

**GENESEE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

**February 15, 2024
9:30 a.m.**

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Ellis, Livingston County
Thomas Frys, Monroe County (Executive)
Kevin Kelley, City of Rochester – Planning Commission
Scott Leathersich, Monroe County – At-Large
Yixuan Lin, Monroe County (Monroe County Planning Board)
David Lindsay, Monroe County – At-Large
Richard Perrin, City of Rochester (Mayor)
David Riley, City of Rochester – At Large
Kevin Rooney, Wayne County
Richard Sutherland, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
Jennifer Terry, Federal Transit Administration
Jason Wolfanger, Livingston County

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Eric Farr, Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority, representing Miguel Velázquez
Joel Kleinberg, NYS Department of Transportation, representing Chris Reeve
Laura Wadhams, Genesee County, representing Tim Hens

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND UNREPRESENTED

Devin Blue, Wyoming County
John Boser, NYS Thruway Authority
Ben Fischer, Federal Highway Administration
Stephen Golding, Empire State Development Corporation
Jill Henry, Seneca County
Evelyn Martinez, Federal Aviation Administration
John Papponetti, Orleans County
Douglas Rapalee, Yates County
James Smith, Rochester City Council
Bill Wright, Ontario County
Vacant, Monroe County Legislature
Vacant, Monroe County Supervisors' Association
Vacant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jody Binnix, GTC staff	Corinda Reaves, RGRTA
Joe Bovenzi, GTC staff	Charlie Rieck, GTC staff
Cody Donahue, Reconnect Rochester	Chris Sichak, Erdman Anthony
David Kruse, Passero Associates	James Stack, GTC staff
Jenny Lowenstein, G/FLRPC	Kelsey Wessel, C&S Companies
Lori Maher, GTC staff	

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Scott Leathersich, Planning Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:30 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 January 11, 2024 Planning Committee meeting; Richard Sutherland seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

4. Announcements and Old Business

None to report.

5. Action Items

a) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

1. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning adopting the FY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program / Proposed Council Resolution 24-1

Jody Binnix presented. As reported in January, the Unified Planning Work Program, or UPWP, is the program of federally-funded transportation planning activities to be undertaken by GTC staff, its member agencies, and other jurisdictions in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region. The Fiscal Year 2024-2025 UPWP will support planning activities for the period beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025. Projects included in the current UPWP that are not complete as of March 31, 2024 will be rolled over into the FY 2024-2025 UPWP.

A full draft document was presented for your consideration and approval for a 30-day public review. The public review period was conducted from January 15 through February 14 using the PublicInput.com platform.

The New York State Department of Transportation Planning Bureau in Albany sent along editorial comments. GTC staff will be making editorial corrections to the UPWP. These edits will not create any technical changes to the draft UPWP program as presented.

Unsuccessful applicants have been offered debriefs. GTC staff will begin scheduling these meetings once the UPWP has been formally approved by the GTC Board at their February 29 meeting.

At the time of the mailing of the Planning Committee's meeting package, on February 8, GTC had yet to receive any public comments. Since then, GTC has received two public comments. The first comment was from a resident. They are generally supportive of active transportation planning activities and would like to see increased traffic calming and snow removal policies for sidewalks and trails. This comment did not reference any specific tasks. Reconnect Rochester submitted a letter which was supportive of the active transportation planning tasks and offered suggestions for future studies supporting carbon reductions, an east/west multiuse trail and additional mass transit options. At this time, GTC staff are not recommending any changes to the draft UPWP based on the public comments received.

Jody expressed appreciation to the members of the UPWP Development Committee that helped to evaluate and recommend a program of projects that will provide for significant transportation planning activities. Scott Leathersich reiterated that appreciation.

Richard Perrin moved to approve the FY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program; Thomas Frys seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

2. Action concerning consideration of UPWP Project Scope of Work
 - a. Task 8741 – Regional Trails Initiative (RTI)

Charlie Rieck presented the project scope of work. GTC is initiating the fourth phase of their Regional Trails Initiative (RTI), spanning the entire 9-county region. The first three phases of the RTI occurred in 2002, 2004, and most recently, 2016. The RTI's overarching mission is to ensure a comprehensive trails inventory and identify ways to best enhance the regional trail network. This is a continuation of this objective. Historically, the initiative involves: an existing conditions inventory, a demand analysis, and a public engagement process to identify proposed trail projects to add to the network. Final reports have been accompanied by a suite of trail network recommendations.

This fourth update to the RTI will reflect the significant trail development that has occurred since the last regional trails initiative in 2016. Since then, the region has experienced the completion of GTC-funded trail feasibility studies, other efforts to advance trail development in the region, and changes with respect to funding sources and design guidance. As such, the regional trails initiative scope of work is articulated to have three primary objectives:

1. To amend and revise network recommendations to reflect current trails and trail gaps within the network;
2. To expand trail project descriptions, identify next steps to progress trail projects, and add detail to future steps for each existing trail plan; and
3. To simplify trail project prioritization, with a focus on inter-municipality trails & regional hubs.

One of the key objectives worth highlighting is the commitment to simplifying the trail recommendations process by developing a project prioritization framework. The 2016, Phase 3, Regional Trails Initiative (RTI) yielded over 120 trail project recommendations. We recognize the importance of a strategic approach in the trail development process, from starting as a proposed idea and progressing through to a capital improvement project. The development of a prioritization framework will identify trail project elements that influence proposed trail development. The prioritization framework will help assess which proposed trails are best suited to focus further efforts and resources. Priority Project Fact Sheets will be delivered for the top-ranking recommendations.

Yixuan Lin asked if this study will be conducted in house by GTC staff. Charlie and Jody replied that a consultant will be hired and the project will have broad Steering Committee representation across the region. Jim Stack added that this initiative goes back about 20 years and will build on previous efforts, it will include community input and will complement ongoing efforts.

Thomas Frys moved to approve the UPWP Scope of Work for Task 8741; Joel Kleinberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

3. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning accepting reports as evidence of completion of UPWP Tasks
 - a. Task 5362 – The Last Mile (or less): Site Plan Review for Multimodal Transportation

Jenny Lowenstein presented the project closeout. The objective of this project was to provide a guide and training for municipalities to use when updating their site plan review process. Often site plan review does not address the details related to pedestrians and bicyclists. The site plan review and approval process should address all user groups and non-motorized forms of transportation. This project aimed to help communities evaluate their current site plan review process to support multimodal transportation.

A survey was sent to code enforcement officers and planning board members in all 188 municipalities. This survey generated great feedback with over 100 communities responding to it.

G/FLRPC staff held a training session with ten Monroe County municipalities to discuss site plan review and learn from one another. Staff also presented the results of this effort at the 2023 Local Government Workshop. The presentation included tools, resources, and examples of things that should be included in the site plan review process. About 25 people attended. The presentation is available on the G/FLRPC website.

Additional deliverables included a guidebook which covers topics including examples of good design, site plan review procedures, best practices, resources. Examples from across the region were included in the Guidebook. The Town of Greece in particular has noteworthy practices.

Jim Stack noted that he is pleased that G/FLRPC identified best practices occurring within the region. This makes the Guidebook practical and realistic for regional stakeholders.

Yixuan Lin noted that the Monroe County Planning Department conducts an internal site plan review process as part of its overall development review process, and this will be a great resource to send out to local municipalities.

b. Task 6216 – City of Rochester Downtown Sign Assessment

Joe Bovenzi presented the project closeout. He reported that the purpose of this project was to study the location and condition of existing signage for I-490, the Inner Loop expressways, and NYS touring routes throughout and surrounding the City of Rochester's downtown core. In recent years, the downtown Rochester area has undergone several transformative redevelopment projects that have significantly altered traffic patterns. A reevaluation of existing route signage, last studied in the 1960s, was needed to provide insights on the improvement wayfinding and mobility through the downtown area.

NYS Routes 15, 15A, 31, 33, 33A, 96, 383, and Bicycle Route 5 were analyzed for this project. An inventory of current sign location and condition was developed, based in part on a city database of sign locations. Major traffic generators, including entertainment venues, government buildings, and parking garages were identified. Recommendations were developed for replacing some signs based on their condition, and relocating other signs based on changing travel patterns. This project also considered the impacts of two major projects, the Inner Loop North reconstruction and the Broad Street Aqueduct Reimagined, on traffic patterns. The preferred design concept for the Inner Loop North was used to identify potential new sign locations, which could change based on changes to the street layout. A potential rerouting of NYS Route 31 from Broad Street to Main Street through downtown, with associated sign locations, was also identified. The final report will provide city, county, and state staff with a strategy for maintaining and replacing highway signage.

David Riley thanked the committee for its support of this project.

Joel Kleinberg stated that NYSDOT will be looking for opportunities to implement the signage recommendations listed in the report.

c. Task 7578 – Lakeville Corridor Strategic Plan

Kelsey Wessel, of C&S Companies, presented the project closeout. The objective was to develop a streetscape/design plan that focuses on access management, stormwater mitigation, and active transportation improvements for Route 20A corridor – just over a mile stretch of road in the Hamlet of Lakeville. The project team worked with the Steering Committee and members of the public to create project goals. The goals included protecting and promoting Conesus Lake; providing multi-modal accommodations; improving intersection function and safety; implementing access management; and to creating a sense of place.

The process started with an inventory and data collection, vision and needs assessment, and recommendations. Capital recommendations included a potential roundabout at the intersection of Route 20A and Route 15 and bicycle accommodations along Route 20A. Services and programming recommendations included wayfinding signage; a share the road campaign; and promotion of active transportation. Policy recommendations included a pedestrian overlay zone; updates to the zoning code to include stronger stormwater management policies to protect the lake; and better access management policies to reduce driveway widths to better accommodate bikes and pedestrians.

Three public engagement sessions were held that were well attended. PublicInput.com was used for a preference survey regarding recommendations.

Angela Ellis stated that this project was the first for Livingston County that blended together different elements (e.g., stormwater, resiliency, access management, etc.). The project will be incorporated into the update to the Conesus Lake watershed management plan update. Angela further noted that the Steering Committee was extremely engaged and thanked everyone for their participation.

d. Task 8752 – Village of Warsaw Active Transportation Plan

David Kruse, of Passero Associates, presented the project closeout. The project team consisted of Passero Associates and Ingalls Planning and Design. The goals of the project were to accommodate aging (and youthful) population through a more robust multimodal network; to develop additional connectivity between people and places through desired trail network, enhanced pedestrian network, and bicycle treatments; and leverage existing natural features, historical downtown, and neighborhood fabric.

Two rounds of in-person public engagement were conducted and the PublicInput.com platform was used. The community desired options for increased walking and biking.

Recommendations included multimodal friendly land use and zoning updates; trail access from Warsaw Park to Warsaw Falls and pedestrian enhancements at Warsaw Park; trail access from Linwood to Old Buffalo Road (and beyond); and strategic installation of streetlights and street trees. Cost estimates were developed, and implementation strategies that identified both public and private funding sources were noted. Additionally, twelve priority projects were identified to give the Village quicker wins. This report could be a chapter in the updated Comprehensive Plan to influence land use regulatory items.

Scott Leathersich asked if this report could be part of the Village Comprehensive Plan. David replied that it could supplement the transportation component of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

Joel Kleinberg moved to accept the reports as evidence of completion of UPWP tasks; Angela Ellis seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

b) Transportation Improvement Program

1. Action concerning modifying the *FFYs 2023-2027 TIP* / Planning Committee Resolutions 24-01 and 24-02
 - a. Modifying phases of the Rt 31, Rt 31A, and Redman Rd Intersection project / Proposed Planning Committee Resolution 24-01

Joel Kleinberg reported that the purpose of this change is to modify the Detailed Design and Right-of-Way Acquisition phases of this project. The engineering phases of this project were “seed funded”, but no funds were identified for the construction phases. The intent was to apply for grants or take advantage of TIP funding if it became available for construction. However, no construction funds are currently available for this project. The Right-of-Way estimate is only valid for twelve months, so that work would have to be redone since there are no construction funds. Design approval could be delivered this year, but there is no rush to complete that phase since there are no construction funds for the project. Therefore, the Detailed Design phase will be deferred by one year.

- b. Deferring phases of the Rt 19 over Black Creek Bridge Replacement (BIN 1015260) project / Proposed Planning Committee Resolution 24-02

Joel Kleinberg reported that this project requires a wetland delineation that will be completed by a consultant. However, the delineation process has been delayed due to onboarding the consultant. This work cannot be completed during the winter and must wait for the spring thaw. Therefore, the Detailed Design and Right-of-Way Acquisition phases are being deferred into the following federal fiscal year. There is no change to the project cost.

Richard Sutherland moved to approve Planning Committee Resolutions 24-01 and 24-02; Thomas Frys seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

2. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning amending the *FFYs 2023-2027 TIP* / Proposed Council Resolution 24-07
 - a. Deferring select phases of FTA-funded projects / Proposed Council Resolution 24-07

Jim Stack reported that on February 8, RTS alerted GTC staff that FTA had requested that various project phases for eleven FTA-funded projects be realigned from FFY 2023 to FFY 2024. This will require board action to accomplish. It is also time sensitive; staff cannot wait until the June board meeting to process this change. These changes have not been reviewed by the TIP Development Committee (TDC), and therefore there is no recommendation from the TDC. FTA funds are available for multiple years and can be rolled over into the following years. These changes do not impact other projects and will not impact fiscal constraint. There is one resolution for all eleven projects because the change is the same all the projects, and including all these changes on one resolution makes it easier to track them.

Yixuan Lin moved to recommend approval of Resolution 24-07; David Riley 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: GTC staff are coordinating with the Executive Committee to finalize the selection of a new space.
- Long Range Transportation Plan Update/ Implementation: No activity to report.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Scenario Tool: Staff has had conversations with the City of Rochester and local foundations on a project to assess the health impact of the Inner Loop North preferred concept. This could be an opportunity for a unique partnership this year.
- Staff Technical Assistance: Processed data from the former Village of Lyons has been provided to GTC. Staff are compiling a report to present the information. Staff will also be sharing with NYSDOT to compare to traditional methodology.
- Household Travel Data Collection: No activity to report.

- Active Transportation Program: No activity to report.
- Complete Streets Program: No activity to report.
- Safety Planning: No activity to report.
- Regional Safety Plan: No activity to report.
- Security & Resiliency Planning: No activity to report.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Resiliency Plan: The RFP was released on January 19 with proposals due March 1. GTC staff have distributed 25 RFP packages.
- 2024 Eclipse Planning: GTC staff have limited information on anticipated crowd sizes at viewing locations. Staff are working through strategies for traffic modeling purposes. Staff continue to participate in various stakeholder meetings (e.g., Rochester Task Force, Monroe and other county emergency management offices).
- 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: The consultant confirmed criteria for evaluating recommendations. The Transportation Needs Assessment and Benefit Cost Analysis are nearing completion. The next Steering Committee meeting is anticipated in March.
- Transportation Performance Management Enhancement Project: No activity to report.
- Greater Rochester Transportation Management Association Feasibility Study: The first Project Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for March 5.
- Regional Freight Plan Update: The second Steering Committee meeting was held January 26. Stakeholders have been identified and consultation meeting started this week.
- Regional Trails Initiative Update: The Scope of Work was presented under Agenda Item 5.a.2.a.

G/FLRPC – Richard Sutherland reported:

- *G/FLRPC* Regional Land Use Monitoring (CY 2023): Surveys for the 2023 calendar year are out for all 188 municipalities and responses are being collected.
- The Last Mile (or less): The project was presented for Close Out under Agenda Item 5.a.3.a.
- Regional Alternative Fuel Vehicle Infrastructure Tools: The project is on hold until a new staff member is brought on board. A February 2025 completion date is anticipated.

Livingston County – Jim Stack reported:

- Lakeville Corridor Strategic Plan: The project was presented for Close Out under Agenda Item 5.a.3.c.

Monroe County – Yixuan Lin, Tom Frys, and Joe Bovenzi reported:

- Land Use Monitoring (CY 2023): Monroe County Planning will send out the survey by the end of the month.
- Traffic Signal Preemption Study: The next Steering Committee has been scheduled for March 12 at the Regional Traffic Operations Center (RTOC).
- High Accident Location Program: There are currently two locations along Dewey Avenue and five locations along Lyell Avenue in process. Seven additional locations are undergoing site visits. Three additional locations have been completed.
- Elmwood Avenue Bike Infrastructure Feasibility Study: This project has been withdrawn.
- Monroe County Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan: The project was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its December 14, 2023 meeting.

NYSDOT – 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 did not receive any proposals by the January 19 due date. GTC staff are coordinating with NYSDOT staff on a course of action going forward.
- City of Rochester Downtown Sign Assessment: The project was presented for Close Out under Agenda Item 5.a.3.b.

Ontario County – Jody Binnix reported:

- Ontario County Freight Rail Corridor Development Plan: The Steering Committee comments on the Inventory and Analysis Technical Memorandum were discussed between the consultant, Ontario County, and GTC. The next Steering Committee meeting is anticipated in late March or early April. An in-person site tour of the Finger Lakes Railway is being scheduled with the consultant, Ontario County, and GTC.

City of Rochester – David Riley and Jody Binnix reported:

- ADA Right-of-Way Transition Plan: Four proposals were received and consultant selection is underway.
- Joseph Avenue ArtWalk Master Plan: The contract is being finalized.
- Genesee Riverway Trail Completion Study: Six proposals were received. The consultant selection committee will meet the week of February 26 to discuss next steps.

- Inner Loop North Mobility and Development Strategy: The RFP was posted on February 9 and proposals are due March 15.
- City of Rochester Active Transportation Master Plan: The project was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its December 14, 2023 meeting.

RGRTA – Eric Farr reported:

- Origin-Destination Study: The project contract has been extended to allow for completion of the final report.
- Service Performance Monitoring and Refinement: Updates have been identified for the next quarter and recommended service changes will be implemented in April.
- 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 vendor, Via, is working on draft recommendations.
- 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 A preferred consultant has been identified and GTC staff is preparing the contract.

Other Agencies –

Jim Stack reported:

- Arcade Multi-Use Trail Feasibility Study: The project was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its December 14, 2023 meeting.

Jody Binnix reported:

- Canal Ponds Business Park Connectivity Study: A draft report was provided to the Steering Committee for review and comment on January 24. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for February 15.

Jim Stack reported:

- West Webster Hamlet Revitalization Plan: The project was accepted by the GTC Board for closeout at its December 14, 2023 meeting.

Joe Bovenzi reported:

- Village of Fairport Zoning Code Update: Project coordination meeting held January 18. The first Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for February 15.

Jim Stack reported:

- Village of Warsaw Active Transportation Plan: Presented for Close Out under Agenda Item 5.a.3.d.

- Town of Rush Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan: The contract has been executed. Project Advisory Committee members have been identified. The consultant is preparing for a project kick-off meeting.

b) Status of SS4A Program

Jim Stack reported that on January 23 GTC staff participated in an FHWA webinar for new SS4A grant recipients. This webinar provided an overview of the process for developing a project agreement, which GTC will hold directly with FHWA instead of through the state. A separate FHWA NY webinar for awardees in New York State is also anticipated. Staff has been researching requirements and is developing draft RFPs, which will allow staff to proceed with the project as quickly as possible once an agreement with FHWA is executed.

c) 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.

d) Federal Legislative and Funding Update

FFY 2024 – Federal Budget

Jim Stack reported that Congress has not passed a full appropriations bill. Congress passed and the president signed a third Continuing Resolution that extends government funding through March 1st for Housing and Transportation, Agriculture, Energy and Water Programs, and Military and Veterans Affairs.

USDOT Discretionary Programs

Jim Stack provided an overview discretionary funding opportunities through USDOT. He noted that applications for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant opportunity are due February 28.

Jim noted several USDOT grant opportunities anticipated to be released in the spring and summer.

David Riley reported that the city anticipates resubmitting its SS4A application.

e) Other GTC Matters

No report provided.

f) Public Engagement Highlights

Jim Stack reported that the UPWP Public Review period took place since the last meeting. The City of Rochester has an upcoming public meeting for the Bull's Head Revitalization Project.

g) Member Agency and Partner Updates

Joel Kleinberg shared an update about the status of the BRIDGE NY Program. The latest round is progressing. As a reminder the region gets an additional approximately \$29 million dollars of funding, a mixture of state and federal state aid to put in the hands of local governments. NYSDOT is not eligible for this fund source. (NOTE: Due to a malfunction with the audio/visual system in the meeting room, Joel's remarks were shared with attendees on the call, but were not heard by those in the meeting room. The information was captured on the recording and shared in the meeting minutes.)

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 April 11, 2024. All materials for items to be considered at this meeting should be submitted to GTC staff no later than Friday, March 29, 2024.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 AM.