

**GENESEE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL  
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

**February 13, 2025  
9:30 a.m.**

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Devin Blue, representing Wyoming County  
Megan Crowe, representing Livingston County  
Tom Frys, representing Monroe County – Executive  
Kevin Kelley, representing City of Rochester – Planning Commission  
Craig Lane, representing Orleans County  
Scott Leathersich, representing Monroe County – At Large (1)  
Yixuan Lin, representing Monroe County – Planning Board  
David Lindsay, representing Monroe County – At Large (2)  
Kabutey Ocansey, representing City of Rochester – Mayor’s Office  
David Riley, representing City of Rochester – At Large  
Richard Sutherland, representing Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council  
Miguel Velázquez, representing Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Rose Bonnick, representing Monroe County Legislature  
Joel Kleinberg, representing NYS Department of Transportation  
Jason Rearick, representing Seneca County  
Laura Wadhams, representing Genesee County

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND UNREPRESENTED

John Boser, NYS Thruway Authority  
Ben Fischer, Federal Highway Administration  
Stephen Golding, Empire State Development Corporation  
Evelyn Martinez, Federal Aviation Administration  
Douglas Rapalee, Yates County  
Kevin Rooney, representing Wayne County  
James Smith, representing City of Rochester – Council  
Jennifer Terry, Federal Transit Administration  
Bill Wright, Ontario County  
Vacant, Monroe County – Supervisors’ Association  
Vacant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Al Bartolotta, GTC Staff  
Jody Binnix, GTC Staff  
Joe Bovenzi, GTC Staff  
Zac Cracknell, Livingston County  
Mike Croce, Colliers  
Eric Farr, RGRTA  
Lori Maher, GTC Staff  
Lorenzo Rotoli, LaBella

Emily Royce, G/FLRPC  
Chris Snyder, GTC Staff  
David Staas, GTC Staff  
Jim Stack, GTC Staff  
Jason Wolfanger, Livingston County

Other anonymous viewers online

## 1. Call to Order & Introductions

Scott Leathersich, Planning Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m. Joe Bovenzi conducted a roll call of Committee members and alternates. The names of other attendees were captured from the 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 January 9, 2025 Planning Committee meeting; Richard Sutherland seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.**

## 4. Announcements and Old Business

James Stack reported:

- FHWA/FTA Joint Certification Review: Every four years GTC goes through the federal certification review process. GTC's federal partners, FHWA and FTA, review all aspects of GTC's activities as they pertain to metropolitan planning. GTC's last certification was issued in the summer of 2021. FHWA and FTA staff coordinated with GTC staff to initiate the 2025 review. A site visit has been scheduled at the GTC office on March 18, 19, and 20. In advance of the site visit, GTC stakeholders and the general public will have an opportunity to share their thoughts. GTC staff have established a portal on GTC's public engagement platform to collect this input.
- FFY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): GTC and NYSDOT staff are leading the development of the FFY 2026-2030 TIP. Project applications were due in late December. Due to challenges adapting to a new TIP management platform, applicants were given extra time to refine their applications. Once the applications were complete, staff learned that the platform was not set up to report out the application responses. The vendor worked through the issue and provided a software update on February 11 that enables the applications to be exported. Testing on the following day was positive, and GTC and NYSDOT staffs can now move forward with the application scoring. GTC will coordinate with the TDC to develop a recommended list of projects for consideration at the April Planning Committee meeting, prior to releasing the list for public review.
- Federal Executive Orders: Since his inauguration on January 20, President Trump has signed a significant number of Executive Orders. Among these Executive Orders are a pause on funding for federal programs, including transportation programs. On January 29, Sean Duffy was confirmed as the Secretary of Transportation. That same day, Secretary Duffy issued memos related to the new administration's changing priorities. FHWA and FTA were required to identify programs that may not comport to those new priorities by February 8. By February 18, they must take action to rescind, cancel, revoke, and terminate identified policies and programs

unless required by law. AMPO has been the best resource for information on these changes. The full effect of the Executive Orders is still uncertain and the effect of the USDOT's memos and forthcoming program changes is also uncertain. Given this uncertainty, GTC staff coordinated with the Executive Committee and determined to delay entering into new financial commitments until there is clarity on the impacts of these Executive Orders. This means that there will be a pause in signing new contracts for completed solicitations, and a pause on releasing new Requests for Proposals.

## **5. Action Items**

### **a) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

1. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning adopting the FY 2025-2026 Unified Planning Work Program / Proposed Council Resolution 24-01

Jody Binnix explained that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the program of federally-funded transportation planning activities to be undertaken by GTC staff, its member agencies, and other jurisdictions in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region. The Fiscal Year 2025-2026 UPWP will support planning activities for the period beginning April 1, 2025 and ending March 31, 2026. Projects included in the current UPWP that are not complete by March 31, 2025 will be rolled over into the FY 2025-2026 UPWP.

In January, a full draft document was presented for the Planning Committee's consideration and approval for a 30-day public review. The public review period was conducted from January 13 through February 12 using the PublicInput.com platform.

The New York State Department of Transportation Planning Bureau reviewed the document and had no comments on the narrative. GTC staff will be making editorial corrections to the UPWP that have been identified from an internal review. These edits will not create any technical changes to the draft UPWP program as presented.

Unsuccessful applicants have been offered debriefs. GTC staff will begin scheduling these meetings once the UPWP has been formally approved by the GTC Board at their February 27 meeting.

The public comments on the UPWP received through February 6 were provided in the meeting package. GTC received two new public comments regarding the UPWP since the mailing on February 6. A member of the public noted long term challenges surrounding implementation of the active transportation plans regarding securing capital funds for construction projects. Additionally, they asked about the proposed versus the recommended budgets for those projects. Jody noted that staff met with multiple consultants during the development of the UPWP, and the recommended budgets reflect cost increases that have been occurring over the past several years. Additionally, GTC staff have recently had

several UPWP projects come in over budget. The increased recommended budgets are reflective of staff experience and guidance from the broader consultant community.

Reconnect Rochester submitted a letter which was supportive of several of the new planning tasks, including the safety program for children biking and walking to school, the Genesee Valley Park Olmsted Bridges project, and the I-490 Center City Mobility Study. They offered suggestions for future studies as well. At this time, GTC staff are not recommending any changes to the draft UPWP based on the public comments received.

Jody thanked the members of the UPWP Development Committee for their work on evaluating and recommending a program of projects.

**Joel Kleinberg moved to recommend approval of Resolution 25-01; Megan Crowe seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.**

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

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

Emily Royce reported that the 2023 Land Use Monitoring Report provides information on the issuance of building permits to identify areas of growth within the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region that might require changes to transportation planning and services. The report analyzes the number of permits issued, total square footage, and the total value of buildings for each municipality within the region as well as within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). The analysis looks at the following categories and respective subcategories: Residential; Industrial; Commercial; Community Service; Mixed-Use; and Not Elsewhere Classified.

The highest number of reported residential permits in the region in 2023 was in the Town of Penfield (164), followed by the Towns of Greece (92), Webster (75), Farmington (54), and Victor (52). The geographic concentration of permits are around the City of Rochester and the eastern suburbs of Monroe County, south to Canandaigua Lake.

The total number of single-family homes permitted across the region in 2023 was 1,176. The total number of multi-family home permits was 118, accounting for 630 units. The Towns of Penfield (157), Greece (92), and Victor (52) permitted the highest number of single-family homes.

The Towns of Penfield (7 permits, 115 units), Farmington (14 permits, 82 units) and Perinton (1 permit, 76 units) had the highest number of permitted multi-family units. The Towns of Webster (28 permits, 56 units) and LeRoy (10 permits, 20 units) were also among the towns that issued the highest

number of multi-family permits but represented fewer multi-family units than those listed.

There were 167 commercial permits issued across the region in total, with Monroe County representing 39% of those and Ontario County representing 26%. There were 25 industrial permits issued across the region, with Monroe County issuing 44% of the industrial permits and Livingston County issuing 16% of those permits. Genesee and Wayne Counties both account for 12% of the industrial permits, or three permits in each county.

The report also provides a ten-year trend analysis of residential permits in the MPA, which represents all of Monroe County and 25 municipalities across Livingston, Ontario, and Wayne Counties. This ten-year trend of residential permits shows the greatest number of permitted residential units were in Henrietta with 2,224 units, the City of Rochester with 2,167 units, the Town of Webster with 1,507 units, and the Town of Penfield with 1,475 units. Outside of Monroe County, the Town of Farmington issued permits for 1,211 units, and the Town of Victor issued permits for 762 units.

Scott Leathersich asked if there were any other development trends that were apparent from the data. Emily explained that there was a slight decrease in the overall number of permits issued over the past five years, but that the general trend was consistent in terms of which towns issued those permits.

b. Task 5904 – Monroe County Traffic Signal Preemption Study

Joe Bovenzi reported that the purpose of this project was to investigate the future implementation of hardware and software that will enable upgrades and deployment of cellular/Global Positioning System (GPS) Emergency Vehicle Preemption (EVP) and Transit Signal Priority (TSP) at Monroe County traffic signals. EVP supports emergency vehicle operations by improving emergency response times and first responder safety. TSP supports transit operations by adjusting traffic signal timing to reduce delays and improve bus travel time reliability. The project steering committee included representatives from NYSDOT-R4, MCDOT, RFD, and RGRTA.

Key project tasks included:

- Identifying agency needs, such as upgrading the current EVP system to improve efficiency for the fire department, adding TSP functionality for RTS, and enabling new agencies such as American Medical Response (AMR) to be added to the system;
- Reviewing national best practices regarding the design, deployment, and operation of TSP and EVP systems; documenting existing EVP use patterns and identifying priority locations for future EVP and TSP

deployments; estimating capital, operational, and administrative costs of the new systems;

- Documenting responsibilities for operations and maintenance activities; and
- Conducting a Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) within USDOT guidelines to determine the estimated Return on Investment for an estimated ten-year service life.

Data from RTS, the Fire Department, and AMR was combined and analyzed to develop a list of 12 priority corridors that would have the greatest benefit from EVP/TSP upgrades. From this list, three top priority corridors were identified that would have the greatest return on investment. These corridors include West Main Street from Broad Street to Henion Street, Dewey Avenue from Lyell Avenue to West Ridge Road, and Lake Avenue from Lyell Avenue to West Ridge Road.

**Thomas Fry** moved to recommend approval of Resolutions 25-05 and 25-06, **Joel Kleinberg** 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**

**a) Status of UPWP Projects**

*GTC* - Jim Stack reported:

- GTC Strategic Planning: Staff is monitoring the changes being implemented under the Trump Administration
- Long Range Transportation Plan Update/ Implementation: No activity to report.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Scenario Tool: No activity to report.
- Staff Technical Assistance: Staff is coordinating with DeepWalk and Wayne County GIS to get the data in a usable format for the Town of Lyons.
- Household Travel Data Collection: Purchase of data is on pause.
- Active Transportation Program: No activity to report.
- Complete Streets Program: No activity to report.

- Safety Planning: No activity to report.
- Security & Resiliency Planning: No activity to report.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Resiliency Plan: Coordination meeting with Consultant scheduled for February 19 to discuss outreach to member agencies.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Thruway Detour Route Management Plan: An RFP has been finalized but the release is on pause.
- Congestion Management Process (CMP): No activity to report.
- Travel Time Data Collection Program: No activity to report.
- Rt 96 over Rt 14 Strategic Divestment Analysis: Staff is working with the consultant to get final deliverables before March 31. Closeout anticipated in April.
- Greater Rochester Transportation Management Association Feasibility Study: Presented for closeout at the January meeting.
- Regional Freight Plan Update: This project was presented for closeout at the January meeting.
- Regional Trails Initiative Update: An RFP is nearly final, but the release is on pause.

*G/FLRPC* – Richard Sutherland reported:

- G/FLRPC Regional Land Use Monitoring (CY 2023): Presented for closeout earlier in the meeting.
- Regional Land Use Monitoring Report Dashboard: Staff met with consultant and the project is moving along. Discussed data set and goals for the dashboard.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Region Population Forecast 2060: Staff pulled data from 2020 census for each municipality and incorporated that data into the model. Staff is reviewing data to identify anomalies and looking at different ways to display data and easily import new data.
- Regional Alternative Fuel Vehicle Infrastructure Tools: The draft report is almost complete; project closeout expected in April.

*Monroe County* – Tom Frys, Chris Synder, and Joe Bovenzi reported:

- Traffic Signal Preemption Study: Presented for closeout earlier in the meeting.
- High Accident Location Program: Five locations have been completed since the previous meeting. 11 locations are in process.
- Monroe County Comprehensive Active Transportation Implementation Plan: The RFP is finalized, but on pause.

*NYSDOT* – James Stack, Jody Binnix, and Joe Bovenzi reported:

- TIP Best Practices Study: A draft survey has been developed by the consultant with GTC and NYSDOT staff input; the consultant has compiled a best practices review.

- Wyoming County Route 20A Truck Freight Corridor Study: Staff have begun developing the RFP.
- Mount Read Boulevard Corridor Study Update: A preferred consultant has been identified. GTC staff has drafted a contract and shared the proposed scope of work with NYSDOT to ensure it meets their needs. As noted earlier, the execution of the contract may be delayed due to funding uncertainty.

*Ontario County* – Joe Bovenzi and Jody Binnix reported:

- Ontario County Access Management, Complete Street, and Resiliency Project: GTC staff has been coordinating with Ontario County to develop a draft RFP. As noted earlier, the RFP release may be delayed due to funding uncertainty.
- Ontario County Freight Rail Corridor Development Plan: The final public meeting will be held on March 4 in Geneva.

*City of Rochester* – David Riley and Jody Binnix reported:

- ADA Right-of-Way Transition Plan: The consultant completed an infrastructure survey and looked at areas within the public right-of-way that need to be updated to meet ADA standards. The consultant is developing a “building blocks” plan. On track to finish project in June.
- Joseph Avenue ArtWalk Master Plan: On track to finish in the spring. The second in-person public meeting held on Feb. 5 and a virtual version was held on Feb. 6. The consultant will provide a draft shortly that will be sent to GTC for review.
- Genesee Riverway Trail Completion Study: GTC Staff and City Staff met with the consultant team on February 5 to review potential recommendations before going to the full steering committee. A second meeting is needed to complete the review.
- Inner Loop North Mobility and Development Strategy: The next PAC meeting is scheduled for February 24 to start sharing concepts for development layouts as well as mobility considerations for those ideas. Public engagement is expected in March timeframe.
- City of Rochester Alleyway Reactivation and Conversion Program: A preferred consultant has been identified. As noted earlier, the execution of the contract may be delayed due to funding uncertainty.

*RGRTA* – Eric Farr reported:

- Service Performance Monitoring and Refinement: Staff is working through changes to implement in April.

*Wyoming County* – Devin Blue and Jody Binnix reported:

- Wyoming County Priority Investigation Locations Program: No change from last meeting. Expect that consultant will reach out soon to set up a second PAC meeting.
- Wyoming County Active Transportation Plan: No activity to report.



### *Other Agencies –*

Jim Stack and Joe Bovenzi reported:

- Town of Gates Active Transportation Plan: GTC staff is working with the Town of Gates to develop the RFP. As noted earlier, the RFP release may be delayed due to funding uncertainty.
- Hamlet of Ontario Center Active Transportation Plan: GTC staff is working with the Town of Ontario to develop the Scope of Work. As noted earlier, the RFP release may be delayed due to funding uncertainty.
- Village of Fairport Zoning Code Update: A Village Board working meeting held January 22 to discuss the draft downtown district code. The next round of public engagement is anticipated to start in spring 2025.
- Town of Rush Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan: Staff is working with the consultant to get final deliverables before March 31. Closeout anticipated in April.
- City of Batavia Active Transportation Plan: GTC staff is working with the City of Batavia to develop the RFP. As noted earlier, the RFP release may be delayed due to funding uncertainty.

### **b) Status of SS4A Program**

Jim Stack reported that authorization to execute contracts was granted by the RGRTA Board at its December 5, 2024 meeting. The team led by TY Lin was selected for the West sub-region (Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, and Livingston counties). The team led by Colliers Engineering and Design was selected for the Central sub-region (Monroe County and the City of Rochester). The team led by Fiser Associates was selected for the East sub-region (Wayne, Ontario, Yates, and Seneca counties).

Draft contracts were sent to these consultant firms on the morning of January 20, 2025. However, later that same day came Executive Orders pausing federal funds. As noted earlier in the meeting, GTC staff have paused contract execution until there is certainty on the availability of SS4A funds.

### **c) TIP Staff Modifications**

Jim Stack reported that since the last Planning Committee meeting, the TIP Development Committee concurred with two staff modification requests. A report was included in the meeting package.

### **d) Federal Legislative and Funding Update**

#### Federal Budget

Jim Stack reported that, prior to the end of FFY 2024, Congress passed and President Biden signed a Continuing Resolution funding the federal government through December 20, 2024. Congress deferred action on 12 Appropriations for the full FFY. Subsequently, Congress passed and President Biden signed another Continuing Resolution funding the federal government through March 14, 2025. With

the White House, the Senate, and the House under one party control, budget priorities are shifting, and the new administration is taking aggressive actions on current programs. The House and Senate still have not come to agreement on budget bills and whether to pursue policy changes through Reconciliation or to adopt full-year Appropriations via a single Omnibus bill or multiple “minibus” bills. There is once again talk of forcing a shutdown by not approving a budget. Unless consensus is achieved before March 14, another Continuing Resolution is likely.

#### USDOT Discretionary Programs

Jim Stack provided an overview of discretionary funding opportunities through USDOT. A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) program was released on October 25, 2024, and applications were due on February 24, 2025. However, this grant program was removed on February 10, 2025.

A NOFO for Local and Regional Project Assistance Grants from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program was released on November 1, 2024, and applications were due on January 30, 2025. On January 24, 2025, this program was amended to change the program name from RAISE to Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD), remove references to rescinded Executive Orders, align the NOFO with new Executive Orders, and specify the amounts available for award.

#### **e) Other GTC Matters**

No report provided.

#### **f) Public Engagement Highlights**

Lori Maher reported on the various public engagement events that took place over the past few months.

#### **g) Member Agency and Partner Updates**

No report provided.

### **7. New Business**

No report provided.

### **8. Public Forum**

No one from the public spoke during the Public Forum.

### **9. Next Meeting**

Scott Leathersich reported that the next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2025. All materials for items to be considered at this meeting should be submitted to GTC staff no later than Friday, March 28, 2025.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.