

**GENESEE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
Ebenezer Watts Conference Center
47 South Fitzhugh Street, Rochester**

January 7, 2016

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Ellis, Livingston County (Vice Chairperson)
Erik Frisch, City of Rochester – At-Large
Todd Gadd, Wyoming County
Thomas Goodwin, Monroe County Planning Board
Andrea Guzzetta, Rochester City Council
David Hartman, Yates County
Thomas Hurley, NYS Thruway Authority
Zina Lagonegro, Rochester City Planning Commission
Scott Leathersich, Monroe County – At-Large (Chairperson)
Kevin Rooney, Wayne County
William Wright, Ontario County

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

David Cook, Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority (RGRTA), representing Bill Carpenter
Timothy Frelier, Monroe County, representing Terrence Rice
David Lindsay, Monroe County – At-Large, representing Tom Beck
Jim McIntosh, City of Rochester, representing Norman Jones
Christopher Reeve, representing New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT)

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND UNREPRESENTED

Mark Assini, Monroe County Supervisors' Association
Maria Chau, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
William Eick, Orleans County
Roy Gates, Seneca County
Timothy Hens, Genesee County
Edward Muszynski, Empire State Development Corporation
Steven Urlass, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(Vacant), Federal Transportation Administration (FTA)
(Vacant), NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
David Zorn, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Douglas Benson, City of Rochester
Jody Binnix, GTC staff
Joseph Bovenzi, GTC staff
Raymond Duncan, Brockport, NY
Eric Farr, RGRTA
Molly Gaudioso, Steinmetz Planning
Dennis Judson, Fisher Associates
Joe Leathersich, Batavia, The Daily News
Chad Sanderson, Town of Seneca Falls
James Stack, GTC staff
Robert Torzynski, GTC staff

Patrick Waterman, Wendel

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Scott Leathersich, Planning Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Members, Alternates, and others present introduced themselves.

2. Public Forum

No member of the public spoke during the Public Forum.

3. Approval of Minutes

Tom Goodwin moved for approval of the minutes from the November 12, 2015 Planning Committee meeting; Dave Hartman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

4. Reports and Action on Old Business

a. Reports on UPWP Projects and Other Activities

GTC

James Stack reported:

- GTC staff continued monitoring the implementation development of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, the successor legislation to the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), that was signed into law on December 4, 2015. GTC staff began reviewing provisions, obtained apportionments by state and program, and monitoring the implementation of the FAST Act, including working with our colleagues at the federal level regarding proposed provisions that impact New York State and metropolitan planning.
- Regional Traffic Count Collection: The project was accepted by the GTC Board at its December 10 meeting.
- LRTP Update/Implementation: GTC staff is continuing the development of the *Long Range Transportation Plan for the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region 2040* (LRTP 2040) draft document and preparing the public review document that will be presented for consideration by the Planning Committee at the February 11 meeting.
- Advancing Health-Informed Transportation Decision Making: The City of Rochester Bureau of Planning and Zoning staff are continuing the preparation of contracting materials for review by Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency (FLHSA). There has been a staffing change at FLHSA and GTC staff has discussed revisions to the schedule to move the project forward.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Critical Transportation Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment: The consultant worked with counties on identification of initial mitigation measures. A revised draft technical memorandum has been prepared and submitted to GTC staff for review.

- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional TSMO Strategic Plan: GTC staff has been working with IBI Group to negotiate the final contract prior to execution. This process took longer than expected in order to satisfy the concerns of legal counsel. Contract execution is imminent.
- Diversion Route Planning Initiative: The project was accepted by the GTC Board at its September 1 meeting.
- Congestion Management Process (CMP): A CMP reliability workshop was held at NYSDOT Region-4 on December 3 in conjunction with FHWA and New York State Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (NYSAMPO); GTC staff provided organizational support and participated in the workshop. The CMP toolbox of strategies is being updated. The current version of the CMP is included in the LRTP 2035 that was adopted by the Board on June 16, 2011. The CMP Technical Documentation report that expands on the information included in the LRTP 2035 was accepted by the GTC Board at its June 20, 2013 meeting.
- Greater Rochester Regional Commuter Choice Program: No progress to report.
- Travel Time Data Collection Program: Speed data has been extracted for use in enhancing the GTC Travel Demand Model. GTC staff review the data to conduct brief assessments of major incidents and other events as applicable.
- Regional Mobility Management Business Planning: GTC staff worked with Livingston County to finalize a Request for Proposals (RFP) and prepared the materials necessary for NYSDOT approval to issue the RFP. NYSDOT granted approval to move forward on December 15.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Trails Initiative Update: GTC staff is finalizing the project. Closeout is expected at the February 2016 Planning Committee meeting.
- Regional Walkability Improvement Program: The project has been completed and will be presented for closeout under agenda item 5.a.2.
- Rochester Area Bike Sharing Program Study: The project was accepted by the GTC Board at its March 12 meeting.

G/FLRPC

James Stack reported:

- Regional Rights-of-Way Study: The project was accepted by the GTC Board at its September 1 meeting.
- Regional Viewshed Inventory and Analysis: The project was accepted by the GTC Board at its September 1 meeting.

Subsequent to the meeting, David Zorn provided the following updates:

- Regional Land Use Monitoring Report: The 2015 surveys have been distributed and responses have started being received.
- Regional Transportation and Food Systems Analysis: Initial draft was sent to the Planning Coordination Committee (PCC) for review and discussion at December PCC meeting with comments due by 12/31. Anticipate providing a draft of full

document for GTC staff review by January 15.

Livingston County

Angela Ellis reported:

- Dansville Transportation and Commercial & Industrial Access Study: The project was accepted by the GTC Board at its September 1 meeting.

Monroe County

Tom Goodwin reported:

- Monroe County Land Use Monitoring: County is gearing up for next survey, coordinating with G/FLRPC.

Tim Frelie reported:

- Monroe County Guiderail Inventory Program: Barton & Loguidice has been selected as the preferred consultant. Contract negotiations are underway.
- Monroe County High Accident Location Program: Analysis of one additional location completed. Nine locations have been completed to date.

Ontario County

James Stack reported:

- Ontario County Freight Corridor Development Plan: The consultant prepared a draft Existing Conditions report for Steering Committee review. The Steering Committee met December 4 to discuss the existing conditions and draft design alternatives.

City of Rochester

Doug Benson reported:

- City of Rochester Monroe Avenue Parking Study: The contract has been finalized and signed by the Mayor. A kick-off meeting was held last week and the consultant intends to start field work this month with a Technical Advisory Committee meeting anticipated for February.
- City of Rochester Zoning for Transportation Choice: The project has been renamed the Rochester Mobility Enhancement Study and an RFP is currently being developed with an anticipated release by the end of January or early February. The RFP Scope of Work is being coordinated with the City's Comprehensive Plan Update.

Erik Frisch reported:

- JOSANA Trail Feasibility Study: The project was accepted by the GTC Board at its September 1 meeting.

- Rochester East Main Arts & Market District Plan: The final report is complete and will be presented for closeout at the February Planning Committee meeting.
- Rochester Bicycle Boulevard Plan: The project was accepted by the GTC Board at its December 10 meeting.

RGRTA

David Cook Reported reported:

- RGRTA Regional Operational Service Audit: The RGRTA Board provided authorization to enter into a contract for this project at its November 5 meeting.
- RTS Route Overhaul and Refinement Analysis: Work continues on Routes 45 (South Ave.) and 47 (Monroe Ave.) with changes planned for implementation in April 2016. In addition to normal route reviews, a Limited Stop Service serving the University of Rochester (UR) and Monroe Community Hospital (MCH) area is planned to be added to Route 45. David also noted that six enhanced bus shelters will soon be installed in the UR/College Town area and that six bus routes are being revised in order to enhance service to and from these shelters.

Other Agencies

James Stack reported:

- Downtown Seneca Falls Parking and Improvement Study: The project has been completed and will be presented for closeout under agenda item 5.a.1.
- Hojack Trail Feasibility Study: The consultant is finalizing the inventory of existing conditions and developing the needs assessment based on comments received at first public meeting.
- Silver Lake Trail Feasibility Study: The Village of Perry worked with the preferred consultant to finalize the contract.
- Village of Brockport Active Transportation Plan: The project has been completed and will be presented for closeout under agenda item 5.a.3.
- Town of Henrietta Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Plan: This will be discussed at the introduction to agenda item 5.a.
- Pittsford Active Transportation Plan: Consultant prepared an inventory of existing conditions. The first public meeting was held December 10.
- Geneva Active Transportation Plan: The contract was executed and the first Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for January 20.
- Town of Irondequoit Active Transportation Plan: Consultant prepared an inventory of existing conditions. The second Steering Committee meeting was held December 8.
- Town of Chili Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Study: The project has been completed and will be presented for closeout under agenda item 5.a.5.
- Town of Perinton Active Transportation Plan: The Town of Perinton is finalizing

the project. Closeout is expected at the February 11 Planning Committee meeting.

b. Any Other Old Business or Announcements

1. Federal Legislative and Funding Update

James Stack reported that on December 4, the President signed the Fix America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The FAST Act provides funding for five years, which is the first authorization of highway and transit programs longer than two years in over a decade. It authorizes \$280.9 billion with \$225.2 billion allocated for highways, \$48.7 billion for public transportation, and \$7.0 billion for highway and motor carrier safety. To pay for the bill, \$70 billion is transferred to the Highway Trust Fund from other sources to supplement projected fuel tax receipts and other fees.

Jim explained that the funding level results in a five percent increase in highway funding from the current level and an eight percent increase in transit funding from the current level with approximately two percent annual increases thereafter.

With respect to the highway side, Jim noted that the structure of the programs remains similar with the continued emphasis (and revenues) on major roads and bridges. However, a new provision in the National Highway Performance Program allows funds from this program to be used for work on any bridge carrying a federal-aid road, so long as the state meets the performance targets set forth in MAP-21 for Interstate pavements and National Highway System bridges. If the state does not meet these targets, a specific amount of funds based on the former Interstate Maintenance and Highway Bridge programs' apportionments from FFY 2009 must be used to improve Interstate pavements and National Highway System bridges. The Surface Transportation Program is recast as the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program and increases the 50 percent of program funding directly suballocated to large MPOs (like GTC) by one percent per year (i.e., 55 percent in 2020).

On the transit side, Jim noted that the Growing States and High Density States formula program retains the latter component of which New York State and RTS Monroe would have been significantly harmed had it not been included in the enacted bill after being removed in the House version. Overall, formula funding to RGRTA for the Rochester Urbanized Area is expected to increase 5.4 percent or \$3.3 million over the course of the FAST Act.

Other notable provisions discussed by Jim include the addition of the National Freight Program for projects located on the National Highway Freight Network and automatic increases in authorized highway and public transportation investment if additional revenues are provided to the Highway Trust Fund.

With respect to appropriations, the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 on December 18, 2015. This action provides funding for the US Department of Transportation programs through September 30, 2016 or the end of the current FFY.

2. *Long Range Transportation Plan for the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region 2040* Update

James Stack reported that GTC staff has made significant progress on the development of the *LRTP 2040*. The draft public review document will be provided to the Planning Committee for consideration at the February 11 meeting with public review to follow. The full plan document will incorporate public comments and be provided for Planning Committee review at the April meeting. A separate public review document is being developed to ensure that it is digestible for the general public and show that we need their emphasis to be on providing input on the recommendations. Action by the GTC Board is expected at the June 9 meeting.

3. *2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program* Update

James Stack noted that this TIP round resulted in the largest number of project applications GTC has ever received and the applicant presentations took longer than originally anticipated, which delayed the evaluation of the applications. GTC and NYSDOT staffs have completed their evaluation of TIP applications and have concurred on the scoring for the nearly 180 applications. Calculation of the Cost Effectiveness of the Highway Preventive Maintenance projects is complete and the Bridge Preventive Maintenance projects will be complete this week. Tiered project lists by mode will be complete next week.

GTC and NYSDOT staffs will work with the TIP Development Committee to schedule meetings to develop a fiscally constrained program that can be recommended to the Planning Committee for consideration. Due to the time it has taken to get to this point, the schedule for public review will likely need to be delayed.

It is anticipated that the Planning Committee will recommend a draft *2017-2020 TIP* to the GTC Board at the May 12 meeting for GTC Board consideration on June 9.

4. Status of Executive Director Search

Jim McIntosh provided a report to the Planning Committee on the search for a new Executive Director. Angela Ellis asked if Jim was aware of who was on the Search Committee and Jim responded that he did not know as yet, since he hasn't met with them. James Stack noted that the search committee is made up of GTC Executive Committee members or their designee.

Jim McIntosh added that it was his understanding that six or seven applications had been received and that the committee was expected to meet the week of January 11 for a first look at the applications.

Todd Gadd asked if Jim had any information on the timeline for the selection and he responded that he would expect the decision to be made in February or March with the new Executive Director beginning service with GTC by the beginning of the next Fiscal Year (April 1, 2016).

5. Action Items

- a. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning **accepting reports as evidence of completion of various UPWP Tasks** / Proposed Council Resolutions 16-2 through 16-4 and 16-6

Scott Leathersich noted that the Town of Henrietta has requested that item 5.a.4 be postponed until the next meeting to provide time for the Town and the consultant finalizing the report to ensure that all comments received from Monroe County Department of Transportation have been fully addressed. No member or alternate objected and the item was removed from the agenda. Scott then suggested grouping items 5.a.1 through 5.a.3., and 5.a.5, under a single action to be taken following the discussion of the items. No member or alternate objected.

1. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning **accepting the *Downtown Seneca Falls Parking Improvement Study Executive Summary* as evidence of completion of UPWP Task 6360** / Proposed Council Resolution 16-2 (Seneca Falls)

Chad Sanderson from the Town of Seneca Falls, discussed the project objective to conduct an inventory of available parking in the core of the former Village of Seneca Falls, identify associated issues and concerns, and develop recommendations to improve safety and accessibility for tourists, residents, and workers. He discussed the Scope of Work, which included establishing a project advisory committee, conducting public informational meetings, inventorying existing and planned conditions, analyzing needs and opportunities, developing and prioritizing project recommendations, and the development of the project's final report. He noted that the project also included the development of a mobile application (app) for people to use to help them find parking in Seneca Falls and how it might also be extended to provided additional information to interested parties.

2. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning **accepting the *Regional Walkability Improvement Program Executive Summary* as evidence of completion of UPWP Task 8710** / Proposed Council Resolution 16-3 (GTC staff)

Robert Torzynski provided a report on the Regional Walkability Improvement Program, describing the project's objective, Scope of Work, methodology, and

the resulting work products. Robert noted that each of the 10 involved communities will receive final copies of the report and that a consolidated version (including all 10 reports) has been developed.

Erik Frisch asked when the final reports were expected to be distributed to the participating agencies and Robert responded that this would occur after the project has been accepted by the GTC Board.

3. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning **accepting the *Village of Brockport Active Transportation Plan* as evidence of completion of UPWP Task 8762** / Proposed Council Resolution 16-4 (Village of Brockport)

Raymond Duncan discussed the project object to develop an active transportation plan to improve the physical infrastructure for pedestrian and bicycle travel in the Village of Brockport, including connections to the Towns of Clarkson and Sweden, the project Scope of Work, and the resulting report. Raymond noted that the public meetings were very well attended and provided valuable input reflected in the main report's recommendations. Raymond described the methodology including the inventory of existing conditions, soliciting public input, developing, and prioritizing alternatives. Raymond discussed the report contents and stated that, while much work remains to be done, the report is expected to provide a valuable blueprint as the Village moves forward with its plans to improve opportunities for, and the safety of, bicycle and pedestrian travel.

5. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning **accepting the *Town of Chili Bike and Ped Master Plan* as evidence of completion of Task 8772** / Proposed Council Resolution 16-6 (Town of Chili)

David Lindsay discussed the project objective to develop a master plan for a safe, accessible, and comprehensive network of pedestrian facilities throughout the Town, the project Scope of Work, and the contents of the final report. He noted that the Town conducted extensive outreach beyond the two public meetings, including the development of an online survey and workshops for senior citizens as well as high school students. He discussed the contents of the report including its inventory of existing conditions, discussion of alternatives, and project, program, and policy recommendations.

Bill Wright moved to recommend that the GTC Board adopt Proposed Council Resolutions 16-2 through 16-4 and 16-6; Erik Frisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

- b. Action concerning **approving the Draft *FY 2016-2017 Unified Planning Work Program Project List* for public review** (GTC staff)

Jody Binnix noted that the *Draft FY 2016-2017 UPWP Project List for public review* has been developed by GTC staff and the UPWP Development Committee (UDC) and is being presented for Planning Committee. The Call for Projects was issued on

September 18. An applicant workshop was held on September 30 at the Henrietta Town Hall.

Jody indicated that sixteen proposals requesting \$1,316,400 in federal transportation planning funds were received by the Friday, October 23 deadline and that there is \$1,013,457 available for programming in the *FY 2016-2017 UPWP*. She noted that, as agreed to at the October 2014 Planning Committee meeting, GTC staff will use \$74,000 for on-call travel demand model assistance and travel time data collection in FY 2016-2017.

The sixteen proposals were evaluated and ranked by GTC staff and presented to the UDC. The UDC met on November 19 and December 3 and finalized the draft project list through email. Jody noted that during project deliberations GTC staff offered to reprogram \$150,000 from the MAP-21 Implementation Program to help offset the cost of the Cross Asset Highway and Bridge Evaluation and Prioritization Tool. The Prioritization Tool directly fulfills MAP-21 requirement and is an appropriate use of these funds. The final project cost is \$250,000 with \$150,000 from MAP-21 Implementation Program and \$100,000 from the new allocation for the *FY 2016-2017 UPWP*.

Based on any changes made at this meeting, an initial draft program will be released for 30-day public review from January 11 through February 9 and will be posted on the GTC website and made available at the eight county planning offices outside of Monroe County, the NYSDOT-Region 4 offices, and libraries in Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, and Wayne Counties.

GTC staff will work with the UDC to consider any public comments received and develop a *Draft FY 2016-2017 UPWP* document for your consideration at the February 11 meeting. Based on any changes made at that meeting, the GTC Board will consider the *Final Draft FY 2016-2017 UPWP* at its March 10 meeting.

On behalf of the GTC staff, Jody thanked the UDC for their time and efforts in developing the draft UPWP.

Bill Wright inquired about projects #14, #15, and #16, specifically since they are data collection projects similar to projects that have been funded in previous years, why weren't they funded this year. Jim responded that these projects met the criteria for funding but there was not enough funding for all the projects and they were the lowest ranking on the list.

Todd Gadd asked if there was any way that additional funds could be found and made available for these projects. Jim Stack responded that one concept that had been discussed involves creating a Phase I for the Vulnerable Users Safety Assessment Program, to be funded at \$50,000, while deferring the rest of that project's funding to the next year's UPWP program. This would allow the additional funding of \$100,000 to be reprogrammed toward proposals #14 and #16. Jim noted that this option had been discussed at the UDC meeting but that the UDC did not feel comfortable recommending this action during its review of the proposals.

Jim Stack also noted that this course of action would require the Planning Committee to commit to replace, off the top, the \$100,000 in next year's UPWP if this proposal is approved. Scott Leathersich asked if all three projects could be funded and Jim Stack responded that the proposal would provide enough funding for two projects. Jim noted that projects #14 and #16 (Guiderail Assessments) could be nearly fully funded if the \$100,000 were reprogrammed accordingly and that this would leave one project (Sign Inventory) proposed by Orleans County unfunded. However, Jim noted, given that Orleans County does not have direct experience in administering federally funded studies, funding just one project instead of both that Orleans County proposed, might strike a better balance to reduce the burden on county staff. Scott Leathersich noted that both of the two projects that would be funded are technical/data collection which suggests that they could be quickly implementable following completion of the projects, which means that benefits would begin to accrue more quickly than they would following a typical planning study. Angela Ellis asked if deferring Phase II of the Vulnerable Users project would lead to a push for a 2-year UPWP. Jim Stack answered that in the past, it had been tried, but for an MPO with our business model including many consultant-conducted studies, anticipating needs 2 years out is a challenge. David Cook noted that RTS has also pursued a project with a delayed phase (RGRTA Regional Operational Service Audit) and, if properly designed, phased projects can be a feasible approach.

Jim Stack explained the UPWP project selection and approval process and noted that, for a revision to the *Draft 2016-2017 UPWP Project List* to move forward, two motions are needed: 1) a motion to put the *Draft FY 2016-2017 UPWP Project List* on the Table, and 2) a separate motion to accomplish any modifications desired by the members of the committee. Jim summarized the modification that has been discussed by the UPWP Development Committee, which includes making \$100,000 available for projects #14 and #16 and documenting the Planning Committee's commitment to funding the second phase of the Vulnerable Users Safety Assessment Program "off the top" for inclusion the 2017-2018 UPWP.

Kevin Rooney moved to recommend that the *Draft 2016-2017 UPWP Project List* be opened for consideration of modification by the Planning Committee prior to its 30-Day Public Review Period; David Hartman seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

Bill Wright moved to approve the *Draft 2016-2017 UPWP Project List* for 30-Day Public Review Period after incorporating the changes to the proposal descriptions, federal funds recommended, and non-federal funds proposed for projects #12, #14, and #16 agreed to in the previous discussion; Kevin Rooney seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

6. New Business

There was no new business.

7. Public Forum

No member of the public spoke during the Public Forum.

- 8. Next Meeting:** February 11, 2016 at the Livingston County
Highway Department
4389 Gypsy Lane
Groveland, NY
- All materials for items to be considered at this meeting should be
submitted to GTC staff no later than Friday, January 29, 2016.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.