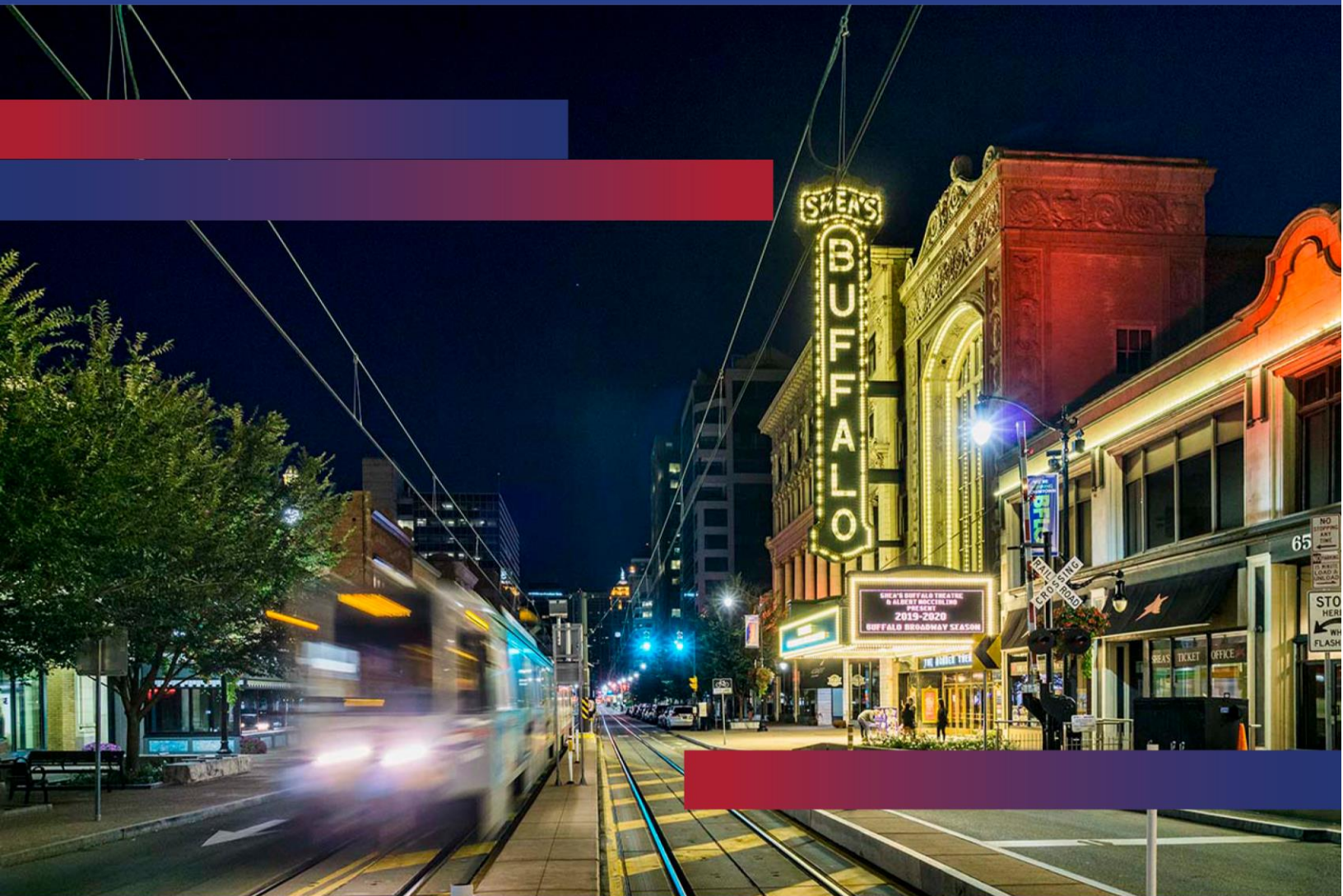


Buffalo-Amherst-Tonawanda Corridor Transit Expansion

Draft Environmental Impact Statement



Buffalo-Amherst-Tonawanda Corridor Transit Expansion, Erie County, New York

Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

Submitted by:

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
and
Niagara Frontier Transit Metro System, Inc. (Metro)

In cooperation with:

U.S. Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Empire State Development
New York State Department of Transportation
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
Dormitory Authority of the State of New York/State University of New York
Erie County Department of Public Works

With participation from:

Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, City of Buffalo, Town of Amherst, and Town of Tonawanda

Pursuant to:

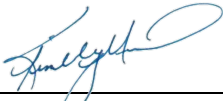
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4332), related statutes (23 U.S.C. § 139, 49 U.S.C. § 303, and 23 U.S.C. § 138), and regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, 23 CFR Part 771, and 23 CFR Part 774) and, as applicable, with the guidelines and methodologies established under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA, NY ENV'T CONSERV. LAW Article 8 and 6 NYCRR Part 617).



Michael L. Culotta, Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration, Region II

July 17, 2025

Date



Kimberley Minkel, Executive Director
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority

July 18, 2025

Date

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), as lead Federal agency, and the Niagara Frontier Transit Metro System, Inc. (Metro), as local project sponsor and joint lead agency have prepared this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Buffalo-Amherst-Tonawanda Corridor Transit Expansion (the Proposed Project).

In the DEIS, FTA and Metro evaluated three alternatives, the No Action Alternative (No Build), the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Build Alternative, and the Light Rail Transit (LRT) Build Alternative which is the Locally Preferred Alternative. The Proposed Project would expand high quality transit service in Buffalo, New York to Tonawanda and Amherst, New York. Metro currently operates a 6.4-mile light rail transit line called Metro Rail that provides service along Main Street in Buffalo, New York, from Downtown Buffalo to the State University of New York, University at Buffalo (UB) South Campus. The Project would expand the present service to include high-quality transit service from the current terminus at the Metro Rail University Station to existing and emerging activity centers in Amherst and Tonawanda.

This DEIS describes the potential social, economic, and environmental effects that may result from the Proposed Project. Where adverse impacts are identified, potential measures to mitigate those effects are described. The Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation documents the Proposed Project in terms of its compliance with the requirements of Section 4(f).

The DEIS and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation are available for public review at the Buffalo-Amherst-Tonawanda Corridor Transit Expansion Project website: nftametrotransitexpansion.com. Comments on this DEIS are due by September 8, 2025. Written comments may be submitted in hard copy via mail to: The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, 181 Ellicott Street, Buffalo, New York 14203; Attention: Jeffery Amplement, electronically via e-mail to transitexpansion@nfta.com, through the project website (nftametrotransitexpansion.com) and via voicemail at (716) 855-7382.

Following the public comment period, FTA and Metro intend to issue a single document that consists of the Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) consistent with 49 U.S.C. § 304a(b) unless FTA determines that statutory criteria or practicability considerations preclude issuance of such a combined document.

The following persons may be contacted for additional information concerning this document or to provide written comments:

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