Integrating Smart Transit into Complete Streets

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Key Presentation Take-Aways

1. Coordination & Community Engagement
2. Enhanced Transit Experience through Complete Streets
3. Increased Private Development through Public Expenditure
• Introduction
• System Overview
• Project Overview
• Goals and Objectives
• Outcomes
• Conclusion
System Overview

- Two county region serving Buffalo and Niagara Falls, NY
- Metro population 1.15 million people
- Organization is responsible for Bus and Rail operations, along with two airports
System Overview
Statistics
- 320 buses (diesel, hybrid, CNG)
- 27 rail cars
- 74 paratransit vehicles
- 625 bus and rail operators
- Roughly 100,000 daily trips on bus and rail
City of Buffalo Complete Streets Ordinance (2008)
- A complete street provides for the safe, convenient and comfortable travel by foot, bicycle, transit or personal vehicle

Mayor’s commitment to installing at least 10 miles of bike lanes annually
Project Overview

• Niagara Street Corridor
  – High demand urban transit corridor
    • 6,700 daily boardings
  – Neighborhood Redevelopment
  – FTA Livability Grant
  – Coordination with Buffalo DPW and Sewer Authority, along with local partners
• Community Involvement
  – Engaged neighborhood leaders
  – Public Meetings
  – Participated in local community group meetings
  – Community led art-in-transit project
Goals & Objectives

• City’s Goals
  – Improve overall vehicular safety and operational conditions
  – Improve overall safety and mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists
  – Return pavement to good conditions
  – Enhance the corridor aesthetically to better identify it as a major gateway to the City of Buffalo CBD
Goals & Objectives

• NFTA Goals
  – Positive coordination with local partners (City of Buffalo, MPO and NITTEC)
  – Construction of a Neighborhood Transit Center
  – Enhanced shelters with next bus technology
  – Transit signal priority (TSP)
  – Bus procurement (5 new vehicles)
Outcomes - Teamwork

- Coordination
  - Weekly meetings
  - Shared consultant
  - Monthly stakeholder meetings
  - Joint public outreach
  - Coordination on power
  - NFTA funding for new traffic signal controllers
  - Over $19 million invested in Niagara Street
Outcomes - Shelters

• New design
• Increased presence
• Real-time signage
Outcomes – Transit Hub

• Gas station remediation
• Increased transfer opportunities
• Community messaging
• 25 space park-and-ride
Outcomes – Public Art

- Local artist
- Photographs by local children
- Long-lasting
- Neighborhood Centric
Outcomes – New Buses

• Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)
• Five new buses
• Cleaner air
Outcomes – Better Bus Speeds

- Transit Signal Priority (TSP) at all signals in the corridor – 26 in total
- Allows for greater travel speed and less time on the bus
- Configurable to work with signal timings
Outcomes – Placemaking

- Hispanic heritage trail
- Celebration of residents and community leaders
Outcomes – Private Investment
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Progress & Next Steps

- Phase 1 & 2 Complete, Phases 3 and 4 start construction soon
- Additional real-time signage and controller replacement
- Protected bike lanes
- Full completion scheduled for 2020
Conclusion

- Local partners and community involvement are key to successful projects
- Streets that share all modes
- Lead to a great deal of private investment
- Created a model for which to develop new corridor investment (Main, Bailey, South Park)
Thank you!

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