



## What is GTC?

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) requires every metropolitan area with a population over 50,000 to have a designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to qualify for receipt of federal highway and transit funds. The Governor of New York State designated the Genesee Transportation Council (GTC) as the MPO responsible for transportation planning in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region, which includes Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates counties.

GTC member agencies include local, regional, state, and federal stakeholders who work together in a cooperative, comprehensive, and continuous manner to identify and implement policies, plans, and projects that will maximize the contribution of the transportation system to the social and economic vitality of the region. We invite you to learn more about GTC by visiting our website at [www.gtcmpo.org](http://www.gtcmpo.org).

## Long Range Plan Sets Transportation Priorities through 2035

The Genesee Transportation Council adopted the Long Range Transportation Plan for the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region 2035 (LRTP 2035) at its June 16, 2011 meeting. The LRTP 2035 provides the strategic direction for the regional transportation system over the next nearly 25 years. With funding for transportation becoming scarcer, the LRTP 2035 presents a fiscally-responsible set of recommendations to ensure that the transportation system positively contributes to the community's goals of increased economic development and improved quality of life.

The LRTP 2035 looks further into the future than most plans and studies. As such, an important aspect of its development was the identification of emerging opportunities and issues that will impact the region over the next two-plus decades. The primary considerations that the transportation system needs to address include the: growing importance of seniors; stability and enhancement of the regional food system; role of transportation in public health; significance of the larger mega-region to the community's economic success; impacts of climate change; and uncertainty of future energy sources.



Based on the current status of the transportation system and the emerging opportunities and issues, the existing and future needs of the region's residents and businesses were defined. The recommendations of the LRTP 2035 reflect those projects, programs, and other initiatives that can be achieved with reasonably expected revenues over the time period covered by the plan. Recommendations are categorized as Preservation and Maintenance, System Management and Operations, and Expansion. Ninety-five percent of revenues are dedicated to keeping our existing infrastructure in suitable condition and using it to the fullest extent possible. The remaining five percent is dedicated to strategic investments that add new facilities and services which build upon and enhance the current system.



GTC, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region, is responsible for soliciting, evaluating, and selecting projects to receive federal transportation funding. GTC programs federal funding to highway, bridge, public transportation, bicycle, pedestrian, and air quality improvement projects through its Transportation Improvement Program. The levels of funding available to the region are determined based on many factors including population, vehicle miles traveled, and the condition of transportation facilities.

For information on projects currently underway in the region, please visit the following websites:

- New York State DOT: [www.nysdot.gov/projects](http://www.nysdot.gov/projects)
- Monroe County DOT: [www.monroecounty.gov/dot-constructionlisting1.php](http://www.monroecounty.gov/dot-constructionlisting1.php)
- City of Rochester: [www.cityofrochester.gov/article.aspx?id=8589936612](http://www.cityofrochester.gov/article.aspx?id=8589936612)
- NYS Thruway: [www.nysthruway.gov/maps/laneclose.html](http://www.nysthruway.gov/maps/laneclose.html)

## Lack of Federal Surface Transportation Bill Results in Reduced Revenues to Region

The current multi-year surface transportation bill (the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users or SAFETEA-LU) expired on September 30, 2009 and has been extended multiple times with the latest extension (the eighth) scheduled to expire on March 31, 2012. This legislation authorizes federal funding for highway, bridge, public transportation, bicycle, pedestrian, and air quality improvement projects that are advanced by GTC member agencies. This funding is critical to ensuring that the regional transportation system is safe, efficient, and reliable.



When the Genesee Transportation Council adopted the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (2011-2014 TIP) on June 17, 2010, it was expected that a new multi-year surface transportation authorization would be enacted by October 1, 2012 – three years from the sunset of SAFETEA-LU – and would include an increase in the level of funding similar to those included in the most recent reauthorizations of 1991 and 1998. However, the nation's fiscal situation has delayed the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU, calling into question the commitment of the Administration and Congress to provide sufficient resources for transportation infrastructure.

As a result, the federal funds programmed in Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2012 through 2014 of the 2011-2014 TIP are higher than the amounts now expected to be available. The delay in passing a new multi-year surface transportation bill with funding levels that better reflect actual transportation needs means that \$135 million worth of projects must be cut from the 2011-2014 TIP. GTC staff has worked with member agencies to revise the 2011-2014 TIP to meet this reduction over the next three years.

GTC is not required to provide public review opportunities for this revision beyond those typically conducted for other TIP amendments. However, given the significant reduction in reasonably expected funds and the necessary deferral of projects, GTC is conducting a 30-day public review of the proposed revisions to the 2011-2014 TIP including media releases, direct notice to groups serving those not traditionally well-represented in the transportation planning process, and four public meetings. A revised program of projects for FFYs 2012 through 2014 will be considered by the GTC Board at its December 8, 2011 meeting.

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In the absence of formal requirements to monitor the performance of the transportation system, the LRTP 2035 includes 15 metrics that provide a baseline of how well the transportation system is serving customers. In addition, the likely changes to the metrics that will result from the implementation of the LRTP 2035 were also identified. The selected performance measures are both meaningful and understandable to customers and policymakers, providing a basis to discuss changes in how the transportation system is meeting or not meeting regional needs.

The region's long range transportation plan must be updated every four years. To monitor the advancement of the LRTP 2035, GTC staff is developing a transportation system status report to discuss progress made in implementing the recommendations and provide updated data for the performance measures. Beyond increasing transparency, the critical analysis conducted to produce the transportation system status report will assist in identifying necessary resources and communicating the importance of transportation infrastructure and services.

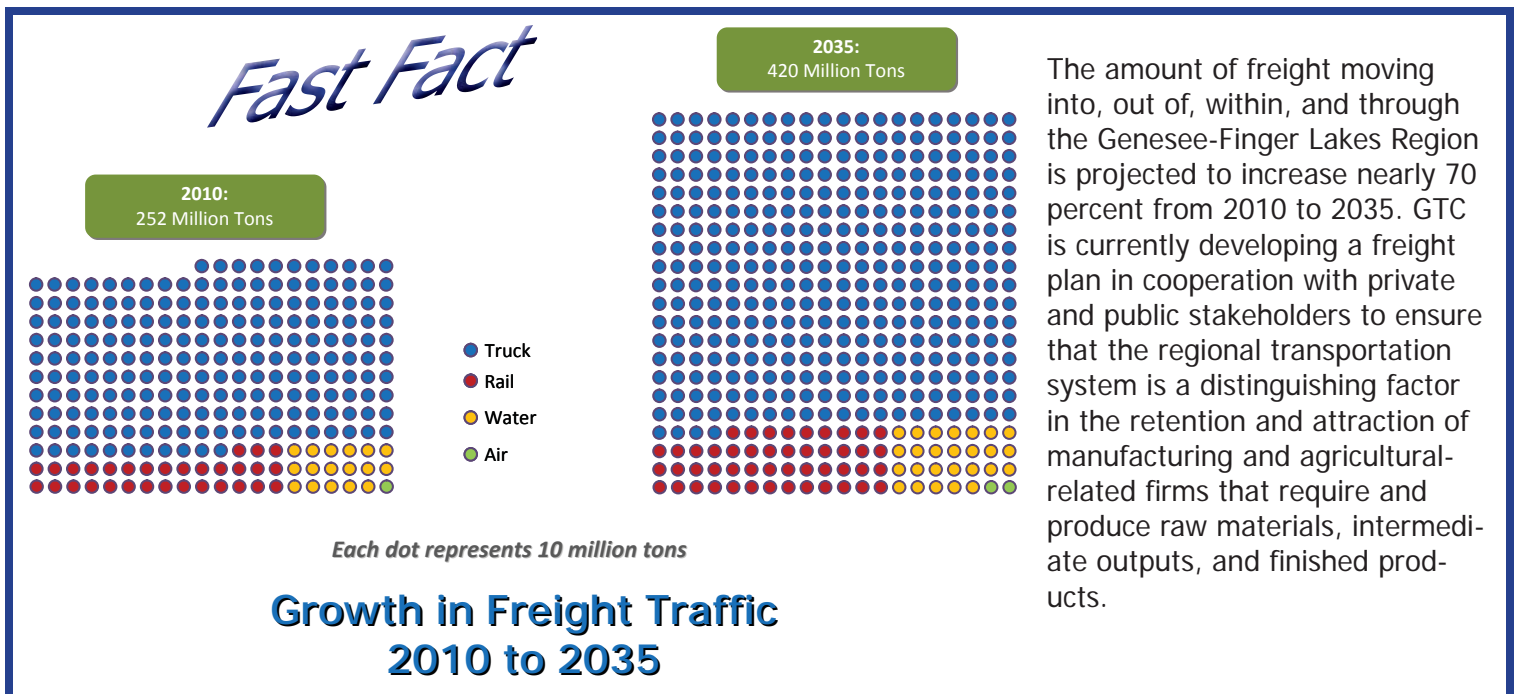
The region's transportation system is currently a competitive advantage compared to that of other areas in the country, but it will not be if we neglect it. The adoption of the LRTP 2035 was a beginning not an end as the plan will serve as the framework for planning and investment decisions in future Unified Planning Work Programs and Transportation Improvement Programs.

## GTC Updates Plan to Coordinate Human Services Transportation

At its September 8, 2011 meeting, the Genesee Transportation Council adopted the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Update. The coordinated plan update has resulted in recommendations to enhance mobility and access, minimize duplication of services, and provide cost-effective transportation for seniors, persons with disabilities, and low-income individuals. It builds upon the first coordinated plan that was completed in December 2007.

The coordinated plan update was developed with extensive involvement from public, private, and not-for-profit transportation providers, human service agencies, employers, and other affected stakeholders via focus groups held in each of the nine counties of the region and five public meetings. This broad participation from all sectors of the community was essential to identifying the needs of persons with limited travel options and current services available to meet those needs.

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# Then and Now

Mt. Hope Ave. & Ford St.



1970



2009

Route 104 at Five Mile Line Rd.



1970



2009

(Coordinated Plan - Continued from page 3)

The coordinated plan update includes 17 strategies to address unmet needs and service gaps. These strategies range from short-term local initiatives to larger regional projects and programs. Priorities going forward include: improving mobility management by strengthening scheduling processes and inter-county cooperation among human service agencies and transportation providers; implementing marketing campaigns to welcome new riders when they need to use public or specialized transportation services; and expanding both medical and non-medical transportation options to the extent resources allow.

## GTC Member Agencies

Local

- Genesee County
- Livingston County
- Monroe County
- Ontario County
- Orleans County
- Seneca County
- Wayne County
- Wyoming County
- Yates County
- City of Rochester

State

- Empire State Development Corporation
- NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- NYS Dept. of Transportation
- NYS Thruway Authority

Federal

- Federal Aviation Administration
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Transit Administration

Regional

- Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
- Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority

Officers

- Chairperson: Honorable Mary Pat Hancock
- Vice Chairperson: Honorable James Hoffman
- Secretary: Robert A. Traver

*The mission of the Genesee Transportation Council is to maximize the contribution of the transportation system to the social and economic vitality of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region*

*If you would like to begin receiving this newsletter electronically, please email us at [contactgtc@gtcmppo.org](mailto:contactgtc@gtcmppo.org)*