

**GENESEE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING**

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

August 24, 2023

GTC BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Phillip Eygnor, Wayne County
Daniel Hogan, Monroe County – At Large
David LeFeber (Chairperson), Livingston County
Rochelle Stein, Genesee County
Erik Frisch, City of Rochester – At Large

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Sean Carrington, New York State Thruway Authority, representing Frank Hoare
Thomas Frys, Monroe County, representing Adam Bello
Stephen Golding, Empire State Development Corporation, representing Hope Knight
Peter Ingalsbe (Vice-Chairperson), Ontario County, representing Todd Campbell
Scott Leathersich, Monroe County – At Large, representing Jeffrey McCann
Yixuan Lin, Monroe County Planning Board, representing William Santos
John Papponetti, Orleans County, representing Lynne Johnson
Richard Perrin, City of Rochester – Mayor, representing Malik Evans
Joel Kleinberg, NYS Department of Transportation, representing Marie Therese Dominguez
Miguel Velázquez, Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority, representing Donald Jeffries
Timothy Walsh, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, representing Basil Seggos

GTC BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT AND UNREPRESENTED

Leslie Church, Yates County
Michael Culotta, Federal Transit Administration
Michael Enslow, Seneca County
Sabrina LaMar, Monroe County Legislature
Richard Marquis, Federal Highway Administration
Evelyn Martinez, Federal Aviation Administration
Miguel Melendez, City of Rochester – Council
Rebecca Ryan, Wyoming County
Stephen Schultz, Monroe County Supervisors' Association
David Watson, City of Rochester – Planning Commission

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jody Binnix, GTC staff	Joel Kleinberg, NYSDOT – Region 4
Joe Bovenzi, GTC staff	Lori Maher, GTC staff
James Brady, Wayne County	James Stack, GTC staff
Angela Ellis, Livingston County	

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson LeFeber called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Joe Bovenzi, GTC staff, called the roll; a quorum was present.

2. Public Forum

There were no comments.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson LeFeber reported that draft minutes from the June 8, 2023 GTC Board meeting were included in the meeting package.

Rochelle Stein moved to approve the minutes from the June 8, 2023 Quarterly Meeting; Timothy Walsh seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

Chairperson LeFeber noted that the draft minutes from the August 10, 2023 Planning Committee meeting were provided for informational purposes.

4. Communications and Announcements

Board Membership

James Stack reported two changes to the Board membership:

- Joan Roby-Davison has been designated as an alternate for David Watson as the City of Rochester's Planning Commission representative.
- Michael Culotta has been designated as the Federal Transit Administration representative due to Stephen Goodman's retirement.

5. Reports and Action on Old Business

a. Planning Committee Report

Scott Leathersich reported that the Planning Committee met on August 10th and recommends that the GTC Board:

- Accept two reports as evidence of completion of Unified Planning Work Program tasks:
 - West Webster Hamlet Revitalization Plan (Town of Webster)
 - Monroe County High Accident Location Program
- Amend the *FFYs 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program* as requested by the City of Rochester, Monroe County, and NYSDOT.
- Amend the *By-Laws of the Genesee Transportation Council*

Additionally, the Planning Committee took the following actions:

- Approved six administrative modifications to the *FFY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program* as requested by the City of Batavia, the Town of Batavia, Monroe County, and NYSDOT:

- Deferring a phase of the Taylor Rd over Irondequoit Creek Bridge Replacement project in the Town of Mendon
- Reinstating the Park Road Preventive Maintenance project in the Town of Batavia
- Reinstating the City of Batavia Highway Preventive Maintenance project
- Increasing the Total Cost of the O'Rorke Lift Bridge Rehabilitation project
- Increasing the Total Cost of the Rt 18 (Latta Road) at N Greece Rd Intersection Safety Enhancements project in the Town of Greece
- Increasing the Total Cost of the Rt 31 from Rt. 19 to Transit Way Safety Enhancements project in the Town of Sweden

b. GTC Staff Report

James Stack provided the following report:

1. Total Solar Eclipse Planning

GTC staff is continuing to collaborate with Local and National Task Forces on planning for the impacts of the upcoming solar eclipse in April 2024. Staff is assisting with distributing information about the eclipse over social media and the Local Task Force will be attending the New York State Fair.

2. Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Annual Conference

Joe Bovenzi and Jim Stack have been selected to give presentations at the national Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations annual conference in Cleveland in September.

Rochelle Stein asked about the topic of the presentations that GTC staff are giving at the AMPO conference. Jim Stack explained that he would be discussing preparations for the solar eclipse, and Joe would be discussing resiliency planning activities.

3. GTC Staffing Updates

Alex Kone accepted a job with Cambridge Systematics and left the GTC staff on July 21.

Charles Rieck is joining the GTC staff on August 28, replacing Bob Williams and focusing on Active Transportation planning tasks.

Rochelle Stein asked about how many staff positions at GTC are vacant. James Stack explained that once Charles starts on the following Monday, there will be one open position. However, a proposal is currently before the Executive Committee to reorganize the current staff structure, including adding a new position to help local agencies take advantage of federal and state funding opportunities, and a junior level position to help staff with existing workload. In addition, if GTC is awarded grant funds through the Safe Streets and Roads for All program, he anticipates adding another position specifically to handle that work.

c. Old Business

1. Federal Legislative and Funding Update

James Stack reported that the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant program had a significant minimum project cost that many local sponsors could not meet. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority led a statewide application on behalf of any municipalities that chose to participate. The City of Rochester and Livingston County joined the application.

As authorized at the June 8 meeting, GTC applied for a Safe Streets and Roads for All grant on behalf of all nine Counties and the City of Rochester. The four-year safety planning program totals \$2.2 million with \$1.75 million of federal funds, \$250,000 of local cash match, and \$187,000 of local in-kind match.

Scott Leathersich reported that Monroe County submitted a grant application for the signal backup generator switch project through the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) program. This project will identify ways to power traffic signals during a major outage. Tom Frys noted that the county is considering applying for a Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) grant as well.

James Stack noted that GTC staff can provide letters of support that document how a grant application is consistent with the Long Range Transportation Plan as well as other applicable plans and studies.

2. TIP Staff Modifications Report

Chairperson LeFeber 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 23-16 and 23-17

Chairperson LeFeber suggested grouping proposed Resolutions 23-16 and 23-17 into a single action. Joel Kleinberg requested that the resolutions be treated under separate actions.

James Stack noted that Proposed Resolutions 23-16 and 23-17 were reviewed and recommended for GTC Board approval by the Planning Committee at its August 10, 2023 meeting.

1. Accepting the *West Webster Hamlet Revitalization Study* as evidence of UPWP Task 8553 / Proposed Resolution 23-16

Jim Stack reported that this project was conducted by the Town of Webster. The purpose of the project was to develop a revitalization plan for the West Webster Hamlet to strengthen the identity of place through active transportation and safety improvements, increased connectivity, and the promotion of sustainable development and land use patterns.

The process included:

- Understanding the existing conditions
- A robust public engagement process including:
 - a Citizen's Advisory Committee
 - an online engagement with almost 6,000 visits, an interactive map, and over 100 comments
 - Two well-attended in-person open house meetings
- Identification of 14 recommendations focused on future land use and development, as well as transportation and streetscape improvements.
- A model Zoning Ordinance that the Town anticipates adopting in the fall of 2023.

Joel Kleinberg explained that NYSDOT was represented on the steering committee and had provided feedback on the final report. However, a couple of minor items were overlooked. The Final report has some language in it that differs from language in the Executive Summary. The Executive Summary needs to be revised to bring the language in line with what is in the report. NYSDOT is supportive of the study recommendations and does not want to delay the project, but is asking the town to circle back to with NYSDOT to ensure the correct language is included. He suggested adding a "whereas" clause to the resolution to ensure that the correct language is added. Richard Perrin noted that he would support this action due to the need to consider state concerns.

Jim explained that language to this effect can be added to the resolution. The new text would not change the intent, but would ensure consistency in phrasing between the Final report and Executive Summary as well as within the Executive Summary itself.

Rochelle Stein asked if the new language was available for the board to review and, if not, if the Board should table the project for reconsideration at the December meeting. That way a revised Final report and Executive Summary could be presented to the Board without the need for any changes to the proposed Resolution. The Board members agreed to this action and Jim Stack noted that staff would highlight this action in the December transmittal memo.

Joel Kleinberg moved to table proposed Resolution 23-16; Scott Leathersich seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

2. Accepting the *Monroe County High Accident Location Program* as evidence of UPWP Task 6230 / Proposed Resolution 23-17

Jim Stack reported that this project was conducted by the Monroe County Department of Transportation. The purpose of the project was to perform a detailed analysis of each location identified as a Priority Investigation Location (PIL), identifying and evaluating potential countermeasures as well as developing specific safety recommendations.

The process included:

- A screening of intersections and road segments for higher than expected crash rates, identified as Priority Investigation Locations or PILs
- Establishment of prioritized list of both intersection and segment PILs
- Review and analysis of crash reports to identify deficiencies and countermeasures
- There were 15 intersection PILs on the 2021 list, and
 - Analysis of 7 locations is complete
 - Analysis of 5 locations is underway
 - Recommended actions have been completed at 2 locations and are partially completed at 3 other locations
 - 3 locations have been carried over to the 2023 list
- There were 16 road segment PILs on the 2021 list
 - Analysis of 15 locations is complete
 - Analysis of 1 location is underway
 - Recommended actions have been completed at 4 locations and are partially completed at 4 other locations

Philip Eynor moved to approve proposed Resolution 23-17; Richard Perrin seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

- b. Amending the *FFYs 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program* / Proposed Resolutions 23-18 through 23-26

Chairperson LeFeber suggested grouping Proposed Resolutions 23-18 through 23-26 into a single action; no Member or Alternate objected.

Jim Stack noted that Proposed Resolutions 23-18 through 23-26 were reviewed and recommended for GTC Board approval by the Planning Committee at its August 10, 2023 meeting. He noted the following for each of the projects:

1. Deferring phases of the Rt 414 over CSX Bridge Rehabilitation project / Proposed Resolution 23-18 (NYSDOT)

This amendment is requested by NYSDOT-Region 4. Project progress has been delayed due to the unavailability of a Railroad Force Account Agreement. NYSDOT Main Office has allocated statewide Safety funds to this project and will manage fiscal constraint.

2. Deferring phases of the Large Culvert Replacement/Rehabilitation project / Proposed Resolution 23-19 (NYSDOT)

This amendment is requested by NYSDOT-Region 4. The change reflects the latest schedule. NYSDOT Main Office has allocated statewide funds to this project and will manage fiscal constraint.

3. Increasing the Total Cost of the Large Culvert Replacement/Rehabilitation project / Proposed Resolution 23-20 (NYSDOT)

This amendment is requested by NYSDOT-Region 4. The change reflects the latest cost estimate. NYSDOT Main Office has allocated statewide funds to this project and will manage fiscal constraint.

4. Deferring phases of the I-490 Bridges over Erie Canal and Kreag Rd project / Proposed Resolution 23-21 (NYSDOT)

This amendment is requested by NYSDOT-Region 4. Deferral is to provide time to investigate alternative work zone traffic control plans based on updated traffic counts that may result in significant cost savings and one less construction season. NYSDOT Main Office will manage fiscal constraint via a swap of 2023 regional Planning Target funds with 2024 statewide funds.

Dan Hogan stated he understands the overall cost savings benefits but noted that inflation has the potential to raise construction costs if the project is delayed. Joel Kleinberg replied that the change in Federal Fiscal Year will not change the construction season, as this is a three-month delay not a one year delay.

5. Increasing the Total Cost of the Genesee Street Reconstruction project / Proposed Resolution 23-22 (City of Rochester)

This amendment is requested by the City of Rochester. The change reflects the latest cost estimate. There is additional traffic signal work and significant public fiber optic relocation that were not originally planned for the project. The schedule will also extend into a second construction season. The project includes City funds for federal aid eligible elements as there are not sufficient federal funds available to fully fund the project at this time. Should additional federal funds become available, they City may request consideration for an increase in the federal share. Additionally, the total cost includes about \$1.2 million for water main and associated work that is not eligible for federal funding but makes sense to conduct as part of this road project.

The significant increase in fiber optic relocation scope and cost emerged after the meeting package was distributed. Cost information presented at the meeting reflects the most up to date figures.

Richard Perrin explained that the key issue behind the cost increase was the late notice the city received on state-required fiber optic improvements. These

improvements are for additional miles of fiber optic line than was originally planned. The cost of the additional water main work will be absorbed by the city.

Rochelle Stein asked if this action would set a precedent for future projects if the costs for adding extra miles of fiber optic line are approved. Richard Perrin explained that there is need to look at whether the city is paying for work that would be done on its own otherwise.

Joel Kleinberg explained that NYSDOT is aware of these issues and that the Regional Local Projects Liaison is working with the City and the Regional Traffic Operations Center to try to address these issues.

6. Increasing the Total Cost of the Rt 14 over CSX Bridge Deck Replacement project / Proposed Resolution 23-23 (NYSDOT)

This amendment is requested by NYSDOT-Region 4. Project progress is expected to be delayed due to the need for a Railroad Force Account Agreement. The change reflects the latest cost estimate.

Joel Kleinberg noted that this project cannot advance until the Railroad Force Account Agreement is in place. Regional staff have elevated this issue to Main Office, and will update the project schedule when more information is available.

7. Increasing the Total Cost of the Monroe County RTOC Operations (FFY 2022-2023) projects / Proposed Resolution 23-24 (Monroe County)

This amendment is requested by Monroe County. The change reflects the actual costs in 2002 and the anticipated total costs for 2023.

8. Adding the 2023 BRIDGE NY projects / Proposed Resolution 23-25 (NYSDOT)

This amendment is requested by NYSDOT-Region 4 on behalf of local project sponsors. The Governor and NYSDOT Main Office have announced project awards under the 2023 Bridge New York program for non-State-owned bridges. In our region, there are 15 projects.

Funds are dedicated to each project and are not available to any other project. As with past rounds of BRIDGE NY funding, this action authorizes the GTC Executive Director to make subsequent changes to the phase costs and schedule, via staff modification, without further action by the GTC Board.

Joel Kleinberg noted that the project schedules may change because the funding notice was released later than anticipated. Once this resolution is passed, project funding can be obligated.

There are also 15 culvert projects that the state is advancing through a culvert program. However, those projects are state funded and do not involve any federal aid funds; therefore, they were not brought to this Board.

9. Deferring phases of the Rt 204 (Brooks Ave), 33A to Rochester City Line project / Proposed Resolution 23-26 (NYSDOT)

This amendment is requested by NYSDOT-Region 4. Design approval is not likely to be achieved before the end of the current Federal Fiscal Year so the Detailed Design and Right-of-Way Acquisition phases cannot be obligated as scheduled.

Richard Perrin moved to approve Proposed Resolutions 23-18 through 23-26; Daniel Hogan seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

- c. Amending the *Bylaws of the Genesee Transportation Council* / Proposed Resolution 23-27

James Stack reported that Proposed Resolution 23-27 was reviewed and recommended for GTC Board approval by the Planning Committee at its August 10, 2023 meeting

In December 2020, the GTC By-Laws were amended to allow qualified Alternates to serve as a GTC Officer. Currently, Peter Ingalsbe is a qualified Alternate representing the Ontario County Board of Supervisors and serves as GTC Vice Chairperson. It recently came to light that the By-Laws do not explicitly indicate that the Vice Chairperson is a member of the GTC Executive Committee if the position is held by a qualified Alternate. A qualified Alternate is an elected official who serves on the same legislative body as the regular board member. To rectify this situation, staff explored changing the By-Laws to explicitly designate the Vice Chairperson as a member of the Executive Committee.

Rochelle Stein moved to approve Proposed Resolution 23-27; Philip Eygnor seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

7. New Business

- a. Tim Walsh reported that the Department of Environmental Conservation is undertaking a community air monitoring effort in ten communities around the state. The third quarterly meeting to update interested stakeholders is scheduled for this afternoon at 3:30 p.m. It will be a webinar. Many of the air quality monitoring sites are along I-390 and I-490 on the city's west side.
- b. Tim Walsh reported that the New York State Green Week is coming up in late September. Outreach efforts to encourage alternative forms of transportation are planned.
- c. Joel Kleinberg reported that he anticipates the next call for projects for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program will be released later in the summer. He does not have a specific date, but will provide that information to regional stakeholders when available.

8. Next Meeting

Chairperson LeFeber stated that the next GTC Board meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2023 at RGRTA.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.