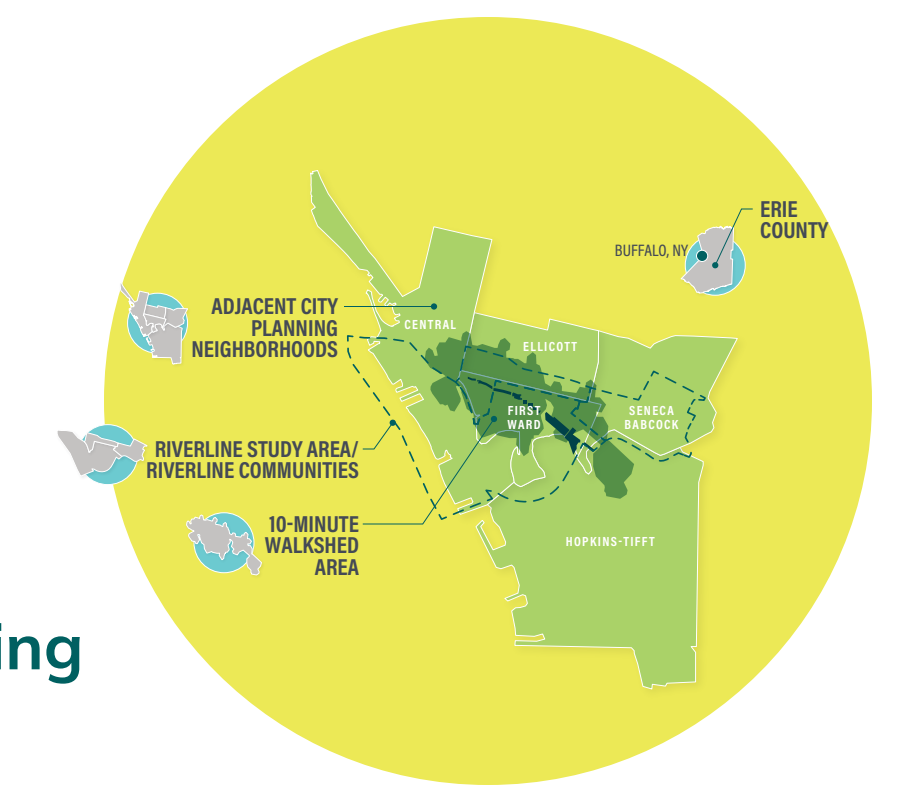


COMMUNITY PORTRAIT



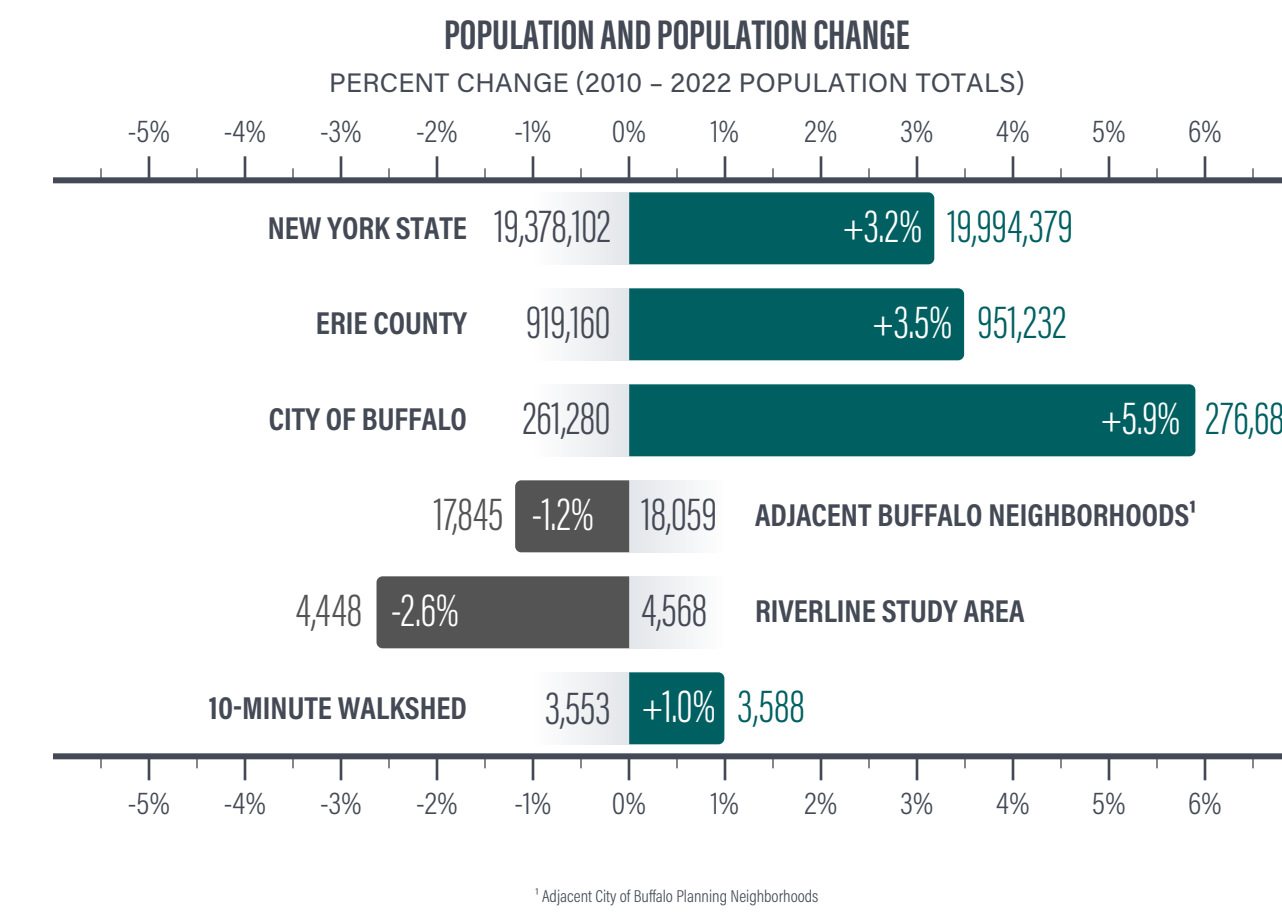
POPULATION

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Population is Stable:

- Within 10 minute walkshed - 1% increase from 2010 to 2020/
- Limited migration out of communities adjacent project area which can be attributed to availability of affordable housing and/or strong community ties.

- Proximity to downtown and other employment centers, presence of schools and community institutions, potentially helps retain residents.
- Other geographies (Riverline communities/ City Planning neighborhoods) experienced slight population loss.

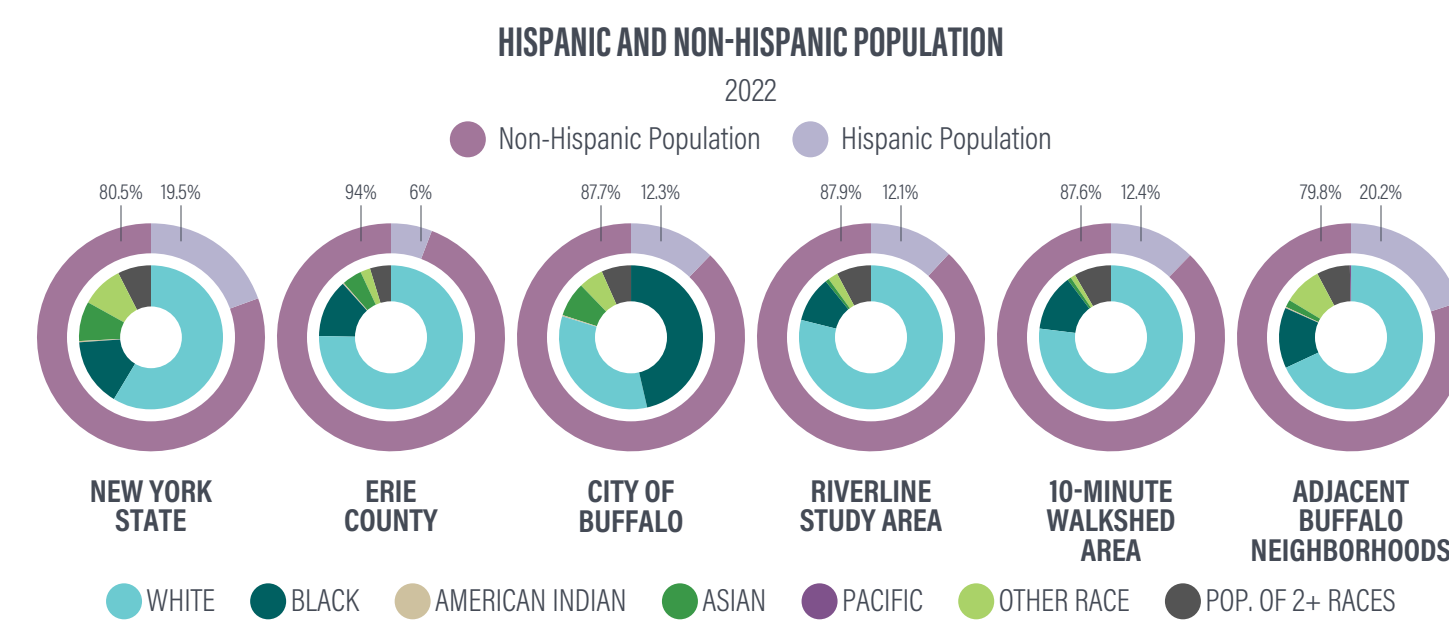


DIVERSITY AND ECONOMIC STATUS

KEY TAKEAWAYS

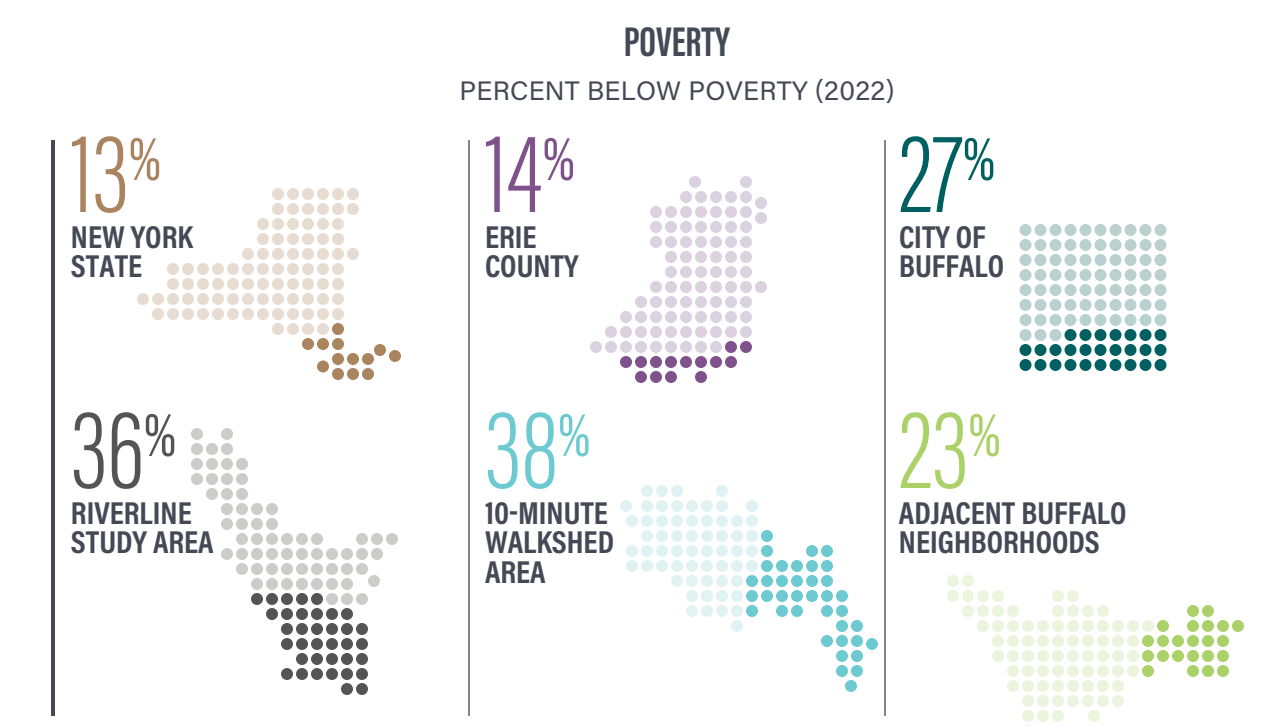
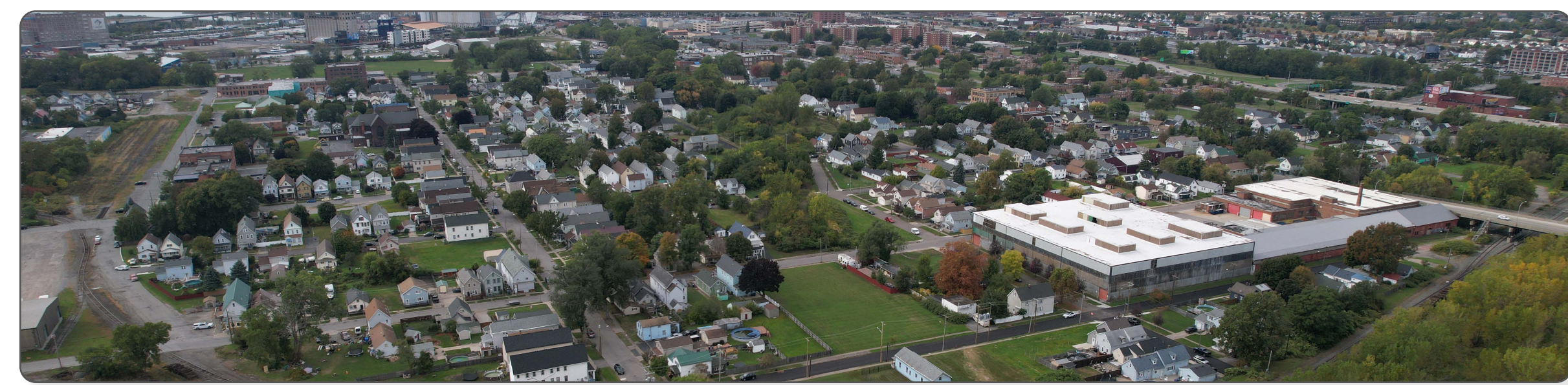
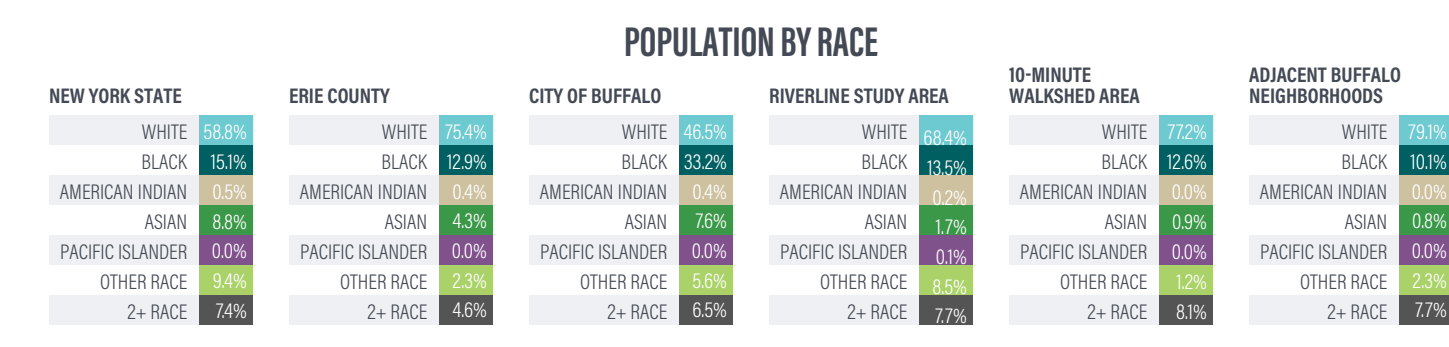
Diversity is Limited:

- Residential neighborhoods adjacent to the Study Area vary in diversity.
- Difference in diversity can be linked to historical patterns of settlement, economic opportunities, and housing policies, including the presence of public housing projects in the Perry Neighborhood
- Riverline communities adjacent to the south and east (First Ward and Valley) show limited diversity. Perry Neighborhood population has higher percentage of Hispanic and African American residents.



The poverty rate is high.

- Riverline Study Area poverty rate is 35.6%, compared to only 13.5% in Erie County and 13.1% in New York State



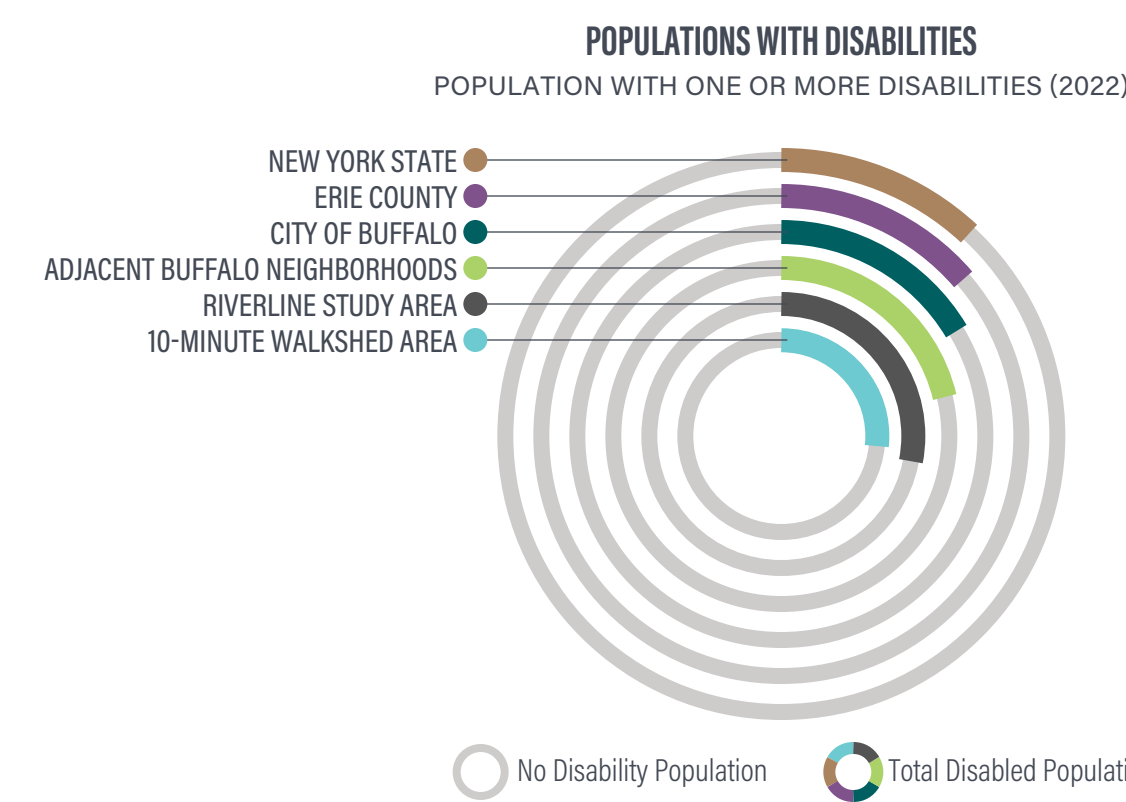
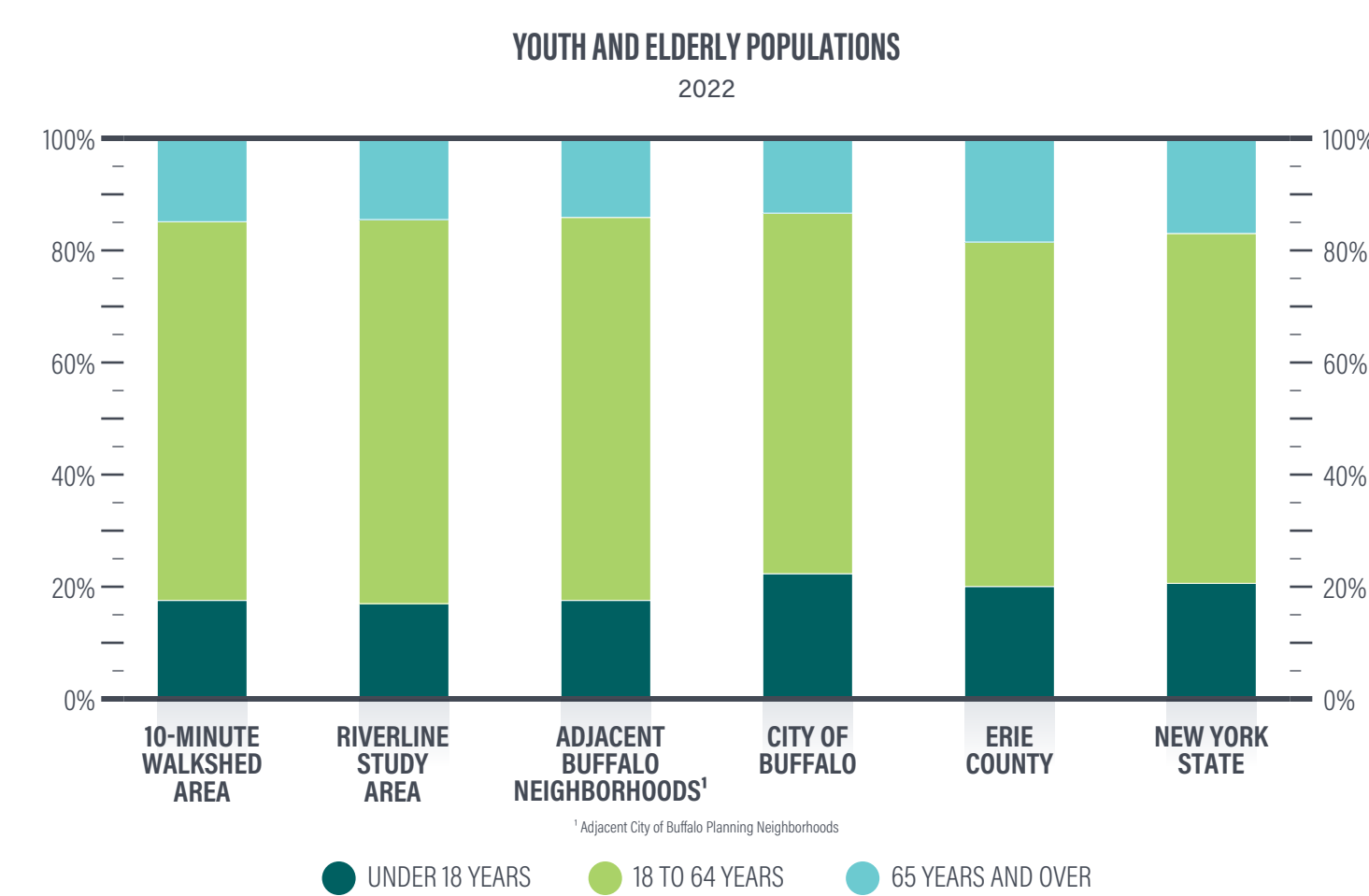
SPECIAL POPULATIONS

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Special Populations are present

- Higher than average levels of people with disabilities in Riverline and adjacent communities
- Disparity may be due to limited access to healthcare and support services, and higher rates of industrial and occupational injuries and limited access to education and training opportunities.

- Notably, almost 20% of the disabled population in the Riverline and adjacent communities falls within the working-age group of 18 to 64, contributing to the total percentage of 28.1%.



To understand the broader implications for the project the study areas assessed in the community portrait include The Riverline study area/communities as compared to surrounding City Planning neighborhoods and the broader region | See Figure to the right ▶

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

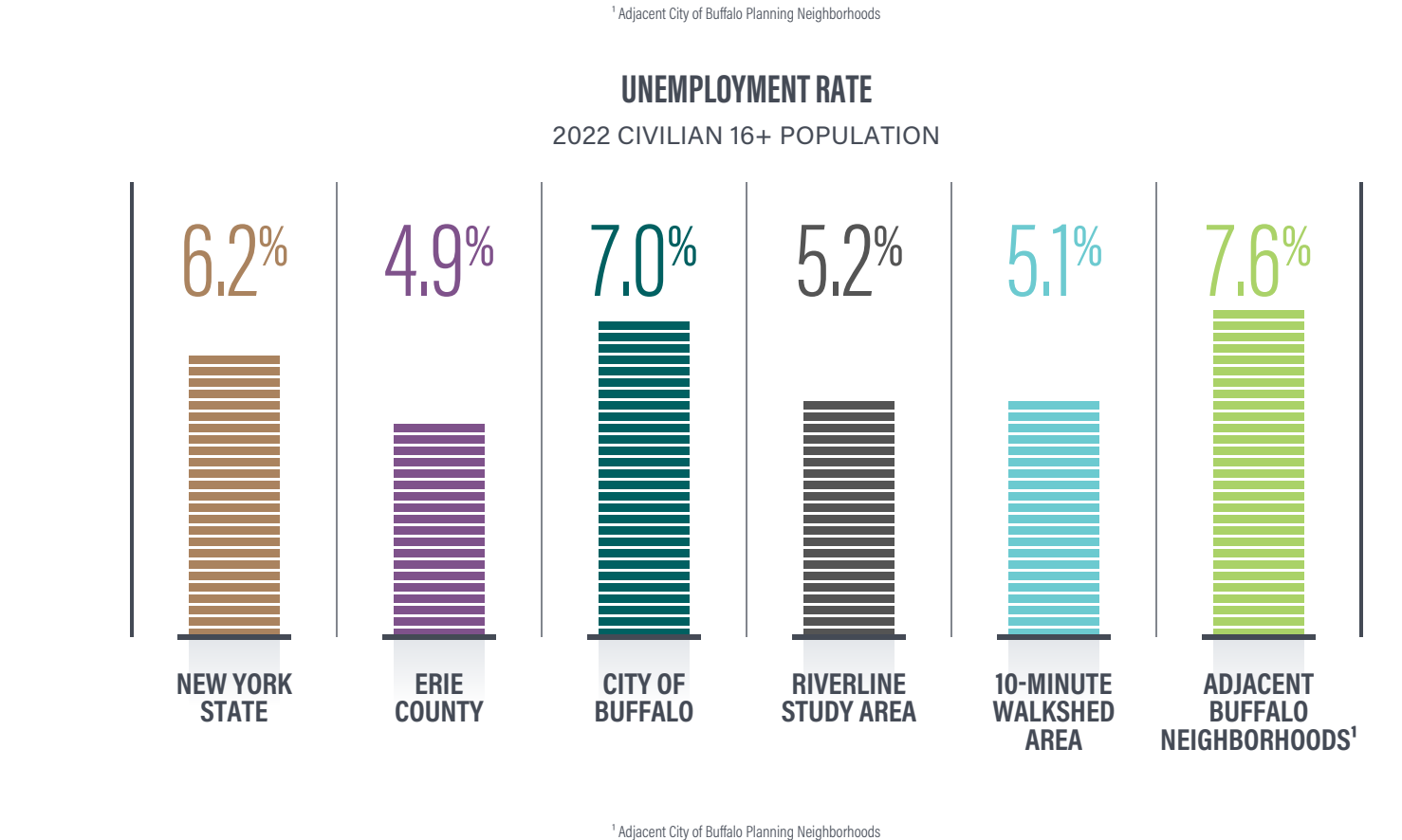
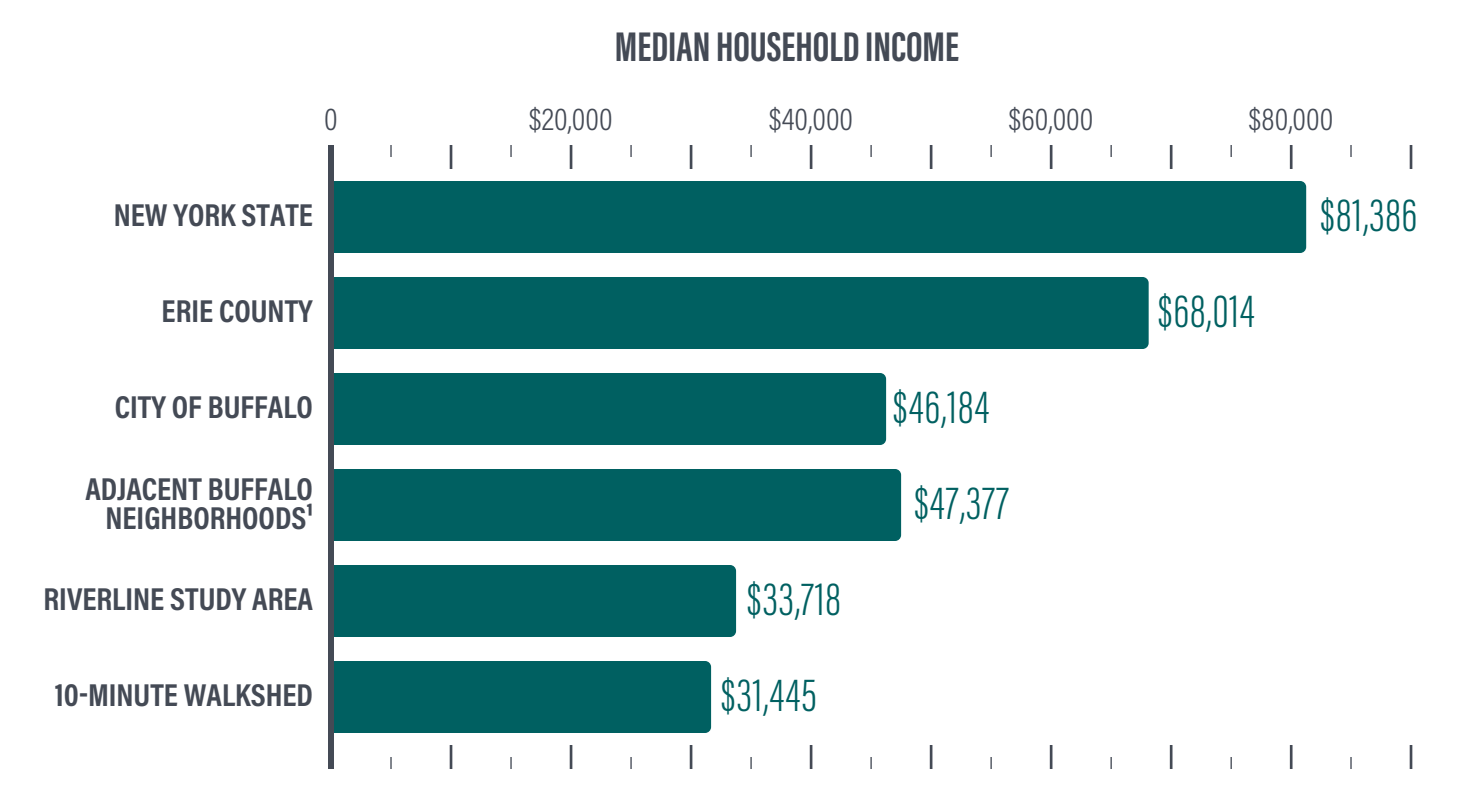
KEY TAKEAWAYS

Median Household Incomes are low.

- \$33,718 in Riverline communities - which is 27% less than City of Buffalo
- + Prevalence of low-income households in the area can be ascribed to lower-wage job availability with limited advancement opportunities, historical disinvestment, and systemic barriers

Residents in Study Area are Working.

- Unemployment Rate in Riverline neighborhoods is lower than City and State



HOUSING & AFFORDABILITY

KEY TAKEAWAYS

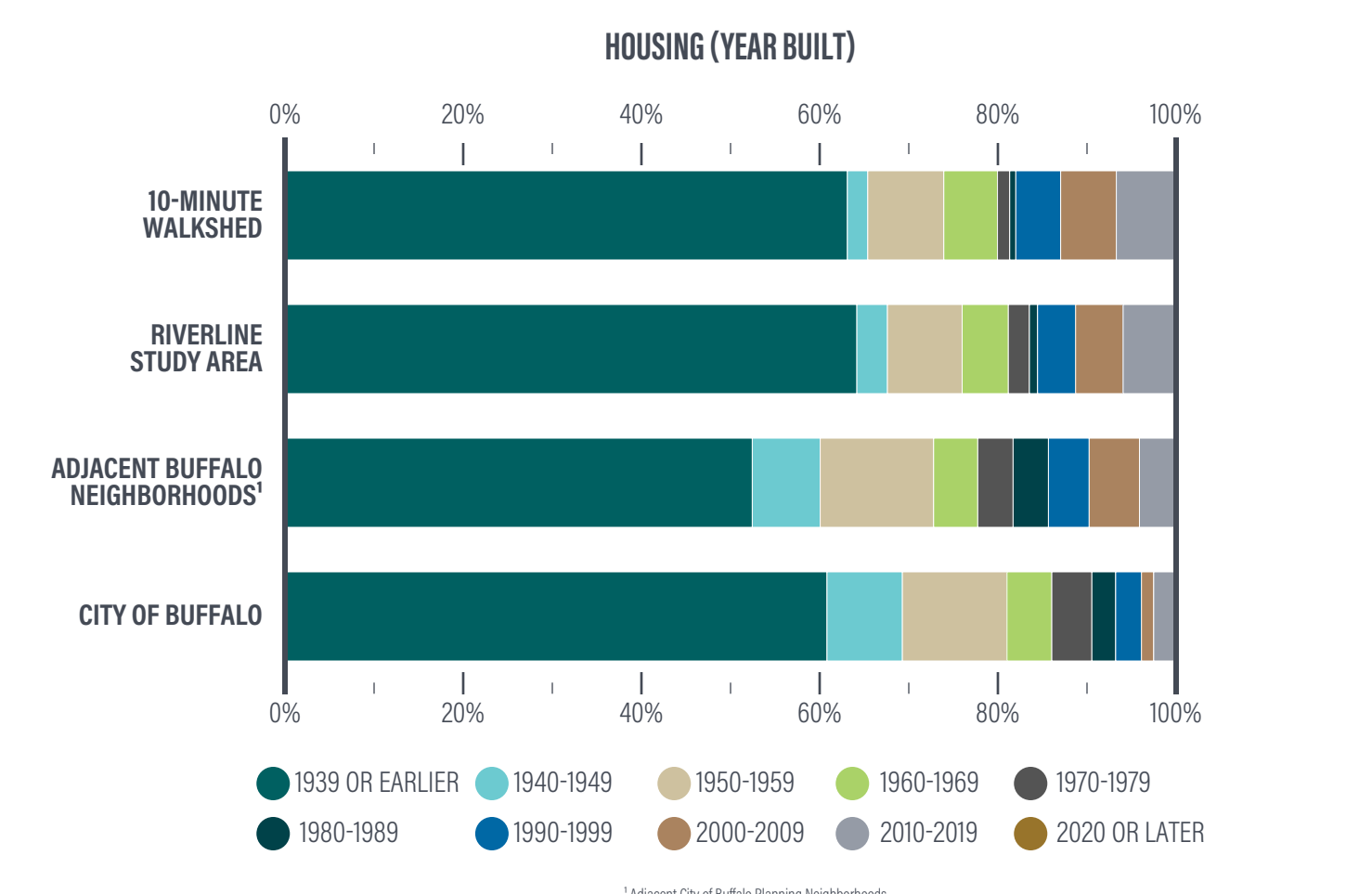
RIVERLINE STUDY AREA

- 2,712 housing units
- 22.5% vacant, 77.5% occupied
- 36.6% owner-occupied, 63.4% renter occupied

High vacancy and low owner occupancy in Riverline Study Area

- Majority of housing stock dates back to 1939 or earlier, contributing to a wide range of housing conditions from historic properties to those in needing significant renovation.
- Relatively low home values and rent especially in areas immediately surrounding the Riverline.
- Reflects housing and demand conditions.
- Housing affordability an issue for many households despite cost profile.
- ~5-10% elevated residential values in close proximity to Riverline.

AREA	MEDIAN HOME VALUE	MEDIAN GROSS RENT
Riverline Study Area	\$87,620	\$757
City of Buffalo Planning Neighborhoods	\$177,653	\$912
10-Minute Walkshed	\$59,125	\$690
City of Buffalo	\$132,100	\$942
Erie County	\$197,400	\$984
New York State	\$384,100	\$1,507

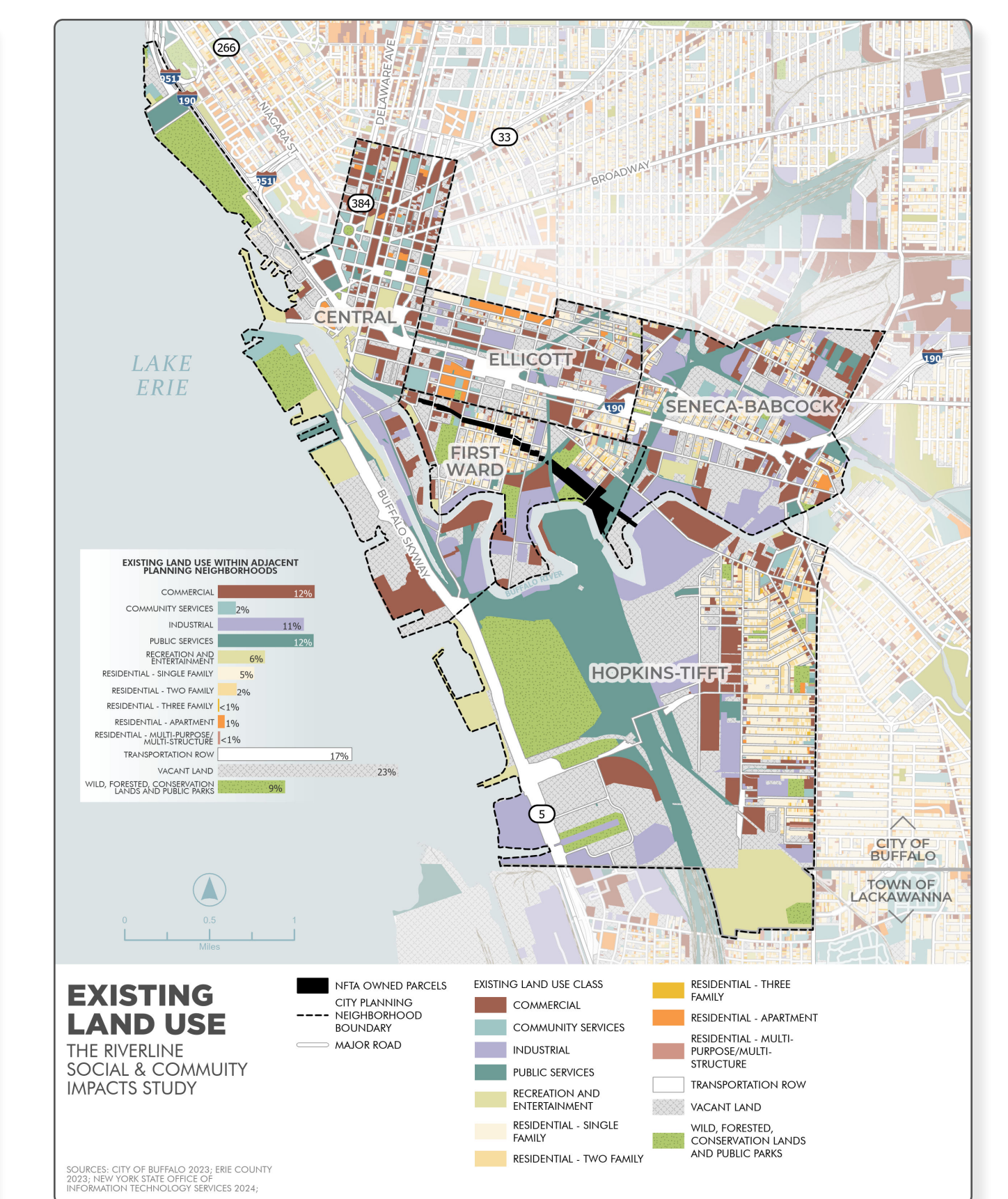


LAND USE

- Project located in an urbanized, residential neighborhood setting - primarily residential, commercial land uses with industrial properties.
- Majority of the parcels adjacent have been fully developed for over 100 years.
- Vacant land is largest land use type (23%) followed by transportation right-of-ways (17%).

PARKS AND RECREATION

- Approximately 61 Park, Recreation and Entertainment Assets are within the study area.
- Existing multiuse trails and proposed bike paths will further connect the community to the Riverline.



HOUSING AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- An estimated 225,000-300,000 users will visit the Riverline each year following its completion.
 - + This includes neighborhood residents, City of Buffalo and Erie County residents, and out-of-town visitors.
- Each year, these trail users will spend \$2.6 – \$3.4 million at local establishments.
 - + This spending will be concentrated in areas directly surrounding The Riverline.
 - + Visitor spending will create job and business ownership opportunities for community residents.

225,000 – 300,000
RIVERLINE USERS
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF TRAIL USERS EACH YEAR

The Riverline will contribute a number of economic benefits to surrounding neighborhoods and the broader region. Project construction, ongoing operations and maintenance, and Riverline visitor spending will provide significant economic benefits.

Additionally, direct trail-related spending ripples through the region's economy to expand magnify The Riverline's economic impacts.

The Riverline's positive impacts were measured in the form of:

- Increased economic activity
- Job creation
- Labor income

THE RIVERLINE'S POSITIVE IMPACTS



Project Construction will have the following overall impacts:

- \$135 million in economic output
- 784 jobs created or supported
- \$54 million of labor income



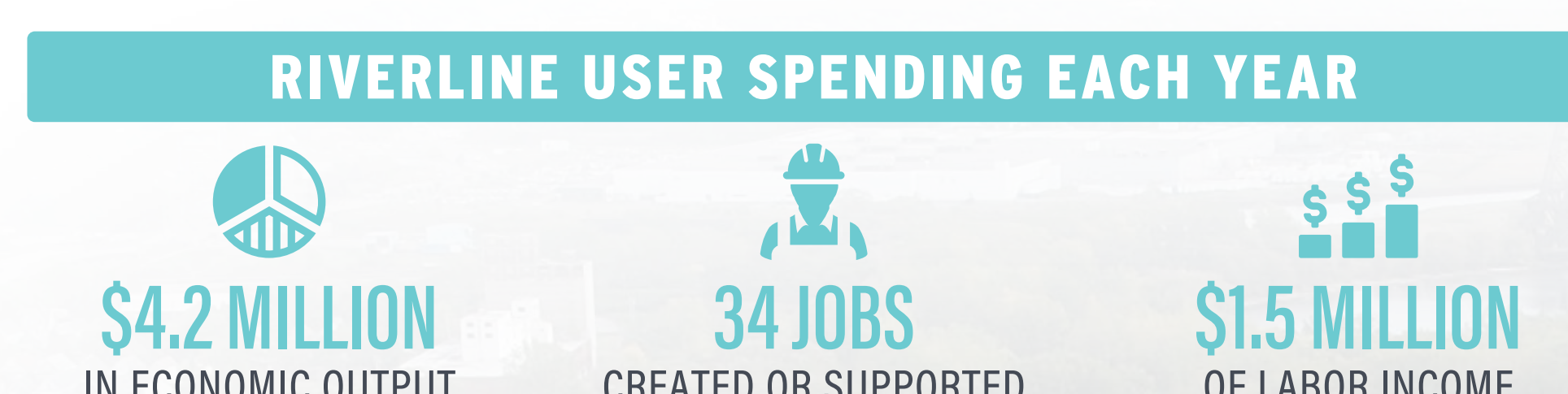
Riverline Operations & Maintenance will have the following impacts in EACH YEAR of trail operations:

- \$4.9 million in economic output
- 22 jobs created or supported
- \$1.4 million of labor income



Riverline User Spending will have impacts up to the following in EACH YEAR of trail operations:

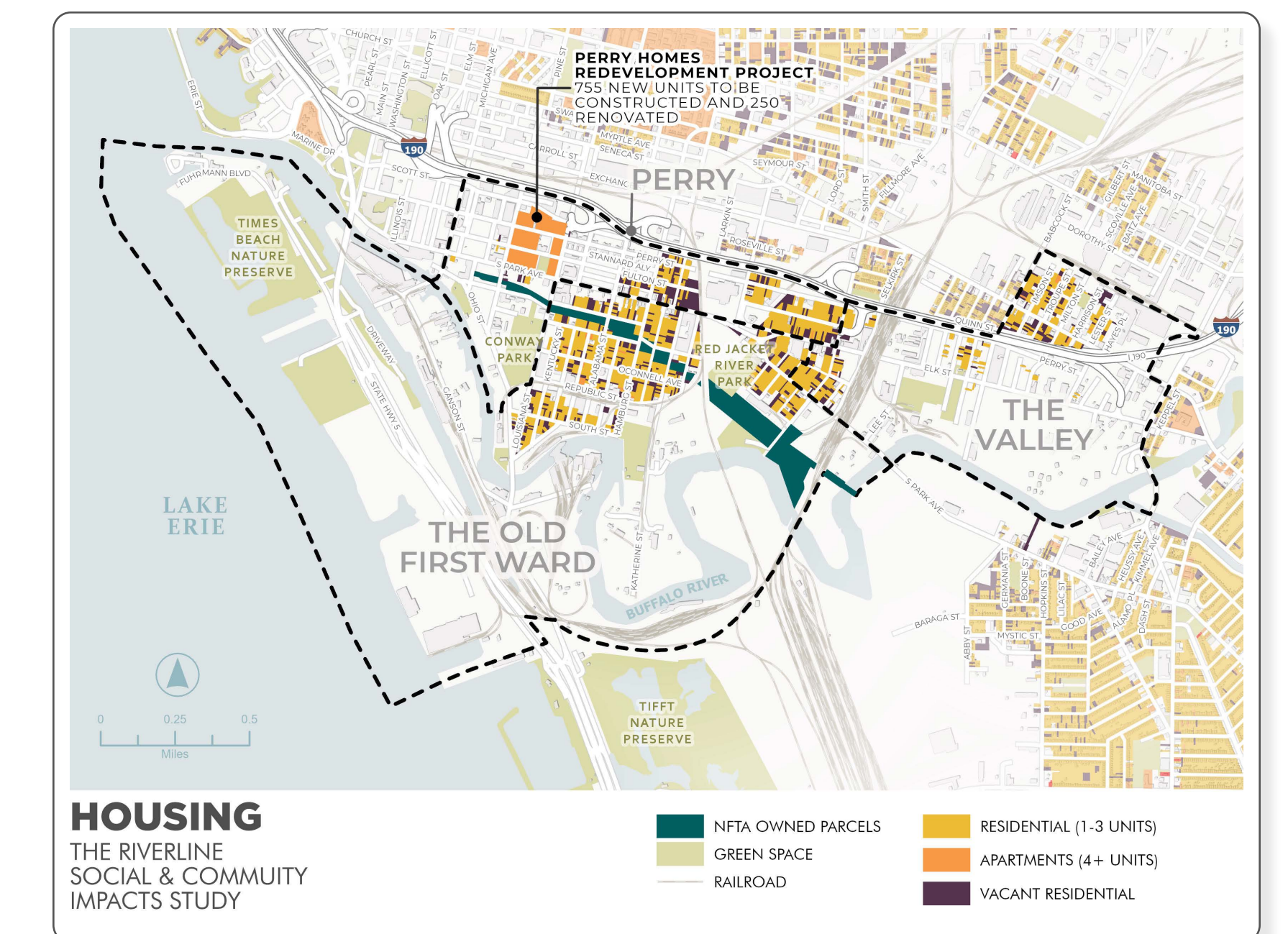
- \$4.2 million in economic output
- 34 jobs created or supported
- \$1.5 million of labor income



HOUSING

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Some residents and stakeholders have expressed concerns over housing affordability and risks of displacement in relation to The Riverline.
- The housing market is active with significant new investments in apartment housing within 1 mile of The Riverline.
- The potential 5-10% increase in residential market value could contribute to financial hardships for some local residents.
 - + Cost increases would be experienced primarily for rental units and new home purchases.
- Proximity to The Riverline is one of many factors that will determine future housing values and costs. Other community and physical factors will also shape future housing market conditions.



URBAN TRAILS INCREASE MARKET VALUE
5 - 10%
FOR NEARBY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

Housing availability and affordability are topics of interest to a variety of local residents and stakeholders. As such, potential Riverline-related impacts to nearby housing have been examined.

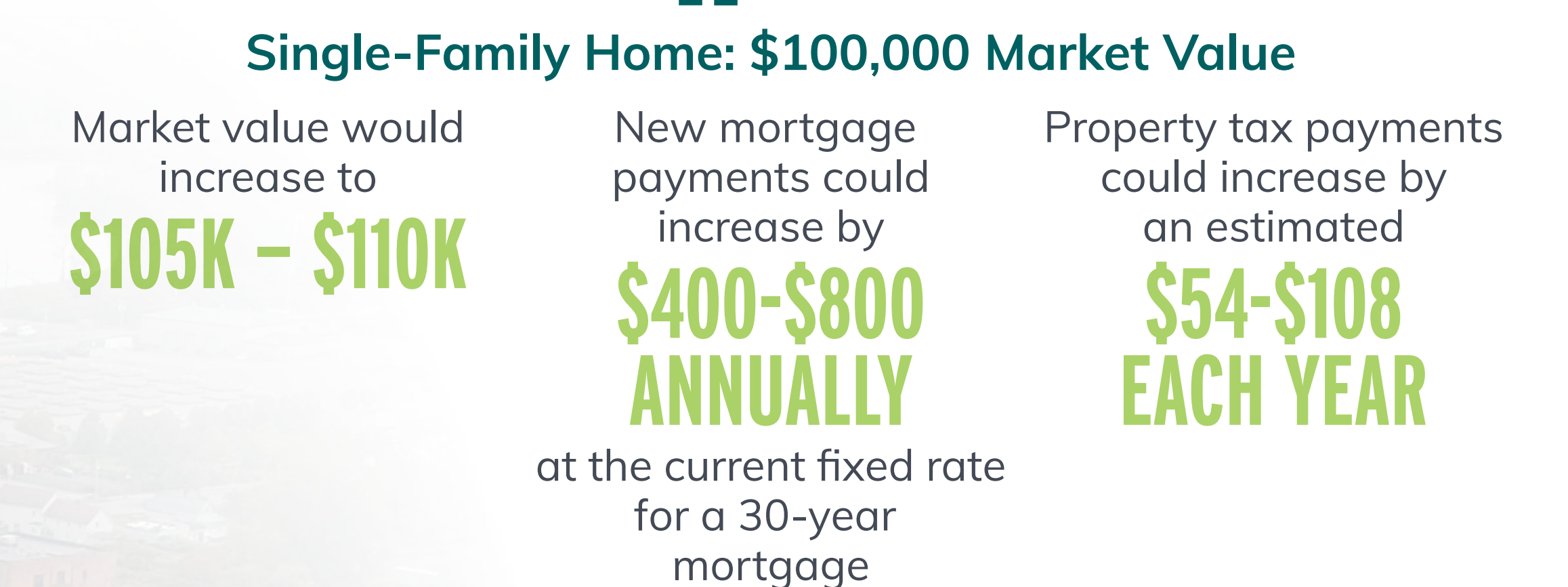
Information gained through this process includes:

- Surrounding neighborhoods are characterized mostly by single- and two-family homes.
- Many long-time residents and families live in The Riverline area.
- Housing costs have increased significantly over the past couple of years, leading to concerns about housing affordability for many residents.
- Hundreds of new apartment units are planned or under construction in surrounding areas.

A number of recent studies have shown that urban trails like The Riverline typically increase the market value—and cost—of nearby residential properties by 5-10%.



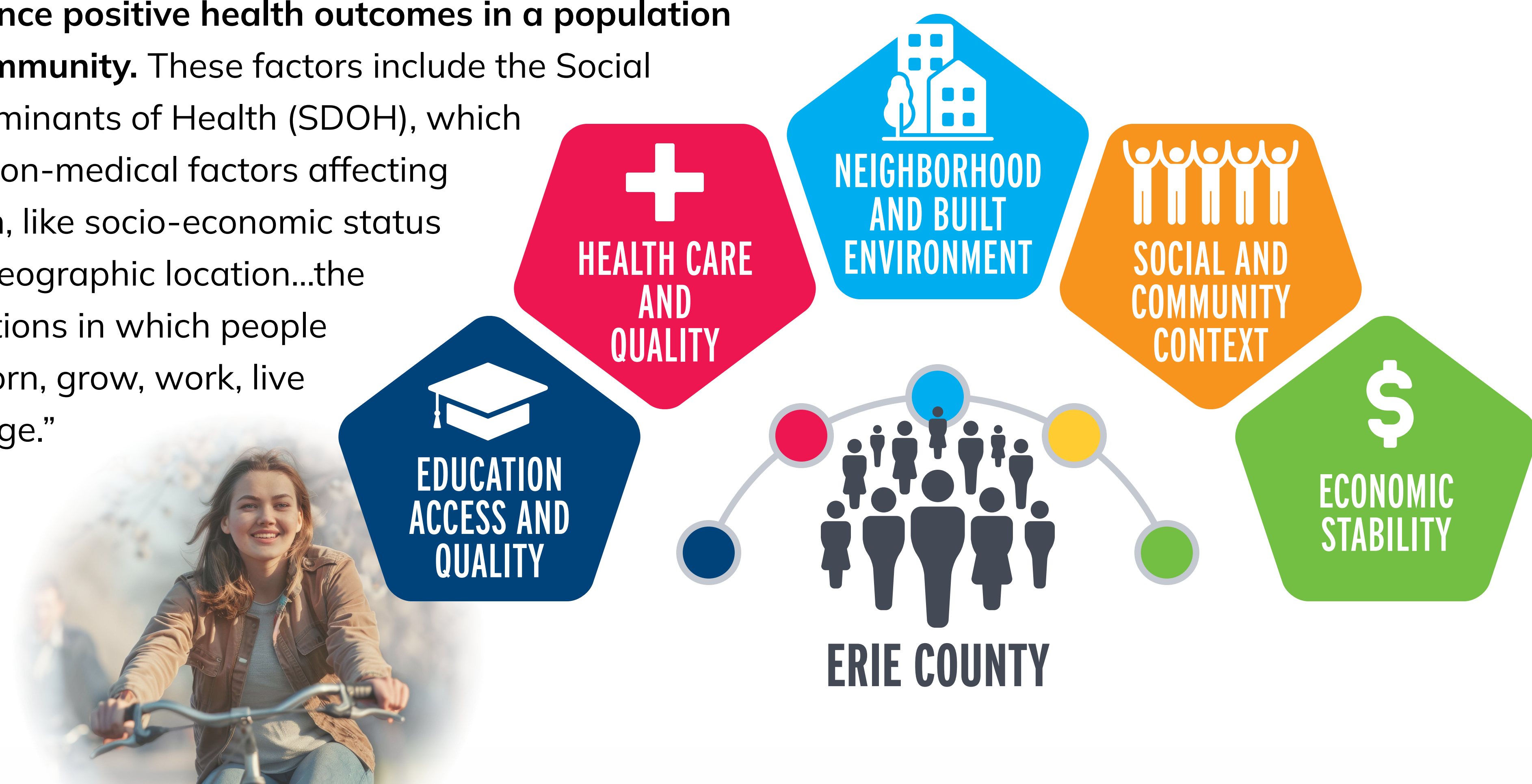
- This increase reflects the value placed on proximity to trail amenities.



PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Public health and wellness are terms used to describe a range of factors and conditions that influence positive health outcomes in a population or community. These factors include the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), which are “non-medical factors affecting health, like socio-economic status and geographic location...the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and age.”



KEY TAKEAWAYS

The Riverline will encourage and support increased physical activity, which is strongly linked to improved physical and mental health outcomes.

The Riverline addresses multiple Social Determinants of Health through community roles that include:

Health Care and Quality

- Physical activity reduces medical needs
- Provides a location for health-related programming and outreach

Neighborhood and Built Environment

- Non-motorized transportation, recreation, and connectivity among neighborhoods
- Outdoor and natural features

THE RIVERLINE'S SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH



Social and Community Context

- Strengthen existing social connections and provide opportunities to create new connections

Economic Stability

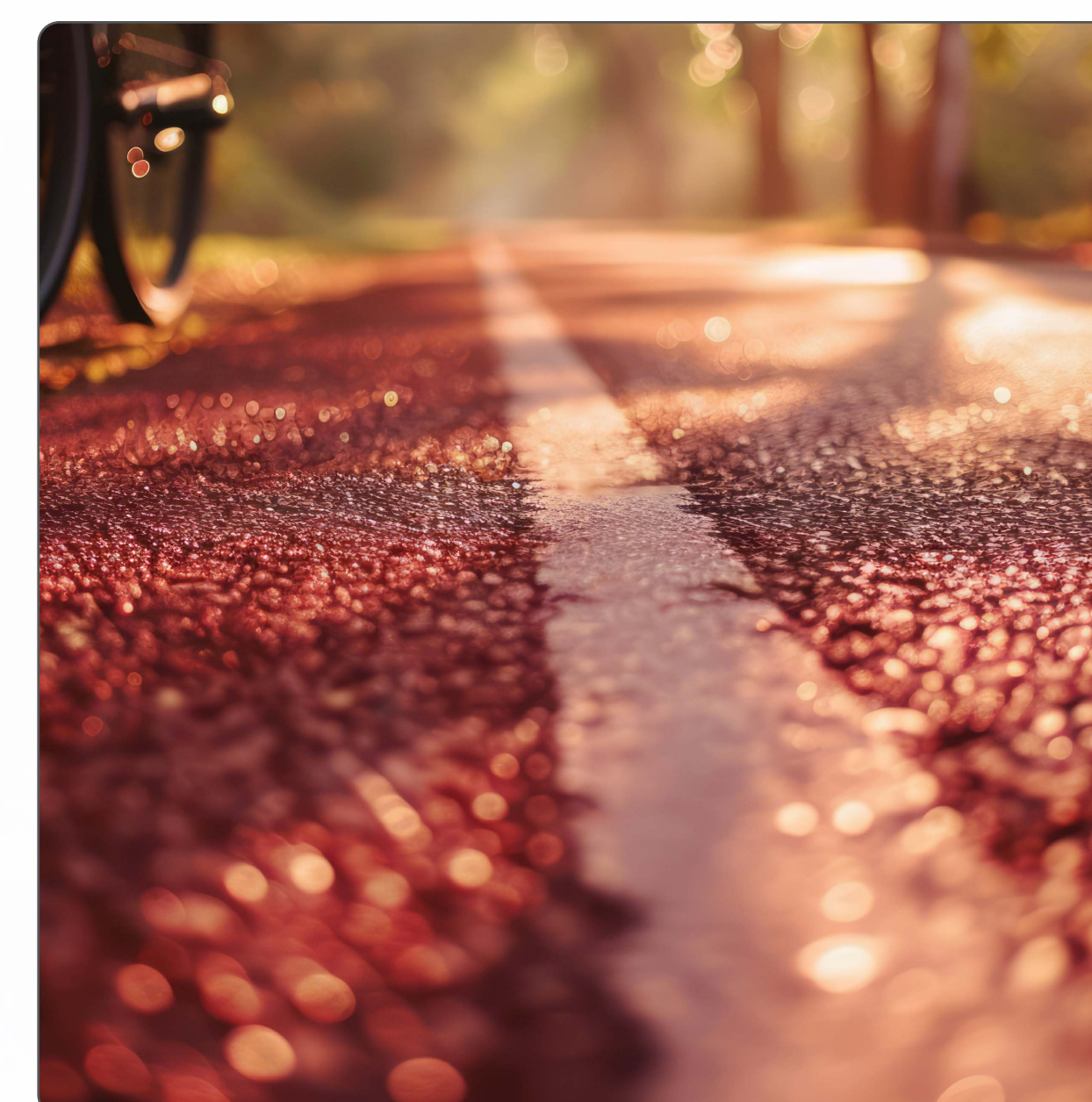
- Increased economic activity and opportunities in areas surrounding The Riverline

In comparison to the City of Buffalo and reference geographies, residents of areas surrounding The Riverline are¹:

- More likely to experience**
- High blood pressure
 - Obesity
 - Poor physical and mental health

- Less likely to experience**
- Regular physical activity
 - Access to medical facilities
 - Medical testing and preventative care

1. Sources include: NYS Department of Health Prevention Agenda Tracking Dashboard, NYU Langone Health - City Health Dashboard, HEALTHeWNY



SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS



PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Riverline is Consistent with City of Buffalo Land Use and Zoning Designations
 - + Site zoned for D-OG, Open Space
- Variances May be Required for any Parking Areas or other ancillary facilities
 - + Require City of Buffalo Department Permits and Inspection and Office of Strategic Planning Approval
- The Riverline Consistent with Existing Plans for the Area
 - + Including Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan and Downtown Waterfront Improvements Plan, and Red Jacket Riverfront Park, among others.



COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- No disruption to Community Facilities
- The only Public Services that may be impacted are Police, Fire, and Emergency Services
- Buffalo and NFTA Transit police will both be available to ensure the safety of trail users. Several Police precincts and Fire Stations nearby
- The Riverline to establish volunteer force - on-site maintenance/monitoring so trail is clean and safe.
- Open and operational 24-hours—will offer public safety features.
- Trail lighting, Security cameras and Security Call Boxes installed.
- Design Access for emergency services and their equipment to all segments of the trail.



NEIGHBORHOOD AND RECREATIONAL CONNECTIONS

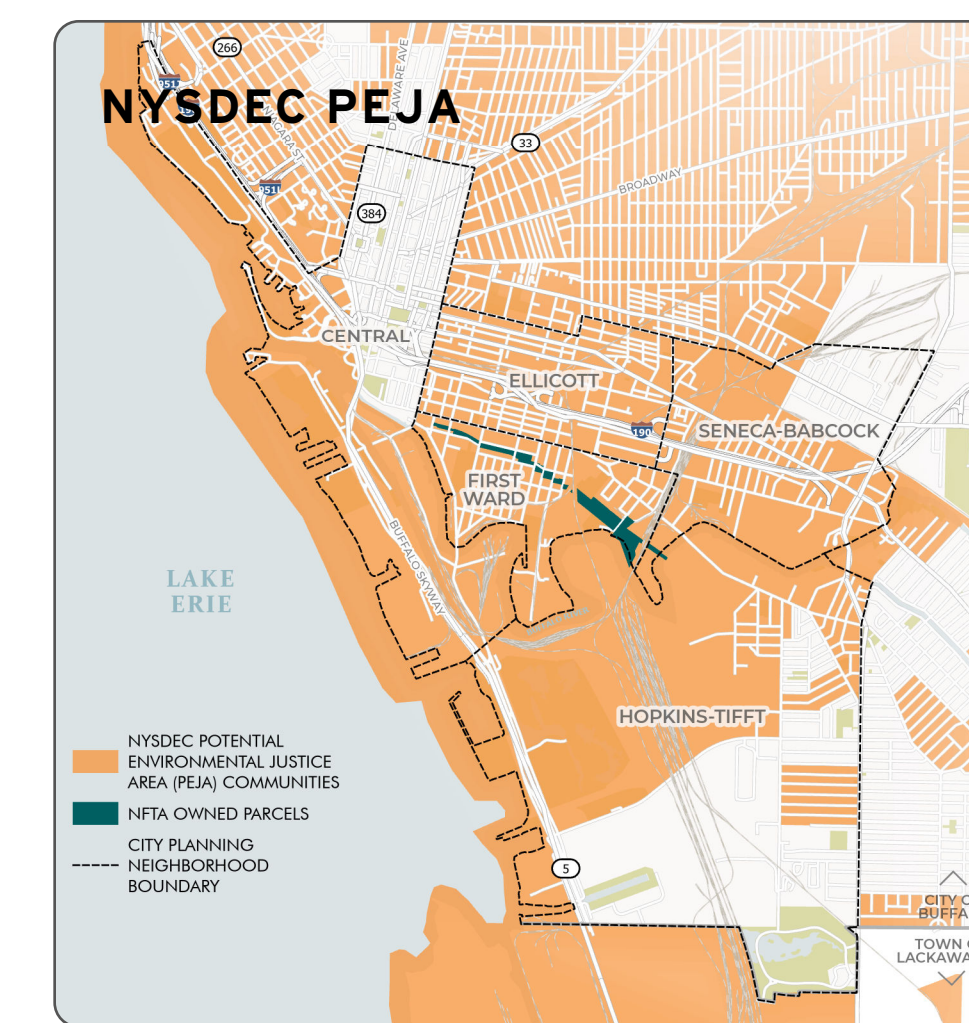
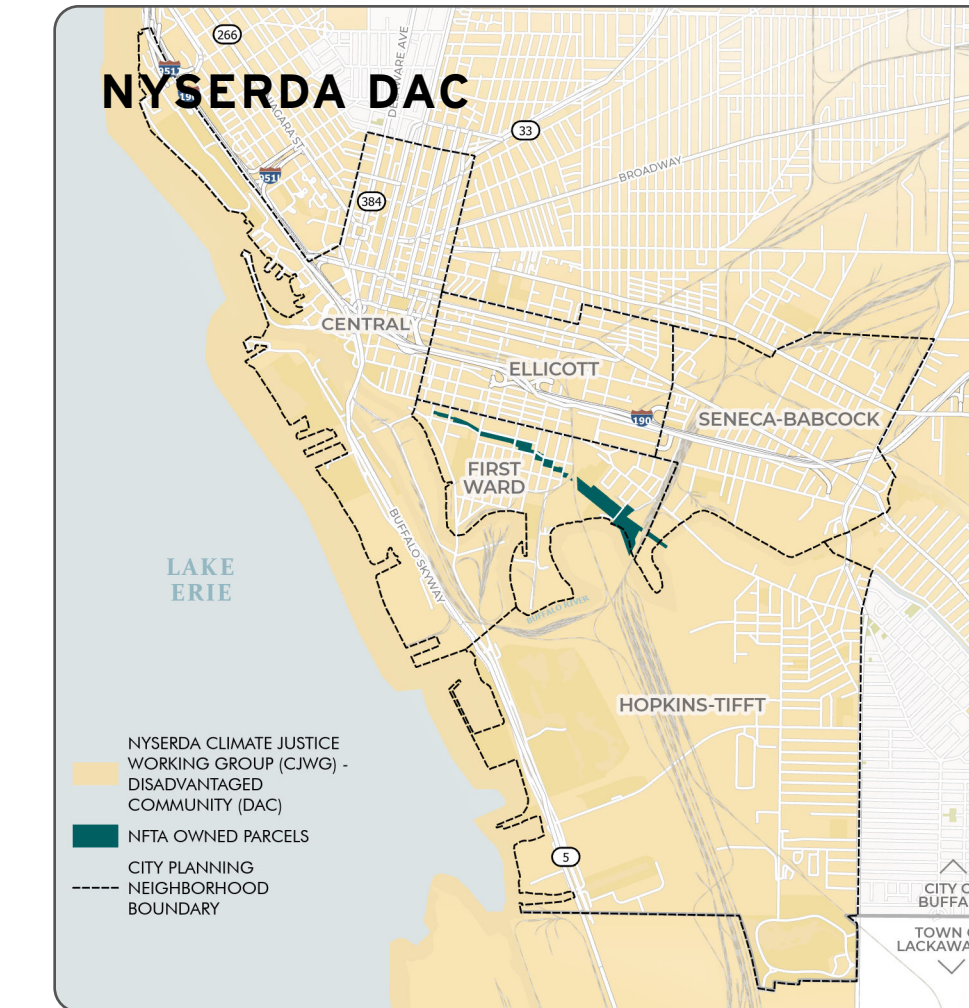
KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Riverline includes gateway entry points and community connectors from local streets (e.g., Chicago, Louisiana, Hamburg and The Junctures)
 - + Will join neighborhoods to the corridor and to each other.
- Trail provides neighborhood connectors to both the broader City of Buffalo community and connections to the region via the Empire State Trail / Buffalo waterfront.
- Offers opportunities to connect otherwise isolated parks and public spaces—e.g., Red Jacket Riverfront Park

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Majority of the Riverline's social, economic and community benefits will go to the nearby economically disadvantaged and underserved communities.
- NYDEC and Climate Justice Working Group (CJWG) criteria designate entire area as EJ impacted communities
- Segregation and lack of racial and ethnic representation in projects of this type resulted in the marginalization of low income and minority populations/lack of equity and inclusiveness.
- Opening up new natural and recreation spaces in close proximity to historically marginalized neighborhoods, will help mitigate existing negative systemic impacts.
- The Riverline will be universally accessible and integrate with the surrounding communities through welcome centers, gateway entry points and community connectors



TRANSPORTATION

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- No significant negative impact on local traffic volume and/or other transportation-related elements (e.g., increased demand for public transportation, increased parking, or the need for additional sidewalks, etc.)
 - + Existing roadway capacity levels/parking adequate with on street and addition of 50 space parking area at Smith Street
 - + Transportation-related impacts from construction are expected to be minimal and impacts short-term.
 - + Bridge crossings will not impact local vehicle or truck traffic—designed to meet the required crossing height standards.

