The Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council has hired you (as a team or individual consultant) to

develop a new transit plan for the regional metropolitan area under projected conditions for the year 2050. The

Council wishes to maximize accessibility, especially for low-income residents who are not well served by the current

system, and to provide other community benefits for the regional population through an enhanced transit system,

while minimizing negative impacts and staying within (but making full use of) a $3 billion budget for the metro rail

expansion in Erie and Niagara counties of Western New York. All proposed plans must be designed based on the

Council’s assumption that the regional population will double by the year 2050. Each team or consultant will set their

own expectation as to whether the general geographic distribution of this population growth would be concentrated

primarily in the city of Buffalo, clustered among suburbs such as Amherst, or distributed evenly (proportionate to the

current population) throughout the region.

Each proposed plan must take into account a special interest of the Council that is relevant to future usage of the

metro rail system. These special interests are as follows:

The Buffalo Bills wish to move from the stadium in Orchard Park to a location in downtown Buffalo closer to where

the Buffalo Sabres and Buffalo Bisons play. The plan should propose a specific location for the new stadium in

Buffalo and ensure that the new metro rail system is accessible to the stadium. Stadium costs are NOT part of the

rail budget.

Each team or consultant will select one of these special interest scenarios to address in their proposal. The Council

wishes to promote sustainable public transit use through greater intermodality, and as such wants each proposal to

examine the potential for complementary bike paths and bus routes that intersect with the metro rail system at key

terminals. The proposed plan should consider service availability and frequency as components of accessibility for

the proposed transit system. The plan should also consider other factors relevant to developing a metro rail system

that will best serve the Buffalo metro area population, given the real-world issues that may arise with its

implementation.

The budget for the metro rail expansion is $3 billion. Each team should seek to make full use of the budget without

exceeding it. Determine the total cost of the proposed light rail plan based on the following assumptions:

new light rail costs $75 million/mile underground and $20 million/mile above ground.

each new terminal stop costs $25 million underground and $10 million above ground.

Your proposed plan should be described in a single document that reviews real-world issues, justifies your plan,

outlines costs and benefits, includes a map of the proposed light rail configuration, and provides an itemized cost

table for your stations and tracks (see Table 1 below for an example as part of an underground subway line). Note

that the budget is to be applied solely to the cost of the rail expansion. Other cost considerations may be discussed

but should not be deducted from the budget.