

# Waterfront Coordination Committee

August 10, 2023 | 9:30 AM | BUDC Offices



MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

*Within Reach:*

## Downtown Waterfront Improvements Plan

**CITY OF BUFFALO MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING**  
**BRENDAN MEHAFFY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**BUFFALO URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**BRANDYE MERRIWEATHER, PRESIDENT**

**BUFFALO'S  
RACE  
FOR  
PLACE**

**BUDC**  
Buffalo Urban Development Corporation  
Hon. Mayor Byron W. Brown, Chairman

# Project Team

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**W** W Architecture  
& Landscape Architecture, LLC

In Association with:



# Project Approach & Process Update

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# Study Area



Community Input

Community and Stakeholder Input

Community Feedback

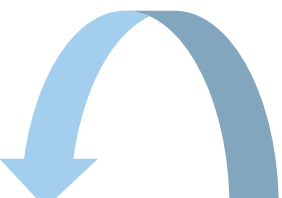
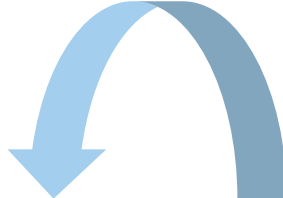
Existing Condition Analysis

Alternatives Exploration

Initial Proposals

Recommendations

Draft and Final Plan



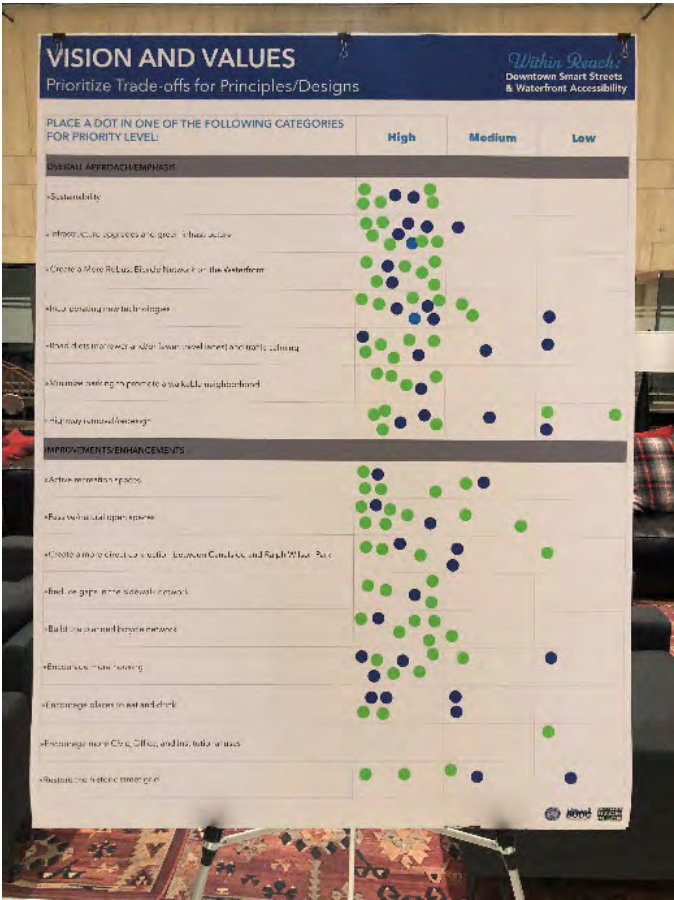
# Community and Stakeholder Outreach

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- March Public Engagement Meeting #1
- March-August Stakeholder Interviews/Check-Ins
- April Walk and Roll Tours
- May On-line Survey
- June Tour and Block Party Exhibit
- August Public Engagement Meeting #2

# Public Engagement Meeting #1

April 16, 2023



# Online Survey

Open from Mid-April to  
Early June 2023

**67** complete responses

**Nearly 80%** of respondents go to the Downtown Waterfront **specifically for events**

**37%** of respondents **drive and park** to access the Downtown Waterfront

**Almost 50%** of respondents are **unsure where to park** in the Downtown Waterfront

**Over 30%** of respondents feel that **street crossings are unsafe** and that there is **not enough signage**, and **signage is confusing**

Respondents would like **more options for dining and drinking and passive recreation**

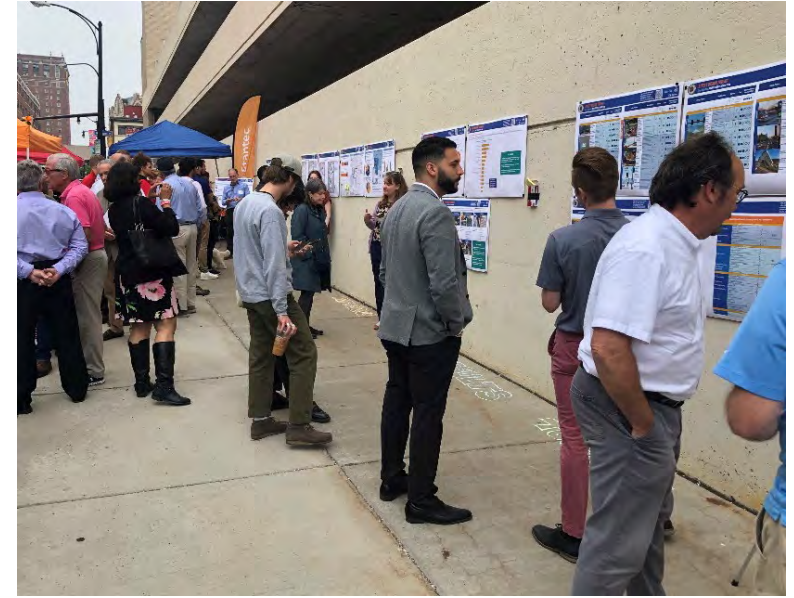
There are **many mobility challenges for bike/ped** in the Downtown Waterfront area

Respondents want **better sidewalks and bicycle amenities with clear signage**



# Tour and Block Party Exhibit

June 15, 2023



# Recommendations

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- ① Canalside Master Plan
- ② BMHA Master Plan
- ③ Erie and Shelton Square Greenway
- ④ Buffalo Harbor BOA
- ⑤ Riverline
- ⑥ Ralph Wilson Park - In Progress
- ⑦ Waterfront/Emmerson Young Park - Proposed
- ⑧ Virginia/Carolina Interchange - Proposed
- ⑨ Shoreline Apartments - In progress
- ⑩ 61 Terrace - Proposed
- ⑪ Commodore Perry Master Plan - Proposed
- ⑫ DL&W and South Park Ave Multimodal Access Study
- ⑬ DL&W - Proposed
- ⑭ Cobblestone District Rendering

# Past Plans and Proposals

# Vision and Values

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## Equity

Accessible, affordable, and inclusive for all regardless of race, income, physical ability, age, culture, etc.



## Experience

Places and spaces that evoke feelings of comfort, a sense of belonging, and safety are memorable, fun, and sustainable



## Identity

Legible, easily navigable, coherent places and spaces that create a sense of place, and are welcoming and memorable to residents and visitors



### 1. Equal Waterfront Access for All Neighborhoods



- » Some neighborhoods have higher racial and ethnic diversity such as the Lower West Side, Ellicott, and the Old First Ward.
- » Physical improvements so all neighborhoods have equal access to waterfront

### 2. Cultural Inclusiveness in all Public Spaces



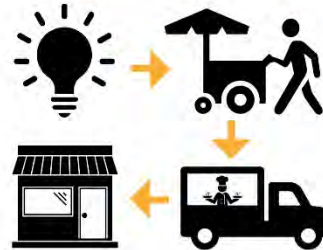
- » Physical spaces should be flexible enough to allow for changing programming and uses (e.g., playing cricket, football, or soccer) as neighborhood demographics evolve over time
- » Provide representation of all culture in public spaces throughout the waterfront where it is currently missing (e.g., colors, murals, signage, etc.)

### 3. Access for all Mobility Abilities



- » Physical design should accommodate all ages from toddlers to seniors
- » Physical design should practice universal accessibility to accommodate all ability types: blind, deaf, reduced mobility, wheelchairs, and others

### 4. Enabling Economic Opportunity



- » Encourage incubator spaces to provide training, skill building, and others for new businesses
- » Identify spaces for new business to allow for entrepreneurs to test new businesses

# Equity Analysis and Assessment

## #1 Strengthening connections to neighborhoods and Downtown

Improved multimodal connections along existing streets under/over I-190, as well as creating new pedestrian and bicycle corridors from Porter Avenue to Chicago Street, will create convenient connections to the waterfront for new and current visitors and residents.

### Priority Projects

- 1 Restriping of Porter Avenue and Bridge from Empire Trail to Prospect Park
- 2 4th Street Bike and Pedestrian Improvements
- 3 4th Street at-grade rail crossing to Empire State Trail
- 4 Church Street and Bingham Street Updates
- 5 Erie-Shelton Square Greenway
- 6 Swan and Seneca two-way updates and reconnect Upper and Lower Terrace
- 7 Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor
- 8 Chicago Corridor (JFK Park to Riverline)

## #2 Unified and welcoming experience along the waterfront

Create a consistent aesthetic and improve wayfinding along a fully connected waterfront that not only embraces sustainability, equity, and cultural inclusiveness, but also creates signature moments of entry to the waterfront that reflect the look and feel of individual neighborhoods.

### Priority Projects

- 1 Michigan/Scott Gateway
- 2 Main Street Underpass
- 3 Erie Street Underpasses
- 4 Chicago Underpass
- 5 Marine/Commercial Raised Intersection
- 6 Canalside/Main Street Back-of-House Consolidation
- 7 Signage and Wayfinding Updates
- 8 Economic and Cultural Inclusiveness Programming

## #3 Integrate development along the new Erie Street greenway

New public-private partnership redevelopments at the BMHA Towers and Waterfront Village Offices will work together with a new design for Erie Street, creation of new open spaces, and updates to other local streets to create a seamless transition between Erie Street, Canalside, and Downtown.

### Priority Projects

- 1 Waterfront Village Redevelopment
- 2 Redesign of Erie Street west of I-190
- 3 Marine Drive Extension to Irish Famine Memorial
- 4 New Waterfront Path from Waterfront Circle, along the Irish Famine Memorial and connecting to Marine Drive
- 5 Marine Drive Flexible Festival Street
- 6 BMHA Marine Drive Tower Redevelopment

## #4 Linking to the region

A complete trail network will not only physically connect the waterfront to the entire City and the region beyond along the historic alignment of the Erie Canal, but will also be able to create new links to neighborhood centers, and economic opportunities that are local, national, and even international.

### Priority Projects

- 1 New alignment of Empire Trail through BMHA site
- 2 Updated Perry Street Design
- 3 Urban Trail along Scott and Chicago from Pearl Street to Ohio Street
- 4 Close the Ohio Street bikeway gap from Riverfest Park to Michigan Avenue
- 5 DL&W Pedestrian Plaza and South Park Avenue bikeway
- 6 Skyway Bicycle Trail Bridge Concept



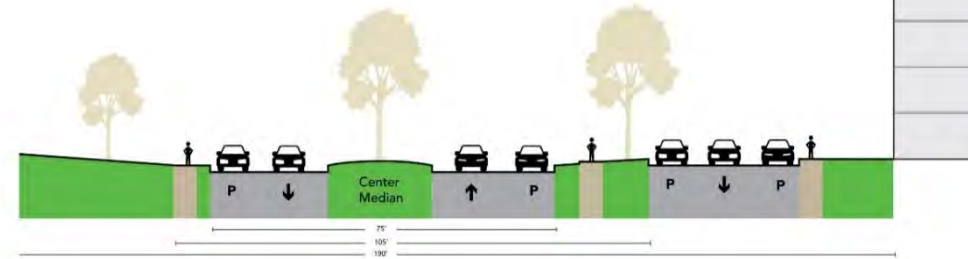
# Concepts to Plan





## 2 Updated Design for the Curved Portion of Erie Street

A-A' - Existing



A-A' - Proposed



\*Note: The dimensions, base plate heights, and concepts are illustrative.



Destination Crenshaw; Los Angeles



Murals from local artist      Connectivity to adjacent uses      Visual node

Sketches, Sections, Precedents, Massing Models

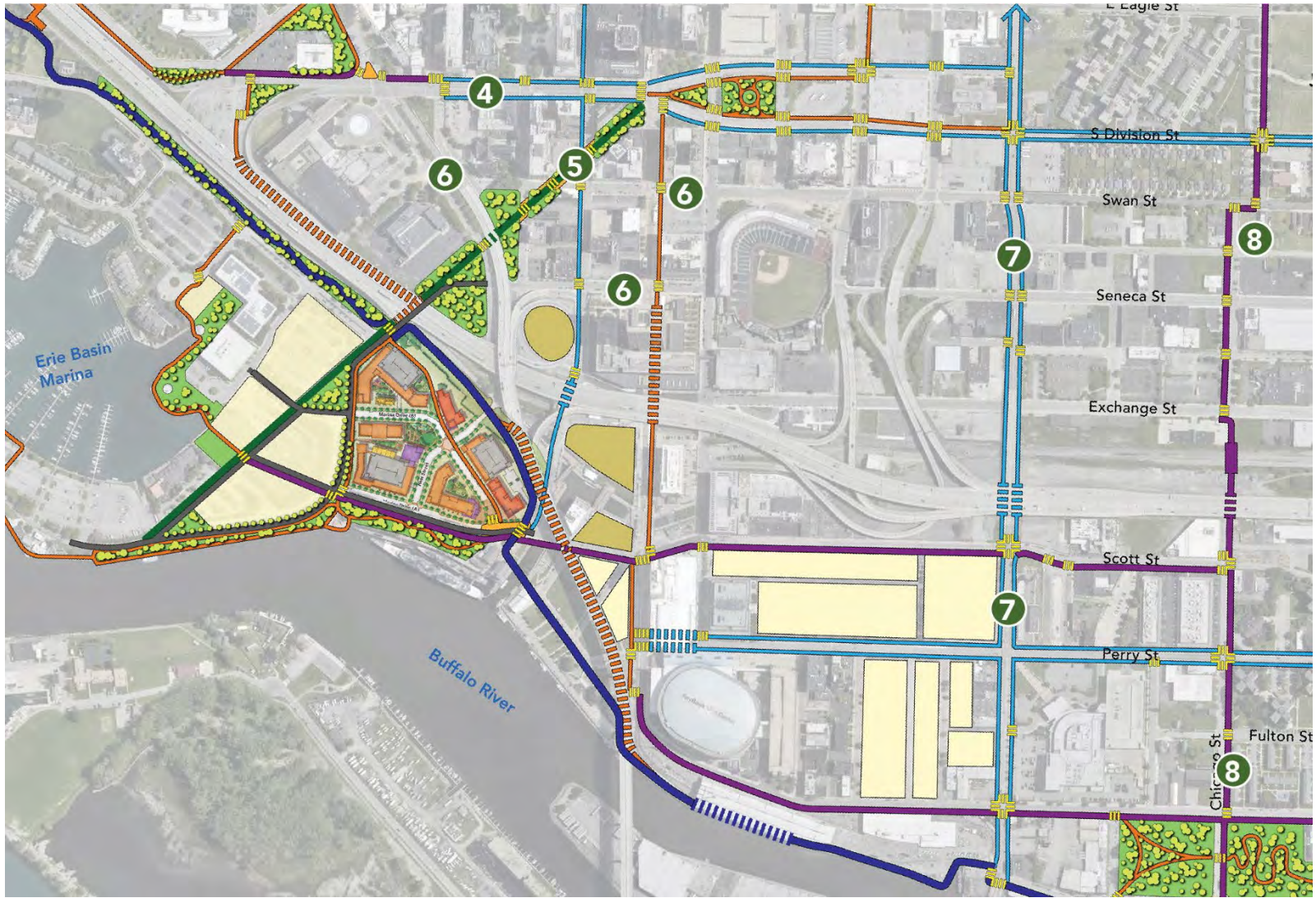


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# Big Move #1

## 2 Ralph Wilson Park Land Bridge



## 3 4th Street At-Grade Rail Crossing to Empire State Trail Concept Design



## 7 Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Inspiration



Murals from local artist

Connectivity to adjacent uses

Visual node



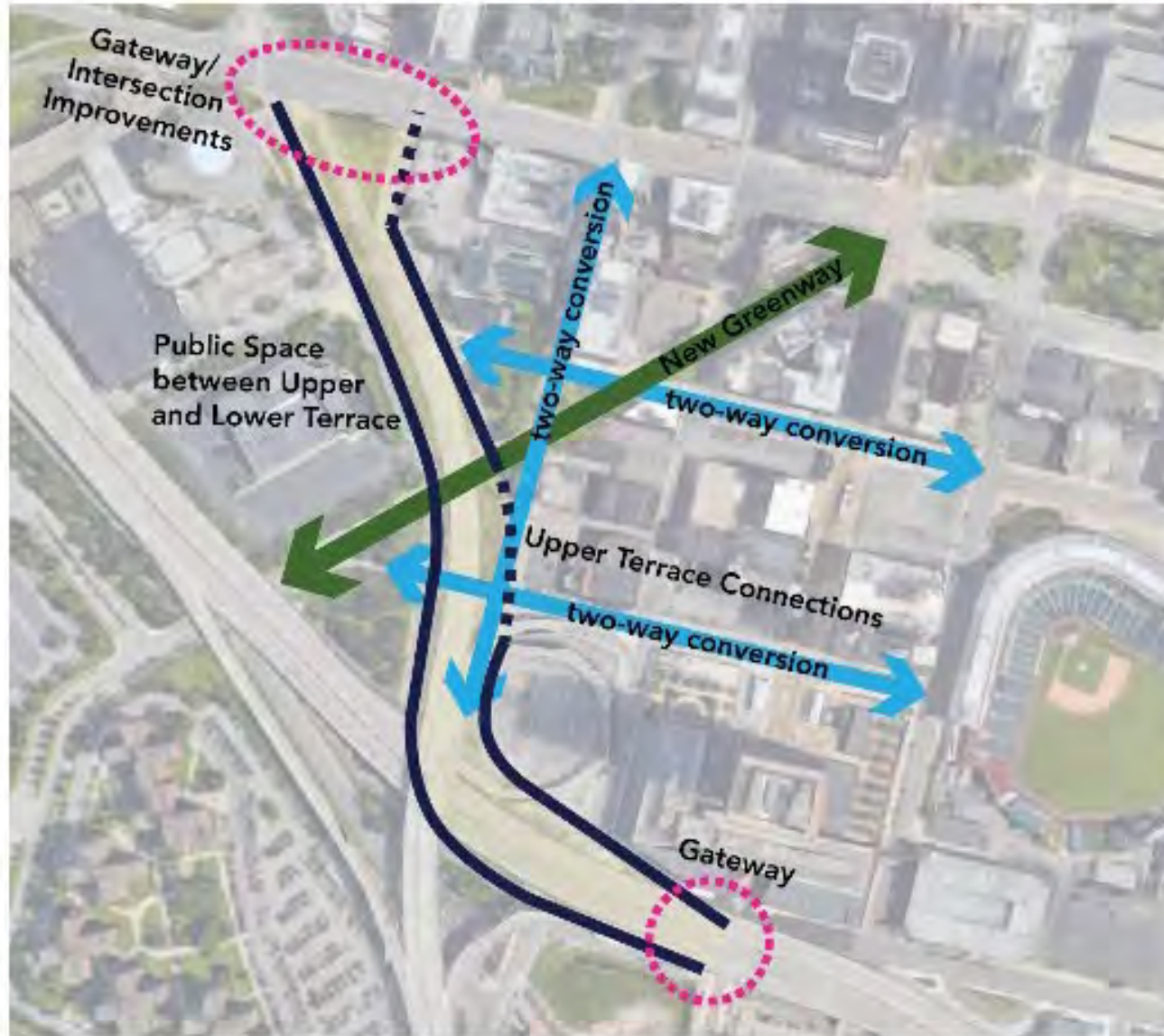
Preserve legacy businesses

Mix modern and historic development



Murals from local artist

## 6 Swan/Seneca/Upper-lower Terrace



## 8 Chicago Corridor at I-190 Precedents



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# Big Move #2



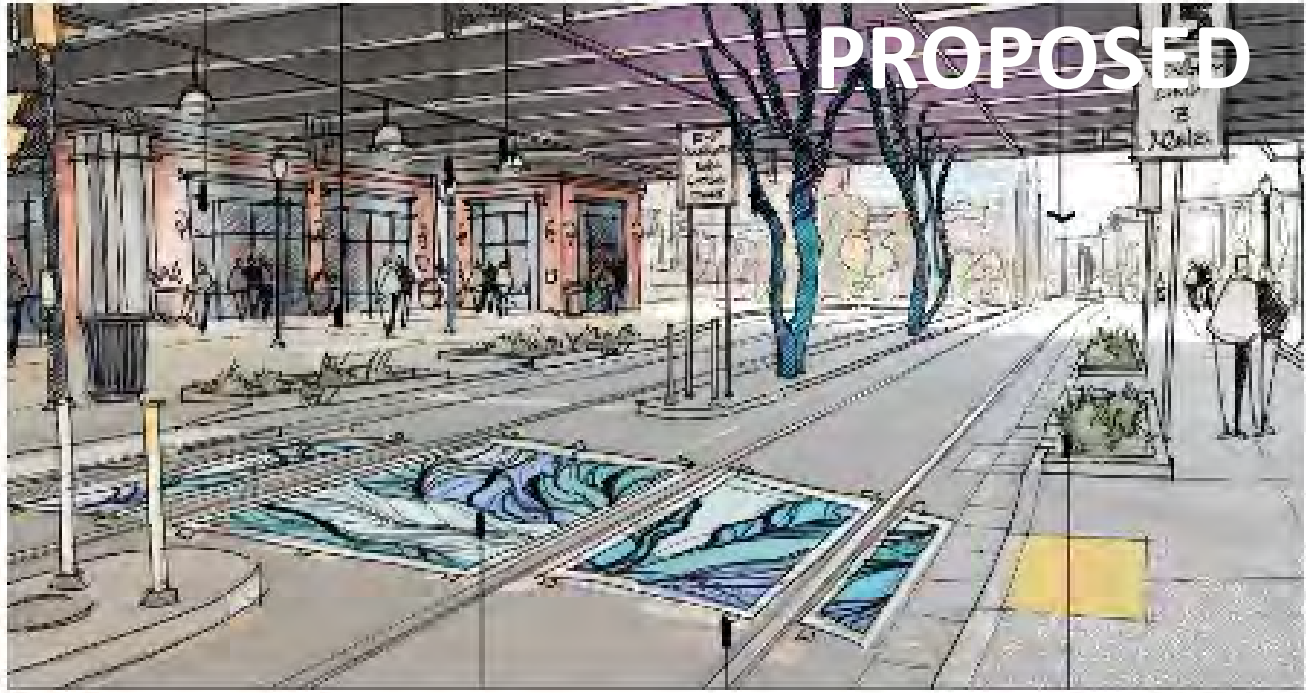
# Marine/Commercial Raised Intersection

2 Main Street Underpass Concept Design

EXISTING



PROPOSED



## 8 Cultural and Economic Inclusiveness in Program and Design Precedents



Religious symbols represent different immigrant groups in adjacent neighborhoods



Pop-up shops in individual shipping containers

Former surface parking lot





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# Big Move #3



Erie Basin  
Marina

Marine Drive (D)

New Street

Marine Drive (A)

4

4

1

2

4

3

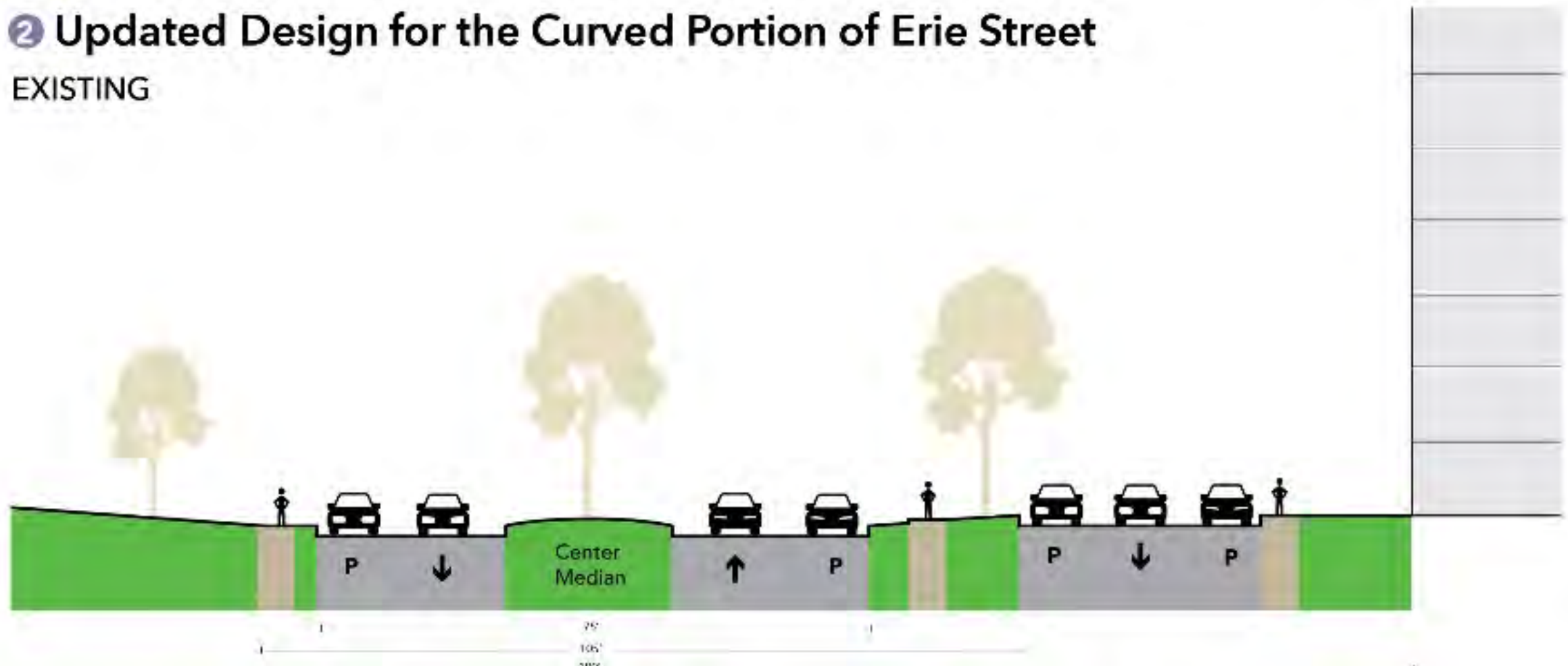
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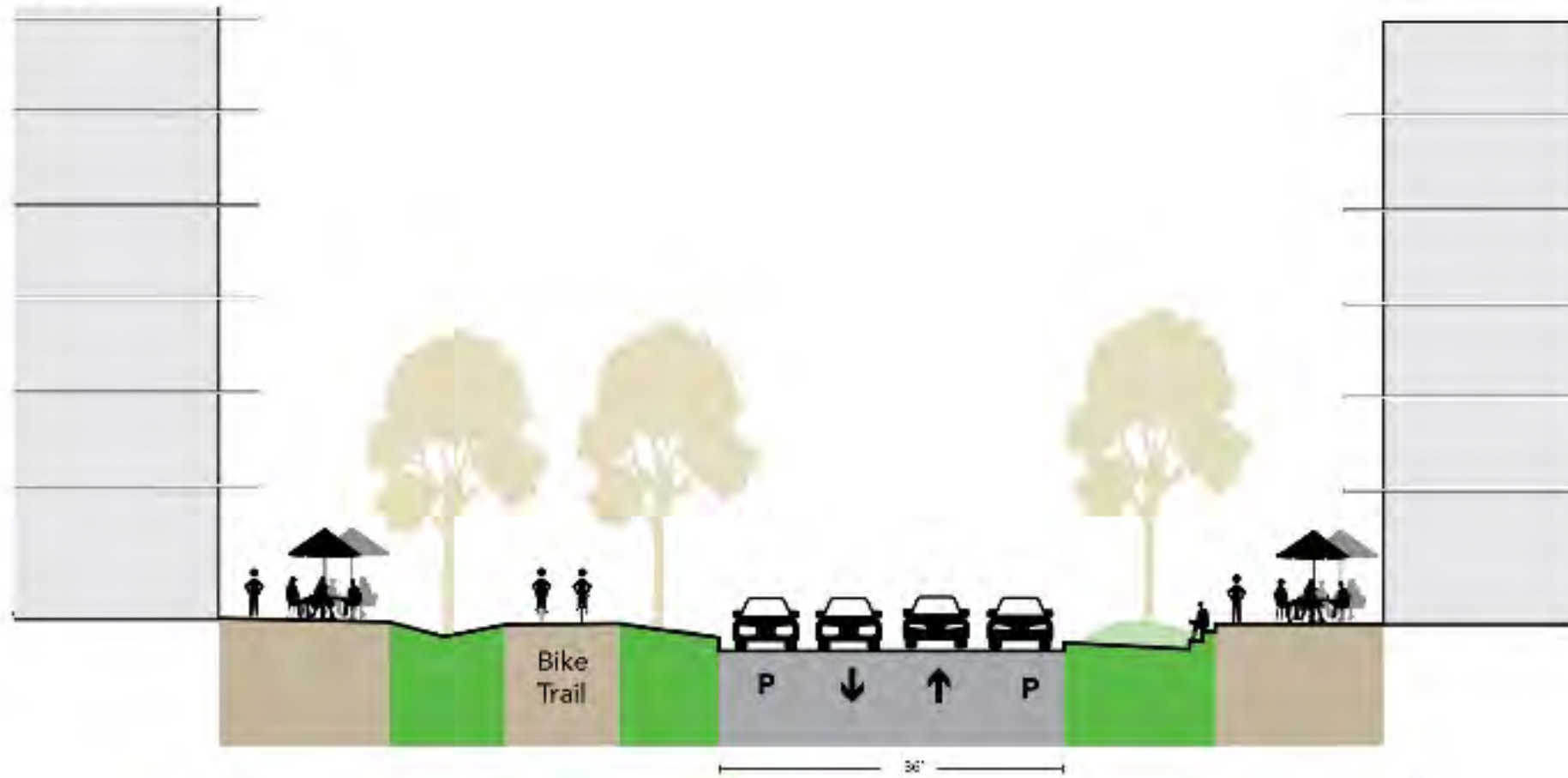
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## 2 Updated Design for the Curved Portion of Erie Street

EXISTING



PROPOSED





Erie Basin  
Marina

4

4

1

2

4

3

2

5

6

Marine Drive (D)

New Street

Marine Drive (A)



Erie Basin  
Marina

Marine Drive (D)

New Street

Marine Drive (A)

4

4

1

2

1

3

2

6

5



# Erie Street Greenway and Plaza



## 1 2 Erie Greenway Plaza Concept #1



Small, Short-term Parking Area

## 1 2 Erie Greenway Plaza Concept #2



Plaza Area Continued

# ILLUSTRATIVE CONCEPT 1



EXPLORATORY AND ILLUSTRATIVE

# ILLUSTRATIVE CONCEPT 2



EXPLORATORY AND ILLUSTRATIVE

# ILLUSTRATIVE CONCEPT 1



EXPLORATORY AND ILLUSTRATIVE

# ILLUSTRATIVE CONCEPT 2



EXPLORATORY AND ILLUSTRATIVE

# ILLUSTRATIVE CONCEPT 1



EXPLORATORY AND ILLUSTRATIVE

# ILLUSTRATIVE CONCEPT 2



EXPLORATORY AND ILLUSTRATIVE

## #4 Linking to the region

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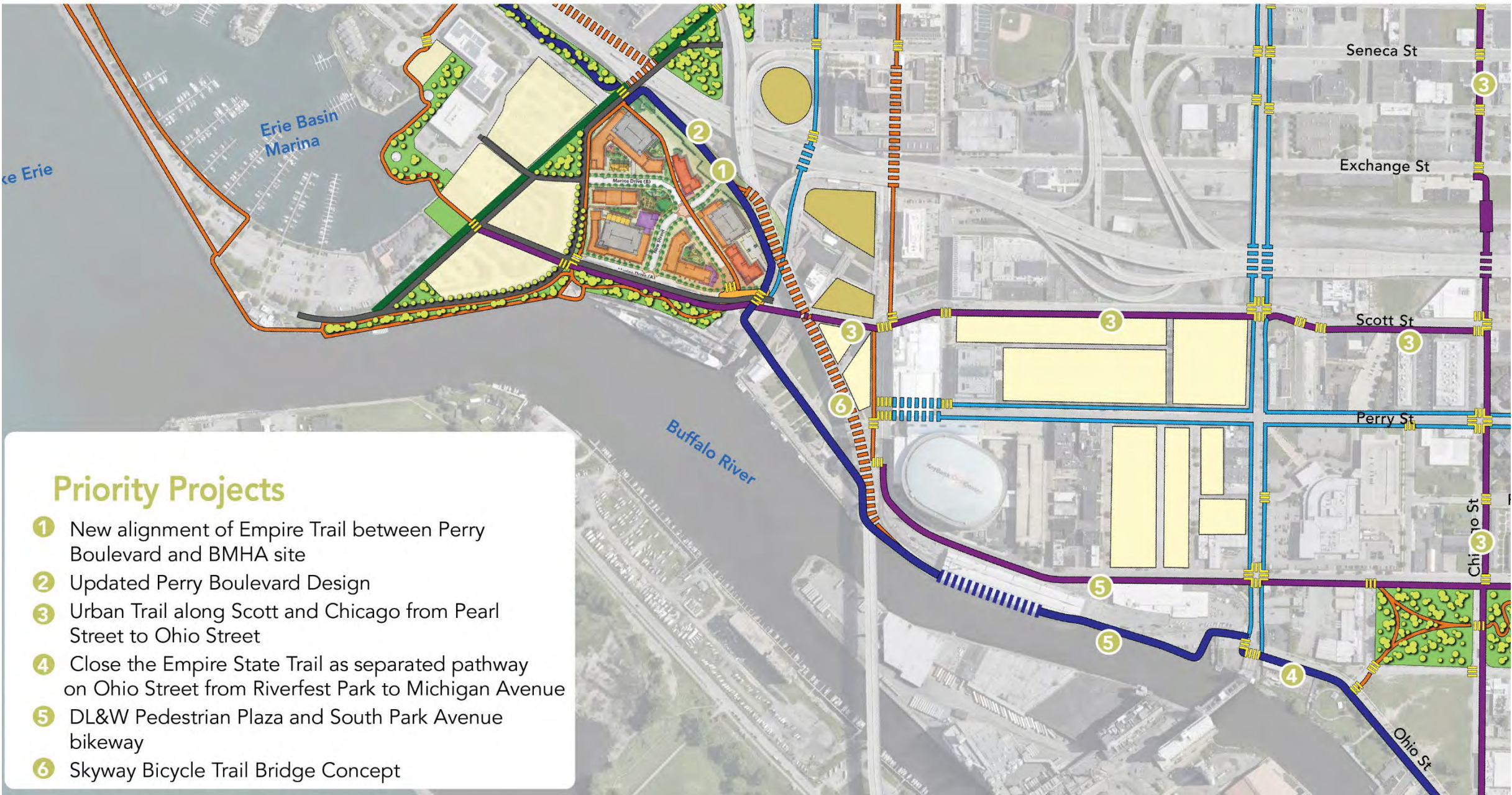
### Priority Projects

- 1 New alignment of Empire Trail through BMHA site
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- 3 Urban Trail along Scott and Chicago from Pearl Street to Ohio Street
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- 6 Skyway Bicycle Trail Bridge Concept



# Big Move #4





## Priority Projects

- 1 New alignment of Empire Trail between Perry Boulevard and BMHA site
- 2 Updated Perry Boulevard Design
- 3 Urban Trail along Scott and Chicago from Pearl Street to Ohio Street
- 4 Close the Empire State Trail as separated pathway on Ohio Street from Riverfest Park to Michigan Avenue
- 5 DL&W Pedestrian Plaza and South Park Avenue bikeway
- 6 Skyway Bicycle Trail Bridge Concept





## 1 Empire Trail Alignment

\*Note: This sections is conceptual. The right of way dimensions and topography are not based upon survey measurements; placement and heights of buildings are only based on concept drawings.



New Empire Trail Alignment

Current Empire Trail Alignment

## 5 DL&W Pedestrian Plaza Concept



## 5 South Park Cycle Track Concept





Erie Basin  
Marina

Marine Drive (D)

New Street

Marine Drive (A)

4

4

4

3

1

2

2

5

6



Erie Basin  
Marina

Marine Drive (D)

New Street

Marine Drive (A)

4

4

4

3

1

2

2

5

6

# ILLUSTRATIVE CONCEPT 2

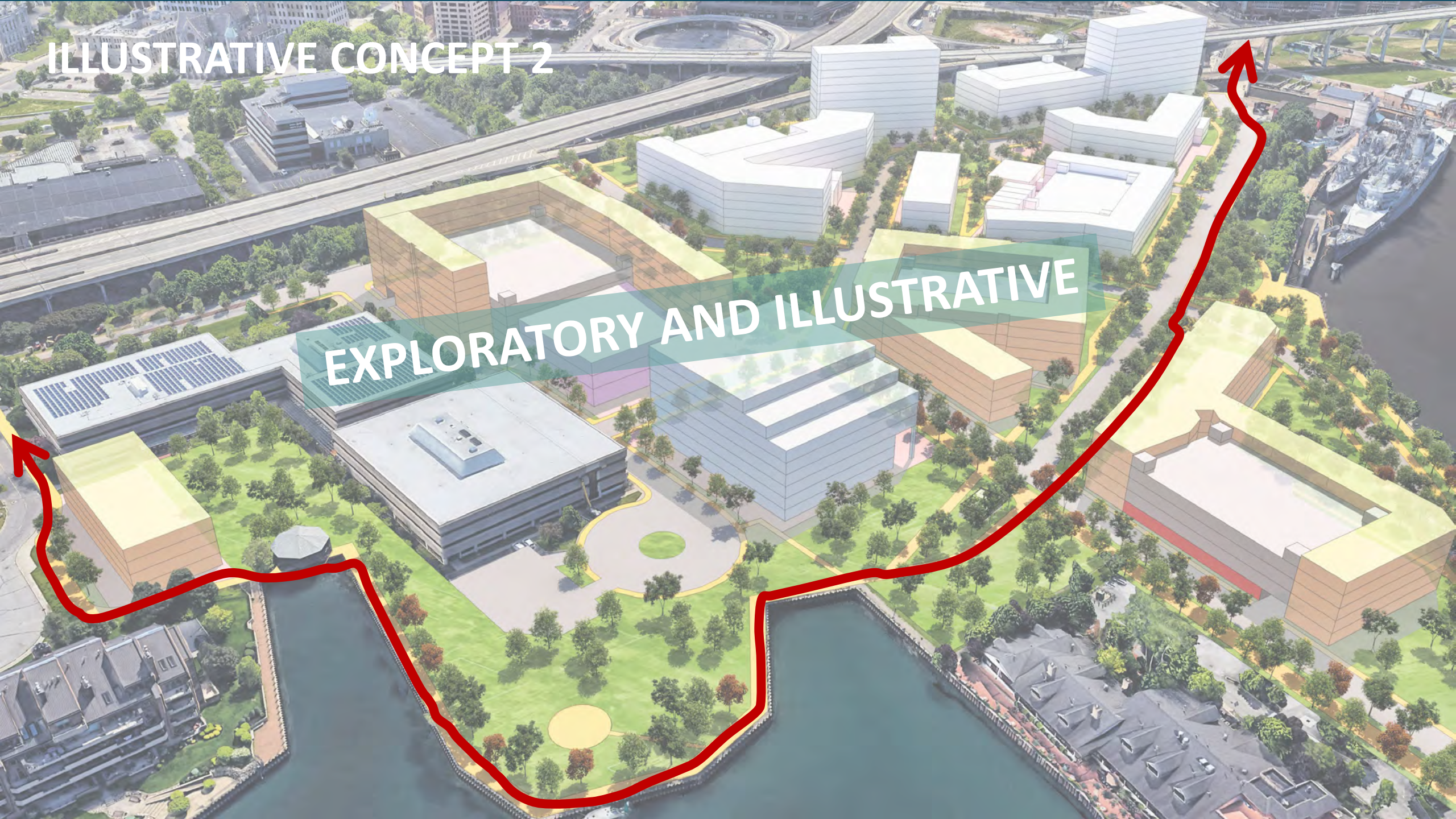
EXPLORATORY AND ILLUSTRATIVE





# ILLUSTRATIVE CONCEPT 2

EXPLORATORY AND ILLUSTRATIVE



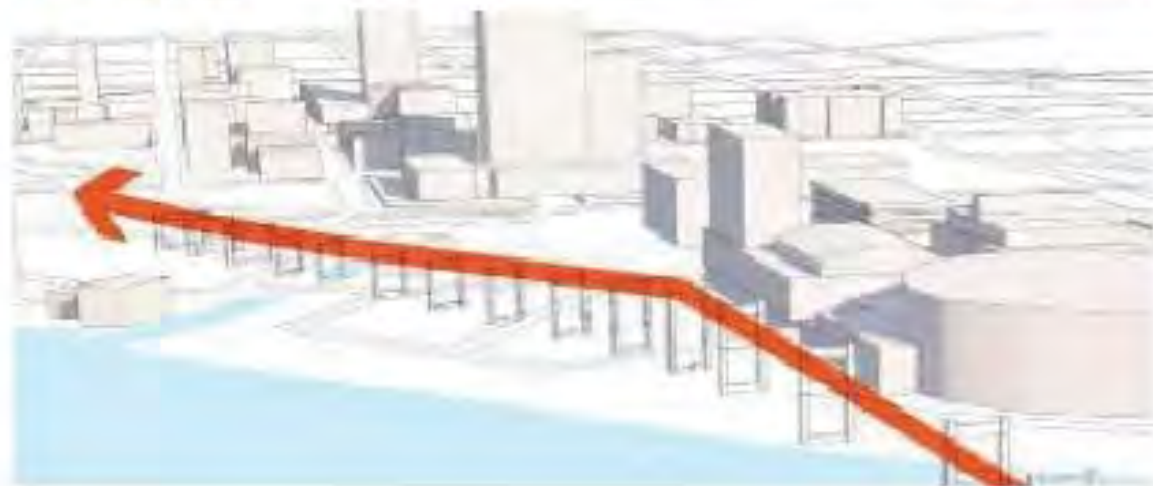
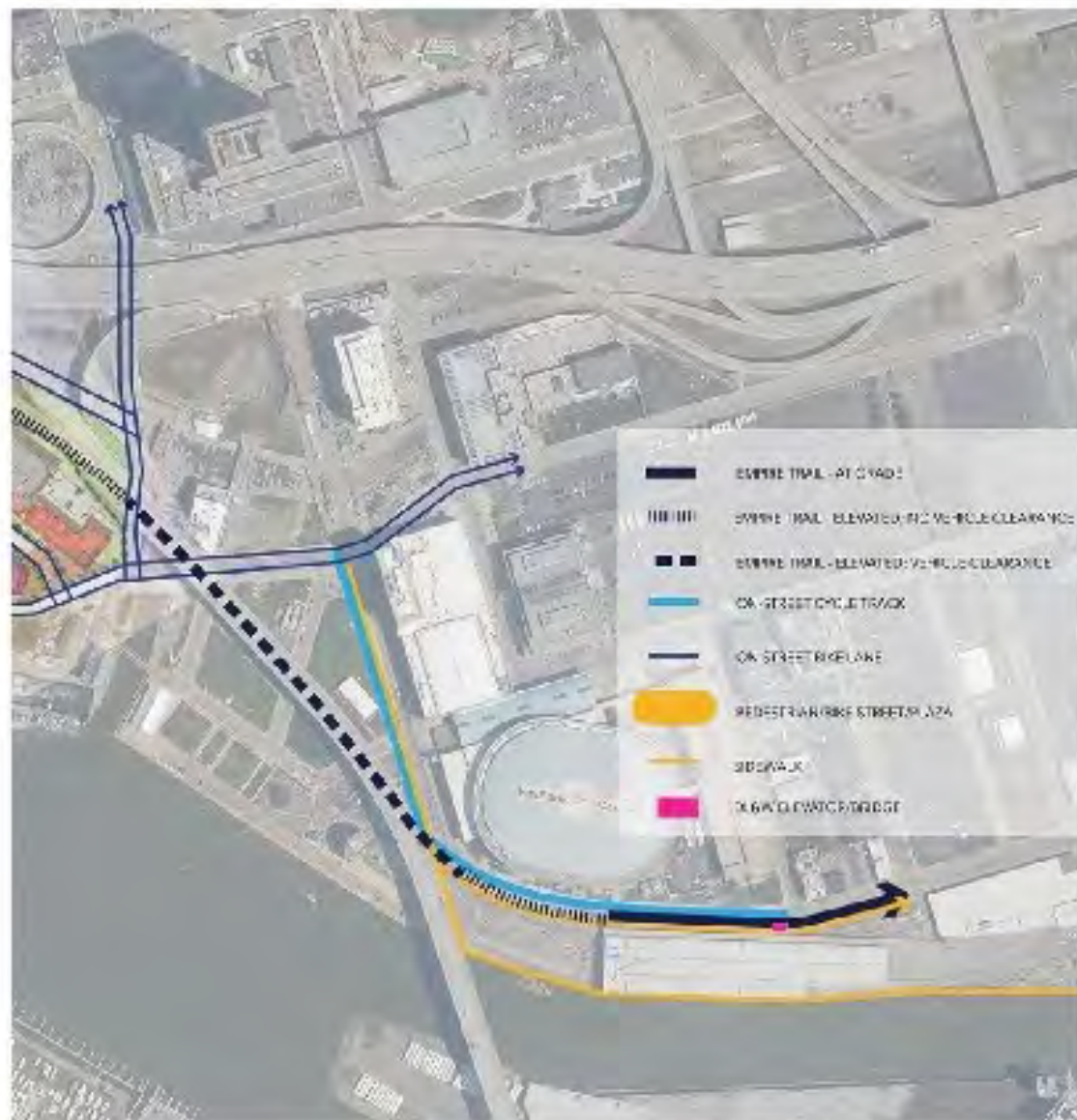


Marine Drive



# Scott Street Urban Trail

## 6 Skyway Bike Bridge Concept



The background features a dark, textured surface with several light-colored arrows pointing in various directions. A thin white horizontal line is positioned above the text, and another is positioned below it. A solid blue horizontal bar is located at the bottom of the image.

# Next Steps

# Next Steps

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- Early August      Collect and Synthesize  
Community and Stakeholder  
Feedback
- Late August      Confirm Final Recommendations
- Early September      Draft Final Plan
- Mid to Late September      Present Final Plan



MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

# Project Contact Information

## **DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS PLAN**

**Antonio Parker, Project Manager**

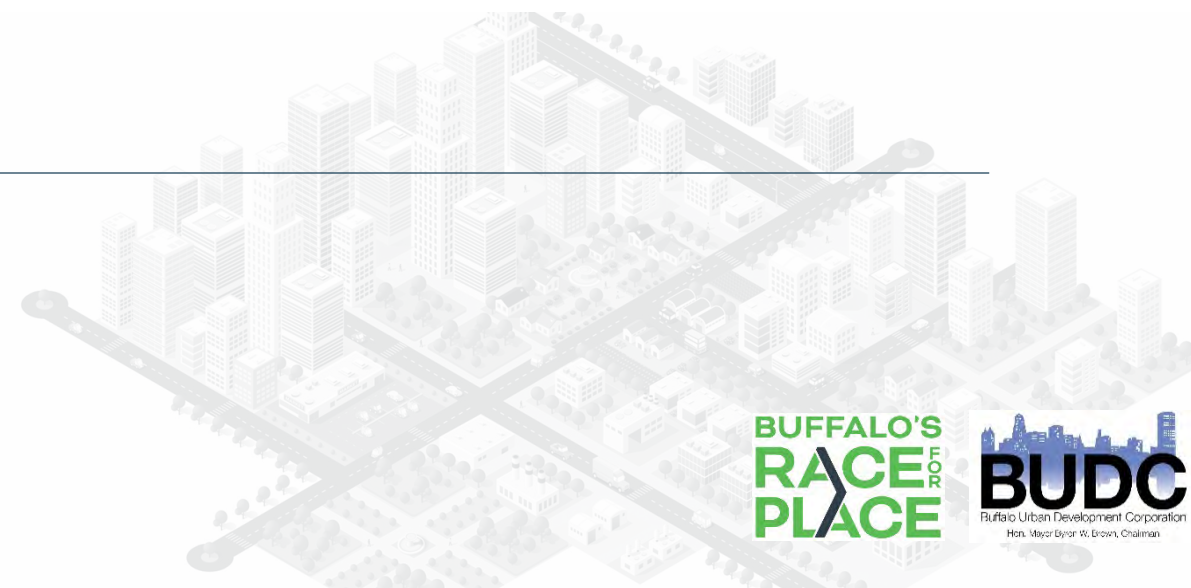
**[aparker@buffalourbandevelopment.com](mailto:aparker@buffalourbandevelopment.com)**

**716856-6525 ext. 133**

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*Within Reach:*

Downtown Smart Streets  
& Waterfront Accessibility





MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

# Public Meeting

August 9, 2023 | 5:30 PM | Seneca One

*Within Reach:*

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