

**GENESEE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**CityPlace
50 West Main Street, Rochester
and via PublicInput.com**

**October 12, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Planning Board
Devin Blue, Wyoming County
John Boser, NYS Thruway Authority
Tim Hens, Genesee County
Jill Henry, Seneca County
Scott Leathersich, Monroe County – At-Large
John Papponetti, Orleans County
James Smith, Rochester City Council
David Riley, City of Rochester – At Large
Kevin Rooney, Wayne County
Richard Sutherland, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Holly Barrett, City of Rochester – Mayor, representing Rich Perrin
Eric Farr, Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority, representing Miguel Velázquez
Joel Kleinberg, NYS Department of Transportation, representing Chris Reeve
Jason Wolfanger, Livingston County, representing Angela Ellis

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND UNREPRESENTED

Uzoma Anukwe, Federal Transit Administration
Ben Fischer, Federal Highway Administration
Tom Fry, Monroe County Executive
Stephen Golding, Empire State Development Corporation
George Hebert, Monroe County Legislature
Kevin Kelley, City of Rochester – Planning Commission
David Lindsay, Monroe County – At-Large
Evelyn Martinez, Federal Aviation Administration
Douglas Rapalee, Yates County
Bill Wright, Ontario County
Vacant, Monroe County Supervisors' Association
Vacant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Rick Bennett, LaBella
Jody Binnix, GTC staff
Joe Bovenzi, GTC staff
James Bragg, Wyoming County
Karen Cox, Monroe County DOT
Mike Croce, Colliers
Cody Donahue, Reconnect Rochester
Darin Ramsay, City of Rochester
Yixuan Lin, Monroe County Planning

Lori Maher, GTC staff
Charlie Rieck, GTC staff
Emily Royce, G/FLRPC staff
Donna Scheiner, Village of Arcade
Chris Sichak, Erdman Anthony
James Stack, GTC staff
Chris Tortora, GTC staff

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Scott Leathersich, Planning Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Joe Bovenzi 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 August 10, 2023 Planning Committee meeting; Richard Sutherland seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

4. Announcements and Old Business

Jim Stack reported that, on October 3, Joel Kleinberg was appointed Regional Planning and Programming Manager at NYSDOT Region 4 after serving in an acting role. He maintains his role on the Board and Planning Committee.

Jim also reported that on August 23, Seneca County Board of Supervisors Chairman Michael Enslow appointed Jill Henry, Director of Planning for Seneca County to the Planning Committee. He also appointed Kyle Lovell, Seneca County Manager as his alternate to the GTC Board replacing Mitch Rowe upon his retirement.

5. Action Items

a) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

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

- a. Task 4210 – Monroe County Land Use Monitoring Report

Yixuan Lin, Senior Planner with the Monroe County Planning Department, presented the project closeout. She discussed the county's annual outreach to town and village building officials across Monroe County, which was done in coordination with G/FLRPC outreach efforts in other counties for the regional land use monitoring report. She noted there were 112 proposed major development projects within Monroe County. Residential properties with 5 or more dwelling units accounted for 29 percent of new major projects.

Yixuan reviewed the total number of residential permits issued in the county. By percentage of units, 5-family or more accounted for 55.8% of all new residential permits. Since 2016, the number of multifamily units has increased overall, indicating support across the county for multi-unit housing.

Scott Leathersich asked if county staff tracked actual construction that resulted from issued permits. Yixuan responded that only building permit data is tracked. Scott noted that not all permits result in construction and Yixuan agreed.

b. Task 4220 – Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Land Use Monitoring Report

Emily Royce, Associate Regional Planner with the Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, presented the project close out. Overall, residential permits and permitted units reported across the G-FL region show a high concentration in the middle of the region. The towns with the highest permit numbers are the Towns of Penfield, Farmington, Webster, and Victor. Meanwhile, the towns with the highest permitted unit numbers are the Town of Henrietta followed by Towns of Farmington, Perinton and Victor. Emily also provided a brief overview of a historical comparison from the last 10-year and 5-year periods, and the 2022 permits. Residential growth can be seen along the southeast corridors from Rochester towards Canandaigua, as well as distributed across the metropolitan planning area outside Monroe County.

Scott Leathersich asked about the response rate to the survey. Emily replied that 76 percent of municipalities responded and the remaining data, when available, was taken from the US Census Bureau’s American Community Survey and New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services reports. Yixuan noted that Monroe County’s survey lacked three municipalities.

c. Task 6550 – Arcade Multi-Use Trail Feasibility Study

Donna Scheiner, Mayor of the Village of Arcade, presented the project close out. The objective of the project was to develop a plan for a multi-use trail system for the Village of Arcade. The purpose of the plan was to identify trail connections between Arcade and the regional trail system, link the village to neighboring communities with trails, and improve non-motorized transportation infrastructure within the village.

The study went through a typical planning process, including developing an inventory of existing conditions, a needs assessment, and recommended projects. Public outreach was conducted early and throughout the process. The community noted safety as a top priority. The result is a plan for a connected trail system within the Village of Arcade and to the surrounding communities. Implementation challenges include property acquisition for required rights-of-way. The Village is interested in pursuing a Transportation Alternatives Program grant to implement recommendations that are ready to move forward.

Jim Stack explained that the timing of this project was good because funding for the 2023 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), and Carbon

Reduction Program (CRP) was announced in September. Funding applications are due to the state on January 9, 2024. Joel Kleinberg noted there is an informational webinar on these programs on October 19, and he encouraged interested applicants to attend.

d. Task 8768 – Monroe County Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan

Yixuan Lin, Senior Planner with the Monroe County Planning Department, presented the project closeout. She reported that the objective of the study was to develop a comprehensive active transportation plan for Monroe County. This was the first ever countywide active transportation plan. The goals were to establish a vision for a safe, comfortable, and connected active transportation network; provide guidance to local communities; increase connections between communities; and enhance programs and policies to support walking and biking. Three principles guided the study: 1. Equity; 2. Climate Change, and 3. Public Health.

Development of the plan was guided by a Project Advisory Committee, and public engagement included nine Stakeholder Focus Groups, 25 pop-up events across the County, two public workshops, and an online public input platform. The planning process resulted in four key recommendations: 1. Establish a 500-mile active transportation network; 2. 29 program and policy actions; 3. A facility toolkit; and 4. Recommendations to improve pedestrian accessibility.

Joel Kleinberg asked how the County reached out to underserved communities during the outreach process. Yixuan responded that their consultant met with stakeholder groups without the County employees present and the groups were reimbursed for their time. The consultant also went directly to neighborhood groups when possible and local community events in underserved neighborhoods.

e. Task 8769 – City of Rochester Active Transportation Master Plan

David Riley, Principal Transportation Specialist with the City of Rochester, presented the project close out.

He reported that the purpose of the project was to develop a joint bicycle and pedestrian master plan to create a safe, healthy, efficient, and equity focused road network for pedestrians and cyclists in the City of Rochester. The plan had three main goals: traffic safety; accessibility; and transportation options. The planning process built upon past work, focused on transportation justice, inclusive design and accessibility, and community engagement.

The resulting plan recommended a series of pedestrian and accessibility projects and bicycle network projects. The plan considered connections to surrounding municipalities as well.

Joel Kleinberg moved to recommend approval of Resolutions 23-28 through 23-32; David Riley seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

2. Action concerning modifying the FY 2023-2024 Unified Planning Work Program
 - a. Reprogramming the source of federal funds on Task 6533 – Joseph Avenue ArtWalk Master Plan from FHWA Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds to the Complete Streets Planning Set-Aside with the offset provided from the amount allocated to Task 5540 – Complete Streets Program / Proposed Planning Committee Resolution 23-17

Jim Stack presented the modification to the *FY 2023-2024 Unified Planning Work Program* (UPWP). The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (*IJA*) established a new requirement to dedicate a minimum of 2.5% of the FHWA-PL funds to Complete Streets Planning. These funds are formally referred to as “funding for Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options” segregated and managed through Task 5540. In April 2023, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released implementation guidance regarding project eligibility for use of the Complete Streets set-aside.

GTC staff identified Task 6533 – Joseph Avenue ArtWalk Master Plan as a potentially eligible project based on the implementation guidance issued by FHWA. Project eligibility has been confirmed by NYSDOT Main Office and the FHWA New York Division office.

The requested modification changes the source of federal funds in the amount of \$65,000 for Task 6533 – Joseph Avenue Artwalk Master Plan. Task 6533 is currently funded with traditional FHWA Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds. Task 6533 is proposed to be funded with the set aside for Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options. Following approval by the Planning Committee, the \$65,000 in traditional PL funds programed to Task 6533 – Joseph Avenue ArtWalk Master Plan will be made available for the active 2024-2025 UPWP project solicitation.

David Riley stated that the City of Rochester supports this modification.

Richard Sutherland moved to recommend approval of Planning Committee Resolution 23-17; David Riley seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

b) Transportation Improvement Program

1. (No Action Items)

c) Long Range Transportation Plan

1. (No Action Items)

d) Related Activities

1. (No Action Items)

6. Reports

f.) Member Agency and Partner Updates

Richard Sutherland presented an overview of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program released through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). G/FLRPC is the lead agency in the Rochester area for the development of a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), which is Phase 1 and due by March 1 2024. Phase 2 of the CPRG program is for implementation grants. On September 20, the EPA made \$4.6 billion available for implementation grants nationwide. G/FLRPC is currently conducting outreach to its member agencies and spreading the word regarding the availability of these grants. Applications for the implementation grants are due on April 1, 2024 and individual projects must be contained in the PCAP. Funding is available for a wide array of carbon reduction projects including transportation, electric power, building, and industrial sectors. G/FLRPC is focusing on grants for the transportation and building sectors.

Joel Kleinberg asked if project ideas for the grant can come from a planning document or if they need to be data driven. He noted that the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program is a data driven application process. Richard replied that project ideas will likely be driven by existing plans. Jim Stack asked if there was a threshold to reach for the overall value of the projects. Richard replied that the EPA may choose to fund a series of projects from an application instead of the entire application.

a) Status of UPWP Projects

GTC - Jim Stack reported:

- GTC Strategic Planning: The GTC Executive Committee is meeting on October 13 to consider staff reorganization.
- Long Range Transportation Plan Update/ Implementation: No activity to report.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Scenario Tool: Staff has met with UrbanFootprint representatives to begin training on the platform.
- Staff Technical Assistance: No activity to report.
- Household Travel Data Collection: Staff to acquire various "big data" products via The Eastern Transportation Coalition (formerly the I-95 Corridor Coalition).
- Active Transportation Program: Staff has been getting used to various counting equipment by collecting data in support of the Town of Brighton's Multiversity trail study, on-going counts in Fairport, and the semi-annual data capture for Common Ground reporting to their grant maker.
- Complete Streets Program: No activity to report.
- Safety Planning: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant application

submitted on July 10. Staff has provided some follow up information. Still awaiting award announcement.

- Regional Safety Plan: Project has been delayed due to staff shortage. Staff are preparing the second version of the RFP.
- Security & Resiliency Planning: Staff reviewed and offered input to MCDOT for their PROTECT grant application. Staff presented on regional resiliency planning process at AMPO Annual Conference. Staff will give a similar presentation to the G/FLRPC Local Government Workshop in November.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Resiliency Plan: RFP in development.
- 2024 Eclipse Planning: Continue to field requests for presentations. Staff participates in monthly Rochester Stakeholder meetings. Continue to coordinate with Rochester Task Force on known viewing locations for traffic management purposes. Continue to promote #ArriveEarlyStayLate, #TakeTuesdayToo. Staff presented on planning efforts at the AMPO Annual Conference.
- Congestion Management Process (CMP): No activity to report.
- Travel Time Data Collection Program: Data access has been opened to new users from MCDOT.
- Rt 96 over Rt 14 Strategic Divestment Analysis: Bridge condition data provided to the consultant. GTC and NYSDOT-R4 staff met with the consultant to review comments to Tech Memo #1. Staff provided a public engagement report to the consultant.
- Transportation Performance Management Enhancement Project: No activity to report.
- Greater Rochester Transportation Management Association Feasibility Study: The contract is being finalized.
- Regional Freight Plan Update: The contract was recently executed. A kick-off meeting is being scheduled.
- Regional Trails Initiative Update: No activity to report.

G/FLRPC – Emily Royce and Richard Sutherland reported:

- G/FLRPC Regional Land Use Monitoring (CY 2022): The project was considered for close out under Item 5.a.1.
- The Last Mile (or less): The Final Report is complete. Additional training/outreach will be conducted within the existing budget. The project will be presented at the Local Government Workshop and this may spur additional interest. The project closeout is anticipated at the February Planning Committee meeting.
- Regional Alternative Fuel Vehicle Infrastructure Tools: First Steering Committee was held on October 6. The Steering Committee will meet quarterly. G/FLRPC staff will distribute surveys and collect resources about alternative fuels.

Livingston County – Joe Bovenzi reported:

- Lakeville Corridor Strategic Plan: A Steering Committee meeting was held on August 25 to discuss preferred design concepts. A coordination call with NYS DOT-R4 was held on September 8 to discuss draft recommendations. The consultant is preparing draft recommendations. The third and final public meeting is scheduled for November 15.

Monroe County – Yixuan Lin and Karen Cox reported:

- Land Use Monitoring (CY 2022): The project was considered for close out under Item 5.a.1.
- Traffic Signal Preemption Study: GTC staff sent a draft contract to consultant for review.
- High Accident Location Program: A report on the FY 2020-2021 list was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its August 24, 2023 meeting. For the current list of locations, PIL analysis has been completed at three locations and 16 are currently in review. This starts a new cycle.
- Elmwood Avenue Bike Infrastructure Feasibility Study: Monroe County is progressing a capital project within the study limits. Monroe County withdrew this project.
- Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan: The project was considered for close out under Item 5.a.1.

NYS DOT – Joe Bovenzi reported:

- Regional Traffic Operations Center Strategic Plan: The project was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its June 8, 2023 meeting.
- TIP Best Practices Study: The RFP is in development.
- City of Rochester Downtown Sign Assessment: The Steering Committee met on September 18 to discuss Technical Memorandum 2 (Needs and Recommendations). The draft report is under development with distribution anticipated in October.

Ontario County – Jody Binnix reported:

- Ontario County Freight Rail Corridor Development Plan: There was a pause to address a sub-contracting concern, but the project is back on track. A second Steering Committee meeting is being scheduled, likely by the end of October. Intention is to review the existing conditions and needs assessment. A public participation plan has been developed.

City of Rochester – David Riley and Jody Binnix reported:

- ADA Right-of-Way Transition Plan: No activity to report.
- Joseph Avenue ArtWalk Master Plan: The RFP was advertised on August 10. Five proposals were received by the September 15 deadline. Evaluation is underway.
- Genesee Riverway Trail Completion Study: The project is on hold due to City staff reorganization. It is anticipated to restart in the fall.

- Inner Loop North Mobility and Development Strategy: City staff submitted a draft Scope of Work and are working with GTC staff to refocus on transportation.
- City of Rochester Active Transportation Master Plan: The project was considered for close out under Item 5.a.1.

RGRTA – Eric Farr reported:

- Origin-Destination Study: The kickoff meeting was held in September. Subsequent weekly coordination meetings are being held. Developing a survey and sampling plan. A full survey is expected in late October/early November.
- Service Performance Monitoring and Refinement: Meetings held in August/September. No service changes implemented. Looking ahead to January.
- Rural Village and City Local Route Study: The project was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its June 8, 2023 meeting.
- Rural On Demand Transit Study: Completed the current outreach and analyzing demographic data. The project is on schedule.
- On Route Charging Feasibility Study: The project was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its June 8, 2023 meeting.

Wyoming County – Jim Stack reported:

- Wyoming County Priority Investigation Locations Program: No activity to report.

Other Agencies –

Joe Bovenzi reported:

- Arcade Multi-Use Trail Feasibility Study: The project was considered for close out under Item 5.a.1.

Jody Binnix reported:

- Canal Ponds Business Park Connectivity Study: The first Public Meeting and a Stakeholder Meeting were held August 24. The next Steering Committee meeting is being scheduled in November to review draft recommendations.
- West Webster Hamlet Revitalization Plan: Planning Committee recommended the project to the GTC Board for close out. Just prior to the August 24 GTC Board meeting, a discrepancy was spotted in the Executive Summary. NYSDOT-Region 4 expressed concern and consideration on accepting the report was tabled. Revisions have been completed and the GTC Board will take action in December.

Joe Bovenzi reported:

- Village of Fairport Zoning Code Update: Three proposals were received. Interviews are being scheduled for later this month.

Lori Maher reported:

- Village of Warsaw Active Transportation Plan: The third Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held September 6. A public workshop and virtual

outreach were held September 20. The next PAC meeting anticipated in late October.

Chris Tortora reported:

- Town of Rush Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan: The RFP was advertised on September 1. Six proposals were received by October 6 deadline. Evaluation is underway.

b) TIP Staff Modifications

Jim Stack reported that since the last Planning Committee meeting there have been no TIP staff modifications.

c) Federal Legislative and Funding Update

USDOT Discretionary Programs

Jim Stack provided an overview discretionary funding opportunities through USDOT. He noted that RGRTA had applied for both the Buses and Bus Facilities and the Low or No Emission Vehicle solicitations through the FTA. He also noted that NYSERDA led a statewide application for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) program, of which the City of Rochester and Livingston County are participating. Regarding the Safe Streets & Roads for All Grant Program, both GTC and the City of Rochester applied. The Thriving Communities program is now open.

d) Other GTC Matters

No report provided.

e) Public Engagement Highlights

Lori Maher reported that many of the public engagement activities undertaken since the previous meeting were covered under the UPWP project highlights earlier in the meeting. A list of public engagement activities is included in the meeting presentation.

f) Member Agency and Partner Updates

Joel Kleinberg kindly reminded member agencies to alert NYSDOT-Region 4 when applying for federal grants. Additionally, if applying for UPWP funding through GTC, local sponsors should coordinate with NYSDOT-Region 4 staff if their application impacts a NYSDOT owned facility.

7. New Business

There was no New Business.

8. Public Forum

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

9. Next Meeting

Scott Leathersich reported that the next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2023.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 PM.