

**GENESEE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

**January 11, 2024
9:30 a.m.**

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Ellis, Livingston County
Tom Frys, Monroe County Executive
Tim Hens, Genesee County
Scott Leathersich, Monroe County – At-Large
John Papponetti, Orleans County
Rich Perrin, City of Rochester – Mayor
David Riley, City of Rochester – At Large
Kevin Rooney, Wayne County
Richard Sutherland, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
Jennifer Terry, Federal Transit Administration

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Eric Farr, Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority, representing Miguel Velázquez
Joel Kleinberg, NYS Department of Transportation, representing Chris Reeve
Jason Rearick, Seneca County, representing Jill Henry

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND UNREPRESENTED

Devin Blue, Wyoming County
John Boser, NYS Thruway Authority
Ben Fischer, Federal Highway Administration
Stephen Golding, Empire State Development Corporation
Kevin Kelley, City of Rochester – Planning Commission
David Lindsay, Monroe County – At-Large
Evelyn Martinez, Federal Aviation Administration
Douglas Rapalee, Yates County
James Smith, Rochester City Council
Bill Wright, Ontario County
Vacant, Monroe County Legislature
Vacant, Monroe County Supervisors' Association
Vacant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jody Binnix, GTC staff	Terry Rice, Barton & Loguidice
Joe Bovenzi, GTC staff	Charlie Rieck, GTC staff
Anne DeSilva Tella, City of Rochester	Chris Sichak, Erdman Anthony
Cody Donahue, Reconnect Rochester	James Stack, GTC staff
Joseph C. Guest, Community Member	
Lori Maher, GTC staff	
Kevin Parkes, Community Member	

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Scott Leathersich, Planning Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:35 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

No one from the public spoke during the Public Forum.

3. Approval of Minutes

Thomas Frys moved to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2023 Planning Committee meeting; Angela Ellis seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

4. Announcements and Old Business

Jim Stack reported that Jennifer Terry has replaced Uzoma Anukwe as the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Community Planner representing FTA on the Planning Committee. Following Rochelle Bell's retirement at the end of December, Yixuan Lin has been designated as the Monroe County Planning Board representative to the Planning Committee. Patrick Gooch, who has been appointed as the Planning Manager following Rochelle's retirement, remains the designated Monroe County Planning Board alternate.

5. Action Items

a) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

1. Approval of the classification of the *FY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program* tasks and the Draft *FY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program* for Public Review

Jim Stack reported that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the annual program of federally-funded transportation planning activities to be undertaken by GTC staff, its member agencies, and other jurisdictions in the nine-county Genesee-Finger Lakes Region. The Fiscal Year 2024-2025 UPWP will support planning activities for the period beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025. Projects included in the current UPWP that are not complete as of March 31, 2024 will be rolled over into the FY 2024-2025 UPWP.

GTC solicited UPWP proposals on September 8. The deadline for applications was October 13. GTC staff worked with the UPWP Development Committee (UDC), consisting of representatives of the member agencies in the Regional Core, to prioritize project proposals.

About \$1.1 million was made available for new projects. GTC received applications for 18 projects requesting about \$1.3 million in funding.

The UDC met in November and December. The efforts of the UDC resulted in the recommended projects list, provided in the meeting package, for public review. A full draft UPWP document was also included in the meeting package.

Jim further stated that upon the Planning Committee's approval of the draft project list and draft UPWP, a 30-day public review will commence on Monday, January 15 and end on Wednesday, February 14. GTC will be conducting the public review process virtually, using the publicinput.com platform. Any comments received by February 7 will be included in the meeting package. Any subsequent comments will be shared with the committee members for consideration at the February 15 meeting.

Based on the Planning Committee's recommendation at its February 15 meeting, the GTC Board will consider the draft UPWP at its February 29 meeting. This will allow an adopted UPWP to be transmitted to NYSDOT-Main Office, FHWA, and FTA ahead of the March 1 deadline. The UPWP will go into effect on April 1, 2024.

Angela Ellis moved to approve the Draft FY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program for Public Review; Richard Perrin seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

2. Action concerning consideration of UPWP Project Scope of Work

a. Task 7707 – Inner Loop North Mobility and Development Strategy

Anne DaSilva Tella, with the City of Rochester's Department of Neighborhood and Business Development, presented the project scope of work. She reported this project will consist of a land use development study that will be done in coordination with the design phase of the Inner Loop North reconstruction project. The Inner Loop North reconstruction will result in the creation of about 22 acres of new land for development between the central city and the neighborhoods to the north of downtown. This project will focus on the transportation and mobility impacts of the Inner Loop North project on the new development parcels.

The Inner Loop North reconstruction project is an estimated \$100 million transportation infrastructure project that is currently in the design phase. This project will restore the traditional city street grid, transform the northern section of the Inner Loop into a network of at-grade streets, and create opportunities for infill development and greenspace on about 22 acres of new land. Construction is not anticipated to start for another three years, but it is time to consider potential development uses of the new land that will be created, and how those uses will impact transportation infrastructure.

This project will rely on lessons learned from the previous Inner Loop East reconstruction, which indicated that there is a need to proactively consider potential land uses for new parcels early on, rather than react to

development proposals when they are submitted. A proactive approach to land use will enable the city to better coordinate the street design and land use planning processes. The outcome will be a strategy that aligns anticipated land uses with transportation infrastructure.

This project will involve a review of previous planning studies for background information. It will engage the community on topics including land use, accessibility, connectivity, parking, and other issues. It will provide opportunities to conduct public and stakeholder engagement and enable the City to coordinate road construction with development projects. Multi-use trail and green space connections will also be considered. The result will be concept designs for new development and green spaces that consider transportation impacts. There is a recognition that different land use types have different impacts on the transportation system.

David Riley noted that this is the right time to advance this project because it can be coordinated with preliminary design work for the Inner Loop North reconstruction project. Jim Stack noted that GTC funded this project in part because it recognizes the importance of transportation/land use integration, as supported by Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) policies.

Yixuan Lin asked what the anticipated project timeline was. Anne explained that the next step for the City is to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for consultant services. Once a consultant is on board, she expects the project will be completed in about a year. David Riley noted that the City needs to produce a project scoping report for the Inner Loop North reconstruction in the spring and will coordinate the development of that report with this project. The start of actual construction is estimated to be about three years away.

Thomas Frys moved to approve the UPWP Scope of Work for Task 7707; Richard Perrin 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. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning amending the *National Performance Measures Report* and the *2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program* by revising the HSIP and Highway Safety Performance Targets and the Transit Safety Performance Measures set forth in the RGRTA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans / Proposed Council Resolution 24-02

Jim Stack presented the Highway Safety Improvement Program Report and the Highway Safety Strategic Plan, which are updated annually by NYSDOT and the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Council, respectively. They collaborate on setting statewide targets. GTC has previously agreed to support the State's targets and include them in the *National Performance Measures Report* and the *FFYs 23-27 TIP*.

The Targets for 2024 were shown in the presentation. These were based upon a five-year history of crashes through 2021. NYSDOT-Main Office noted that a conservative target of a 0.50% decrease between 2021 and 2024 was selected due to the impacts of COVID on crashes and vehicle miles of travel.

The Transit Safety targets were provided by RGRTA and are included in the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan, a product required of all urban public transportation service providers. In December 2023, the RGRTA Board of Commissioners approved the 2023-2024 Public Transit Agency Safety Plan. GTC has previously agreed to support the RGRTA's targets and include them in the *National Performance Measures Report* and the *FFYs 23-27 TIP*. The Van Pool Mode of Transit Service ended and has been deleted from RGRTA's FTA National Transit Database profile, as such the Van Pool target is being removed from the table shown in the presentation.

Joel Kleinberg moved to recommend approval of Resolution 24-02; Angela Ellis seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

6. Reports

a) Status of UPWP Projects

GTC - Jim Stack reported:

- GTC Strategic Planning: Proposals for new office space were submitted by the January 10 deadline. GTC staff will evaluate the proposals and coordinate with the Executive Committee to select a new space.
- Long Range Transportation Plan Update/ Implementation: No activity to report.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Scenario Tool: Ontario County has inquired about the availability of the tool and is considering potential projects to conduct scenario planning.
- Staff Technical Assistance: Field data collection within the former Village of Lyons is complete. The focus is on sidewalk condition and prioritization for improvement. The data has been uploaded to DeepWalk and analysis to assess conditions and identify compliance with Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) requirements is expected to be complete this month.
- Household Travel Data Collection: Staff worked with our Travel Demand Model consultant to determine how to best use big data. We are exploring consolidation of TAZs for better data quality. This is akin to Census Tracts versus Block Groups.

- Active Transportation Program: Staff incorporated information on location of bicycle boulevards in Brighton and Irondequoit in inventory. Staff has developed a tool to better plan for deployment of counting equipment in 2024, including a way for others to request counts.
- Complete Streets Program: NYSDOT and FHWA concurred on using set-aside funds for three proposed UPWP projects. The Town of Gates Active Transportation is proposed to be funded with the set-aside. There is still a balance to support data collection and analysis requests.
- Safety Planning: GTC staff have been informed that our SS4A grant application on behalf of the region was funded. An SS4A update will be a standing item on the agenda.
- Regional Safety Plan: With a successful SS4A award, staff will work to determine how best to support that project and share with the Planning Committee at a future meeting. This project can be recast at that point.
- Security & Resiliency Planning: No activity to report.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Resiliency Plan: The RFP is nearly final and is expected to be released on January 19.
- 2024 Eclipse Planning: GTC staff is compiling known viewing locations for traffic modeling purposes this month. Staff are co-hosting a presentation to Aviation sector with Ray Detor (Leroy Airport) on January 17. Staff will be joining an NOCoE (National Operations Center of Excellence) panel on January 30. Staff will be participating in upcoming presentations including the Flaum Eye Institute, Wyoming County Eclipse Task Force, and URM. Staff participates in various stakeholder meetings (Rochester Task Force, Monroe and other county emergency management offices).
- Congestion Management Process (CMP): No activity to report.
- Travel Time Data Collection Program: NYSDOT staff at the RTOC are using INRIX data to help monitor and evaluate the impacts of traffic signal timing patterns.
- Rt 96 over Rt 14 Strategic Divestment Analysis: No activity to report.
- Transportation Performance Management Enhancement Project: The contract execution was delayed due to longer than expected negotiations. The contract was signed on January 9 and a Notice to Proceed was sent on January 10.
- Greater Rochester Transportation Management Association Feasibility Study: The contract has been reviewed internally and is being sent to the consultant for signature this week.
- Regional Freight Plan Update: A stakeholder engagement plan was provided on December 5 and staff provided feedback.
- Regional Trails Initiative Update: Internal discussions have progressed. We expect to bring a scope of work to the Planning Committee in February.

G/FLRPC – Richard Sutherland reported:

- *G/FLRPC Regional Land Use Monitoring (CY 2022)*: The 2022 report was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its December 14, 2023 meeting. Surveys for the 2023 report will be distributed to municipalities by the end of January.
- *The Last Mile (or less)*: Staff is conducting outreach to identify communities to hold training for reviewing their site plan review processes. Project closeout is anticipated at the February 15 Planning Committee meeting.
- *Regional Alternative Fuel Vehicle Infrastructure Tools*: The project has not progressed as intended due to EPA grant work. A new staff planner will be brought on during quarter one of this year and this person (sustainability planner) will take on this project.

Livingston County – Angela Ellis reported:

- *Lakeville Corridor Strategic Plan*: The consultant distributed a draft Final Report to the Steering Committee for review and comment on January 8. Comments on the draft report are due by January 19. As long as there are no major concerns, project closeout is expected at the February 15 Planning Committee meeting.

Monroe County – Yixuan, Tom Frys, and James Stack reported:

- *Land Use Monitoring (CY 2022)*: The project was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its December 14, 2023 meeting. Community outreach to obtain project updates for the 2023 cycle will begin in February.
- *Traffic Signal Preemption Study*: The consultant is currently collecting information for the project inventory and needs assessment.
- *High Accident Location Program*: There are currently two projects in initial scoping phases, five are in final review, and one project is complete. Ten projects will be starting.
- *Elmwood Avenue Bike Infrastructure Feasibility Study*: This project has been withdrawn.
- *Monroe County Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan*: The project was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its December 14, 2023 meeting.

NYSDOT – Joe Bovenzi and James Stack 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 was released on December 15. 17 RFP packages have been distributed. Proposals are due on January 19.
- *City of Rochester Downtown Sign Assessment*: The Draft Final report was shared with the Steering Committee for review and comment. The final report was distributed to the Steering Committee on December 29. Project closeout is likely at the February 15 Planning Committee meeting.

Ontario County – Jim Stack reported:

- Ontario County Freight Rail Corridor Development Plan: The Draft of the Inventory and Analysis Technical Memorandum was distributed to the Steering Committee on December 21 with comments due back by January 12.

City of Rochester – David Riley and Jim Stack reported:

- ADA Right-of-Way Transition Plan: The RFP was released on December 8. Proposals are due January 26. GTC staff has sent out 24 RFP packages.
- Joseph Avenue ArtWalk Master Plan: A preferred consultant has been identified. A contract is being finalized.
- Genesee Riverway Trail Completion Study: The RFP was released on December 15. Proposals are due February 2. GTC staff has sent out 38 RFP packages.
- Inner Loop North Mobility and Development Strategy: The Scope of Work was presented earlier in the meeting.
- City of Rochester Active Transportation Master Plan: The project was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its December 14, 2023 meeting.

RGRTA – Eric Farr reported:

- Origin-Destination Study: Data collection was completed in November. A draft report expected by early February.
- Service Performance Monitoring and Refinement: A meeting was held on December 16 and another meeting is planned for January 17. Recommended service changes will be implemented in April.
- 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: The project is on-schedule. The vendor, Via, has begun presenting draft recommendations. A draft report is due shortly.
- 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: All five firms that originally submitted proposals submitted revised proposals. Consultant evaluation and selection is underway.

Other Agencies –

Jim Stack reported:

- Arcade Multi-Use Trail Feasibility Study: The project was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its December 14, 2023 meeting.
- Canal Ponds Business Park Connectivity Study: A Stakeholder meeting was held on November 30. A draft report is being finalized for Steering Committee review

and comment.

- West Webster Hamlet Revitalization Plan: The project was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its December 14, 2023 meeting.

Joe Bovenzi reported:

- Village of Fairport Zoning Code Update: The contract was executed on December 19. A project coordination meeting was held on January 9.

Jim Stack reported:

- Village of Warsaw Active Transportation Plan: The final Project Advisory Committee meeting was held on November 30. A draft Final report is nearly complete. The project is expected to be presented for closeout at the February 15 Planning Committee meeting.
- Town of Rush Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan: A preferred consultant has been identified. A contract has been finalized. The consultant is returning a signed copy to GTC this week. The contract is expected to be fully executed, and a Notice to Proceed issued, later in January.

b) Status of SS4A Program

Jim Stack reported that, on December 13, GTC was notified that we were successful in our application for funding a safety planning program for the City of Rochester and all nine counties in the region. The grant award was for our full requested amount of \$1,747,686. The federal funds will be matched by locally derived cash and in-kind services. The total value of the project is \$2,184,608.

Jim noted that formal agreement with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) needs to be executed before reimbursable activities can commence. In the meantime, there is work that can be done in anticipation of that agreement to expedite the process following execution. To this end, GTC has hired a new Project Manager for this project supported by traditional UPWP funds. GTC staff will participate in an FHWA webinar for new SS4A awarded in January 23 and a New York specific meeting will be scheduled for a later date.

Jim noted that the SS4A program is planned to last 4 years with the vast majority of activity happening in the first year. He gave a recap of major activities and products, namely:

- Local Road Safety Plan for the City of Rochester and each County (10 total);
- Site Investigations at locations to be determined via network screening (up to 40);
- Roadway Safety Audits at locations to be determined via network screening (up to 8);
- Engagement, including 2 Community Summits and support for traffic safety groups;
- Support for Reconnect Rochester's Complete Streets Makeover Program and

a new Downtown Curb Extension Murals demonstration project.

c) TIP Staff Modifications

Jim Stack reported that since the last Planning Committee meeting, two staff modifications received concurrence from the TIP Development Committee. A report was included in the meeting package.

d) Federal Legislative and Funding Update

FFY 2024 – Federal Budget

Jim Stack provided information on the FFY 2024 federal budget. Congress passed and the President signed two Continuing Resolutions. As of now, transportation program are funded through January 19. Congress will need to finalize the Appropriations process or adopt another Continuing Resolution by then.

Congressional leadership came to agreement on top-line budget figures on January 7. The levels are consistent with the previous agreement between then Speaker McCarthy and President Biden. There is disagreement among rank-and-file members regarding the budget so passage at the top-line levels is in doubt.

USDOT Discretionary Programs

Jim Stack provided an overview discretionary funding opportunities through USDOT. He noted that applications for the Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) grant opportunity are due February 2. He is not aware of any pending submissions.

Applications for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant opportunity are due February 28. Again, he is not aware of any pending submissions.

Jim noted several USDOT grant opportunities anticipated to be released in January, February, and this summer.

e) Other GTC Matters

No report provided.

f) Public Engagement Highlights

Lori Maher reported that there were two outreach activities since the last meeting, both were from the City of Rochester. A list of public engagement activities is included in the meeting presentation.

g) Member Agency and Partner Updates

David Riley reported that the City of Rochester received a Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant award. The grant amount is for \$3.2 million with a total project cost of \$4 million. City staff submitted a proposal for both a planning and demonstration and an implementation grant but received funding only for planning and demonstration

activities. The City intends to resubmit for implementation funding, likely in the next round commencing in February.

The planning and demonstration activities will include studies to expand the City's active transportation network, plan a bicycle spine network, and develop guidance on how to implement active transportation infrastructure in a cost-effective manner.

About 25 pedestrian safety focus plans will be prepared for different locations around the City. Trials of different materials used on bike lanes will be undertaken to determine the durability of those materials, especially during the winter season. For example, one project will use low profile concrete barriers to separate bike lanes from other travel lanes. The City is also looking to develop a more detailed plan to enhance snow and ice removal on sidewalks, bus stops, trails, and bike lanes. There is a need to understand equipment and operational needs for winter maintenance.

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 February 15, 2024.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.