

NIAGARA REGION TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY UPDATE - 2011

**TSSC Meeting
January 18, 2011**

NIAGARA REGION TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

Transportation Strategy – 2002

Past 5 Years Key Developments

- Province/ MTO
- Regional
- Municipal

Niagara in Transportation Context

2010 Strategy

- Directions
- Initiatives
- Objectives

2002 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- Travel and Commuting
 - Economic Growth
 - Planned Land Use
 - Quality of Life
 - Environmental Stewardship
- Travel & Commute to Surrounds
 - International Trade
 - Destination Access
 - Tourist
 - Recreational
 - Travel Choice

2002 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Road Systems

**Mid-Peninsula
Transportation
Corridor**

QEW Corridor

Highway 406 Corridor

**Arterial Roads
System**

International Bridges

Alternate Modes

**Bicycle and
Pedestrian
Systems**

**Niagara Transit
Systems**

**Inter-Regional
Rail-Bus-Ferry**

**Railway
Networks**

Niagara Ports

Niagara Airports

PAST 5 YEARS KEY DEVELOPMENTS ... PROVINCE/ MTO

Policy/ Strategy context

- Greenbelt Plan – 2005
- Places to Grow – 2006
- Metrolinx RTP – 2008
- MTO – Southern Highways Program (2008-12)
- GO Rail 2020
- TDM partnerships – 2009
- NHS-HIP Plan - 2009

KEY DEVELOPMENTS ... PROVINCE/ MTO

Infrastructure Improvements

- QEW Widening
- Hwy 406 Widening
- GO Service Expansion
 - Bus
 - Weekend Rail and Summer Trains
- EA's
 - NGTA Study
 - GO Rail Expansion
- Carpool Lots
- St. Catharines - New Health Care Complex

KEY DEVELOPMENTS ... REGIONAL

Policies/ Programs/ Strategy

- Roadways Allowance Policies – 2005
- Bikeways Master Plan – 2005
- Regional Policy Plan Amendments – 2007
- **Niagara 2031 GMS – 2009**
- NEDC Economic Development Strategy – 2009
- **TDM Framework Development – 2010**
- Active Transportation Network initiatives
- Bikeways cost sharing
- Ports Marketing

KEY DEVELOPMENTS ... REGIONAL

Studies

- Roads System Sustainability Review – 2009
- Niagara Economic Gateway and Zone Center Study – 2009
- Airports – Regional Role – 2009
- Inter-Municipal Transit Enhancements – 2009-10
- TDM Framework Development – 2010
- EA's – ongoing
 - South-Niagara EW - 2009
 - New IC on Hwy 406 - 2010
 - Glendale-QEW-Hwy 405 – 2010
- Niagara Neighborhood Profiles

KEY DEVELOPMENTS ... REGIONAL

Infrastructure/ Asset Improvements

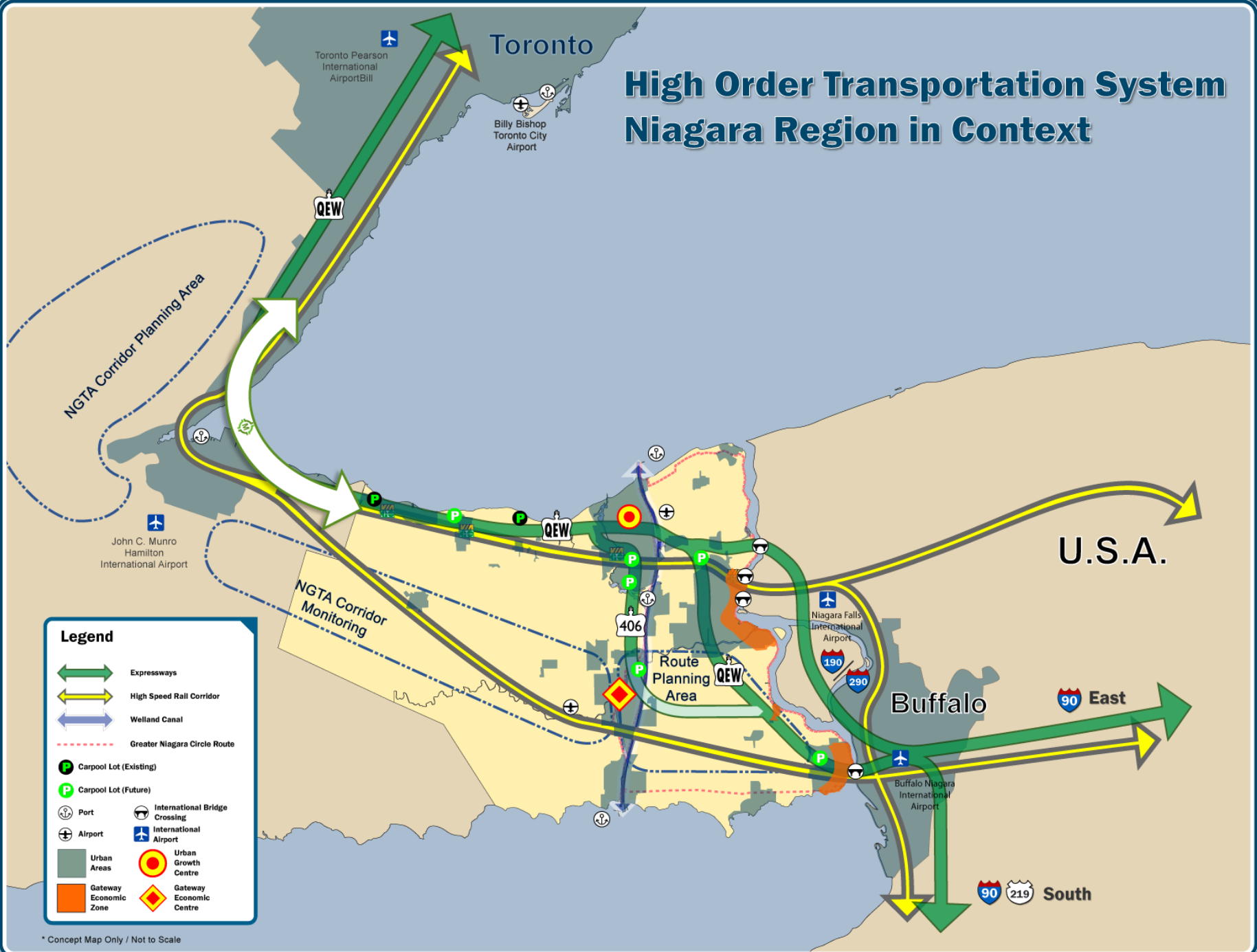
- Regional Roads major widening & improvements
 - Fourth Avenue/ McLeod/ RR 20/ Martindale
 - Bridges
- NST Services
- Bike Lanes
- NDA Airport Improvements
- GIS database Implementation
- Signal improvements
- Emergency Detour Route Signage

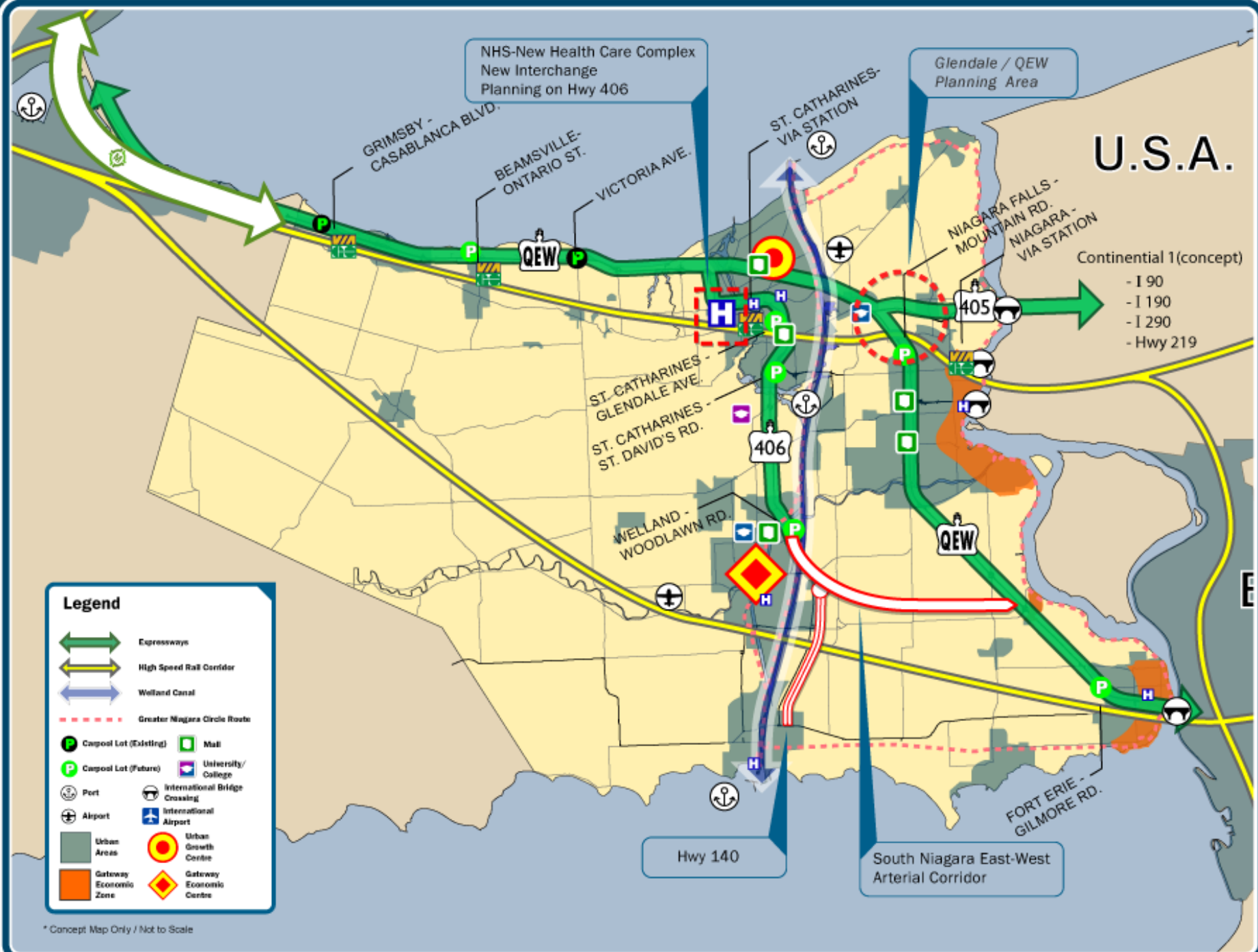


KEY DEVELOPMENTS ... MUNICIPAL

- WSCT Study – 2006
- Western Hill Revitalization Study (in progress)
- St. Catharines TMP (in progress)
- Niagara Falls TMP (in progress)
- CIP's
- People Mover Project
- Model Bikeways Policies (in progress)

High Order Transportation System Niagara Region in Context





U.S.A.

Legend

- ■ ■ ■ Triangle Service
- ■ ■ ■ Second-toll Feeder
- Existing Inter-Municipal Transit Routes
- Niagara Region Bikeway Master Plan
- Carpool Lot (Existing)
- Carpool Lot (Future)
- Port
- Airport
- Urban Areas
- Gateway Economic Zone
- Mail
- University/College
- International Bridge Crossing
- International Airport
- Urban Growth Centre
- Gateway Economic Centre

* Concept Map Only / Not to Scale

Quality of Life

**Environmental
Stewardship**

**Travel & Commute
to Surrounds**

**2010 STRATEGIC
DIRECTIONS**

**Economic Growth
Planned Land Use**

**Destination Access -
Tourist- Recreational**

**Travel and
Commuting**

**International
Trade**

Travel Choice

40
YEARS
1970 2010

Niagara Region
Building Community. Building Lives.

2010 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- Road Systems
 - Rails
 - Ports
 - Airports
 - International Bridges
- Transit, and GO Bus/Rail Systems
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian and Active Transport Systems
 - Travel Demand Management
 - ITS & Soft infrastructure

2010 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Provincial Road Systems

QEW-Hwy 406 link:

- Synergy between NGTA Route Planning and the South Niagara EW Studies Gateway Economic Zone Centre Strategy
- Pursue Regional interest in expansion of the NTGA route west of Hwy 406 linking 'Hamilton Transportation Corridor'

QEW Expansion:

- Improvements to the Garden City Skyway
- Role as entrance to the Niagara Tourist Area
- Support development of the Canadian Motor Speedway
- Widening between – Mountain Rd and McLeod Rd

Hwy 406/ Hwy 140 Expansion/ Widening

2010 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Regional/ Municipal Road Systems

- Complete Streets concept
- Crossing of barriers e.g. Welland Canal, 12 Mile Creek
- Grade separation for major rail lines
- Intersections rework on regional roads
 - more pedestrian friendly
 - narrower

2010 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Transit, and GO Bus/Rail Systems

- Work collaboratively with the municipalities to implement Inter-Municipal Transit Service concepts of Triangle Service/ Feeders/ and Rural Demand response.
- Integrate transit services for municipal, and inter-municipal with the GO Transit and other inter-regional services
- Development of Nodes and corridors
- GO Bus services expansion along Hwy 406
- GO Rail weekday services implementation sooner than later
- GO Rail services expansion to Fort Erie and link Empire Corridor USA
- Collaborate with Seaway for commuter train crossings

2010 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Bicycle, Pedestrian & Active Transport Systems

- Prioritize implementation of the Bikeways network
- Integration of bikeways and trails provided by Region, Municipalities and Park Authority
- Active Transportation Networks – walkable communities, embrace the concept of complete streets
- Youth Travel
- School Travel

2010 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Travel Demand Management

- Integration of land use and transportation planning
 - strategy must work towards reducing dependency on automobile
- TDM - how does it fit in?
- Car Pool Lots - inventory, leverage in TDM
- Assist in development of TDM Policy
- Engage stakeholders for effective TDM
 - Large public and private sector employers

Airports

- Review of Regional Role in the Airports
- Develop Marketing Strategy with respect to the Niagara Airports

2010 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Rail

- Link to the Empire State Corridor (New York, USA)
- Improve direct rail freight services to the industries and businesses of Niagara
- GTAH to Niagara to Buffalo CP Rail Line connection
 - Explore opportunities for existing assets utilization with short-line Rail operators (Trillium)

Ports

- Marketing of Welland Canal and surrounding infrastructure assets
- Gateway Economic Zone and Centre

2010 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

International Bridges

- Increase capacity to facilitate easy flow of traffic and trade and tourism
- Facilitate improvements for better connection of pedestrians and bikeways on both sides of the border

ITS & Soft infrastructure

- Facilitate implementation of trip planner and related information technology tools to aid transit services
- Data sharing between Region and Municipalities
- Transportation assets inventory enhancements

Thank You

Questions