

Erie & Niagara County Service Plan Update FAQs



What is the NFTA Service Plan?

The *Service Plan* will establish strategies designed to make the bus system in Erie and Niagara County more efficient and cost effective, and increase the number of bus riders. To achieve this, NFTA is conducting an in-depth update to the 2008 *Service Plan* that assesses the changing transit needs of Niagara and Erie County residents, workers, students and visitors.

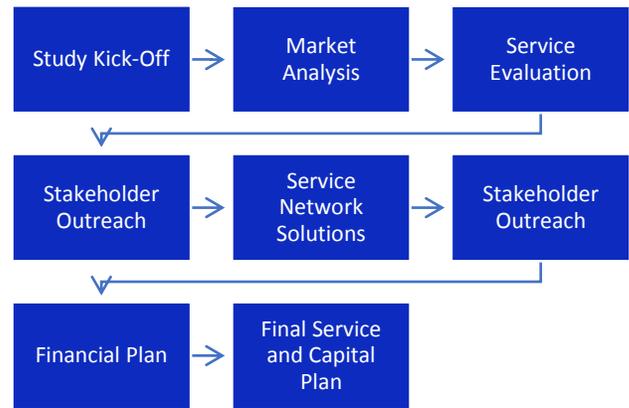
Why is NFTA conducting the study?

NFTA wants to better understand the transit needs of existing and future customers in order to develop a transit plan for an enhanced, well-performing transit system that can respond to the demands of a growing region. NFTA last conducted a study in 2008; however given the area’s recent population and employment growth patterns as well as funding constraints, the agency opted to revisit the service plan to shed light on untapped markets and service areas, or where service can be redirected.

What will the study include?

Outreach & Participation	Opportunities for stakeholder and committee input at key points in the study process.
Market Analysis	In-depth analysis of the mobility needs & development patterns in Erie and Niagara Counties.
Service Evaluation	Evaluation of existing services & identification of opportunities to support the efficient & effective use of resources.
Service Network Solutions	Recommendations for the growth and development of a financially sustainable transit system that works within current & future funding plans.

Overall Service Plan Study Process



What type of recommendations will be developed as part of the Service Plan Update?

Strategies and recommendations that will be considered in preparing the plan will likely include:

- Increase frequency on key corridors in both Niagara and Erie Counties
- Improve transit connections to main transit routes, including both bus and rail
- Restructure services to best meet the needs of the public
- Implement new and innovative services

What is the schedule for the study?

The study is scheduled to be completed by December 2015, and will be approved and adopted by the Board. To date, the study team has completed the Market Analysis and Service Evaluation components, and is currently beginning the development of service recommendations.

