

# Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Thruway Detour Route Management Plan

## Scope of Work

### A. Objective

To develop a plan that will identify strategies to improve traffic management on the NYS Thruway detour routes in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region.

### B. Background

The purpose of this project is to identify strategies to improve traffic management on the NYS Thruway detour routes in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region. These detour routes were established by the Thruway Authority to provide designated routes for motorists to follow in the event the Thruway (I-90) is closed due to severe weather, a major crash, or some other incident requiring a closure.

This project has two main objectives: 1) To identify the interagency coordination activities required to effectively manage the Thruway detour routes in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region in the event the Thruway is closed, and 2) To identify the optimal location for Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) field instrumentation along these detour routes, especially at "decision points" (key interchanges and intersections where motorists require guidance and updates on travel conditions).

This project is a direct response to the detour route management challenges faced by regional transportation agencies when the Thruway is closed due to inclement weather, a major incident, or some other event. For example, in December 2022, a severe winter storm struck the Buffalo metropolitan area and caused significant travel disruptions, including closures on state highways in the region. The Thruway was closed from the NY/PA state line to I-390 and the Thruway Authority attempted to direct westbound truck traffic from I-90 south along I-390 to I-86. However, many trucks attempted to head west on Routes 5 & 20, where they became stranded. By investigating ITS deployments and management strategies along the Thruway's detour routes, this project will improve the ability of regional transportation agencies to communicate with freight carriers and other travelers on the detour routes. This will enable operators and first responders to better respond to issues on the detours as well as maintain situational awareness about travel conditions on those routes.

### C. Tasks

The Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Thruway Detour Route Management Plan will be accomplished through the successful completion of the following tasks:

1. Establish a Steering Committee of representatives from stakeholder agencies responsible for managing the Thruway's detour routes, including but not limited to: the New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA), the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), the New York State Police (NYSP); County highway and emergency management agencies for those counties with detour routes (Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, and Seneca); and fire departments with service areas that include the detour routes. In addition to these agencies, this project will include coordination with the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional

Transportation Council (GBNRTC) and the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC), as well as agencies responsible for managing the Thruway detour routes along the I-90 corridor in the counties to the east and west of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region.

2. Develop and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP). The Steering Committee will review and comment on the RFP before it is released. The Steering Committee will evaluate consultant proposals and select a preferred consultant, or consultant team, to complete tasks 3 through 8 below.
3. The consultant will develop an inventory of current ITS field instrumentation along the Thruway detour routes and analyze current detour route management policies and practices. This task will include detour routes within the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region as well as detour routes in Erie County to the west and Cayuga and Onondaga Counties to the east, respectively.
4. The consultant will identify desired future ITS-related capabilities for monitoring traffic operations, specifically freight operations, along the detour routes.
5. The consultant will identify the preferred locations of future ITS field instrumentation required to realize those capabilities, including power and communications links, cost estimates, and an analysis of potential funding sources for ITS deployments.
6. The consultant will develop an asset management strategy for current and planned ITS field instrumentation.
7. The consultant will identify inter-agency coordination activities needed for managing the detour routes, including communications with local law enforcement, first responder, and municipal agencies.
8. The consultant will combine the outcomes of Tasks 3-7 to produce a Draft Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Thruway Detour Route Management Plan for Steering Committee review.
9. The consultant will review and update the Draft Plan to produce a Final Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Thruway Detour Route Management Plan, including an Executive Summary and associated technical appendices, with identified funding source(s) for multiyear project needs.

#### **D. Products**

1. Steering Committee meeting materials (agendas, presentations, handouts, etc.).
2. Draft Thruway Detour Route Management Plan in electronic (PDF and MS Word) formats.
3. Final Thruway Detour Route Management Plan in electronic (PDF and MS Word) formats.
4. GIS files and associated data for all maps.

#### **E. Public Participation Plan**

Per the GTC Public Participation Policy, this project is classified as a Technical/Data Collection Project. Accordingly, no public input activities are required or will be undertaken.

**F. Schedule**

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Scope of work approved                        | May 2024              |
| 2. Consultant selection                          | September 2024        |
| 3. Develop inventory                             | December 2024         |
| 4. Identify ITS locations and specifications     | January-February 2025 |
| 5. Develop asset management strategy             | March-April 2025      |
| 6. Identify inter-agency coordination activities | May-June 2025         |
| 7. Final report completed                        | July 2025             |
| 8. Financial closeout                            | August 2025           |

**G. Project Budget**

Sources of Funds		Uses of Funds	
	<u>FY 2024-25</u>		<u>FY 2024-25</u>
<u>Federal Funds</u>		<u>GTC</u>	
FHWA	\$125,000	Staff	\$0
FTA	0	Contractual	0
Subtotal	<u>\$125,000</u>	Subtotal	<u>\$0</u>
<u>Matching Funds</u>		<u>Other Agency</u>	
State (In-kind)	\$0	Staff	\$0
Local (In-kind)	5,108	Contractual	125,000
Local (Cash)	0	In-kind Exp.	5,108
Subtotal	<u>\$5,108</u>	Subtotal	<u>\$130,108</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$130,108</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>\$130,108</u>