PUBLIC NOTICE: 2020-2024 TIP Amendment # 7

PIN 582482 - NFTA LRRT Reconstruction/Improvement/Rehabilitation/Maintenance - New Project

The Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC), the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Erie and Niagara Counties, is proposing to amend the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by adding one (1) new project. This project will reconstruct, improve, rehabilitate, and maintain light rail infrastructure throughout the NFTA-Metro Rail line. Project work includes:

- **Yard, Track, Catenary, and Train Control Rehabilitation** – This project provides the infrastructure essential to the development of a new DL&W Light Rail Station. The rail work replaces the existing track bed at the southern end of Main Street, replaces and reconfigures the existing west end switching yard, and replaces and reconfigures storage track within the existing South Park Avenue Yards and Shops train shed. Work includes replacement of storage track, a double crossover, replacement of the overhead catenary system, requisite train signaling, and associated utility work. $12.4M
- **Fastener and Pad Replacement, Phase 10** – Work includes the removal and replacement of Direct Fixation Fastener (DFF) assemblies and rail along segments of the inbound and outbound light rail tunnels between the University and LaSalle Stations. $2.9M
- **Escalator Replacement** – Work includes replacing targeted underground LRRT station escalators with a new design. $3.2M
- **Rail Stations Exterior Rehabilitation** – Work includes repairs to rail station sidewalks and windows, cleaning and refinishing of architectural building surfaces, restoration of exterior window walls, replacement of exterior lighting, and ceiling glazing. $1M
- **Rail - Fare Collection System Upgrade** – Work includes replacement of the multi-functional ticket vending machines at 14 rail stations and 4 transit centers, replacement of the fare collection computer workstations, associated IT infrastructure, and point of sale equipment, and the installation of new fare gates at 14 rail stations. $0.54M

This project satisfies 2050 MTP goals by:

- Maintain adequate transit infrastructure on a responsible replacement cycle;
- Enhance the attractiveness, convenience, safety, and availability of alternative transportation options
- Improve mobility for all members of the community.

Estimated Let Date is 1-20

Total cost of the project is $20M funded by 100% SFY 19-20 NYS Metro Rail Capital. Fiscal constraint is maintained as these are new non-federal funds to the region. Let Date is scheduled for 1/1/20.

The recommended regional air quality conformity exemption codes for both projects is B9 – “Rehabilitation or reconstruction of track structures, track and track bed in existing rights-of-way” and B8 – “Reconstruction or renovation of transit buildings and structures”.

Public comments will be received until January 3, 2020. If you have any additional questions or comments please contact us at staff@gbnrtc.org, or 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.*
December 2, 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 5824.82 LRRT Reconstruction/Improvement/Rehabilitation/Maintenance

Dear Mr. Morse:

The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) submits with this letter an Initial Project Proposal to include PIN 5824.82 – LRRT Reconstruction/Improvement/Rehabilitation/Maintenance in the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). As part of this project, the NFTA will update rail track, trackbed, catenary, and train control systems, remove and replace outdated rail fasteners and pads, replace life-expired station escalators, rehab rail station facilities, and upgrade the rail fare collection system.

This project will be supported with $20,000,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 New York State Dedicated Metro Rail Capital 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
Initial Project Proposal (IPP) Form (Transit Project)

PIN: 5824.82

Name:
NFTA LRRT
Reconstruction/Improvement/Rehabilitation/Maintenance

County:
Erie

Member Agency:
NFTA

IPP Preparation Date: 12/2/2019
1. **Public Friendly Description of Project**: This project will reconstruct, improve, rehabilitate, and help maintain critical light rail rapid transit infrastructure across the Metro Rail system.

2. **Project Need**: A significant portion of the NFTA's Metro Rail infrastructure is beyond its useful life and in need of repair/replacement. This includes deteriorated light rail track and trackbed, outdated train control systems, rail station escalators that continually breakdown, and worn rail station building structures. As a result, the overall performance, efficiency, and convenience of the Metro Rail system has been negatively impacted.

3. **Purpose/Objectives**: The purpose of this project is to address the state-of-good-repair needs of the region's light rail infrastructure and modernize the entire system to better meet the needs of today's traveling public.

4. **Description of Proposed Work**: As part of this project, the NFTA will update rail track, trackbed, catenary, and train control systems, remove and replace outdated rail fasteners and pads, replace life-expired station escalators, rehab rail station facilities, and upgrade the rail fare collection system.

5. **Location**:

   - [x] Erie County  
   - [ ] Niagara County  
   - [ ] Erie & Niagara County  
   - [ ] Study Only

6. **Potential Utility Involvement**: [x] Yes  
   [ ] No

   **If yes, please explain**: This project will make improvements to light rail catenary wires and station escalator electrical equipment.

7. **Funding**:

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   1. Please use a separate line for each funding source.
   2. Please list NFTA match and overmatch on separate lines

8. **Basis of Cost Estimate**: NFTA Engineering Estimates, Contractor Bid Documents

9. **Let (Obligation) Date**: 1/1/2020
MPO Required Information

Please refer to attached guidance for assistance

10. Does the project link to defined 2050 long-range planning (MTP) goals?  ☑Yes

This project will allow the NFTA to:

- Maintain adequate transit infrastructure on a responsible replacement cycle;
- Enhance the attractiveness, convenience, safety, and availability of alternative transportation options; and
- Improve mobility for all members of the community.

11. Describe project relationship to defined performance measures:

By helping the NFTA maintain transit infrastructure on a responsible replacement cycle and improve access to quality, convenient, affordable, and efficient public transit service, this project will address the following defined performance measures:

- Increase transit ridership by 5%;
- Maintain pollutant emissions at base year levels; and
- Reduce the number of persons who drive alone by 5%

12. Is the project on a transit route?  ☑Yes

If yes, please identify route(s): NFTA-Metro Rail Line

13. Are bicycle/pedestrian amenities included in project?  ☑Yes

Light rail rapid transit infrastructure enhancements made as part of this project will improve bicycle/pedestrian safety and access to Metro Rail service. Bike/pedestrian-related work includes escalator, sidewalk, and lighting enhancements at various Metro Rail stations, as well as trackwork and rail signaling improvements along Lower Main Street.

14. Does the project address any safety concerns?  ☑Yes

A significant portion of the NFTA’s Metro Rail infrastructure is beyond its useful life and in need of repair/replacement. This includes deteriorated light rail track and trackbed, outdated train control systems, rail station escalators that continually breakdown, and worn rail station building structures. Left unaddressed, infrastructure and system failures may occur that could pose safety hazards to Metro Rail riders and the general public. As part of this project, the NFTA will make needed repairs and upgrades to these light rail infrastructure components to enhance the overall safety and dependability of the Metro Rail system.

15. Will this project retain/attract businesses?  ☑Yes

Enhanced public transit access and safety improves the viability and economic competitiveness of local businesses by ensuring workers and customers have a safe, affordable, convenient, and efficient way to get to and from business locations.

16. Is project located in an Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities of Concern area? (See Map in Guidance section)
17. MPO Required Attachments:

☑️ Cover letter briefly summarizing project proposal