

**GENESEE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**January 6, 2022
10:00 a.m.**

Due to physical distance requirements during the COVID-19 outbreak, this meeting was conducted online rather than in-person.

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 (Vice-Chairperson)
Erik Frisch, Rochester – At Large
Tom Frys, Monroe County Executive
Paul Gavin, Genesee / Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
Katy Hasselwander, Rochester City Council
Kevin Kelley, Rochester City Planning Commission
David Lindsay, Monroe County – At Large
John Papponetti, Orleans County
Kevin Rooney, Wayne County
C. Mitchell Rowe, Seneca County
William Wright, Ontario County

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Tim Cutler, Yates County, representing Craig Prior
Eric Farr, Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority, representing Bill Carpenter
Joel Kleinberg, NYS Department of Transportation, representing Chris Reeve

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND UNREPRESENTED

Uzoma Anukwe, Federal Transit Administration
Maria Chau, Federal Highway Administration
Stephen Golding, Empire State Development Corporation
George Hebert, Monroe County Legislature
Timothy Hens, Genesee County
Robert Kiley, Monroe County Supervisors' Association
Evelyn Martinez, Federal Aviation Administration
Vacant, City of Rochester Mayor
Vacant, Rochester City Council
Vacant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Vacant, NYS Thruway Authority

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jody Binnix, GTC staff	Thomas Polech, Monroe County
Joe Bovenzi, GTC staff	Darin Ramsey, City of Rochester
James Bragg, Wyoming County	James Stack, GTC staff
Ed Flynn, LaBella Associates	Chris Tortora, GTC staff
Alex Kone, GTC staff	Robert Williams, GTC staff
Lori Maher, GTC staff	Jason Wolfanger, Livingston County
Tsakhirmaa Nyamaa, NYS Thruway Authority	

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Scott Leathersich, Planning Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:01 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

Bill Wright moved to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2021 Planning Committee meeting; Joel Kleinberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

4. Announcements and Old Business

James Stack announced that staff are coordinating with various member agencies to update Planning Committee members and alternates due to newly elected officials being sworn into office a few days ago and reorganizing their representatives. I expect to offer specific names at the February meeting.

5. Action Items

a) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

1. Approve the **Draft FY 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program for Public Review**

Jody Binnix reported that the UPWP, is the 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 2022-2023 UPWP will support planning activities for the period beginning April 1, 2022 and ending March 31, 2023. Projects included in the current UPWP that are not complete as of March 31, 2022 will be rolled over into the FY 2022-2023 UPWP.

She noted that GTC staff solicited UPWP proposals on September 10. The deadline for applications was October 15. Once again, staff emphasized that the UPWP supports planning partnerships between GTC and local communities. GTC staff worked with the UPWP Development Committee, or UDC, consisting of representatives of the member agencies in the Metropolitan Planning Area, to prioritize project proposals.

During the UPWP development process the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act or IIJA was signed into law. More recently, our partners at USDOT are referring to the IIJA as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or BIL. Therefore, GTC

staff will be updating the Draft UPWP, during the public review period, to reflect this change.

Jody noted that GTC received 16 applications requesting just under \$1 million dollars in funding. In the absence of funding estimates prior to the BIL coming into effect GTC staff used flat line projections from last year. Initially, about \$750,000 was available for new projects. On November 16, GTC received the Call Letter from NYSDOT Main Office, which took into account a significant increase in FHWA-PL funds as a result of the BIL. This increased the amount of funds that GTC is able to program in the new UPWP by about \$546,000. The BIL also presents new requirements and opportunities. GTC staff worked with the UDC to identify three additional tasks that were not initially proposed.

Jody provided an overview of each new task incorporated into the UPWP as related to the BIL:

1. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Implementation Program Reserve - This task will allow GTC to proactively respond to the IIJA rulemaking as it rolls out without having to wait for the next UPWP to take effect in April of 2023.
2. Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Resiliency Plan - BIL establishes the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation or the PROTECT program to implement resiliency related projects. If an MPO develops a resiliency plan with prioritized improvements, the federal share will rise from 80 percent to 87 percent.
3. Complete Streets Program – BIL requires MPOs to spend at least 2.5 percent of FHWA metropolitan planning funds on Complete Streets activities.

The UDC met in November and December. The efforts of the UDC resulted in a Project List for public review. For the second year in a row, GTC staff is offering staff technical assistance to address project needs in lieu of a full planning study. This has resulted in the creation of a new UPWP Task 5301].

Jody reported that pending committee approval the draft UPWP, a 30-day public review will commence on Monday, January 10 and end on Tuesday, February 8. GTC will be conducting the public review process virtually. Comments received will be shared with the committee for consideration at the February 10 meeting.

The GTC Board is expected to adopt the UPWP at its February 24 meeting so that it can be transmitted to NYSDOT-Main Office, the FHWA, and the FTA ahead of the March 1 deadline. The UPWP will go into effect on April 1, 2022

Joel Kleinberg moved to approve the Draft *FY 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program* for Public Review; Tom Fry's seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

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

a. **Village of Waterloo Circulation, Accessibility, and Parking Study**
(UPWP Task 6815) / Proposed Council Resolution 22-2

Ed Flynn of LaBella Associates presented an overview of Village of Waterloo Circulation, Accessibility, and Parking Study. The purpose of the project was to advance infrastructure improvements in the downtown and the Canal areas to address some of those infrastructure gaps, especially for pedestrians and bicycles.

Based on the community input and assessment of existing conditions, four areas of recommendations were developed. The first was to retrofit US 20 into a Complete Street, including enhanced bike lanes and a landscaped median. The second involved the redesign of downtown parking lots to improve circulation and increase capacity. The third was to convert an abandoned bridge over the Erie Canal into a bicycle and pedestrian-only facility, as well as provide additional amenities on Oak Island. The fourth was to widen the sidewalks on Route 96 from 4 to 13 feet from the proposed connection with the Seneca-Cayuga Outlet Trail to US 20. The fourth included Safe Routes to School Improvements at both the Intermediate and High Schools.

Tom Frys asked about who owns and maintains abandoned bridge. Ed Flynn noted that the Village owns the bridge. He added that the NY Power Authority has been developing plans for that facility and these and will be included in the appendix.

Mitch Rowe expressed his appreciation for the study and noted the connections with the recently completed the Seneca-Cayuga Outlet Trail Phase 2 study.

b. **West Main Street Multimodal Transportation and Placemaking Study**
(UPWP Task 6816) / Proposed Council Resolution 22-3

Darin Ramsey of the City of Rochester presented an overview of West Main Street Multimodal Transportation and Placemaking Study. The purpose of the project was to create a multi-modal transportation plan for the West Main Street corridor between Broad Street and the Bulls Head Brownfield Opportunity Area. The study included a robust community engagement process with all the residents of the neighborhood and other interested organizations. There was a strong support for reducing the number of through lanes, increasing safety for cyclists and pedestrians, maintaining the parking, and improving the business district. Suggestions for reducing crime through improved placemaking strategies were considered as well.

The long-term vision includes a three-lane cross section with the cycle tracks at sidewalk level, with on-street parking. New bus stops are established and

bus only lanes are planned to facilitate turn movements at the intersection with Genesee Street.

A near-term implementation, through a preventive maintenance treatment, will attempt to include many elements of the vision, using temporary barriers and other cost-effective measures. A future full reconstruction of the facility will allow for changes to curbs and other geometric features at that time.

Mitch Rowe moved to recommended approval of Resolutions 22-2 through 22-3; Erik Frisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

b) Transportation Improvement Program

(No Action Items)

c) Long Range Transportation Plan

(No Action Items)

d) Related Activities

(No Action Items)

6. Reports

a) Status of UPWP Projects

GTC - Jim Stack reported:

- GTC Strategic Planning: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law apportionments were released on December 15, we are waiting for NYSDOT Main Office to distribute new TIP funding Planning Targets based on these apportionments for programming the next TIP. Staff is staying informed of the forthcoming rulemaking related to new and existing programs.
- Long Range Transportation Plan Update/Implementation: No activity to report.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Scenario Tool: No activity to report.
- Travel Time Data Collection Program: No activity to report.
- Rt. 96 over Rt. 14 Strategic Divestment Analysis: Staff is working to finalize the RFP for release this month.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Performance Measurement Monitoring & Evaluation System: Tentative plan is to have the new database running by mid-January for a four-week testing and troubleshooting phase.
- Cross Asset Highway and Bridge Evaluation and Prioritization Tool: A revised Scope of Work was approved at the October 14 meeting. Staff will be able to make progress now that the TIP solicitation was recently released.

G/FLRPC – Paul Gavin reported:

- Regional Land Use Monitoring (2021): Staff is finalizing the information request form for distribution this month and exploring visualization packages for data presentation on G/FL website.
- Implementing Complete Streets in the G-FL Region; A Guidebook: The project is expected for close out at the next Planning Committee meeting.
- Regional Fleet Electrification Study: The Steering Committee will be convened to review the draft report.

Monroe County – Rochelle Bell and Thomas Polech reported:

- Land Use Monitoring: Staff are currently processing the data from development proposals that are submitted to the County.
- Monroe County High Accident Location Program: Nine of thirty-six locations are completed for the 2021 list, include two since the previous meeting. An additional six are in progress.
- Monroe County Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan – Consultant interviews were completed and authorization to enter into a contract with the preferred consultant, Toole Design with Barton & Loguidice, will be considered by the RGRTA Board in February.

NYS DOT – Joel Kleinberg reported:

- Regional Traffic Operations Center (RTOC) Strategic Plan: The RFP was released on December 3rd.
- Ramp Reconfiguration Study: The draft report was distributed to the Steering Committee on December 22nd. Comments are due in mid-January and a close out to the Planning Committee will follow.

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 – Erik Frisch reported:

- West Main Street Multimodal Transportation and Placemaking Study: This project was discussed earlier in the meeting under Item 5.a.2.
- City of Rochester Active Transportation Master Plan: The RFP was readvertised in December and proposals are due on January 20th.

RGRTA – Eric Farr reported:

- RTS System Redesign: Two high-frequency routes were restored in the January route changes. This included expanded hours and coverage for on-demand services as well.
- Rural Village and City Local Route Study: Three proposals have been received. A contract is expected to be awarded in March.
- On Route Charging Feasibility Study: The kick-off meeting was held on December

16th. Data inventorying and collection are underway by the project team.

Other Agencies – GTC staff reported:

- Village of Waterloo Circulation, Accessibility and Parking (CAP) Study: This project was discussed earlier in the meeting under Item 5.a.2.
- Village of Perry Transportation Safety and Access Study: The consultant has prepared recommendations that are being presented to the Steering Committee on November 17 & 18 to accommodate scheduling conflicts. A public meeting is scheduled on December 8. The Final report is expected to be present to the Steering Committee later this month.
- Victor Street Connectivity and Access Plan: The first round of public outreach was held in conjunction with the Village's Jingle Mingle holiday festival on December 4. An online community survey was launched in December. The next steering committee meeting is expected later this month.
- Beh Industrial Park Traffic Optimization Study: A draft report has been developed for steering committee review and comment. The second public meeting is scheduled for January 20.
- West Webster Hamlet Revitalization Plan: Seven proposals were received. The selection committee is meeting January 17 to identify a preferred consultant or invite several teams for interviews.

Completed Projects:

- I-490 Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) Plan
- Wayne County High Accident Locations Program
- Livingston County Downtown Wayfinding Master Plan
- Route 390 Multi-Use Trail Restoration and Safety Improvement Study
- Lake Ontario State Parkway Transportation Alternative Feasibility Study
- State Route 332 & Route 96 Sub-Area Study
- Mt. Morris-Leicester Route 36 Corridor Study
- Monroe County Traffic-Signal/Sign Pole Asset Management
- O'Rorke Bridge Operations and Maintenance Analysis and Strategy
- Canandaigua Waterfront Active Transportation Plan
- Livingston County Mobility Management Strategy
- Ontario Midland Strategic Plan
- Gananda Parkway Pedestrian & Bicycle Active Transportation Plan
- Middle Cheshire Road & Health Care Services Corridor Active Transportation Plan

b) TIP Staff Modifications

Alex Kone reported that since the last Planning Committee meeting that there were three projects modified:

Increase Main Office Federal Funds by less than 10%

- Rt 531 from Rt 259 to I-490 Preventive Maintenance (NYSDOT)

Add non-Federal Funds

- Darien-Alexander Townline Road over Tunnery Creek Bridge Replacement (Genesee County)
- Rt 96 from Ontario CL to Garnsey Rd Preventive Maintenance (NYSDOT)

c) Federal Legislative and Funding Update

James Stack reported that while the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) authorizes the surface transportation program for the next five years, it technically does not provide the funding. With the exception of some advanced General Funds Appropriations, this is achieved through the annual budget Appropriations process. He noted Congress passed and the President signed a Continuing Resolution to fund federal government operations through December 3. To give more time for negotiations, a second Continuing Resolution was enacted to fund the federal government from December 3 to February 18. One of the shortcomings of a Continuing Resolution is that it provides funding at the prior year's levels. Another shortcoming is that only existing programs are funded.

He noted that there are several new programs under the BIL that will need to be established through the federal rulemaking process. However, USDOT staff cannot work on these new programs while the Continuing Resolution is in effect. So, it will be some time before local agencies can take advantage of most of the new opportunities. In an effort to keep project development moving forward, the USDOT released State Apportionment tables for existing programs on December 15. NYSDOT Main Office is in the process of working with USDOT on the various set-aside rules so they can determine the regional Planning Targets for the next TIP.

With regard to the TIP, the TIP project solicitation was released on December 17 and applications are due by February 16. GTC staff expect to get a clearer picture on funding levels by source before applications will be due, hopefully by the end of January. A project applicant workshop was held January 4 to explain the TIP application process and answer questions from potential applicants. Staff have established an online portal via the GTC SharePoint site that will allow project sponsors to complete their applications online and continue to make revisions until the deadline. This will also work as a repository of project information that can be used for other funding opportunities if projects don't make the cut for regional TIP funds.

Staff will continue to monitor guidance as it is released and adjust as plans and processes accordingly. They will provide whatever support we can to our regional partners to maximize our benefits from IIJA.

d) Other GTC matters

James Stack reported that there were no other GTC matters to report.

e) Public Engagement Highlights

Lori Maher reported there were four new and ongoing public involvement opportunities in the region in the months of October, November, and December. These included both GTC-led initiatives and local agency projects. She requested that project sponsors keep Lori Maher informed of any additional public input opportunities so that GTC staff can support promotion of them.

f) Member Agency and Partner Updates

No member had any updates.

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Public Forum

Terry Rice asked about what strategies were being considered to program approximately \$9 million of Available Balances that are remaining for FFY 2022 on the Transportation Improvement Program. James Stack that the TIP Development Committee has previously considered a number of cost increases for construction this year and expects to see additional requests for the foreseeable future. Also, the Available Balances provide flexibility for new projects that will be included in the new *2023-2037 TIP* to begin design phases in this current year.

9. Next Meeting

Scott Leathersich noted that the next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2022.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.