

Freeway Fighters - Reconnecting Our Communities in New York State

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Stephanie Crockatt, *Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy*

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ABSTRACT

In this session, a diverse group of experts in their field will discuss their experiences addressing the challenges created by the construction of highways and freeways in the cities of New York State and their efforts to remedy these problems through highway removal. This will be followed by a panel discussion where questions from a moderator, members of the panel, as well as the audience will be discussed. Highway construction in our downtowns has created a range of issues covering a variety of topics. Panelists will address some of these through the unique lens that they have been working with in their pursuit of highway removal. These perspectives include landscape architecture and historic preservation, municipal challenges and opportunities, legal challenges and issues of equity, public engagement and architectural design, and planning experience in complex municipalities and counter proposing prevailing engineering methods. Each panelist represents highway removal efforts in the five largest cities in New York State – Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany, and the Bronx in New York City. Efforts to address highways in each of these cities are at different stages of progress. The experience shared in this session will help to inform participants what is being done around the State and help these efforts to progress, improving our cities, and bringing more opportunities to our communities.

BIOGRAPHY

Adam is a senior planner at SWBR and has experience in planning, urban design, and architecture. He has worked on neighborhood revitalization efforts, transit-oriented development, comprehensive plans, mall retrofit concepts, highways to boulevards initiatives, residential development, and K-12 school design and construction. As an educator, he has provided design and graphics instruction at the undergraduate and graduate levels to architecture and real estate development students. A certified planner, licensed architect, and Urban Guild member, he is interested in ways to elevate the level of urban architecture as well as strategies to implement context-sensitive schools. Adam received his bachelor's in architecture from the University of Notre Dame and his Master of Urban Design from the University of Miami. His work has received awards from the CNU, Urban Guild, and the ICAA-Florida Chapter.