

**GENESEE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL  
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**November 18, 2021  
10:00 a.m.**

*Due to physical distance requirements during the COVID-19 outbreak, this meeting was conducted online rather than in-person.*

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Leathersich, Monroe County – At Large (Chairperson)  
Angela Ellis, Livingston County (Vice-Chairperson)  
Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Planning Board  
Devin Blue, Wyoming County  
Bill Carpenter, Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority  
Erik Frisch, Rochester – At Large  
Tom Frys, Monroe County Executive  
Paul Gavin, Genesee / Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council  
George Hebert, Monroe County Legislature  
Timothy Hens, Genesee County  
Robert Kiley, Monroe County Supervisors' Association  
David Lindsay, Monroe County – At Large  
John Papponetti, Orleans County  
Kevin Rooney, Wayne County  
C. Mitchell Rowe, Seneca County

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Tim Cutler, Yates County, representing Craig Prior  
Joel Kleinberg, NYS Department of Transportation, representing Chris Reeve  
Timothy McElligott, Ontario County, representing William Wright

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND UNREPRESENTED

Uzoma Anukwe, Federal Transit Administration  
Maria Chau, Federal Highway Administration  
Stephen Golding, Empire State Development Corporation  
Norman Jones, City of Rochester Mayor  
Kevin Kelley, Rochester City Planning Commission  
Evelyn Martinez, Federal Aviation Administration  
Vacant, Rochester City Council  
Vacant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Vacant, NYS Thruway Authority

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jody Binnix, GTC staff  
Joe Bovenzi, GTC staff  
Mike Croce, Bergmann  
Eric Farr, RGRTA  
Tim Hughes  
Alex Kone, GTC staff  
Dave Kubiak, Monroe County  
Lori Maher, GTC staff  
Elizabeth Murphy, City of Rochester

Tsakhirmaa Nyamaa, NYS Thruway Authority  
Thomas Polech, Monroe County  
Terry Rice, Barton and Loguidice  
Chris Sichak, Erdman Anthony  
Emily Smith, Fisher Associates  
James Stack, GTC staff  
Chris Tortora, GTC staff  
Joan Vitkus, Genesee Valley BOCES  
Jonathan Walczak, Barton and Loguidice

## **1. Call to Order & Introductions**

Scott Leathersich, Planning Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Alex Kone conducted a roll call of Committee members and alternates. The names of other attendees were captured from meeting login information.

## **2. Public Forum**

Nobody from the public spoke during the Public Forum.

## **3. Approval of Minutes**

**Joel Kleinberg moved to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2021 Planning Committee meeting; Rochelle Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.**

## **4. Announcements and Old Business**

James Stack announced that Devin Blue has been appointed as the Planning Committee member representing Wyoming County. James Bragg has been appointed as his alternate.

He also reported that following October 14 discussion of the establishment of an Active Transportation Advisory Group, the issue was raised at the August 26 Board meeting. The Board was supportive of the idea but wants the Planning Committee to agree on the parameters. Last month, staff provided a draft term sheet prepared by staff to give you something to react to. The Planning Committee discussed a few clarifications and agreed to take some time to digest and consider the term sheet. The meeting package included an updated version to reflect the discussions at the October meeting.

## **5. Action Items**

### **a) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

1. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning **accepting reports as evidence of UPWP Tasks**

- a. **Monroe County Traffic Signal/Sign Pole Asset Management** (UPWP Task 7950) / Proposed Council Resolution 21-89

Jonathan Walczak of Barton and Loguidice presented an overview of the Monroe County Traffic Signal/Sign Pole Asset Management project. The purpose of the project was to create a countywide inventory and GIS format for all sign poles, traffic signal poles, and associated traffic signal equipment maintained by the county. Data was collected at 669 locations, incorporating all data from the condition assessments and photos into a GIS inventory.

The consultant team developed a project-specific data collection form using ESRI's ArcGIS Survey 123 software installed on smartphones. The app was

paired with a Bluetooth receiver to obtain horizontal accuracy and observed data for the specific features of the signal poles, control cabinets, pull boxes and sign poles. The data was added to a GIS database in real time, allowing stakeholders to track progress and allow for concurrent quality control review. A condition assessment was conducted using visual ratings for various components of the traffic signals and poles.

Thomas Polech stated that Monroe County DOT will be reviewing the report for future programming of capital projects and possibly a specific traffic signal project for any upgrades or repairs that are needed.

Scott Leathersich asked if there were any unexpected findings about asset conditions. Thomas Polech replied that the system as a whole is actually in better condition than staff would have assumed considering the age of signals.

**Angela Ellis moved to recommended approval of Resolution 21-89; Bill Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.**

**b) Transportation Improvement Program**

1. Action concerning modifying the *FFYs 2020-2024 TIP*

- a. Increasing the Total Cost of the Tileyard Rd over Flint Creek Bridge Replacement project / Proposed Planning Committee Resolution 21-34 (Ontario County)

Tim McElligott noted the modification would, first, increase the ROW acquisitions phase to add soft cost expenses, and second, increase the construction phase to reflect recent bid prices in the Advance Detail Plans estimates. Also, the project requires 300 feet of road reconstruction to meet requirements of the NYSDOT Bridge Manual.

- b. Increasing the Total Cost of Rt 204 (Brooks Ave), Rt 33A to Rochester City Line project / Proposed Planning Committee Resolution 21-35 (NYSDOT)

Joel Kleinberg noted the grade change below the railroad bridge requires a mechanical drainage system that is expensive to maintain. The modification would provide additional funds to procure consultants to develop alternatives for drainage systems as opposed to the existing in-road drainage.

- c. Increasing the Total Cost of Rt 414 over CSX Bridge Rehab project / Proposed Planning Committee Resolution 21-36 (NYSDOT)

Joel Kleinberg noted the modification would increase the preliminary engineering phase to account for the difference in consultant as opposed to in-house design costs.

**Angela Ellis moved to approve Planning Committee Resolutions 21-34 through 21-36; Erik Frisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.**

2. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning amending the *FFYs 2020-2024 TIP*

a. Adding the FFY 2022 Railway-Highway Crossings (Section 130) projects / Proposed Council Resolution 21-90 (NYSDOT)

Joel Kleinberg reported that the six projects were selected by the NYSDOT Rail Bureau in consultation with the local jurisdictions and private railroad owners. The scopes of work are primarily replacing or upgrading appurtenances at crossings.

Tom Frys asked if the affected gates and lights are owned by the railroads. Joel Kleinberg replied that they are and that Section 130 is a dedicated fund source for vehicular and non-motorized safety at these crossings, despite their private ownership.

Tom Frys asked if the projects included pavement work at the approaches as well. Joel Kleinberg replied that those are eligible but these projects include only the basic safety packages.

James Stack noted that Resolution 21-90 provides an authorization for the GTC Executive Director to make any future Project Cost or Project Schedule changes, per Exhibit 4 of the *TIP Procedures Manual*, as Staff Modifications, similar to previous authorization related BRIDGE NY projects.

**Kevin Rooney recommended approval of Resolution 21-90; Tom Frys seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.**

**c) Long Range Transportation Plan**

(No Action Items)

**d) Related Activities**

1. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning Affirming the 2022 Genesee Transportation Council Host Agency Agreement between NYSDOT and GTCS, Inc. / Proposed Council Resolution 21-91 (GTC staff)

James Stack reported that federal metropolitan planning funds that cover GTC activities are provided on a reimbursement basis. In order for this to occur, GTC needs a Host Agency that provides working capital and administrative support. In the Genesee-Finger Lakes region, the Host Agency has long been GTCS, Inc.

GTCS, Inc. is a subsidiary of RGRTA and serves as the corporate entity on behalf of the Council. As such, the Commissioners/Directors of the GTCS Board are the same as the RGRTA Board of Commissioners. New York State requires a Host Agency Agreement that formalizes the relationship between them and GTCS. This is the same for all MPOs in New York.

In 2011, the New York State Office of the Comptroller sought to standardize the terms and timing of all MPO Host Agency Agreements across the state. All of the MPO Host Agencies entered into 10-year Agreements on the same cycle, commencing April 1, 2012. The current Agreement expires on March 31, 2022. In order to keep functioning, a new Agreement needs to be in place for the start of the NYS fiscal year on April 1.

GTCS has served the region well as a Host Agency and is willing to continue the relationship. GTC and RGRTA staffs have worked with NYSDOT-Main Office to develop the new Host Agency Agreement that will take effect April 1, 2022 and run through March 31, 2032. New York State has requested that signed Host Agency Agreements be submitted by January 1 to allow time for review and approval by the Office of the State Comptroller and the office of the Attorney General by March 31. The Agreement is very much consistent with the current Agreement and has been reviewed by legal staff within the relevant state agencies. James Stack stated that there is no reason to think that the Comptroller's office or the Attorney General's office will not approve the Agreement.

The GTCS Board will consider the Agreement at its December 2 meeting. Technically, the GTC Board is not a signatory to the Agreement but it does have a vested interest in the Host Agency Agreement. Consistent with past practice, staff have prepared a Resolution affirming the Host Agency Agreement.

**Bill Carpenter recommended approval of Resolution 21-91; Joel Kleinberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.**

## **6. Reports**

### **a) Status of UPWP Projects**

*GTC* - Jim Stack reported:

- GTC Strategic Planning: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law on November 15. Staff will stay informed of the forthcoming rulemaking related to new and existing programs. The IIJA will be discussed more later in the meeting.
- Long Range Transportation Plan Update/Implementation: No activity to report.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Scenario Tool: No activity to report.
- I-490 Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) Plan: Recommended for approval by Planning Committee on October 14.
- Travel Time Data Collection Program: No activity to report.
- Rt. 96 over Rt. 14 Strategic Divestment Analysis: A draft RFP was shared with NYSDOT-Region 4 in late October. Staff is working to address their comments and revise the RFP for release after Thanksgiving.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Performance Measurement Monitoring & Evaluation System: No activity to report.

- Cross Asset Highway and Bridge Evaluation and Prioritization Tool: A revised Scope of Work was approved at the October 14 meeting. Staff will be able to make progress after the TIP solicitation is released within the next few weeks.

*G/FLRPC* – Joe Bovenzi reported:

- Regional Land Use Monitoring: This project was presented at the October 14 meeting and recommended for acceptance by the GTC Board.
- Implementing Complete Streets in the G-FL Region; A Guidebook: The Village of Perry is revising its draft Policy. It will be presented to the public for feedback later this year or early 2022.
- Regional Fleet Electrification Study: The draft report is currently being revised.

*Livingston County* – Angela Ellis reported:

- Livingston County Mobility Management Strategy: This project was presented at the October 14 meeting and recommended for acceptance by the GTC Board.

*Monroe County* – Rochelle Bell and Thomas Polech reported:

- Land Use Monitoring: The report will begin in 2022 after the final compilation of 2021 permit data.
- Monroe County High Accident Location Program: Seven of thirty-six locations are completed for the 2021 list. An additional six are in progress. The 2020 locations were presented at the October 14 meeting and recommended for acceptance by the GTC Board. One of these locations, Dunn Street, was recently approved to be converted into a one-way by the Traffic Control Board and Rochester City Council.
- Monroe County Traffic-Signal/Sign Pole Asset Management: This project was discussed earlier in the meeting under Item 5.a.2.
- Monroe County Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan – Staff are currently reviewing four consultant proposals. The preferred consultant will be noted at the next meeting.

*NYS DOT* – Joel Kleinberg reported:

- Regional Traffic Operations Center (RTOC) Strategic Plan: The Scope of Work was approved at the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Ramp Reconfiguration Study: The Steering Committee met on November 4<sup>th</sup> to review the draft report. Staff expect the next version in mid-December and plan to hold the next steering committee meeting in mid- to late-January to discuss the final recommendations.

*Ontario County* – Jody Binnix report:

- State Route 332 & Route 96 Sub-Area Study: This project was presented at the October 14 meeting and recommended for acceptance by the GTC Board.
- Ontario County Freight Rail Corridor Development Plan - Area 2: Ontario County continues to develop the Scope of Work for Planning Committee consideration

*City of Rochester* – Erik Frisch and James Stack reported:

- West Main Street Multimodal Transportation and Placemaking Study: The draft report is under review by the Steering Committee and is expected to be presented to the Planning Committee in January.
- City of Rochester Active Transportation Master Plan: A contract with the preferred consultant team was not able to be executed. The project will be readvertised as an RFP.
- Inner Loop North: The next round of public outreach will be conducted in December to review the preferred corridor concept and associated community development recommendations

Scott Leathersich asked which of the options is the preferred concept. Erik Frisch said that it was 'Restoring the Grid' which aims to restore the previous street grid, particularly Cumberland Street and Central Avenue, and not create a new boulevard in the Inner Loop's footprint. This preferred concept will maintain all access points on west side to I-490.

*RGRTA* – Eric Farr reported:

- RTS System Redesign: Staff are continuing to review ridership statistics before potential route changes in January.
- Rural Village and City Local Route Study: The RFP is under review by NYSDOT Main Office and is expected to be advertised in December.
- On Route Charging Feasibility Study: The contract was awarded by the RGRTA Board and will now be executed.

*Wayne County*

- Ontario Midland Strategic Plan: This project was presented at the October 14 meeting and recommended for acceptance by the GTC Board.

*Other Agencies – GTC staff reported:*

- Village of Waterloo Circulation, Accessibility and Parking (CAP) Study: The consultant finalized the draft reports and provided them to the Steering Committee for review and comment. The project is nearing completion.
- Village of Perry Transportation Safety and Access Study: The consultant has prepared recommendations that are being presented to the Steering Committee on November 17 & 18 to accommodate scheduling conflicts. A public meeting is scheduled on December 8.
- Victor Street Connectivity and Access Plan: The consultant completed the project area inventory and distributed its report to the Steering Committee for review and comment. The Steering Committee met to discuss the inventory on November 16.
- Beh Industrial Park Traffic Optimization Study: The consultant prepared recommendations that were shared with the Steering Committee for review and comment. The Steering Committee met on November 15 to discuss.

- West Webster Hamlet Revitalization Plan: The RFP was released on November 1 with responses due by December 6.
- Canandaigua Waterfront Active Transportation Plan: This project was presented at the October 14 meeting and recommended for acceptance by the GTC Board.

*Completed Projects:*

- Wayne County High Accident Locations Program
- Livingston County Downtown Wayfinding Master Plan
- Route 390 Multi-Use Trail Restoration and Safety Improvement Study
- Lake Ontario State Parkway Transportation Alternative Feasibility Study
- Mt. Morris-Leicester Route 36 Corridor Study
- O'Rorke Bridge Operations and Maintenance Analysis and Strategy
- Gananda Parkway Pedestrian & Bicycle Active Transportation Plan
- Middle Cheshire Road & Health Care Services Corridor Active Transportation Plan

**b) TIP Staff Modifications**

Alex Kone reported that since the last Planning Committee meeting that there were two projects modified:

*Increase Main Office Federal Funds by less than 10%*

- Rt 31 over the Erie Canal (Lyons) Bridge Deck Replacement (NYSDOT)

*Increase Planning Target (Federal) Funds by less than 10% or \$50,000*

- Schoellkopf Rd over Cayuga Creek Bridge Replacement (Wyoming County)

**c) Federal Legislative and Funding Update**

James Stack reported that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or IIJA, was signed into law on November 15th. He noted that he previously provided highlights of the increased investment in transportation infrastructure that is included in the Law.

There are several new programs that will need to be established through the federal rulemaking process so it will be some time before we can take advantage of them. For existing programs that are receiving higher funding levels, NYSDOT still needs to receive notice on how much the State will receive for each program and work with USDOT on the various set-aside rules so they can determine the Planning Targets for the next Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

With regard to the TIP, the TDC met on November 16 to discuss adjustments to the next TIP project solicitation and evaluation process. This was in the interest of process improvement. GTC and NYSDOT Region 4 staffs will use the feedback to finalize the TIP project solicitation that we expect to release on December 1. GTC staff expects to get a clearer picture on funding levels by source before applications will be due at the end of January.

The new Law will also have impact on our planning activities. Beginning with the next annual work program, GTC will be required to spend at least 2.5 percent of its FHWA metropolitan planning funds on Complete Streets activities. Staff are still working to determine what form that will take vis-à-vis staff versus professional services. Regardless, Complete Streets will become a dedicated activity with more prominent visibility.

GTC and its partners have a new opportunity related to resiliency. The Law establishes the PROTECT program to implement resiliency related projects. If an MPO develops a resiliency plan with prioritized improvements, the federal share will rise from 80 percent to 87 percent. If GTC incorporates the resiliency plan into our Long Range Plan, the federal share increases to 90 percent. As staff have mentioned in the past, the Vulnerability Assessments conducted a few years ago position the region well. Since these Assessments were developed using the USDOT framework developed under a pilot program, they should serve as an excellent foundation. Once guidance on what makes a compliant resiliency plan is published, we should be able to develop such a plan relatively quickly. Once adopted, it will allow project sponsors to benefit from a larger federal share. Also, having a plan in place relatively early should allow the region to pursue PROTECT funding before other regions in the country have even started their planning.

Staff will continue to review the legislation to assess any other changes or opportunities. We will monitor guidance as it is released and adjust as plans and processes accordingly.

**d) Other GTC matters**

James Stack reported that there were no other GTC matters to report.

**e) Public Engagement Highlights**

Lori Maher reported there were four new and ongoing public involvement opportunities in the region in the months of October, November, and December. These included both GTC-led initiatives and local agency projects. She requested that project sponsors keep Lori Maher informed of any additional public input opportunities so that GTC staff can support promotion of them.

**f) Member Agency and Partner Updates**

No member had any updates.

**7. New Business**

There was no new business.

**8. Public Forum**

No member of the public spoke during the Public Forum.

**9. Next Meeting**

Scott Leathersich noted that the next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2022 via webinar.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.