



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: Rte 198 – Scajaquada Expressway**

### **When was Delaware Park designed and constructed?**

*Delaware Park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux in 1868 -1870 and construction was largely completed in 1876.*

*When Delaware Park was constructed, Delaware Ave was the only major city street crossing through the park. Delaware Ave was kept at a lower grade than the surrounding parkland to reduce the perception of intrusion.*

### **When was the Scajaquada Expressway constructed?**

*The Scajaquada Expressway was constructed in the 1950s and 1960s through historic Delaware Park. 1952 – NYS Department of Public Works plans for “Humboldt Parkway Extension” (FAC 52-7) Agassiz Circle to Delaware Ave. 1958 – NYS Department of Public Works plans for “Scajaquada Creek Expressway” (FASCE 58-1) Niagara Street to Delaware Ave.*

### **How did this effort to improve Route 198 get started?**

*In the late 1980’s the Delaware Park Steering Committee began to discuss ways to better integrate the roadway into its surroundings.*

*In 1999 the City of Buffalo and BOPC, in cooperation with NYSDOT and the Greater Buffalo Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC), initiated a study to identify alternative solutions that would address transportation and safety needs while enhancing the compatibility of the roadway with the unique characteristics of Delaware Park. Final Report and Expanded Project Proposal published June 2005.*

### **When did the NYSDOT begin the Environmental Impact process?**

*A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the New York State (NYS) Route 198 (Scajaquada Expressway) Corridor Project was published in the Federal Register on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Project limits were defined as from the interstate 190 (i-190) interchange to the Route 33 interchange.*

*On May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015, in response to a fatal accident, the Governor of NYS directed the Commissioner of the NYSDOT to reduce the posted speed limit along NYS Rte198 to 30 mph, while NYSDOT continued to investigate long-term changes. The posted speed limit was 50 mph prior to that date. (1950’s)*

*A Project Scoping Document was completed in May 2016. Project limits were refined during scoping process, and identified in the scoping document, as; the Grant Street interchange to the Parkside Ave intersection (including necessary approach work). NYSDOT claimed these represent logical termini based upon the differing characteristics of NYS Rte. 198. The project limits established in the scoping document have been carried forward into the Draft Design Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DDR/DEIS).*

*As a result of the scoping process, several potential alternatives, were dismissed from further consideration. Based on the project purpose, objectives, needs, and public input, a Build Alternative, which would transform NYS Route 198 from an urban expressway into an urban boulevard, was developed for study in this DDR/DEIS. DEIS released November 2016.*

**How were people allowed to provide comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement?**

*Public Information Meeting/Hearing on DEIS held on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Olmsted School.*

*DEIS Public comment period closed on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

**How much will NYSDOT's proposed project cost?**

*Estimated Construction Cost of NYSDOT Build Alternative - \$100,705,000*

**How much traffic currently uses Route 198?**

*Daily traffic volumes, within the NYSDOT project area, on Route 198 roughly vary from approximately 30,000 to 40,000 vehicles per day depending on location.*

**How long is Route 198?**

*Length: 3.2 miles (NYSDOT Project Area 2.2 miles)*

**What is the character of the property surrounding the corridor?**

*Land-uses adjacent to the expressway include recreational, residential, and commercial. Notable features within the corridor include Scajaquada Creek, the Buffalo History Museum, the Japanese Garden, the site of the 1901 Pan-Am Exposition, the Buffalo Zoological Gardens, Delaware Park Meadow, Buffalo State College, the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, the Marcy Casino, Hoyt Lake, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Medille College, Canisius College, and Richardson-Olmsted Complex.*