

MEMORANDUM

TO: GTC Planning Committee Members and Alternates
FROM: James Stack, Executive Director JS
DATE: February 2, 2023
SUBJECT: Proposed Council Resolution 23-1 (*Adopting the FY 2023-2024 UPWP*)

The following items are presented for your consideration:

1. Proposed Council Resolution 23-1 (*Adopting the FY 2023-2024 UPWP*)

Pending Planning Committee review and input on items 2 and 3 (below), GTC staff will finalize the *FY 2023-2024 Unified Planning Work Program* (UPWP) for GTC Board consideration and action on February 23, 2023.

2. Public Comments

The public review period began January 9, 2023 and ends February 8, 2023. As of February 3, 2023 GTC has received the following comments on the Draft *FY 2023-2024 UPWP*:

- I would like to suggest an expansion to the RTS On Demand Service. The service currently cuts off directly at the nearest intersection to my home and neighborhood which causes many problems as far as accessibility. I am 30 years old and have medical conditions that make it so that when I have good moments I need to be able to access transit such as RTS on Demand to be able to do basic things and be a part of my community. I can't get out the way it is except to medical appointments. I know that Paratransit is available. But that takes resources away from those who are wheelchair bound. Yes I'm disabled and require a cane to walk, but the other issue is that it costs more to use Paratransit, funds I don't have. I tried to ask RTS if they could make an exception because I'm literally right there next to the line to allow me to use the service and they wanted to, but said that they weren't able to because of the way the funding is done via the transportation committee and council. RTS has been amazing and stayed in contact with me. They truly want to help make this more accessible to people like me but are being held back by long governmental tape that really needs to give them more leeway to be able to tailor to the needs of the communities they serve better. When you're like me. You don't have the luxury of busses running around us. We are close to Latta and Flynn Road in North Greece and are located directly off the first street in the other side of Latta. Right there at the cutoff. Being unable to work at 30 years old is not a fun experience. The illnesses I deal with only provide me with good moments, not good days. And I need to be able to take advantage of these good moments at a moments notice. I used to use RTS every single day for most of my life when I lived in the city. I loved it. Unfortunately after my mom passed I had to move out to North Greece with my partner because of my health issues. Everything sort of happened at once. It has been very hard being here without a way to access my community around me. I'm not privileged enough to be able to walk down and wait

at Latta and Flynn due to my health issues. I would if I could. I miss being able to be a part of everything. To just even go to the library, the pharmacy for my medications. To have some sense of independence out here because right now I have to rely on everyone else and it is such an awful thing to go through. They graciously help me, but the fact is I am stuck. Many others in our neighborhood too also complain that the service isn't available to them. It's great it covers Latta Road up to here. But that is only a handful of addresses and not the actual neighborhoods that are right there with tons and tons of people like me that remain cut off from our city, our own town, and the surrounding areas. So many of the people here would benefit from it. Not just people like me. With gas rising, many want alternatives and want decent public transportation. Of course if we had a decent rail system that would be great but that's a whole other story. In the meantime, we need service in the Old Country Road and particularly Crestway Lane areas sooner rather than later. It is awful to be tormented by the vehicles that remain just out of reach from us at the plazas right there down the road. And that sometimes even come up through our neighborhood to turn around. Having them drive past is even more heartbreaking knowing I have no access to something that shouldn't be an issue. When you have such a great organization like RTS who wants nothing more than to provide that access they need the okay to do so and the funding to do so. This service has proven to be an amazing benefit to so many here. It's time it is a benefit to us too and not just a singular strip. I helped make calls to my local officials here in Greece as a customer advocating for this push for On Demand services years back and to have done that and not be able to access it is even worse. It leaves you feeling used and honestly less than. I know that's not the goal of the Council and I hope the council will find it in their heart to do the right thing and allow an expansion to the Crestway Lane neighborhood ASAP.

Additionally, the following emails were received as part of the UPWP Public Review campaign, but they are "off-topic" and not directly related to the Draft UPWP document:

- GTC, Hello! Hope all is well. I was really hoping the Town Of Phelps Highway Department could be included in this. I see the Village of Phelps is. But at this point not the Town Of Phelps. We have tried to secure Grant Funding from various sources. If you could help the Town Of Phelps Highway in anyway possible it would be greatly appreciated. Our local mines help to provide the resources many other local municipalities need to maintain their local roads. If any additional funding could be secured to help the Town Of Phelps improve and maintain our roads. It would be greatly appreciated. Some of our roads are in need of major capital funding to help improve safety and betterment for the community. Please take our Town into consideration.
- Hello! Hope all is well. I was hoping the Town Of Phelps Highway Department would be included in this. We have tried to secure Grant Funding from numerous sources. Any help would be appreciated.

GTC staff responded to all the public comments received via email and/or through the PublicInput.com platform. Based on the public comments received to date, GTC staff is not recommending any modifications to the Draft *FY 2023-2024 UPWP*. Any and all additional public comments received will be presented to the Planning Committee for its consideration at the February 9, 2023 meeting.

3. Draft *FY 2023-2024 UPWP*

The Draft *FY 2023-2024 UPWP* contains the program of planning activities that will be conducted under the auspices of GTC using federal transportation funds beginning April 1, 2023. The Draft *FY 2023-2024 UPWP* was presented at the January 5 Planning Committee meeting. The Draft *FY 2023-2024 UPWP* is available on the GTC website (https://www.gtcmpo.org/sites/default/files/pdf/2023/upwp_23-24_draft.pdf) for reference.

Recommended Action:

Recommend action by GTC Board on proposed Council Resolution 23-1.

GENESEE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

Resolution 23-1 Adopting the *FY 2023-2024 Unified Planning Work Program*

WHEREAS,

1. The development of a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) in conformance with federal guidelines helps consolidate and coordinate the transportation planning activities conducted by the Genesee Transportation Council (GTC) and member agencies;
2. The UPWP provides a mutually agreed upon document which identifies, at a minimum, federally-funded transportation planning activities to be undertaken in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region (as the GTC Planning Area) during the program year, regardless of funding source;
3. The *FY 2023-2024 UPWP* specifically assigns planning task responsibilities to appropriate agencies and identifies the objective, process, schedule, products, proposed budget and source(s) of funds for each task;
4. The *FY 2023-2024 UPWP* has been developed in accordance with the regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation which require a discussion of the important transportation issues facing the area to be used as the framework for selecting specific program activities; and
5. The *FY 2023-2024 UPWP* has been developed with full recognition of and responsiveness to related federal regulations and guidelines governing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), all relevant prior surface transportation authorizing legislation, the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, *Long Range Transportation Plan for the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region 2045*, and *2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program*, among others.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. That the Genesee Transportation Council hereby adopts the *FY 2023-2024 Unified Planning Work Program* as the official UPWP for the GTC Planning Area in accordance with relevant sections of Titles 23 and 49 of the United States Code and the May 27, 2016 Metropolitan Transportation Planning Final Rule; and
2. That the Council authorizes the immediate filing of appropriate applications by the New York State Department of Transportation on behalf of GTC to the appropriate federal agencies, including that for Metropolitan Planning and statewide Planning and Research funds to FHWA, Metropolitan Planning Program funds to FTA, and any other such funds as may become available, for distribution in accordance with this UPWP.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned duly qualified Secretary of the Genesee Transportation Council certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Genesee Transportation Council held on February 23, 2023.

Date _____

CHRISTOPHER REEVE, Secretary
Genesee Transportation Council