

# **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

40  
YEARS  
1970 2010

Niagara Region

Building Community. Building Lives.

# 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



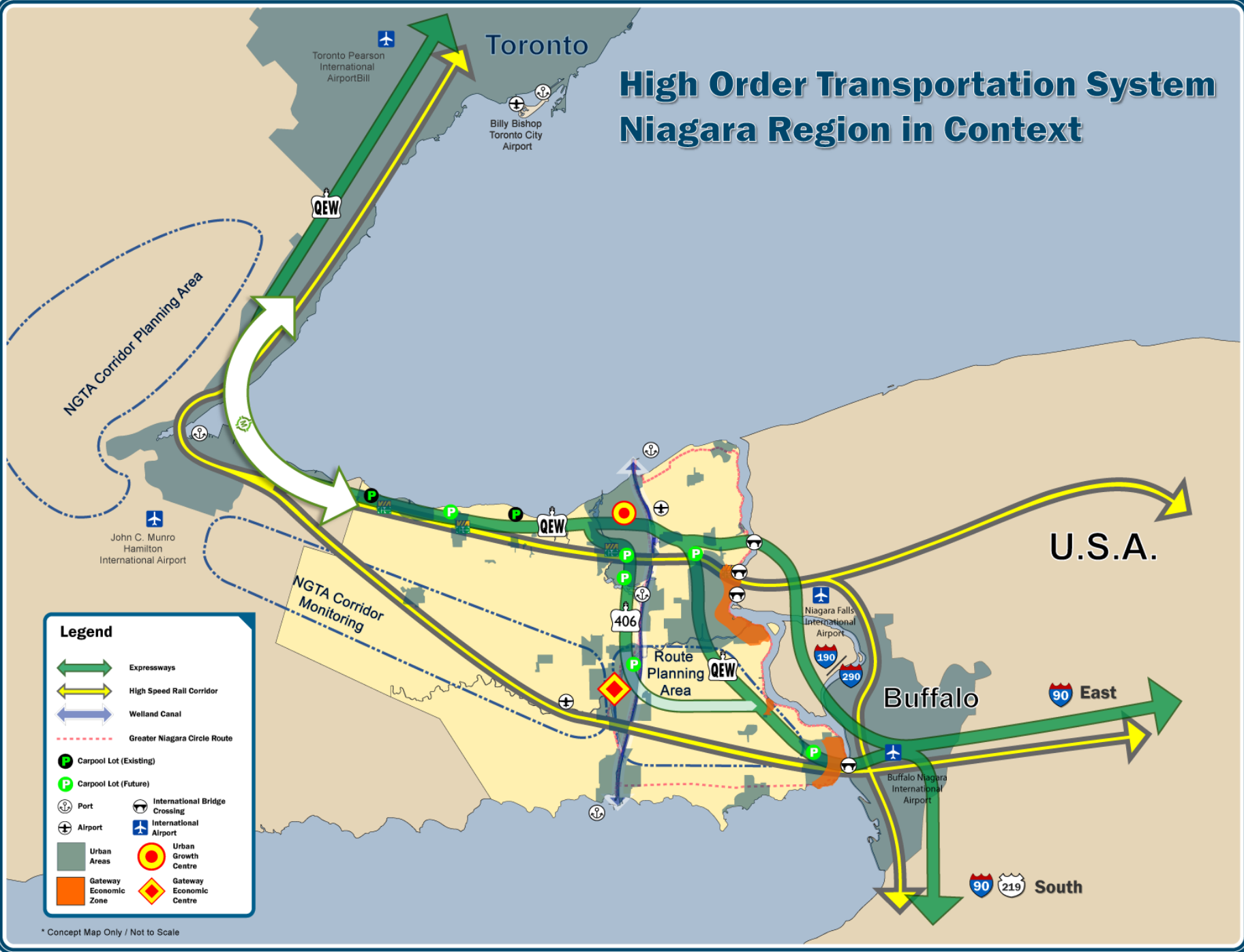
Niagara Region

Building Community. Building Lives.

# 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)

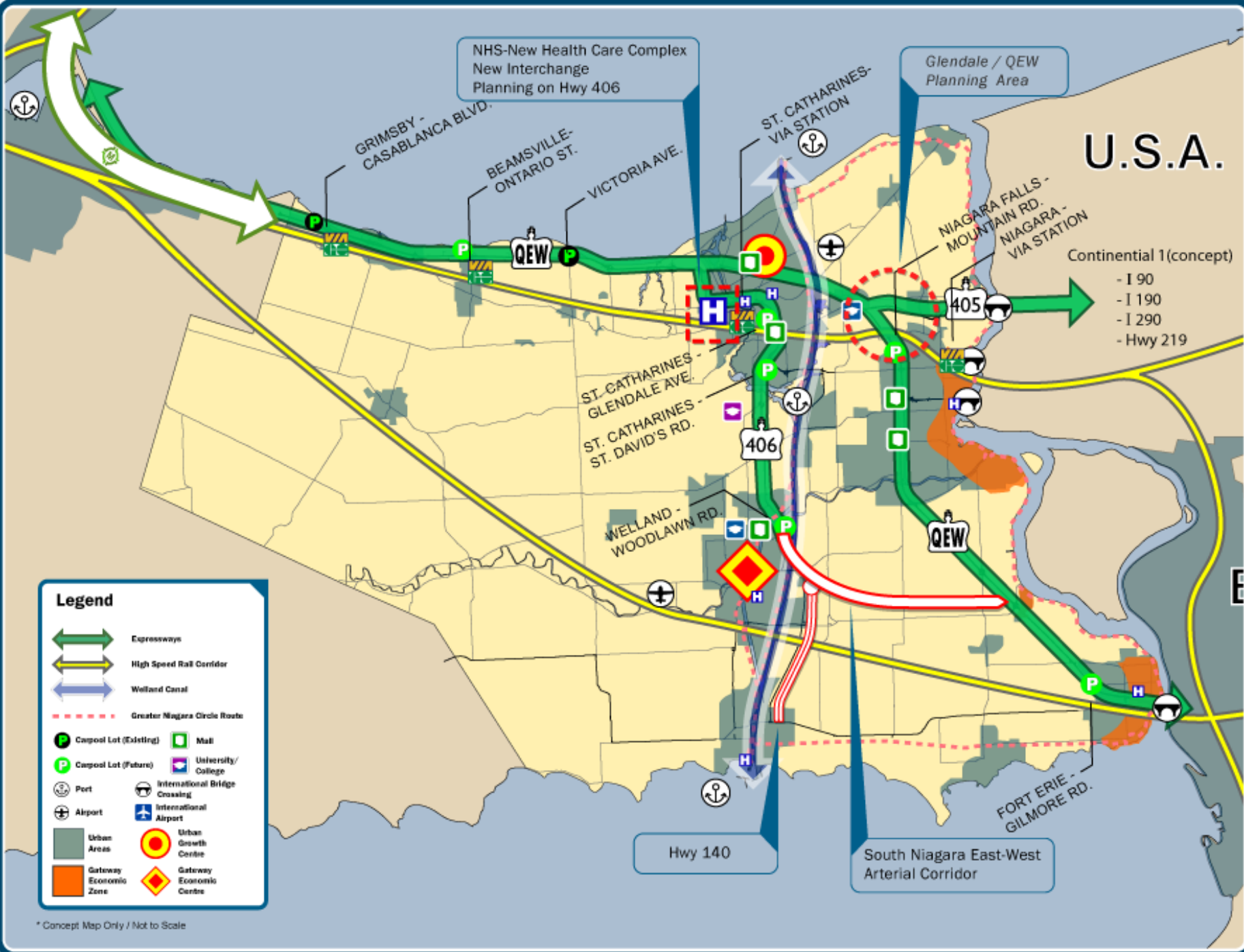
# High Order Transportation System Niagara Region in Context



## Legend

- Expressways
- High Speed Rail Corridor
- Welland Canal
- Greater Niagara Circle Route
- Carpool Lot (Existing)
- Carpool Lot (Future)
- Port
- International Bridge Crossing
- Airport
- International Airport
- Urban Areas
- Urban Growth Centre
- Gateway Economic Zone
- Gateway Economic Centre

\* Concept Map Only / Not to Scale



NHS-New Health Care Complex  
New Interchange  
Planning on Hwy 406

Glendale / QEW  
Planning Area

U.S.A.

Continental 1 (concept)  
- I 90  
- I 190  
- I 290  
- Hwy 219

**Legend**

- Expressways
- High Speed Rail Corridor
- Welland Canal
- Greater Niagara Circle Route
- 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

Hwy 140

South Niagara East-West  
Arterial Corridor

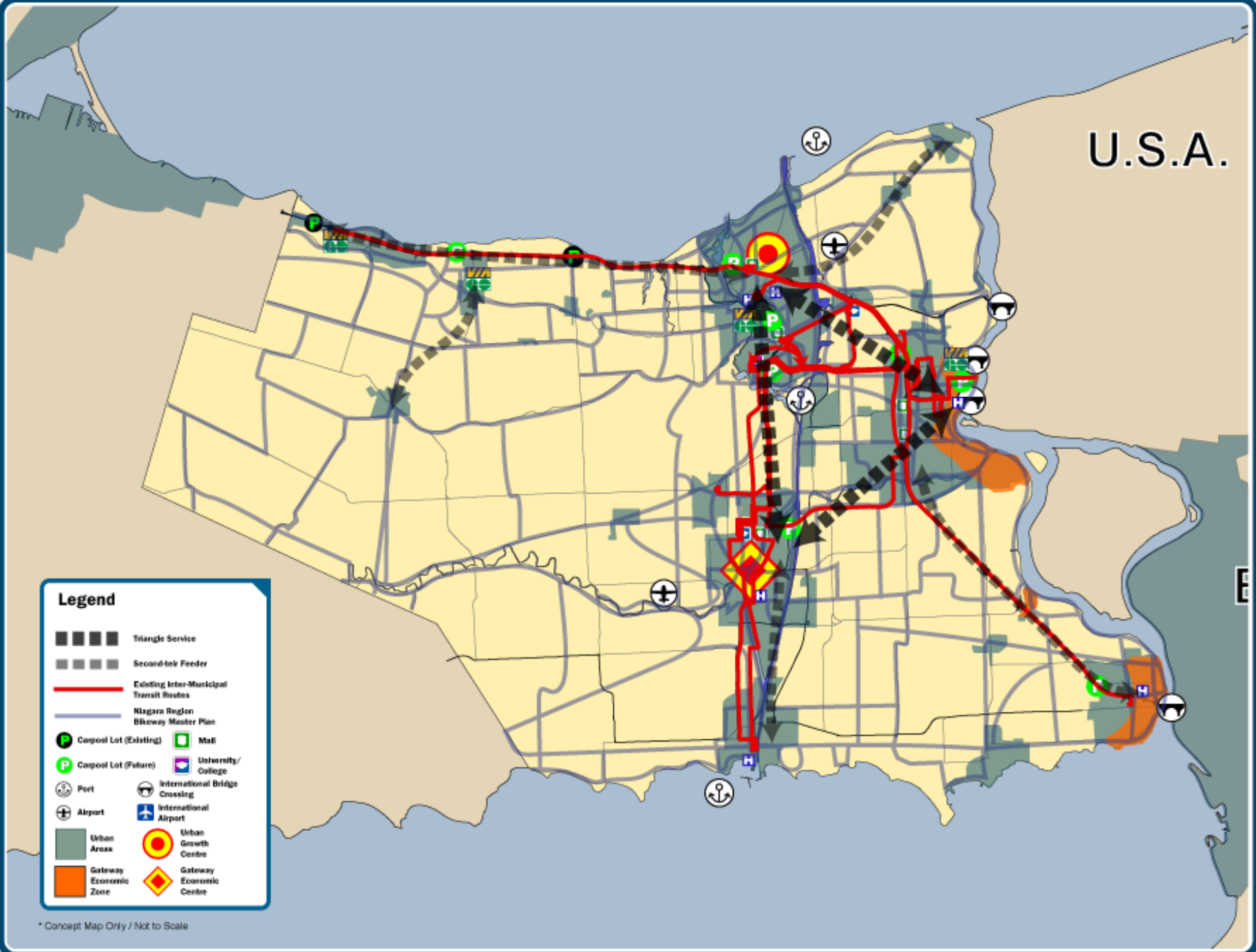
\* Concept Map Only / Not to Scale

U.S.A.

### Legend

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

\* Concept Map Only / Not to Scale



**Quality of Life**

**Environmental  
Stewardship**

**Travel & Commute  
to Surrounds**

**Economic Growth  
Planned Land Use**

**2010 STRATEGIC  
DIRECTIONS**

**Destination Access -  
Tourist- Recreational**

**Travel and  
Commuting**

**International  
Trade**

**Travel Choice**

# 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 ....



**Niagara Region**

*Building Community. Building Lives.*