

**GENESEE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

**November 9, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Planning Board
Devin Blue, Wyoming County
Angela Ellis, Livingston County
Tom Frys, Monroe County Executive
Tim Hens, Genesee County
Scott Leathersich, Monroe County – At-Large
David Lindsay, Monroe County – At-Large
John Papponetti, Orleans County
Rich Perrin, City of Rochester – Mayor
David Riley, City of Rochester – At Large
Kevin Rooney, Wayne County

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Eric Farr, Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority, representing Miguel Velázquez
Joel Kleinberg, NYS Department of Transportation, representing Chris Reeve
Jason Rearick, Seneca County representing Jill Henry

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND UNREPRESENTED

Uzoma Anukwe, Federal Transit Administration
John Boser, NYS Thruway Authority
Ben Fischer, Federal Highway Administration
Stephen Golding, Empire State Development Corporation
George Hebert, Monroe County Legislature
Kevin Kelley, City of Rochester – Planning Commission
Evelyn Martinez, Federal Aviation Administration
Douglas Rapalee, Yates County
James Smith, Rochester City Council
Richard Sutherland, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
Bill Wright, Ontario County
Vacant, Monroe County Supervisors' Association
Vacant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Al Bartolotta, Community Member
Jody Binnix, GTC staff
Joe Bovenzi, GTC staff
Yixuan Lin, Monroe County Planning
Lori Maher, GTC staff

Terry Rice, Barton & Loguidice
Charlie Rieck, GTC staff
James Stack, GTC staff
Chris Tortora, GTC staff

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Scott Leathersich, Planning Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Joe Bovenzi conducted a roll call of Committee members and alternates. The names of other attendees were captured from meeting login information.

2. Public Forum

No one from the public spoke during the Public Forum.

3. Approval of Minutes

David Riley moved to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2023 Planning Committee meeting; Rochelle Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

4. Announcements and Old Business

Jim Stack reported that, on October 27, the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced initial awards under the Safe Streets and Roads (SS4A) for All grant program. The announcement identified \$82 million out of \$577 million available for Planning and Demonstration grants this year. This initial first round seems focused on individual jurisdictions developing action plans. USDOT indicated that they will be making another announcement in December that will award more Planning and Demonstration grants as well as Implementation grants. While our application was not funded in the first round, I still feel our chances of SS4A funding are very good.

On October 13, the GTC Executive Committee approved a staff restructuring. As of October 23, Jody Binnix has been promoted to Deputy Director for Planning while Joe Bovenzi has been promoted to Deputy Director for Administration and Operations. A new Program Manager position has been established that will be primarily focused on the management of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that was previously covered by the Assistant Director.

Three other positions have been created. The first is an early-career position for a Transportation Planner that can support all programmatic areas. The other two are Program Manager level positions with a particular focus – one on Discretionary funding for the duration of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the other to manage the SS4A grant, if awarded to GTC.

An updated staff organization chart was displayed.

5. Action Items

a) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

1. (No Action Items)

b) Transportation Improvement Program

1. Action concerning modifying the *FFYs 2023-2027 TIP* / Planning Committee Resolutions 23-18 through 23-20

Scott Leathersich proposed grouping proposed Resolutions 23-18 through 23-20 under a single action. No Member or Alternate objected.

- a. Deferring phases of the Rt 14 within former Village of Lyons Preventive Maintenance project / Proposed Planning Committee Resolution 23-18

Joel Kleinberg reported that certain phases were not obligated before the end of the previous federal fiscal year. Main Office will manage fiscal constraint. There will be no impact on regional planning targets.

- b. Deferring a phase of the Bridge Preventive Maintenance, Regionwide project / Proposed Planning Committee Resolution 23-19

Joel Kleinberg reported that certain phases were not obligated before the end of the previous federal fiscal year. Main Office will manage fiscal constraint. There will be no impact on regional planning targets.

- c. Increasing the Total Cost of the I-490 Bridges over Erie Canal and Kreag Rd project / Proposed Planning Committee Resolution 23-20

Joel Kleinberg noted that the latest cost estimate for this project has increased. Joel further noted that the State has identified balances from Congressional earmarks that are at risk of being lost. Under the rules for repurposing earmarks, this project can absorb several outstanding balances. The additional funds, beyond the repurposed earmarks, being added to this project are state aid. There will be no impact on regional planning targets.

Tom Frys moved to approve of Planning Committee Resolutions 23-18 through 23-20; Rochelle Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

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: The GTC Executive Committee approved a staff

reorganization and authorized a search for new office space on October 13.

- Long Range Transportation Plan Update/ Implementation: No activity to report.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Scenario Tool: No activity to report.
- Staff Technical Assistance: Staff met with Lyons Town Supervisor Jim Brady on October 25 to discuss the Town's needs. The focus will be on sidewalk condition and prioritization for improvement within the former Village. Staff is using a new tool, DeepWalk, for a pilot project. The tool uses LiDAR capabilities of an iPhone and a combination of human QA/QC and machine analysis to assess conditions and identify compliance with ADA and PROWAG requirements. Field data collection is expected to start November 10.
- Household Travel Data Collection: No activity to report.
- Active Transportation Program: Staff is retrieving equipment for winter storage. Short counts may still happen as the weather permits. Staff is getting information on location of bicycle boulevards in Brighton and Irondequoit to add to inventory.
- Complete Streets Program: At the previous Planning Committee meeting, the committee approved a resolution to shift funds from the Complete Streets set-aside planning task (Task 5540) to Joseph Avenue Artwalk project (Task 6533). This change was communicated to NYSDOT Main Office. Staff sought and received approval to use Complete Streets Set-aside funds for sidewalk data analysis for Lyons pilot project. Staff is working with the UDC to identify potentially eligible projects that will be considered for inclusion in next UPWP; potential projects will be shared with NYSDOT and FHWA for concurrence on using Set-aside funds.
- Safety Planning: SS4A grant application was submitted on July 10. Staff has provided some follow up information. The initial awards announcement was on October 27. Approximately \$82 of \$577 million were awarded. The next round of announcements is planned for December. Will include more Planning and Demonstration grants as well as Implementation grants.
- Regional Safety Plan: Originally planned to progress ahead of SS4A but the RFP received zero response. Staff discussed on November 2 and recommends waiting for December SS4A awards to determine how best to support that project.
- Security & Resiliency Planning: Staff is presenting on regional resiliency planning process at the Genesee-Finger Lakes Local Government Workshop this afternoon.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Resiliency Plan: RFP in development.
- 2024 Eclipse Planning: Continue to field requests for presentations. Staff participate in monthly Rochester Stakeholder and Monroe Co. Office of Emergency Management meetings. Continue to coordinate with Rochester Task Force on known viewing locations for traffic management purposes. Staff presented on planning efforts to GO Health volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (October 12), the NYS Parking & Transportation Association (October 18), NYSDOT R4 (November 1), to the Eastern Border Health Initiative (November 7).

There are also several upcoming presentations planned.

- 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: Next Steering Committee meeting scheduled for December 1. Technical Memorandum #1 has been reviewed by NYSDOT-Region 4 and GTC staff. The Technical Memorandum will be sent to the Steering Committee ahead of the December 1 meeting.
- Transportation Performance Management Enhancement Project: No activity to report.
- Greater Rochester Transportation Management Association Feasibility Study: The contract has been reviewed internally and is being sent to the consultant for signature this week.
- Regional Freight Plan Update: The project kick-off meeting is scheduled for November 20. The consultant team met with the consultant for the Monroe County intermodal study on November 6 to gain context.
- Regional Trails Initiative Update: Internal discussions have begun. Expecting to bring a scope of work to the Planning Committee in early 2024.

G/FLRPC – James Stack reported:

- *G/FLRPC* Regional Land Use Monitoring (CY 2022): The project was recommended for closeout at the October 12 Planning Committee meeting.
- The Last Mile (or less): The project is being presented at the Local Government Workshop and this may spur additional interest to use the remaining budget.

Joe Bovenzi reported:

- Regional Alternative Fuel Vehicle Infrastructure Tools: *G/FLRPC* staff will distribute surveys and collect resources about alternative fuels.

Livingston County – Angela Ellis reported:

- Lakeville Corridor Strategic Plan: A Steering Committee workshop held November 2 to review draft alternatives prior to final public meeting and discuss potential for the open TAP/CMAQ funding opportunity. The third and final public meeting is scheduled for November 15.

Angela Ellis noted that the Town of Livonia will be submitting a TAP application. Additionally, the Town of Livonia is applying for Brownfield grants.

Monroe County – Rochelle Bell, Tom Frys, and James Stack reported:

- Land Use Monitoring (CY 2022): The project was recommended for closeout at the October 12 Planning Committee meeting.
- Traffic Signal Preemption Study: The contract has been fully executed and a Notice to Proceed was issued on November 8.
- High Accident Location Program: There are currently five active studies that are

sequentially taking place on Lyell Avenue.

- Elmwood Avenue Bike Infrastructure Feasibility Study: As previously noted, this project was withdrawn since the County implemented a road improvement project.

Rochelle Bell noted that she lives near Elmwood Avenue and the consensus of the neighborhood is that the road diet has been a positive change. Neighbors have even noted that cars entering the side streets are driving slower and seem to be more aware of their surroundings.

- Monroe County Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan: The project was recommended for closeout at the October 12 Planning Committee meeting.

NYS DOT – Joe Bovenzi and James Stack reported:

- Regional Traffic Operations Center Strategic Plan: The project was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its June 8, 2023 meeting.
- TIP Best Practices Study: GTC Staff is preparing a draft RFP for Region 4 input before releasing.
- City of Rochester Downtown Sign Assessment: Consultant provided a draft report to GTC staff for internal review on October 27, comments were provided on October 30. Draft report will be shared with Steering Committee for review and comment.

Ontario County – Jody Binnix reported:

- Ontario County Freight Rail Corridor Development Plan: Steering Committee met October 30 and reviewed the Existing Conditions/Needs Assessment. An internal project management meeting was held on November 8 to discuss the use of GTC's Public Input platform for community outreach.

City of Rochester – David Riley reported:

- ADA Right-of-Way Transition Plan: GTC staff provided an initial draft RFP to City staff for review and comment on October 24. City provided comments and a revised draft was sent on October 30.
- Joseph Avenue ArtWalk Master Plan: Finalizing consultant selection.

Jim Stack noted that GTC staff provided budget documentation, reflecting the changes made at the October 12 meeting, to NYS DOT Main Office.

- Genesee Riverway Trail Completion Study: GTC staff met with new City Planning staff on November 2 to discuss the project.
- Inner Loop North Mobility and Development Strategy: City staff provided an initial draft Scope of Work to GTC staff for review and comment. There were concerns about whether the draft Scope, which focused on land uses, had a strong enough nexus to transportation. City and GTC staff members discussed their concerns and GTC staff sent a revised Scope to the City on November 6. City staff will return the Scope of Work to GTC staff for final review. The finalized Scope is expected to be presented at the January meeting.

- City of Rochester Active Transportation Master Plan: The project was recommended for closeout at the October 12 Planning Committee meeting.

RGRTA – Eric Farr reported:

- Origin-Destination Study: Consultant is on site to conduct an Origin and Destination survey. Data collection will finish on November 12.
- Service Performance Monitoring and Refinement: Recommended minor changes to routes 14, 15, and 19 for January 2024 schedule update.
- Rural Village and City Local Route Study: The project was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its June 8, 2023 meeting.
- Rural On Demand Transit Study: The consultant is compiling the report on the first round of public outreach.
- On Route Charging Feasibility Study: The project was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its June 8, 2023 meeting.

Wyoming County – Jim Stack reported:

- Wyoming County Priority Investigation Locations Program: GTC staff met with Devin Blue on November 3 to discuss a path forward to get the project back on track. It was agreed that responding firms should be given an opportunity to adjust their submissions since proposals have not yet been evaluated and firm's situation may be different. Notices were sent to the five responding firms on November 8. The deadline for affirming, revising, or withdrawing is December 8.

Other Agencies –

James Stack reported:

- Arcade Multi-Use Trail Feasibility Study: The project was recommended for closeout at the October 12 Planning Committee meeting.

Jody Binnix reported:

- Canal Ponds Business Park Connectivity Study: The Steering Committee met November 7 to discuss the draft recommendations. The contract has been extended to allow the project to be finalized.

James Stack reported:

- West Webster Hamlet Revitalization Plan: Planning Committee recommended the project to the GTC Board for close out. Just prior to the August 24 GTC Board meeting, a discrepancy was spotted in the Executive Summary and consideration on accepting the report was tabled. Revisions have been completed and the GTC Board will take action in December.

Joe Bovenzi reported:

- Village of Fairport Zoning Code Update: A preferred consultant has been identified. Given the nature of the project, the Village is holding the contract. A draft contract was provided to GTC staff to ensure key clauses and requirements

were included. GTC staff met to discuss the draft contract on November 7 and provided comments back to the village.

Lori Maher reported:

- Village of Warsaw Active Transportation Plan: Project Advisory Committee (PAC) met October 24 and ranked top 10 recommendations for further detail in final report. The next PAC is scheduled for November 30. The contract has been extended to allow the project to be finalized.

Chris Tortora reported:

- Town of Rush Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan: A preferred consultant has been identified. GTC staff compiling the contract.

b) TIP Staff Modifications

Jim Stack reported that since the last Planning Committee meeting, two staff modifications received concurrence from the TIP Development Committee. A report was included in the meeting package.

c) Federal Legislative and Funding Update

USDOT Discretionary Programs

Jim Stack provided an overview discretionary funding opportunities through USDOT. He noted that Letters of Interest for the Thriving Communities grant opportunity are due November 15. He is not aware of any pending submissions.

Applications for the Bridge Investment Program are due November 27. Again, he is not aware of any pending submissions.

USDOT has not yet posted the 2024 list of discretionary funding opportunities.

d) Other GTC Matters

Jim Stack discussed the 2024 Planning Committee Meeting Calendar. He explained that GTC is planning to use this same conference room for the 2024 planning committee meetings as for the 2023 meetings, but that Monroe County has already reserved the room for another meeting starting at noon. Therefore, the Planning Committee meetings could either begin earlier, at 9:30 am, or could be switched to a different location. The attendees agreed to keep the meeting in the same location and start at 9:30 am.

Jim noted that there are two months, February and May, when due to known conflicts the planning committee meetings will be shifted back from the usual second Thursday to the third Thursday (February) and the fourth Thursday (May). In addition, once GTC staff moves into a new office, there may be an opportunity to change the meeting location to a new space.

Jody Binnix reported that the proposal solicitation for the 2024-25 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) cycle kicked off on September 8. GTC received 18 applications requesting about \$1.3 million, of which approximately \$1 million will be available for new projects. GTC staff will work with the UPWP Development Committee to select projects for funding. The UPWP Development Committee held its first meeting for this cycle on Tuesday, November 7. The UDC will develop a recommended program of projects for the Planning Committee's consideration and approval for public review in January. After a 30-day public review, the Planning Committee will make a final recommendation at the February meeting. The GTC Board is expected to adopt the UPWP at its February 2024 meeting so that it can be transmitted to NYSDOT-Main Office, the FHWA, and the FTA by the March 1 deadline. The new UPWP will go into effect on April 1, 2024.

e) Public Engagement Highlights

Lori Maher reported that many of the public engagement activities undertaken since the previous meeting were covered under the UPWP project highlights earlier in the meeting. A list of public engagement activities is included in the meeting presentation.

f) Member Agency and Partner Updates

There were no Member Agency and Partner Updates.

7. New Business

There was no New Business.

8. Public Forum

Lori Maher reported that there were no public comments received from observers online.

9. Next Meeting

Scott Leathersich reported that the next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2024.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 PM.