

Social, Economic & Infrastructure Priorities

for the NY Finger Lakes Region – February 2015





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Formulas used to determine the number of direct and indirect construction jobs:

¹Employment number supplied by project planners.

²Construction Infrastructure employment numbers based upon formula supplied by the Alliance for American Manufacturing.



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A Message from Executive Director Joe Leone

It's an exciting time for the Finger Lakes Region. There is an abundance of opportunity for economic growth, and the climate of our region is changing for the better. Local leaders are envisioning projects and initiatives that could position us as leaders in up-and-coming industries. With the memory of our impressive industrial history firmly behind us, and with the current strength of our local educational institutions, a grand vision for our region is emerging.

Of course, this potential for opportunity comes with a price tag. Our projects are promising, but many require legislative funding in order to survive the cutting room floor. That's why UNICON has developed this report to prioritize funding for important projects & initiatives that will improve economic development and create jobs in our region.

In this, my first year as Executive Director of UNICON, I wanted to strengthen our annual Priority List to go beyond local infrastructure and include our most important social and economic initiatives as well; programs that will help our communities grow. These initiatives include the War on Poverty, AIM Funding and NNMI. Also included are our state's recent legislative efforts to lower the cost of doing business in New York. These efforts include the Upstate Revitalization Fund, the Zero Tax initiative for S-Corp Manufacturers and ongoing support for Regional Economic Development Councils.

In addition to this year's initiatives we have divided our list of projects into 3 categories; Institutional, Economic Development, and Infrastructure. Each of these areas has its own unique ability to contribute to the rebuilding of our regional economy, and our success as a region is tied directly to the success of these projects. Some of them, such as NY 390/I490, have been in the pipeline for some time now, and they are long overdue and need our continued support in order to cross the finish line; and with your help, this can be their year.

Of course, we didn't dream up this list alone. Our partners at local educational institutions Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Rochester, Monroe Community College and St. John Fisher College; the City of Rochester and the County of Monroe; the Rochester Building & Construction Trades Council, Greater Rochester Enterprises, and the Rochester Community Coalition have all helped tremendously in compiling, editing, and finalizing this report and we want to thank them all for their contributions and their support.

Respectfully,

A blue ink signature of Joe Leone, written in a cursive style.

Joseph Leone
Executive Director



Part One: Initiatives



Rochester / Monroe County Anti-Poverty Initiative

Initiative Summary:

Below are excerpts from a December 27th, 2014 Executive Summary issued by the following community leaders:

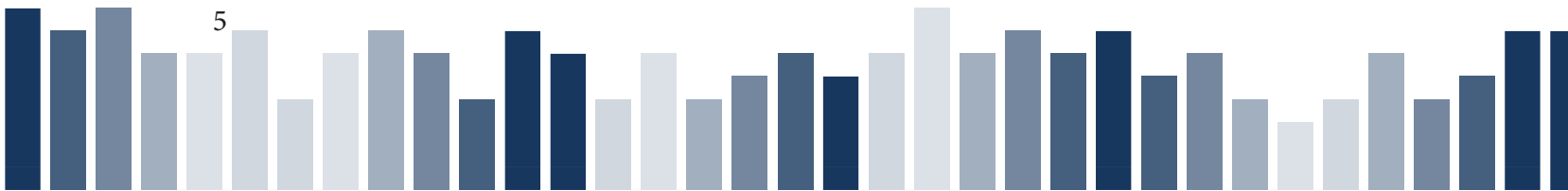
- Joseph D. Morelle, New York State Assembly Majority Leader
- Lovely A. Warren, Mayor, City of Rochester
- Maggie Brooks, County Executive, County of Monroe
- Peter C. Carpino, President and CEO, United Way of Greater Rochester:

If the nation's war on poverty is being lost, Rochester ranks as among the worst of the war zones. Rochester, New York, once the envy of communities across our state is now the third poorest city in America among comparably-sized cities, with the second highest child poverty rate in the country.

Eliminating poverty in Rochester and Monroe County requires wholesale changes in current systems, programs, and policies. More importantly, it requires a new attitude and belief. Led by the United Way, the Rochester/Monroe County Anti-Poverty Initiative is a collaboration of public, private, and nonprofit organizations that have made a commitment to undertake the systemic, programmatic, and public policy changes required to bring an end to poverty in our community. The time is now to solve the problem of poverty.

This initiative has the support of our area's key community leaders, including representatives from government, business, labor, human services, health care, education, and foundations. With the leadership of Governor Cuomo, and support and commitment from the Legislature, Rochester and Monroe County can be a laboratory for finding an innovative solution to childhood poverty and serve as a model for the state and, perhaps, the nation.

UNiCON proudly supports this Rochester-Monroe County initiative and joins our fellow community leaders in voicing our absolute commitment to this War against Poverty.





Aid and Incentives to Municipalities (AIM) Funding

Initiative Summary:

New York State's Aid and Incentives to Municipalities (AIM) program is a revenue sharing program that provides grants to New York's local governments. The program is the state's primary vehicle for providing direct aid to cities, towns and villages. Municipalities use AIM to support a variety of operating costs. Originally named General Purpose Local Government Aid, the program was designed to provide local governments with municipal responsibilities a flexible predictable unrestricted form of state aid.

AIM funding finances critical public safety, education, and economic development services in Rochester. However, a massive disparity exists among upstate cities on a per capita distribution basis. For example, if Rochester were funded at the same rate as Buffalo, our city would receive an additional \$41.7 million. Despite major efforts to restructure city government, including workforce reductions, Rochester will face an estimated budget gap of more than \$34 million in its next fiscal year. Adjustments to the AIM formula could not come at a more critical time.


"In real terms, general purpose, or unrestricted, aid to local governments (currently, Aid and Incentives to Municipalities, AIM) has fallen by almost three-fourths since 1980. (Adjusted for inflation, 2013 dollars)." Fiscal Policy Institute 2014 report

"For decades, the approach to AIM has pitted municipality against municipality, which is very unfortunate. It is time to replace the current flat rate system with a formula-based system that takes need and other factors into consideration. The current system represents a series of entrenched inequities that is inconsistent with the high standards of fairness the people of this great state deserve and demand. I call on our legislative leaders in the strongest terms to take up this task for the betterment of the entire state." Mayor Lovely Warren 2015

A new formula for calculating the true financial needs of cities across the state is long overdue. We propose a thoughtful revision of the method for determining AIM funding, based on the realities facing Rochester and our sister cities throughout the upstate region.

Information provided by:

Rochester Community Coalition
The Fiscal Policy Institute
Mayor Lovely Warren



NNMI (IP-IMI)

Overview of NNMI (IP-IMI):

In September 2013, President Obama launched the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership Steering Committee 2.0 (AMP 2.0). AMP 2.0 is a renewed, cross-sector, national effort to secure U.S. leadership in emerging technologies that will create high-quality manufacturing jobs and enhance America's global competitiveness.

The President called for the creation of a Nationwide Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI) to scale up advanced manufacturing technologies and processes. He asked Congress to authorize investment—to be matched by private and non-federal funds to create an initial network of up to 15 institutes (IMI's). He proposed that the NNMI encompass 45 institutes over 10 years. On December 16, 2014, the President signed the Revitalize American Manufacturing Innovation (RAMI) Act into law.

RAMI is intended to create a competitive, effective, and sustainable manufacturing research-to-manufacturing infrastructure for U.S. industry and academia. NNMI consists of linked Institutes for Manufacturing Innovation (IMIs) with common goals, but unique concentrations. Here industry, academia, and government partners are leveraging existing resources, collaborating, and co-investing to nurture manufacturing innovation and accelerate commercialization.

Currently there are 5 IMI's:

America Makes (National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute)
Power America (Various Energy Innovations and solutions)
DMDII (Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute)
LIFT (Lightweight Innovations of Tomorrow)
IACMI (Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation)

Future IMI's currently include:

FHE-MII (Flexible Hybrid Electronics Manufacturing Innovation Institute)
IP-IMI (Integrated Photonics Institute for Manufacturing Innovation)
In NOI status (Clean Energy Manufacturing Innovation Institute on Smart Manufacturing)

About IP-IMI:

As home to one of the oldest and largest optics, imaging, and photonics sectors with more than 100 photonics companies, coupled with unparalleled academic and research excellence in optics and photonics at University of Rochester and at Rochester Institute of Technology, the Greater Rochester region is widely recognized as the global center for leadership and innovation in these sectors and the natural choice to host a National Institute for Photonics Manufacturing.

Continued on page 8



NNMI (IP-IMI) cont.

Senator Charles Schumer:

“Rochester is home to the world’s greatest concentration of companies, university programs, and expertise in the field of photonics, and this proposed partnership between the University of Rochester and SUNY Polytechnic Institute would further position Rochester as a global leader in this cutting-edge industry. Being selected as the country’s photonics hub would be a real game-changer for Rochester, and I will continue to push the DOD to choose this application. It has the potential to galvanize the workforce, transform the local economy, and create jobs, jobs, jobs throughout the region. There is no better place to start building and strengthening a transformative domestic base for photonics innovation than in Rochester and Upstate New York.”

UNiCON Position Statement:

The next stage of the IP-IMI competition, applications are due March 31 - with the final selection of the winning bid expected in June. It is our understanding that Rochester is on the DOD’s proverbial “short list”, side by side with two other consortiums (one in Florida and one in Southern California) and we strongly encourage all of our legislative leaders - at all levels of government - to take an active and aggressive position in support for this initiative.

Information provided by:

Rochester Community Coalition

Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office (AMNPO), hosted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). For more information please visit

<http://manufacturing.gov/ip-imi.html>



Part Two: Institutional

Monroe Community College Downtown Campus

Project	MCC Downtown Campus
Cost	\$78 million
Funding Secured	\$72 million
Job Creation	978 ¹



Project Description:

Since establishing a temporary campus in 1992, MCC has searched for a permanent downtown location that the college can own and build upon, and that the community can call home. MCC's

vision is to give students a campus that reflects their dreams and aspirations. A downtown campus is an investment in them – and in the entire community.

In February 2015, Monroe County and the Rochester Building and Construction Trades Council successfully negotiated a Project Labor Agreement that estimates a savings in excess of \$640,000 in direct construction costs.



Phase II: Facilities Modernization

Project	Phase II – Facilities Modernization Project, Rochester City School District
Cost	\$425 Million
Job Creation	3544 Direct and Indirect Jobs ²
Total Investment Requested	\$425 Million



Project Description:

The largest construction endeavor ever undertaken in our community is the \$1.3 billion Facilities Modernization Project at the Rochester City School District. Please see next page for a message from Aaron Hilger about the project.

Rochester Schools Modernization Program

*Rochester City
School District*



*City
of Rochester*

The RSMP ...

The Rochester Schools Modernization Program is a three-phase capital initiative of the Rochester City School District in partnership with the City of Rochester.

Charged with overseeing Phase I is the Rochester Joint Schools Construction Board. The RJSCB includes seven members: Three are appointed by the Superintendent of Schools; three are appointed by the Mayor of the City of Rochester; and the seventh is appointed by mutual agreement by the Superintendent and Mayor. To view the Cooperative Agreement among the City, the District, and the RJSCB regarding the Program please visit;

<http://www.rcsdk12.org/rsmp>.



Facilities Modernization cont. – A Message from Aaron Hilger

Construction Industry
Association of Rochester

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The largest construction program in Rochester is the Rochester Schools Modernization Program (the “RSMP”). Phase I authorized \$325 million with \$246 million in estimated “hard” construction expenses and \$79 million in design, management, financing, and other “soft” incidental program expenses. With Phases II, III, and IV the Rochester Schools Modernization Program is expected to span two decades, and total approximately \$1.2 billion. The last two projects in Phase 1 are bidding in early 2015.

In addition to creating first class educational spaces, Phase 1 had some strong community benefits.

- 27 percent of construction and professional service contracts have been awarded to M/W/S/DBE firms.
- 21.9 percent of the project workforce are minorities.
- 6.9 percent of the project workforce are women.
- 100 percent of prime construction contracts were awarded to greater Rochester firms.
- 94 percent of construction and professional service contracts were awarded to greater Rochester firms.
- During the first 23 months of the program the program spent an average of \$8 million per month, adding \$211 million to the Rochester economy.

The Legislation for Phase 2 of the RSMP was signed into Law by the Governor in December 2014. Phase 2 authorized \$435 million for up to 26 projects, and a technology project. Of the \$435 million, there is expected to be roughly \$320 million in estimated “hard” construction expenses and \$115 million in design, management, financing, and other “soft” incidental program expenses. Phase 2 is moving through the early planning stages and may include up to 26 projects.

Key Steps in Launching Phase 2

- Update of the Master Plan for the District and SED Review / Approval
- Selection of the Program Manager
- Selection of Key Service Providers (Legal, Independent Compliance Officer etc.)
- Selection of Design Firms and Construction Managers
- Securing Bonding Financing

Phase 2 will have an even greater impact on the community due to the program’s larger size and ability to implement best practices learned in Phase 1. Projects could start as early as Summer 2016.

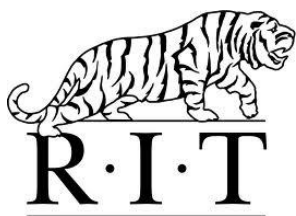
Sincerely,

Aaron Hilger, Secretary/Managing Director



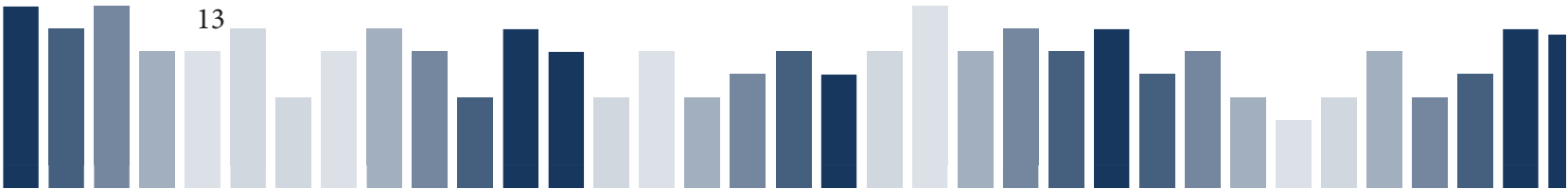
MAGIC Spell Studios, Rochester Institute of Technology

Project	MAGIC Spell Studios
Total Cost	\$15 million for construction \$5 million for equipment and start-up operating costs
Funding Secured	\$2M committed from RIT \$1.5M from FLREDC
Job Creation	50-60 construction ¹
Total Investment Requested	\$15 Million



Project Summary:

RIT is seeking state funding for a facility on the RIT campus that will house a combination of studio space, academic laboratories, digital media production facilities, classrooms, and mentoring facilities to support the RIT Center for Media Arts, Games, Interaction & Creativity (MAGIC) as well as RIT’s animation, 3D graphics, and game design & development programs. This facility will operate in collaboration with renovated RIT facilities in downtown Rochester that will act as “satellite studios” to on-campus activity and as incubators for student-founded studio activity.





Integrated Science and Health Sciences Building, St. John Fisher College

Project	Integrated Science and Health Sciences Building
Total Cost	\$13.4 million
Funding Secured	\$250,000 from the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Council in 2014
Job Creation	60 construction jobs ¹
Total Investment Requested	\$13 Million



Project Summary:

St. John Fisher College is constructing a 31,000 square foot integrated science and health sciences building in Rochester, NY (Monroe County). The campus facility will house academic programming that will generate a robust science/health care workforce for the region. It will expand the College's laboratory and classroom capacity, meeting current enrollment demands and future growth potential.



University of Rochester Institute for Data Science

Project	University of Rochester Institute for Data Science
Total Cost	\$50,000,000
Funding Secured	\$10,000,000 from the Wegmans Family Charitable Foundation \$1.5 Million from FLREDC
Job Creation	460 direct and indirect jobs ¹
Total Investment Requested	\$25 Million

Project Summary (provided by FLREDC): A new institute at the University of Rochester will create one of the leading programs in the nation dedicated to the application of high performance computing and data science approaches to solve scientific problems.

The Institute for Data Science (IDS) will build upon the success of the Health Science Center for Computational Innovation, a partnership between the University, IBM, and New York State that has already attracted more than \$300 million in external research funding over the last six years and created one of the most advanced computer systems dedicated to health research in the nation.

The University will construct a new 60,000 square foot, state-of-the-art building that will serve as a hub for scientists and new research and education programs. The University will hire 20 new faculty members with expertise in the field of data science. The building will also house the newly created New York State Center of Excellence in Data Science.

The IDS will meet a growing national need for skilled data scientists and establish New York State as a leader in this field. According to the consulting group McKinsey and Company, the U.S. will experience a shortage of approximately 200,000 skilled scientists, managers, and analysts versed in the field of data science. The initiative will also strengthen and expand existing research collaborations with companies like IBM, Xerox, and Wegmans, and attract new private sector partners.



Part Three: Economic Development



Eastman Business Park

Project	Fermentation Cluster at Eastman Business Park
Total Cost	\$29,464,000
Funding Secured	\$3 million from FLREDC Other funding from private entities
Job Creation	600 jobs ¹
2015 NYS Investment	\$ 2 million

Project Summary (provided by FLREDC 2014): The redevelopment of Eastman Business Park remains the FLREDC's highest priority. These efforts will be strengthened by the creation of a new shared facility that will accelerate innovation, business growth, and job creation at the site.

The Park, in collaboration with FermCo and other private sector partners, will design and construct a biomass fermentation cluster called the Biosciences Manufacturing Center at its Lake Avenue industrial and technology park location. This project will address an important manufacturing step in the chemical process that converts biomass from non-food plant materials and agricultural by-products into biofuels and biochemicals.

The project will consist of a new 60,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility and the transportation infrastructure improvements that will allow for the production, fermentation, and storage equipment necessary to convert feedstock into C5 and C6 sugars. These sugars can then be employed in the manufacture of a wide range of green chemicals, biodegradable plastics, and biofuels. Once operational, the Center will be capable of producing up to 30,000 tons of sugars annually.

The project represents not only an opportunity for the region to gain a competitive advantage in the emerging field (no other such fermentation cluster exists in the U.S.), but the center will also increase demand for the region's agricultural feedstock.

UNiCON Position Statement:

On December 11, 2014, Gov. Cuomo announced the 4th round of Regional Economic Development Awards totaling \$709.2 million in New York State Economic Development resources.

We are grateful for the \$2,000,000 FLREDC award provided in this round. Unicon continues its full support for this project and the redevelopment of Eastman Business Park.



Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Park (STAMP)



Project Summary (provided by FLREDC 2014): The Science and Technology Advanced Manufacturing Park (STAMP) project is a 1,243-acre site in Genesee County that will attract the next generation of nanotechnology companies – including semiconductor chip fabrication, flat panel display, solar, bio-manufacturing, and advanced manufacturing companies – creating a high-tech corridor spanning upstate and driving significant economic growth in both the Finger Lakes and Western New York regions.

The STAMP site is located at the convergence of transportation and industrial infrastructure, including low-cost power, making it a very cost-competitive location for a project of this scale and magnitude. The site, located in Batavia, NY is also within a 60 minute commute of 2.1 million residents from the Rochester and Buffalo metro regions as well as six university centers with over 17,000 enrolled engineering students.

Earlier this year, STAMP was appropriated \$33 million in the 2014–2015 New York State budget to bring the site to shovel-ready status and to construct “track 1” infrastructure. This funding will be used for engineering, sewer and water lines, and other utility work necessary to secure the first project at the site and support future development.

STAMP has the potential to generate significant economic activity and propel growth in several high-technology fields, and to strengthen the state’s leadership in the nanotechnology industry and create thousands of high-tech jobs.

UNiCON Position Statement:

We appreciate the \$33M awarded to STAMP in the 2014-2015 NYS Budget and the enormous effort invested by GRE, Genesee County IDA and many others. We request additional support for Project Eagle, if needed. Additionally, should the need arise, we request flexibility and support from the appropriate state agencies and officials.



Finger Lakes Business Accelerator Cooperative Hub Facility

Project	Finger Lakes Business Accelerator Cooperative Hub Facility
Total Cost	\$20,000,000
Funding Secured	\$5 million from NYS
Job Creation	Over 1,000 new jobs ¹

Project Summary (provided by FLREDC 2014): Originally the Finger Lakes Business Accelerator Cooperative Hub Facility, High Tech Rochester is proposing the creation of a \$20 million incubation and business support facility in downtown Rochester which will not only drive regional growth in entrepreneurship and innovation, but also help accelerate the revitalization of the City by creating an “innovation district” in the heart of Rochester.

The Finger Lakes Business Accelerator Cooperative will create an interconnected “hub and node” system to support entrepreneurship and innovation and drive regional economic growth across all industry sectors. The Cooperative will bring streamlined programs and services to entrepreneurs and small businesses throughout the region, including outreach to underrepresented groups, such as minority- and woman-owned businesses and young entrepreneurs.

High Tech Rochester, the project’s sponsor and an affiliate of the University of Rochester, has negotiated with developers to create a 68,000 square foot hub facility in downtown Rochester’s Sibley Building.

This project will help create a concentration of entrepreneurs, support institutions, mixed-use developments, public transportation, and residential housing in downtown. The Hub facility will be located in Rochester’s Midtown District, which is home to the Midtown Rising project – a nine-acre redevelopment site consisting of retail, entertainment, office, and housing, and RIT’s Center for Urban Entrepreneurship. The area also contains a number of sites with space eligible for START-UP NY tax incentives. In December 2014, the Governor announced the \$5,000,000 FLREDC award for this initiative.

The Brookings Institution, which noted this concept in its June 2014 report titled “The Rise of the Innovation Districts,” points out that these types of developments reverse decades-long trend that resulted in isolated corporate campuses and instead creates districts that combine research institutions, innovative firms, and business incubators with the benefits of urban living.

UNiCON Position Statement:

Unicon fully supports the efforts of High Tech Rochester as a non-profit “economic engine” whose mission it is to be a catalyst for entrepreneurship & innovation for the greater Rochester Region.



Part Four: Infrastructure

Regional Transit Service Campus Improvement Project for the Rochester-Genesee Regional Transit Authority

Project Summary:

In 2010, with the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) approval, Rochester-Genesee Regional Transit Authority began the first upgrade in 40 years to its main headquarters and RTS Operations Campus. The 17-acre campus, constructed in 1974, requires upgrades to improve safety and efficiency for both bus and administrative operations. The project will enable the Authority to keep pace with industry-leading bus fleet and maintenance practices, and enhance operations to meet future needs.

We are seeking funding to fully fund the \$9 million Replacement of the Service Building project at this time. The existing Service Building was designed and constructed in the mid-1970s to fuel and wash a fleet of 250 buses. The 40-year-old system is past its useful life.

Replacing the Service Building will improve vehicle flow on the property, ensure a higher degree of employee safety, and provide reductions in operating expenses for electric, gas, and water, totaling over \$154,000 annually. Additionally, a new building will reduce the pollutant loading to the municipal sewer system by using innovative wash and rinse water reclamation technology.

The building will cost \$9 million, and create 90 jobs. RTS is requesting \$6.2 million. Please see next page for more information.



CURRENT NEED: RTS SERVICE BUILDING



- Four critical functions are performed here every day: fare removal, fueling, trash removal, cleaning, washing and vacuuming. Due to the age and disrepair of the building, throughput of buses lasts well into the night, disrupting neighbors.
- A new Service Building will provide faster cleaning, elimination of overnight noise, and reduction of the pollutant load to the municipal sewer system by using innovative wash and rinse water reclamation technology.
- A new Service Building will save more than \$154,000 per year for electric, gas and water.
- The project will create 90 new construction jobs.

RGRTA Snapshot:

Ridership: 18,411,522

Annual miles: 12,322,045

No. of Buses: 451

No. of Employees: 900+

Service Area Population:
1,192,980

Counties Served:

Genesee, Livingston,
Monroe, Ontario, Orleans,
Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming

Design and Construction*	
Start Service Building Construction	September 2015
Beneficial Use of New Service Building	October 2016
Relocate Fueling System Complete	December 2016
Demolition and Site Work Complete	May 2016
Project Complete	May 2016

*Construction dates are dependent upon funding and will start six months after funding is available.

Project Budget Amount	
Remediation associated w/UST removals (Diesel) at Service Bldg	\$77,119
Move (2) 12K AST's (Diesel) and fuel dispenser from existing Service Bldg to new Service Bldg, install (1) 12K AST (Diesel) at new Service Bldg	\$835,925
New Service Building	\$6,553,691
Remediation at Service Building	\$184,706
Remainder of site work with New Service Bldg including demolition of existing	\$1,348,559
Total budget cost	\$9,000,000
Current funding available	\$2,763,000
Remaining funds needed	\$6,237,000



NYS Route 390/I-490 Interchange Improvement Project

The existing I490/I390/NY390/NYS 31 interchange serves nearly 200,000 vehicles daily commuting between Rochester and the western suburbs. The interchanges experience the following transportation system deficiencies:

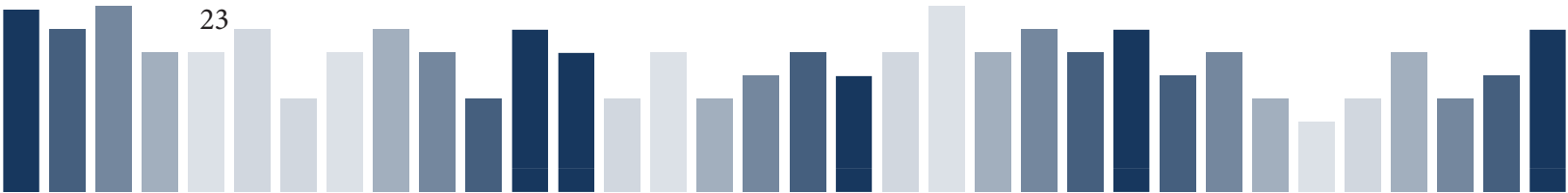
- Higher than average accident rates
- Heavy traffic congestion during peak periods
- Deteriorated facilities with high operational costs

A multi-phased major transformational project has been proposed with a price tag of \$157 million over all four phases, with the first phase slated to be the Lyell Avenue Bridge replacement.

The cost of this project is beyond the capacity of our region to fund with its own resources. Therefore, it is imperative that this initiative receive Special Priority Project status and be funded by the NYSDOT using the Federal Highway and Bridge funds and not the standard annual allotment.

Finally, this section of roadway serves a critical need if we are to be successful with the Eastman Business Park Redevelopment and the Genesee County STAMP initiative.

Please see the following pages for more information.



FY 2014-2015 Transportation Priorities

Finger Lakes Region

The lack of a rational and equitable process for distributing federal and state transportation funds combined with the centralization of project selection in Albany is limiting our ability to increase economic opportunity for existing and prospective businesses and residents.

- The apportionment of federal funds to New York State for highway and bridge maintenance and repair has remained essentially flat since 2005 (approximately, \$1.5-\$1.6 billion annually).
- The selection of projects to receive these limited federal funds has become more centralized in Albany at NYSDOT-Main Office.
 - The amount of federal highway funds distributed by NYSDOT-Main Office for project selection with input from local governments via metropolitan planning organizations has been reduced by approximately \$300 million per year statewide.
 - ✓ Reinstate the practice of distributing 90 percent of federal highway funds to the NYSDOT regions so that decision making more fully incorporates regional priorities via input from local elected officials.
 - NYSDOT-Main Office has yet to announce which projects will receive \$1 billion dollars of reasonably-expected federal highway and bridge funds between 2015 and 2017 despite soliciting proposals in November 2012 and February 2013.
 - There is a valid concern that major projects in our region submitted in response to these solicitations will not be selected and we will be required to fund these projects out of our regional allocation. This was the case for the Access 390 initiative with approximately \$60 million of the \$90 million total cost coming from our regional allocation while other regions received funding from statewide pots for their priority projects.
 - ✓ Ensure that the Governor and NYSDOT leadership are aware of the statewide significance of projects submitted by our region. As an example, the NYS Route 390/I-490/NYS Route 31 Interchange Improvements project would serve 50 percent more travelers than the Tappan Zee Bridge project at a fraction of the cost (\$160 million versus \$3.9 billion), and is critical to the redevelopment of Eastman Business Park. (See attached fact sheet)
- Of the federal and state funds for highway and bridge maintenance and repair that are distributed to regions for project selection, our region receives a disproportionately smaller share than other regions with less residents and fewer jobs.
 - The models used as the basis for distributing these funds are flawed. The bridge model does not account for the number of vehicles crossing the bridges (i.e., all other factors being equal, a bridge carrying 5,000 vehicles per day is considered the same as a bridge carrying 500 vehicles per day) and the highway model does not include locally-owned roadways even though those in more urban areas may serve more traffic than NYSDOT-owned roadways in rural areas.
 - As a result, NYSDOT-Region 9, which covers the Binghamton area, receives 20 percent – approximately \$18 million per year – more federal and state highway and bridge funding than our region despite having less than half our region's population and employment. These funds do not include those provided for disaster relief. (See attached graphs)
 - ✓ Revise the models used for distributing federal and state highway and bridge funds to regions to ensure that traffic volumes are a significant factor as they represent the strongest measure of transportation infrastructure's contribution to economic development and quality of life.

NYS Route 390/I-490/NYS Route 31 Interchange Improvements

Fact Sheet

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is finalizing the Design Report/Environmental Assessment for the NYS Route 390/I-490/NYS Route 31 Interchange Improvements. Based on years of planning and engineering, NYSDOT has identified a preferred alternative that will serve as a long-term solution to the current and projected transportation issues in the study area.

As proposed, the project will address existing and future capacity and safety issues, which negatively impact travel times for commuters and freight, result in increased emissions, and limit the viability of businesses on the west side of Monroe County. The project would be constructed in four phases at the estimated costs (in 2012 dollars) presented below.

<u>Phase</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1. Lyell Avenue Bridge	\$13.4 million
2. I-390/NYS Route 390 northbound and Lyell Avenue east of NYS Route 390	\$51.7 million
3. I-390/NYS Route 390 southbound	\$83.3 million
4. <u>Lyell Avenue west of NYS Route 390</u>	<u>\$8.6 million</u>
Total	\$157 million



The project is crucial to the continued development of Eastman Business Park – the highest priority of Governor Cuomo’s Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council – and other major sites; namely, Rochester Technology Park (a former Eastman Kodak facility). Despite the significant reduction in employment at Eastman Kodak, traffic volumes at the interchange have increased approximately 60 percent since the company’s peak employment of more than 60,000 workers in 1982. Accordingly, the project has been included in the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council’s 2013 Progress Report as a “Five-Year Pipeline Initiative.”

To provide a measure of this project’s importance to New York State as a whole, the 200,000 vehicles that use the interchange daily (as stated by NYSDOT in the draft Design Report/Environmental Assessment¹) is equivalent to the traffic carried by the Brooklyn Bridge and Manhattan Bridge combined² or approximately 50 percent more than that carried by the Tappan Zee Bridge.³

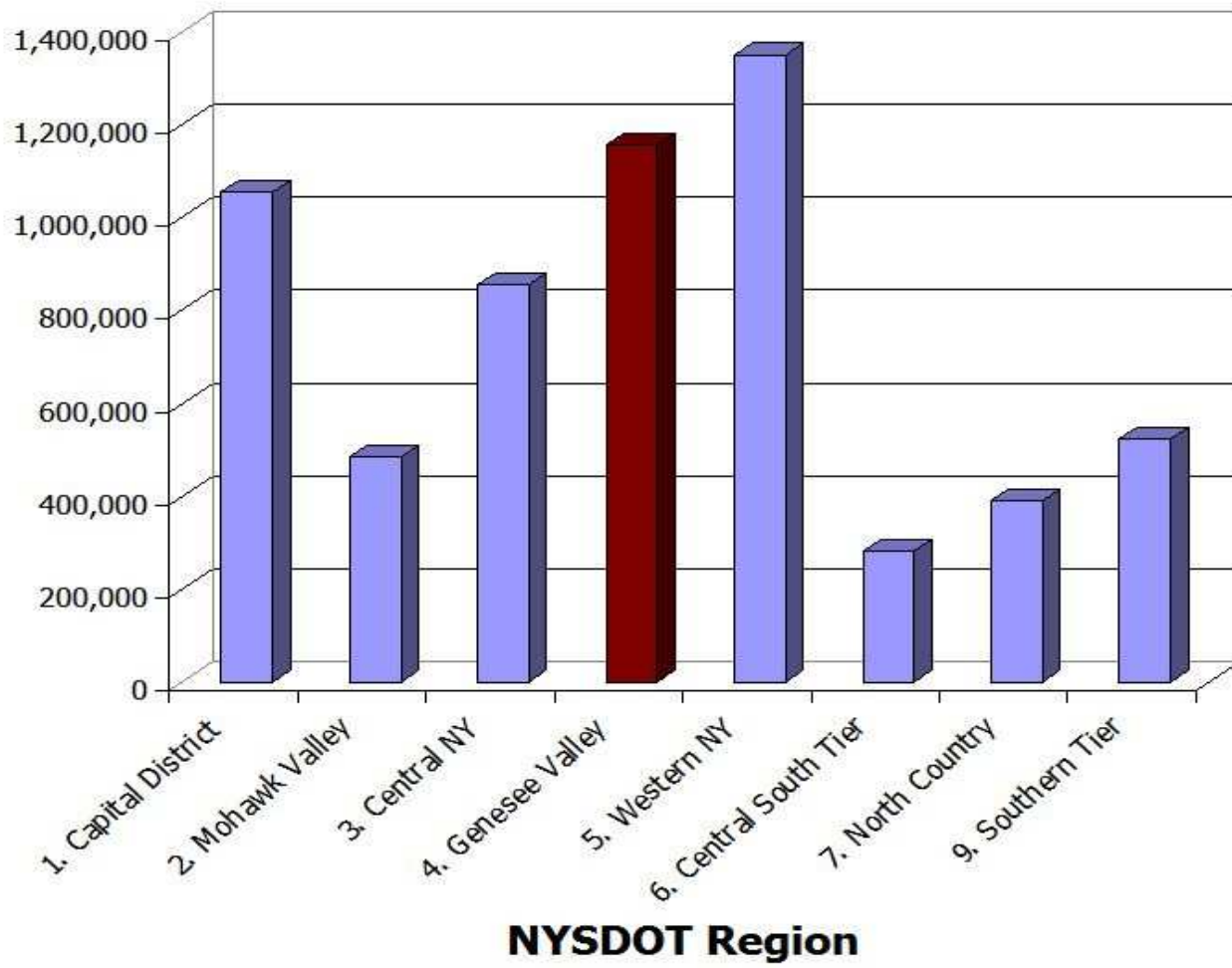
Federal Highway Administration approval of the Design Report/Environmental Assessment is expected by the end of 2013. The cost of the project is beyond the capacity of the region to fund with its own resources. The draft *Statewide Transportation Improvement Program* for Federal Fiscal Years 2014 through 2017, which was available for public review from July 26, 2013 through August 23, 2013, includes nearly \$1 billion in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) funds that are currently not programmed to specific projects.

¹ New York State Department of Transportation, *NYS Route 390/I-490/NYS Route 31 Interchange Improvements Draft Design Report/Environmental Assessment*, Section 2.2.2.1, page 2-3, provided August 7, 2013.

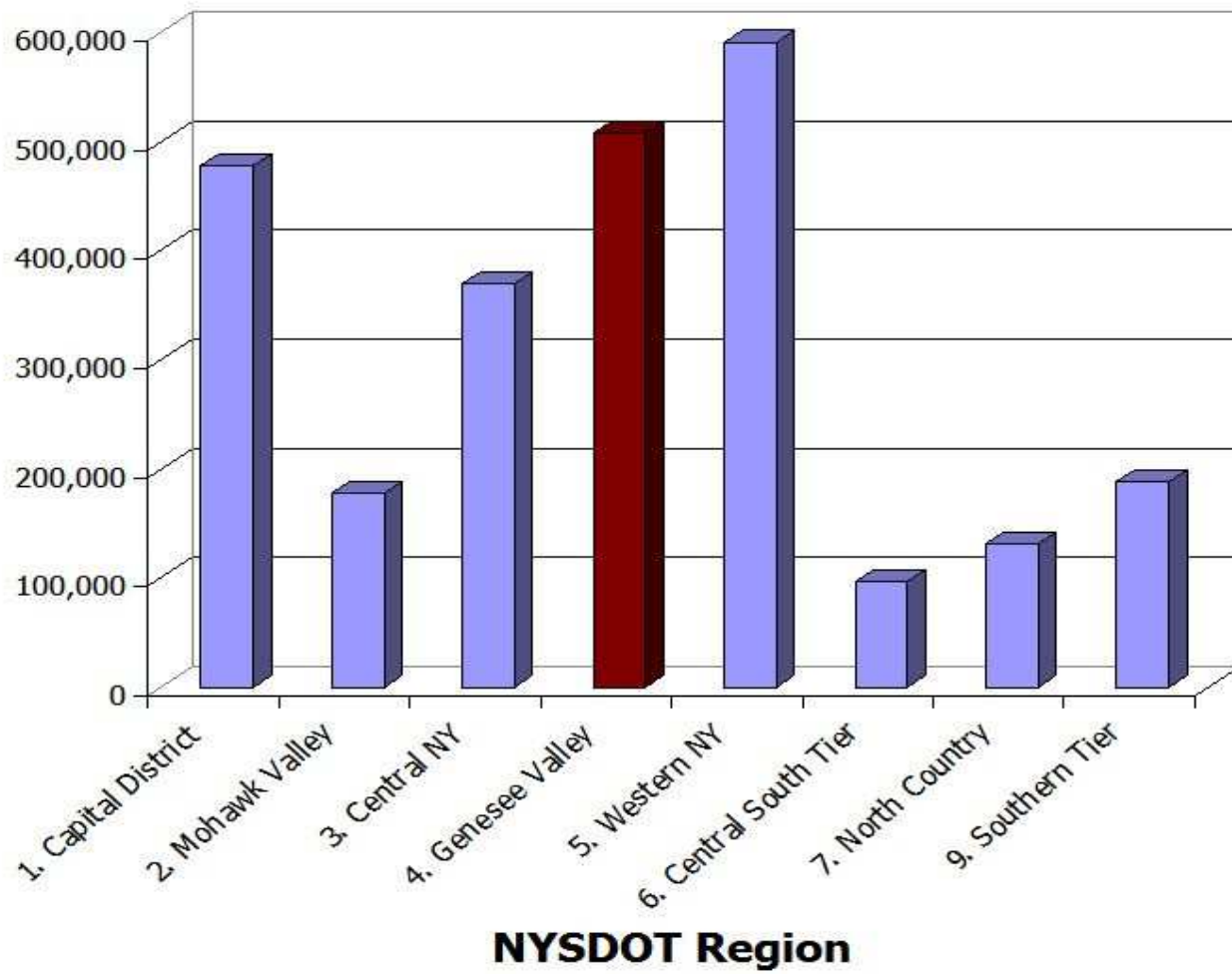
² New York City Department of Transportation, <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/infrastructure/bridges.shtml>, accessed September 17, 2013.

³ New York State Department of Transportation, <https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/engineering/technical-services/hds-respository/Traffic%20Data%20Report%202011%20Appendix%20C%20-%2020AADT%20Values%20for%20Select%20Toll%20Facilities.pdf>, accessed September 17, 2013.

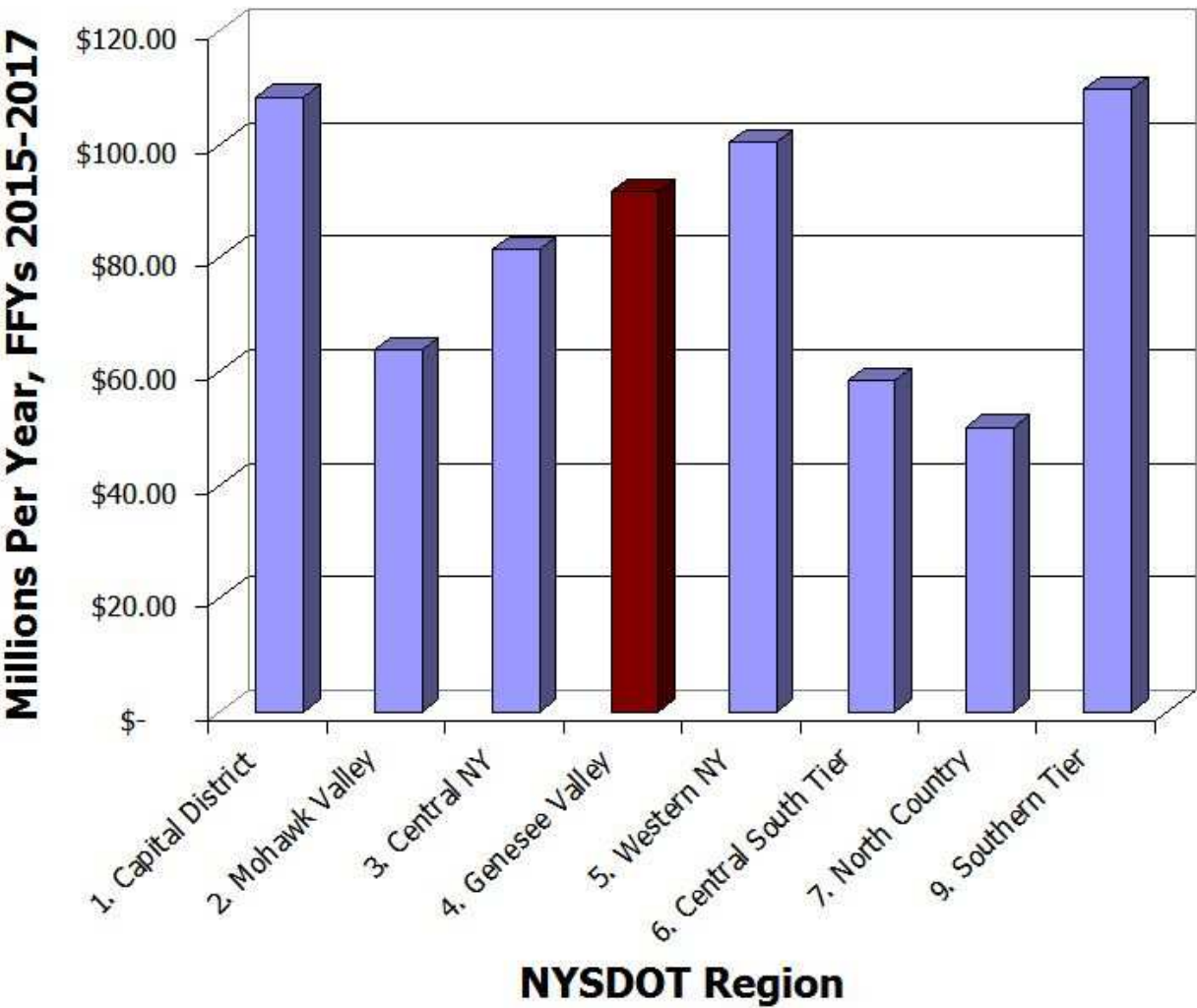
2010 Population



2011 Q1 Employment



Highway & Bridge Allocations





Municipal Projects

UNiCON also supports several projects in conjunction with Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks and Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren. Listed below are five of those projects, whose descriptions were outlined in the 2014-2015 Rochester Community Coalition Priorities.

- **Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center (\$76M):**
Current analyzed trends demonstrate a need for modernization of the current facility and additional square footage to retain and attract existing and new business. The project is estimated to create 180 construction jobs and 1,000 full-time jobs.
- **Blue Cross Arena at the Community War Memorial (\$37.5M):**
Plans for Blue Cross envision a makeover to add restaurants with outdoor seating, court-side clubs, “party pits” and main lobby message boards or graphics as well as an outdoor marquee. The renovation is expected to result in 200 construction jobs and 60 full-time jobs.
- **Broad Street Aqueduct (\$25M):**
An investment will help to convert the interior space of the Broad Street Aqueduct into a two-level retail space. The converted aqueduct will provide a climate-controlled passageway between the Riverside Convention Center and the Blue Cross Arena. The project is estimated to result in 120 construction jobs and 140 full-time positions.
- **Frontier Field Modernization (\$13M):**
Frontier Field is in need of updating and structural improvements to keep it up-to-date with today’s baseball standards. This renovation will help increase tourism and investment in our community.
- **Seneca Park Zoo Tropical Exhibit and Main Entry Plaza (\$38M)**
The Seneca Park Zoo Tropical Exhibit and Main Entry Plaza project involves the replacement of the obsolete Main Zoo building with a number of new animal exhibits, which will emphasize natural environments and conservation. The Tropical Exhibit building will include Tropical Africa, featuring gorillas, and Tropical Asia, featuring orangutans. The project also consists of Main Entry Plaza improvements, including ticketing, administration, education, gift shop, and concessions.



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Closing Statement

We would be pleased to answer any questions you may have at any time. For additional information on any of the projects or initiatives summarized in this guide, please contact us at Unicon Rochester.

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Thank you,

UNICON Board of Directors

Joe Leone
Executive Director

Emily Brasley
Director of Communications

Gary Squires
Board Chair

xx
Board Secretary

