

# NIAGARA ERIE REGIONAL COALITION

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## Executive Director:

Tod A. Kniazuk

## MEMORANDUM

**To: Co-Chairs Clyde Burmaster & Barry Weinstein, MD**  
**From: Economic Development Chair Hector Titus**  
**Re: March 2007 Meeting**  
**Date: May 11, 2007**

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The Niagara Erie Regional Coalition Economic Development Subcommittee met March 30, 2007 at the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) in a joint meeting with the Transportation Subcommittee. Present for the meeting were subcommittee members Titus, Doolittle, Konst, and Roll, as well as Transportation Subcommittee members Wendel, Burmaster, Ferraro, Gower, and Morse (proxy by Tim Trabold).

### Framework for Regional Growth:

Please see the Transportation Subcommittee report for details of this topic's discussion. The Economic Development Subcommittee agrees that the Framework should remain in the Transportation Subcommittee, as well as on the general meeting agenda when appropriate.

### Explore Buffalo Niagara 2007:

The new dates for Explore Buffalo Niagara 2007 are September 12, 13, and 14, 2007. The website is [www.ExploreBuffaloNiagara.com](http://www.ExploreBuffaloNiagara.com)

The event was to be announced at an April 23 press conference in Buffalo at WNED (who produced the invitation DVD).

Thanks to event chair and Economic Development Subcommittee member David Roll, the two subcommittees viewed the invitation DVD that features Warren Buffett. That DVD was sent to 1,500 CEOs/CFOs around the world. Five countries and 390 CEOs have already committed to attend.

The Economic Development Subcommittee decided that it would take the May 11 general meeting to focus on economic development, and that Explore Buffalo Niagara 2007 will be a featured topic. All will be able to view the DVD and hear details of the event.

#### Small Business Assistance Website:

The Buffalo Niagara Enterprise (BNE) is making its web based services a major focus in 2007 and beyond, and the idea was presented by Coalition Member Laura St. Pierre Smith that perhaps the small business assistance website could be integrated into the BNE site at no cost to the Coalition.

Executive Director Kniazuk has met twice with the BNE to explore this idea and reported to the subcommittee that it could conceptually be a fit. There are some details of compatibility and some further conversation needs to take place regarding procedures for the use of the site, but none of these seem at first glance to be insurmountable. The subcommittee authorized the executive director to continue exploring the idea and to reconvene the project steering committee when appropriate to review revisions to the original plan. Also, we will continue to seek \$10,000 to provide funds for marketing, staff work, and other related expenses.

#### Other Topics:

The other topic discussed was the Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS). The subcommittee will next meet jointly with the Government Affairs Subcommittee to provide assistance with this effort.