

# Chapter 1

## INTRODUCTION

### **Role and Responsibilities**

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.

Because of the size of the nine-county region, the primary focus of GTC's transportation planning efforts is the Rochester Transportation Management Area (TMA). The Rochester TMA includes all of Monroe County plus the adjacent developed areas of Livingston, Ontario, and Wayne counties (see Exhibit 1).

The mission of GTC is to maximize the contribution of the transportation system to the social and economic vitality of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region.

To establish and maintain the certifiable transportation planning process required by the federal government as a precondition for receipt of federal transportation funding, GTC as the designated MPO for the region must at a minimum produce and maintain three major products:

1. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

This product provides a 20-year perspective of existing and projected transportation system capabilities, needs, and associated objectives, as well as recommended policies and actions to meet these objectives. This assessment is performed in the context of the eight major transportation planning factors established by the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). It provides the framework for guiding federally-funded transportation planning and investment decision making in the region. The LRTP must be updated at least every four years.

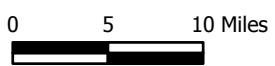
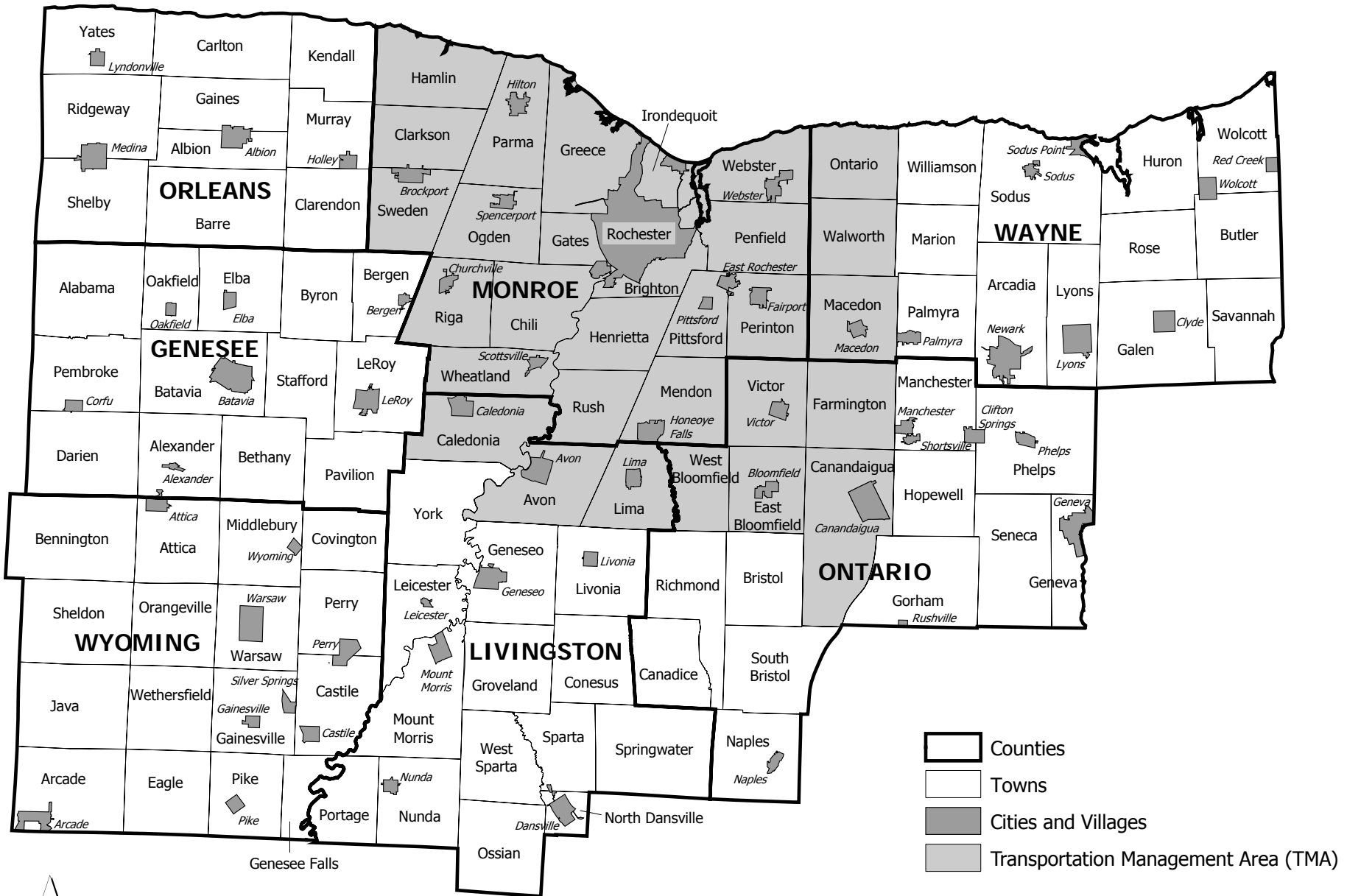
2. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

This product programs federally-funded transportation planning activities that further develop the policies and actions contained in the LRTP into concept-level projects and programs. The UPWP allocates funding for both specific planning projects and on-going programmatic activities. The UPWP must be updated at least every two years.

3. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

This product identifies and schedules the specific transportation improvements in the region that will receive federal funding over the next five years. Projects included in the TIP typically emerge from recommendations identified in projects and programs in the UPWP and infrastructure needs identified by member agencies. The TIP must be updated at least every four years.

# TIP Planning Region and Rochester Transportation Management Area



In addition to these requirements, GTC responds to other government mandates and guidelines such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and environmental justice considerations.

## **Structure**

GTC is governed by a 27-member policy committee, the GTC Board, which is supported by the Executive Committee, Planning Committee, and various other committees. GTC staff, in conjunction with key staff of GTC member agencies, provides professional and technical support for execution of the programs and policies established by the GTC Board, consistent with the responsibilities identified in the preceding section. Citizen participation is also incorporated at all meaningful levels of program development and decision making.

### **1. GTC Board**

The GTC Board is the governing body of GTC. It provides direction and establishes policy with regard to the roles and responsibilities of GTC as the designated MPO for the region. The GTC Board approves all activities and work products, including the LRTP, UPWP, and TIP.

The 27 members of the GTC Board consist of elected officials from the nine counties of the region and the City of Rochester, as well as representatives of other local, regional, state, and federal agencies. The GTC Board elects its own officers from among its members. (See Exhibit 2 for current membership and officers.)

The GTC Board meets quarterly, or as required. Each GTC Board meeting is open to the public and advertised as such through media outlets across the region. A public forum is included at the beginning of each meeting to allow for public comment on meeting agenda items before GTC Board action is taken.

### **2. Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is a subset of the GTC Board responsible for specific decision making related to administrative, organizational, and financial issues affecting GTC and its staff. It has eight members and meets as needed at the discretion of the GTC Board Chair (See Exhibit 2 for current membership).

### **3. Planning Committee**

The Planning Committee provides professional and technical direction to the GTC Board. With input from the various committees noted below, the Planning Committee reviews and recommends action on all activities and work products that are considered by the GTC Board.

Each member of the GTC Board appoints a representative to the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee representative is typically a transportation or planning professional. The Planning Committee meets eight times per year during the months that GTC Board

meetings are not held, or as required. Each Planning Committee meeting is open to the public and advertised as such through media outlets across the region. Public forums are included at the beginning and conclusion of all meetings to allow for public comment on meeting agenda items before and after Planning Committee recommendations to the GTC Board are made.

Several other committees exist which support GTC activities, including the UPWP Development Committee (UDC), the TIP Development Committee (TDC), the LRTP Development Committee (LDC), and the Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC).

**Genesee Transportation Council  
Board Members  
(as of June 21, 2007)**

Jurisdiction

Member

**COUNTY LEGISLATURE OR BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS (9)**

Genesee County	Mary Pat Hancock, Chair, Legislature
Livingston County	* James Merrick, Chair, Board of Supervisors
Monroe County	Wayne Zyra, President, Legislature
Ontario County	* Theodore Fafinski, Chair, Board of Supervisors
Orleans County	George Bower, Chair, Legislature
Seneca County	Edward Barto, Chair, Board of Supervisors
Wayne County	* James Hoffman, Chair, Board of Supervisors
Wyoming County	A. Douglas Berwanger, Chair, Board of Supervisors
Yates County	Robert Multer, Chair, Legislature

**OTHER LOCAL MEMBERS (9)**

Monroe County Executive	* Maggie Brooks, County Executive
Monroe County Planning Board	Linda A. Faubel, Acting Chairperson
Monroe County Supervisors' Association	Tracy Logel, President
Monroe County - At Large	Daniel Hogan, At-Large Member
	Edward Marianetti, At-Large Member
Mayor - City of Rochester	* Robert Duffy, Mayor
Rochester City Council	Lois Giess, President
Rochester City Planning Commission	David L. Watson, Chair
Rochester - At Large	Paul E. Haney, At-Large Member

**STATE AGENCIES (4)**

Empire State Development Corporation	Dan Gundersen, Upstate Chair
NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation	Pete Grannis, Commissioner
NYS Department of Transportation	* Astrid C. Glynn, Commissioner
NYS Thruway Authority	Michael R. Fleischer, Executive Director

**REGIONAL AGENCIES (2)**

Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council	* James Hoffman, Chair
Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority	* John G. Doyle Jr., Chair

**FEDERAL AGENCIES (3)**

Federal Aviation Administration**	Philip Brito, District Chief
Federal Highway Administration**	Robert Arnold, Division Administrator
Federal Transit Administration**	Brigid Hynes-Cherin, Regional Administrator

\*Executive Committee Member  
\*\*Non-Voting

**Council Officers: Maggie Brooks, Chair  
Kevin O'Buckley, Secretary\*\***

