

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

BARBARA MILLER-WILLIAMS

Legislator - 1st District

MEMBER:

Government Affairs Committee
Finance & Management Committee
Health & Human Services Committee



□ 427 William Street
Buffalo, New York 14204
716/842-0490
FAX: 716/854-5722

Roxanne D. Roland
Legislative Assistant

□ 92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202
716/858-8825
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March 30, 2015

Erie County Legislature
Attn: Ms. Karen M. McCarthy, Clerk
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

Attached for Clock-In to the public record of the Erie County Legislature, please find a Letter from Restore Our Community Coalition, Inc. in regards to the Redevelopment of Humboldt Parkway.

Thank You for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Barbara Miller-Williams".

Barbara Miller-Williams
Erie County Legislator
District 1

"We are here to serve the Community"



RESTORE OUR COMMUNITY COALITION, INC.

60 HEDLEY PLACE, BUFFALO NY, 14208

November 26, 2014

Erie County Legislator Barbara Miller Williams
427 William Street
Buffalo, NY 14204

Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society

Buffalo Museum of Science

Citizens' Alliance, Inc.

City Councilman Demonde Smith

Fillmore Business Association

First Data Independent Sales

Former State Senator Antoine Thompson

*Hamlin Park Taxpayers & Community
Association*

Legislator Betty Jean Grant

Martin Luther King Jr. Block Club

Mattie's Restaurant

Olmsted Parks Conservancy

Parkside Community Association

The Honorable Crystal Peoples-Stokes

*True Community Development
Corporation*

WNY Landscapers Association

Dear Erie County Legislator Williams,

We write to bring our community to your attention. Our organization, Restore Our Community Coalition, Inc. (ROCC), was incorporated in 2010 to serve as a voice representing the best interest in our neighborhoods. We advocate for the restoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park and surrounding area, with a primary goal of restoring parkland that was destroyed by the construction on the Kensington Expressway (Route 33).

A recent study by the University at Buffalo has confirmed that re-establishing a portion of Humboldt Parkway would create a significant economic impact for our region, on the order of over \$1 billion and almost 1,000 jobs. We have enclosed the executive summary of their report with this letter.

In addition to job creation, a "Green Humboldt Parkway" would improve the quality of life in Buffalo by decreasing pollution and health hazards caused by the heavy traffic on Route 33. The new green space would increase property values for homeowners and businesses. More importantly, a green promenade over the Kensington Expressway would beautify the neighborhood, bringing us closer to the vision of famed architect Frederick Law Olmsted, who designed the parkway to connect Delaware Park with what is now

known as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park. All of this can be accomplished without disrupting Route 33 traffic.

We need your help to bring this remarkable project to fruition, also to place our region at the forefront of a movement across

America to remove urban freeway systems in order to create more livable cities. "Highways to Boulevards" is a major initiative of the Congress for New Urbanism (CNU), which selected Buffalo to host their 22nd Annual conference this past June.

Restoring Humboldt Parkway will require major funding, on the order of \$600 million, as well as the coordination of agencies from the local, state and federal level. With your influence, we believe this project will be a success.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you about our community, and we will call your office to follow up. In the meantime, if you would like more information, please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Karen Stanley Fleming at (716) 883-0529, or rocc.execdir@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie BG." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Barber Geter, Chairperson
Restore Our Community Coalition, Inc.

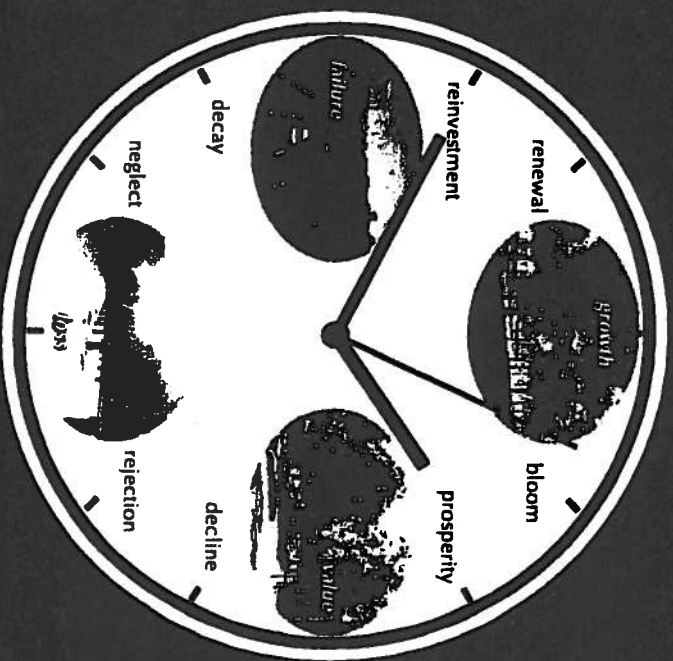
TOP TEN REASONS WHY WE MUST RESTORE HUMBOLDT PARKWAY

1. **Job Creation**
Create green construction jobs, with education and training for East Side residents.
2. **Environmental Safety**
Give children a clean, safe environment by decreasing pollution and health hazards caused by heavy traffic volume.
3. **Increase City's Property Values**
Improve the residential and commercial standards in undernourished surrounding neighborhoods.
4. **Restore Olmsted's Vision**
A complete Park and Parkway System, bridging public accessibility throughout the city.
5. **Architectural Revival**
Improve our street grid; re-establish a connection between Delaware and Martin Luther King Parks.
6. **Beautify Our Community**
Use Humboldt Parkway as the centerpiece for Hamlin Park (like Bidwell Parkway for Elmwood Village).
7. **Correct and Keep**
Reduce contributing factor to blight and crime on the East Side without disrupting Route 33 traffic.
8. **Financial Feasibility**
Consider long-term economic benefits over short-term fiscal concerns for local residents and businesses.
9. **Public Investment**
Inspire East Side residents to become active participants in their own neighborhood by working together.
10. **Embrace City Rebirth**
Make East Side an active component to Buffalo's redevelopment; no neighborhoods are to be left behind.

RESTORE OUR COMMUNITY COALITION

Stephanie Belling, Grace Chabersson Karen Gentry Fleming, Esmeralda Jimenez
Deirdre Pike • Buffalo, NY 14201 • (716) 883-4528

Do you remember...

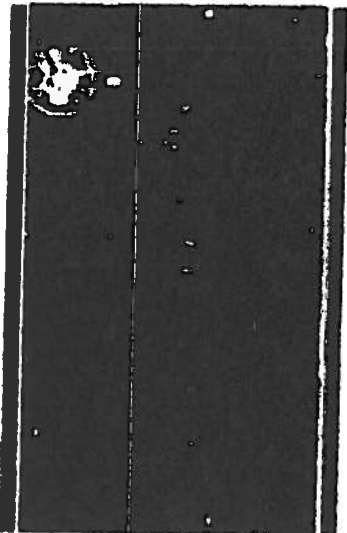


...when Humboldt Parkway
was beautiful?

RESTORE OUR COMMUNITY COALITION

Restore Our Community Coalition (ROCC) is a group of businesses, cultural and civic organizations, neighborhood block clubs, and other active citizens who aim to remediate the devastation caused by the construction of NY Route 33. Formed in 2007, the coalition has worked with the NYS Department of Transportation and the University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning to articulate the vision for a reconnected community and to estimate the economic impact that would bring jobs, property appreciation, and neighborhood revitalization to the East Side of Buffalo, forming a beautiful gateway to Downtown Buffalo and the Medical Corridor.

Connecting the Community: A Design to Restore Olmsted's Vision of a Parkway



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The results of the Humboldt Parkway Deck Economic Impact Study were analysis from IMPLAN, and additional modeling data for a 30-year timespan (starting in 2015), split into three separate scenarios. It shows how construction of the new parkway would affect regional economic activity (Regional Output), local house values (Household Wealth), Buffalo and Erie County Tax Revenue, and Employment from parkway construction and real estate of surrounding neighborhoods. The development multiplier measures the economic impact, from both input and output, resulting from highway infrastructure projects.

Estimated in 2015 dollars

	Minimal Impact	Statistical Inference	Complete Revitalization
Regional Output	\$1.17 billion	\$1.17 billion	\$1.58 billion
Household Wealth	\$0	\$31.88 million	\$76.71 million
Tax Revenue	\$0	\$1.16 million	\$2.80 million
Deck Construction Employment	950 sustained jobs from 5-year construction period	950 sustained jobs from 5-year construction period	950 sustained jobs from 5-year construction period
Infill Construction Employment	None	None	95 sustained jobs 25 years after construction
Development Multiplier Score (1.5-3.0)	2.08	2.14	2.96