

**GENESEE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING**

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

February 23, 2023

GTC BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Todd Campbell, Ontario County
Michael Enslow, Seneca County
Erik Frisch, City of Rochester – At Large
Daniel Hogan, Monroe County At-Large
David LeFeber, Livingston County (Chairperson)
Miguel Meléndez, City of Rochester – Council
Rochelle Stein, Genesee County & Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Jim Brady, Wayne County, representing Phillip Eygnor
Tom Frys, Monroe County Executive, representing Adam Bello
Stephen Golding, Empire State Development Corporation, representing Hope Knight
Scott Leathersich, Monroe County – At Large, representing Jeffrey McCann
Joel Kleinberg, NYS Department of Transportation, representing Marie Therese Dominguez
Gautam Mani, Federal Highway Administration, representing Rick Marquis
John Papponetti, Orleans County, representing Lynne Johnson
Richard Perrin, City of Rochester - Mayor, representing Malik Evans
Miguel Velázquez, Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority, representing Donald Jeffries
Tim Walsh, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, representing Basil Seggos

GTC BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT AND UNREPRESENTED

Leslie Church, Yates County
Stephen Goodman, Federal Transit Administration
Frank Hoare, New York State Thruway Authority
Sabrina LaMar, Monroe County Legislature
Evelyn Martinez, Federal Aviation Administration
Rebecca Ryan, Wyoming County
William Santos, Monroe County Planning Board
Stephen Schultz, Monroe County Supervisors' Association
David Watson, Rochester City Planning Commission

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Joe Bovenzi, GTC staff
Angela Ellis, Livingston County
Alex Kone, GTC staff
Peter Ingalsbe, Ontario County

Lori Maher, GTC staff
Mitch Rowe, Seneca County
Richard Sutherland, G/FLRPC
James Stack, GTC staff

2. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

3. Public Forum

There were no comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson LeFeber noted that draft minutes from the December 8, 2022 GTC Board meeting were included in the meeting package.

Rochelle Stein moved to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2022 Quarterly Meeting; Scott Leathersich seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

Chairperson LeFeber added that the minutes from the January 5, 2023 Planning Committee meeting and the draft minutes from the February 9, 2023 Planning Committee meeting were provided for informational purposes.

4. Communications and Announcements

Board Membership

James Stack reported four changes to the Board membership:

- Todd Campbell has been elected the Chairman of the Ontario County Board of Supervisors and is a Member of GTC.
- Frank Hoare has been designated as the Interim Executive Director of the New York State Thruway Authority and is a Member of GTC.
- Miguel Velázquez has been designated as RGRTA Board Chair Donald Jefferies' alternate to GTC.
- Michael Enslow has been elected the Chairman of the Seneca County Board of Supervisors and is a Member of GTC.

Office Relocation

James Stack provided an update on the GTC office relocation. He reported that GTC and G/FLRPC staff have completed their moves. GTC was provided space on 5th floor of the CityPlace building. He had initially expected to be provided space to co-locate with G/FLRPC but Monroe County made space available on the 2nd floor of CityPlace for them. He noted that the new space is only about 25% of the prior space. He added that this is an interim situation until Monroe County can identify a different space or GTC leases space of its own. Jim has had conversations with Richard Sutherland, Executive Director of G/FLRPC and both would prefer to find space to co-locate.

AMPO Policy Committee Membership

Jim Stack reported that in January he was selected for a 3-year term on the Policy Committee of the national Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. The committee considers the impact of existing and proposed federal legislation, regulation, or policy on MPOs. It develops position statements and/or white papers for AMPO's staff and members to use when discussing legislation with MPO members and elected officials. It also works with AMPO staff to advocate AMPO positions and propose legislative language to benefit the metropolitan planning process.

5. Reports and Action on Old Business

a. Planning Committee Report

Scott Leathersich reported met on January 5th and February 9th and recommends that the GTC Board:

- Adopt the *FY 2023-2024 Unified Planning Work Program*
- Accept the Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Performance Measurement Monitoring and Evaluation System as evidence of completion of a Unified Planning Work Program task:
- Amend the *FFYs 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program* as requested by the RGRTA and NYSDOT.
- Amend the *National Performance Measures Report* and the *FFYs 2023-2027 TIP* to by revising the Highway Safety Performance Targets

Additionally, the Planning Committee took the following actions:

- Approved the Draft FY 2023-2024 UPWP for Public Review
- Approved scopes of work for three UPWP Tasks:
 - Task 5701 – Regional Safety Plan
 - Task 5752 – Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Resiliency Plan
 - Task 8611 – Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Freight Plan Update
- Approved five administrative modifications to the *FFY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program* as requested by Monroe County and NYSDOT:
 - Deferring phases of the Rt 18 over Northrup and Smith Creeks Bridge Replacements
 - Deferring phases of the Rt 33A over Erie Canal Bridge Replacement
 - Increasing the Total Cost of the Monroe County Highway Preventive Maintenance (No. 12)
 - Increasing the Total Cost of the RTOC Staffing (FFYs 2023-2027)
 - Changing the funding source of the I-490 from Garnsey Rd to I-90 Preventive Maintenance

b. GTC Staff Report

James Stack highlighted two staff planning activities:

1. The Planning Committee has approved a scope of work for a Regional Resiliency Plan based on guidance for PROTECT Formula Funds; and

2. Staff presented to RTS Leadership Team about the 2024 Solar Eclipse. The Local Task Force, of which GTC is a member, has over 400 active participants. The Rochester area seen as a national leader on planning for this big event.

c. Old Business

1. Federal Legislative and Funding Update

FFY 2023 Appropriations

James Stack reported Congress passed & President signed a Continuing Resolution on December 16 which extended Federal programs funded through December 23. Then Congress passed an Omnibus Appropriation bill on December 23, which included a short Continuing Resolution through December 30 to allow time for process to transmit the budget to the President for signature. The annual budget includes \$106.3 billion for USDOT, an increase of \$3.4 billion higher than last year

USDOT discretionary grant opportunities

James Stack provided an overview of upcoming discretionary grant opportunities from USDOT and resources available to navigate the application process.

Erik Frisch asked about the status of the Carbon Reduction Program. Jim responded that two eligible projects would be considered under Item 6c. These would obligate funds in the current fiscal year in advance of a Statewide Carbon Reduction Plan to be submitted to FHWA at the end of 2023. He also confirmed that the funds can be 'rolled over' a total of three years.

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. Adopting the FY 2023-2024 UPWP

Jody Binnix reported 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 nine-county Genesee-Finger Lakes Region. The Fiscal Year 2023-2024 UPWP will support planning activities for the period beginning April 1, 2023 and ending March 31, 2024. Projects included in the current UPWP that are not complete as of March 31, 2023 will be rolled over into the FY 2023-2024 UPWP.

An updated UPWP application was used for this cycle of funding. The new application considered the ten planning factors that MPOs must address through federal transportation planning legislation and asked applicants to consider the

recommendations presented in the Long Range Transportation Plan for the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region 2045 (LRTP 2045) as they related to their proposal.

GTC received applications for 20 projects requesting about \$1.5 million dollars or around 30 percent more federal funds than available. About \$1.1 million was made available for new projects.

GTC staff worked with the UPWP Development Committee, or UDC, consisting of representatives of the member agencies in the Regional Core, to prioritize project proposals. The UDC met during November and December to review applications. This effort resulted in a project list and a complete draft UPWP document for public review. The Planning Committee approved the project list and a complete draft UPWP, for a 30-day public review from January 10 through February 8.

During this public review period, GTC staff received public comments that were shared with the Planning Committee on February 9. As part of the public review process, GTC received editorial comments concerning the UPWP narrative from the New York State Department of Transportation Planning Bureau. None of the comments received were significant enough to alter the list of projects recommended for funding. All of the public comments and staff responses are provided in the meeting package.

Richard Perrin moved to approve proposed Resolution 23-1; Scott Leathersich seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

- b. Accepting reports as evidence of completion of UPWP Tasks / Proposed Resolutions 23-2

James Stack noted that Proposed Resolution 23-2 was reviewed and recommended for GTC Board approval by the Planning Committee at its January 5, 2023 meeting.

1. Accepting the Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Performance Measurement Monitoring and Evaluation System as evidence of UPWP Task 7620 / Resolution 23-2

Joe Bovenzi reported that the purpose of this project was to establish a program for collecting and evaluating transportation system operations data generated by the James R. Pond Regional Traffic Operations Center (RTOC), and reporting performance measures based on that data. The program was advanced in two phases. Phase I was about understanding the RTOC's needs in terms of performance measurement. This included a review of what operations data was currently being collected, how it was managed and used, and what were the gaps in data sources, as well as looking at the potential capabilities of a performance measurement system.

The focus of Phase II was on developing and implementing a performance measurement system. The core function of the system is a ticketing module, which enables operators to track problems from initial detection through to resolution. The ticketing function is linked to a reporting module, which enables operators to identify patterns in service dispatching. Data from the ticketing

module can be analyzed by the reporting module to identify trends in service calls, potential improvements to incident responses, recurring issues with Intelligent Transportation System field instrumentation, or problem areas on a specific stretch of roadway.

This system should be understood as a work in progress. The initial development work is complete, but the system is designed to be modified and adapted in response to changing needs and conditions. It can be updated by RTOC staff without the need for external support and does not require any licensing agreements to maintain.

Rochelle Stein moved to approve proposed Resolution 23-3; Joel Kleinberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

- c. Amending the *FFYs 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program* / Proposed Resolutions 23-3 through 23-5

Chairperson LeFeber suggested grouping proposed Resolutions 23-3 through 23-5 into a single action; no Member or Alternate objected.

James Stack noted that Proposed Resolutions 23-3 through 23-5 were reviewed and recommended for GTC Board approval by the Planning Committee at its February 9, 2023 meeting. He noted the following for each of the projects:

1. Deferring phases of the Rt 31 from City Line to I-590 Preventive Maintenance project / Resolution 23-3 (NYSDOT)

James Stack reported that this amendment is requested by NYSDOT. The change in schedule allows additional conversation with the Town of Brighton related to realigning Town streets intersecting with Monroe Avenue at a skew as well as other corridor upgrades. This cannot be achieved within the current schedule.

2. Deferring phases of the Rt 15 Corridor Operation Enhancement Project / Resolution 23-4 (NYSDOT)

James Stack reported that this amendment is requested by NYSDOT. Region 4 is pursuing contracted engineering services to supplement their in-house design efforts. Based on recent projects, they have realized this method requires more lead time. This project is programmed with funded managed by NYSDOT Main Office that are not available to any other project. Construction will be deferred beyond the current TIP horizon.

3. Adding the Operations Building Improvements project / Resolution 23-5 (RGRTA)

James Stack reported that this amendment is requested by RGRTA. This was one of two projects identified to utilize the Carbon Reduction Program funds dedicated to the Rochester Large Urban area. Each provided a full year allocation. The other project supports the Regional Traffic Operations Center, which will free up funds that can be used on other projects. This change in source of federal funds was achieved by Planning Committee action on February 9.

Tom Fry moved to approve proposed Resolutions 23-3 through 23-5; **Erik Frisch** seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

- d. Amending the National Performance Measures Report for the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region and the FFYs 2023-2027 TIP by revising the HSIP and Highway Safety Performance Targets / Proposed Resolution 23-6

Alex Kone reported that the Highway Safety Improvement Program Report and the Highway Safety Strategic Plan are updated annually by NYSDOT and the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Council, respectively. They collaborate on setting statewide targets. GTC has previously agreed to support the State's targets and include them in the National Performance Measures Report and the FFYs 23-27 TIP. He noted that though some of the targets for 2023 are higher than those previously established for 2022, but they are still a reduction below the updated baseline of 2020.

Alex provided an update of the actual performance measured against the targets for the calendar year of 2021. Only the Number of Fatalities met the targeted reduction and the other measures failed to make significant progress. He noted that there have been changes to data standardization and collection relating to serious injuries since the targets were initially set. An HSIP Implementation Plan will be submitted by NYSDOT Main Office that will document strategies to meet its targets and renewing its commitment to priority Strategic Highway Safety Plan Emphasis Areas.

Tom Fry moved to approve proposed Resolution 23-6; **Richard Perrin** seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

7. New Business

- a. GTC Office

James Stack invited Board members to visit the new GTC office at CityPlace following the meeting.

- b. Genesee County Emergency Routing

Rochelle Stein discussed the impacts of Winter Storm Elliott, which struck the western part of the region in late December 2022, severely impacting four towns in Genesee County. The Thruway was closed because of the storm, and traffic was forced onto local roads and into communities that were unprepared to handle it. Over 1,000 travelers were stranded in Genesee County because of the storm. Many of these travelers found temporary shelter in restaurants and other businesses in the area, and it was only through the generosity and extraordinary efforts of residents and business owners that the stranded travelers were taken care of. She noted there were no fatalities in Genesee County. Many travelers were foreigners on their way to visit family in Canada for the holiday season, and there was a language barrier in helping some of them.

She noted that there needs to be improved communication and coordination with mapping providers like Google and Meta so that travelers are given effective guidance to help them avoid severe winter weather, and can find their way out of the hazard area instead of deeper into it. Jim Stack responded that, through his participation on

the AMPO Policy Committee, he will raise this issue and discuss potential next steps with his peers from around the country.

8. Next Meeting

Chairperson LeFeber stated that the next GTC Board meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2023 at RGRTA.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.