

**GENESEE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING**

**Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority
1372 East Main Street, Rochester, New York, 14609
and via PublicInput.com**

August 28, 2025

GTC BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael Faulk, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
Erik Frisch, City of Rochester – At Large
Daniel Hogan, Monroe County – At Large
David LeFeber, Livingston County
Rochelle Stein, Genesee County
Michael Zale, Monroe County Supervisors' Association

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

James Brady, Wayne County, representing Kim Leonard (Vice Chairperson)
Sean Carrington, New York State Thruway Authority, representing Frank Hoare
Megan Crowe, Livingston County, representing David LeFeber
Thomas Frys, Monroe County Executive's Office, representing Adam Bello
Stephen Golding, Empire State Development Corporation, representing Hope Knight
Peter Ingalsbe, Ontario County, representing Jared Simpson (Chairperson)
Craig Lane, Orleans County, representing Lynne Johnson
Scott Leathersich, Monroe County – At Large, representing Jeffrey McCann
Yixuan Lin, Monroe County Planning Board, representing William Santos
Kabutey Ocansey, City of Rochester – Mayor, representing Malik Evans
Christopher Reeve, NYS Department of Transportation, representing Marie Therese Dominguez
Timothy Walsh, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, representing Amanda Lefton
Miguel Velazquez, Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority, representing Donald Jefferies

GTC BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT AND UNREPRESENTED

Leslie Church, Yates County
Michael Culotta, Federal Transit Administration
Michael Enslow, Seneca County
Evelyn Martinez, Federal Aviation Administration
Richard Marquis, Federal Highway Administration
Miguel Melendez, Rochester City Council
Yversha Roman, Monroe County Legislature
Rebecca Ryan, Wyoming County
David Watson, Rochester City Planning Commission

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Al Bartolotta, GTC staff
David Riley, City of Rochester
Joe Bovenzi, GTC staff
Chris Snyder, GTC staff
Theresa Bowick, Public Observer
James Stack, GTC Staff
Megan Crowe, Livingston County

Omar Suri, GTC staff
Joel Kleinberg, NYSDOT
Richard Sutherland, G/FRPC
Lori Maher, GTC staff
June McIlquham, GTC staff
Chris Tortora, GTC staff

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairperson Ingalsbe called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Joe Bovenzi, GTC staff, called the roll; a quorum was present.

2. **Public Forum**

Theresa Bowick, former Executive Director of the Conkey Cruisers, addressed the board. She explained that she has been a long-time advocate for active transportation, and now due to age and health issues she has become a user of RTS Access services. The community is interested in affordable, safe, and accessible transportation. Her main challenge, and one faced by many others in the community, is accessing medical appointments. For example, often time paratransit drop-off points force unsafe street crossings without sidewalks. This is not meant as a complaint, but rather a call to improve accessibility by considering real user experiences. Suggestions for improvement include allowing drop-offs directly at destinations for those with mobility limitations and integrating ridesharing and taxis into RTS Access as a way of addressing first mile/last mile concerns, especially for same-day needs. She praised RTS staff as excellent and dedicated and urged inclusion of user voices in the long-range planning process because accessible transit is essential to meet community needs.

James Stack thanked Theresa for her comments. He noted that GTC staff is currently working on an update to the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and will include her comments in that plan.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson Ingalsbe reported that draft minutes from the June 12, 2025, GTC Board meeting were included in the meeting package.

Thomas Frys moved to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2025, Quarterly Meeting; Christopher Reeve seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

Chairperson Ingalsbe noted that the approved minutes from the July 10, 2025 Planning Committee meeting and the draft minutes from the August 14, 2025 Planning Committee were provided for informational purposes.

4. **Communications and Announcements**

- a. James Stack reported that every four years GTC goes through a joint FHWA/FTA Certification Review. During this review, GTC's federal partners review all aspects of GTC activities as they pertain to metropolitan planning. A virtual meeting was held on March 18, 19, & 20. On July 23, FHWA and FTA concluded their Joint Certification review, and noted that "the GTC planning process is hereby certified with no corrective actions effective July 23, 2025."
- b. James Stack announced that three new people are joining the staff. June McIlquham started as a Senior Transportation Planner on August 11. Omar Suri started as a

Transportation Planner on August 25. Cheryl Nieskes is starting as a Program Manager on September 8. June and Omar will focus on Long Range and Community Planning while Cheryl will focus on the TIP.

- c. James Stack announced that the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) development cycle is starting with a Call for Project Partnerships to be issued on September 5. A notice will be sent to all counties, cities, towns, and villages in the region and other GTC stakeholders (nearly 500 postcards). Project partnership proposals are due on October 10. Planning Committee review of the Draft UPWP for public review is anticipated on January 8. This cycle will emphasize a smaller number of projects with larger budgets.

5. Reports and Action on Old Business

a. Planning Committee Report

Scott Leathersich reported that the Planning Committee met on July 10 and August 14 and recommended that the GTC Board:

- Accept two reports as evidence of completion of Unified Planning Work Program tasks:
 - Task 6533 – Joseph Avenue ArtWalk Master Plan
 - Task 7213 – Route 96 over Route 14 Strategic Divestment Analysis
- Amend the *FFYs 2023-2027* and *FFYs 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program* as requested by NYSDOT, the City of Rochester, the Village of Medina, and RGRTA.

Additionally, the Planning Committee took the following action:

- Approved scopes of work for five UPWP Tasks:
 - Task 5522 – Safe Routes Child Walk and Bike Safety Education Program
 - Task 6217 – Yates County Guiderail and Horizontal Curve Study
 - Task 6536 – Genesee Valley Park Olmsted Arched Bridges Restoration Plan
 - Task 7214 – I-490 Center City Interchange Operations Mobility Study
 - Task 8783 – Ovid Active Transportation Plan
- Approved one Administrative Modification to the *FFYs 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program* as requested by NYSDOT:
 - Reprogramming Federal Aid from the Construction Inspection phases to the Construction phases of select projects / Planning Committee Resolution 25-04

b. GTC Staff Report

James Stack provided the following report:

1. Status of SS4A Program

Work on the Local Road Safety Plans (LRSP) is underway. Each consultant team is collecting data and working to schedule meetings with the respective advisory committees.

Preparations for the upcoming Community Safety Summit are also underway. The summit is focused on the Safe Systems Approach, which covers all transportation modes, and will be held on November 12 at the Rochester Museum & Science Center. Staff is developing a program. The summit will be free of charge. Organizers are hoping for about 125 participants from a cross-section of agencies and residents. A follow-on summit is anticipated for 2027.

As part of the SS4A process, Reconnect Rochester worked with various stakeholders to plan for a complete streets makeover at the intersection of Avenue D and Hollenbeck Street. Reconnect Rochester also worked with other stakeholders to plan for downtown curb extension murals at the intersection of East Main Street and Gibbs Street and at the intersection of West Broad Street at South Fitzhugh Street. The SS4A grant supports planning and community engagement for these programs.

c. Old Business

1. Federal Legislative and Funding Update

Federal Budget

James Stack reported that Congress did not pass any Appropriations bills prior to going on recess through the Labor Day holiday. Several appropriations bills have passed out of committees. The sentiment appears that Congress will not come to agreement and will pass a Continuing Resolution to keep the government funded.

The provisions in the One Big Beautiful Bill regarding the annual fee on electric vehicles that were discussed at the previous meeting have been withdrawn from the most recent version of the bill.

USDOT Discretionary Programs

James Stack reported that a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Round 2 of the Strengthening Mobility & Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program is anticipated for release in late August. There is potential for this program to fund a demonstration project for Traffic Signal Emergency Vehicle Pre-emption and Transit Signal Priority based on the recently completed UPWP study.

2. TIP Staff Modifications Report

Chairperson Ingalsbe informed the Board that the TIP Staff Modifications report was included in the meeting package and is being provided for informational purposes. There were no questions.

6. Action Items

- a. Accepting reports as evidence of completion of UPWP Tasks / Proposed Resolutions 25-22 and 25-23

Chairperson Ingalsbe suggested grouping proposed Resolutions 25-22 and 25-23 into a single action; no Member or Alternate objected.

James Stack reported that proposed Resolutions 25-22 and 25-23 were reviewed and recommended for GTC Board approval by the Planning Committee at its July 10, 2025 and August 14, 2025 meetings.

1. Accepting the *Joseph Avenue ArtWalk Master Plan* as evidence of completion of UPWP Task 6533 / Proposed Resolution 25-22

James Stack provided the following report:

This project was conducted by the City of Rochester. The purpose of the project was to develop a plan to redesign the Joseph Avenue corridor between Clifford Avenue and Norton Street. The report includes a set of key findings that covers topics such as the redevelopment of vacant properties, expansion and improvement of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and using public art and existing cultural resources and art installations to help revitalize the corridor.

2. Accepting the *Route 96 over Route 14 Intersection Redesign* report as evidence of completion of UPWP Task 7213 / Proposed Resolution 25-23

James Stack provided the following report:

This project was conducted by GTC and NYSDOT-Region 4. The objectives of the project were to determine the feasibility and any benefit of eliminating the grade-separated Route 96 and Route 14 interchange, identify flood mitigation strategies concerning the railroad underpass, and identify a set of lessons learned that transportation facility owners can apply when using a strategic divestment approach for asset management. The project documented infrastructure, transportation, and community needs, and identified three alternative actions, including a full reconstruction, a signalized intersection, and a roundabout. An additional product was the Strategic Transportation Asset Redesign (STAR) screening tool, an Excel-based application for transportation agencies to use when determining whether to replace a transportation asset in kind or with a redesigned facility.

Scott Leathersich moved to approve proposed Resolutions 25-22 and 25-23; Rochelle Stein seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

- b. Amending the *FFYs 2023-2027 and FFYs 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program* / Proposed Resolutions 25-24 through 25-35.

James Stack reported that proposed Resolutions 25-24 through 25-35 were reviewed and recommended for GTC Board approval by the Planning Committee at its August 14, 2025 meeting. He explained that one resolution, 25-32, will be removed from consideration because the required change was implemented through a staff modification, and does not require board action. Therefore, the board will act on Resolutions 25-24 through 25-31 and 25-33 through 25-35.

Chairperson Ingalsbe suggested grouping proposed Resolutions 25-24 through 25-31 and 25-33 through 25-35 into a single action; no Member or Alternate objected.

1. Increasing the Federal Aid of the FFY 2026 Construction phase for the Culvert Replacement at Various Locations in Livingston, Monroe, Ontario Counties project / Proposed Resolution 25-24
2. Adding a project and deferring phases of the Maple Ridge Road Corridor Active Transportation project / Proposed Resolution 25-25
3. Increasing the Federal Aid of the FFY 2026 Construction phases of the Culvert Replacement at Various Locations in Livingston and Wyoming Counties project / Proposed Resolution 25-26
4. Modifying phases of the Rt 31 and Rt 36 (Washington St) Intersection Safety Enhancements project / Proposed Resolution 25-27
5. Deferring phases of the Rt 18 over Northrup Creek and Smith Creek Bridge Replacements project / Proposed Resolution 25-28
6. Adding a project and deferring phases of the Rt 414 over CSX Bridge Rehabilitation (BIN 4060680) project / Proposed Resolution 25-29
7. Modifying a phase of the Large Culvert Replacement – Part 2 project / Proposed Resolution 25-30
8. Modifying a phase of the I-390 from Canal Bridge (Exit 16) to Rt 33A project / Proposed Resolution 25-31
9. Increasing the FFY 2025 Construction phases of the Pavement Markings for 2026 (Westside) project / Proposed Resolution 25-32
10. Adding the City of Rochester 2024 Safe Streets for All Projects / Proposed Resolution 25-33
11. Adding a project and deferring a phase of the RGRTA Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Buses (2024) project / Proposed Resolution 25-34
12. Adding a project and deferring a phase of the RGRTA Rural On Demand Service Pilot project / Proposed Resolution 25-35

Erik Frisch moved to approve proposed Resolutions 25-24 through 25-31 and 25-33 through 25-35; Christopher Reeve seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

7. New Business

- a. Amending the *FFYs 2023-2027* and *FFYs 2026-2030* Transportation Improvement Program

Chairperson Ingalsbe suggested grouping proposed Resolutions 25-36 through 25-38 into a single action; no Member or Alternate objected.

James Stack reported that proposed Resolutions 25-36 through 25-38 have not been reviewed by the Planning Committee. The need for amendments to these projects was identified after the August 14 Planning Committee meeting, and they are being provided as "walk-in" projects since these changes must be made before the end of the federal fiscal year.

1. Reducing the Cost of the Orleans County Bridge Preventive Maintenance No. 1 project / Proposed Resolution 25-36
2. Adding the Bridge Preventive Maintenance (West) project / Proposed Resolution 25-37
3. Deferring phases of the Lakeshore Road over Unnamed Creek Bridge Replacement (BIN 3362000) project / Proposed Resolution 25-38

Thomas Frys moved to approve proposed Resolutions 25-36 through 25-38; Scott Leathersich seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

- b. USDOT's Request for Information on the Next Surface Transportation Reauthorization

James Stack reported that on July 21, 2025 the Office of the Secretary within the Department of Transportation (DOT) published in the Federal Register a request for information (RFI) in preparation for the next surface transportation reauthorization bill. On August 20, DOT determined that an extension of the comment period until September 8, 2025 was appropriate.

The AMPO staff met with their Policy Committee and Board, and the Local Officials in Transportation (LOT) Coalition to identify priorities for the next surface transportation reauthorization. The LOT Coalition includes AMPO, the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), and the National League of Cities (NLC). The LOT Coalition has been collaborating on transportation issues and opportunities of mutual concern for several years.

The LOT Coalition considered and strategized priorities for the next reauthorization, resulting in a template for draft comments. GTC has an excellent working relationship with New York State DOT, but this is not the standard across the country. MPOs are looking for fair and consistent relationships across the Country and feel that Congress can facilitate this. Nothing in the attached comments would

impair the work of GTC and would only strengthen our connections with member agencies and other stakeholders.

Commentary in the letter is organized under the four policy themes identified in the RFI: Enhancing Transportation Safety, Accelerating Project Delivery, Increasing Opportunities Through Investment in Transportation Infrastructure, and Strengthening Partnerships with State and Other Key Stakeholders.

James Stack explained that depending on the board's preference, either Chairperson Ingalsbe or himself could sign the letter. Rochelle Stein stated that her preference was for Chairperson Ingalsbe to sign the letter. The chairperson is not subject to the Hatch Act so there will be no potential conflicts of interest if he signs it.

8. Next Meeting

Chairperson Ingalsbe stated that the next GTC Board meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2025, at RGRTA.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m.