

**GENESEE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monroe County Fleet Center
Building 11, Room 115
145 Paul Rd, Chili
and via PublicInput.com**

**July 14, 2022
10:00 a.m.**

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Leathersich, Monroe County – At-Large (Chairperson)
Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Planning Board
Devin Blue, Wyoming County
Angela Ellis, Livingston County
Tom Frys, Monroe County Executive
Tim Hens, Genesee County
Kevin Kelley, City of Rochester – Planning Commission
John Papponetti, Orleans County
Richard Perrin, City of Rochester – Mayor
Kevin Rooney, Wayne County
C. Mitchell Rowe, Seneca County
Richard Sutherland, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Eric Farr, Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority, representing Bill Carpenter
Joel Kleinberg, NYS Department of Transportation, representing Chris Reeve
Jeff Mroczek, City of Rochester – At Large, representing Dominic Fekete

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND UNREPRESENTED

Uzoma Anukwe, Federal Transit Administration
Stephen Golding, Empire State Development Corporation
Maria Hayford, Federal Highway Administration
George Hebert, Monroe County Legislature
David Lindsay, Monroe County – At-Large
Evelyn Martinez, Federal Aviation Administration
Douglas Rapalee, Yates County
James Smith, Rochester City Council
William Wright, Ontario County
Vacant, Monroe County Supervisors' Association
Vacant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Vacant, NYS Thruway Authority

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Holly Barrett, City of Rochester	Lori Maher, GTC staff
Jody Binnix, GTC staff	James Stack, GTC staff
James Bragg, Wyoming County	Laura Wadhams, Genesee County
Alex Kone, GTC staff	Jason Wolfanger, Livingston County
Emily Maciejak, Federal Transit Administration	

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Scott Leathersich, Planning Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 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

Angela Ellis moved to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2022 Planning Committee meeting; Rochelle Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

4. Announcements and Old Business

There were no announcements

5. Action Items

a) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

1. Action concerning consideration of **UPWP Project Scopes of Work**

a. Task 6234 – Wyoming County High Accident Location Program

Alex Kone, GTC staff, presented the Scope of Work for this project. The purpose of the project is to conduct site investigations of roadways and intersections that are under Wyoming County's jurisdiction. The project was a recommendation of Wyoming county's Local Road Safety Plan, which was a pilot project supported by FHWA. The Plan identified five corridors that were candidates for investigation. Wyoming County staff have also identified a number of intersections with a higher quantity of crashes. The NYSDOT CLEAR Safety application will also be used for network screening.

Scott Leathersich asked if this going to be an ongoing effort like Monroe County's investigations program. James Stack replied that it is intended to be a one-time effort but could be renewed in the future as other candidate locations are screened for investigations.

Richard Perrin moved to approve the UPWP Scope of Work for Task 6234; Tom Frys seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

b) Transportation Improvement Program

1. Action concerning approving the Draft *FFYs 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project List* for public review

Alex Kone presented the three project lists that would be provided for public comments:

1. Previously Committed Projects – those are already in the 2020-2024 TIP;
2. New Projects Recommended for Funding; and
3. Projects Unable to be Funded.

He noted there are three projects that are recommended for design phases only. This will enable these projects to be completed in the next TIP or be competitive for potential discretionary funding.

GTC and NYSDOT will be hosting three public meetings on July 26th, 27th, and 28th. Two meetings will be held online and the third will be in-person at CityPlace. All the project lists, maps, and information about the TIP process will be posted on the GTC Engagement Hub.

Scott Leathersich acknowledged the considerable efforts of the TIP Development Committee (TDC) to develop the draft list of projects. James Stack reiterated the contributions of the process and noted that while not all projects were able to be funded, it was due to a lack of funding rather than to the quality of projects requested.

Kevin Rooney asked if there would be an opportunity to begin development of new projects with the remaining balances of Federal funds. James Stack replied that during the 30 day review, GTC staff will identify project phases that could be moved to more restrictive fund sources and advanced so that additional engineering can be started with STBG Flex.

Joel Kleinberg reported that NYSDOT Main Office is not expecting the next Statewide TIP to go into effect until mid-November so the start of Federal Fiscal Year 2023 will begin under the current STIP. He stressed that any phase obligations that are expected to occur during that initial period be incorporated into the current FFYs 2020-2024 TIP.

Richard Perrin moved to approve the draft *FFYs 2023-2027 TIP Project Lists for Public Review*; Rochelle Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

c) Long Range Transportation Plan

(No Action Items)

d) Related Activities

1. Action concerning approving the Draft *Transportation Conformity Statement for the Long Range Transportation Plan for the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region 2045 and 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program* for public review

Alex Kone reported that, concurrent with the public input period for the TIP, GTC will be seeking public input for the draft Transportation Conformity Statement. Since 2019, pursuant to guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency as a result of a lawsuit, GTC is a non-attainment "Orphan Area" and must seek a Conformity Determination for each new Long Range Transportation Plan or TIP

that is adopted. GTC will submit the Statement to the EPA, FHWA, and FTA for their final Conformity Determination.

He noted the specific requirements that are to be included in the Conformity Statement, based upon GTC's status. The key requirement is coordination with Federal and State environmental and transportation agencies through the New York State Air Quality Interagency Consultation Group (ICG). In particular, all projects are suggested by staff to be classified as exempt/non-exempt with specific justification codes that are provided to the ICG for their concurrence.

He also presented the latest 4th-highest day ozone measurements from the two air quality monitoring stations in the Rochester MSA. He noted that, although the region is technically in non-attainment for the 1997 standard, the current rolling three-year average is below the current EPA limit of 0.070 parts per million (ppm), and significantly lower than the 1997 standard.

James Stack added that prior to the lawsuit in 2018, the Rochester MSA had been in attainment since the 2008 standard was implemented. There are approximately ten 'Orphan Areas' impacted by the new guidance across the country and Rochester is one of the six in New York State.

Tom Frys moved to approve the draft *Transportation Conformity Statement for Public Review*; Richard Perrin seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

6. Reports

a) Status of UPWP Projects

GTC - Jim Stack reported:

- GTC Strategic Planning: FHWA posted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for the National Performance Management Measures; Assessing Performance of the National Highway System (NHS), Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Measure. The proposed rule would require MPOs that have NHS mileage to establish, track, and report on declining targets that reduce CO₂ emissions generated by on-road mobile sources relative to calendar year 2021, that align with the Biden Administration's target of net-zero emissions, economy-wide, by 2050. Staff will monitor the rulemaking and will coordinate with our fellow MPOs on possibly commenting on the proposed rule.
- IIJA/BIL Implementation: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) applications due Sept. 15, staff has had internal discussions and will talk about this under New Business. Staff will screen bridge TIP applications that could not be funded for potential candidates for the Bridge Improvement Program with applications due September 8. The Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was released June 30 and applications due October 13. Staff is expecting to get an update on State's approach to the Carbon Reduction Program at the July 15 NYSAMPO Directors' call. Staff participated in NYSDOT discussion on the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure plan due by August 1;

the initial focus is building out the Direct Current Fast Charger (DCFC) network along Interstate corridors.

- Long Range Transportation Plan Update/Implementation: No activity to report.
- Staff Technical Assistance: Staff conducted field data collection in the Village of Sodus Point on July 2 and 8.
- Household Travel Data Collection: Staff has started development of a Scope of Work for Planning Committee consideration at a future meeting.
- Complete Streets Program: Staff is waiting on guidance from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) before advancing too much on this task. We have had discussions with Reconnect Rochester about the potential to support their Complete Streets Makeover program.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Resiliency Plan: Waiting on guidance from FHWA before advancing too much on this task.
- Congestion Management Process: No activity to report.
- Travel Time Data Collection Program: No activity to report.
- Rt. 96 over Rt. 14 Strategic Divestment Analysis: Staff is meeting next week to discuss the draft RFP in preparation for advertising.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Performance Measurement Monitoring & Evaluation System: A database and dashboard review session will be held with stakeholders on June 28.
- Cross Asset Highway and Bridge Evaluation and Prioritization Tool: Initial information compiled to support an RFP. More significant progress expected after FFY 2023-27 TIP is wrapped up.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Freight Plan Update: A scope of work is under development for Planning Committee review at a future meeting. Staff has reviewed other MPO plans and met with Empire State Development to discuss their participation.

G/FLRPC – Richard Sutherland reported:

- Regional Land Use Monitoring (2021): Staff have completed data collection and are in the process of producing maps and the final report.
- Implementing Complete Streets in the G-FL Region; A Guidebook: The draft Guidebook is complete and has been sent for feedback from stakeholders. A second public meeting in Perry will be held on July 23rd and a walking audit will be held in conjunction with the meeting.
- The Last Mile (or less): Site Plan Review for Multimodal Transportation: No activity to report.

Livingston County – Angela Ellis reported:

- Lakeville Corridor Strategic Plan: The RFP has been released and the deadline for submissions is July 29th.

Monroe County – Rochelle Bell and Tom Frys reported:

- Land Use Monitoring (2021): The final report is being developed and will be presented at the October Planning Committee meeting.
- Monroe County High Accident Location Program: Evaluation at 27 of 36 locations on the 2021 list is complete. Staff are reviewing data for the next HAL list.
- Monroe County Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan: The first public meeting was held on June 29th at the Olmsted Lodge at Highland Park. The project team is identifying variables for analysis of active trips potential.

NYSDOT – Joe Bovenzi reported:

- Regional Traffic Operations Center (RTOC) Strategic Plan: The consultant provided the draft inventory memo on July 7th. The steering committee will review the memo on July 27th.
- City of Rochester Downtown Sign Assessment: GTC staff is revising the draft RFP based upon feedback from project stakeholders and will release it at the end of July.

Ontario County – Jody Binnix report:

- 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 – Rich Perrin reported:

- City of Rochester Active Transportation Master Plan: The project team is continuing data collection related to the inventory of existing conditions. Public outreach is ongoing and the Corn Hill Arts Festival was the most recent in-person event.

RGRTA – Eric Farr (via email) reported:

- RTS System Performance Monitoring and Refinement: Staff are continually analyzing fixed route performance and timing for RTS Connect service. Route adjustments are being finalized to go into effect in early September. The recent UPWP budget amendment will allow for analysis of the RTS On Demand service.
- Rural Village and City Local Route Study: No update available.
- Rural On Demand Transit Study: RGRTA and GTC staffs are working to finalize the RFP for review and approval by NYSDOT - Main Office.
- On Route Charging Feasibility Study: Consultant is conducting analysis of how routes would work with the five highest ranked locations for potential chargers.

Wyoming County:

- Wyoming County High Accident Locations Program: The Scope of Work was presented under Item 5.a.1.

Other Agencies – GTC staff reported:

- Arcade Multi-Use Trail Feasibility Study Staff drafted an RFP and sent to the Village for review and comment on June 21.
- Canal Ponds Business Park Connectivity Study: The RFP was released on July 8 with proposals due August 12; 20 RFP packages have been distributed as of July 13.
- Victor Street Connectivity and Access Plan: The final public meeting was held July 13.
- West Webster Hamlet Revitalization Plan: The Consultant has set up the Social Pinpoint Website for the first round of input, which will be live until July 31. The Steering Committee is expected to meet in August.
- Village of Warsaw Active Transportation Plan: Staff drafted an RFP and sent to the Village for review and comment on June 22.

b) TIP Staff Modifications

Alex Kone reported that since the last Planning Committee meeting that there were no projects modified.

c) Federal Legislative and Funding Update

James Stack reported:

Several updates were captured under the staff report with the notice of proposed rulemaking and notice of funding opportunity. He reiterated that, as new opportunities are presenting themselves and we're getting the information, staff is working to distill and post those on the GTC website through the Funding Opportunities page. And again, if folks want, they can sign up for email up notifications. When we post new information, we'll share that out through the distribution list.

Joel Kleinberg commented on the Bridge Improvement Program. He agreed with Jim that the application has a very high bar of data collection and the benefit cost analysis is a challenge. He has been hearing similar feedback from his peers all over the state. There was a long call with regional offices yesterday and a follow up meeting is scheduled. Joel mentioned that DOT Region 4 is expecting to submit an application for an I-490 structure to the BIP. He noted he will be working with GTC staff moving forward to get that application prepared. If sponsors are thinking about pursuing funding under any of these discretionary programs, he asks that they please work with the GTC, as well as the DOT. There are resources out of Albany, where they have experience doing this work. We also try to coordinate, as there are certain programs where we may be guaranteed only two projects statewide so there may also be some level of coordination out of Albany.

Joel added that the bridge improvement program, again, with the high bar, might be a situation where the State pursues mega projects over \$100 million. He is sure New York state has a few of those down in the New York city area. There is the ability to bundle bridges at multiple locations into a single contract and project. But yet, in

order to do that, you still have to run the benefit cost analysis for each individual structure, and they will be scored accordingly. So, if any of them don't score a 1.5, the application is not going to be scored highly responsive for this criterion.

d) Other GTC matters

There were no additional GTC matters.

e) Public Engagement Highlights

Lori Maher highlighted five new and ongoing public involvement opportunities in the region in the months of June and July. She encouraged member agencies to let her know about public outreach activities so GTC can cross-promote them.

f) Member Agency and Partner Updates

There were no member agency and partner updates.

7. New Business

Regional Safety Plan

James Stack reported that staff was looking at potentially pursuing a planning grant through the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program but having looked at the requirements, his recommendation to the Planning Committee would be not to pursue an application. He noted that his preference for developing a Regional Safety Plan would be to utilize UPWP funds already available under IIJA Implementation (Task 1650).

He noted using UPWP funds would allow GTC staff time to coordinate with a wide of regional stakeholders before beginning the planning process. GTC staff would like to conduct outreach to local partners through the county Traffic Safety Boards to make them aware of the intent of the Plan and build their engagement for the whole process.

He also noted a few strings that would come the planning funds through USDOT. First, in order to submit an application, the GTC Board would have to pass a resolution committing to a Vision Zero target of zero roadway fatalities. This would preclude a broader conversation about target setting at the Board level and the potential level of safety investments, policy changes, and other activities that would be required to meeting those targets. Second, the grant program requires a 20% non-Federal match, that would require either cash or in-kind commitments prior to the mid-September deadline. The IIJA Implementation task in the UPWP already has identified match at a lower percentage.

Scott Leathersich asked if a Regional Safety Plan would encompass the entire nine-county GTC region so a future sponsor could cite the plan for capital project applications. James Stack replied that the Plan would cover the entire region and would include all the elements of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan per the SS4A guidance. He added that the City of Rochester and Livingston County have been in contact with GTC about its potential role in developing a regional-level plan. He noted the SS4A Self-Certification checklist that is required for capital projects.

Scott Leathersich requested that a UPWP application be presented to the Planning Committee for consideration. He was supportive of the recommended approach but noted he would like to see further information at a future meeting.

Tim Hens stated that Genesee County would be supportive of Regional Safety Plan. He added that the National Association of County Engineers has been supportive of Vision Zero for about a decade and would be supportive of such a policy in the region. He noted that he had been a member of the County's Traffic Safety Boards for a number of years and would welcome the Plan to help guide their local efforts.

Inner Loop North

Richard Perrin thanked NYSDOT-Region 4 for their extensive comments on the draft *Inner Loop North Transformation Study*. He reported the final report is expected by the end of the summer with all the comments incorporated. He added that a recent meeting included a discussion on the next step, requesting proposals for procuring design services and the environmental documentation under NEPA/SEQR.

He expressed his appreciation for the agreement from New York State to fully fund the project at the current estimated cost. Joel Kleinberg confirmed that the specific mix of Federal and State funds is still under consideration for applicable eligible elements of the project. James Stack committed to processing a TIP amendment so that any funding can be obligated in a timely manner and not hold up any forward progress.

James Stack noted that he has reached out to the NYSDOT Environmental Science Bureau to confirm that, for Conformity purposes, the project would be considered Non-Exempt as it is a regionally significant project. He added that an emissions analysis would not be needed for the Transportation Conformity Statement but that the document would still need to be amended. He stated that the LRTP, TIP, and Conformity Statement amendments would be released for public review and considered by the GTC Board on the same schedule.

8. Public Forum

Lori Maher reported that there were no public comments received from observers online.

9. Next Meeting

Scott Leathersich noted that the next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2022.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.