



## Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID  
Commissioner

April 29, 2020

Ms. Rachel Maloney Joyner  
Project Manager  
NFTA  
181 Ellicott Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: FTA  
Metro Rail Expansion Construction Project  
Amherst, Tonawanda and Buffalo, Erie County, NY  
19PR01900

Dear Ms. Maloney Joyner:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the provided documentation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include other environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and/or the State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8).

Upon review of the Historic Resources Report provided to our office via CRIS on April 8, 2020, we have the following comments organized by municipality:

### **CITY OF BUFFALO**

- 1) **University at Buffalo South Campus.** We concur with your findings that the University at Buffalo South Campus is eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places, including Foster Hall. Please note that Edmund B. Hayes Hall has been individually listed on the State and National Registers in 2016. We concur with your recommendations that Baird Hall/current Allen Hall on the South Campus is not eligible for the Registers.
- 2) **University Park Historic District.** You have correctly noted that the University Park Historic District is S/NR listed.
- 3) **Individual Residential and Non-Residential Properties.** We concur with your assessment that the individual properties (Appendix B) in Buffalo do not meet the S/NR criteria.

### **TOWN OF TONAWANDA**

- 4) **Kenilworth Park; Lincoln Park Village; Curtis Park; Marvin Gardens.** We concur with your conclusions that Kenilworth Park and Curtis Park do not meet the S/NR criteria. However, upon closer review, it appears that Lincoln Park Village is eligible for the State and National Registers under criterion A in the area of Community

Development and Planning, and criterion C in the area of Architecture as a planned post-World War II suburban development project. Additional study, and perhaps a site visit, would be needed to make a determination on Marvin Gardens; we are not requesting this as part of this project, and this area will remain undetermined at this time.

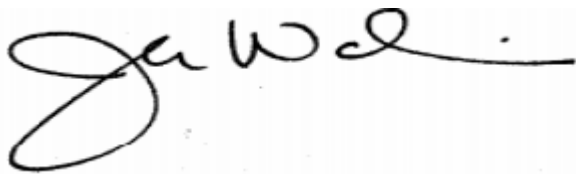
- 5) **Individual Residential and Non-Residential Properties.** We concur with your assessment that the individual properties in the town of Tonawanda (Appendix B) do not meet the S/NR criteria.

## **TOWN OF AMHERST**

- 6) **Capen Boulevard Historic District.** We concur that this previously identified residential historic district is S/NR eligible.
- 7) **Windemere Boulevard, Allenhurst-Niagara, Boulevard Mall, North Bailey.** We concur that these areas/resources are not S/NR eligible.
- 8) **Skinnersville Cemetery and Church, 129 Frontier Road.** We concur with your recommendations that this cemetery and church do not meet S/NR criteria.
- 9) **University at Buffalo North Campus** is just reaching the 50-year mark, as the campus was established in 1968 and the first buildings were constructed in 1972. Given the size and significance of this campus, and its role in the SUNY system development of the Rockefeller era, further, more intensive study of the significance of the campus is warranted. It is our understanding that a full historic context and survey is forthcoming from SUNY. At this point, we do not concur that the University at Buffalo North Campus is not eligible for the NY State and National Registers, pending review of this survey. At this time, the status of the North Campus will remain undetermined.
- 10) **Individual Residential and Non-Residential Properties.** We concur with your assessment that the individual properties (Appendix B) in Amherst do not meet the S/NR criteria.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Jennifer Walkowski at [Jennifer.walkowski@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Jennifer.walkowski@parks.ny.gov).

Sincerely,



Jennifer Walkowski  
Historic Preservation Program Analyst  
Survey and National Register Unit – Western NY Region

(via email)



## Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID  
Commissioner

April 30, 2020

Ms. Rachel Maloney Joyner  
Project Manager  
NFTA  
181 Ellicott Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: FTA  
Metro Rail Expansion Construction Project  
Amherst, Tonawanda and Buffalo, Erie County, NY  
19PR01900

Dear Ms. Maloney Joyner:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the submitted materials in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include other environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and/or the State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8).

We are very pleased that the project has come to fruition after all of the work that has gone into the planning process. Metro Rail Expansion which will make Erie County a more desirable place to live, work, and visit. It will help make the area more environmentally responsible; and will assist underserved populations such as the elderly, low-income citizens, and disabled residents.

The project is adjacent to several National Register listed and National Register eligible resources. The University at Buffalo (UB) North Campus is still pending further survey work and undetermined at this time. The University at Buffalo South Campus and the Lincoln Park Village Historic District are eligible for listing in the National Register, the Marvin Gardens potential historic district is undetermined, and the University Park Historic District is listed in the National Register. Please see attached letter from Jennifer Walkowski noting eligibilities, as well attached resource evaluations.

Before we can complete our review, we will need additional information. Please attach design materials to CRIS as one or a few PDFs. Photos need to be collected into a single Microsoft Word or PowerPoint file (one image per slide) for uploading to the CRIS system or as a PDF. Please do not attach individual photos to CRIS as PHOTOS because this section of CRIS takes a long time for us to download. Please include:

- A. An existing-condition site plan to double as a photo key (see "B" below).
- B. Exterior views of all NR eligible and listed properties that could be visually impacted by new construction. These should be numbered and keyed to the site plan to identify the location and direction of view.

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### Division for Historic Preservation

P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189 • (518) 237-8643 • parks.ny.gov

C. A proposed site plan.

G. Proposed elevation drawings of any new construction that has the potential to visually effect the identified historic resources. The drawings should be annotated to describe the materials, finishes and colors proposed for new elements.

You may begin submitting the materials we requested when they become available. If we determine that the University at Buffalo (UB) North Campus is eligible for listing in the National Register, we will need the materials listed above to review the project's impact on the North Campus.

We note that you are also consulting with our office in terms of the project's potential impact on archeological resources. We would appreciate if the requested information in this letter, which pertains to the above ground visual impacts, could be provided via our Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) at <https://cris.parks.ny.gov/>. Once on the CRIS site, you can log in as a guest and choose "submit" at the very top menu. Go to "Other Options" at the bottom of the page and choose "submit new information for an existing project". You will need this project number and your e-mail address. If you have any questions, I can be reached at [sloane.bullough@parks.ny.gov](mailto:sloane.bullough@parks.ny.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sloane Bullough". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sloane Bullough  
Historic Sites Restoration Coordinator

Encl.

By email only



U.S. Department  
Of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

Region 2  
New York  
New Jersey

One Bowling Green  
Room 429  
New York, NY 10004-1415  
212-668-2170  
212-668-2136 (Fax)

November 19, 2021

Mr. Daniel Mackay  
Deputy Commissioner  
Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Division for Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island Resource Center  
PO Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

**Subject: Notification of Section 106 Review Initiation and Consultation for the  
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority Buffalo-Amherst-Tonawanda  
Corridor Transit Expansion, Erie County, New York**

Dear Mr. Mackay:

The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) intends to seek federal funding for the Buffalo-Amherst-Tonawanda Corridor Transit Expansion Project (the Project) located in the towns of Buffalo, Amherst and Tonawanda, NY in Erie County, New York. Therefore, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is initiating the Project as a federal undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 ("Section 106"), as amended, and associated implementing regulations at 36 CFR 800. FTA is the lead federal agency responsible for conducting the Project's environmental review and ensuring compliance with Section 106. FTA is authorizing NFTA to prepare information, analyses, and recommendations regarding Section 106 consultation for the referenced project.

The proposed project would be selected from the following two alternatives, as well as a No Build Alternative:

Alternative 1 – Light Rail Transit (LRT):

- The LRT extension would be primarily at-grade, except for a 0.8-mile underground segment from the existing Metro Rail University Station to Niagara Falls Boulevard and at the intersection of Maple Road and Sweet Home Road.
- Ten stations are proposed, two with park & ride facilities, and an overnight storage and light maintenance facility located near the end of the line.
- The trackway would be configured with two tracks – one for northbound service and

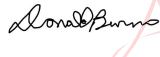
one for southbound service. The project would generally be within existing roadway right-of-way.

Alternative 2 – Bus Rapid Transit (BRT):

- The proposed BRT build alternative would provide transit service north from the existing Metro Rail University Station for approximately 7 miles along the same at-grade alignment as the LRT build alternative with the same number of stations in the same locations.
- A transfer would be required between the existing Metro Rail operations at University Station to the BRT service.
- A new BRT vehicle storage and maintenance facility would also be required.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact James A. Goveia at 212-668-2325 or [james.goveia@dot.gov](mailto:james.goveia@dot.gov).

Regards,

 Digitally signed by  
DONALD C BURNS  
Date: 2021.11.19  
08:38:33 -05'00'

Donald Burns, AICP

cc: Jeffrey Amplement, NFTA ([Jeffery.Amplement@nfta.com](mailto:Jeffery.Amplement@nfta.com))  
James Goveia, FTA



## Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

KATHY HOCHUL  
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID  
Commissioner

September 19, 2022

Jeffery Amplement  
Project Manager  
NFTA  
181 Ellicott Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: FTA  
Metro Rail Expansion Construction Project  
Amherst, Tonawanda and Buffalo, Erie County, NY  
19PR01900

Dear Jeffery Amplement:

Thank you for continuing to consult with the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the submitted project information in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources.

We are in receipt of the submitted information (ground disturbing impacts narrative, BRT and LRT build alternative site plans; August 2022).

The SHPO continues to recommend that a Phase IA Literature Search and Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment survey is warranted. As noted in our 4/1/2020 comment letter, a Phase IA survey is designed to identify previously recorded archaeological sites and other cultural resources within or near the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE), and to assess the overall archaeological sensitivity of the APE. The Phase IA also documents previous ground disturbance and makes recommendations regarding the potential need for Phase IB subsurface archaeological testing. A 36 CFR 61 qualified archaeologist should be retained to conduct the Phase IA archaeological survey.

If you have any questions concerning archaeology, please do not hesitate to contact me at [andrew.farry@parks.ny.gov](mailto:andrew.farry@parks.ny.gov) or 518.268.2185.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Farry".

Andrew Farry, Ph.D.  
Scientist/Archaeology

Cc: CRIS contact list



**New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation**

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**ERIK KULLESEID**  
Commissioner

April 17, 2023

Jeffery Amplement  
Project Manager, NFTA  
181 Ellicott Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: FTA  
Metro Rail Expansion Construction Project  
Amherst, Tonawanda and Buffalo, Erie County, NY  
19PR01900

Dear Jeffery Amplement:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the submitted materials in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources.

We have reviewed the Phase IA archaeology survey report prepared for this project (February 2023, 23SR00122). It is the SHPO's opinion that this report is incomplete, and we are requesting report revisions. The purpose of a Phase IA archaeological survey is to identify previously recorded archaeological sites and other cultural resources within or near the project area, to assess the archaeological sensitivity of the project area, to document previous ground disturbance and to make recommendations regarding the potential need for Phase IB subsurface archaeological testing. The Phase IA report submitted for this project does not include recommendations regarding the need for a Phase IB archaeological investigation. If more research and/or additional work is necessary to make these recommendations, please do so as part of the revised Phase IA report.

In addition, Table 4 should include the New York State Museum Sites located within 0.75 miles of the project corridor. More information on these sites is available through CRIS.

The revised report should be submitted to the SHPO for review. If you have any questions, I can be reached at [Sydney.Snyder@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Sydney.Snyder@parks.ny.gov).

Sincerely,

Sydney Snyder  
Historic Preservation Specialist - Archaeology





**New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation**

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**ERIK KULLESEID**  
Commissioner

June 28, 2023

Jeffery Amplement  
Project Manager  
NFTA  
181 Ellicott Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: FTA  
Metro Rail Expansion Construction Project  
Amherst, Tonawanda and Buffalo, Erie County, NY  
19PR01900

Dear Jeffery Amplement:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the submitted materials in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources.

The SHPO has reviewed the revised Phase IA report submitted to our office May 30, 2023 (23SR00122). We offer the following comments in response:

- 1) A. Michael Pappalardo at AKRF confirmed via email that Phase IB trenching will be performed but that no monitoring during construction is currently recommended. Please clarify this in the report and remove the term "monitoring".
- 2) Please provide a map showing the limits of the moderate and high sensitivity areas for which you are recommending Phase IB testing.

The revised report should be submitted to the SHPO for review. If you have any questions, I can be reached at [Sydney.Snyder@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Sydney.Snyder@parks.ny.gov).

Sincerely,

Sydney Snyder  
Scientist - Archaeology



**New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation**

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**ERIK KULLESEID**  
Commissioner

July 5, 2023

Jeffery Amplement  
Project Manager  
NFTA  
181 Ellicott Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: FTA  
Metro Rail Expansion Construction Project  
Amherst, Tonawanda and Buffalo, Erie County, NY  
19PR01900

Dear Jeffery Amplement:

Thank you for your ongoing consultation with the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the provided documentation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources.

Our office has reviewed the June 2023 Built Historic Properties Assessment of Effects Report for the proposed transit expansion project. In general, the proposed project appears to be headed in the right direction, as it appears that in large part, work is proposed to occur either underground or within existing roadways. However, at this time, we cannot concur with FTA's recommended effect finding, and offer the following comment and request some additional information:

1. Please see our Archaeology Unit's 6/28/2023 comments on the Phase 1A report and request for additional information that must be addressed.
2. We ask that information detailing the proposed work be provided, in order to better understand the impacts that the proposed work may have. The information should include but not limited to, site plans, drawings, renderings and/or photo overlays. Of concern, is the proposed land acquisition and new construction that might be proposed within or directly adjacent to listed and eligible resources. Particularly, Lincoln Park Village and University Park Historic Districts.
3. Our office recommends that any new construction and new elements introduced within or adjacent to historic resources/districts be consistent with the character of those resources.
4. We recommend that historic properties, including those contributing to historic districts maintain their current relationship to the street.

We request the additional information be provided via our Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) at <https://parks.ny.gov/shpo/online-tools/>. Once on the CRIS site, you can log in as a guest and choose "submit" at the very top menu. Next choose "submit new information for an existing project." You will need the project number and your e-mail address. If you have any questions, I am best reached by email.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'DR', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Derek Rohde  
Historic Site Restoration Coordinator  
518-275-5745 | [Derek.Rohde@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Derek.Rohde@parks.ny.gov)



**New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation**

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**ERIK KULLESEID**  
Commissioner

December 19, 2023

Jeffery Amplement  
Project Manager  
NFTA  
181 Ellicott Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: FTA  
Metro Rail Expansion Construction Project  
Amherst, Tonawanda and Buffalo, Erie County, NY  
19PR01900

Dear Jeffery Amplement:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the provided documentation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include other environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project.

The SHPO has reviewed the Revised Phase IA Archaeological Survey Report submitted to our office November 10, 2023 (23SR00122). We concur with the areas of archaeological sensitivity identified in the report, and we concur that archaeological monitoring and/or Phase IB testing should be planned in consultation with our office. We look forward to reviewing the Scope of Work (SOW) for archaeological monitoring and/or Phase IB testing.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at [Sydney.Snyder@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Sydney.Snyder@parks.ny.gov).

Sincerely,

Sydney Snyder  
Scientist - Archaeology



**New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation**

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**ERIK KULLESEID**  
Commissioner

January 25, 2023

Jeffery Amplement  
Project Manager  
NFTA  
181 Ellicott Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: FTA  
Metro Rail Expansion Construction Project  
Amherst, Tonawanda and Buffalo, Erie County, New York  
19PR01900

Dear Jeffery Amplement:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the December 7, 2023 "NFTA Effects Assessment Report" in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources.

The reference to monitoring in the October 2023 "Phase IA Archaeological Documentary Study" and in the SHPO's December 19, 2023, response letter is for archaeological monitoring of trenches that are excavated by backhoe prior to construction. The monitoring of mechanically excavated trenches by a professional archaeologist is necessary due to the presence of blacktop and fill soils within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) that cannot be investigated by hand dug units.

As a result, we cannot concur with the recommendation for archaeological monitoring under construction or with the finding of conditional No Adverse Effect. The SHPO will consider an effect finding once the identification of historic properties and the evaluation of affects portion of the Section 106 process has been completed. We continue to recommend that a Phase IB archaeological testing plan be submitted for SHPO comment.

Please note that the SHPO has no further architectural concerns with this undertaking, and we look forward to receiving a Phase IB archaeological testing plan.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at [nancy.herter@parks.ny.gov](mailto:nancy.herter@parks.ny.gov).

Sincerely,

Nancy Herter  
Director, Technical Preservation Services Bureau

cc. Elizabeth Breiseth, FTA Agency Preservation Officer



**New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation**

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**RANDY SIMONS**  
Commissioner *Pro Tempore*

March 29, 2024

Jeffery Amplement  
Project Manager  
NFTA  
181 Ellicott Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: FTA  
Metro Rail Expansion Construction Project  
Amherst, Tonawanda and Buffalo, Erie County, NY  
19PR01900

Dear Jeffery Amplement:

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The SHPO has reviewed the Archaeological Testing Work Plan submitted to our office February 22, 2024. We understand that there are four areas of archaeological sensitivity within the Area of Potential Effects (APE). We concur with the Phase IB testing strategies outlined in this document for Niagara Falls Boulevard, the UB North Campus, and John James Audubon Parkway.

We note that the UB South Campus is adjacent to the Erie County Poorhouse Burial Ground (USN 02940.024949). Human remains have been recovered at 44 locations, with some findspots representing intact burials, while others are disturbed or fragmentary. Some locations yielded evidence of more than one individual. No systematic archaeological investigations have been conducted at this site and the full extent of the burial ground remains unknown.

Before we provide comments on the testing strategies for the UB South Campus, we are requesting more information on the Erie County Poorhouse Burial Ground. Please provide this information in a Supplemental Work Plan, along with a map depicting where the trenches will be placed within the parking lot(s). Please also include an overview of the fieldwork procedures. These procedures should be designed to minimize the potential for disturbing burials.

In the future, please note that our office does not review draft documents and we request that final documents only are submitted for SHPO review.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at [Sydney.Snyder@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Sydney.Snyder@parks.ny.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sydney Snyder".

Sydney Snyder  
Scientist - Archaeology



**New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation**

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**RANDY SIMONS**  
Commissioner *Pro Tempore*

June 26, 2024

Jeffery Amplement  
Project Manager  
NFTA  
181 Ellicott Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: FTA  
Metro Rail Expansion Construction Project  
Amherst, Tonawanda and Buffalo, Erie County, NY  
19PR01900

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The SHPO has reviewed the updated Archaeological Work Plan submitted to our office May 22, 2024. We support the Phase IB testing strategies outlined in this document.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at [Sydney.Snyder@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Sydney.Snyder@parks.ny.gov).

Sincerely,

Sydney Snyder  
Scientist - Archaeology