PUBLIC NOTICE: 2017-2021 TIP Amendment # 49

PIN 5900.51 Pilot Program for Transit Oriented Development Planning

The Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC), the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Erie and Niagara Counties, is proposing to amend the 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by adding one (1) new project.

PIN 5900.51 Pilot Program for Transit Oriented Development Planning

This project will develop a comprehensive plan that enacts regulatory amendments and incentives to support TOD along the Amherst-Buffalo Metro Rail corridor, operationalize a Regional TOD Committee, capitalize a Regional TOD Fund, and implement value capture mechanisms to encourage sustainable development patterns throughout the corridor.

The estimated total cost of the project will be approximately $1,060,799, which includes $777,943 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Pilot Program for TOO Planning funding, $97,243 in New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) matching funding, $97,243 in NFTA local matching funding and $88,370 in GBNRTC federal planning funding.

Fiscal constraint will be maintained as this is new funding to the region – FTA Section 20005(b).

An Initial Project Proposal Form is attached.

The let date is scheduled for 9/1/19

Public comments will be received until May 17, 2019. If you have any additional questions or comments please email us at staff@gbnrtc.org, or contact us at the address and telephone number above.

The Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, sex, age, disability or national origin, as provided by Title VI of the Unites States Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent legislation, regulations, statutes and orders, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any MPO program or activity.
**Initial Project Proposal Form**

**PIN:** 5900.51

**Project Title:** Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning

**Date Submitted:** 04/16/19

**Project Type:** Planning

**County:** Erie

**Municipality:**

**Problem Description:**
The recently completed comprehensive TOD planning work generated unprecedented regional collaboration, and engagement on TOD in the public and private sectors and the general public. TOD stakeholders built relationships through steering committee and working group meetings and gained a common language for and understanding of regional market, regulatory, and infrastructure advantages and barriers to TOD.

However, the completed work did not draft comprehensive plan and regulatory incentives to support the preferred station-area plans, infrastructure needs, incentive recommendations, or fully operationalize the Regional TOD committee to coordinate this work. Following the last TOD Project Steering Committee meeting the entities with land use planning authority in the corridor (City of Buffalo, Town of Amherst) approached the GBNRTC and NFTA.

**Project Objectives (see guidance document for help):**

The project work plan will address the purpose, needs, goals, objectives and eligible activities in each by:

- removing public-sector regulatory barriers to economic vitality and development in the Buffalo Niagara region and, in doing so, serve as a model for regional development across the country;
- leveraging recent federal investment in regional market analysis, law and regulatory reviews, and station area plans to spur non-federal and private-sector investment in infrastructure and economic development;
- leveraging new federal Pilot Program for TOD Planning funds to attract other non-Federal sources of infrastructure investment.

**Preliminary Solution:**

The key products in this planning effort are:

- adopting comprehensive plan and local regulatory amendments;
- operationalizing the Regional TOD Committee;
- capitalizing a Regional TOD Fund; and
- implementing value capture mechanisms.

**Project Link to Long Range Planning Goals (see guidance document for help):**

The work will maximize investment in community centers, increase multi-modal access to neighborhood services, and improve equitable access to employment centers. Other goals supported include:

- the Buffalo-Niagara region will focus on transportation projects that preserve and enhance existing transportation facilities, with preference given to those projects located within priority development areas;
- the Buffalo-Niagara region's transportation system will improve the region's economic competitiveness by providing transportation options that will enhance mobility, promote access to jobs, and support sustainable development patterns;
- the Buffalo-Niagara region's transportation system will improve user mobility and accessibility.

**Relationship to Defined Performance Measures (see guidance document for help):**

The work is designed to impact defined performance measures including:

- Increase transit ridership by 5%
- 50%+ of region's population with .5 mile of transit service
- 80%+ of region's population with .5 mile of transit service
- Rate increase less than NYS average
- Maintain pollutant emissions at base year level
PIN 5900.51

Does the Project Address any Safety Concerns? How?
Yes. Uses innovative public-private partnership approaches to improve safety for the travelling public by enacting tools to improve infrastructure for safer access to transit and mixed-use development and facilitating multi-modal connectivity.

Does the Project Help to Retain Existing Businesses or Attract New Businesses? How?
Yes. Removes public-sector regulatory barriers to economic vitality and development in the Buffalo Niagara region and, in doing so, serve as a model for regional development across the country.

Centerline Miles: Lane Miles: AADT: Truck %:
N/A N/A N/A N/A

Number of Bridges: Bridge BINs:
N/A N/A

Pavement Score: Functional Classification:
N/A N/A

Project Type: Preservation Rebuild Replace New Facility

Is this Project on a Transit Route? Which Routes?
Yes. Metro Rail and Multiple Bus Routes

Does this Project Include Bicycle/Pedestrian Accommodations? Please Explain
Yes. Plans for enhanced bicycle/pedestrian accomodations around Metro Rail stations.

Funding Program: NHS STP Other (Please Specify)

Funding Breakdown:

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<th>Project Phase</th>
<th>Duration (Months)</th>
<th>Estimated Costs</th>
<th>Fund Source (If Known)</th>
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Basis of Cost Estimates:
Competitive Grant Application

Required Funding Match: 20 %
State ✓
Local (Specify) ✓
N/A

Special Project Circumstances and/or Programming Requirements:
Funds must be obligated in a grant by September 30, 2019.

Congressional District: NY-26
Senatorial District: 60, 61, 63
Assembly District: 141, 146, 149

Environmental Classification
Air Quality Conformity:
✓ Exempt
☐ Non-Exempt
☐ N/A

NEPA Recommendation:
☐ Class I
✓ Class II
☐ Class III
☐ N/A 100% State Funded

SEQR Recommendation:
✓ Type II
☐ Subject to Processing

IPP Preparer: Signature: __________________________ Date __________
Project Manager: Signature: __________________________ Date __________
RPPM Concurrence: Signature: __________________________ Date __________
Local Sponsor Concurrence: Signature: __________________________ Date __________

Each project proposal MUST include a cover letter and a map of the project location(s)
Figure 1: Metro Rail Expansion Study Area

Study area is defined as 1/4-mile around the Locally Preferred Alternative Alignment and 1/2-mile around proposed station locations.
April 16, 2019

Mr. Hal Morse
Executive Director
Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council
438 Main Street, Suite 503
Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) Initial Project Proposal Submission – PIN 5900.51 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning

Dear Mr. Morse:

The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) submits with this letter an Initial Project Proposal to include PIN 5900.51 – Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning in the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This project will develop a comprehensive plan that enacts regulatory amendments and incentives to support TOD along the Amherst-Buffalo Metro Rail corridor, operationalize a Regional TOD Committee, capitalize a Regional TOD Fund, and implement value capture mechanisms to encourage sustainable development patterns throughout the corridor.

The estimated total cost of the project will be approximately $1,060,799, which includes $777,943 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Pilot Program for TOD Planning funding, $97,243 in New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) matching funding, $97,243 in NFTA local matching funding and $88,370 in GBNRTC federal planning funding.

Thank you for your assistance in adding this project to the regional TIP. Should you have any questions about this project, please do not hesitate to contact me at 716-855-7305.

Very truly yours,

Darren E. Kempner
Manager, Grants and Government Affairs

Enclosure