Transportation and Commerce
From Seneca fording place to aqueduct and bridge – a perpetual crossing place

**Osburn House Postcard View**
Looking south in this early 20th century post card South Avernum, the aqueduct, Erie Canal, Johnson & Seymour Race and Genesee River are visible. The Public Library was built near the right angle turn in the canal. The subway ran through the canal bed under the library from 1927-1956. The Osburn House hotel was demolished in 1959 to make way for the Broad Street extension. The expanded public library was built on the site in the 1960s.

**The Subway System**
In 1921 the City began to build a subway in the bed of the old Erie canal. It was completed in 1927. In order to accommodate automobiles and the subway, a second level was built over the canal aqueduct and named Broad Street. The subway operated from 1927 to 1956. Remnants of the subway can be seen behind the Lehigh Valley Railroad station.

**Weigh Lock and Warehouse**
Photo above shows a canal boat in the weigh lock in 1915. (Shown on the map at the right inside red square). The weigh lock building on the Erie Canal determined the toll boats would pay based on the difference between their registered empty weight and loaded weight. The warehouse, inside the blue circle, was once Cheney Stove Works, which canal boat Captains said, was haunted because the wind whistled through broken windows.

**Genesee River Feeder**
Originally intended to feed water from the Genesee River into the Erie Canal, the feeder became a by-pass for boats to enter the canal from the river. The junction of the feeder and canal are shown inside the blue circle at left.

**Castletown**
The pioneer settlement, Castletown, was built where rapid’s in the river prevented boats from going further north. (Across the river from where the University of Rochester is currently located.) Boats had to transfer their cargo to wagons that would take the cargo to the Erie and Genesee Valley canals or to Lake Ontario to be shipped around the world. As river boats entered the Erie Canal feeder, bypassing Castletown, the settlement lost its profitable transfer business and today is part of the City’s 19th Ward.