

Niagara Gorge Corridor

**Robert Moses Parkway Removal
Main Street to Findlay Drive
Niagara Falls, NY**

Design Report/ Environmental Assessment



Whirlpool Street @ Orchard Parkway facing south



Whirlpool Street @ Orchard Parkway facing north



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

In cooperation with:

**New York State Department of Transportation
New York Power Authority
USA Niagara Development Corporation
The City of Niagara Falls, NY**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

For

PIN 5761.90 Niagara Gorge Corridor
Robert Moses Parkway Removal
Main Street to Findley Drive
City of Niagara Falls, Niagara County

BY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

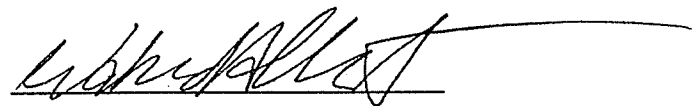
And

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Submitted pursuant to 42 USC 4332(2)(c) and 49 USC 303. This assessment was prepared in consultation with FHWA and has been reviewed for scope and content and is released for comment.

Jul. 11, 2016

Date



Chief Engineer
NYS Department of Transportation

07 | 12 | 16

Date



District Engineer
Federal Highway Administration



PROJECT APPROVAL SHEET

(Pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Matrix)

- A. IPP Approval:** The project is ready to be added to the Regional Capital Program and project scoping can begin.
- The IPP was approved by:
- Gary V. Gottlieb _____ July 2, 2009
Regional Planning and Program Manager
- B. Recommendation for Scope Approval** The project cost and schedule are consistent with the Regional Capital Program.
- David Szuba _____ May 20, 2013
Capital Facilities Manager, NYSOPRHP
- C. Scope Approval** The project cost and schedule are consistent with the Regional Capital Program.
- Mark W. Thomas _____ May 20, 2013
Western District Director, NYSOPRHP
- Darrell F. Kaminski _____ May 24, 2013
Regional Director, NYSDOT
- D. Public Hearing Certification (23 USC 128):** A public hearing was held on _____ in accordance with 23 USC 128.
- _____ _____
Design Squad Leader or Project Manager
- E. Recommendation for Design Approval:** The project cost and schedule are consistent with the Regional Capital Program.
- _____ _____
Regional Program Manager



F. Recommendation for Design and Nonstandard Feature Approval:

All requirements requisite to these actions and approvals have been met, the required independent quality control reviews separate from the functional group reviews have been accomplished, and the work is consistent with established standards, policies, regulations and procedures, except as otherwise noted and explained.

Regional Design Engineer, Regional Maintenance Engineer OR
Regional Director of Operations

G. Nonstandard Feature Approval:

No nonstandard features have been identified, created, or retained.

Regional Director, FHWA OR Deputy Chief Engineer

H. Design Approval:

The required environmental determinations have been made and the preferred alternative for this project is ready for final design.

Regional Director, FHWA OR Deputy Chief Engineer



LIST OF PREPARERS

Group Director Responsible for Production of the Design Approval Document:

Thomas R. Donohue, P.E., Principal Project Manager, Parsons Transportation Group of New York, Inc.

Description of Work Performed: Directed the preparation of the Design Approval Documentation in accordance with established standards, policies, regulations and procedures, except as otherwise explained in this document.



Note: *It is a violation of law for any person, unless they are acting under the direction of a licensed professional engineer, architect, landscape architect, or land surveyor, to alter an item in any way. If an item bearing the stamp of a licensed professional is altered, the altering engineer, architect, landscape architect, or land surveyor shall stamp the document and include the notation "altered by" followed by their signature, the date of such alteration, and a specific description of the alteration.*

This report was prepared by the following Agencies/Consultant/Subconsultant staff:

Agencies

**Paul J. Tronolone, AICP, VP – Policy, Planning & Project Development,
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Description of Work Performed:

Provided substantial technical input on all sections of the Design Approval Document including overall document review and technical editing of the entire report and appendices.

Consultant

Kenneth J. Hess, AICP, P.P., Parsons Transportation Group of New York, Inc.

Description of Work Performed:

Prepared the social and economic impacts for the Design Approval Document in accordance with established standards, policies, regulations and procedures, except as otherwise explained in this document.



Craig A. Richardson, RLA, Parsons Transportation Group of New York, Inc.

Description of Work Performed:

Prepared the visual impact assessment for the Design Approval Document in accordance with established standards, policies, regulations and procedures, except as otherwise explained in this document.

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Description of Work Performed:

Prepared the ecological studies for the Design Approval Document in accordance with established standards, policies, regulations and procedures, except as otherwise explained in this document.

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Description of Work Performed:

Prepared the air and noise analysis for the Design Approval Document in accordance with established standards, policies, regulations and procedures, except as otherwise explained in this document.

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Description of Work Performed:

Prepared the hazardous materials assessment for the Design Approval Document in accordance with established standards, policies, regulations and procedures, except as otherwise explained in this document.

Frank J. Schieppati, PH.D., RPA, Panamerican Consultants, Inc.

Description of Work Performed:

Prepared the cultural resources assessment for the Design Approval Document in accordance with established standards, policies, regulations and procedures, except as otherwise explained in this document.



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B	Alternatives/Concepts Considered and Rejected B.1 Initial Retained Alternatives (taken from Final Scoping Report – May 2013) B.2 Concepts Considered (presented at February 2015 Public Meeting)
C	Construction Cost Estimates
D	White Paper – Appropriateness of Applying NEPA Requirements to the First Phase Project
E	Traffic Information E.1 Traffic Flow Diagrams - 2010 E.2 2015 Traffic Count Program E.3 Accident Summaries
F	Ecological Information F.1 NYNHP Correspondence F.2 List of Plant Species Observed Within the Project Study Area F.3 Programmatic Section 7 ESA Process
G	Historic and Cultural Resources G.1 Phase 1A Cultural Resources Survey G.2 Phase 1B Cultural Resources Investigation G.3 Draft Section 106 Finding Documentation G.4 Consulting Parties Consultation & Correspondence
H	Visual Impacts Assessment Report
I	Air Quality Study
J	Noise Study
K	Asbestos Abatement Report
L	Hazardous Waste / Contaminated Materials L.1 Preliminary Screening Report for the Hazardous Waste / Contaminated Materials Assessment L.2 GPS Enabled Overland Gamma Radiation Survey
M	Coastal Zone Consistency Determination and Niagara River Greenway Consistency M.1 Coastal Zone Consistency Determination M.2 Niagara River Greenway Consistency



N	Full SEQRA EAF Part 1
O	Recreational Section 4(f) and 6(f) O.1 Section 4(f) O.2 Section 6(f)
P	Public Involvement P.1 Public Information Meeting No. 1 (February 19, 2015) P.2 Special Whirlpool Street Neighborhood Meeting (July 15, 2015) P.3 Public Information Meeting No. 2 (September 15, 2015)
Q	List of Recipients of the DR/EA



LIST OF ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

+/-	Plus or Minus
AADT	Average Annual Daily Traffic
AASHTO	American Association of Transportation Engineers
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ACM	Asbestos Containing Materials
ADA	Americans With Disabilities Act
ALT	Alternative
AM	Ante Meridiem (before midday)
APE	Area of Potential Effect
ATR	Automatic Traffic Recorder
BBA	Breeding Bird Atlas
BCA	Bird Conservation Area
BIN	Bridge Identification Number
BM	Bridge Manual
BMP	Best Management Practices
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendments
CAF	Coastal Assessment Form
CBC	Christmas Bird Count
CBD	Central Business District
CBP	Customs and Border Protection
CBSA	Canada Border Services Agency
CEA	Critical Environmental Areas
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLIS	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMP	Coastal Management Program
CN	Canadian National
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CPM	Counts per Minute
CRIS	Cultural Resource Information System
CRS	Cultural Resources Survey
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
CSX	Chessie and Seaboard System
dBA	Decibels
DC	Discovery Center
DR/EA	Design Report/Environmental Assessment
DR/EIS	Design Report/Environmental Impact Statement
EA	Environmental Assessment
EDR	Environmental Design and Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Services, DPC
EIC	Engineer-In-Charge
EJ	Environmental Justice
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act



ESD	Empire State Development
ETC	Estimated Time of Completion
FAN	Federal Aid Notification
FCAF	Federal Consistency Assessment Form
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FT	Feet
GBNRTC	Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPR	Ground Penetrating Radar
GR	Gravimetric Reduction
HCM	Highway Capacity Manual
HDM	Highway Design Manual
HW/CM	Hazardous Waste / Contaminated Material
IBA	Audubon Important Bird Area
IPAC	Information Planning and Conservation System
IRS/ITC	International Railway Station / Intermodal Transportation Center
ISTEA	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act
ITS	Intelligent Transportation System
KM	Kilometer
LOS	Level of Service
LOSP	Lake Ontario State Parkway
LRTP	Long Range Transportation Plan
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
LWRP	Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
MAP-21	Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21 st Century
MAX	Maximum
MDS	Map Documented Structures
MIN	Minimum
MOE	Measures of Effectiveness
MOTM	Maid of the Mist Corporation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Mile Post
MPH	Miles per Hour
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
MPT	Maintenance & Protection of Traffic
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
MTP	Metropolitan Transportation Plan
MUTCD	Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
MVMT	Million Vehicles Miles Traveled
N/A	Not Applicable
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAC	Noise Abatement Criteria
NB	Northbound
NCCC	Niagara County Community College
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFBC	Niagara Falls Bridge Commission



NFTA	Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
NFWB	Niagara Fall Water Board
NGC	Niagara Gorge Corridor Project
NHA	National Heritage Areas
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NHPP	National Highway Performance Program
NHS	National Highway System
NLEB	Northern Long-Eared Bat
NOB	Non-Friable Organically Bound
NOFA	Notice of Funding Availability
NPL	National Priorities List
NPS	National Park Service
NRGC	Niagara River Greenway Commission
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetland Inventory
NY	New York
NYNHP	New York Natural Heritage Program
NYPA	New York Power Authority
NYS	New York State
NYSDEC	New York State Dept of Environmental Conservation
NYSDOH	New York State Dept of Health
NYSDOS	New York State Department of State
NYSDOT	New York State Dept of Transportation
NYSOPRHP	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
O-D	Origin-Destination
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OHWM	Ordinary High Water Mark
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PDM	Project Development Manual
PI	Public Information
PIN	Project Identification Number
PLM	Polarized Light Microscopy
PM	Post Meridiem (after midday)
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RMP	Robert Moses Parkway
ROW	Right-Of-Way
RR	Railroad
RT	Route
S/NRHP	New York State and National Registers of Historic Places
SAFETEA-LU	Save Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users
SB	Southbound
SEC	Seconds
SEC/VEH	Seconds per Vehicle
SEQR	State Environmental Quality Review Act
SF	Square Feet
SHPO	New York State Historic Preservation Officer
SIP	State Implementation Plan



SPDES	State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SY	Square Yards
TEM	The Environmental Manual
TEM	Transmission Electron Microscopy
TENORM	Technically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material
T&E	Threatened & Endangered
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
TMP	Transportation Management Plan
TNM	Traffic Noise Model
TO	Transportation Operations
TTC	Temporary Traffic Control
UBRI/UDP	University at Buffalo Regional Institute and Urban Design Project
U.S.	United States
U.S.C.	United States Code
USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
USAN	USA Niagara Development Corporation
USCG	US Coast Guard
USDOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
USN	Unique Site Number
UST	Underground Storage Tank
VHD	Vehicle Hours of Delay
VIA	Visual Impact Assessment
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
WMA	Wildlife Management Area