

Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Trails Initiative Update

Scope of Work

A. Objective

To update the Regional Trails Initiative (RTI), Phases I (2002) and II (2004), to reflect changes in completed and proposed trail development, funding sources, and design guidelines, as well as provide a gap analysis of the existing trail network and a review of maintenance policies.

B. Background

The study area includes the entire nine-county Genesee-Finger Lakes Region. The update will reflect the significant trail development that has occurred since 2004, the completion of GTC-funded trail feasibility studies and other efforts to advance trail development in the region, changes with respect to funding sources and design guidance, and pertinent lessons learned in the nearly 10 years since the completion of the RTI.

The multi-use trail network is especially important to low income residents in the region who often lack access to private automobiles. Improving the trail network will enhance safety for all populations throughout the region, by providing separation between motorized and non-motorized users. While the existing network already comprises a valuable asset that contributes to the quality of life and attractiveness of the region, improvements to its extent and connectivity will provide increased benefits to residents and visitors throughout the region.

According to the *Long Range Transportation Plan for the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region 2035*, there are more than 340 miles of existing trails in the region. Many of these trails, including the El Camino Trail in the City of Rochester, the Ontario Lakeside Trail in the Town of Irondequoit, and the Lake Ontario State Parkway Trail in the Town of Greece, were constructed following the completion of the RTI in 2004. As a result of these successes, the inventory of trails included in the RTI and the plan recommendations no longer reflect existing conditions, which limits its usefulness as a resource for communities.

An update to the RTI will allow for an evaluation of the existing trail network from the perspective of a gap analysis to prioritize missing links within the system. The proposed gap analysis was not feasible in the original RTI due to the nascent state of the network at that time (i.e., the existence of many, large gaps made prioritization difficult compared to today's fewer, smaller gaps in the network). An additional benefit from the update to the RTI will be an evaluation of current maintenance policies within the region and the development of guidelines based on this evaluation that can promote more effective active transportation system maintenance and operations.

In addition to responding to changes in existing conditions, the updated RTI will be informed by lessons learned through the completion of trail-focused feasibility studies and trail construction, such as the importance of community support in advancing trail development and the constraints imposed by the ownership status of prospective trail alignments. The updated RTI may result in a reduced number and length of recommended trails to those that can reasonably expect to receive community support for their development and which minimize necessary on-street segments.

C. Tasks

1. Convene a steering committee of representatives from the nine counties of the region, the City of Rochester, GTC staff, the Greater Rochester Active Transportation Working Group, affected state agencies which may include but not be limited to New York State (NYS) Department of Transportation, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation, and others, to guide development of the update to the RTI.
2. Retain a consultant via a published solicitation in the *New York State Contract Reporter* and *Rochester Business Journal* and associated Request for Proposals (RFP). A consultant selection committee comprised of members from the agencies listed in Task 1 (or subset thereof, dependent on members' availability) will select a preferred consultant to conduct Tasks 3 through 10, below.
3. Inventory and describe the study area's physical, environmental, and socioeconomic conditions as they relate to issues and opportunities relevant to the regional trails network. Conditions to be inventoried shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Extent of the existing trail network including mileage;
 - b. Surface conditions (surface type and quality);
 - c. Ownership and maintenance responsibilities for each trail;
 - d. Trail groups and affiliated organizations in the region;
 - e. Status of trails currently under development; and
 - f. Employment, educational, recreational and other destinations.
4. Assess the needs of current and potential trail users with respect to the conditions described in Task 3, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Gaps in connectivity and access;
 - b. Trail surface conditions affecting trail users;
 - c. Destinations not currently served; and
 - d. Populations not currently served by multi-use trails (with an emphasis on those with limited mobility).
5. Hold a public meeting to seek input on the results of Tasks 3 and 4, above, and to further develop the identification of issues, needs, and opportunities with respect to the regional multi-use trail system.
6. Develop alternatives, design guidance, and maintenance recommendations, including but not limited to:
 - a. Recommended prioritization of projects responding to the issues, needs, and opportunities identified in Task 5;
 - b. Design guidance for multi-use trails taking into account recently-issued national guidance and reflecting local conditions; and
 - c. Maintenance recommendations reflective of a systems approach accounting for the ownership of the trails network and the varying needs and capabilities of the owners.

7. Prepare a draft report incorporating the results of Tasks 3 through 6, including priority recommendations.
8. Hold a second public meeting to seek input and discuss the draft recommendations.
9. Identify the follow-on activities necessary to advance the implementation of the final report recommendations, including the timing of and potential funding sources to conduct these activities.
10. Develop a final report and associated executive summary.

D. Products

1. *Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Trails Initiative Update* report
2. Executive Summary
3. Steering committee agendas and public meeting materials
4. GIS layers and associated databases

E. Public Participation Plan

Per the GTC Public Participation Policy public involvement will include a local Steering Committee, one or a series of public meetings early in the process to solicit public input on the opportunities and issues related to the project, and one or a series of public meetings to solicit public input on the project recommendations prior to finalizing the project. The scope and timing of the public meetings will be determined by the Steering Committee for inclusion in the RFP developed per Task 2, above.

F. Schedule

Start Date: June 2013 End Date: September 2014

G. Project Budget

Sources of Funds		Uses of Funds	
	FY 2013-14		FY 2013-14
<u>Federal Funds</u>		<u>GTC</u>	
FHWA	\$109,241	Staff	\$9,241
FTA	0	Contractual	100,000
Subtotal	\$109,241	Subtotal	\$109,241
<u>Matching Funds</u>		<u>Other Agency</u>	
State (In-kind)	\$0	Staff	\$0
Local (In-kind)	5,658	Contractual	0
Local (Cash)	0	In-kind Exp.	5,658
Subtotal	\$5,658	Subtotal	\$5,658
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$114,899</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>\$114,899</u>