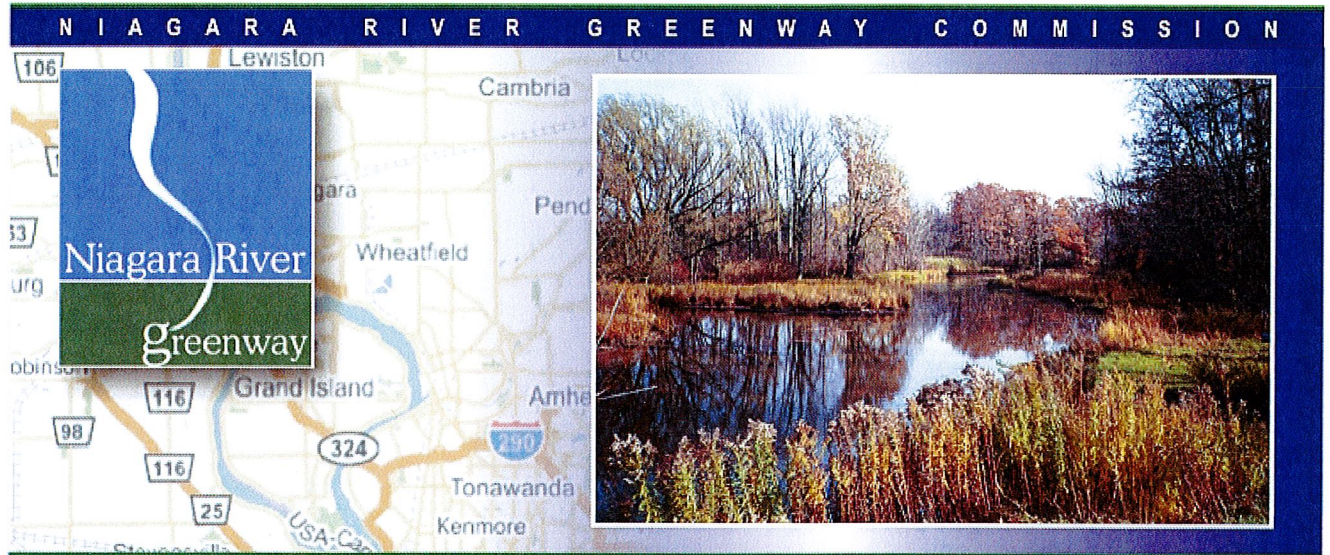


# City of North Tonawanda Western Canal Bike Path Connection

Prepared for



Submitted by:  
Arthur G. Pappas  
Mayor  
City of North Tonawanda  
216 Payne Avenue  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

**September 18, 2018**

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:   City of North Tonawanda  
  
Mailing Address:                               216 Payne Avenue  
   North Tonawanda  
  
State:    New York                                Zip Code:                               14120  
  
Federal Id#                                    16-6002549                           Charities Registration # N/A

**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

Project Name: Western Canal Bike Path Connection  
  
Location: Sweeney Street and River Road  
  
Site Address: approximately 32 Sweeney Street, North Tonawanda  
  
State: New York                                Zip Code: 14120  
  
Minor Civil Division(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
  
County: Niagara  
  
Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other): \_\_\_\_\_  
  
City-Owned and NYS DOT

**AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL**

Name: Arthur G. Pappas Title: Mayor

Business Address: 216 Payne Avenue, North Tonawanda

State: New York Zip Code: 14210

Telephone Number: (716) 695-8540 Cell Number: (716) 583-1210

Fax Number: (716) 695-8541

E-Mail Address: artpappas@northtonawanda.org

**PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT**

Name: Michael Zimmerman Title: Director of Community Development

Organization/Firm: City of North Tonawanda

Business Address: 500 Wheatfield Street, North Tonawanda

State: New York Zip Code: 14120

Telephone Number: (716) 695-8580, ext 5515 Cell Number: (716) 989-8746

Fax Number: (716) 614-0519

E-Mail Address:  
mzimmerman@lumbercitydc.com

## Project Narrative

### 1. Project Overview

The city of North Tonawanda is blessed to be surrounded by two unique bodies of water: the Niagara River and the Erie Canal. Historically these waterways were industrial corridors but today they provide great opportunities for local recreation and tourism. Over the past 15 years the City of North Tonawanda has undertaken numerous projects to extend bicycle and pedestrian paths on public rights of way stretching the length of the Niagara River, called the Riverwalk Trail, and for a 1.5 mile segment of Sweeney Street along the Erie Canal. The Riverwalk Trail connects North Tonawanda to the Niagara River Shoreline Trail and to the larger Empire State Trail system while the Sweeney Street path connects a residential neighborhood to multiple municipal parks and other local amenities. These two paths, however, do not currently intersect and neither area residents nor regional tourists have a safe, accessible way to seamlessly experience North Tonawanda's waterfront assets.

The Western Canal Bike Path Connection project aims to make a connection between these two existing paths by designing and constructing a short but critical segment of bicycle/pedestrian path between the Riverwalk Trail to the west and Gateway Harbor Park to the east. This approximately quarter-mile section of path will create a linkage between North Tonawanda's disconnected paths, drive cyclists and pedestrians into downtown North Tonawanda, connect four public parks, and better connect North Tonawanda into regional assets such as the Empire State Trail system and the Tonawanda Intermodal Hub.

Additionally the project proposes to replace and install new pedestrian safety equipment at the intersection of Webster Street and Sweeney Street. This intersection is the foot of the bridge to Tonawanda and will be a heavily traveled area where cyclists and pedestrians will choose to either continue on the path in Gateway Harbor Park or cross the bridge to visit Tonawanda. Unfortunately the infrastructure in the area is out-dated and there is no modern pedestrian safety equipment, leading to a potentially dangerous situation if the proposed trail segment leads users through an uncontrolled intersection. The installation of modern pedestrian safety infrastructure is included within the project scope.

## 2. Advancing the Niagara River Greenway Vision

The Western Canal Bike Path Connection project strives to meet and advance the vision, goals, and objectives of the Niagara River Greenway Plan. The project is consistent with the following:

### **Principles**

- **Accessibility and Connectivity** - The Project will construct a new segment of path that bridges the gap between two existing, unconnected paths and two unique public waterfronts. This connection will give local residents and regional visitors a better opportunity to visit some of the area's public amenities and an improved non-vehicular option for recreational transit.
- **Excellence** - North Tonawanda takes pride in its public waterfront and intends to construct this path connection in order to fully utilize the city's unique waterfront location. This path will create new connectivity to other regional Greenway investments including Gratwick-Riverside Park, Veterans Park, and Niawanda Park.
- **Public well-being** - Completion of this project will greatly improve the ability of residents to use the local and regional path and trail system, encouraging seasonal recreation and exercise.
- **Connectivity** - Looking forward as additional bike path projects are completed along the Empire State Trail, Erie Canal, and Niagara River, the Western Canal connection is an important link that will allow regional visitors the ability to move seamlessly between the region's trail networks.
- **Sustainability** – The Western Canal Bike Path Connection will allow non-vehicular travel to take place more efficiently within the region. This presents the opportunity to reduce vehicular traffic in the area reducing local congestion and air pollution.

### **Goals**

- **Improve Access** - This project encourages more residents to travel or recreate using non-vehicular means and to access areas of the community that had previously been inaccessible to the public for many decades.
- **Make Connections** - Completing this project will effectively connect a large section of North Tonawanda to the Niagara Shoreline Trail and the Empire State Trail systems. The project also makes a critical safety upgrade to the busy Webster/Sweeney intersection,

giving cyclists and pedestrians easier and safer connectivity between downtown North Tonawanda, Gateway Harbor Park, and the city of Tonawanda.

- Spark Revitalization and Renewal - As North Tonawanda continues to foster and promote downtown development, this project will drive area cyclists and pedestrians to travel to Webster Street and the historic downtown, increasing the vibrancy and sustainability of the area.

### **Criteria**

- Consistent with the Greenway Principles - The City of North Tonawanda strives to make public improvements within the Greenway boundaries which are consistent with the vision, goals, and principles of the Greenway Master Plan. Continued development of recreation amenities and projects which encourage public access to the waterfront is consistent with the principles of the Greenway Master Plan.
- Implementable - The proposed path will be installed entirely within public right of way and the City of North Tonawanda has completed a bike path project within the past 3 years, giving the City the experience to design and implement the project efficiently.
- Consideration of other planning efforts - Connecting the existing bicycle trails has been identified as a priority action item in numerous local planning documents including the City's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. Additionally, the project is consistent with the regional planning efforts including the One Region Forward plan and the WNY Strategy for Prosperity.
- Local Sponsor or Partner – This project's long term sponsor is the City of North Tonawanda with support from the North Tonawanda Waterfront Commission.
- Matching Funds/Leveraging – The requested Greenway funding is anticipated to leverage an award through the NYS DOT TAP grant program in the amount of \$224,800. This application is due in August 2018 with award announcements expected in December 2018. In addition to the grant requested herein, the City intends to provide \$43,030 in matching funds through in-kind services and facility maintenance.
- Clear Benefits – This project will clearly benefit the public of North Tonawanda and the Niagara region who are looking for waterfront recreation choices. This project is a quality of life improvement for the citizens of North Tonawanda as well as residents and visitors of the greater Niagara region, giving them more waterfront recreation options and bringing more awareness to an underutilized waterfront asset in the City.

3. Budget and Schedule

The City of North Tonawanda expects this project's total cost to be \$329,830 with an approximate annual maintenance burden of \$5,000. The major project component (\$280,300) is the construction of the 1,090 feet of path as well as the pedestrian safety improvements at Webster Street.

**Western Canal Bike Path Connection**

Planning/Engineering	\$28,030
Construction	\$280,300
Acquisition	N/A
Administration	\$10,000
Signage	\$6,500
<u>Operation and Maintenance/year</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$329,830</b>

The City of North Tonawanda is requesting \$62,000 from the Niagara River Greenway Ad Hoc Committee on Recreation and Tourism. Additional funding for the project is anticipated as \$43,030 City in-kind services and a \$224,800 pending grant request to the NYS DOT 2018 TAP program.

The anticipated construction cost for the project is \$280,300. The City expects the value of in-kind engineering services to be 28,030, bringing the total cost of the bike path construction project to \$308,330. The City estimates approximately \$10,000 in project administration and oversight costs, \$5,000 in annual maintenance costs, and \$6,500 for the installation of a Greenway project sign, bring the total project cost to \$329,830.

Operation and maintenance of the facility will be handled exclusively by the City of North Tonawanda Parks & Recreation Department. Parks & Recreation staff is currently

responsible for maintaining all City parks and facilities including the existing bicycle/pedestrian paths.

The project is contingent upon an approval of additional grant funding from NYS DOT TAP program in 2018. If successful, the City intends to design and construct the Western Canal Bike Path Connection project in 2019.



#### 4. Community and Government Support

The development and implementation of parks and waterfront improvements projects in North Tonawanda is overseen by a multi-layered structure of municipal committees, departments, and staff. Overall direction and oversight is provided by the Mayor and City Common Council. Project management, grant management, implementation, and operations are handled by a working partnership between the City Engineering, Parks & Recreation, and Community Development offices. Citizen participation and project review are provided by the North Tonawanda Waterfront Commission, a volunteer advisory committee which reviews and provides insight into City projects along the waterfront. The following people and groups have played an active role in the North Tonawanda bicycle/pedestrian path system:

- Mayor
- North Tonawanda Common Council
- North Tonawanda Waterfront Commission
- City Engineer
- Community Development Director
- Director of Youth, Parks, and Recreation

The North Tonawanda Common Council reviewed and approved the Connection Project at a regular meeting on July 17th, 2018.

The project is also consistent with North Tonawanda's recent revitalization plans. The City has completed three major planning documents within the past eight years and the Western Canal Bike Path Connection project advances the vision and goals of each of these documents. These include the North Tonawanda Comprehensive Plan (2009), the North Tonawanda Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (2011), and the North Tonawanda Brownfield Opportunity Area (2015).

5. Existing Condition and Project Implementation

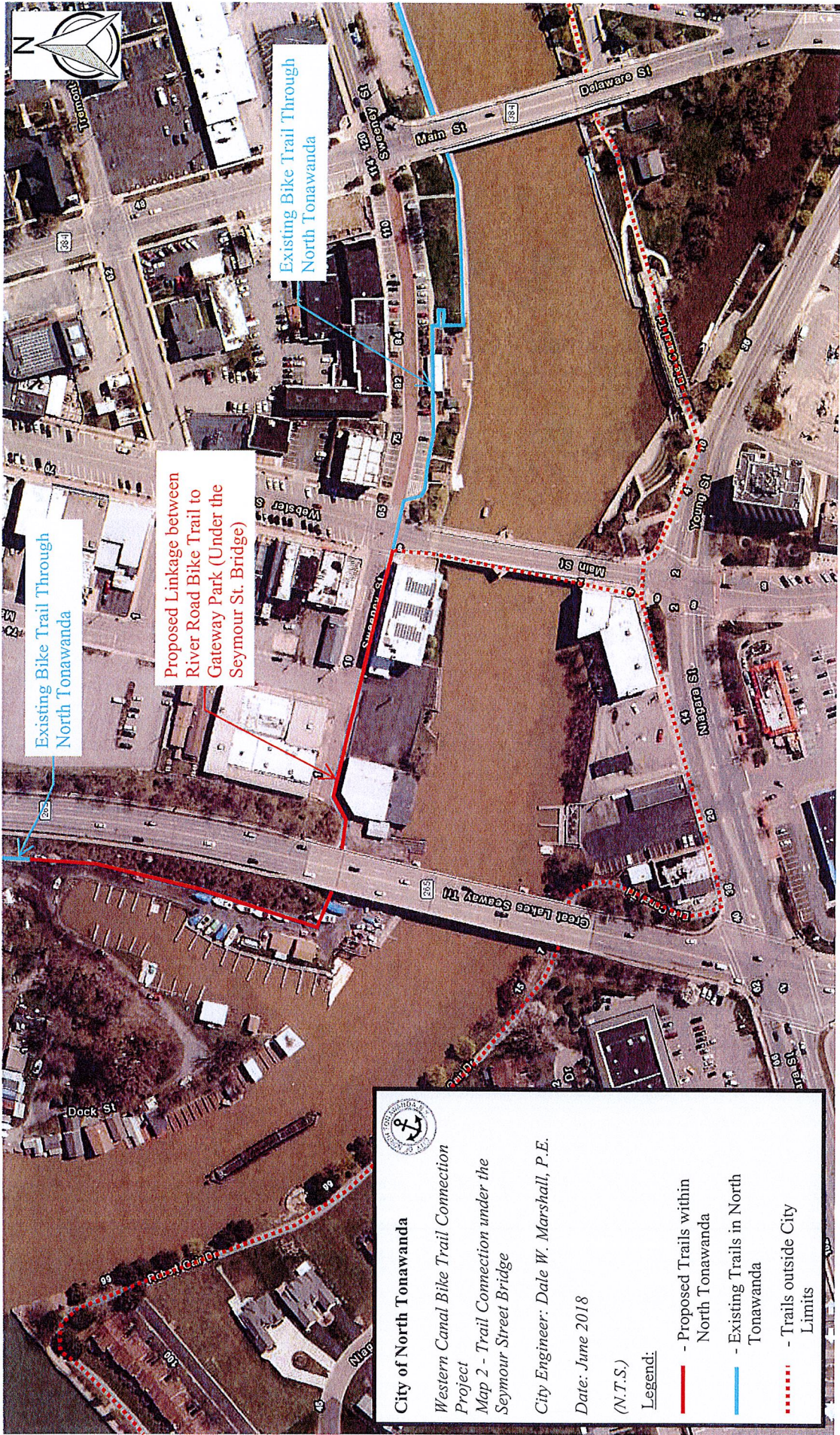
The proposed path segment will be located partially on NYS DOT property and partially on City of North Tonawanda right of way. The entire length of the proposed path will need to be installed as new pavement as well as the one-block section on Sweeney Street will be milled and repaved.

Project implementation will be led by the North Tonawanda City Engineer including all design, engineering, and construction oversight. Grant management of the requested Greenway funds will be handled by the Community Development office. The City of North Tonawanda will be Lead Agency for the SEQR process and has already engaged NYS DOT to discuss the utilization of DOT property.

## Attachments

1. Aerial Site Map
2. City of North Tonawanda Engineer's estimate of probable cost
3. City of North Tonawanda's city-wide trail and bike path plans






Existing Bike Trail Through North Tonawanda

Proposed Linkage between River Road Bike Trail to Gateway Park (Under the Seymour St. Bridge)

Existing Bike Trail Through North Tonawanda



**City of North Tonawanda**  
*Western Canal Bike Trail Connection Project*  
 Map 2 - Trail Connection under the Seymour Street Bridge

*City Engineer: Dale W. Marshall, P.E.*  
*Date: June 2018*  
 (N.T.S.)

**Legend:**

- Proposed Trails within North Tonawanda
- Existing Trails in North Tonawanda
- Trails outside City Limits





# City of North Tonawanda

Department of Engineering  
216 Payne Avenue  
North Tonawanda, New York 14120  
(716) 695-8565/ 695-8568 fax

PROJECT: 2018 TAP/CMAQ Grant - Connection from River Road Bike Path Dead end to Gateway Park

PROJECT LOCATION: Niagara Riverwalk

DATE: 6/25/2018

**Engineer's Estimate**  
**\$308,300.00**

ITEM NO.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	CONTRACT QUANTITY		UNIT PRICE	TOTAL COST
1	Bike Trail Connection between Dead End to Sweeney Street	700	LF	\$ 60.00	\$ 42,000.00
2	Mill/Pave/Re-stripe Sweeney - Manhattan St. to Webster St.	390	LF	\$ 130.00	\$ 50,700.00
3	Guide Rail along Wardell Boat Yard	700	LF	\$ 40.00	\$ 28,000.00
4	Restoration	1	LS	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
5	Pedestrian Safe Crossing at Sweeney/Webster	1	LS	\$ 118,000.00	\$ 118,000.00
				<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 243,700.00
				Contingency (15%):	\$ 36,600.00
				<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 280,300.00
				Engineering/Inspection (10%):	\$ 28,000.00
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 308,300.00</b>



- Legend:**
- Proposed Trails within North Tonawanda
  - Proposed Rails to Trails within North Tonawanda
  - Existing Trails in North Tonawanda
  - Trails outside City Limits

Possible link to the Canalway Trail on the Amherst side of Canal (Bear Ridge Road) via Lockport Ave.

Proposed Linkage between Canalway Trail and Rails to Trails in the City of North Tonawanda (Wurlitzer Drive Corridor)

Proposed Rails to Trails along abandoned CXS Rail line

Proposed Rails to Trails along abandoned High Speedline

Existing Bike Trail Through North Tonawanda

Proposed Linkage between Canalway Trail and Rails to Trails in the City of North Tonawanda

Fisherman's/Veteran's Park

Island Street Swing Bridge/Little River Overlook

Proposed Linkage between Existing Bike Trails in North Tonawanda (Wardell's Boat Yard Area)

Gratwick Riverside Park

Proposed Linkage between Existing Bike Trails in North Tonawanda

Proposed Linkage between Canalway Trail and Rails to Trails in the City of North Tonawanda

Pine Woods Park

Existing Bike Trail Through North Tonawanda

City Botanical Garden

Mayor's Park

City of Tonawanda Inter modal Hub

Gateway Park

Possible link to the Canalway Trail on the Amherst/Tonawanda side of Canal via the Robinson Road Bridge

Ellicott Creek Park