

The Ohio Street Road Diet: Building the Complete Street

Michael F. Leydecker, Director of Surface Transportation, Wendel

ABSTRACT

The Ohio Street Corridor links major activity centers associated with Buffalo's developing waterfront. Intended to service the waterfront's former industrial land use, the existing Ohio Street corridor consists of a four-lane commercial arterial with no provisions for pedestrians, bicyclist, or transit users. The project incorporates "Road Diet Principles" for development of a Complete Street that links Canalside to the Outer Harbor for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit users to move safely and comfortably. The project supports the revitalization and health of the surrounding community, a key aspect of sustainable planning and design. The connection to the waterfront promotes Smart Growth and LEED principles by enhancing the connectivity and walkability of the area. Additionally, the project is targeting the NYS Department of Transportation GreenLITES certification.

Road Diet elements include re-allocation of travel lanes to accommodate a multi-use path, green infrastructure, and streetscape amenities within the existing right of way. The project was advanced jointly by the City of Buffalo and the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (Subsidiary of Empire State Development Corporation). This integrative design process was essential to successfully accomplishing project goals.

BIOGRAPHY

With over 35 years of experience in the transportation field, Mr. Leydecker is well versed in a range of multi-faceted projects including context sensitive transportation design, traffic engineering, community participation and environmental assessments. His expertise includes planning and design of complete streets providing more transportation choices, supporting existing communities through transit-oriented, mixed use development and land recycling, and creating healthy, safe and walkable neighborhoods. He has a strong working knowledge of AASHTO Geometric Design Standards, ADA design guidelines, DOT Specifications, FHWA MUTCD and DOT Traffic Signal Design Requirements. Mr. Leydecker also has prepared Environmental Assessments and Impact Statements on major highway and land development projects and has an intimate knowledge of State Environmental Quality Review and Federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations.