

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

**January 11, 2018**

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Leathersich, Monroe County – At-Large (Chairperson)  
Angela Ellis, Livingston County (Vice Chairperson)  
Mark Assini, Monroe County Supervisors' Association  
Tim Frelier, Monroe County  
Erik Frisch, City of Rochester – At-Large  
Todd Gadd, Wyoming County  
Thomas Goodwin, Monroe County Planning  
Andrea Guzzetta, Rochester City Council  
Thomas Hurley, NYS Thruway Authority  
Dorraine Kirkmire Rochester City Planning Commission  
Kevin Rooney, Wayne County  
James Willer, New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT)  
William Wright, Ontario County  
David Zorn, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

James Bensley, Orleans County, representing Charles Nesbitt, Jr.  
Eric Farr, Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority (RGRTA), representing Bill Carpenter  
David Lindsay, Monroe County – At-Large  
Jim McIntosh, City of Rochester, representing Norman Jones

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND UNREPRESENTED

Maria Chau, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  
David Hartman, Yates County  
Timothy Hens, Genesee County  
Roy Gates, Seneca County  
Stephen Golding, Empire State Development Corporation  
Steven Urlass, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)  
(Vacant), Federal Transportation Administration (FTA)  
(Vacant), NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Don Higgins, Livingston County	Dan Roop, Ravi Engineering
Peter Houseknecht, Orleans County	Sean Schumacher, Ravi Engineering
Joel Kleinberg, NYSDOT-Region 4	Chris Sichak, Erdman Anthony
Alex Kone, GTC staff	James Stack, GTC staff
Terry Rice, Barton & Loughidice	Chris Tortora, GTC staff

## 1. Call to Order & Introductions

Scott Leathersich, Planning Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:03 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

**Bill Wright motioned to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2017 Planning Committee meeting; Tim Frelier 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*

Jim Stack reported:

- GTC Strategic Planning: Staff is monitoring the performance measures rulemaking as well as various proposals to enact a large infrastructure investment package. Staff has started working with different agencies to explore where to deploy bicycle & pedestrian equipment to support local needs and studies. GTC will be pursuing acquisition of additional equipment to increase counting capacity.
- Regional Traffic Count Collection: This task will be presented for closeout under Item 5.a.2.
- Long Range Transportation Plan Update/Implementation: The addendum for including safety performance measures and targets was accepted by the GTC Board at its December 14 meeting.
- Advancing Health-Informed Transportation Decision Making: A Steering Committee meeting was held November 13 to discuss the recommendations. Final recommendations were provided to the Steering Committee on December 20. A project close out is expected soon.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Local Bridge Vulnerability Assessment: The contract was fully executed on December 11. The consultant has started the data collection process.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional TSMO Strategic Plan: A Steering Committee meeting was held November 15. A draft report was distributed for Steering Committee review and comment. GTC staff is coordinating with the consultant to finalize the maps, full report, and executive summary. A project close out is expected soon.

- Vulnerable Users Safety Assessment Program Phases 1 & 2: GTC staff have been working to provide crash data, emergency room visit data, and contextual data from the Accident Location Information System or ALIS to search for terms related to crashes involving horse and buggies. The consultant is working to prioritize 40 to 50 road segments for further refinement. Development of a toolbox of countermeasures has begun.
- Congestion Management Process (CMP): GTC staff have integrated the CMP toolbox into LRTP 2040.
- Greater Rochester Regional Commuter Choice Program: ROEasyride website is being promoted via Twitter. Staff continues work to increase exposure.
- Travel Time Data Collection Program: GTC staff continue to review the data to conduct brief assessments of major incidents and other events as applicable. INRIX has granted GTC trial access to its Roadway Analytics tool. Staff is comparing the results of this tool to the existing tool based on the parameters of past analyses to see if it is a more useful product.
- Lake Ontario State Parkway Lane Transportation Alternatives Feasibility Study: The consultant continued to work on baseline analysis and reached out to NYSDOT to understand various potential pavement treatments for an alternatives analysis. Analysis of the survey results is underway. We are working to try to schedule the next Steering Committee meeting in early to mid-February.
- Transportation Impacts on Economic Development in the Greater Rochester International Airport (GRIA) Area: This project was always envisioned to begin after the first of the year. The Scope of Work is being developed and will likely be presented in April.
- Cross Asset Highway and Bridge Evaluation and Prioritization Tool: GTC staff is coordinating with NYSDOT to ensure the scope of the tool meets the needs of different asset classes. An RFP is under development.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Flood Vulnerability Model: While researching for the Scope of Work, it has been determined that there is not adequate elevation data to pursue the original intent. We are shifting the focus to produce a strategy for developing a flood model. This has caused a delay in developing the Scope of Work for Planning Committee consideration. GTC staff hope to present the scope in February.

Angela Ellis reported:

- Livingston County Human Services Trip Planning Website: A soft rollout of the website has taken place. The technical committee will meet in January or February to review and address any issues. The public launch is anticipated in March.

*G/FLRPC*

David Zorn reported:

- Genesee Finger Lakes Region Local Update of Census Addresses 2020: Continued compiling county-wide address files to compare with the Census

Bureau's Master Address File (MAF). The MAF release for comparison is anticipated in March.

- Regional Land Use Monitoring Report: Surveys for the 2017 report have been sent to all municipalities.

#### *Livingston County*

Angela Ellis reported:

- Hamlet of Greigsville Transportation Safety & Access Improvement Plan: The second public meeting was held November 14. Steering Committee is expected to meet in January or February. A closeout presentation is anticipated at the April Planning Committee.

#### *Monroe County*

Tom Goodwin reported:

- Monroe County Land Use Monitoring: Surveys to be distributed in early February.

Tim Frelier reported:

- Monroe County Guiderail Inventory Program: Accepted by the GTC Board at its June 8 meeting.
- Monroe County High Accident Location Program: Since April 1, 2017 the analysis of 12 locations, including 2 since the last meeting, have been completed.

#### *Ontario County*

Bill Wright reported:

- County Road 16 Pedestrian & Bicycle Accommodations Feasibility Study: A public meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2018.
- Ontario County Freight Corridor Development Plan: Accepted by the GTC Board at its December 14 meeting.

#### *Orleans County*

Jim Stack reported:

- Orleans County Sign Inventory Program: This task will be presented for closeout under Item 5.a.1.
- Orleans County Guiderail Inventory Program: See the Orleans County Sign Inventory Program above.

### *City of Rochester*

Erik Frisch reported:

- City of Rochester Comprehensive Access & Mobility Plan: Proposals have been evaluated and interviews held. A preferred consultant was selected and a recommendation made to the Mayor and City Council to enter into contract. Possible start in February.

Dorraine Kirkmire reported:

- City of Rochester Mobility Enhancement Study: Steering Committee met in December. A Public Meeting will be held at the Rochester Public Market in February. A MetroQuest survey is under development.

### *RGRTA*

Eric Farr reported:

- RGRTA Regional Operational Service Audit: Accepted by the GTC Board at its June 8 meeting.
- RTS Access Ridership and Facility Evaluation: A contract has been executed with Wendel. A kick-off meeting is anticipated in late January.
- RTS Route Overhaul and Refinement Analysis: The first phase of public engagement for ReimagineRTS is complete and the vendor is currently compiling data.
- Super Transit Zones Development Study: Accepted by the GTC Board at its June 8 meeting.

### *Wyoming County*

Todd Gadd reported:

- Wyoming County Guide Rail Installation Assessment: Accepted by the GTC Board at its December 14 meeting.

### *Other Agencies*

Jim Stack reported:

- Silver Lake Trail Feasibility Study: The Final report is complete. The Village of Perry will give a closeout presentation in February.
- Irondequoit Bay Outlet Bridge Alternatives Analysis Study: A Steering Committee meeting was held January 4 to discuss Alternatives. The third public meeting is scheduled for this evening (January 11) and will seek input on the Alternatives.
- Route 96 Transformative Corridor Strategic Infrastructure Plan: The second public meeting was held November 15 where proposed alternatives were presented to community. The Steering Committee met December 13 to discuss the public input and refinements to the various alternatives.

- Uptown Canandaigua Mixed-Use & Transportation Corridor Feasibility Study: The project kick-off was held December 20. Inventory and data collection has started.
  - Village of Scottsville Zoning Code Update: Accepted by the GTC Board at its December 14 meeting.
  - NYS Route 250 Transit Supportive Mixed Use Development District: Accepted by the GTC Board at its December 14 meeting.
  - Pittsford Active Transportation Plan: The project has been completed. A closeout presentation is expected at the February meeting.
  - Geneva Active Transportation Plan: Accepted by the GTC Board at its September 7 meeting.
  - Town of Irondequoit Active Transportation Plan: Accepted by the GTC Board at its June 8 meeting.
- b. Any Other Old Business or Announcements

Jim Stack provided the following report:

#### Federal Legislative and Funding Update

Congress passed and the President signed a Continuing Resolution to keep the federal government operating through December 8. Subsequently, on December 8, the President signed another Continuing Resolution to keep the federal government operating another two weeks through December 22. On December 22, another Continuing Resolution was signed that funds the federal government through January 19. The CR continues the FFY 2017 spending levels so the increase authorized in the FAST Act are delayed yet again. Budget titles have yet to be finalized.

#### Infrastructure

Indications are that the Trump Administration plans to unveil a major infrastructure package in the coming weeks. While there are no official releases of information, some aspects have been leaked, perhaps as a trial balloon. Consistent with past information, the intention is to use \$200 billion of Federal funding over 10 years to leverage \$800 billion of non-Federal funding for a \$1 trillion infrastructure package. Initially, the Administration planned for substantial private sector involvement but has backed off after realizing how little private sector support can be financed without revenue generating facilities such as toll roads and bridges. Given the need to fix existing infrastructure, it would be difficult to add tolls where none existed previously.

It has been reported that one idea is to reward states and localities willing to raise taxes or other revenue to pay for new projects by using this as a major criteria rather than the merits of individual projects. There are questions of

whether such increases in State and local taxes or fees would cancel out the benefits of the project. Also, the appetite for new taxes and fees are further diminished with the tax reform package limiting the ability to deduct State and Local Taxes. As well, there is concern how the elimination of the tax exemption for private activity bonds will affect the cost of financing infrastructure projects. On the bright side, there is an expectation that a portion of the funds would be set aside for rural areas. Still unanswered though is how not to penalize those jurisdictions that have been more proactive and already raised State motor fuel taxes or other revenue to invest in infrastructure and while addressing needs everywhere.

### Certification Review

One of the Corrective Actions from the Federal Certification Review deals with reporting on activity and expenditures of UPWP funded projects. GTC was the first MPO in New York to be cited for this and it came as a surprise to NYSDOT Main Office and us. Staff have since worked with NYSDOT Main Office and all of the MPOs in New York to develop a common reporting form that we expect will satisfy the requirement. FHWA has been active in the development of the form and the discussions about using it. GTC staff will compile the necessary information at the end of each fiscal year and submit it as part of the semi-annual report of activity that is already used. This report has traditionally been a narrative but now a financial component will be added. After the reports are submitted by June of 2019, FHWA, NYSDOT Main Office, and the other MPOs can evaluate how well this approach satisfies the requirement and make adjustments for future reporting as needed. In response to the Corrective Action, James Stack documented this approach and submitted this as our "work plan" on December 21. This was done well in advance of the January 30, 2018 deadline so that the plan could be refined if needed. He noted that he has not received any indication from FHWA or FTA that this was not sufficient to address the Corrective Action.

At the November 9 meeting, GTC staff distributed a revised narrative for the TIP to address the shortcomings of the required Financial Plan. While the Planning Committee supported the changes, they also requested that staff coordinate with FHWA and FTA to ensure the documentation satisfies their concerns prior to sending it to the GTC Board. With some minor modification and clarifications, that narrative was presented to the Board for their consideration at the December 14 meeting where it was formally amended into the TIP.

In conjunction with changes we made to the presentation of the TIP Financial Summary table, GTC staff is confident that they have addressed the three Corrective Actions identified in the Certification Review.

## Amazon Headquarters

Mark Assini inquired about recent efforts to bring Amazon's "HQ2" to Rochester and whether or not GTC and its partners were involved regarding the transportation issues of the application. James Stack noted that GTC provided Greater Rochester Enterprise (GRE) with some transportation information and statistics per their request related to the joint Buffalo-Rochester RFP response; however, no location-specific analyses have been conducted.

Mr. Assini noted the RFP's stated 50,000 employees could have a significant impact on the transportation network. Mr. Stack noted that figure is based upon a 20-year build out and that the network current has excess capacity.

Erik Frisch commented that regardless of whether or not Rochester's Amazon bid is successful, the overall process has provided valuable insights into the types of places and amenities major companies are looking for when considering location.

## **5. Action Items**

### a. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning **accepting a report as evidence of completion of a UPWP Task**

Scott Leathersich suggested grouping Items 5.a.1 and 5.a.2 into a single action. No Member or Alternate objected.

#### 1. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning **accepting the Orleans County Sign and Guide Rail Inventory Program as evidence of completion of UPWP Tasks 6213 and 6215**

Sean Schumacher presented the executive summary and discussed the project.

#### 2. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning **accepting the Regional Traffic Count Collection as evidence of completion of UPWP Task 4370**

Tim Frelier presented the executive summary and discussed the project.

Erik Frisch inquired about coordination with NYSDOT on the count program to minimize any duplication of effort and incorporate this data into the online Traffic Data Viewer. Jim Stack stated that GTC has attempted to coordinate in the past however it has been difficult to put into practice. Chris Tortora noted that NYSDOT-Main Office has been receptive to the idea of incorporating GTC-led counts, however they require locations/stations not change from year-to-year and must be obtained on a regular (e.g., three-year) cycle. Because future locations and/or schedules could not be guaranteed, and because counties may desire a greater level of detail (e.g., multiple locations within one NYSDOT count station), additional efforts to coordinate counts has been limited.

**Bill Wright motioned to recommend that the GTC Board adopt Proposed Resolutions 18-2 and 18-3; Jim Bensley and Dorraine Kirkmire seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.**

**b. Action concerning approving the Draft *FY 2018-2019 Unified Planning Work Program Project List* for public review**

James Stack reported that the FY 2018-2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Call for Project Partnerships was issued on September 15. Applications were due by October 20. GTC received 18 proposals requesting \$1,305,162 in federal transportation planning funds.

After accounting for new allocations, savings from previous years, and funds needed to cover GTC staff operations, there was \$1,116,325 available for programming in the *FY 2017-2018 UPWP*. During UPWP Development Committee (UDC) deliberations, it was agreed to utilize the MAP-21/FAST Act Implementation Program to support two GTC staff proposals that directly address data driven decision making in furtherance of performance based planning. This also has the effect of drawing down a portion of the funds that were intentionally reserved for when the new planning requirements were finalized and helps us address concerns raised during the Certification Review regarding the size of the carryover balance. These steps allow all of the recommended funding requests to be fulfilled within available resources.

The UDC expressed reservations about the Keuka Outlet Trail Planning Study due to the limited role the County would have and the recreational focus of the proposal. There were also concerns that the not-for-profit group pursuing the study did not have a full appreciation for the restrictions on the use of the funds.

The efforts of the UDC resulted in a project list for public review. Jim noted that upon approval of the public review document, a 30-day review will commence on Friday, January 12. Any comments received will be shared with the Planning Committee for consideration at the February 15 meeting. At that meeting, a full draft of the UPWP will be presented for consideration and recommendation to the GTC Board for consideration at its March 8 meeting.

Jim expressed his appreciation of the efforts of the UDC to come to consensus on the recommended set of projects.

**Bill Wright motioned to approve the Draft *FY 2018-2019 Unified Planning Work Program Project List* for public review; Tom Goodwin 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 15, 2018 at the Livingston County Highway Department, 4389 Gypsy Lane, Mount Morris

All materials for items to be considered at this meeting should be submitted to GTC staff no later than Friday, February 2, 2018.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.