

“Reclaiming Genesee Street” ***A Plan for the City of Buffalo***

The major ideas in the Plan are as follows:

- **Access/Circulation**

Reestablish Genesee Street as a major boulevard linking Buffalo’s East Side directly to Niagara Square. Continue Genesee Street behind City Hall and develop a significant waterfront arrival Gateway; this new waterfront termination can be accomplished by reconfiguring a portion of the waterfront at the Erie Basin Marina. The Plan also envisions developing an entry Gateway into Downtown from the Elm/Oak arterial and developing a dramatic water feature to terminate the vista facing Lake Erie.

- Create a new “Lakefront Boulevard” from Erie Street extending to Front Park by depressing a portion of the I-190 and the Conrail track bed.
- Reestablish additional pedestrian and vehicular links from the West Side/Niagara Street Neighborhood to the waterfront along the Lakefront Boulevard from Downtown all the way to Porter Avenue.
- Convert Porter Avenue to a landscaped Gateway/Parkway from the Peace Bridge to Niagara Street.
- Restore sensible two-way traffic pattern throughout Downtown.
- Restore vehicular traffic in a logical fashion to Main Street.
- Terminate Chippewa Street at Washington Street to compress and concentrate the Entertainment District and to create an optimal development parcel for the Washington/Ellicott/Genesee area.

- **Land Use**

- Make Genesee Street the key ingredient to reinforce a Downtown Entertainment/Retail “Triangle “ to be bordered by Delaware Avenue, Chippewa Street and Genesee Street.
- Remove and relocate existing Convention Center, Turner Ramp at Niagara Square, and Hyatt Regency Atrium as a part of ***Reclaiming Genesee Street***.
- Encourage Downtown housing sites as already envisioned by the R/UDAT study at Lafayette Square, 700 Block Main Street, Niagara Street/Huron Triangle, Electric District, and Cobblestone District.
- Create a Hotel District along Genesee Street Boulevard from Ellicott all the way to the waterfront. Major hotel district to include both existing a new hotels:

- NiMo conversion and expansion to a Boutique Hotel
- Hyatt Hotel
- Statler Hotel
- Adam's Mark
- (Future) Waterfront Hotel

Re-establish Delaware Avenue as major shopping and retail street from Niagara Square to Delaware/Chippewa

- Accommodate future Casino(s) as a part of mixed use development along Delaware Avenue and linked to the Statler. Restore the Statler as a historic hotel.
- Explore the potential for expanded Washington Street/ Elm Street/ Genesee Street development parcel for future Convention Center or other entertainment/mixed-use related venues.

- **Open Space/Parking**

- Recreate Genesee Street as a landscaped, tree-lined, pedestrian friendly boulevard that creates an invitation to ***“come downtown and stay a while”*** from both the East Side and from the Waterfront.
- Create a “Front Door”, beautiful Gateway to Downtown from Peace Bridge consisting of landscaped boulevards along Niagara Street, new Waterfront Boulevard, and Porter Avenue.
- Improve/revitalize major civic squares in the Downtown as pedestrian, not car dominated, spaces. These include Niagara Square, Lafayette Square, Genesee Street/Washington/Chippewa triangle, Genesee/Waterfront Boulevard terminus.
- Rebuild and develop parking facilities of sufficient quantity and in appropriate locations consistent with this Plan and Downtown Strategic Parking Plan.