



MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

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Contact: Sharon Linstedt

slinstedt@buffalony.gov

**MAYOR BROWN RELEASES 2 REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS TO JUMPSTART
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CITY OF BUFFALO'S MOBILITY-BASED
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EQUITY INITIATIVE**

The RFPs seek a Mobility Coordinator to Manage the City's Parking Ramps and a Designated Developer for the Mohawk Parking Ramp that support recommendations of "The Future of Mobility: Remaking Buffalo for the 21st Century" study unveiled December 9, 2020

Buffalo, NY - Mayor Byron W. Brown today jump-started the City of Buffalo's Future of Mobility pilot program by releasing two requests for proposals (RFPs) that are key to creating a new Mobility and Innovation Zone along Lower Main Street.

"Mobility innovation is more than just finding ways to incorporate next generation transportation technology into our city's future plans. It is going to require an entirely new approach to how we manage our parking infrastructure, traffic flow, and transportation demand. These RFPs are a critical first step in achieving that vision," Mayor Brown said.

One of the RFPs seeks a designated developer for the city-owned 1.1 acre Mohawk Parking Ramp site, located at the corner of East Mohawk and Ellicott streets. The city is seeking proposals for a developer or development team to acquire and redevelop the site, which is currently home to the 629-space parking ramp, which was built in 1959.

The Mohawk Parking Ramp is situated in proximity to Buffalo's largest office buildings, prized entertainment and restaurant venues, and transit including NFTA Metro Rail and numerous NFTA bus lines. As a result, the site has the capability to activate public spaces, walkable areas, and new business development in downtown Buffalo.

Proposals for redevelopment of the downtown site with the following will be given preference:

- Mixed-use developments that incorporate affordable housing.
- Proposals that envision creative and cost-effective solutions for structured parking.
- Submissions that have a strong community engagement plan and plan to meet or exceed MWBE goals.

- Submissions that consider an activation of the street level, and an increase to urban vibrancy, while facilitating pedestrian, bicycle, and micromobility friendly streetscapes.
- Submissions that consider improvement to the public realm.

The second RFP seeks an organization that will create a detailed Transportation Demand Management Strategy Implementation Plan that includes how the organization will manage the city of Buffalo's parking ramps in downtown. Historically, the organization that manages the city of Buffalo's parking assets has been almost exclusively focused on single occupancy vehicle transportation. The RFP seeks an organization that will not only professionally manage the city's parking ramps, but more deeply consider and support mobility strategies for all modes of transportation, including emerging modes of transportation such as Electronic Micro Mobility (EMM) and transportation software solutions.

"In order to sustain the growth our city and region have experienced over the past decade, we must continue our efforts to make downtown more livable, more vibrant, more innovative, and more diverse," said Brendan R. Mehaffy, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning. "Downtown must be a great place that provides great experiences for all our residents – whether they live downtown or not – our businesses, and visitors to our city. We need to take the next step by seizing the opportunity to convert our aging parking infrastructure and dated transportation management mindset in ways that embrace the revolution in transportation underway and add to the social and economic vitality of downtown."

"We expect respondents to both of these proposals to reflect our vision of a City that views mobility as a means of achieving equity for all of our residents. The respondents' approach must be consistent with the direction that has been outlined today and be ready to act as partners with the City as the field of mobility evolves with the advent of new technologies," Mayor Brown said.

Both RFPs are critical steps we must take if we are going to live up to the potential the Future of Mobility Innovation report has outlined for our City. I look forward to seeing the responses we receive now that we have boldly announced our intention to be a national leader in the mobility revolution that will change the face of our cities," Mayor Brown added.

The ground-breaking mobility study released earlier this week, offers a blueprint to long-term positive and inclusive economic momentum by embracing emerging modes of mobility and technology.

Its recommendations position the City of Buffalo to become an international model for sustained economic growth by incorporating new transportation technologies, such as Autonomous Vehicles, ride sharing, micro-mobility such as e-scooters, and other modes of transportation to recreate existing streets and public places. The study came out of a partnership with the Congress for New Urbanism and Stantec Urban Places, which kicked off in February with a week-long series of public workshops and design charrette in Buffalo.

"With this report, the City of Buffalo now has a toolkit to steer the implementation of next generation mobility solutions so that they can serve the city and its people, not vice versa," says Lynn Richards, President and CEO of CNU. "While other cities are giving technology companies free rein to test self-driving cars on their streets, without considering consequences, Buffalo's approach is centered on its community first." Mayor Brown will soon announce a Mobility Task Force to review and oversee the implementation of the recommendations in the study.

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