



AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE

The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) invites you to attend a Public Information Session, to be held on Thursday, May 11, 2006, beginning at 6:00 PM in the main auditorium of Erie Community College's (ECC's) Downtown campus. This Information Session is an opportunity for you to learn more about an upcoming improvement project to be completed by the NFTA along the Buffalo Outer Harbor Lake Erie shoreline. Project plans for the site include a "greenbelt" or pedestrian walkway with wild-life habitat enhancements and shoreline protection improvements. A brief presentation will be given during the Information Session to describe details of the project, and project representatives will be available throughout the session to share information and answer questions. Plans and pictures of the site and its future appearance will be available for you to view.

PROJECT FUNDING

Funding for this project is primarily through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC's) Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) under New York State's 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act. The ERP provides financial assistance to local governments for the cleanup and restoration of brownfield sites. A brownfield is an unused, abandoned, or idle property that may have been used for industrial purposes in the past, and no longer contributes to the tax base of a municipality. Additional funding for this project was made available by the New York State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration's Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) program. Close to 13 million dollars in funding have been invested in this shoreline improvement/restoration project.

SITE BACKGROUND

The Greenbelt project is a proposed 90-foot-wide green space extending along approximately 6,600 feet of the Lake Erie/Buffalo Outer Harbor shoreline, from the former Pier Restaurant to the Terminal "B" building of Buffalo's port facilities.

In addition to this site, the NFTA also owns the 110 acres of adjacent vacant land. Nearly all of the 110 acres is land that has been reclaimed from Lake Erie using fill material. The fill material is composed mostly of sediments dredged from the Buffalo Outer Harbor area, and disposed of at the site from the mid-1800s to the mid-1960s. The fill material contains various environmental contaminants.

The 110 acre NFTA property was the subject of several environmental investigations that resulted in a 1999 Record of Decision (ROD) issued by DEC. A ROD is a document that provides a definitive record of the cleanup method that will be used to clean up a site. The ROD concluded that the most significant contamination was found in just a few acres of the property's southeast corner, also known as the Radio Tower Area. Clean up of the Radio Tower Area was completed in 2004.

In 2002, the NFTA filed a funding application to DEC for the Greenbelt remediation project under the ERP. The project provides for engineering design and construction of shoreline protection in accordance with a Record of Decision issued by DEC in early 2002, which addressed shoreline improvements.

LOCATIONS TO VIEW PROJECT RELATED DOCUMENTS

A detailed description of the restoration project is included in the Project Manual for Port-Outer Harbor Greenbelt Shoreline Improvement Project and the Design Rationale Report. These and other site-related documents are available for your review at the locations listed below:

NFTA
 Russell Stoll, Director of Engineering
 181 Ellicott Street
 Buffalo, NY 14203
 716.855.7412
 Hours: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
 270 Michigan Avenue
 Buffalo, NY 14203
 716.851.7220
 Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:45 PM
 (Please call for appointment)

Buffalo & Erie County Central Library
 1 Lafayette Square
 Buffalo, NY 14203
 716.858.8900
 (Ask for documents at Reference Desk)

WHO SHOULD I CALL IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SITE?

We encourage you to contact the representatives listed below with any questions, comments or concerns about activities at the site. If you know of anyone who would like to be added to a mailing list to receive project updates, please have them contact one of the representatives listed below.

Outer Harbor Development Questions
 Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
 Russell Stoll, Director of Engineering
 181 Ellicott Street
 Buffalo, NY 14203
 716.855.7412

Site-Related Project Questions
 David Locey, Project Manager
 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
 270 Michigan Avenue
 Buffalo, New York 14203
 716.851.7220

Site-Related Health Questions
 Cameron O'Connor
 Public Health Specialist
 NYS Department of Health
 584 Delaware Avenue
 Buffalo, NY 14202
 716.847.4385



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

This Greenbelt project is a proposed 90-foot-wide green space extending along approximately 6,600 feet of the Lake Erie Buffalo Outer Harbor shoreline, from the former Pier Restaurant to the Terminal “B” building of Buffalo’s port facilities.



Project highlights include:

- Construction of a paved recreational path for public use along the shoreline for walkers, bikers, etc.
- Landscaping with native plants to attract local wildlife and provide an improved natural setting
- Construction of shallow-water fish habitats along the shoreline and within the existing embayment known as the Bell Slip
- Replacement of the shoreline embankment with an engineered, heavy stone to minimize erosion
- Restoration and cleanup of an industrially contaminated area



Once complete, this project will transform a once unusable and industrially contaminated area into a clean and scenic path along a prime section of Lake Erie’s shoreline for public use and enjoyment. Project work will be conducted by the NFTA, and will begin in the summer of 2006.

NFTA
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
181 Ellicott Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority

NYSDEC Project Site Number: B-00164-9
NFTA Project Number 31PL0202

Project Start: Summer 2006 Project Completion: 2007

You are invited
to a
PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION
regarding the
**Buffalo Outer Harbor
Shoreline Improvement Project**

**May 11, 2006
6:00PM**

Erie Community College
Downtown Campus
Main Auditorium
121 Ellicott Street
Buffalo, New York 14203

At the Information Session, you will have the opportunity to learn more about the shoreline improvement project. Project representatives will be available to answer questions. We look forward to sharing the good news of this project with you.