

Project Registration Number _____

**Niagara River Greenway Commission
Consultation and Review Form**

Type of Review Required: _____ Mandatory Consultation
_____ Voluntary Review and/or Endorsement

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION

Name: VISION NIAGARA, INC
Mailing Address: PO BOX 281, BUFFALO
State: NY Zip Code: 14213
Federal ID# 47-3821500 Charities Registration # _____

PROJECT TYPE

Check all that apply: _____ Environmental Cultural/Heritage Land or Water Public Access
 Cultural Trail Educational/Interpretive
_____ Waterfront or Land Based Development _____ Signage
_____ Recreational _____ Other

Funding Committee Request: _____ Host Community Standing Committee
 Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee
_____ Ecological Standing Committee
_____ State Parks Standing Committee
_____ Unsure at this time

PROJECT INFORMATION
FEASIBILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION STUDY:
ILLUMINATING HISTORY AND CONNECTIVITY

Project Name: _____
Location: NIAGARA STREET CORRIDOR
Site Address: NIAGARA STREET CORRIDOR, BUFFALO
State: NEW YORK Zip Code: 14213 & 14207
Minor Civil Division(s): _____
County: ERIE
Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other): _____

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: BARBARA ROWE Title: BOARD PRESIDENT
Business Address: PO BOX 281, BUFFALO
State: NEW YORK Zip Code: 14213
Telephone Number: _____ Cell Number: 716.912.4328
Fax Number: _____
E-Mail Address: studio9buffalo@gmail.com

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name: BARBARA ROWE Title: BOARD PRESIDENT
Organization/Firm: VISION NIAGARA, INC.
Business Address: PO BOX 281, BUFFALO
State: NEW YORK Zip Code: 14213
Telephone Number: _____ Cell Number: 716.912.4328
Fax Number: _____
E-Mail Address: info@visionniagara.org

Project Narrative

1. In a brief paragraph, describe the project and its purpose, how and when it will be accomplished and why it is important.

Feasibility and Implementation Study: Illuminating History and Connectivity will evaluate locations and methods, and propose implementation ready options, for utilizing night lighting to celebrate the history and culture of the Niagara Street corridor. Uplighting will illuminate historic structures and bridges and highlight the importance of these monuments. Underlighting will be utilized along the bridge underpasses, signifying their proximity and access to the water. This one-year study will leverage, complement, tie-together and help to inform both current and proposed projects underway along the Niagara Street Corridor including the *Niagara Street Street Now* corridor improvement project, the Buffalo Billion 2 - *Buffalo Blueway* project, West Ferry bridge improvements, Rich Products campus master planning, *Scajaquada Creek Paddlesport Launch* project, Black Rock Harbor planning, and private development efforts, all in various stages of implementation and planning.

A coordinated night lighting master plan will help to illuminate and celebrate the significant investments being made into Buffalo's west side waterfront. A coordinated system of illumination projects will increase public safety and create a more accessible and inviting place for residents and visitors. This effort will extend the connection to successful, existing projects such as the illumination art on the Outer Harbor's Connecting Terminal grain silo, the Peace Bridge and recent increase of beautiful illumination efforts on buildings throughout our city.

Attached is a diagram depicting some of the proposed locations (listed below) that will be studied for uplighting (shown in yellow) and downlighting (shown in blue). Also, attached is a screen shot of Google map [link](#).

1. West Ferry bridge
2. I-190/Rt. 198 overpasses at the Rte. 198 terminus at Niagara Street
3. CSX railroad trestle bridge over Scajaquada Creek mouth
4. CSX railroad bridge over Niagara Street just northwest of Tonawanda Street
5. International railroad overpass on Niagara Street near Parish Street
6. International railroad Bridge over the Black Rock Canal
7. Hamilton Street underpass of I-190 overpass
8. Austin Street underpass of I-190 overpass
9. Hertel Avenue underpass of I-190 overpass
10. Arthur Street underpass of I-190 overpass

Illumination of the historic Upper and Lower Black Rock infrastructure will serve to provide pedestrians, paddlers, and bicyclists with visual markers, connecting them to the water along the Blueway and to the Greenway system of trails. This work will directly complement the Niagara Street Now project currently being implemented by the City of

Buffalo Department of Public Works in tandem with Buffalo Sewer Authority. The Niagara Street Now project includes public art, green infrastructure, smart pedestrian traffic signaling, a cycle track, and the implementation of a “complete street” redesign. In addition to the much-needed improvements to Niagara Street, the strategic illumination of multiple over/underpasses would not only better benefit wayfinding but would also dramatically enhance the atmosphere and character of the community.

This feasibility study will identify additional opportunities to illuminate future projects, recommend equipment and technology suitable for each of the different sites, obtain and/or set the groundwork for permissions from owners and co-owners of the impacted properties, and identify additional funding sources for project implementation.

11. Referring to the Niagara River Greenway Plan, clearly document and describe how the proposed project will advance the Niagara River Greenway vision including the goals, principles, and criteria that define that vision.

Connectivity, access, authenticity, and the celebration of regional history and heritage are just a few of the Greenway principles that will be realized by this project. This feasibility and implementation study will produce guidelines for a project that celebrates the culture and history of Niagara River Greenway. In addition to highlighting the physical infrastructure that defines Buffalo’s industrial history, illumination will pay homage to our legacy of transportation and commerce, especially along our waterfront.

The study will detail how to illuminate, not only the bridges and passageways associated with the corridor, but also the points of visibility and physical access to Scajaquada Creek, the Black Rock Canal and the Niagara River. In their existing states along Niagara Street and along the water systems of Buffalo, the bridges are often overlooked and the connections they make between the Blueway and Greenway are nearly invisible. As improvements are planned for the corridor, the feasibility and implementation guidelines will be in place for inclusion. For example, the West Ferry bascule bridge is in line for additional mechanical repairs; if those plans could include illumination of the bridge, the guidelines would help to inform and influence how the illumination could be performed so as to best complete the visual connection being made with other projects along the waterfront corridor.

The railroad bridges are legacies of commerce and transportation and are an important part of the region’s culture and history. Illuminating these structures will bring an appreciation for that culture and history. Underlighting of the passageways under these bridges will also help to create an inviting, accessible route for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists while also providing wayfinding, especially to public access to the water.

12. Define the budget for the proposed project and include costs for the following:

Planning and Design		
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STOSS and lighting subconsultant	Illumination master planning, feasibility, and implementation guidelines	\$31,000
Bergmann Associates	Transportation engineering	\$10,000
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper	Waterfront master plan coordination	\$10,000
City of Buffalo	Public Works coordination	\$10,000
Construction		N/A
Acquisition		N/A
Administration and Project Coordination		
Vision Niagara		\$10,000
Operation and Maintenance/Year		N/A
TOTAL PROJECT COST		\$71,000

13. Describe the measures taken at the local level to gain community and government support for this project (hearings, petitions, public surveys, resolutions of support or other methods). If this project has been cited or described in a local planning document or some equivalent thereof, attach copies of that documentation highlighting the sections that are relevant to the proposed project. Describe the role of municipal agencies, stakeholder groups, consultants, volunteers or others who will be involved in the proposed project.

The preliminary idea for this project came before the Buffalo Arts Commission in response to the 2016 RFP's for public art as part of the Niagara Street Now project, the complete street design for the Niagara Street corridor in Buffalo. STOSS, an internationally acclaimed design firm based in Boston, MA, is a member of the consultant team overseeing design aspects of the Niagara Street Now project for green infrastructure. STOSS responded to the RFP with an illumination proposal. Due to the accelerated transportation project time schedule, it was not possible to properly address illumination feasibility, costs and the technical design issues that needed to be resolved in order to include this illumination work within the existing transportation project.

When the proposal was removed from consideration as part of the public art component (again, due to time constraints), multiple discussions were held with Vision Niagara, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper and Black Rock Riverside Alliance members to determine how to move forward with the illumination proposal. Vision Niagara, Waterkeeper and the Black Rock Riverside Alliance are organizations that represent multiple stakeholders in the region. Meetings were held with Buffalo's Department of Public Works and with the Buffalo Arts Commission.

14. Describe and document the environmental setting and existing conditions at the proposed project site. If you are not the owner of the property include a letter(s) or

resolution(s) evidencing support for the project by the owner. Provide photographs, conceptual plans and drawings that show the site as it presently exists and how the site will change with the addition of the proposed project. Describe how your project will comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The existence of wetlands, significant upland and aquatic habitats, and plant or animal species that are classified as rare, threatened, or endangered should be noted. Explain how such natural resources will be protected and/or enhanced. Cite any relevant project-related studies.

The feasibility study will evaluate multiple locations along the Niagara Street corridor and will enable formulation of a comprehensive plan including the above requirements.

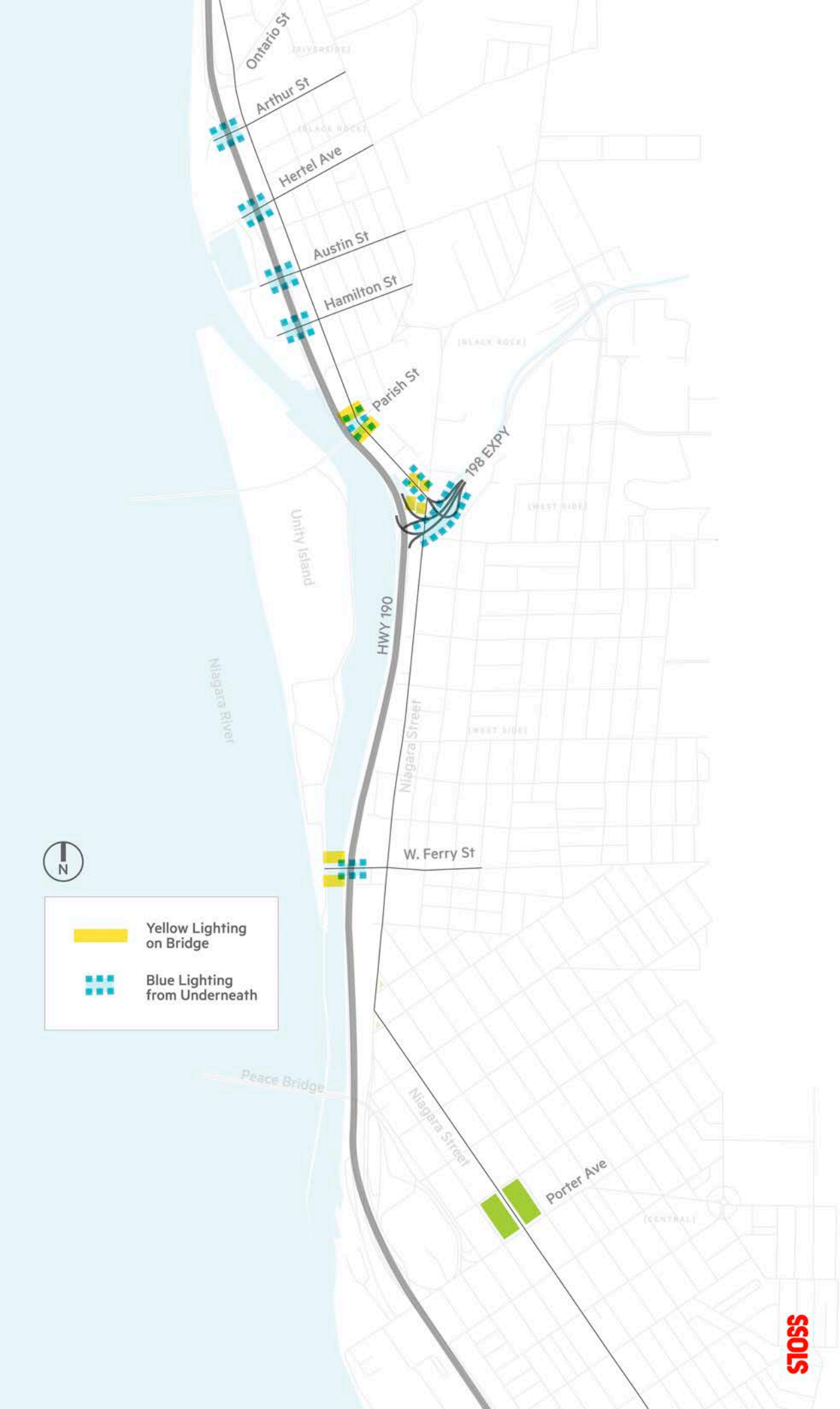
Identify all sources of funding and the amount of funding expected from each source. Identify and quantify funds that are already on hand or have been allocated for the proposed project. Explain how the project will be operated and maintained.

Funding from the Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee will be requested, and in-kind resources will be enlisted for this study. The project steering committee will be comprised of members from Vision Niagara, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper and Black Rock Riverside Alliance to guide the project. Additionally, former museum director, Ted Pietrzak, a consultant with experience in guiding and funding public projects, is volunteering to assist us with this study.

Feasibility and Implementation Study: Illuminating History and Connectivity

Accompanying materials

1. Map and diagram indicating locations proposed for illumination
2. Screen shot of Google Map showing locations
3. Graphic illustrating proposed illumination for location at Niagara Street just northwest of Tonawanda Street (#4)
4. Graphic Including photographs of current conditions of five (5) proposed locations and proposed illuminations (#2, #7, #8, #9, #10).



	Yellow Lighting on Bridge
	Blue Lighting from Underneath



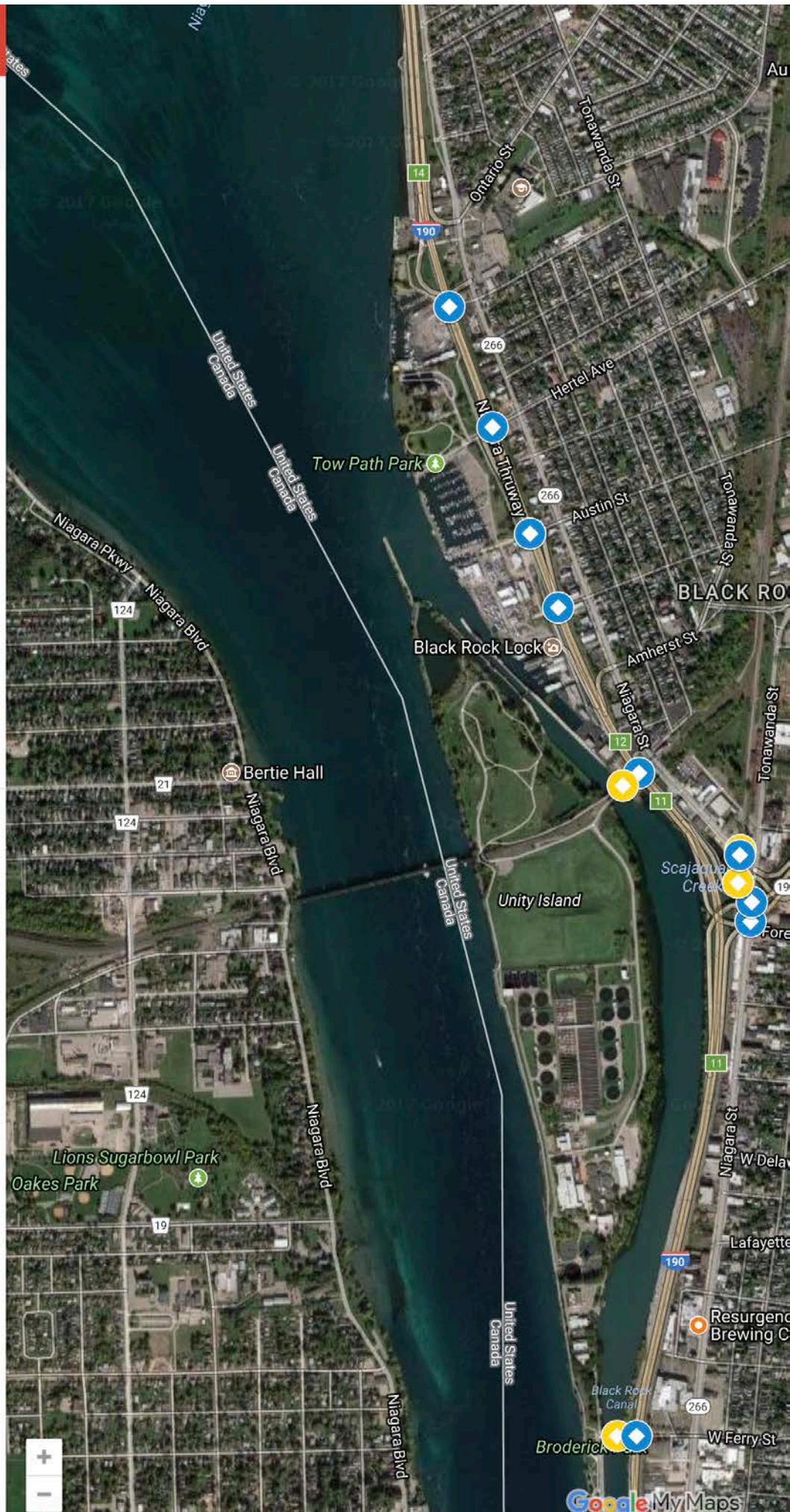
7 views

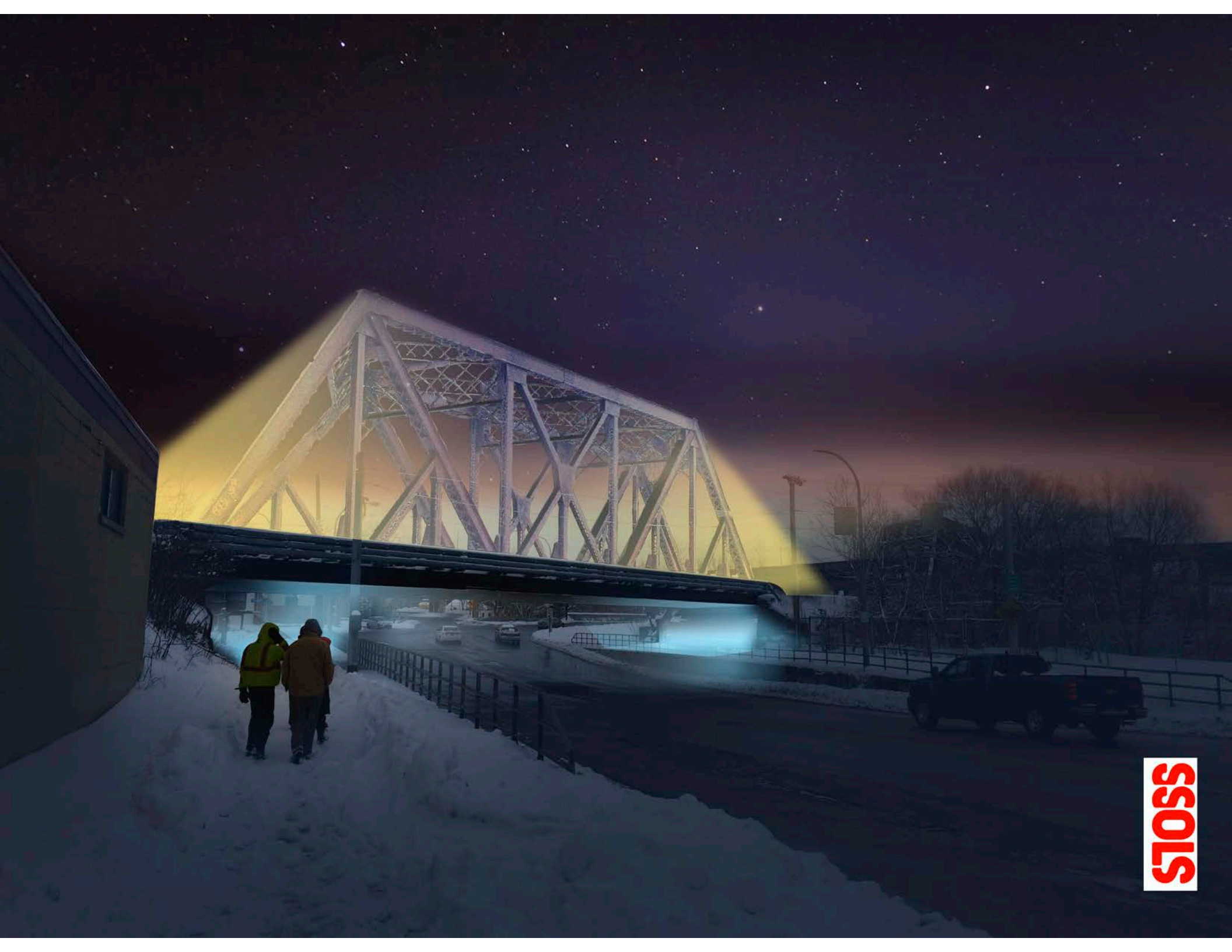


SHARE

Untitled layer

- 1. West Ferry Bridge
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- 2. I-190/Rt. 198 overpasses at the Rte. 198 ...
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- 3. CSX railroad trestle bridge over Scajaqua...
- 4. CSX railroad bridge over Niagara Street j...
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- 5. International railroad overpass on Niagar...
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- 7. Hamilton Street underpass of I-190 over...
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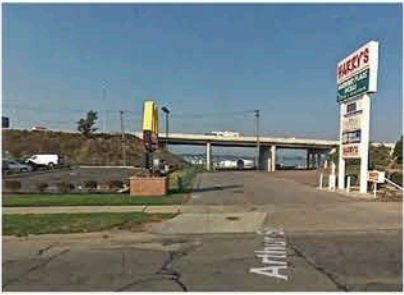




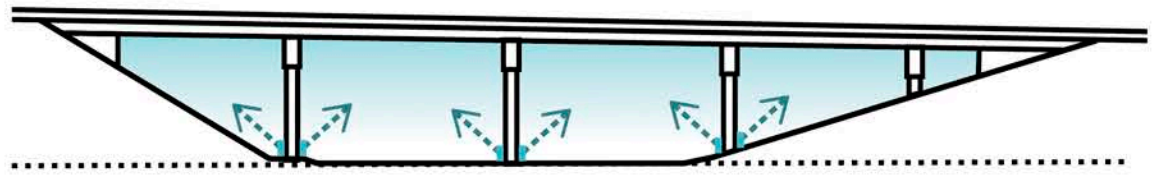
STOLS



190 Highway Flyover



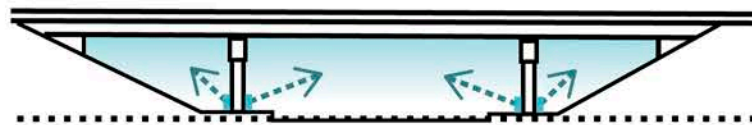
Arthur Street



Hamilton Street



Hertel Street



Austin Street

