

WELCOME

Buffalo-Amherst-Tonawanda Corridor Transit Expansion Project Public Scoping Meeting



Scoping Meeting Facilitation

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS DURING A SCOPING MEETING

- Two live virtual scoping meetings will take place as follows:
 - Sept. 15, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
 - Sept. 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
- The meetings will be recorded.
- Participants will be muted during the meetings.
- Pre-registration was required in order to provide oral comments during the meeting.
 - If you're registered to speak, please join the meeting with the same name you used for registration or rename yourself
 - It is important that you "name" yourself so that we can call on you to provide comments based on your registration information
- If you did not register to speak but would like to, please use the Q&A feature to request speaking time and you will be placed at the end of registered speakers queue. Your name will be called in the order entered
- If you're not registered to speak and would like to submit questions or comments, please use the email address or weblink provided.

Scoping Meeting Facilitation

A QUICK GUIDE TO ZOOM

This opens a **list of all participants** so you can see who is in the room and allows you to **rename yourself** by clicking the option from the dropdown menu next to your name.

Use this to submit a request to deliver **oral comments** if you are not already registered to do so

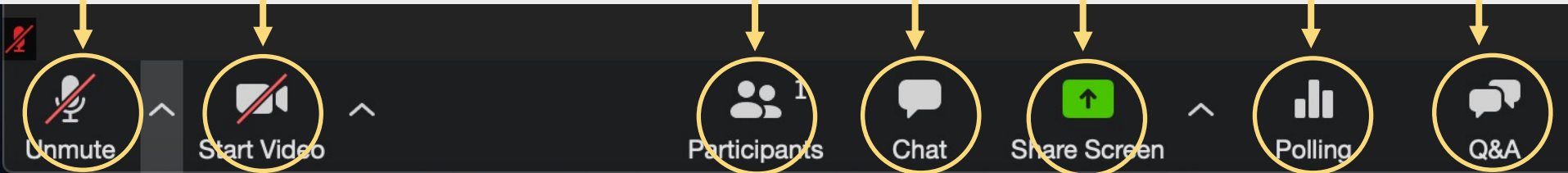
Use this to request **technical assistance** from the project team

Unavailable

Unavailable

Unavailable

Unavailable



Scoping Meeting Facilitation

CHANGING YOUR ZOOM LAYOUT

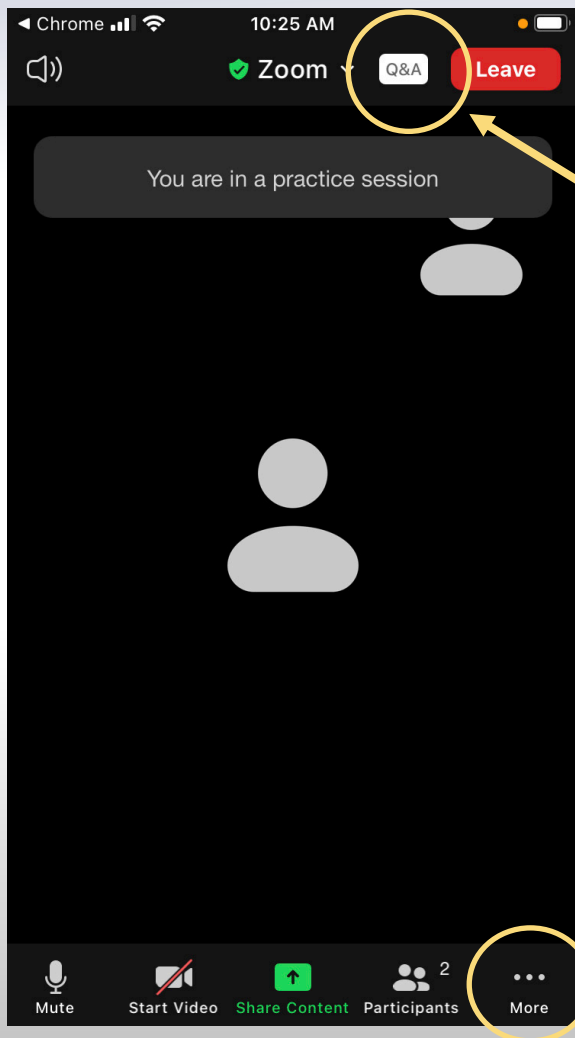


In the upper right corner of your window, you should see a symbol that looks something like one of these.

Clicking through these will change the layout of your screen and allow you to do things like maximize the presentation size or display everyone's video in a gallery format.

Scoping Meeting Facilitation

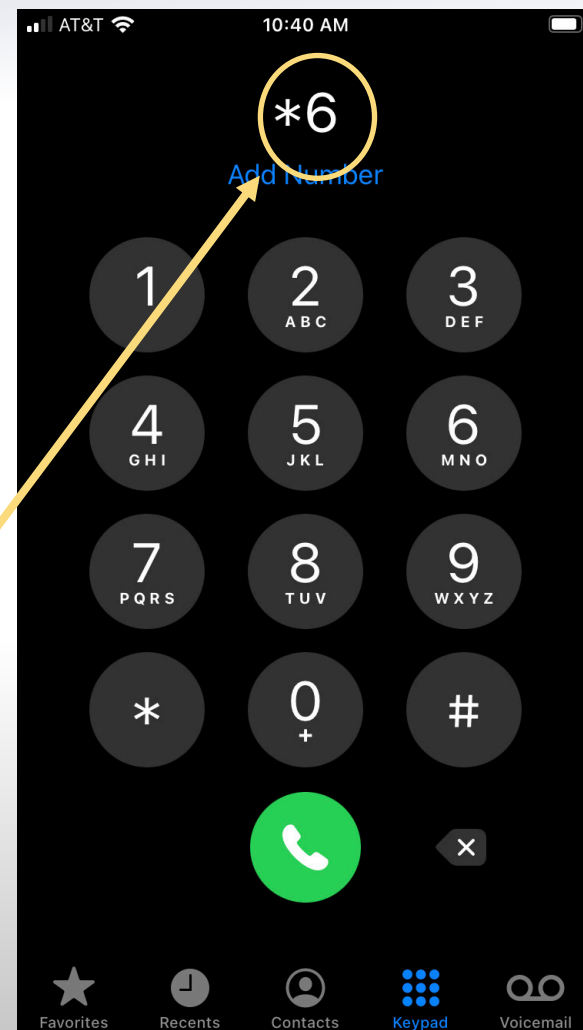
A QUICK GUIDE TO ZOOM VIA MOBLIE APP



Use this icon to request speaking time during the meeting if you are not already registered

Use this icon to access more features

Press *6 to mute and unmute if calling in from a phone without the mobile app. You must wait for a panel member to enable this feature.



WELCOME

Buffalo-Amherst-Tonawanda Corridor Transit Expansion Project Public Scoping Meeting



Comment during the meeting:

Sign up to speak or type in your comment during the scoping meeting



Submit comments online or by email:

www.NFTAMetroTransitExpansion.com
transitexpansion@nfta.com



Mail comments to:

Metro Transit Expansion Project
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
181 Ellicott Street
Buffalo, NY 14203



Metro Transit Expansion

Buffalo-Amherst-Tonawanda Corridor Transit Expansion

- Transit expansion project to continue high frequency and reliable service into Tonawanda and Amherst
- The transit expansion would be approximately 7 miles with 10 stations and 2 park-n-rides
- A goal of the project is to improve job access
- The project would improve sustainability and reliability

METRO RAIL HISTORY

NFTA initiates Transit Options Amherst-Buffalo Alternatives Analysis (AA) for Amherst corridor

NFTA completes 3-tier screening evaluation to identify Locally Preferred Alternative Light rail ranks highest

NFTA designated as Lead Agency to conduct an environmental review process under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR)

FTA designated as Lead Agency to conduct environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

2012

2017

2019

2021



1960s

2016

2018

2020

NFTA proposes a 43 mile network of rapid transit rail lines, including a 14 mile line from Downtown Buffalo to Amherst

GBNRTC initiates comprehensive Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) study to support AA

Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) is refined, based on stakeholder input

NFTA releases SEQR Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and initiates public comment period, including public hearings



What's Changed

Building upon previous technical work and public outreach:

- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be Lead Agency with NFTA as Co-Lead Agency
- Utilizing the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) DEIS, a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) EIS will be prepared
- An additional Build Alternative will be considered in the EIS:
 - Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), along with
 - Light Rail Transit (LRT)

What is Scoping?

Scoping is an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action

Affords an opportunity for agencies and the public to provide input on:

Purpose and Need

Build Alternatives

Environmental Analysis Methodology

Potential Environmental and Social Impacts

Meets National Environmental Policy Act Requirements

How You Can Comment



Comment during the meeting:

Sign up to speak or type in your comment during the scoping meeting



Submit comments online or by email:

www.NFTAMetroTransitExpansion.com
transitexpansion@nfta.com



Mail comments to:

Metro Transit Expansion Project
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
181 Ellicott Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

- Scoping Information Packet is available on the project website (<https://www.NFTAMetroTransitExpansion.com>)
- All comments received in any method are equally weighted
- Comments received by **October 14, 2021 at 4pm** will be considered and summarized in the Final Scoping Document, which will also be posted to the project website

Environmental Review Process

- Prepare a NEPA EIS
- Assess potential effects of the build alternative(s) and develop mitigation measures for adverse effects
- Provide meaningful opportunities for public participation during the environmental process



Purpose and Need

- The **purpose** of the Buffalo-Amherst-Tonawanda Corridor Transit Expansion project (Proposed Action) is to link established and emerging activity centers along the existing Metro Rail line in Buffalo with existing and emerging activity centers in Amherst and Tonawanda to provide a fast, reliable, safe, and convenient transit ride. Additionally, the Project would improve livability by increasing mobility and accessibility in communities throughout the region.
- The **need** for improved transit service has three main components:



Serve existing and future travel demand



Provide high-quality regional transit service



Improve service for transit-dependent population

Alternatives

- No Build Alternative
- Bus-Rapid Transit (BRT) Build Alternative
- Light-Rail Transit (LRT) Build Alternative

BRT



LRT



LRT Build Alternative

- Approximately 7-mile LRT extension from UB South University Station to I-990 / Audubon Parkway
- 0.8 mile tunnel on southern segment
- Operating in median of Niagara Falls Boulevard from:
 - Kenilworth Avenue to Maple Road
- Operating in median of Maple Road from:
 - Alberta Drive to Sweet Home Road
- Operate under intersection of Maple Road / Sweet Home Road
- Operating on east side of Sweet Home Road from:
 - Maple Road to Rensch Road
- Operating within UB North Campus
- Operating along Audubon Parkway to re-use the Parkway's northbound footprint

- 10 Stations
- 2 Park-and-Rides
- 1 Overnight Storage Facility

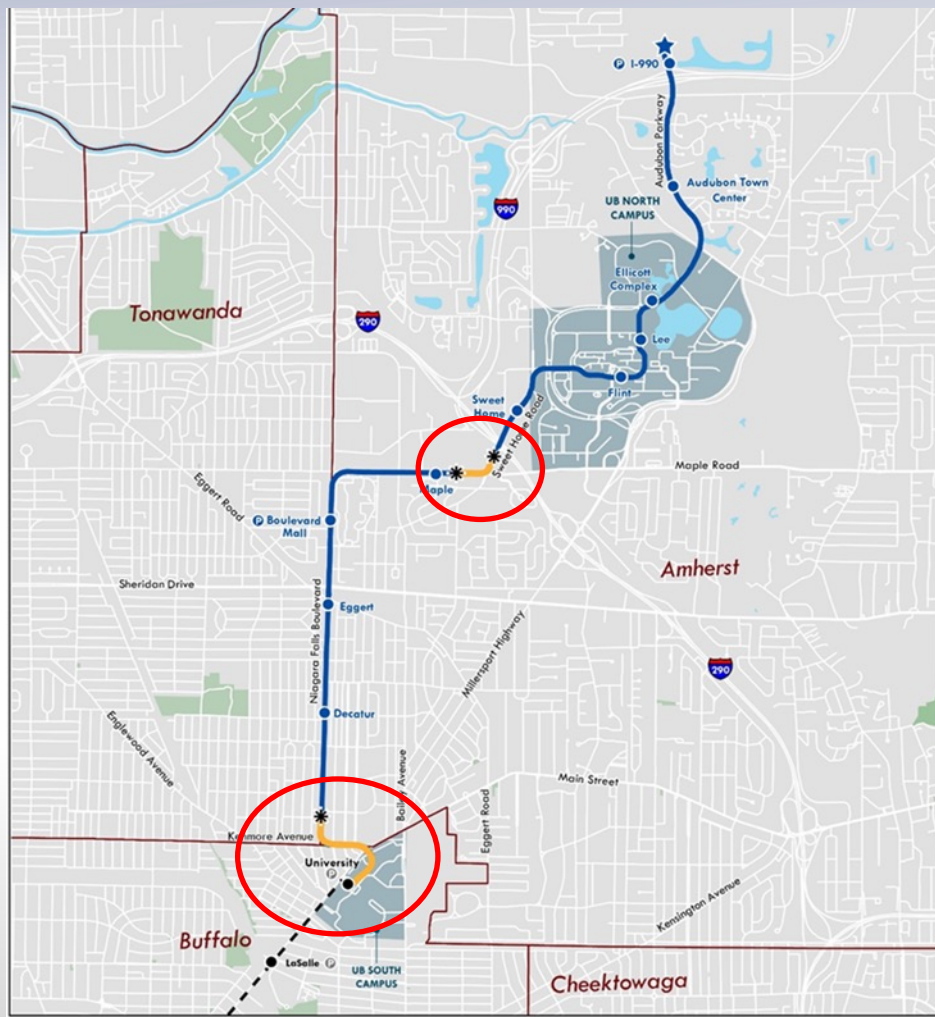


BRT Build Alternative

- Approximately 7-mile BRT system from UB South University Station to I-990 / Audubon Parkway
- Operating in Mixed Traffic from UB South Campus, along Main Street and Kenmore Avenue
- Operating along same footprint as LRT from Kenilworth/Niagara Falls Boulevard to I-990/Audubon Parkway
- Surface running along entire alignment
- 10 Stations
- 2 Park-and-Rides
- 1 Overnight Storage Facility

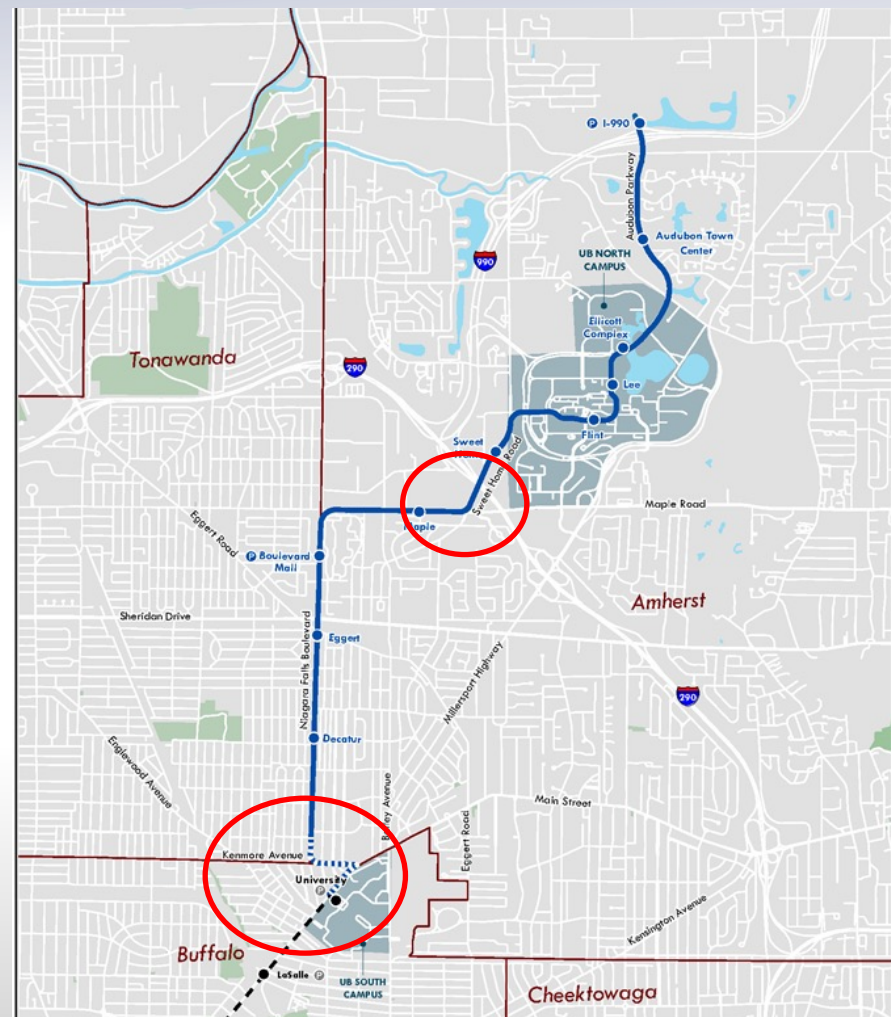


Build Alternatives



LRT Alternative

- Metro Rail Expansion**
- At-grade
 - Tunnel
 - Proposed Station
 - ★ Proposed Storage/Light Maintenance Facility
 - ⊙ Proposed Park & Ride
 - Existing Station
 - Existing Metro Rail Line
 - ▭ City and Town Boundary
 - ⊙ Existing Park & Ride
 - ✱ Portal



BRT Alternative

- Buffalo-Amherst-Tonawanda Corridor Transit Expansion**
- At-grade
 - Mixed-traffic
 - Proposed Station
 - ⊙ Proposed Park & Ride
 - Existing Station
 - Existing Metro Rail Line
 - ▭ City and Town Boundary
 - ⊙ Existing Park & Ride



Environmental Analysis



Land Use and
Communities



Socioeconomic



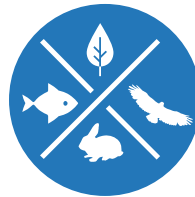
Property
Acquisitions



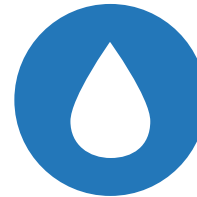
Environmental
Justice



Visual
Resources



Natural
Resources



Water
Resources



Transportation



Noise



Vibration



Air Quality



Construction

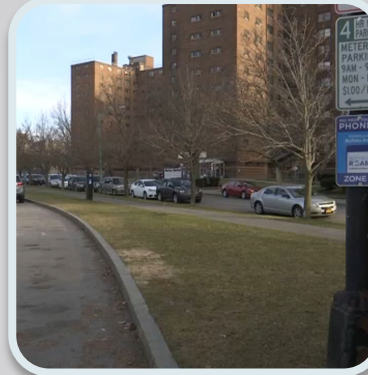
Potential Mitigation Measures



Maintain travel
through work
zone



Improve
pedestrian and
bicycle
connectivity
along corridor
and to stations



Maintain access
to properties
and parking



Maintain and
reduce impacts
to
environmental
features; noise,
wetlands,
streams,
vibration,
neighborhoods

Anticipated Schedule

2021					2022		2023
AUGUST	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER -->	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS	Scoping Comment Period Begins	Scoping Meeting	Scoping Comment Period Ends October 14, 2021 at 4:00 PM	Finalize Scoping Document to Address Public Comments Prepare DEIS for Build Alternatives	Release DEIS Public Comment Period Begins	Public Hearing DEIS Public Comment Period Ends	Release FEIS and Record of Decision

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT 

ACRONYMS

DEIS Draft Environmental Impact Statement

FEIS Final Environmental Impact Statement

How You Can Comment



Comment during the meeting:

Sign up to speak or type in your comment during the scoping meeting



Submit comments online or by email:

www.NFTAMetroTransitExpansion.com
transitexpansion@nfta.com



Mail comments to:

Metro Transit Expansion Project
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
181 Ellicott Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

- Scoping Information Packet is available on the project website (<https://www.NFTAMetroTransitExpansion.com>)
- All comments received in any method are equally weighted
- Comments received by **October 14, 2021 at 4:00pm** will be considered and summarized in the Final Scoping Document, which will also be posted to the project website

Public Comment Period

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING IS IN PROGRESS

- If you're registered to speak, please type your first and last name in the chat box to allow project team member to call on you to provide verbal comments. You will have 3 minutes to speak.
- If you did not register to speak but would like to, please use the Q&A feature to request speaking time
- If you're not registered to speak and would like to submit questions or comments, please use the email address or weblink provided.



Submit comments online or by email:

www.NFTAMetroTransitExpansion.com
transitexpansion@nfta.com



Mail comments to:

Metro Transit Expansion Project
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
181 Ellicott Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

