

# NYS Route 5 (Buffalo Skyway) Project

## Public Scoping Meetings

### January 28 and 29, 2020



Department of  
Transportation



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

# Today's Scoping Meeting

- View posters about the project
- Discuss the project with members of the project team

- Submit comments:

## AT TODAY'S MEETING



**PRIVATE COMMENTS**  
Record your comments with a stenographer



**COMMENT FORMS**  
Fill out a comment form available at the registration desk and drop it in the comment box



**ELECTRONIC COMMENTS**  
Submit your comments electronically on tablet or laptop

## AFTER TODAY'S MEETING



**BY E-MAIL**  
[buffalo.skyway@dot.ny.gov](mailto:buffalo.skyway@dot.ny.gov)



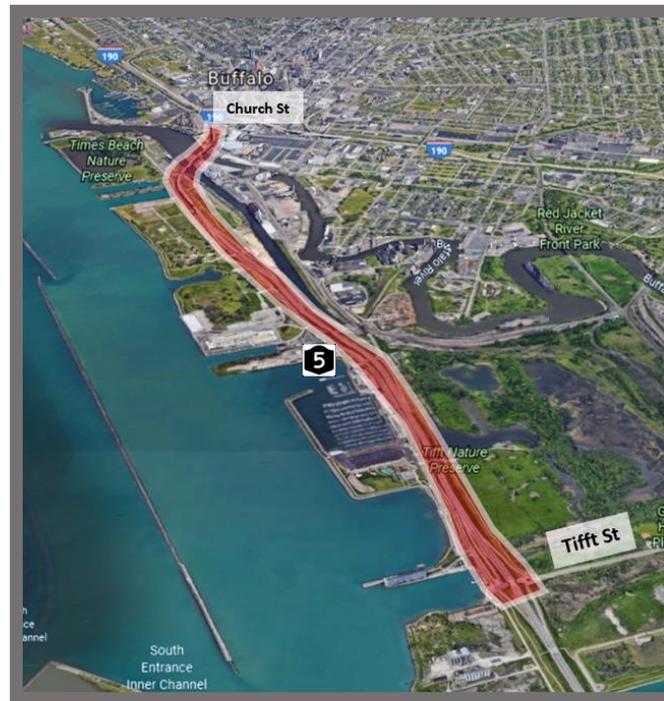
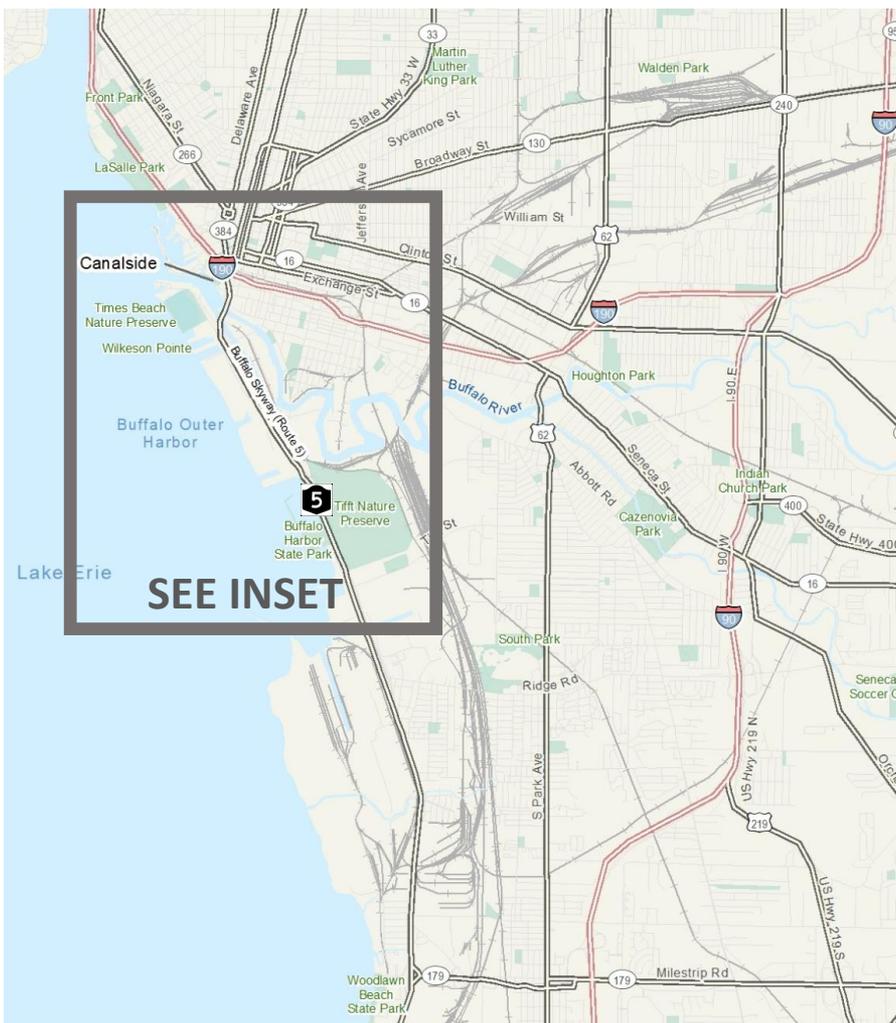
**BY U.S. MAIL**  
Buffalo Skyway Project Team  
NYSDOT Region 5  
100 Seneca Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203



**ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE**  
[www.buffaloskyway.dot.ny.gov](http://www.buffaloskyway.dot.ny.gov)

Please provide comments by February 28, 2020.

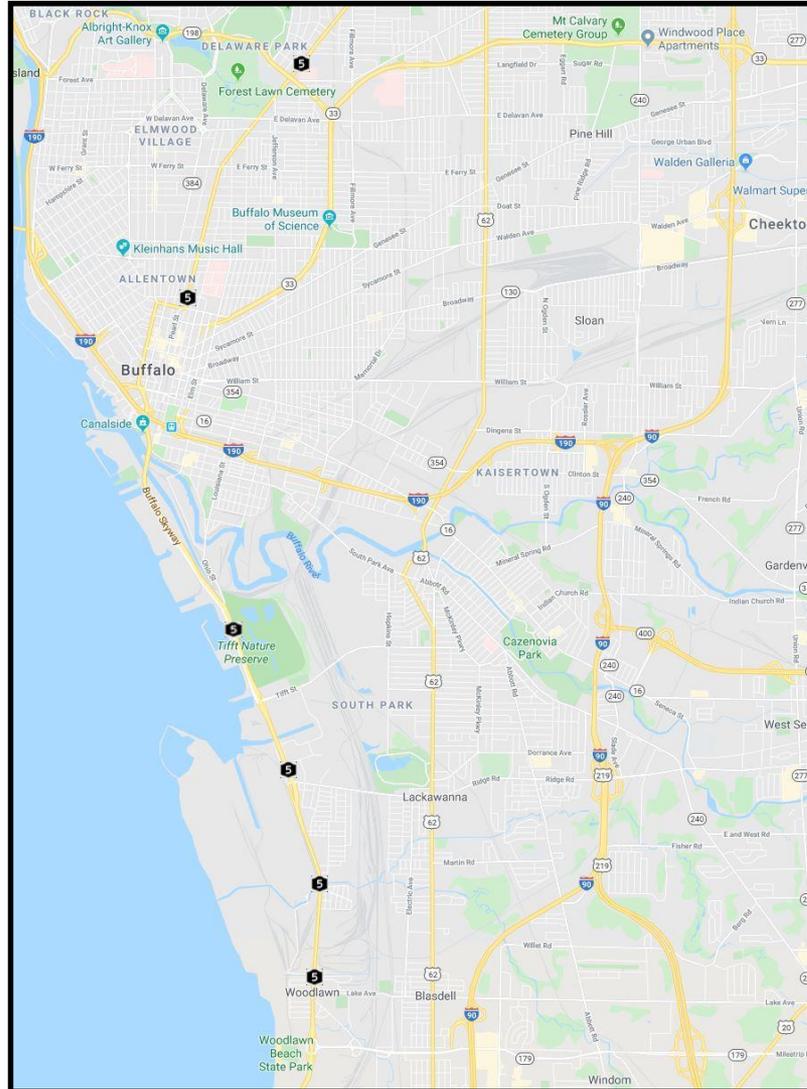
# Project Location



### KEY

-  Interstate Highway
-  State/U.S. Highway
-  Street
-  Railroad
-  Park

# General Project Study Area



P.I.N. 5134.48

# Existing and Planned Development



# Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to realign the existing transportation network to support existing and planned recreational, mixed-use, and waterfront development in the Buffalo Outer Harbor and Inner Harbor areas. The project will also address the safety, operational, and capacity deficiencies of the highway connections that serve economic development areas and local communities within South Buffalo.



# Project Needs



Remove the Buffalo Skyway structure and elevated approaches between Tiftt Street and Church Street to accommodate existing and planned recreational, mixed-use, and waterfront development and support waterfront economic development initiatives



Improve the transportation network to safely and efficiently accommodate the traffic currently carried by the Buffalo Skyway structure and approaches



Address the safety, operational, and capacity deficiencies of the highway connections that serve economic development areas and local communities within South Buffalo

# Project Needs (cont.)



Reduce commercial vehicular traffic traveling on local residential streets near the RiverBend site



Improve bicycle and pedestrian connections along the Tiftt Street Corridor

# National Environmental Policy Act

- “NEPA” is a federal law that provides for a decision-making process to consider the effects of federally funded or permitted projects on the natural and built environment
- Provides for early and continuing opportunities during project development for public involvement and input
- Requires that lead agencies consider public and agency input about potential effects on social, economic, and environmental conditions



# Environmental Review Process

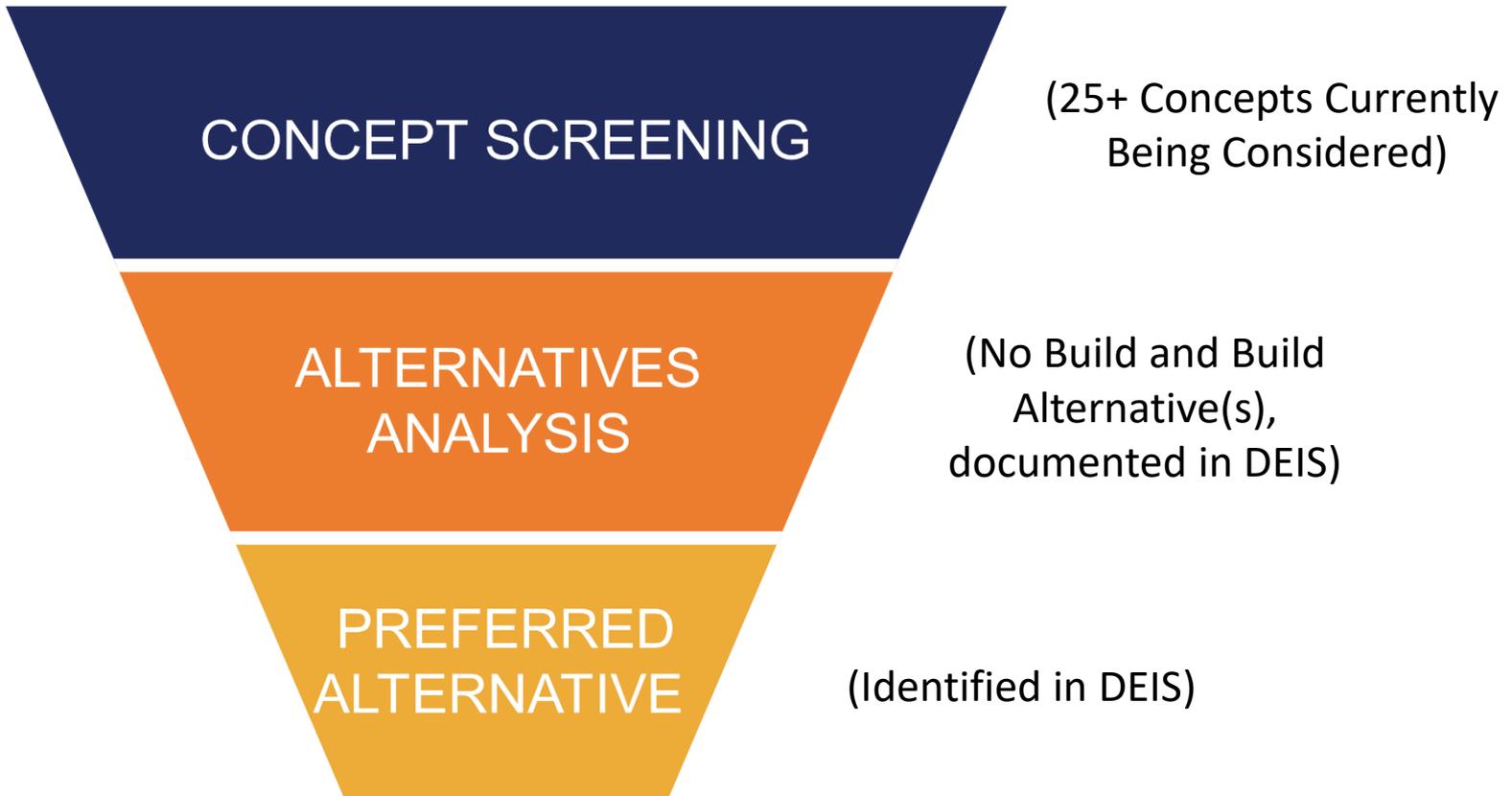


# What is Scoping?

- Early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action
- Provides early opportunity for NYSDOT and FHWA to distribute information and receive input from agencies and the public
- Public Scoping Meetings are the first opportunity to engage the public under the NEPA EIS process



# Concept Screening/Alternatives Analysis

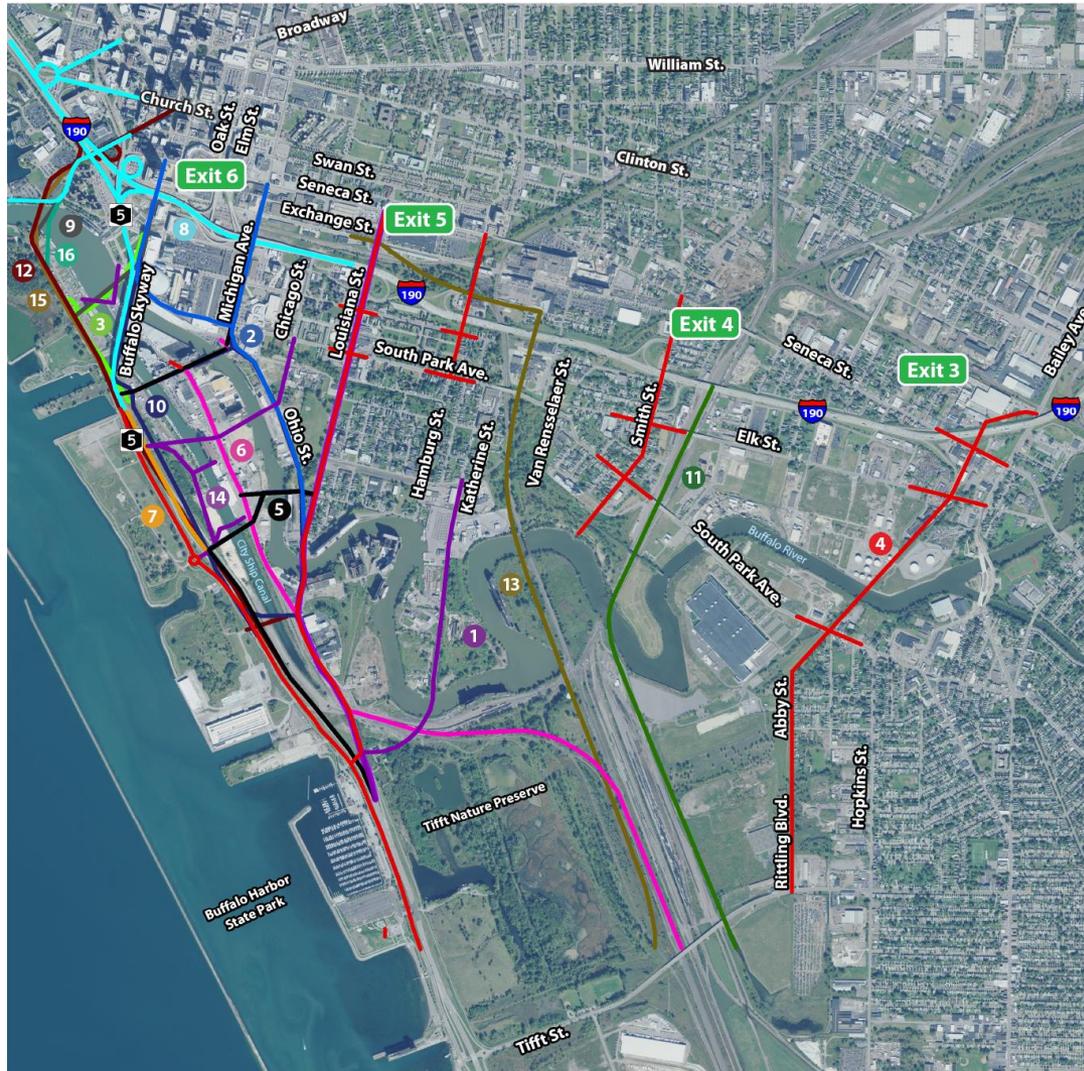


# Concept Under Consideration: No Build



- No Build Alternative is required as a baseline to which the build alternatives are compared
- Retains existing Skyway and approaches
- Assumes no improvements as part of this project

# Aim for the Sky Design Competition Concepts Under Consideration

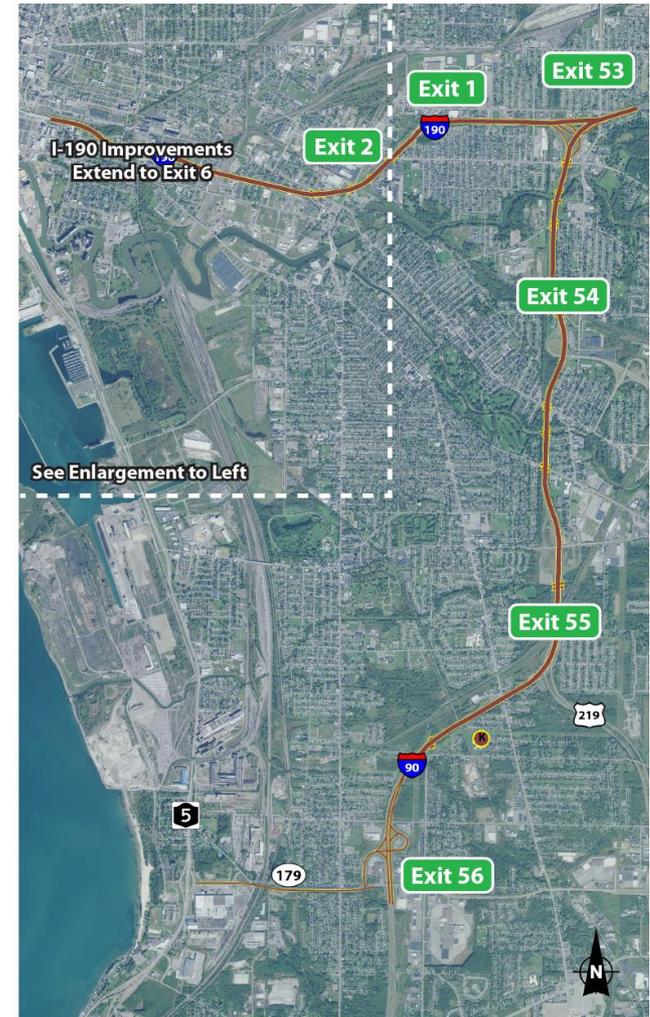


- 1. Skyway 2.0
- 2. Skyway River Loop\*
- 3. Olmsted Remixed
- 4. City of Lights\*
- 5. Queen City Harbor\*
- 6. Rust Belt Resurgence
- 7. Sky Scape
- 8. Highways to Parkways\*
- 9. Olmsted Parkway
- 10. Sapphire Necklace\*
- 11. REC
- 12. Making Sense
- 13. Vision for Skyway & NY5
- 14. Buffalo Up!\*
- 15. Erie Green
- 16. Buffalo Skybeach\*

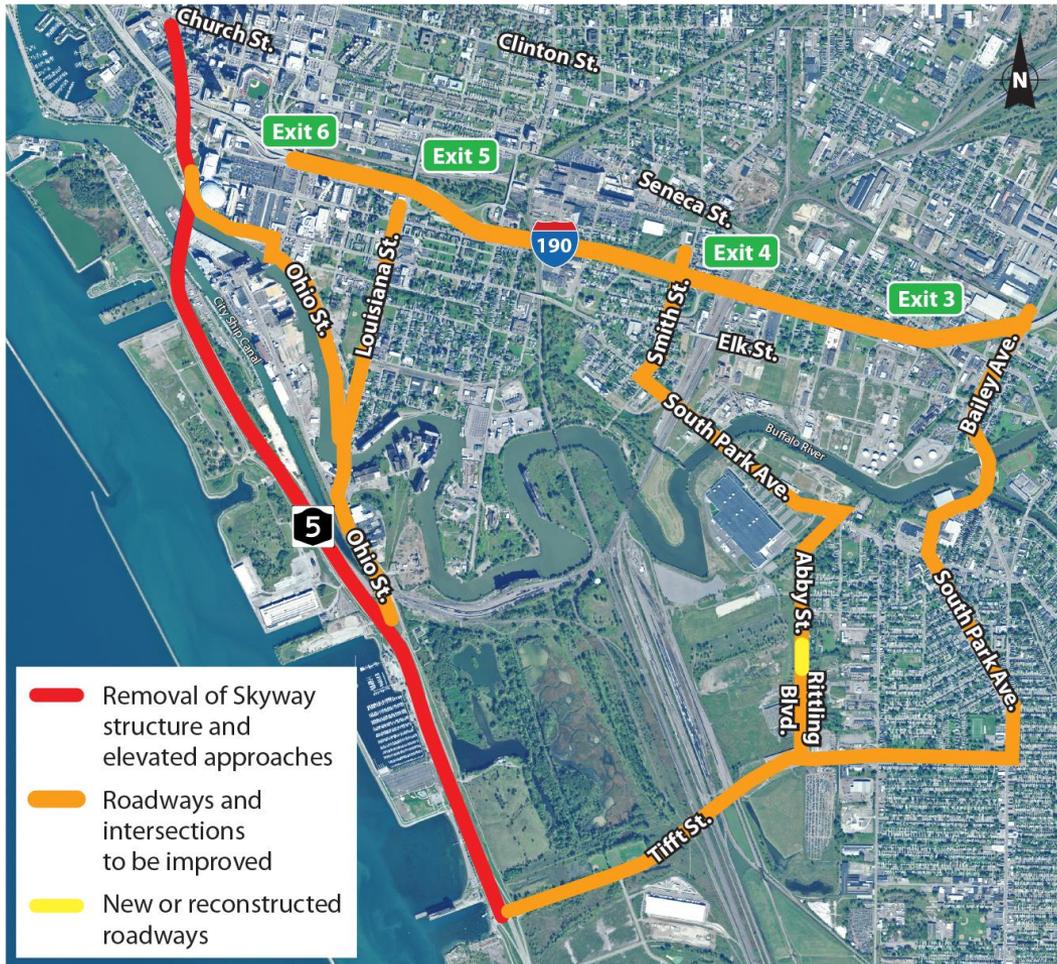
\*Concepts includes a proposed crossing over the City Ship Canal to reconnect South Michigan Ave. to Fuhrmann Blvd.



# Additional Concepts Under Consideration



# Concept Under Consideration: Skyway Removal with Improvements To Existing Streets / Intersections



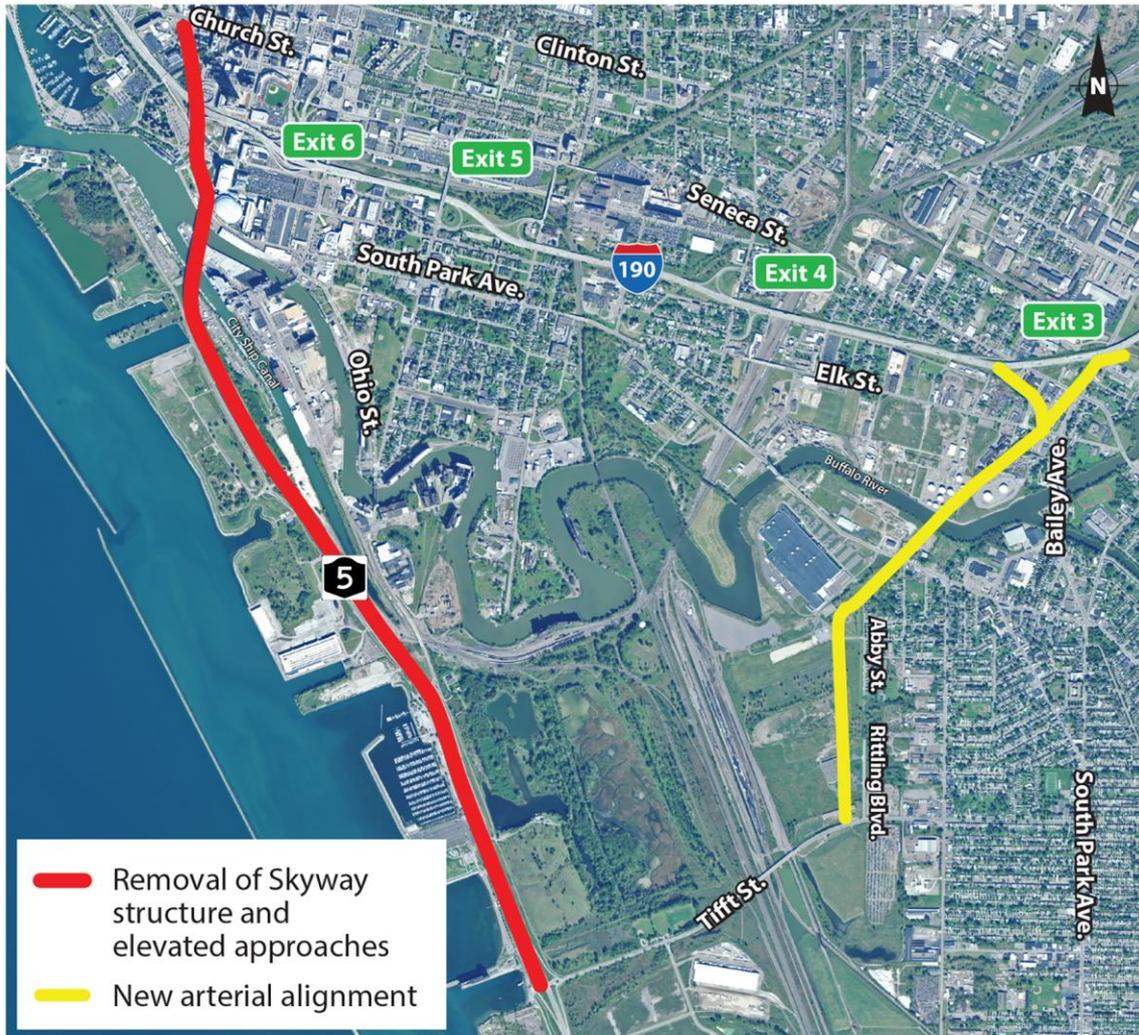
- Removes Skyway structure and elevated approaches between Tift Street and Church Street
- No additional through lanes would be added on City streets
- Adds turn lanes and optimizes signals to improve existing streets and intersections at key locations
- Adds new connection between Abby Street and Rittling Boulevard

# Concept Under Consideration: Skyway Removal with New Highway Connecting NYS Route 5 To I-190



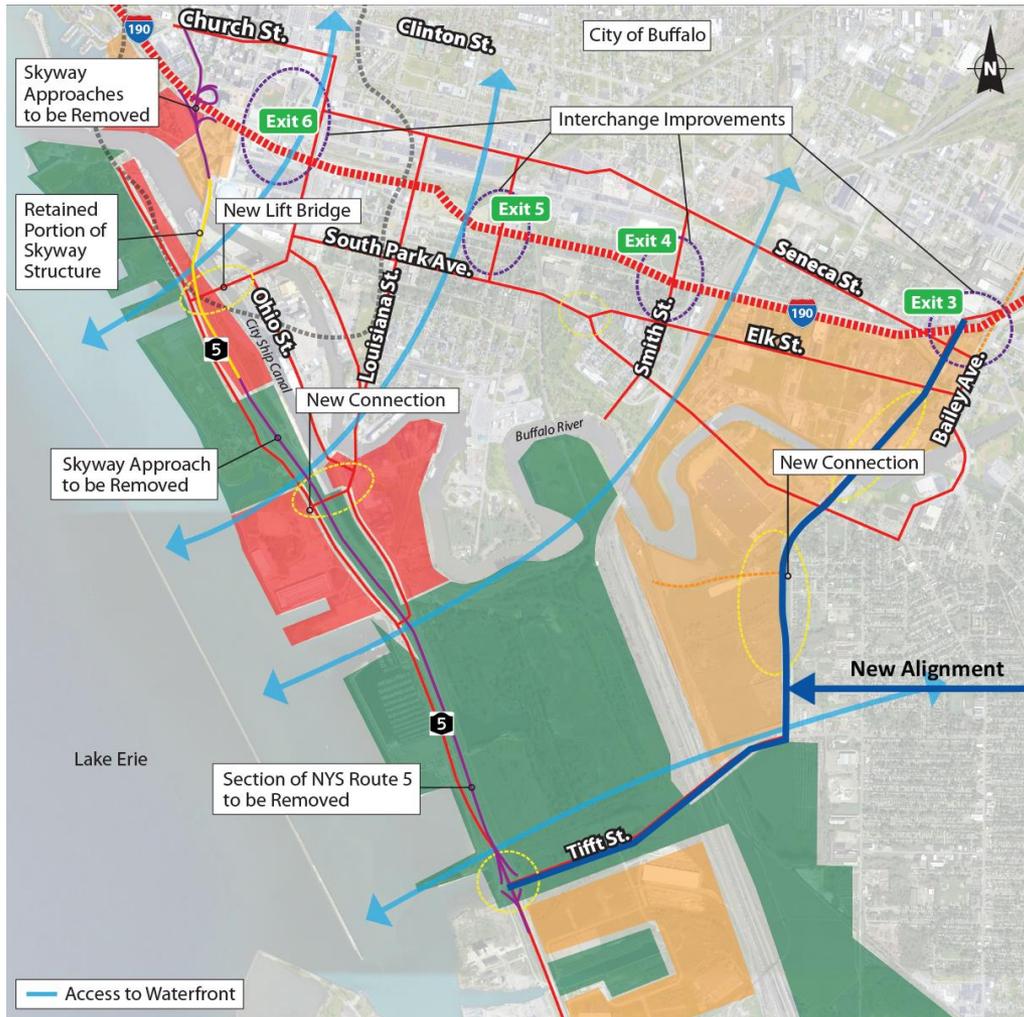
- Removes Skyway structure and elevated approaches between Tiff Street and Church Street
- Realigns NYS Route 5 from Tiff Street to I-190 via new highway connector utilizing old railroad right-of-way; provides several new interchanges
- Improves I-190 between Seneca Street (Exit 3) and Elm Street (Exit 6)

# Concept Under Consideration: Skyway Removal with New Tiftt Street Arterial



- Removes Skyway structure and elevated approaches between Tiftt Street and Church Street
- Extends Tiftt Street on a new alignment with four lanes from the intersection at Rittling Boulevard, extending north parallel to Abby Street, and continuing along an old railroad right-of-way over the Buffalo River to I-190
- Modifies I-190 interchange at Seneca Street (Exit 3)

# Concept Under Consideration: City of Lights (Winner of Aim for the Sky Design Competition)



- Retains portion of Skyway structure to create Skyway Park for bicycle and pedestrian use
- Removes Skyway approaches
- Adds new connection off Tift Street to I-190 at Seneca Street (Exit 3)
- Proposes new lift bridge to reconnect South Michigan Avenue with Fuhmann Boulevard
- Proposes new connection between Fuhmann Boulevard and Ohio Street
- Proposes improvements at four I-190 interchanges

# Social, Economic, and Environmental Considerations



**The EIS will include an assessment of social, economic, and environmental effects resulting from the proposed action. Key topics include:**

- Traffic noise
- Air quality
- Cultural and historic resources
- Parkland and recreational resources
- Visual resources
- Hazardous and contaminated materials
- Surface waters, navigable waters, and wetlands
- Coastal resources
- Land use
- Social considerations, including environmental justice
- Economic considerations, including property acquisition and potential effects to local and/or regional businesses
- Construction effects
- Secondary and cumulative effects



# Regulatory Requirements

- FHWA NEPA implementing regulations (23 CFR 771): *“It is the policy of the Administration that...Alternative courses of action be evaluated and decisions be made in the best overall public interest based upon a balanced consideration of the need for safe and efficient transportation; of the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the proposed transportation improvement; and of national, State, and local environmental protection goals.”*
- State Environmental Quality Review Act (ECL Article 8, 17 NYCRR Part 15, 6 NYCRR Part 617): requires state agencies to determine whether the actions they directly undertake, fund or approve may have a significant impact on the environment
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
- Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (23 USC Section 138 and 49 USC Section 303)
- FHWA traffic noise regulations (23 CFR 772)

# Regulatory Requirements (cont.)

- Federal Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401)
- Executive Order 12898 “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations” (USDOT Order 5610.2A)
- Executive Order 11990 “Protection of Wetlands” (USDOT Order 5660.1A)
- Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344)
- Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act (33 USC 322)
- Coast Guard - General Bridge Act of 1946 (33 USC 525-533)
- FHWA Access Modification Approval for I-190 (as specified in 23 USC 109 and 111, 23 CFR 625.4, and 49 CFR 1.48(b)(1))
- Executive Order 13807 “Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects” (One Federal Decision)

# Public Involvement

- The NYSDOT and FHWA will consider comments received from agencies and the public when establishing a reasonable range of alternatives to be studied in the Draft EIS
- Opportunities to provide input will include:
  - Scoping Comment Period
  - Community Events
  - Draft EIS Public Comment Period
  - Draft EIS Public Hearing
- The Scoping Report, Draft EIS, Final EIS, and other project documents will be available on the project website at [www.buffaloskyway.dot.ny.gov](http://www.buffaloskyway.dot.ny.gov)



# Public Scoping Meetings

The Public Scoping Meetings are an opportunity to engage the public under the NEPA EIS process.

Dates and Locations:

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

1:00 - 4:00 PM and 5:00 - 8:00 PM

Gateway Building

3556 Lake Shore Road, Blasdell, NY 14219

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

4:00 - 8:00 PM

Southside Elementary School

430 Southside Parkway, Buffalo, NY 14210

