

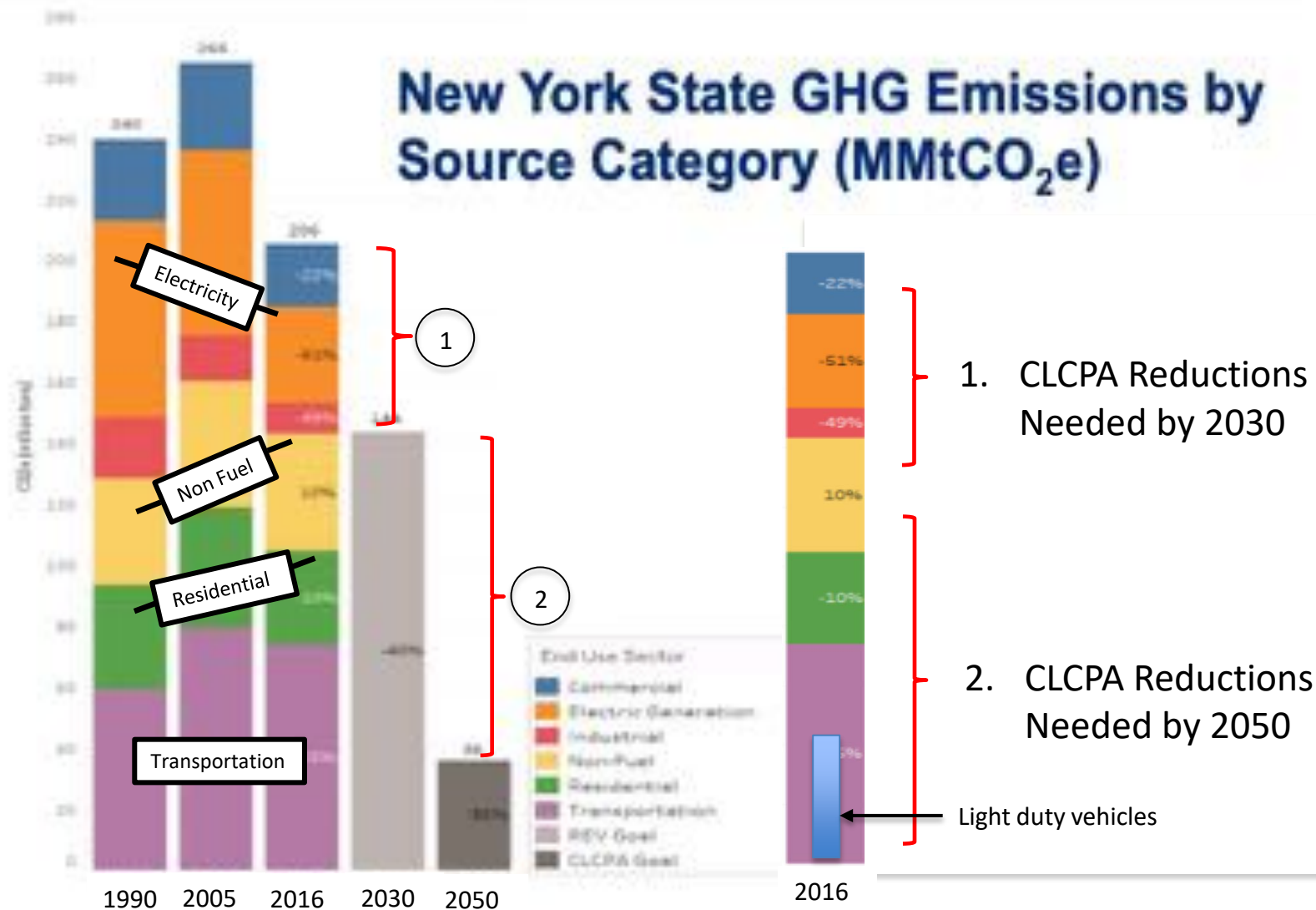
# Buffalo-Niagara Priority Transit Investments

**NY for TCI Teach In  
1 December 2021**

**By Douglas Funke**

**President, Citizens for Regional Transit**

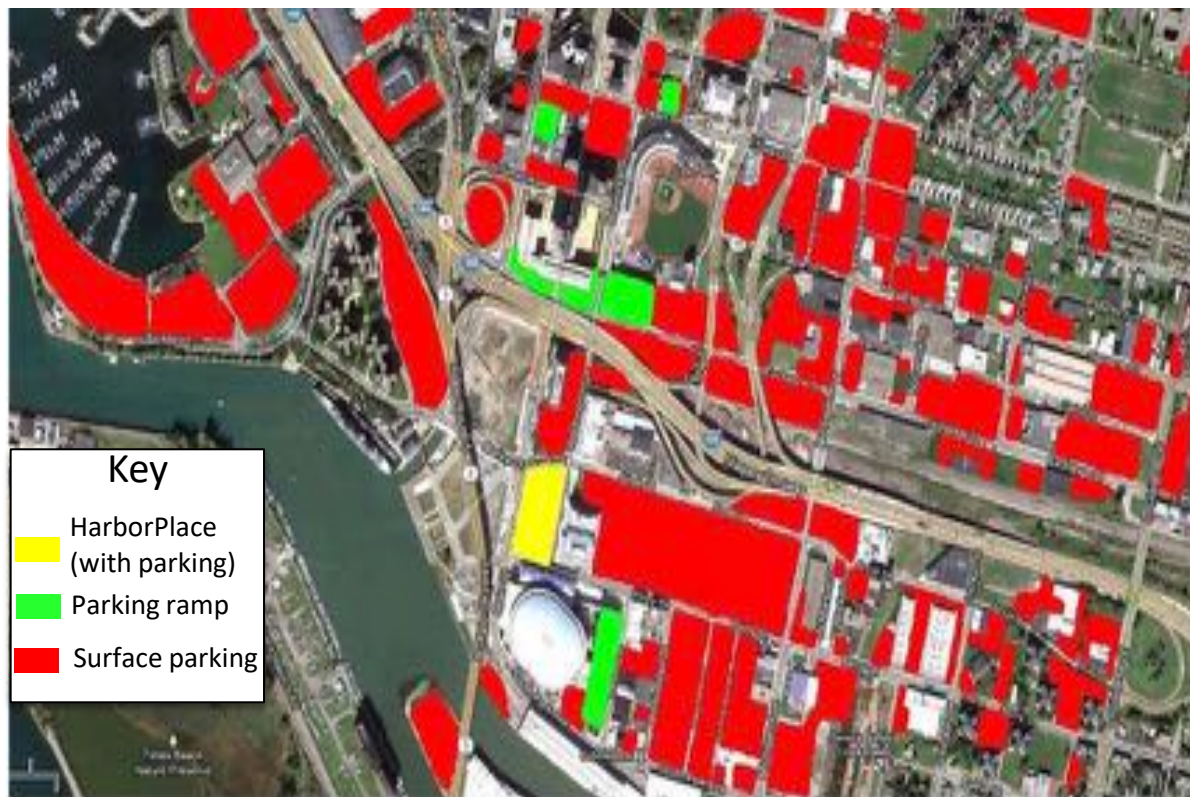




Sources: Climate Action Council meeting (3/3/2020). <https://climate.ny.gov/Climate-Action-Council/Meetings-and-Materials>;  
<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/documents/us-ghg-inventory-2020-main-text.pdf>

# Buffalo's Waterfront (Zoomed-Out):

without transit, a congestion and parking magnet



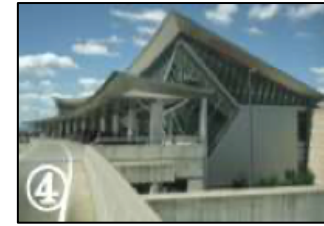
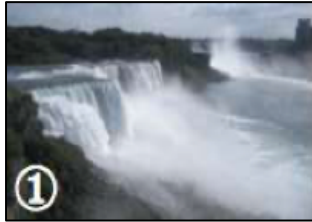
Picture courtesy of Mark Paradowski from the Preservation-Ready Sites 3

Pictures by: Doug Funke, CRT President



CITIZENS *for* REGIONAL TRANSIT

# CRT Mission: Connect Buffalo-Niagara with an Integrated Transit System



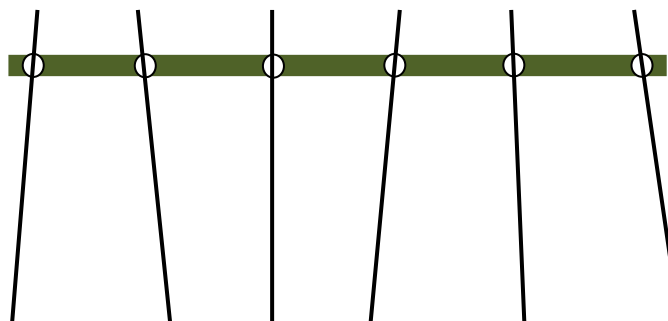


# Robust Bus & Bike Networks Interconnected with **Fast** Metro Rail Spine



## Light Rail Rapid Transit<sup>1,2</sup>

600 – 700 passengers per 4-car train  
Approx. 4,000 per hour  
50 mph between stops  
Dedicated ROW  
5.2 million passengers / year (23%)



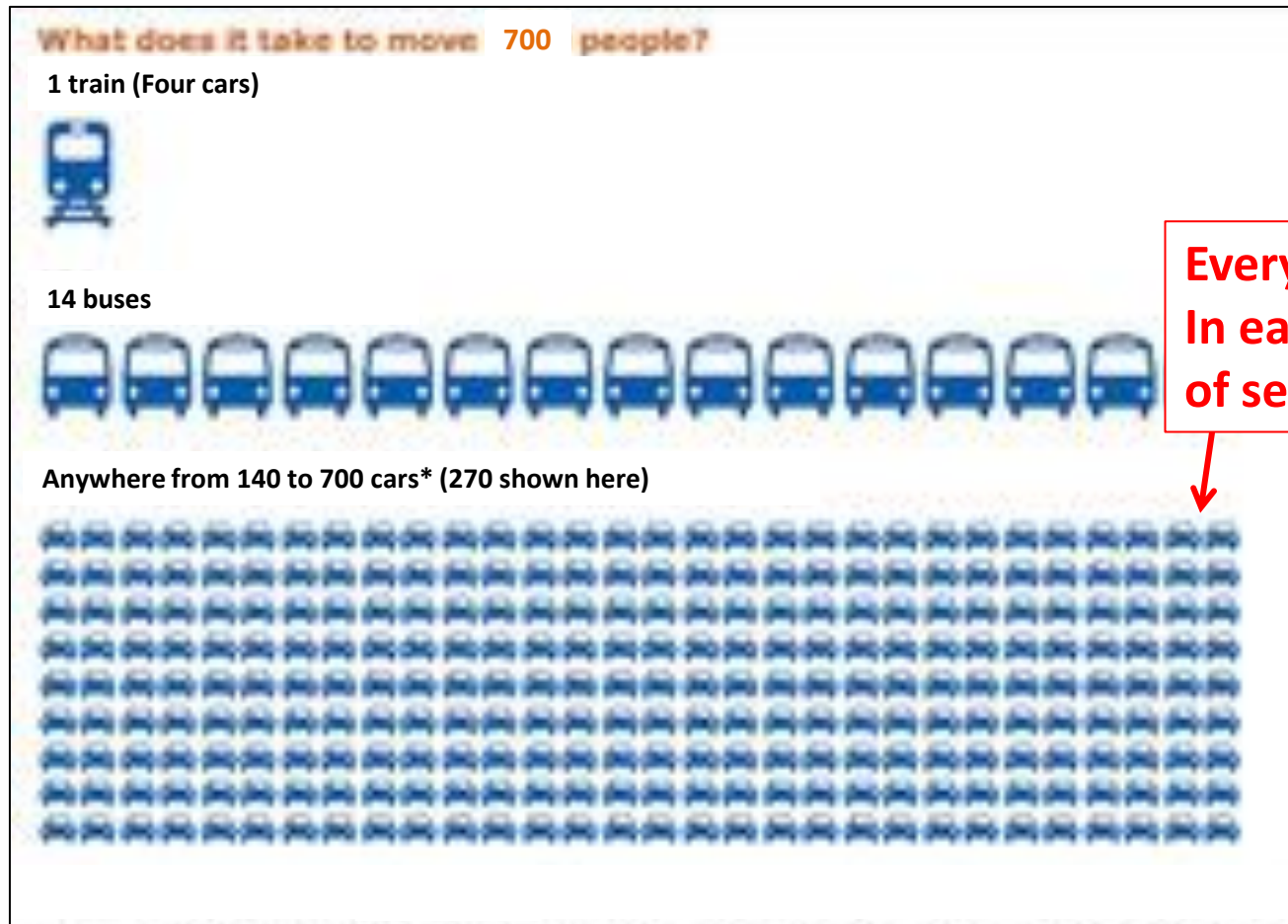
## Bus<sup>1</sup>

50 passengers per bus  
300 per hour per route  
1,800 per hour across 6 routes  
35 mph between stops  
Shares with traffic  
17.5 million passengers / year (77%)

Note: Kensington Expressway carries over 60,000 cars per day  
peak load just under 8,000 per hour<sup>3</sup>

1. NFTA. Service Guidelines & Deliver Standards. 2021 Revision
2. RAILFAN GUIDES of the U.S.”> Todd’s Railfan Guide to the Buffalo, NY NFTA Light Rail System.
3. New York State Traffic Volume Viewer, 5/13/2021.

# The Math Is Simple



Adapted from: Transport Sydney Trains (<http://www.sydneytrains.info/about/environment/>)

\* From NFTA Service Design Guide – 2021 Update

# Switching to Electric Cars Alone Won't Solve the Problem!



National Archives at College Park, Public Domain, via  
Wikimedia Commons

- Every ton of cement generates 1 ton of CO<sub>2</sub> \*
- 50% of cars (by volume) are plastic\*
- An estimated 4 billion tires are already in landfills and stockpiles\*\*
- Tire wearing generates micro-plastic particles that pollute soil, streams and waterways\*\*\*

\* Gates, Bill. How to Avoid a Climate Disaster. 2021

\*\* World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 2008

\*\*\* Matt Simon. Wired Magazine – Science . 7.14.2020 11:08.  
Your Car Is Spewing Microplastics that Blow Around the World



# Conclusion

- The Solution Must:
  - Reduce VMT!
  - By providing **attractive** high-capacity transit
- Our Proposal:
  - Statewide: Provide ongoing transit operations and maintenance funding to make transit as effective and attractive as driving
  - Buffalo-Niagara:
    - Support local share for extending Buffalo Metro
    - Provide operational funding to support 10-minute headways on bus routes
  - Fix the federal transit local discrepancy







# SUSTAINABLE WESTCHESTER



# PROGRAMS: Turnkey & High Impact

## Community Energy



## Electrification Solutions



## Grid Efficiency



## Zero Waste



# Bee-Line on Demand

**Westchester County's** Bee-Line is 2<sup>nd</sup> largest bus system in NYS

**Via** leader in micro transit and electric public mobility

**City of Peekskill** Pilot community

**Sustainable Westchester**

On Demand electric micro transit to complement/support existing transit **plus** EV charging infrastructure







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## QUEST FOR ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES IN BEDFORD

- Research
- Determine Goal
- Petition & PR
- Communication with School districts



# The Yonkers Greenway

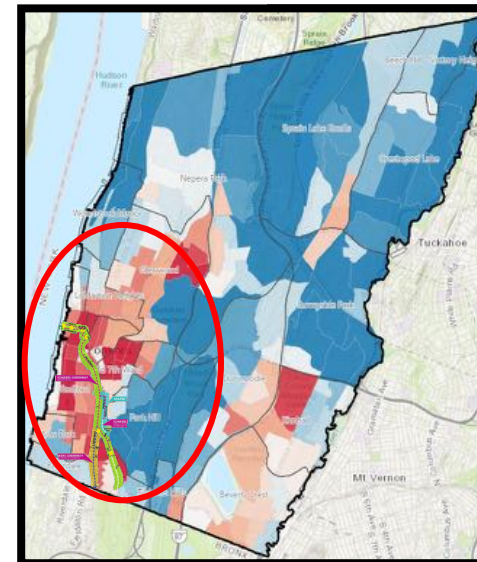
Repurposing the abandoned Getty Square Spur of the Putnam RR into a 2.2-mile biking and walking trail through the heart of southwest Yonkers.

## Timeline:

- 2008-2009 – Grassroot coalition building.
- 2011-2012 – Community and stakeholder engagement meetings. Development of a preliminary vision.
- 2013 – Funding for feasibility study secured.
- 2014-2015 – Development of conceptual design. Additional community input sessions. Pop-up street design festival.
- 2016-2018 – City Council approves project. Funding secured from the City (\$1M) and the State (\$3.3M)
- 2019 – Phase 1 – Smith, O'Hara, Levine Park opens to the public.
- 2019-2022 – Development of final design and construction documents.
- 2022 – Projected implementation.

## Funding Sources:

- NYS Department of Transportation
- City of Yonkers
- NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
- EPA
- Westchester Community Foundation
- Bank of America
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Impact100 Westchester





# Greenways for NYC

A healthy, green, connected city

Safe Open Space

Equity

Jobs

Climate friendly

#Greenways4NYC



# Greenways touch all the key 21st Century bases:

- COVID recovery/jobs
- Extend green space into every neighborhood
- Safe for all ages & abilities
- Resilient, sustainable infrastructure
- Support today's bike boom & other clean transportation





# Completing & upgrading the Network:

- The City has issued many plans for an interconnected greenway network during the past 30 years
- Progress has been slow and mostly confined to a few areas
- In addition to new links & rights of way, work is needed on many existing greenway segments





## How we get there:

- The Federal government is working on a new transportation bill with focus on climate change and new priorities for American infrastructure
- It's a generational chance to build a healthy, connected New York City
- The City of New York can prepare for these resources by creating a mechanism for regular progress in right of way planning, detailed design and greenway construction



#Greenways4NYC



# NYC’s greenway needs (project list in development)

Project	Neighborhood and/or District	Description	Status
Bronx River Greenway	Woodlawn / CB12	Connect Greenway across 233rd Street	Planned, waiting for design
Soundview Park connector	Soundview / BX CB9	Greenway connection via Bruckner Blvd to Soundview Park	Planned but waiting on other projects
Bronx River Greenway	West Farms / BX CB6	Connecting greenway in Startlight Park to West Farms Rapids Park	Funded, paused by OMB
Hutchison River Greenway	Pelham Parkway / CB11	Greenway connections across Pelham Parkway - 4 crossings	None
*Project	Mott Haven/BX CB1		None
Harlem River Greenway	Highbridge/BX CB4	Access to Harlem River Greenway, linkage & access	None
Harlem River Greenway	Morris Heights/ BX CB5	Roberto Clemente State Park northern connections	None
Harlem River Greenway	BX CB8	Tibbets Brook & Putnam Connector to Harlem River Greenway	Needs ROW purchase
Mosholu Greenway	Allerton	Expand sidewalk on bridge over Bronx River	None
Hudson River Greenway	Entire Bronx Hudson River waterfront	Continue Hudson River Greenway from Harlem River to Yonkers	Planning done, needs engineering
Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway	Red Hook / BK CB6	Atlantic Basin to Erie Basin; Erie Basin to Gowanus Canal	Needs design/engineering
Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway	Sunset Park / BK CB7	29th to 49th Streets	Needs final design + build.
Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway	South Brooklyn / BK CB 13 + 15	Coney Island Creek to Plum Beach	needs planning / design
Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway	Vinegar Hill / BK CB2	Navy Yard/Sands to BBP/John Street	needs final design
Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway	Greenpoint / BK CB1	Commercial Street to Pulaski Bridge connector	None
Jamaica Bay Greenway	BK CB 18	Flatbush Avenue at Floyd Bennett Field	None
Jamaica Bay Greenway	BK CB 18	Flatbush Avenue at Marine Park Golf Course	None
Sunset Park Upland Connectors	Sunset Park	East-West greenway connectors to the waterfront from upland areas	None
Harlem River Greenway	East Harlem	Connect park at 145th St to Johnson playground & Harlem Speedway	Partial construction 2021
Harlem River Greenway	Washington Heights	Pedestrian/bike access to waterfront from High Bridge Park	Needs design
Hell Gate Connector	Randall's Island Park	bike/ped link between N and S sections of Hell Gate Path,	needs engineering
Sunken Garden Connector	Randall's Island Park	bike/ped link between the Water's Edge Path and central facilities	Some funding but not ready to go
Urban Farm and Playground Connectors	Randall's Island Park	Wide sidewalks connecting shoreline pathways to Urban Farm	needs engineering
Jamaica Bay Greenway	Addabbo Bridge	Separated bike and walking paths	Needs design and engineering
North Shore Greenway	North Shore / CB1	North Shore path connecting St. George and Mariner's Harbor	Needs engineering
Hudson River Greenway Inwood shoreline missing link	Indwood Hudson waterfront	Water level path linking area under GWB to Inwood shoreline stub	Deferred by Parks Dept to unknown time frame
The QueensWay	Forest Park, Rego Park, Woodhaven, Richmond Hill, Ozone Park	Abandoned rail line owned by the city	Needs city decision to begin planning
Long Island Greenway	Many	Connections to parks in E Queens & Vanderbilt Motor Parkway	Feasibility study done, needs engineering

## NYC Greenways Status of specific segments

- Built greenways in good or decent condition
- Built greenways in need of overhaul or significant maintenance
- Unbuilt segment, some planning/design work underway
- Unbuilt, no action yet taken



#Greenways4NYC