

STRATEGY 2: Create an equitable, high-functioning, zero-emission transit system that moves the most people in the most efficient manner, and is coordinated with use and development of land.

The transportation sector generates the largest share of GHG emissions in the United States. The greatest overall contributor to transportation GHG emissions is single occupancy vehicle use. According to the 2017 National Household Travel Survey, 44% of trips in the Buffalo-Niagara region are made in single occupancy vehicles, and 87% of trips are made in private vehicles. Improvements in transportation and land use will build community resilience, promote equity, and reduce GHG emissions throughout the region.

Future trends in public and multimodal transportation and land use will have transformative impacts on our environment, our health, and our quality of life. Prioritizing expanding and improving transportation options, affordability, increasing their connectivity, and educating the population on the transport options available to them, will allow for improved air quality, more efficient use of land, and the creation of recreational, educational, and economic opportunities for all. We will maximize our success by building on our existing multi-model systems in a way that allows affordable access for all.

Creating a safe, efficient, attractive, and affordable public transportation system will promote increased utilization, reduce the use of highly polluting, car-focused modes of transportation, and ultimately, reduce GHG emissions, making it key to achieving an equitable and zero-emission transportation system. The County will support the development of such a transportation system through representation on boards such as NFTA and GBNRTC, working with municipalities to update their comprehensive plans, providing technical assistance, and funding. In order to promote climate resilience, the County will coordinate with our transportation system providers to improve connectivity to protected areas during extreme weather events for vulnerable residents.

DEFINITIONS FOR ACTIONS SPECIFICATIONS
Short-term: By or before 2030
Medium-term: By 2040
Long-term: By 2050
Direct: County can directly control the action - relating to County operations and infrastructure

Indirect: Regional agencies, municipalities, or local non-profit organizations have control and/or County can support/influence

Support: State or Federal policies and programs

ACTION ITEM	HORIZON	SPHERE OF INFLUENCE	LEAD COUNTY ENTITY	PARTNERS
2.1: Support expansion of the current light rail system and the development of a regional "hub and corridor" transportation system with the Metro Rail Corridor & Proposed Extensions serving as the main spine of the system.	Short-Term/ Medium-Term / Long-Term/ Ongoing	Indirect/ Support	DEP/DPW	NFTA, GBNRTC, EMC, City of Buffalo, Town of Amherst, Town of Tonawanda
2.2: Develop alternative transportation programs, including microtransit options, that address first and last mile and other transportation gaps.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct/ Indirect	DEP/DPW	NFTA, GBNRTC, Private Sector Operators
2.3: Expand transit options for rural residents, including the Rural Transit Services program administered by the County.	Short-Time	Direct	DEP	NFTA, local municipalities , private sector operators, GBNRTC
2.4: Educate the community on the benefits of alternative commuting options such as work from home, alternatives to single occupancy vehicles, and public transportation incentives.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	Go Buffalo Niagara
2.5: Develop and implement an Equitable Transit Oriented Development plan in alignment with the federal Justice40 initiative.	Medium-Term	Direct	DEP/DPW	NFTA, GBNRTC, Municipalities

2.6: Provide recommendations on projects referred to the County through the 239-M process to improve land-use and transit options.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	Municipalities
2.7: Identify opportunities to expand programs that make transit more affordable to low- and moderate-income residents.	Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	NFTA, Senior Services, Workforce Investment Board
2.8 .Develop programs which ensure transportation for vulnerable residents during extreme weather events.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	Health, Senior Services, UB, NFTA