

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

BUFFALO AND FORT ERIE PUBLIC BRIDGE AUTHORITY

PEACE BRIDGE EXPANSION PROJECT PIN 5753.58

City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York & Town of Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada

The Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are evaluating proposed capacity improvements to the Peace Bridge, US and Canadian Plazas, and Connecting Roadways of the Peace Bridge Border Crossing Facility. The alternatives proposed include the No Build alternative and alternatives that improve operations, enhance security, reduce congestion and result in improvements in the overall efficiency and functionality of the existing Peace Bridge Border Crossing Facility.

AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been prepared which assesses the project's effects on the quality of the human environment in accordance with the provisions of Section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 P.L. 91-190 (NEPA). Copies of the DEIS are available for review at the locations listed below (call for library hours or to schedule an appointment at the other locations) and will be available at the Public Hearing:

In the United States:

Buffalo City Hall, 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo, NY 14202 Tel. 716-851-4200

City Clerk's Office – 1308 City Hall Tel. 716-851-5431

Mayor's Office – 201 City Hall Tel. 716-851-4841

Council Staff – 1413 City Hall Tel. 716-851-5105

Dominic J. Bonifacio, Jr., Majority Leader, Niagara District, 1504 City Hall

Tel. 716-851-5125, 716-851-5126

Erie County Public Library, Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY 14203

Tel. 716-858-8900

Erie County Public Library, Niagara Branch, 280 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14201

Tel. 716-882-1537

Parsons, 40 LaRiviere Dr, Suite 350, Buffalo, NY 14202 Tel. 716-853-6946

In Canada:

Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority, 100 Queen St, Fort Erie, ON L2A 3S6

Tel. 905-871-1608

Town of Fort Erie Municipal Centre, 1 Municipal Centre Dr, Fort Erie, ON L2A 2S6

Tel. 905-871-1600

The Fort Erie Public Library, Centennial Branch, 136 Gilmore Rd, Fort Erie, ON L2A 2M1

Tel. 905-871-2546

Fort Erie Indian Friendship Centre, 796 Buffalo Rd, Fort Erie, ON L2A 5H2 Tel. 905-871-8931

Comments on the DEIS must be received by Mr. Alan E. Taylor, Regional Director, NYSDOT Region 5, 100 Seneca St, Buffalo, NY 14203-2939 or Ms. Amy Jackson-Grove, Assistant Division Administrator, FHWA, Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building, 7th Floor, Clinton Ave & North Pearl St, Albany, NY 12207 by **Monday, October 29, 2007**. The DEIS is available on the project's website: www.peacebridgex.com. Copies also may be obtained by contacting Cheryl Lehman, Parsons, 40

LaRiviere Dr, Suite 350, Buffalo, NY 14202, Tel. 716-853-6946, email Cheryl.Lehman@parsons.com, or fax 716-541-0760.

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Title 23, US Code, Section 128 and Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1500 to 1508, a Public Hearing to present the DEIS and receive public comments will be held as follows:

DATE: **Thursday, October 11, 2007**

LOCATION: Connecticut Street Armory
184 Connecticut Street, Buffalo, NY 14213

SCHEDULE: Open House 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
(Informal review of materials and discussion with project staff)

Presentation 11 a.m. – Noon
(Public comment period from Noon to 1 p.m.)

Repeat of Presentation 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
(Public comment period from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.)

A videotape of the 11 a.m. presentation will be available for viewing at the Hearing for those unable to attend at 11 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.

The Hearing will include presentations at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. that summarize the alternatives presented in the DEIS and review their impacts. Information on construction scheduling, right-of-way/property acquisition(s) and relocation assistance programs also will be presented. The remainder of each session will provide an opportunity for the public to provide comments on the DEIS. The proceedings will be recorded.

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMENTS

Persons wishing to provide comments on the DEIS will have the opportunity to do so orally and/or in writing at the Public Hearing, or by providing written comments by the comment deadline. Oral comments will be accepted during the public comment portions of the Hearing beginning at noon and 7:30 p.m. The comments will be recorded by a stenographer. In addition, a stenographer will be available during the open house portion (10 a.m. – 9 p.m.) of the hearing to accept oral comments in private from those who wish to make an oral statement but do not wish to do so in front of the audience.

Written statements and other exhibits may be filed in place of or in addition to oral statements made at the Hearing. Written statements will be accepted at the hearing and until the comment deadline. Written statements must be received by Mr. Alan E. Taylor, Regional Director, NYSDOT Region 5, 100 Seneca St, Buffalo, NY 14203-2939 or Ms. Amy Jackson-Grove, Assistant Division Administrator, FHWA, Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building, 7th Floor, Clinton Ave & North Pearl St, Albany, NY 12207 by **Monday, October 29, 2007**. All oral and written comments will be addressed in the Final EIS, which will identify the project's preferred alternative.

Those property owners who may subsequently wish to challenge condemnation of their property via judicial review under the Eminent Domain Procedure Law (EDPL) may do so only on the basis of issues, facts, and objections raised at the Hearing.

Persons wishing to speak during the public comment period at the Hearing may reserve a speaking slot by contacting Cheryl Lehman, Tel. 716-853-6946, email Cheryl.Lehman@parsons.com, or fax 716-541-

0760. Requests for speaking slots will be honored in the order in which they are received. Persons who have not reserved a speaking slot may sign up to speak at the Hearing. They will be called upon in the order in which they have signed up, as time slots become available. Each speaker will have no more than five minutes.

For further information about the project or the Public Hearing, please contact Mr. Alan E. Taylor, Regional Director, NYSDOT Region 5, 100 Seneca St, Buffalo, NY 14203-2939, Tel. 716-847-3238.

Please advise Ms. Lehman by Wednesday, October 3, 2007 if you require a sign language interpreter, assistive listening system, translator, or any other accommodation(s) to facilitate your participation in the Hearing.