

1935



1964



TODAY



BUFFALO'S EMERALD NECKLACE: AN ACTIVE LIVING INJUSTICE

DR. JENNIFER D. ROBERTS
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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SEPTEMBER 23, 2023



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PUBLIC HEALTH



BUFFALO GIRLS



DR. JENNIFER D. ROBERTS



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BUFFALO DESIGN



Photo Credit. "Soldier's Circle". Christopher Hyzy. At: <https://olmsted.org/spotlight-on-buffalos-olmsted-park-system/>

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FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED'S PLAN

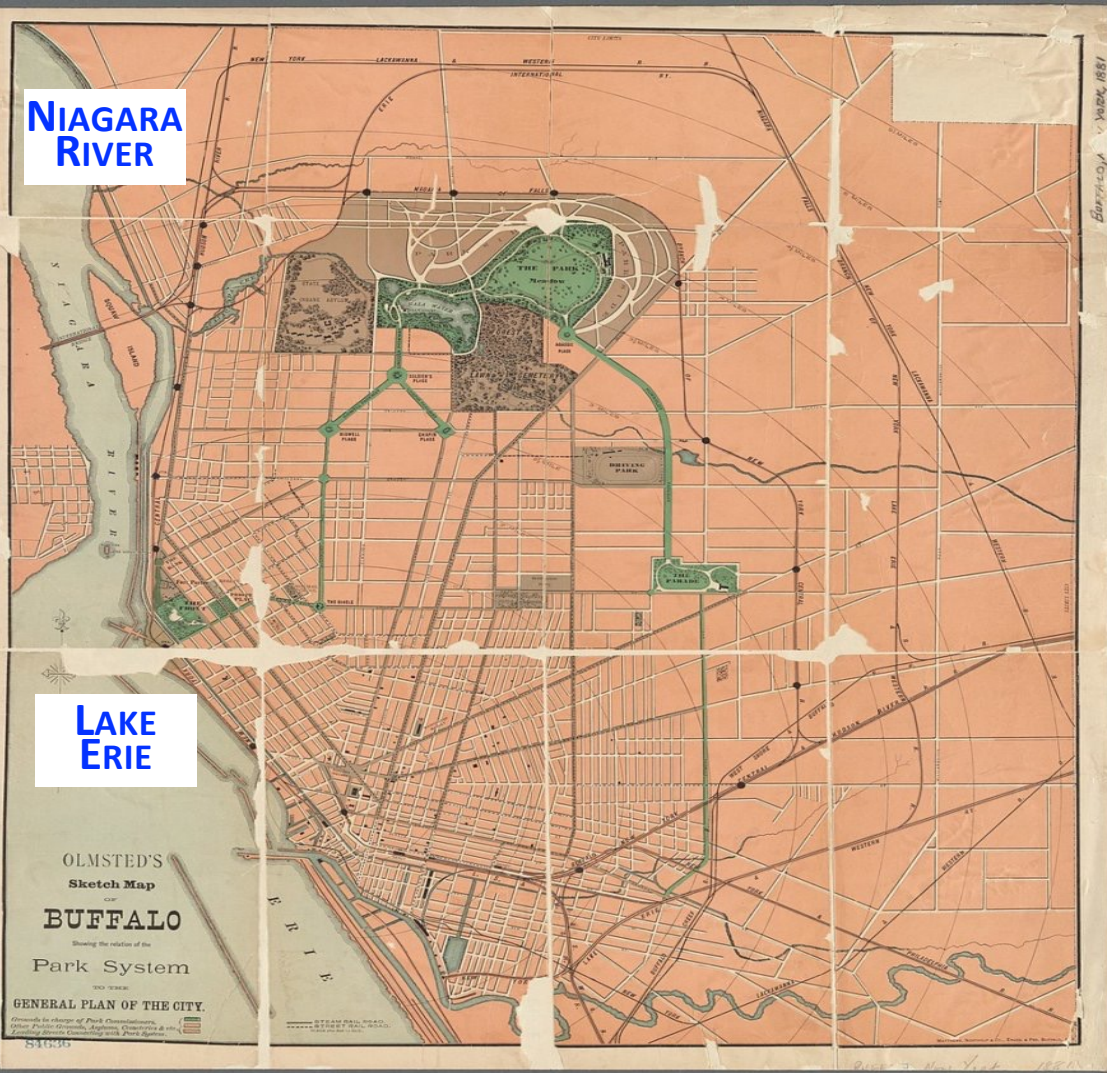
□ BUFFALO'S EMERALD NECKLACE

– Parks and Parkways

- (6) parks, (7) parkways, (8) landscaped circles and several smaller spaces throughout the City of Buffalo

– System designed by Olmsted and Vaux

- Between 1868 and 1896
- First three parks of system
 - The Park (Delaware Park)
 - The Front (Front Park)
 - The Parade (MLK Jr. Park)



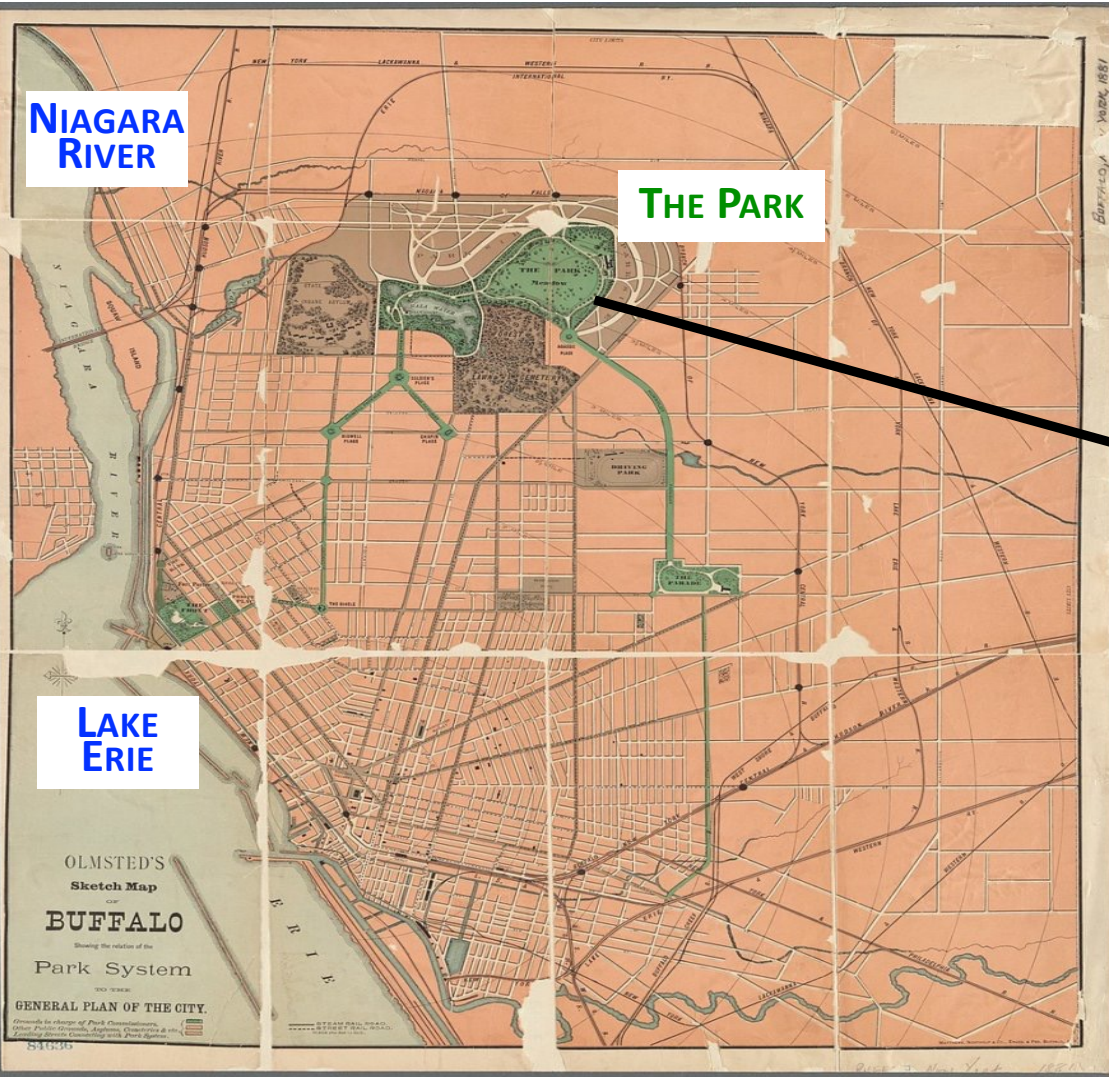
Source: Kenmore Development Blog. At: <https://kendev.com/history/history-buffalo-beautiful-olmsted-parks/>; Herrera-Miishle, T. Olmsted's Buffalo Park System and Its Stewards. At: <https://www.wned.org/television/wned-productions/wned-history-productions/frederick-law-olmsted-designing-america/learn-more-olmsted/olmsteds-buffalo-park-system/>

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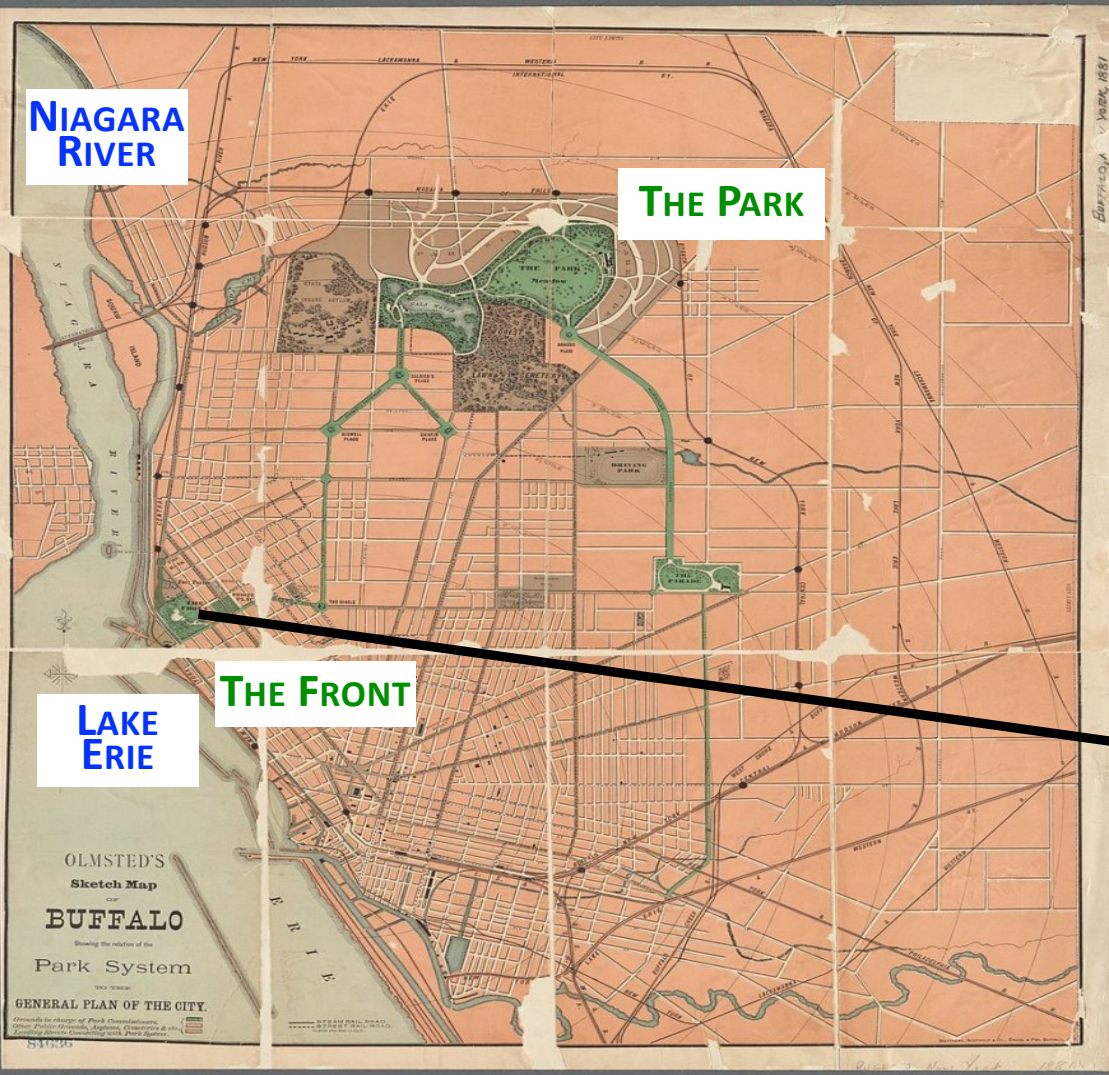


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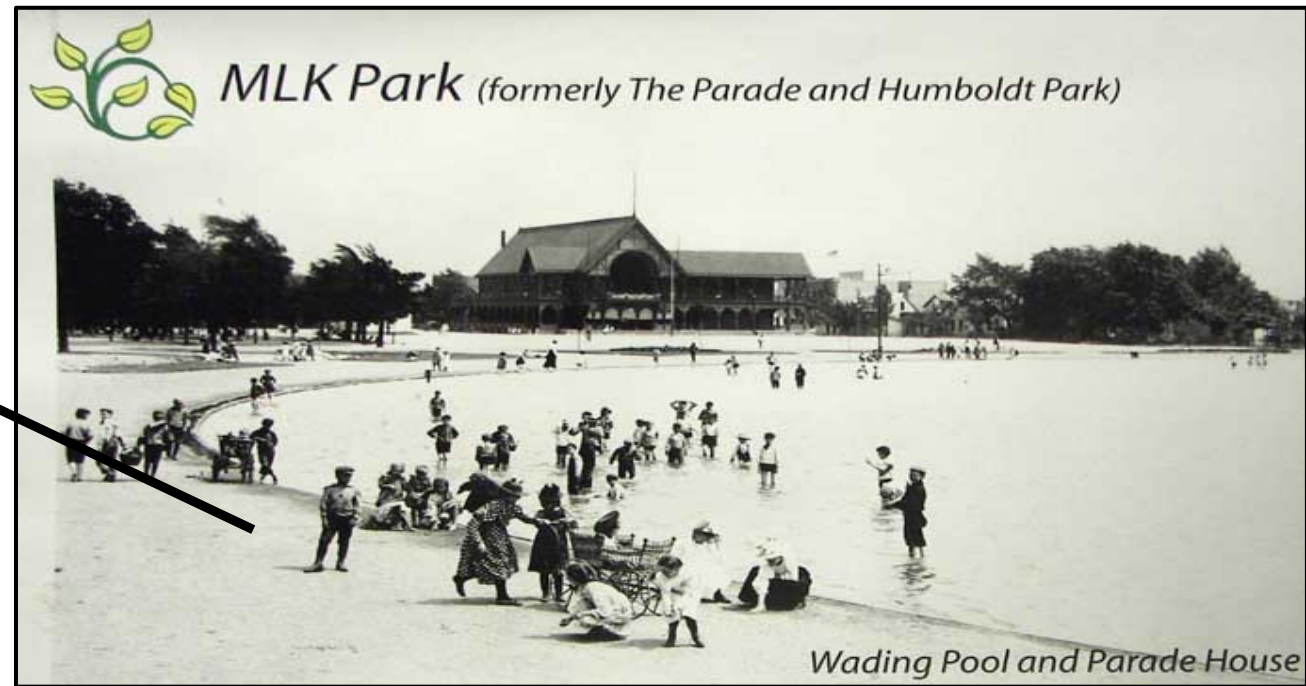
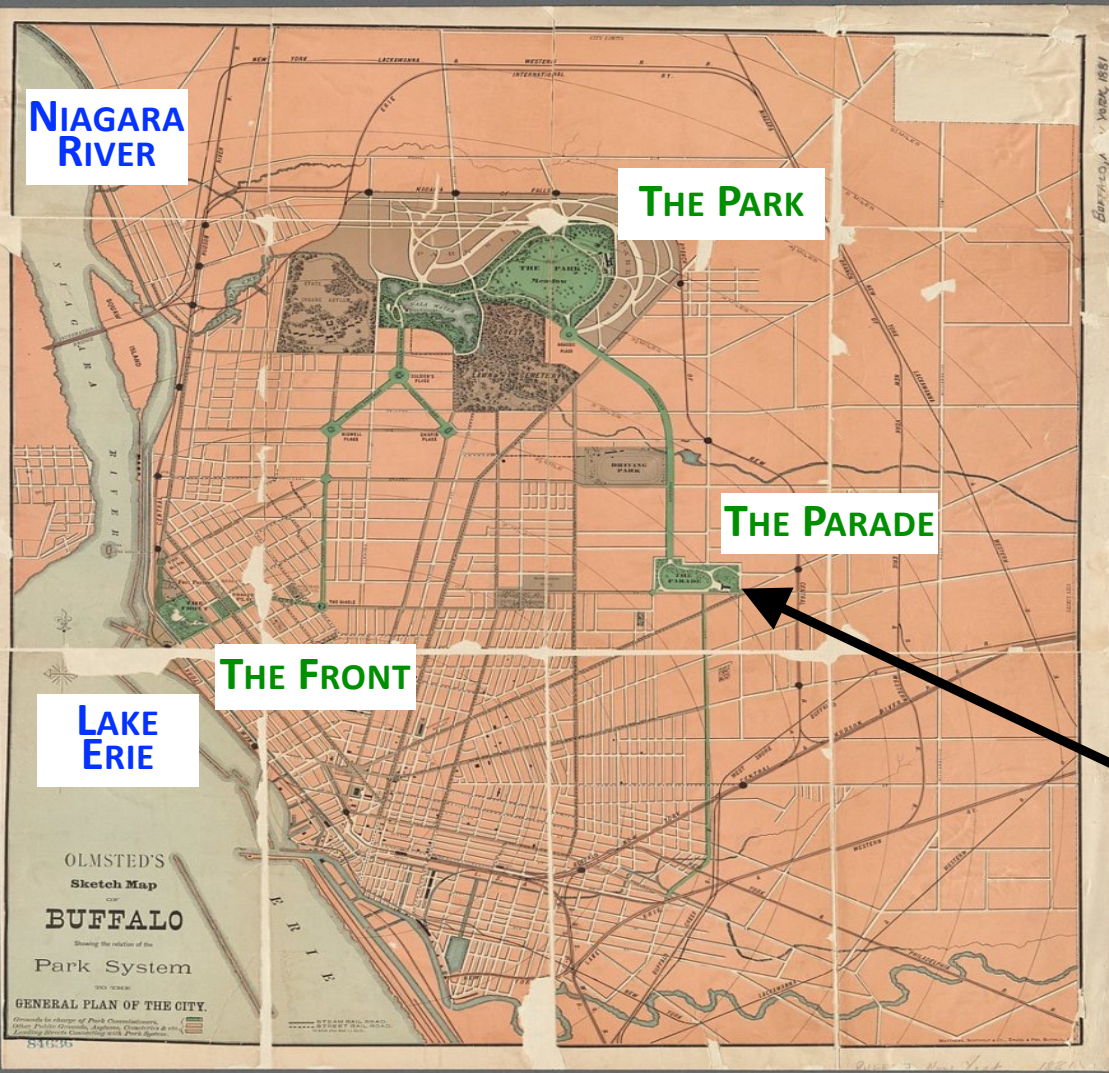


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BUFFALO GROWTH



Source. "Long Hot Summer of 1967". Time Magazine. At: <https://time.com/6177193/buffalo-mass-shooting-racism-segregation/>

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EMANCIPATED, BUT NOT FREE

❑ RECONSTRUCTION AND BEYOND

- Black Codes
 - Laws denying Black Americans legal equality or political rights; ensure cheap labor
- Sharecropping System
 - Instead of receiving wages for working an owner's land, rent land for a fixed payment



❑ THE JIM CROW TERROR

- Legalized Racial Segregation
- “Strange Fruit”
 - Between 1877 and 1950, over 4,000 lynchings of Black Americans



Source: History. At <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/sharecropping>; https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/jim-crow-laws#section_11; EJI. (2017). Lynching in America. At: <https://eji.org/wp-content/uploads/2005/11/lynching-in-america-3d-ed-110121.pdf>

SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME

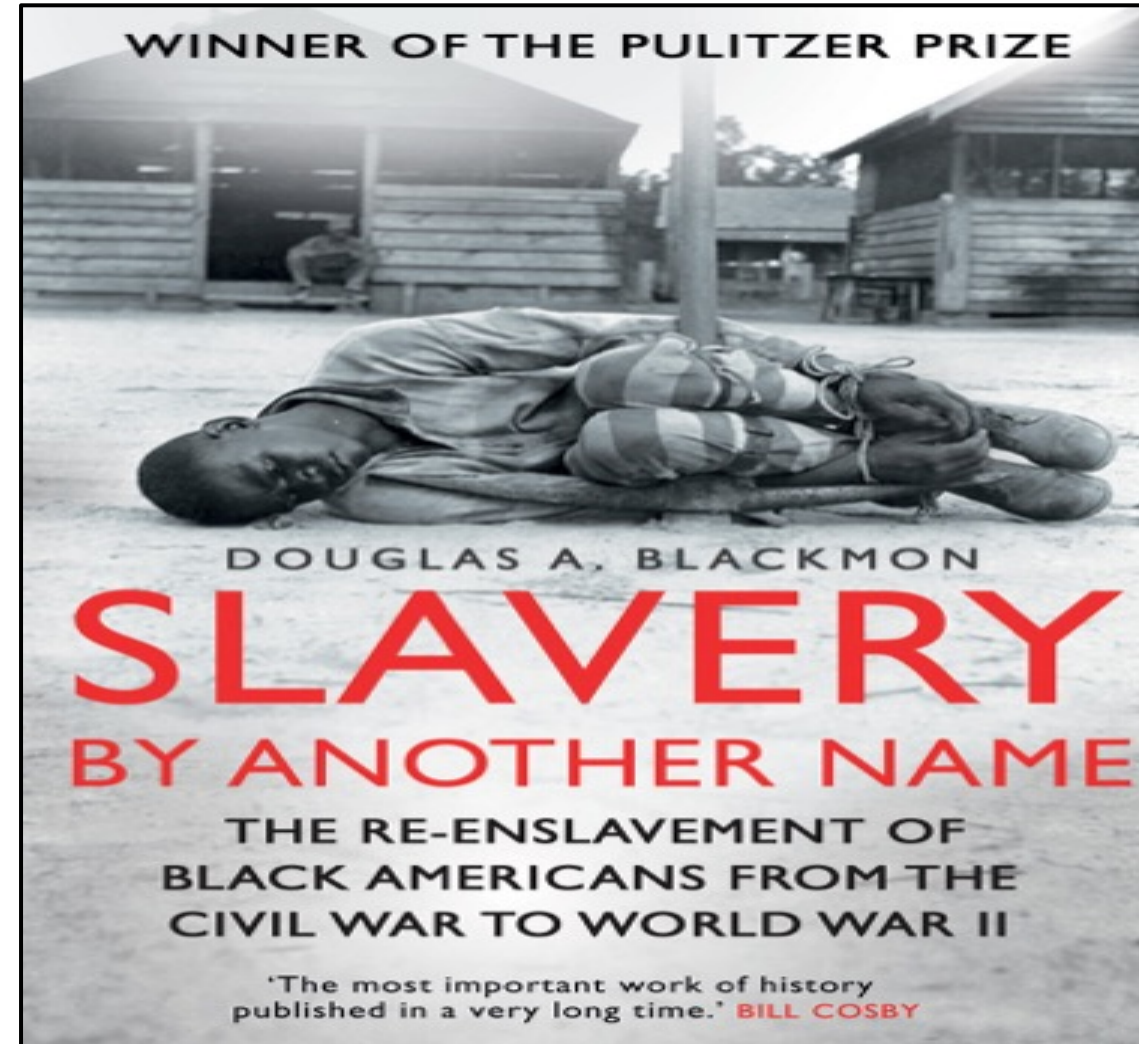
□ CONVICT LEASING

– Neo-Slaves

- Forced labor of Black American prisoners through convict lease systems
 - “a system in which armies of free men, **guilty of no crimes and entitled by law to freedom**, were compelled to labor without compensation”
- Occurred throughout South until 1940s-60s

– Peonage

- After Reconstruction, many Southern Black American men were swept into peonage
 - Continuous work-without-pay cycle



Source: Blackmon, D.A. (2008). Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II; PBS. (2012). Slavery By Another Name. At: <https://www.pbs.org/show/slavery-another-name/>

“THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS”

□ THE GREAT MIGRATION

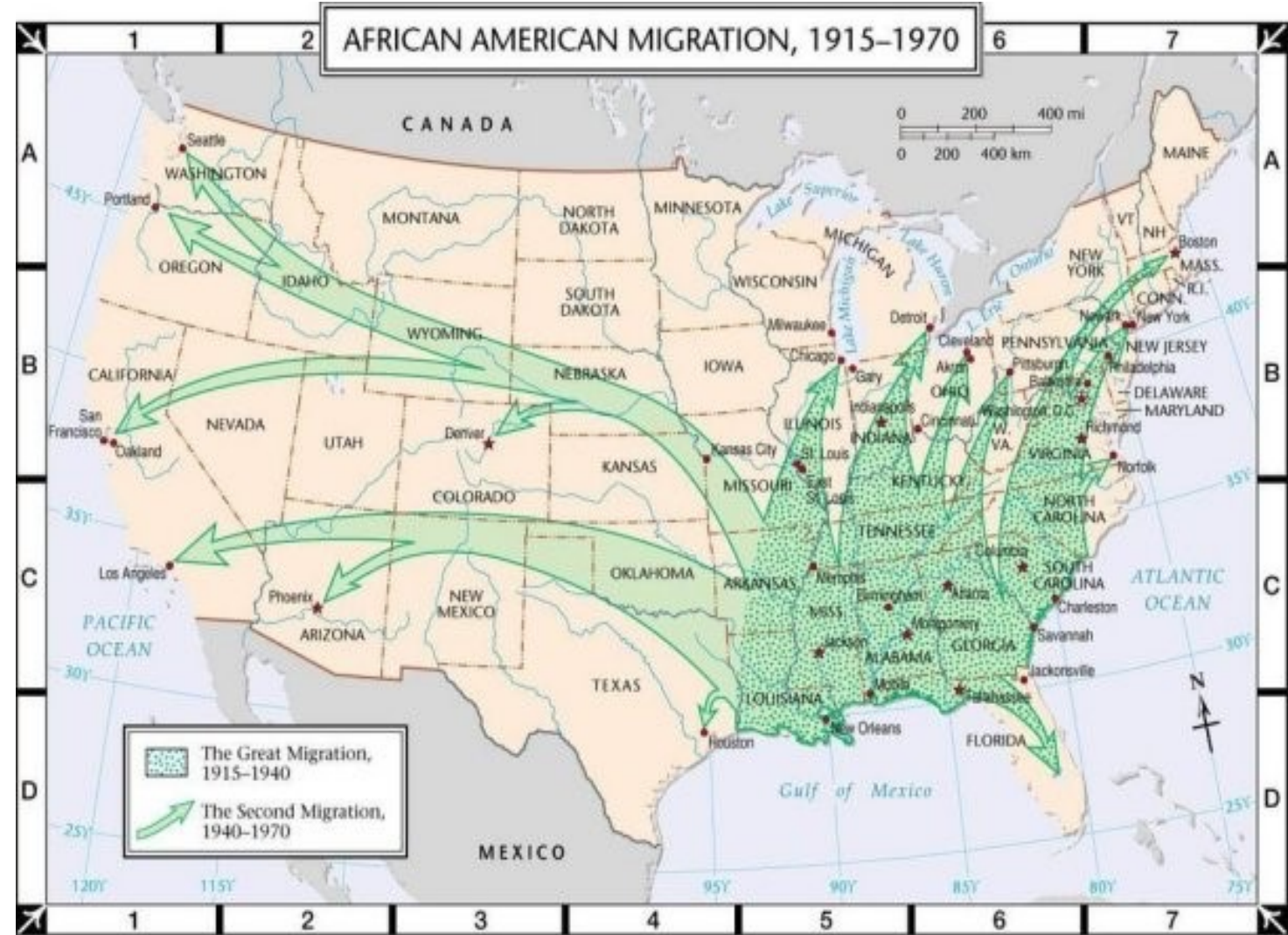
- First Migration – 1915-1940
- Second Migration – 1940-1970

□ MIGRANTS BY CHOICE

- Physical Mobility
- Upward Mobility



Source: US Census. (2012). The Great Migration. At: <https://www.census.gov/dataviz/visualizations/020/>;
Communities Count. At: <https://www.communitiescount.org/blog/2019/8/14/the-great-migration>



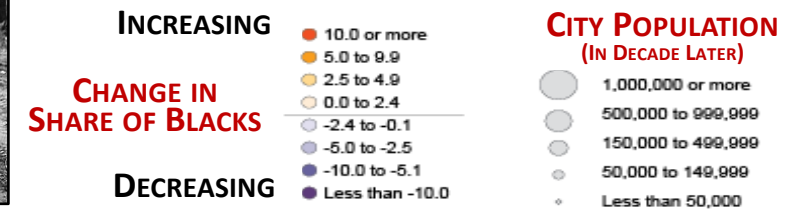
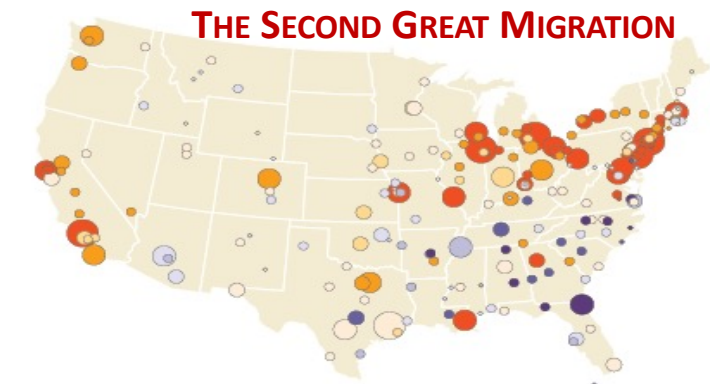
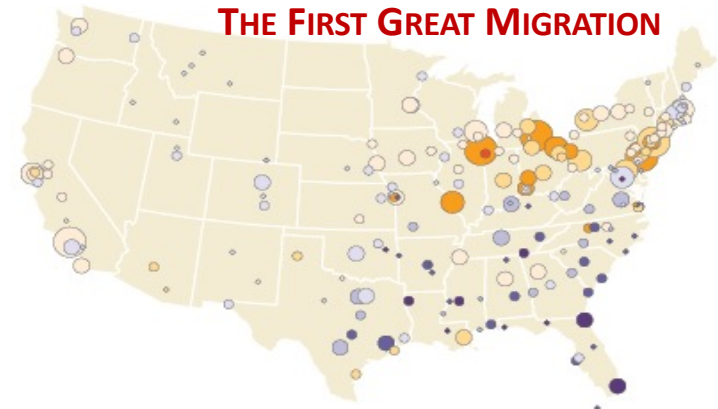
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Source: US Census. (2012). The Great Migration. At: <https://www.census.gov/dataviz/visualizations/020/>;
Communities Count. At: <https://www.communitiescount.org/blog/2019/8/14/the-great-migration>


GREAT MIGRATION TO BUFFALO

□ A GROWING CITY

- Buffalo became a full-fledged city of over 10,000 inhabitants in 1832
 - Grew rapidly until roughly 1950
 - Due to its position as a trans-shipment hub, grain and steel production and hydroelectricity

□ BLACK BUFFALONIANS

- From 1940 to 1970, the Black population in the city grew 433%
 - White population declined from 97% to 50%

YEAR	TOTAL POPULATION	BLACK POPULATION	PERCENT CHANGE
1840	18,000	350	
1865	EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION		
1880	155,134	857	145
1890	255,664	1,118	30
1900	352,387	1,698	52
1910	423,715	1,773	4
1920	506,775	4,511	154
1930	573,076	13,563	188
1940	575,901	17,694	38
1950	580,132	36,645	104
1960	532,759	70,000	91
1970	462,768	94,329	35

Source: Williams LS. (1999). Strangers in the Land of Paradise: The Creation of an African American Community, Buffalo, New York 1900-1940. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.;1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970 Census. At: <https://www.census.gov/library/publications.html>

SUBURBANIZATION IN AMERICA

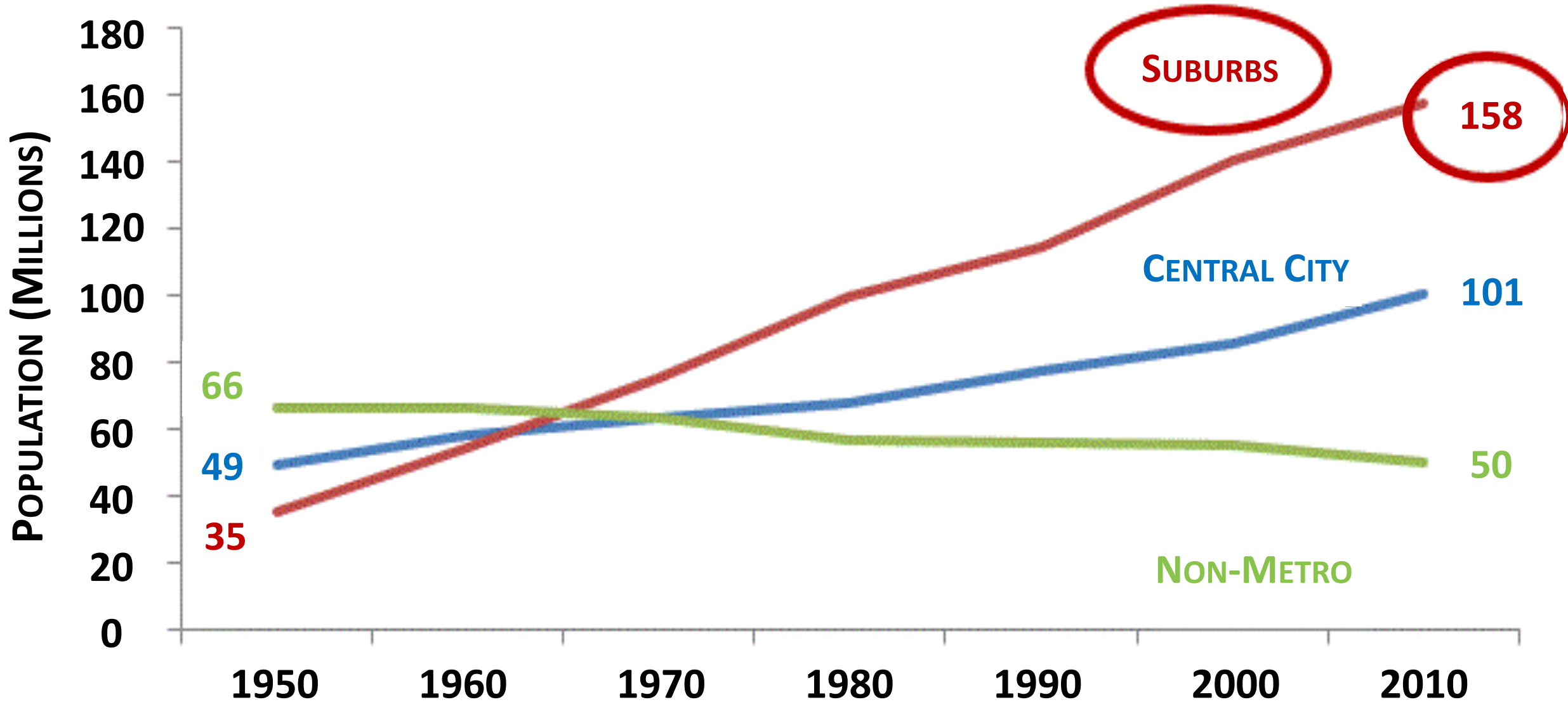


DR. JENNIFER D. ROBERTS



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AMERICAN POPULATION GROWTH

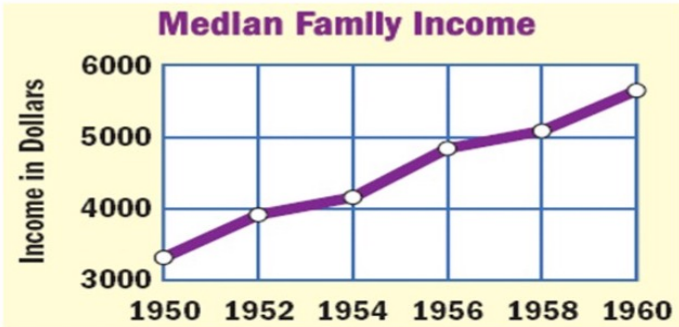


AMERICAN SUBURBANIZATION

The end of WWII led to an era of wealth & spending in the 1950s:

The war stimulated the economy & ended the Great Depression

High wages, service pay for soldiers, & war bond investments gave Americans money to spend

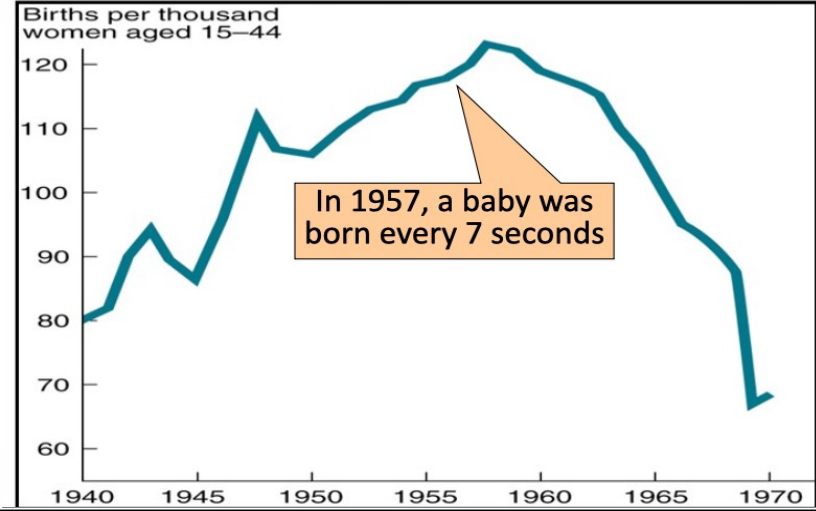


Americans produced a "baby boom" in the 1950s, leading to the largest generation in U.S. history

The return of soldiers from war led to an increase in marriages & a rise in the birthrate



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The GI Bill of Rights offered returning soldiers cheap loans for new homes & tuition for college



Consumerism returned in the 1950s because for the 1st time since the 1920s Americans had money and access to consumer goods

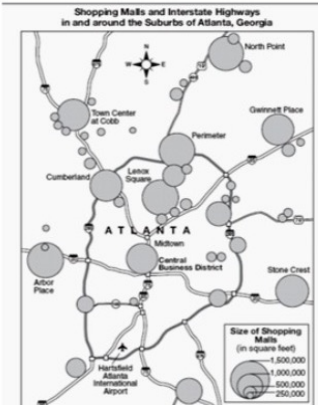
People rushed to buy new goods like cars, TVs & hi-fi record players



Suburbs changed American life

Suburbs increased America's need for cars & highways

Churches, schools, grocery stores, & shopping centers were build to service the suburbs



SUBURBANIZATION AND AUTOMANIA

In the 1950s, Americans bought cars in record numbers



The Ford Fairlane Victoria is one of six beautifully decorated Fairlane models. Like all 1955 Fords, its styling is inspired by the Thunderbird, America's only on-the-road dream car.



The Ford Custom Ranch Wagon is one of five station wagon models. Whether you prefer two doors or four . . . six passengers or eight . . . there's a Ford wagon for you.

America's "worth more" car . . . **FORD**



AMERICANS WERE MORE MOBILE, TOOK LONG-DISTANCE VACATIONS, AND LIVED FURTHER FROM THEIR JOBS



CARS LED TO DRIVE-THRU RESTAURANTS

RACIST POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN PLANNING

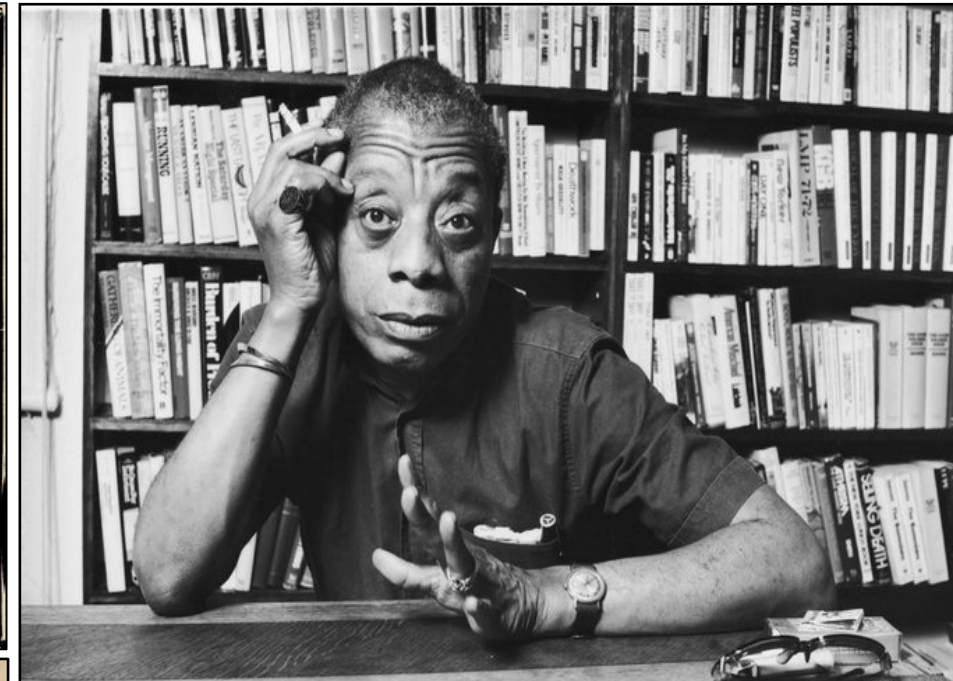
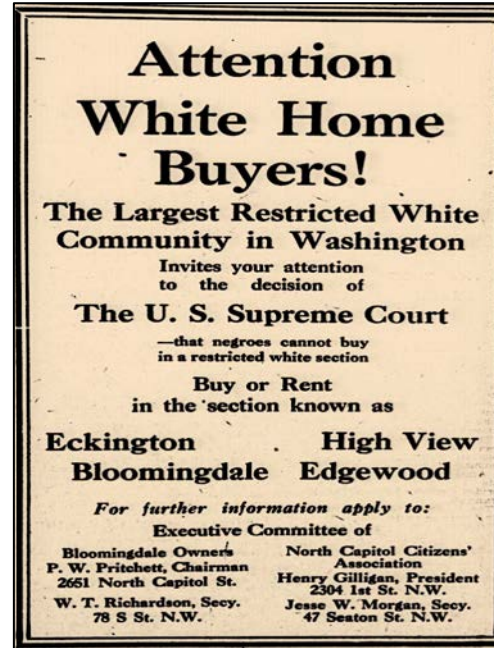
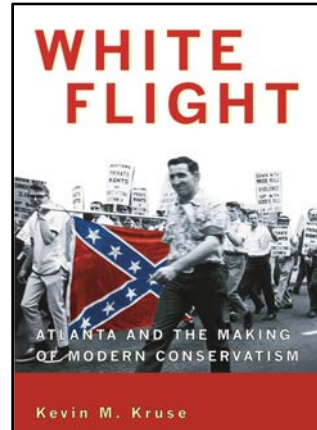
RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION

Racist Housing and Land Use

- Redlining
- Blockbusting
- Covenants
- White Flight
- Urban Renewal
- Gentrification

HEALTH INEQUITY

- Social Determinants
- Environ Exposures
- Health Disparities



“THEY WERE TEARING DOWN HIS HOUSE, BECAUSE SAN FRANCISCO IS ENGAGING — AS MOST **NORTHERN CITIES** NOW ARE ENGAGED — IN SOMETHING CALLED **URBAN RENEWAL**, WHICH MEANS MOVING THE NEGROES OUT. IT MEANS **NEGRO REMOVAL**, THAT IS WHAT IT MEANS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS AN ACCOMPLICE TO THIS FACT.”

— JAMES BALDWIN (1963) —

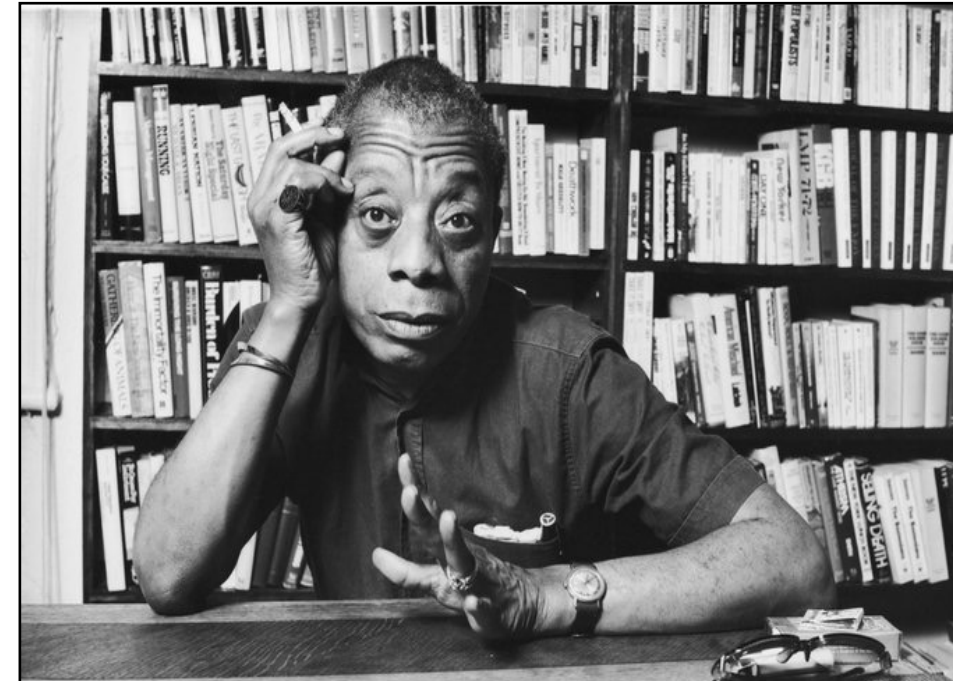
HIGHWAYS AND URBAN RENEWAL

□ HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

- “the greatest single element in the cure of city ills”
- 1944 and 1956 Federal Highway Acts
 - Initially covered 50% of construction costs and by 1956 covered 90%

□ URBAN RENEWAL

- “using highways to redeem urban areas”
 - Build highways and get rid of “slums”
 - Displaced and decimated close-knit Black American communities and neighborhoods throughout the U.S.
 - Many residents lost fully paid homes

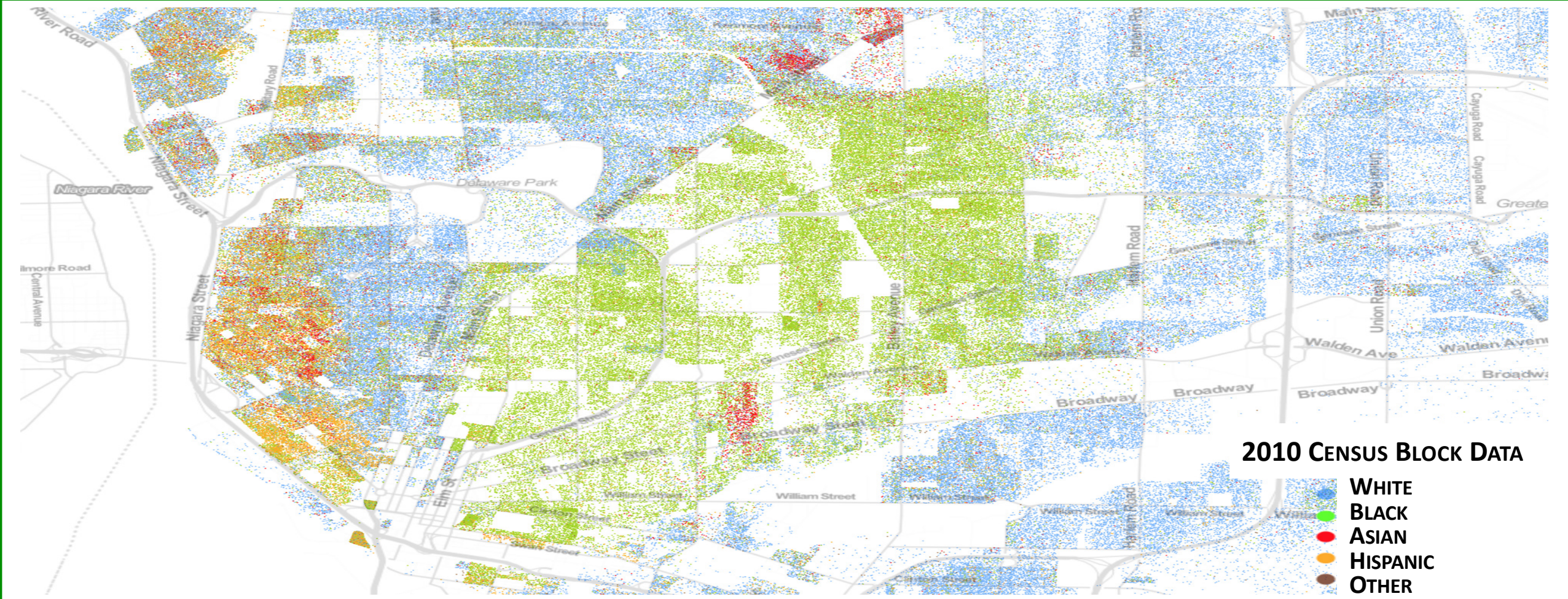


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Source: The Atlantic. At: <https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/03/role-of-highways-in-american-poverty/474282/>;

BUFFALO SEGREGATION



DR. JENNIFER D. ROBERTS

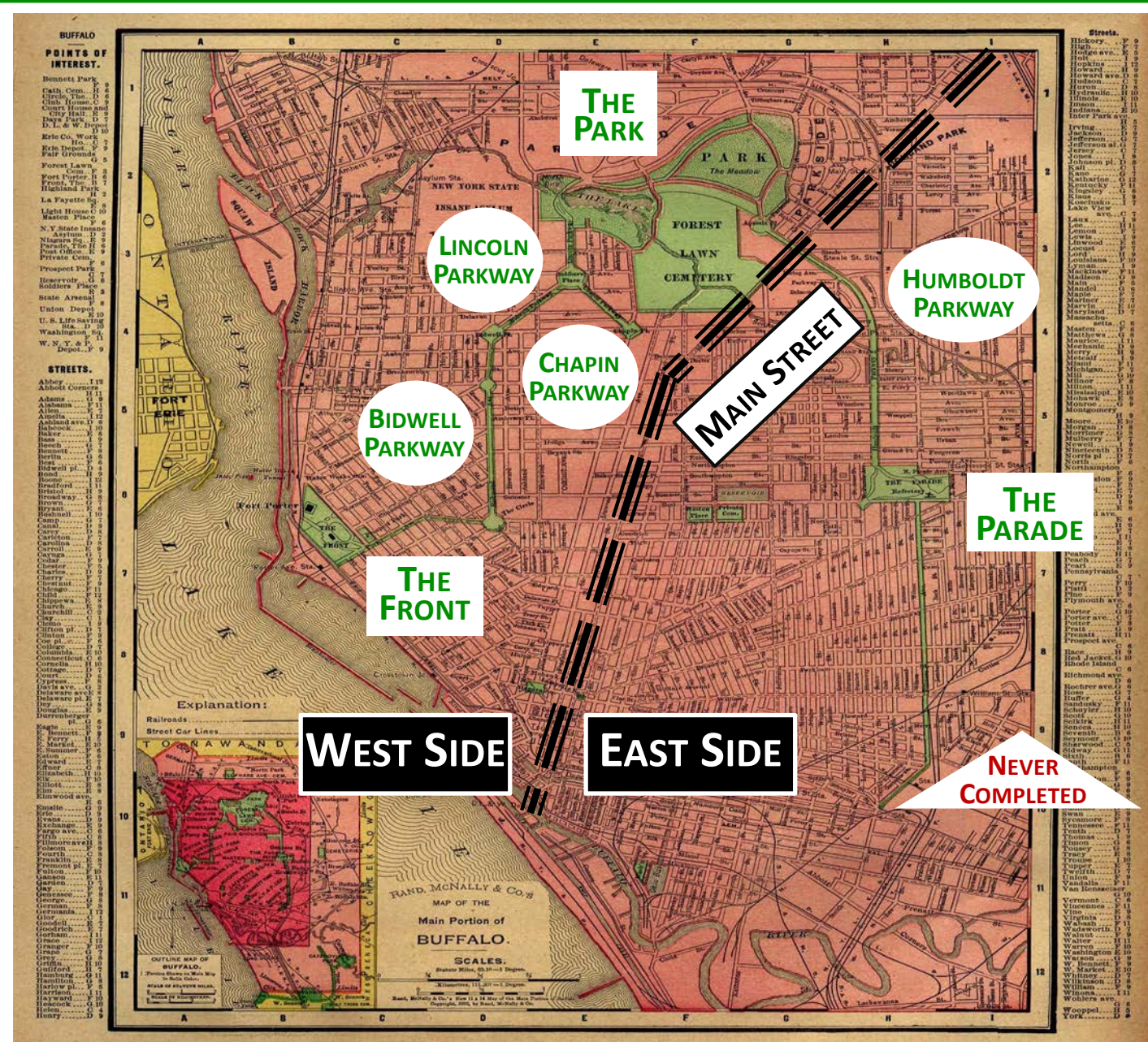


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MAIN STREET

□ BUFFALO SEGREGATION

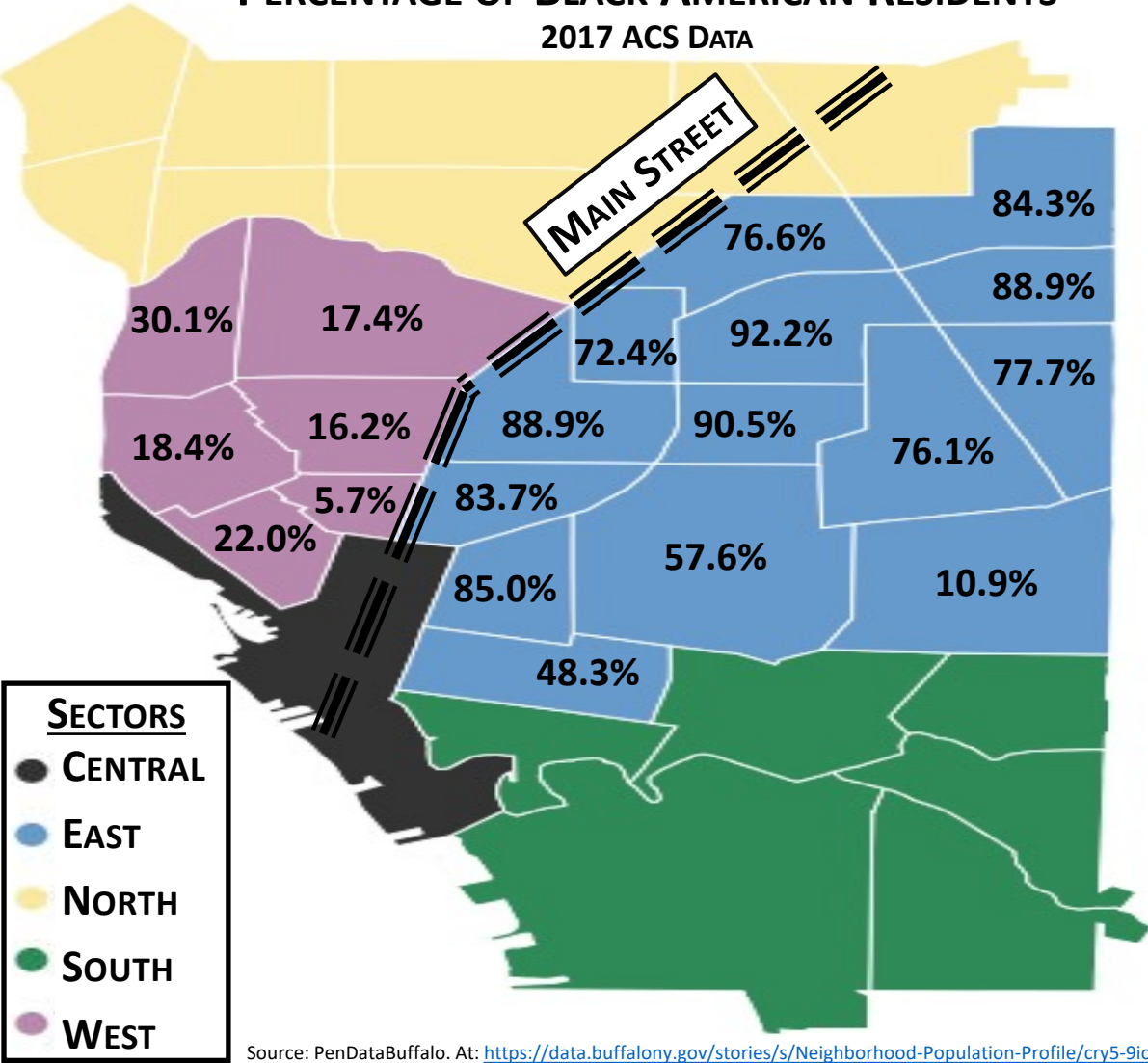
- Traced Back To World War I
 - Factories needed to produce war-related goods and weaponry
- The Great Migration
 - Migrants moved to “Black Belts” and White working-class districts
- Racist Tactics Used
 - White homeowners segregated Black Americans to certain residential city districts and areas
 - Restrictive covenants, redlining, blockbusting, urban renewal



Source: Blatto, Anna. (2018). A City Divided: A Brief History of Segregation in Buffalo. At: <https://ppgbuffalo.org/files/documents/data-demographics-history/a-city-divided-a-brief-history-of-segregation-in-the-city-of-buffalo.pdf>

WEST SIDE: EAST SIDE

PERCENTAGE OF BLACK AMERICAN RESIDENTS
2017 ACS DATA



- SECTORS**
- CENTRAL
 - EAST
 - NORTH
 - SOUTH
 - WEST

Source: PenDataBuffalo. At: <https://data.buffalony.gov/stories/s/Neighborhood-Population-Profile/cry5-9ict/>



HIGHWAYS AND URBAN RENEWAL

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Source: The Atlantic. At: <https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/03/role-of-highways-in-american-poverty/474282/>; Baldwin, James (1963). Urban Renewal...Means Negro Removal. At: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8Abhj17kYU>

HMM...WHERE SHOULD WE BUILD THE HIGHWAY?

CLEARING
Clearing, quite cool, frost likely tonight. Generally fair, warmer tomorrow.
COMPLETE REPORT ON PAGE 6

Volume CLI—Number 8

BUFFALO EVENING NEWS

BUFFALO 5, N. Y., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1955

COMPLETE FINANCIAL
Latest Prices on Page 98

110 Pages—Six Sections—Five Cents

ARMY JOINS HUNT IN SLAYING OF 3 BOYS

Traffic Streaming Over Skyway Heralds New Era for City

40-Car Parade Officially Opens \$12,000,000 Span

Lift Bridges, Switching Tracks, Narrow Streets All By-passed at Last By Mile-Long Cut-off

Pictures on the Picture Page. By RALPH WALLENHORST

A new era in motor transportation began for Buffalo at noon today when the first through traffic streamed across the Buffalo Skyway, a \$12,000,000 ribbon of steel and concrete soaring far above downtown highway congestion.

Banished forever were the temper-wrecking, time-consuming traffic jams that leaped into existence every time railroads Council Felicitates Namer of Skyway

As state, county and city officials officially dedicated the Buffalo Skyway, the Common Council took cognizance of the woman who won the contest to name the harbor bridge. The Council Tuesday adopted a resolution felicitating Mrs. Wallace F. Raker of 628 Ridge Rd., Lackawanna, whose entry was selected from among 3899 submitted in The Buffalo Evening News contest to name the bridge. The name has been adopted by the city and the state will be asked to accept the name officially.

100 Cops, Troops Comb Woods for Clues in Murders

Sheriff Thinks Youths Were Beaten, Strangled By Acquaintances Close to Victims' Age

Pictures on the Picture Page. By the Associated Press

CHICAGO, Oct. 19 — A grim force of policemen and troops today searched for clues in the slaying of three boys, while top investigators said they may have been killed by teen-agers.

More than 100 men, including 50 soldiers from a nearby Army anti-aircraft base, began a foot-by-foot search of the Robinson Woods, area of a forest preserve west of Chicago.

The unclad mutilated bodies of the victims—Robert Peterson, 14; John Schuessler, 13, and his brother, Anton, 11—were found in a ditch there Tuesday.

The boys had been beaten and strangled, probably, investigators estimated, sometime between 8 PM and midnight Sunday.

Coroner Walter E. McCarron said the victims might have fallen "into the hands of a large group of older boys and were murdered."

Held Captive First

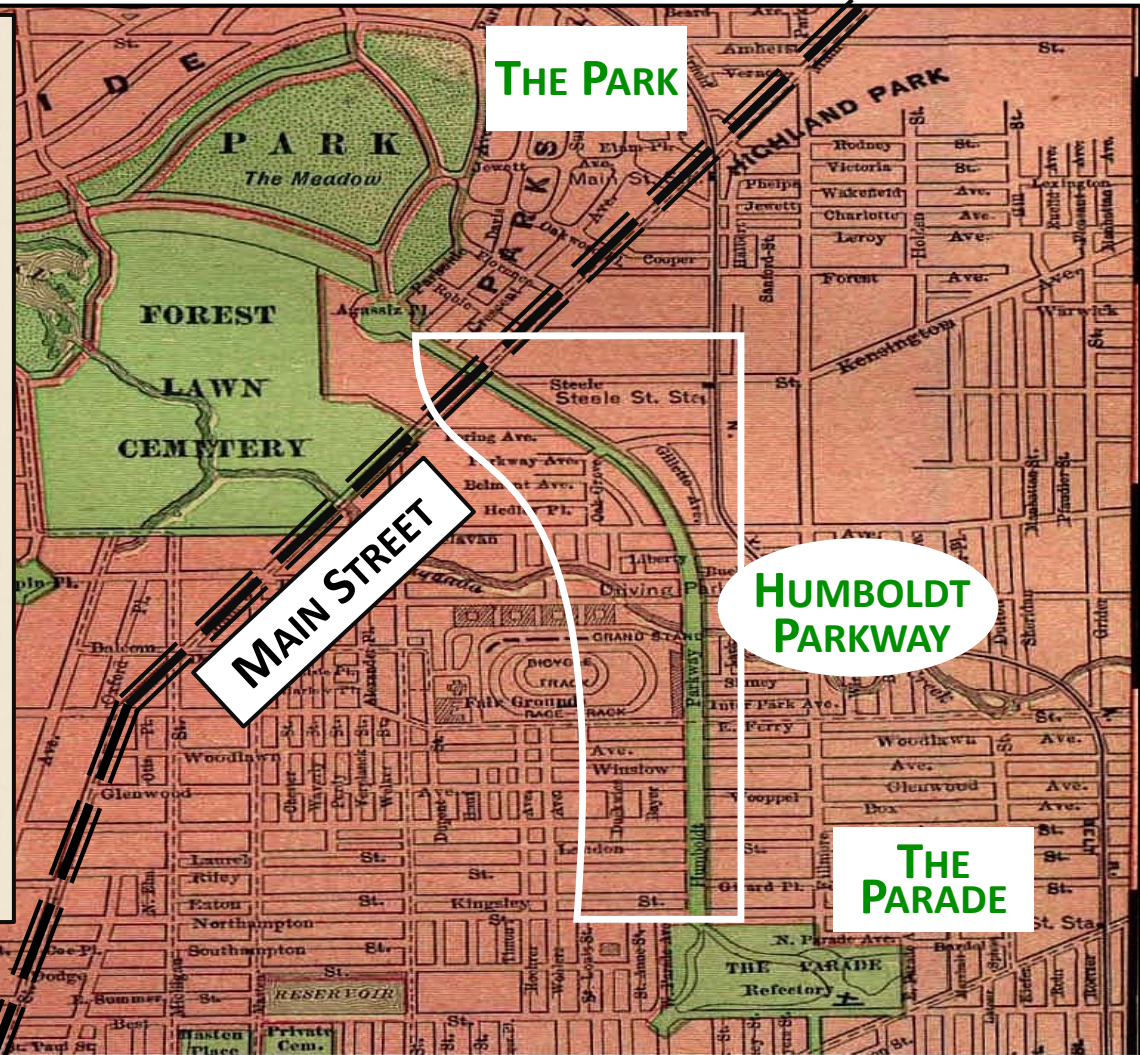
Sheriff Joseph Lohman commented: "Chances are the attackers were persons close to the boys' own age, who might have known them."

He pointed to indications that the boys had been held captive and slain because someone "got wrong" and the police wanted to make sure they were identified.

He said young Peterson, who took the worst beating, may have died first.

Officials also theorized that the

MAYOR PANKOW'S CAR LEADS MOTORCADE OPENING THE BUFFALO SKYWAY TO TRAFFIC. LOWER MAIN ST. CAN BE SEEN IN DISTANCE



Source: 1896 Buffalo Map. At: https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/buffalo_ny_1896.jpg; Buffalo News. (October 19, 1955). Traffic Streaming Over Skyway Heralds New Era for City.

HUMBOLDT PARKWAY DESTRUCTION



□ 25 YEAR DESTRUCTION

- 1962 Buffalo News Headline
 - “The Kensington expressway cuts through the heart of the city”

□ ISOLATED BLACK COMMUNITY

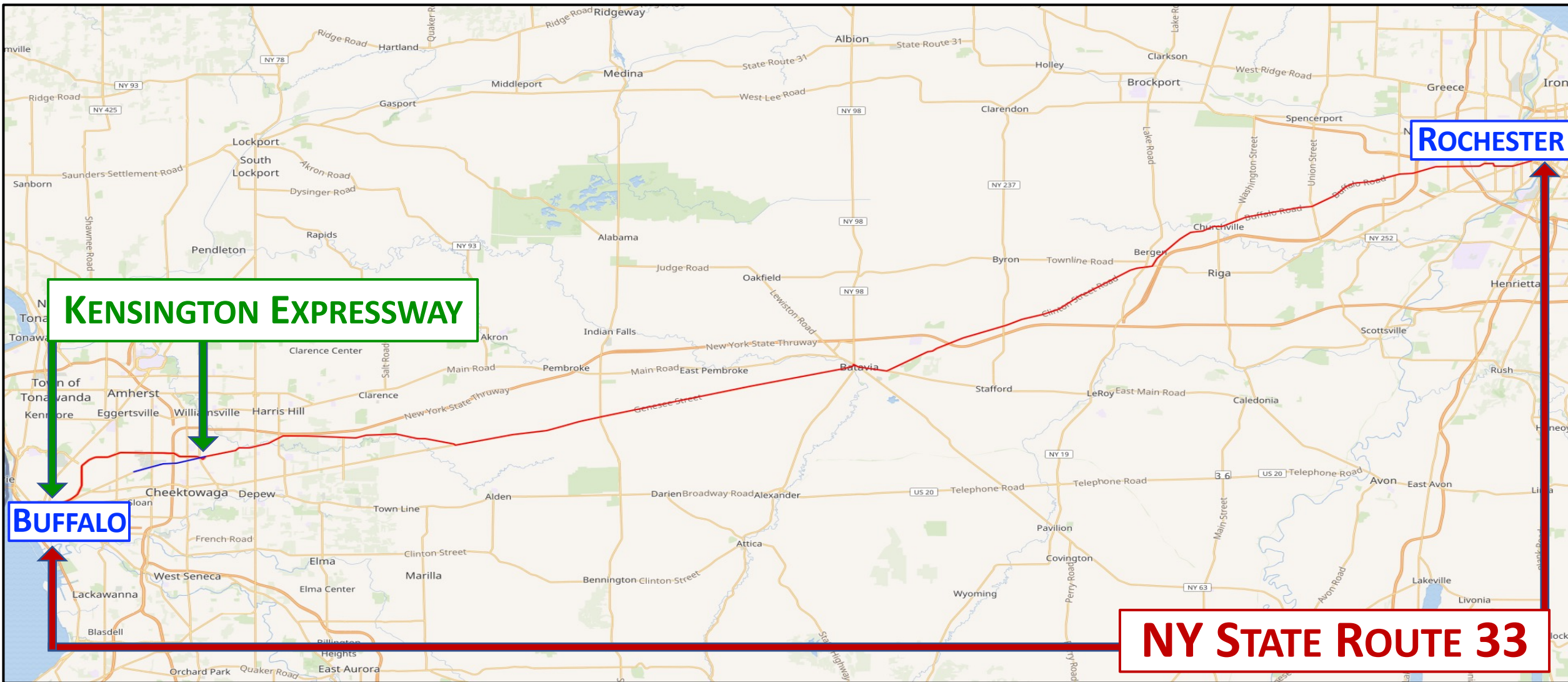
- Accelerated segregation and isolated Black residents on Buffalo East Side

□ DEVASTATING GREENSPACE LOSS

- Environmental community landmark
 - “should [not] have to suffer consequences to bring suburbanites into downtown”

Source: Cichon, S. The Buffalo You Should Know: The slow death of Humboldt Parkway in building the 33 & 198. At: <http://blog.buffalostories.com/the-buffalo-you-should-know-the-slow-death-of-humboldt-parkway-in-building-the-33-198/>; Fox, William. (2017). Segregation Along Highway Lines: How the Kensington Expressway Reshaped Buffalo, New York. At: <https://arts-sciences.buffalo.edu/content/dam/arts-sciences/history/documents/FINAL-Segregation-Along-Highway-Lines-by-Will-Fox.pdf>

NEW YORK STATE ROUTE 33



DR. JENNIFER D. ROBERTS



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

KENSINGTON EXPRESSWAY CONSTRUCTION



❑ CONNECT ALL CITY PARTS

- Kensington expressway connect to interstate highways in Erie county
 - Provide direct access to airport

❑ MORE AND MORE CARS

- Motor vehicle registration figures for Erie County increased 40% from 1946 to 1952
 - Traffic and noise was increasing at exponential rates in neighborhoods

❑ CIVIL DEFENSE EVACUATION

- Cold War era preparedness was one of the reasons in favor of the expressway

Source: Cichon, S. The Buffalo You Should Know: The slow death of Humboldt Parkway in building the 33 & 198. At: <http://blog.buffalostories.com/the-buffalo-you-should-know-the-slow-death-of-humboldt-parkway-in-building-the-33-198/>

LOSS OF NEIGHBORHOOD AND HOMES

□ FROM PRIVATE TO PUBLIC

– Decimation and Displacement

- By 1957, New York State was displacing 600 families from their Buffalo East Side homes
 - Families displaced by expressway were given priority in new Kensington Heights public housing
 - Kensington Heights built in 1958, abandoned in 1980, demolished in 2018



KENSINGTON HEIGHTS
PUBLIC HOUSING

HUMBOLDT PARKWAY, BUFFALO, NY – 1912



KENSINGTON EXPRESSWAY, BUFFALO, NY – PRESENT DAY



Source: The Atlantic. 2016. At: <https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/03/role-of-highways-in-american-poverty/474282/>;

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LOSS OF NEIGHBORHOOD AND HOMES

HUMBOLDT PARKWAY, BUFFALO, NY – 1912



KENSINGTON EXPRESSWAY, BUFFALO, NY – PRESENT DAY



COMMUNITIES TORN APART BY HIGHWAYS

What It Looks Like to Reconnect Black Communities Torn Apart by Highways

Bloomberg CityLab

BY: RACHAEL DOTTLER, LAURA BLISS, PABLO ROBLES
JULY 28, 2021

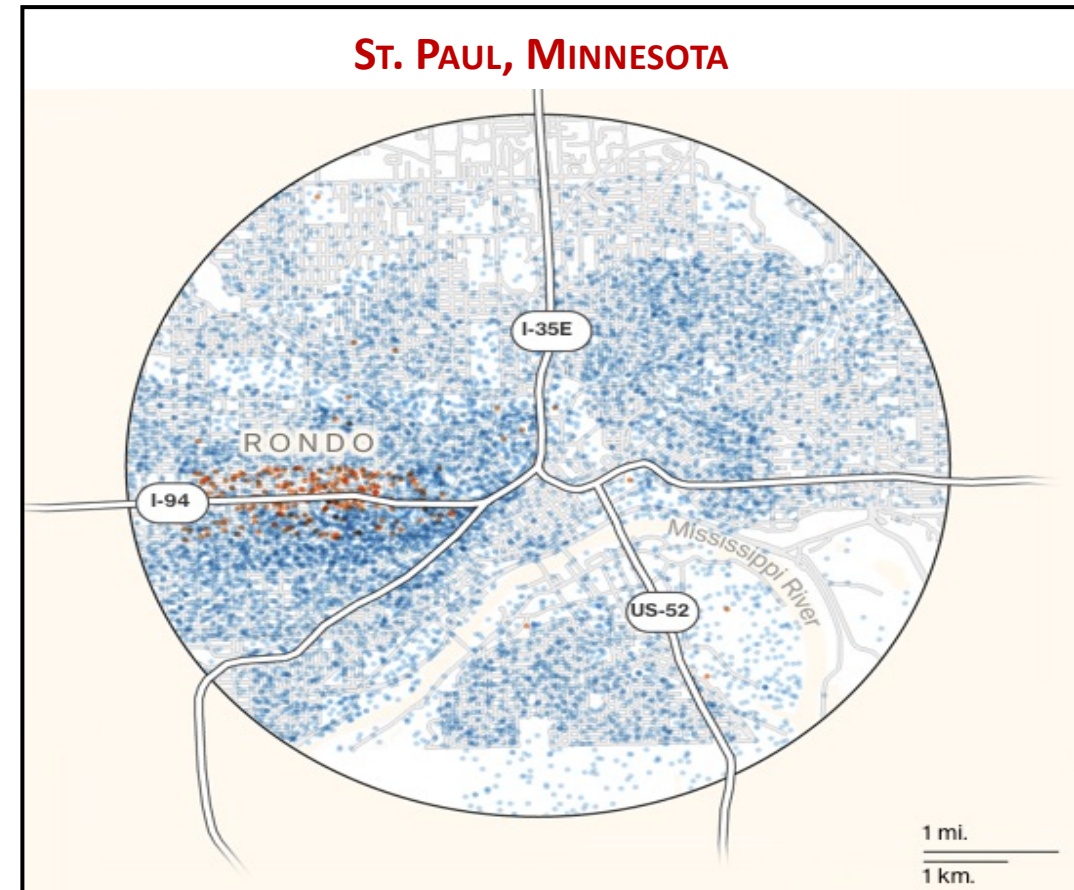


TAKE ANY MAJOR AMERICAN CITY AND YOU'RE LIKELY TO FIND A HISTORICALLY BLACK NEIGHBORHOOD DEMOLISHED, GASHED IN TWO, OR CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE CITY BY A HIGHWAY. THIS LEGACY OF RACIST FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION POLICIES CONTINUES TO DEFINE THE LANDSCAPES OF URBAN SPACES.

Source: Bloomberg Lab. At: <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2021-urban-highways-infrastructure-racism/>

1950 DEMOGRAPHIC MAP BY CENSUS TRACT

BLACK WHITE OTHER EACH DOT = 20 PEOPLE



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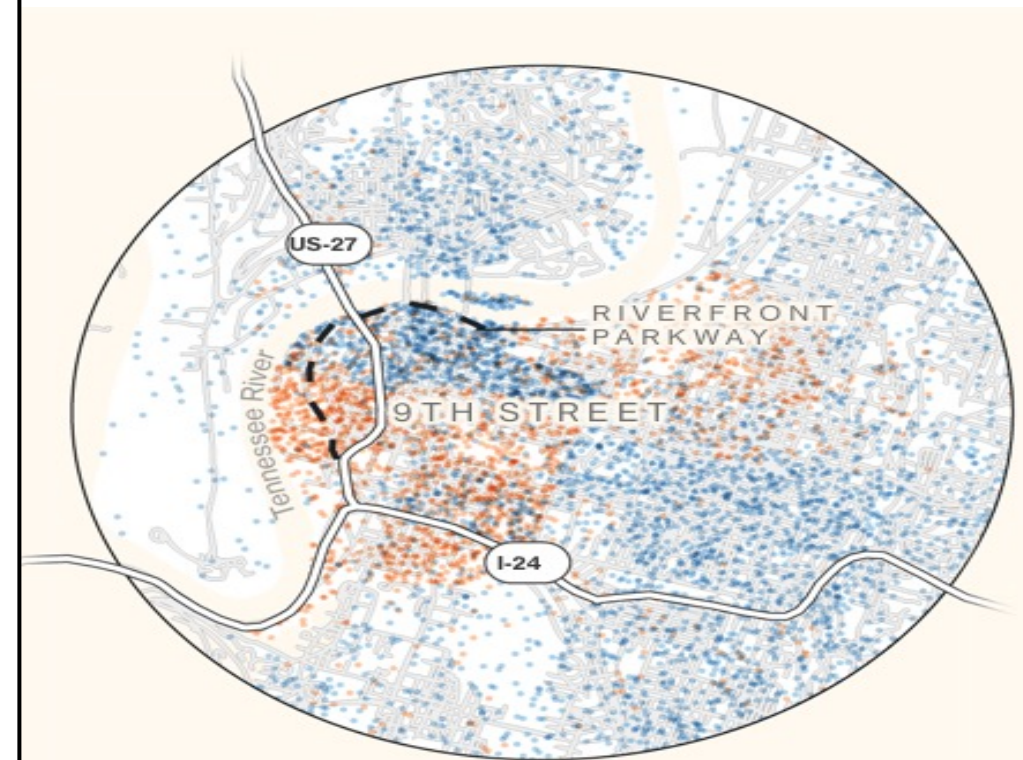
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1950 DEMOGRAPHIC MAP BY CENSUS TRACT

BLACK WHITE OTHER EACH DOT = 20 PEOPLE

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE



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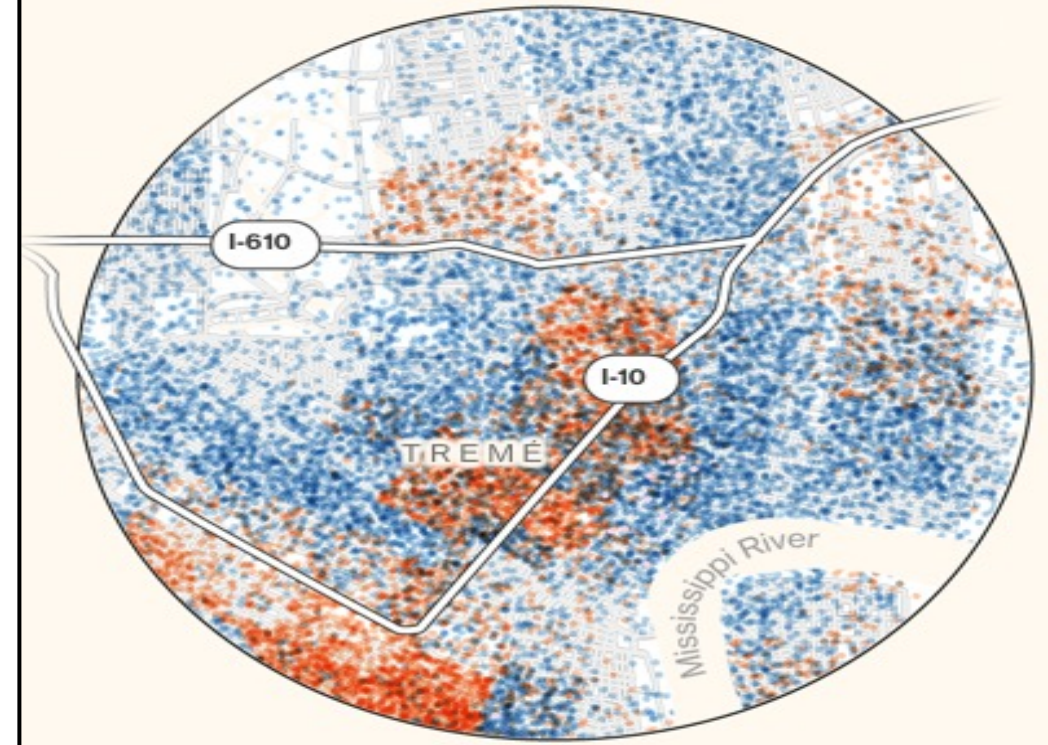
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Source: Bloomberg Lab. At: <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2021-urban-highways-infrastructure-racism/>

1950 DEMOGRAPHIC MAP BY CENSUS TRACT

BLACK WHITE OTHER EACH DOT = 20 PEOPLE

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



COMMUNITIES TORN APART BY HIGHWAYS

What It Looks Like to Reconnect Black Communities Torn Apart by Highways

Bloomberg CityLab

BY: RACHAEL DOTTLER, LAURA BLISS, PABLO ROBLES
JULY 28, 2021

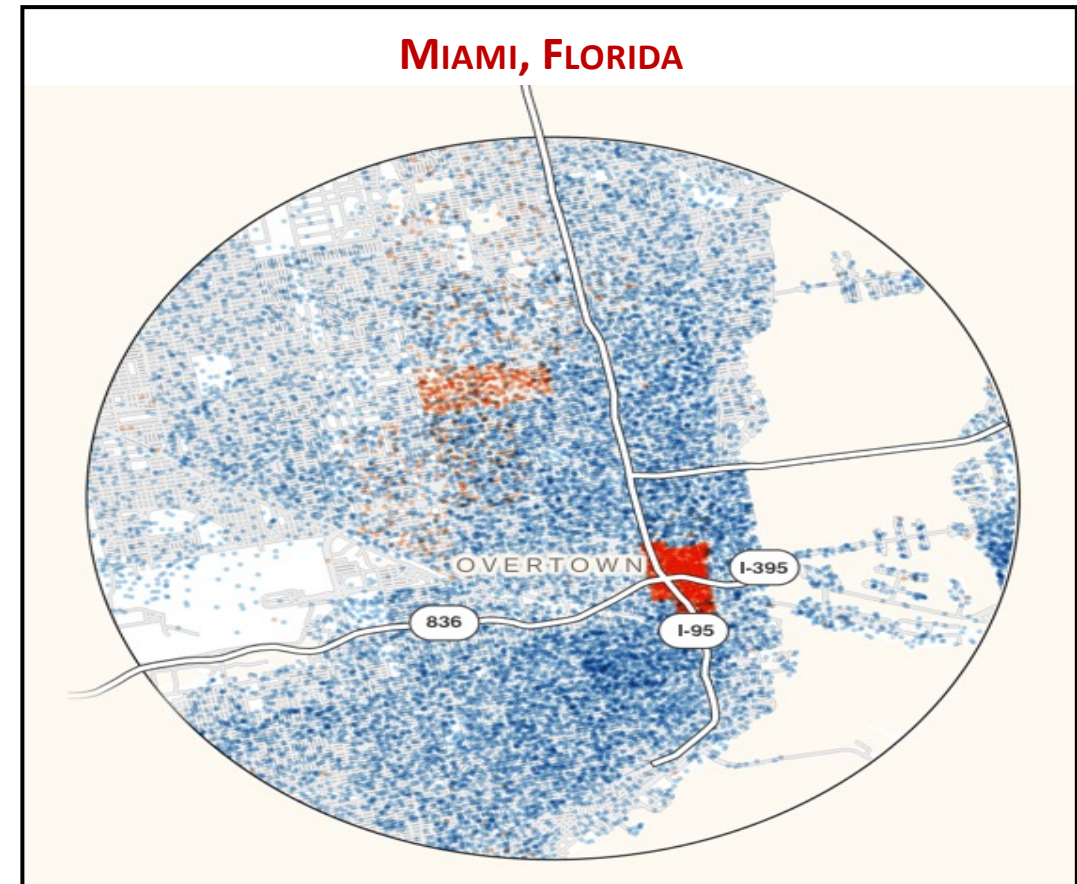


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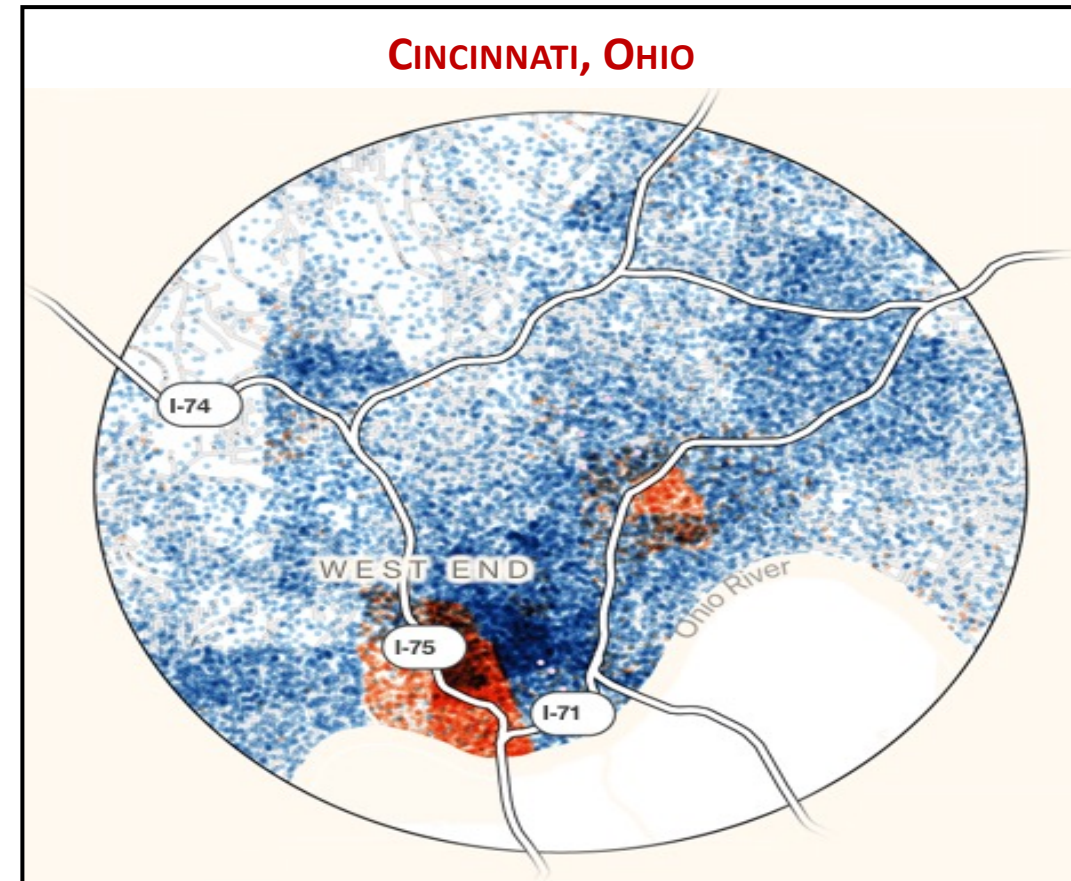


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1950 DEMOGRAPHIC MAP BY CENSUS TRACT

BLACK WHITE OTHER EACH DOT = 20 PEOPLE



BUFFALO RESTORATION



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HUMBOLDT PARKWAY RESTORATION



'They cannot replace what's gone'

- Route 33 residents split over restoration plan

Source: The Buffalo News. "They cannot replace what's gone': Route 33 residents split over restoration plan" At: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fp6mpjZnr50>

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KENSINGTON EXPRESSWAY PROJECT

Transportation Project Report

Project Scoping
Report
December 2022

NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project
Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52
City of Buffalo
Erie County



□ SCOPING REPORT

– The Purpose

- “an early and open process to determine the scope of issues for analysis in an environmental impact statement”

– The Goals

1. Identify significant issues and eliminate non-significant issues from further study
2. Provide early coordination with appropriate agencies and the public
3. Produce ideas to be incorporated into project concepts for consideration



Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52
City of Buffalo Erie County. At: <https://kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Project%20Scoping%20Report.pdf>

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KENSINGTON EXPRESSWAY PROJECT

PROJECT LOCATION

- Establish Transportation Corridor Limits
 - Depressed highway with retaining walls between Best and Sidney Street segment
 - Segment maximizes community benefit
 - Opportunities for connectivity with existing parkland and community resources
 - Connection between newly created greenspace at Best Street MLK Jr. Park
 - Physical and environmental constraints
 - Scajaquada Creek north of Sidney Street
 - Rt 33/Rt198 interchange north of Sidney Street

"BEST STREET AND SIDNEY STREET REPRESENT LOGICAL TERMINI/RATIONAL ENDPOINTS FOR THIS PROJECT"

Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. At: <https://kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Project%20Scoping%20Report.pdf>

KENSINGTON EXPRESSWAY PROJECT

PROJECT CONCEPTS

OBJECTIVE

PROJECT CONCEPT SCREENING CRITERIA

- 1 RECONNECT THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY BY CREATING CONTINUOUS GREENSPACE TO ENHANCE THE VISUAL AND AESTHETIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR
- 2 MAINTAIN THE VEHICULAR CAPACITY OF THE EXISTING TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR
- 3 IMPROVE VEHICULAR, PEDESTRIAN, AND BICYCLE MOBILITY AND ACCESS IN THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY BY IMPLEMENTING COMPLETE STREET ROADWAY DESIGN FEATURES
- 4 ADDRESS IDENTIFIED GEOMETRIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIENCIES WITHIN THE TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR

– NYSDOT evaluated 10 concepts

Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. At: <https://kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Project%20Scoping%20Report.pdf>

KENSINGTON EXPRESSWAY PROJECT

PROJECT CONCEPTS

OBJECTIVE

PROJECT CONCEPT SCREENING CRITERIA



2

RECONNECT THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY BY CREATING CONTINUOUS GREENSPACE TO ENHANCE THE VISUAL AND AESTHETIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR



4

MAINTAIN THE VEHICULAR CAPACITY OF THE EXISTING TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR

IMPROVE VEHICULAR, PEDESTRIAN, AND BICYCLE MOBILITY AND ACCESS IN THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY BY IMPLEMENTING COMPLETE STREET ROADWAY DESIGN FEATURES

ADDRESS IDENTIFIED GEOMETRIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIENCIES WITHIN THE TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR

– NYSDOT evaluated 10 concepts

Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. At: <https://kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Project%20Scoping%20Report.pdf>



CONCEPT 1:

NO BUILD



Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. Appendix A – Concept Figures. At: <https://kingsingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Appendix%20A%20Concept%20Figures.pdf>

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CONCEPT 10:

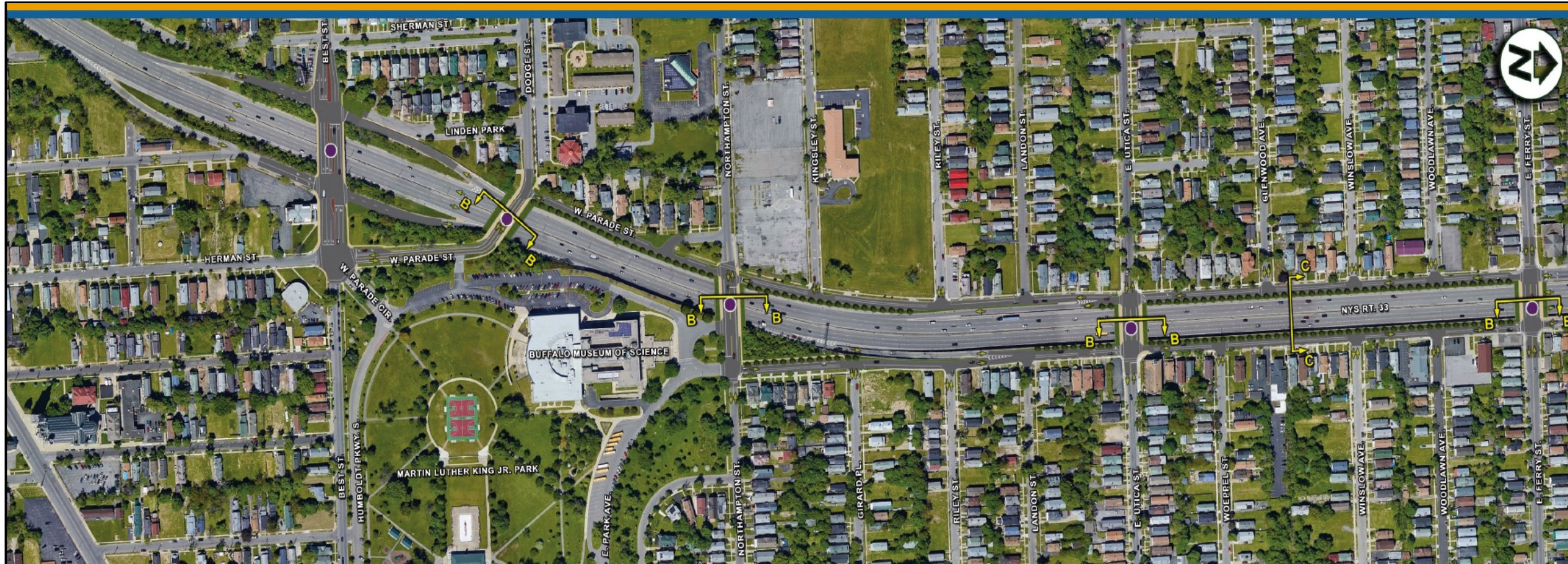
REMOVAL OF NYS ROUTE 33 + REESTABLISH THE FORMER PARKWAY SETTING



NO IMAGE AVAILABLE

CONCEPT 2:

BRIDGE REHABILITATION + HUMBOLDT ENHANCEMENTS



Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. Appendix A – Concept Figures. At: <https://kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Appendix%20A%20Concept%20Figures.pdf>

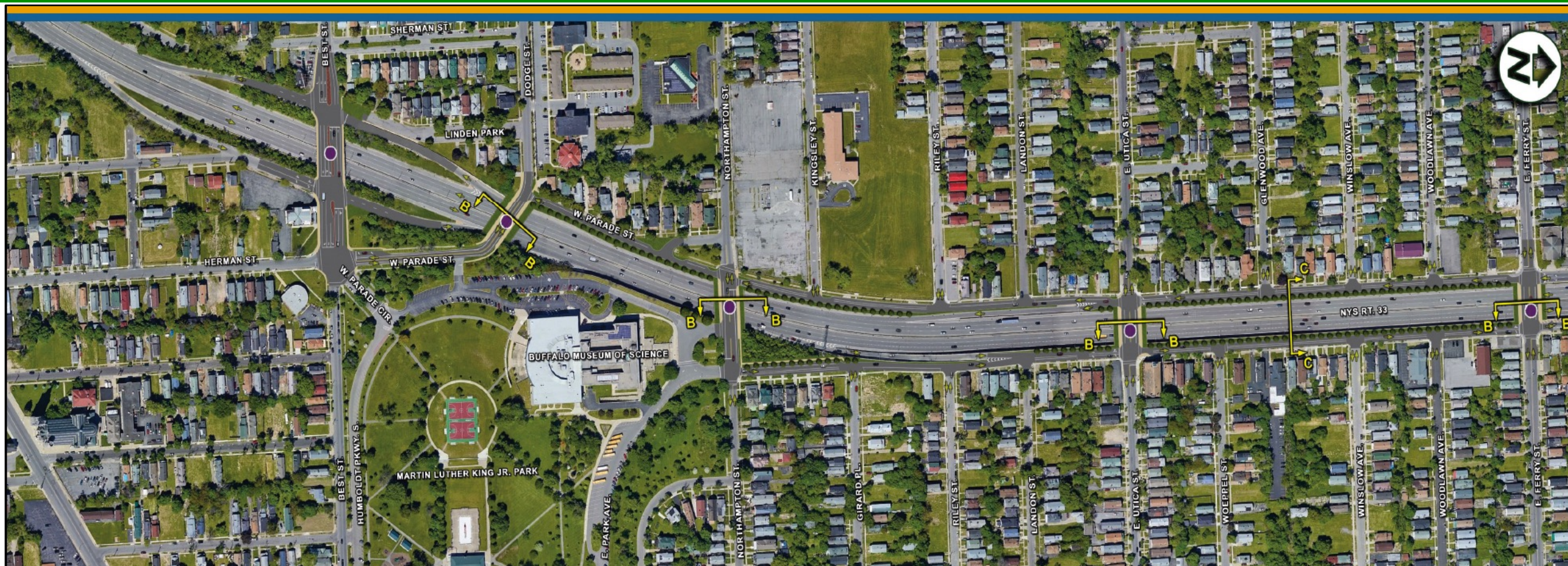
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CONCEPT 3:

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT + HUMBOLDT ENHANCEMENTS



Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. Appendix A – Concept Figures. At: <https://kingsingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Appendix%20A%20Concept%20Figures.pdf>

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CONCEPT 4:

KENSINGTON RECONSTRUCTION + PARTIAL DECKING



Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. Appendix A – Concept Figures. At: <https://kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Appendix%20A%20Concept%20Figures.pdf>

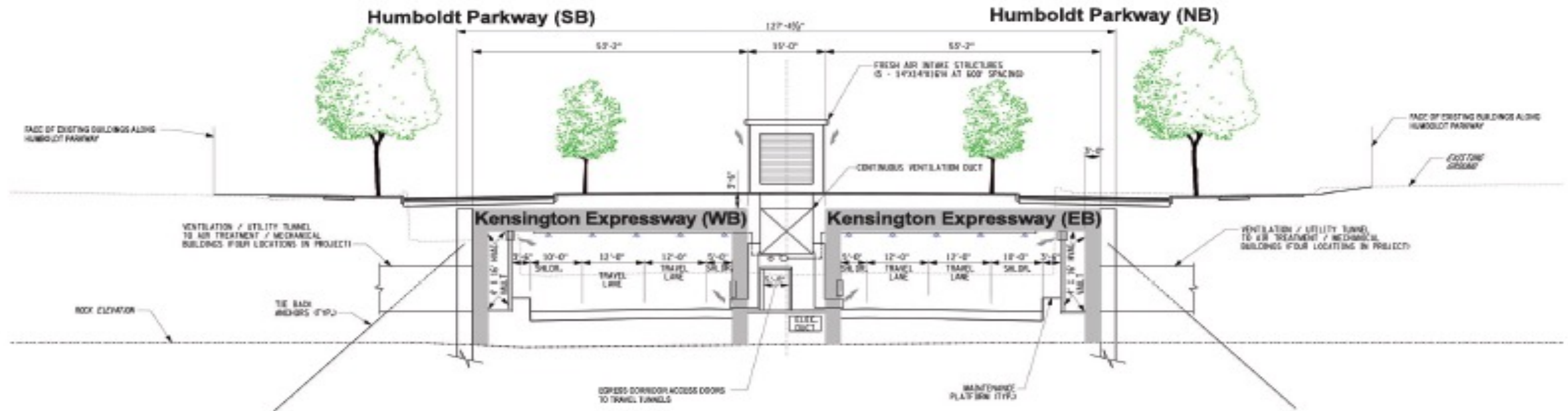
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CONCEPT 7:

KENSINGTON RECONSTRUCTION + 4-LANE TUNNEL



Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. Appendix A – Concept Figures. At: <https://kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Appendix%20A%20Concept%20Figures.pdf>

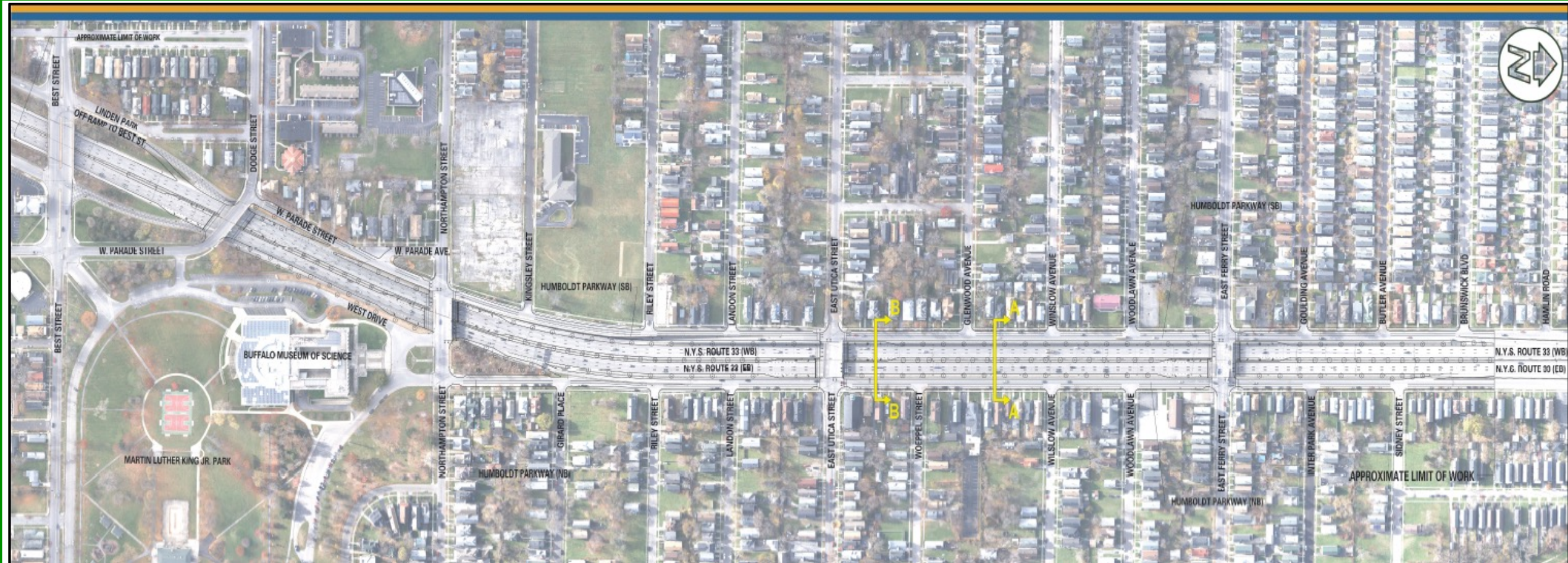
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CONCEPT 8:

KENSINGTON RECONSTRUCTION AS A 6-LANE BOULEVARD



Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. Appendix A – Concept Figures. At: <https://kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Appendix%20A%20Concept%20Figures.pdf>

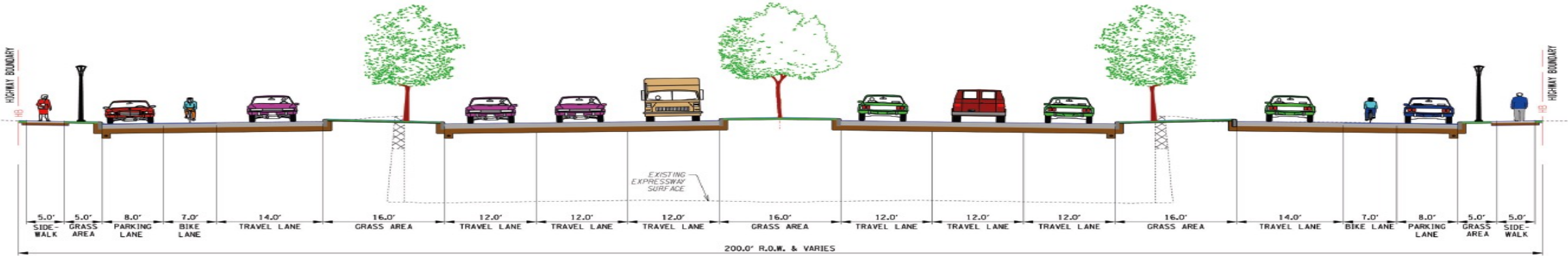
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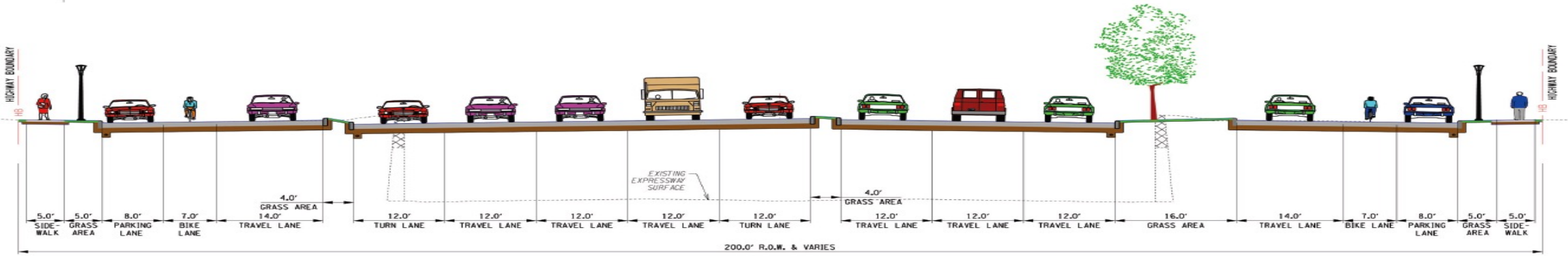
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CONCEPT 8:

KENSINGTON RECONSTRUCTION AS A 6-LANE BOULEVARD



CONCEPTUAL TYPICAL SECTION BOULEVARD
SECTION A-A



Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. Appendix A – Concept Figures. At: <https://kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Appendix%20A%20Concept%20Figures.pdf>

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CONCEPT 9:

KENSINGTON RECONSTRUCTION AS A 4-LANE BOULEVARD



Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. Appendix A – Concept Figures. At: <https://kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Appendix%20A%20Concept%20Figures.pdf>

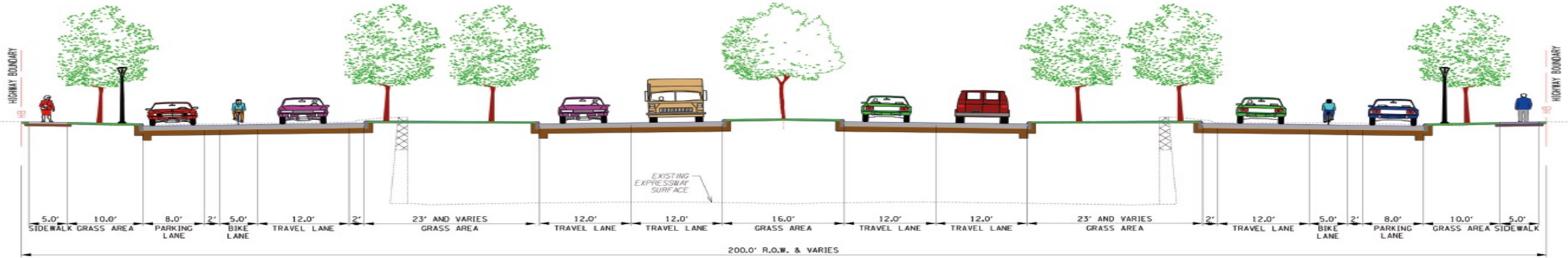
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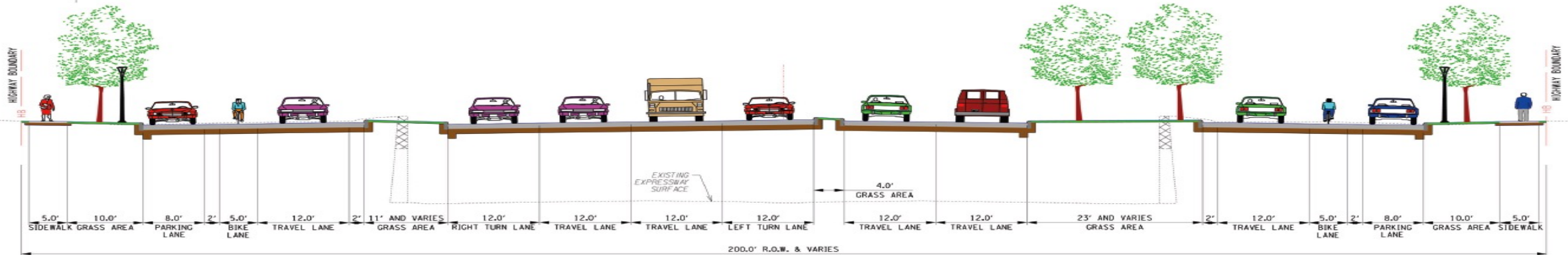
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CONCEPT 9:

KENSINGTON RECONSTRUCTION AS A 4-LANE BOULEVARD



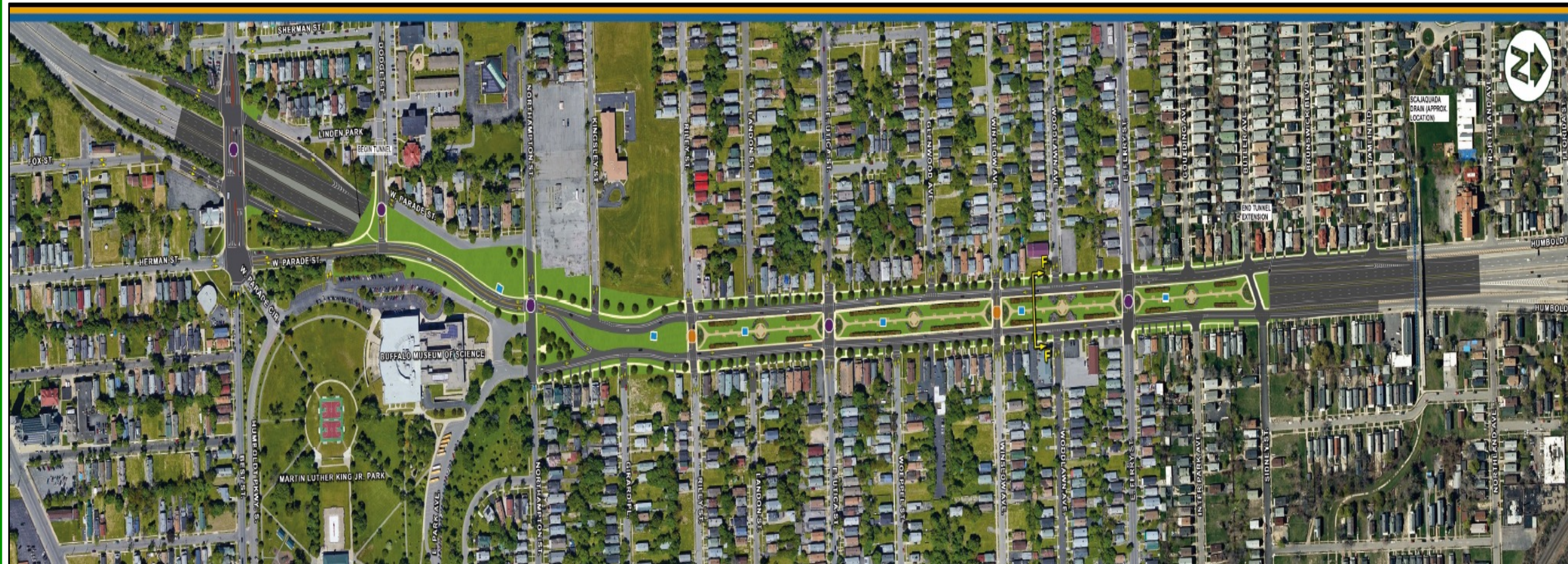
CONCEPTUAL TYPICAL SECTION BOULEVARD SECTION A-A



Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. Appendix A – Concept Figures. At: <https://kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Appendix%20A%20Concept%20Figures.pdf>

CONCEPT 5:

KENSINGTON RECONSTRUCTION + 6-LANE TUNNEL + VICTORIA GARDENS



Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. Appendix A – Concept Figures. At: <https://kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Appendix%20A%20Concept%20Figures.pdf>

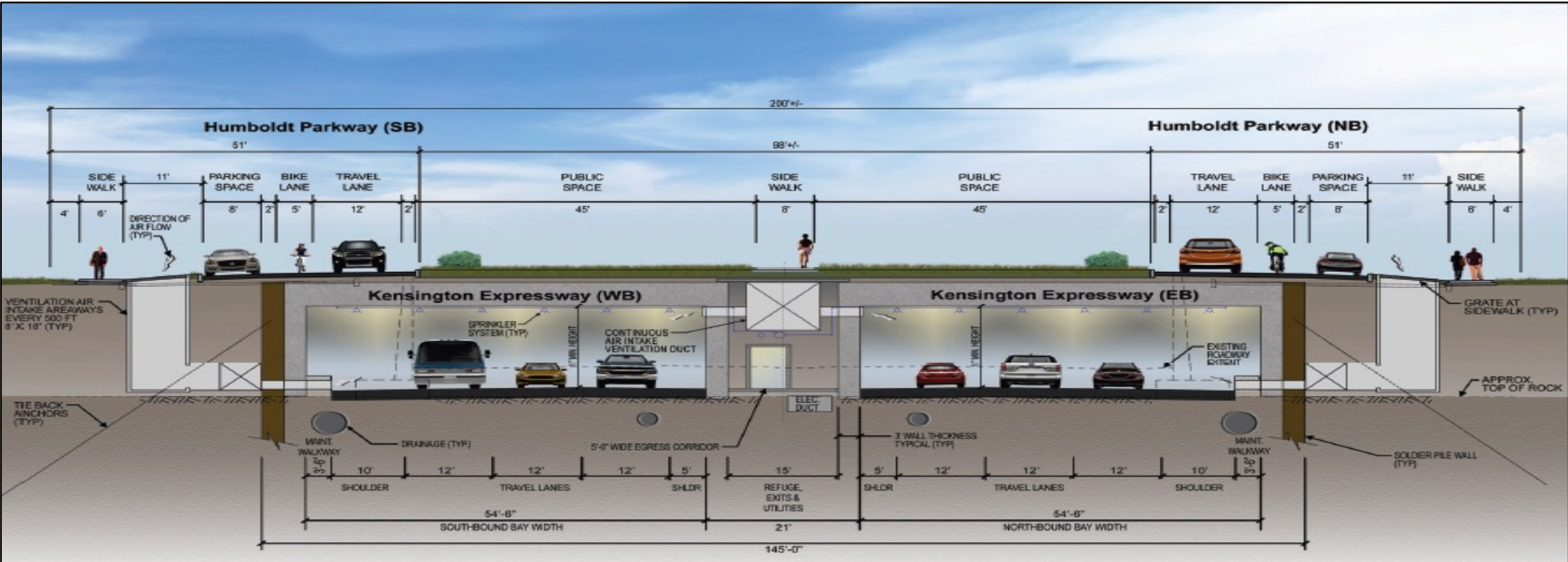
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CONCEPT 5:

KENSINGTON RECONSTRUCTION + 6-LANE TUNNEL + VICTORIA GARDENS



Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. Appendix A – Concept Figures. At: <https://kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Appendix%20A%20Concept%20Figures.pdf>

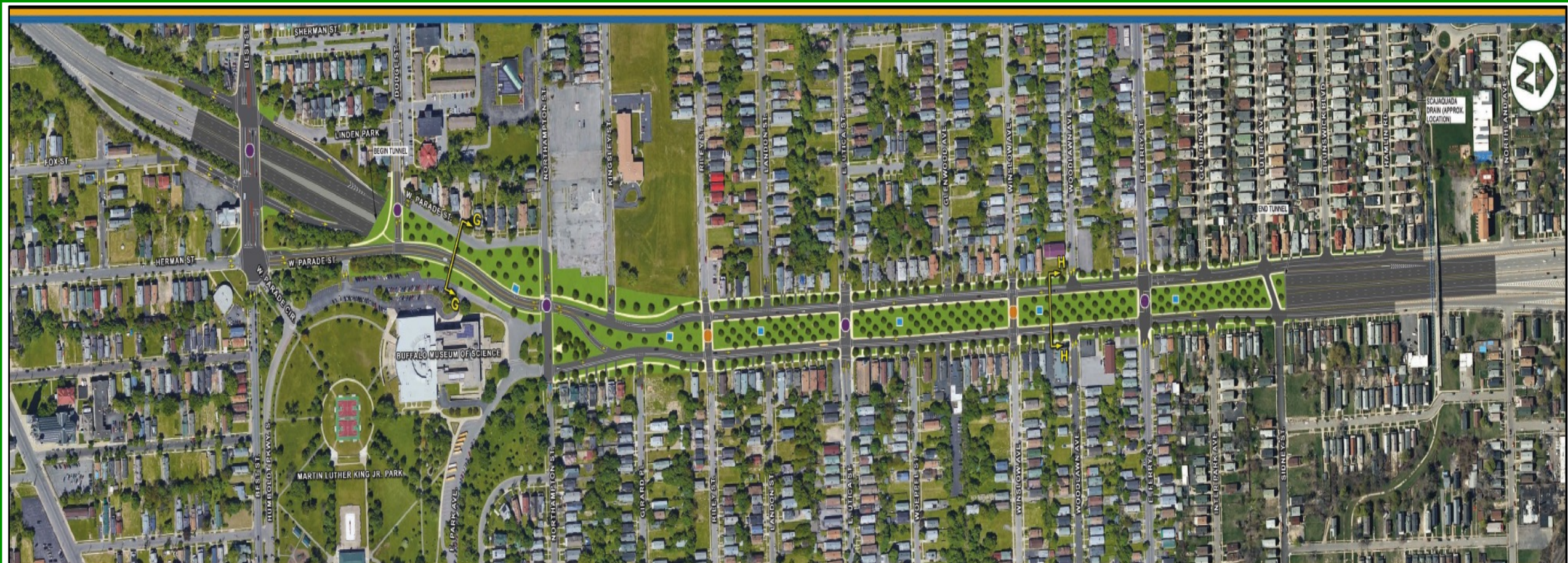
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CONCEPT 6:

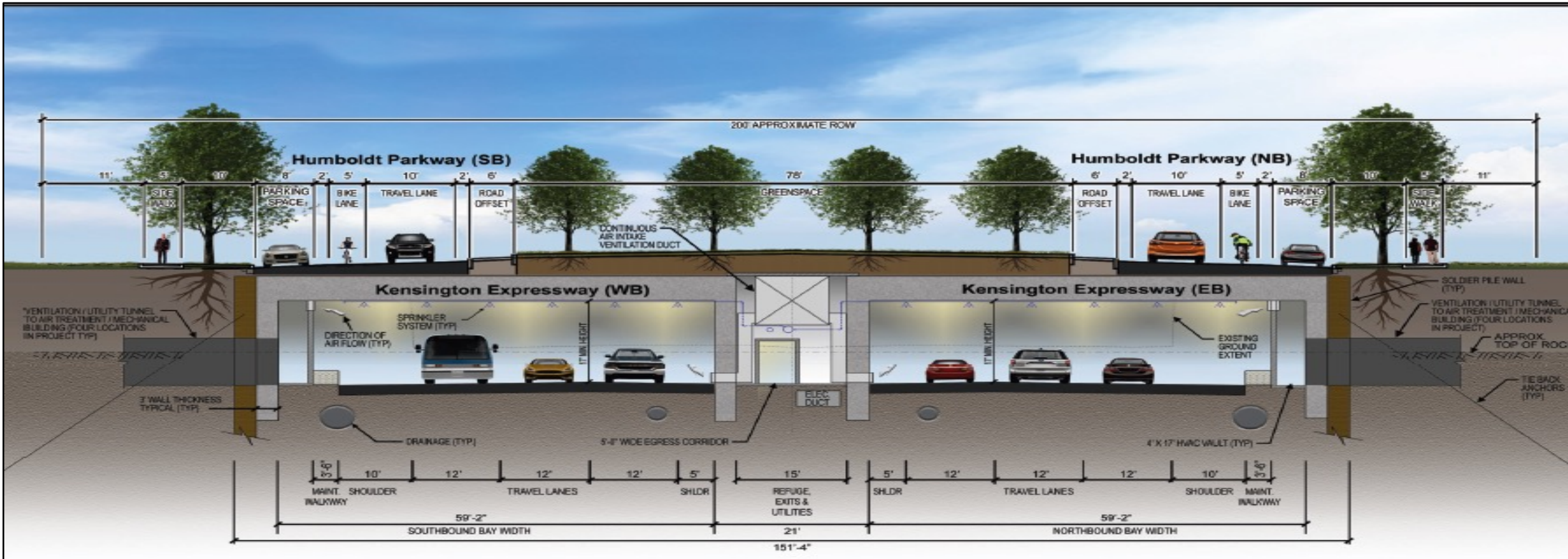
KENSINGTON RECONSTRUCTION + 6-LANE TUNNEL + TREE-LINED PARKWAY



Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. Appendix A – Concept Figures. At: <https://kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Appendix%20A%20Concept%20Figures.pdf>

CONCEPT 6:

KENSINGTON RECONSTRUCTION + 6-LANE TUNNEL + TREE-LINED PARKWAY



Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. Appendix A – Concept Figures. At: <https://kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Appendix%20A%20Concept%20Figures.pdf>

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RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM



The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is
THE LARGEST INVESTMENT IN:

 Clean water infrastructure	 Public transit	 Passenger rail in 50 years
 Upgrading the power grid	 Tackling legacy pollution	 Clean, electric buses
 Roads and bridges since the Interstate Highway System	 Increasing our infrastructure's resilience	<input type="text" value="Search..."/>  Affordable, high-speed internet

□ BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION

- Program fall under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed in 2021
 - “Reconnect communities that are cut off from opportunity and burdened by past transportation infrastructure decisions”
 1. Provide technical assistance and funding for communities
 2. Planning and construction projects that aim to reconnect neighborhoods
 3. Removing, retrofitting, or mitigating transportation barriers such as highways and railroad tracks

Source: U.S. DOT. (February 28, 2023). Biden-Harris Administration Announces First-Ever Awards from Program to Reconnect Communities. At <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/biden-harris-administration-announces-first-ever-awards-program-reconnect-communities>; The White House. (November 15, 2022). FACT SHEET: One Year into Implementation of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Biden-Harris Administration Celebrates Major Progress in Building a Better America. At: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/11/15/fact-sheet-one-year-into-implementation-of-bipartisan-infrastructure-law-biden-%E2%81%A0harris-administration-celebrates-major-progress-in-building-a-better-america/>

RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM

□ FIRST ROUND OF GRANTS

- Fund Construction and Planning
 - Transformative community-led solutions (e.g., capping interstates with parks)
 - Converting inhospitable transportation facilities to tree-lined Complete Streets
 - Creating new crossings through public transportation, bridges, tunnels and trails
 - Revitalize communities
 - Provide job and service access
 - Reduce pollution levels
 - Advance racial equity
 - Expand economic opportunity

Source: U.S. DOT. (February 28, 2023). Biden-Harris Administration Announces First-Ever Awards from Program to Reconnect Communities. At [https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/biden-harris-administration-announces-first-ever-awards-program-reconnect-communities`](https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/biden-harris-administration-announces-first-ever-awards-program-reconnect-communities)

RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM

□ FIRST ROUND OF GRANTS

“IN THIS FIRST ROUND OF FUNDING FOR THE RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM, THE U.S. DOT AWARDED 39 PLANNING GRANTS AND 6 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.”

185 MILLION

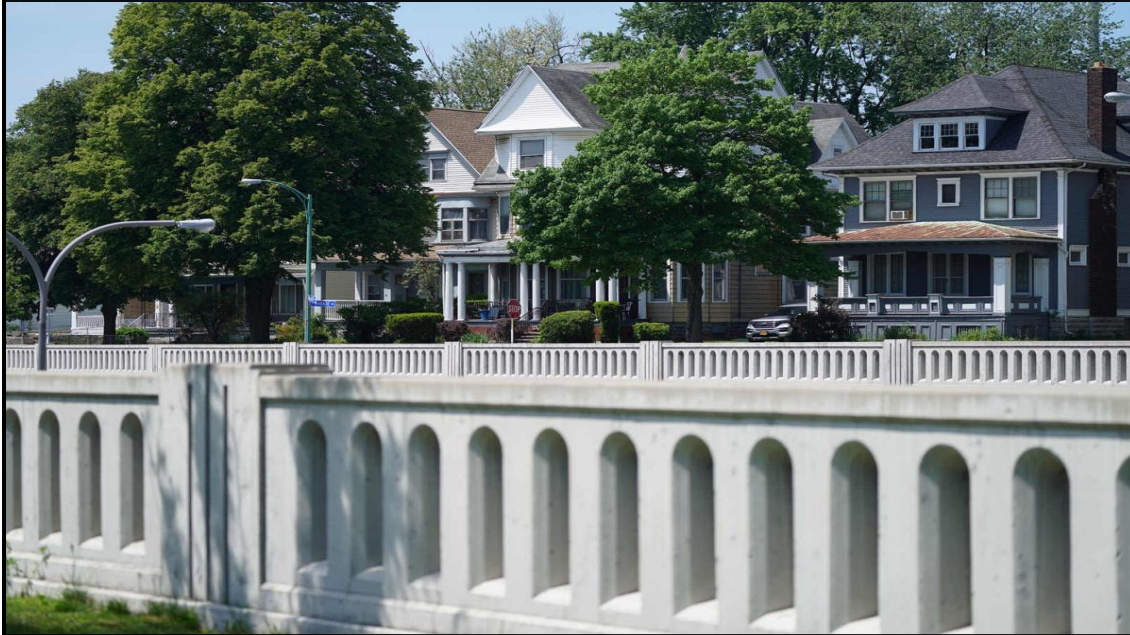
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RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM

THE BUFFALO NEWS

BY MARK SOMMER
FEBRUARY 17, 2023

Kensington project awarded \$55 million from infrastructure bill



Source: Sommer, M. (2023).. Kensington project awarded \$55 million from infrastructure bill. The Buffalo News. At: https://buffalonews.com/news/local/kensington-project-awarded-55-million-from-infrastructure-bill/article_7b55a0fe-aed3-11ed-ad98-3f416f777a16.html

TOP GRANTEES

GRANT AMOUNT	GRANTEE
\$55.6 MILLION	BUFFALO, NEW YORK <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TO BUILD A NEW HIGHWAY CAP AND TUNNEL OVER THE KENSINGTON EXPRESSWAY
\$30 MILLION	LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TO REDESIGN WEST SHORELINE DRIVE
\$2 MILLION	BALTIMORE, MARYLAND <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TO ADDRESS IMPACTS CAUSED BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF US 40/FRANKLIN-MULBERRY EXPRESSWAY
\$1.2 MILLION	SAC AND FOX TRIBE OF MISSISSIPPI IN IOWA/MESKWAKI <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TO PLAN A PROJECT TO CROSS BARRIERS FORMED BY US HIGHWAY 30
\$800,000	BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CITY'S TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

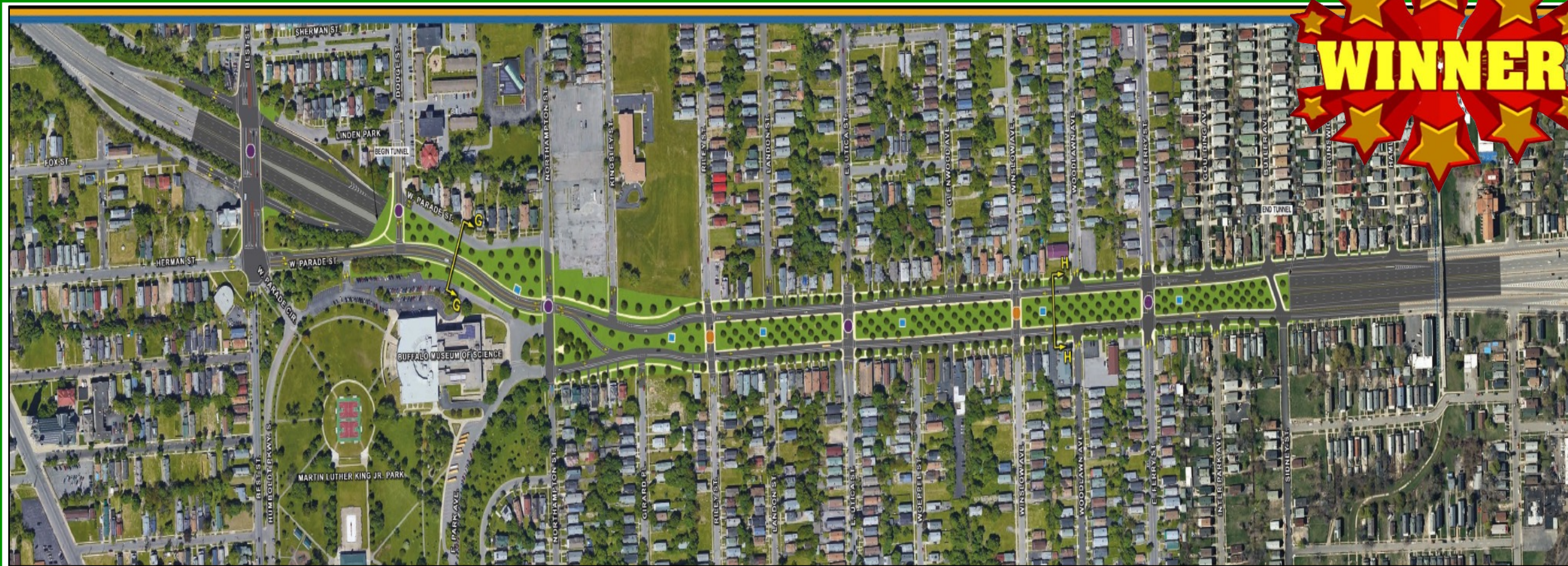
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CONCEPT 6:

KENSINGTON RECONSTRUCTION + 6-LANE TUNNEL + TREE-LINED PARKWAY



Source: NYS DOT. (December 2022). Transportation Project Report. NYS Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project Project Identification Number (PIN): 5512.52 City of Buffalo Erie County. Appendix A – Concept Figures. At: <https://kensingtonexpressway.dot.ny.gov/Content/files/ScopingReport/Appendix%20A%20Concept%20Figures.pdf>

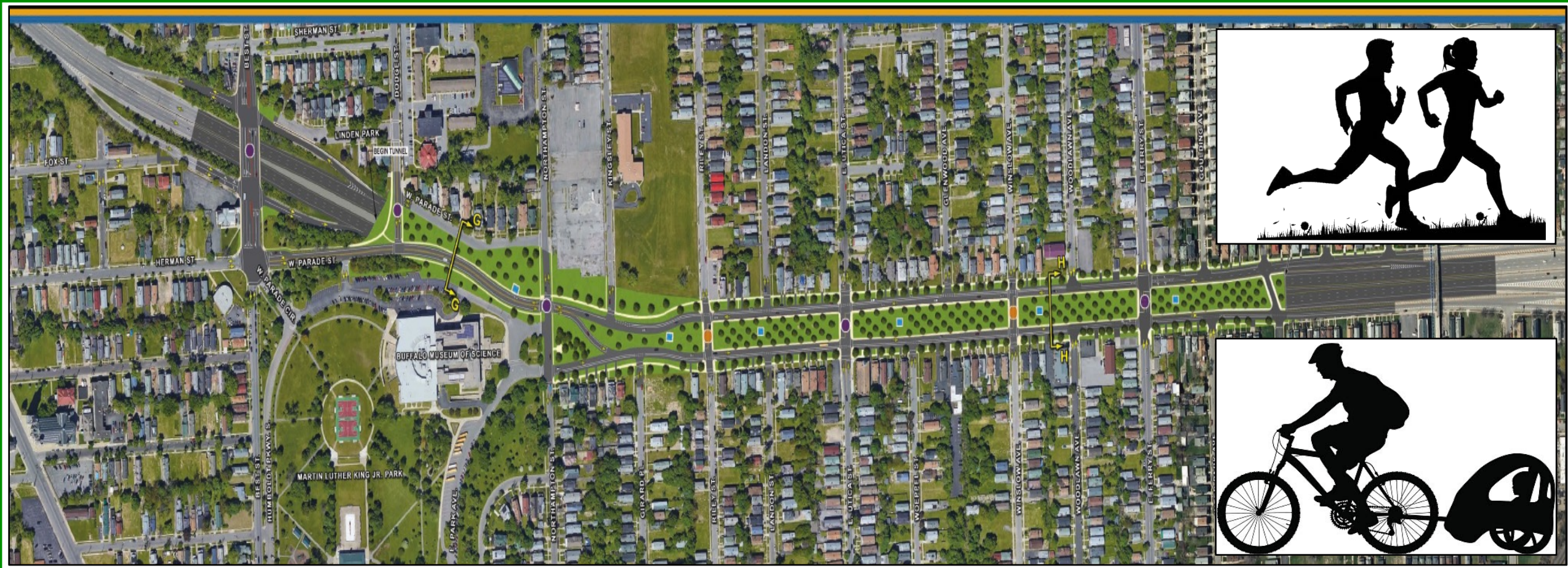
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'NOT JUST A PROGRAM, BUT A PRINCIPLE'

“ACTIVISM BROUGHT ABOUT EFFORTS TO REDRESS THE HARMS DONE UNTO COMMUNITIES...SOMETIMES STATED IN PROTESTS AS 'WHITE MEN'S ROADS THROUGH BLACK MEN'S HOMES'. CONGRESS AND THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION RECOGNIZED THAT THESE COMMUNITY LED EFFORTS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED WITH A HISTORIC, FIRST-EVER NATIONAL PROGRAM. THUS, THE RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM WAS BORN.”

Source: U.S. DOT. (2023). Past, Present, and Future of Reconnecting Communities. At: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/dc61e3bcecd44464b4bfef8299d9d6ce>

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1935



1964



TODAY



THANK YOU!

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College Park, Maryland USA

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Twitter: @ActiveRoberts

Professional Website: www.jenniferdeniseroberts.com
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 **HARVARD T.H. CHAN**
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The JPB Environmental Health Fellows Program

Risk & Social Policy Working Group



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