system.



How should we move forward?

- “106 out of 115 (92%) maps said increase ways to get around without a car is a guiding principle”
- “On average participants added 59 miles of metro rail

How do our choices play out?

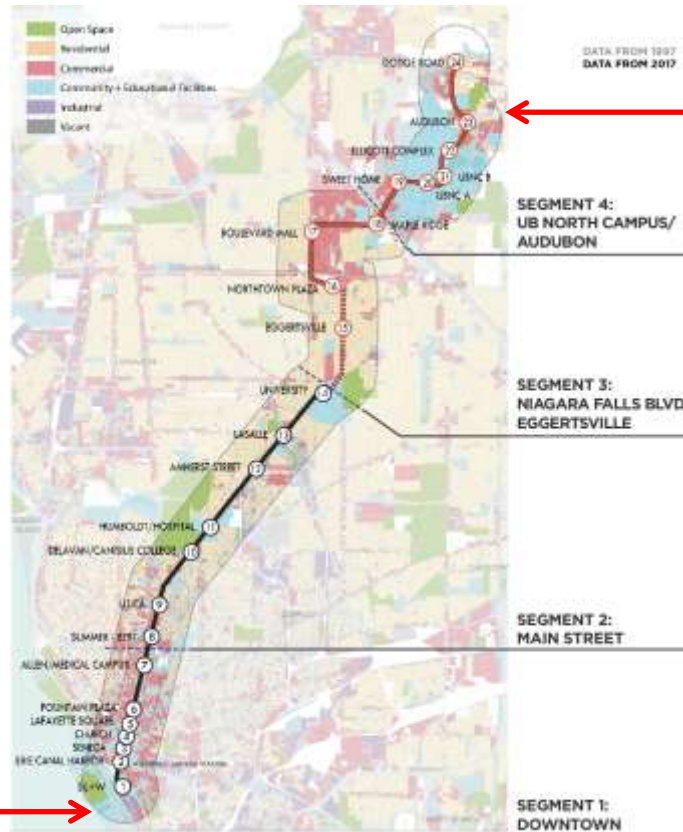
- “A larger percentage of jobs and homes would be served by transit”
- “We would depend less on cars for our daily trips, conserve more energy, and emit less carbon”

What could we do differently?

- “Connect land use to transportation, especially public transit”
- “The region should make transit funding and system improvement a top priority for advocacy and action”

Amherst & Cobblestone Extensions: A Good Start

Cobblestone Extension into DL&W



Amherst Extension



Northtown Plaza



Boulevard Mall



UB North Campus

Buffalo-Niagara's Opportunity

Existing Rights of Way Are Available for Connecting Our Region



Visitors Find Little to Do Here!

The Buffalo News **November 13, 2013**

Mist opportunities: Visitors to Falls find little reason to stay

BY: Aaron Besecker



Crow's Nest in Niagara Falls is high on list for visitors to U.S. side, but the challenge is to make the list longer. Derek Gee/Buffalo News file photo

Little to do?
Really...???



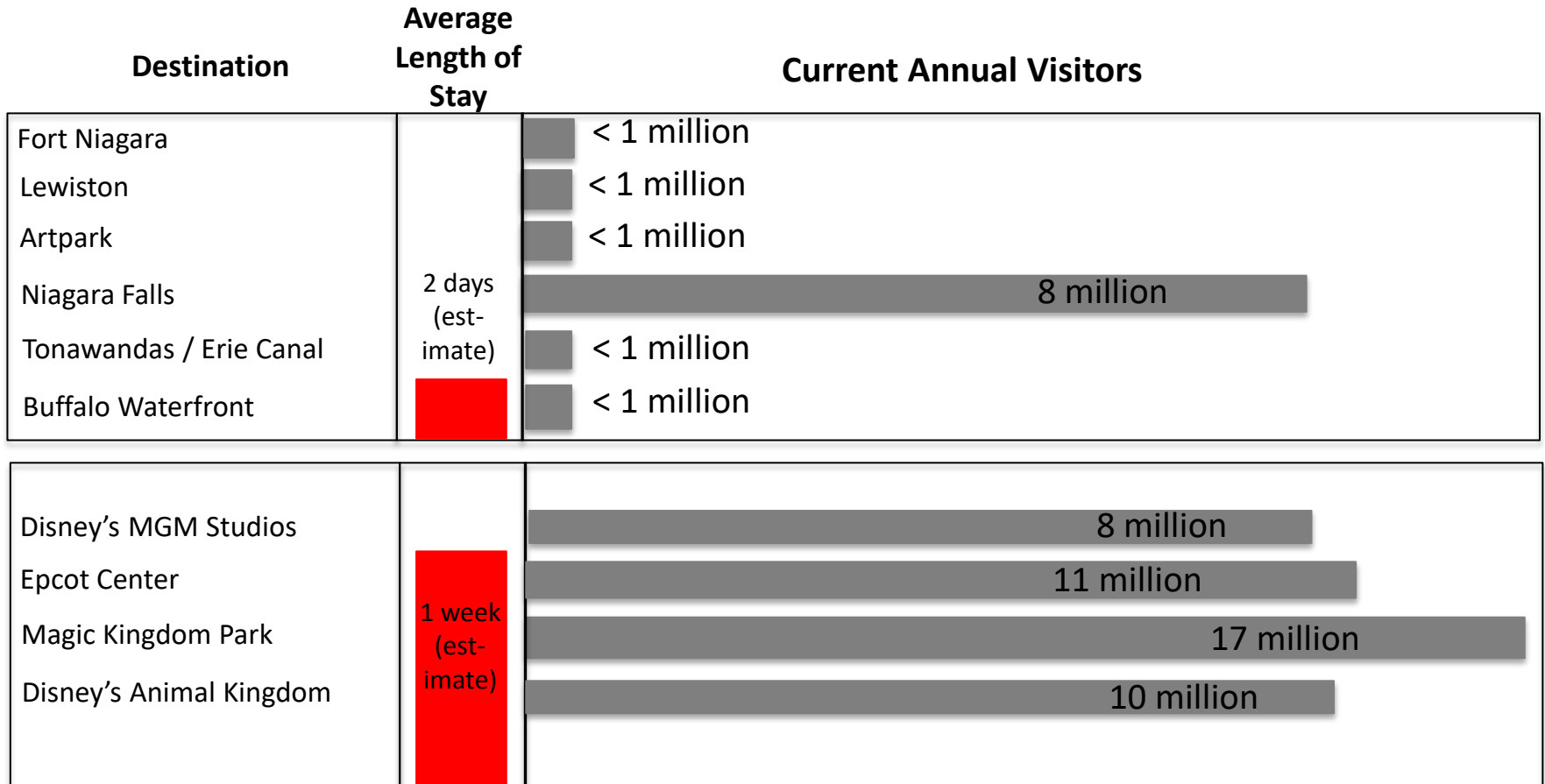
We Need to Connect Our Waterfront with Transit



Buffalo News, November, 2013



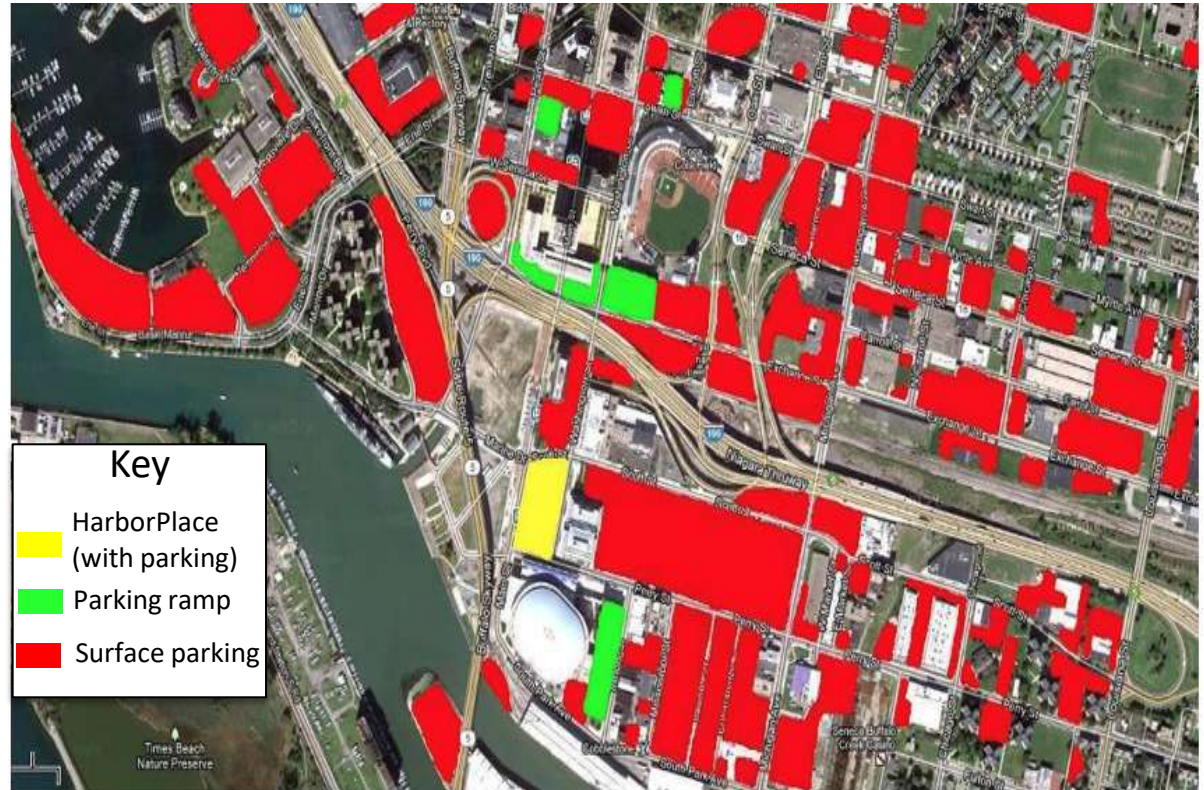
Connecting Our Waterfront with Transit Will Enhance Tourism (like it does elsewhere)



Buffalo's Waterfront: A key node in our regional waterfront



Buffalo's Waterfront (Zoomed-Out): without transit, a congestion and parking magnet




Courtesy of Mark Paradowski from the Preservation-Ready Sites


The Math Is Simple

What does it take to move 560 people?


1 train (Four cars)




12 buses



Anywhere from 140 to 560 cars* (270 shown here)



Every 10 minutes!



Adapted from: Transport Sydney Trains (<http://www.sydneytrains.info/about/environment/>)

* From "RAILFAN GUIDES of the U.S." > Todd's Railfan Guide to the Buffalo, NY NFTA Light Rail System (<http://www.railfanguides.us/ny/buffalo/lightrail/index.htm>)



We Need to Connect our Region with Transit!



Image courtesy for Dan Leonard, Economic Development Director at the Buffalo Niagara Partnership

Toronto-Hamilton-Buffalo-Rochester

Population = 9 million

GDP = \$450 billion