

**GENESEE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

**January 9, 2025
9:30 a.m.**

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Megan Crowe, representing Livingston County
Tom Frys, representing Monroe County – Executive
Jill Henry, representing Seneca County
Kevin Kelley, representing City of Rochester – Planning Commission
Craig Lane, representing Orleans County
Scott Leathersich, representing Monroe County – At Large (1)
Yixuan Lin, representing Monroe County – Planning Board
David Lindsay, representing Monroe County – At Large (2)
Kabutey Ocansey, representing City of Rochester – Mayor’s Office
David Riley, representing City of Rochester – At Large
Kevin Rooney, representing Wayne County
Richard Sutherland, representing Genesee / Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

James Bragg, representing Wyoming County
Eric Farr, representing Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority
Joel Kleinberg, representing NYS Department of Transportation
Laura Wadhams, representing Genesee County

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND UNREPRESENTED

John Boser, NYS Thruway Authority
Ben Fischer, Federal Highway Administration
Stephen Golding, Empire State Development Corp.
Evelyn Martinez, Federal Aviation Administration
Douglas Rapalee, Yates County
James Smith, representing City of Rochester – Council
Jennifer Terry, Federal Transit Administration
Bill Wright, Ontario County
Vacant, Monroe County Legislature
Vacant, Monroe County – Supervisors’ Assoc.
Vacant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Al Bartolotta, GTC Staff	Henry Litsky, Reconnect Rochester
Jody Binnix, GTC Staff	Lori Maher, GTC Staff
Joe Bovenzi, GTC Staff	Jason Rearick, Seneca County
Tyler Carey, GFLRPC	Lorenzo Rotoli, LaBella
Zac Cracknell, Livingston County	Chris Sichak, Erdman Anthony
Mike Croce, Colliers Engineering	Chris Snyder, GTC Staff
Henry Herdzik, Monroe County	David Staas, GTC Staff
David Kruse, Passero	Jim Stack, GTC Staff

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Scott Leathersich, Planning Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Joe Bovenzi conducted a roll call of Committee members and alternates. The names of other attendees were captured from the meeting login information.

2. Public Forum

No one from the public spoke during the Public Forum.

3. Approval of Minutes

Thomas Frys moved to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2024 Planning Committee meeting; Yixuan Lin seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

4. Announcements and Old Business

James Stack reported:

- GTC staff are in the process of moving into their new office in the Washington Building, located about a block west of CityPlace. The new office address is: 1 South Washington Street, Suite 520, Rochester New York, 14614.

5. Action Items

a) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

1. Approval of the classification of the FY 2025-2026 Unified Planning Work Program tasks and the Draft FY 2025-2026 Unified Planning Work Program for Public Review

Jody Binnix reported that 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 nine-county Genesee-Finger Lakes Region. The Fiscal Year 2025-2026 UPWP will support planning activities for the period beginning April 1, 2025 and ending March 31, 2026. Projects included in the current UPWP that are not complete as of March 31, 2025 will be rolled over into the FY 2025-2026 UPWP.

GTC solicited UPWP proposals on September 6. The deadline for applications was October 11. GTC staff worked with the UPWP Development Committee, or UDC, to prioritize project proposals. GTC received applications for 15 projects requesting about \$1.5 million dollars. About \$1.1 million was made available for new projects.

The UDC met in November and December. The efforts of the UDC resulted in a project list, provided in your meeting package, for public review and the full draft

UPWP document, that was also included in the meeting package. The next two slides highlight the new project proposals that were funded.

Jody noted that the first slide lists Monroe County and G/FLRPC's projects. A project of note is the Genesee Valley Park Olmsted Arched Bridges Restoration Project. This project was sponsored by Monroe County but really impacts multiple member agencies including the City of Rochester and NYSDOT (bridge owner). The Rochester Olmsted Park Alliance (ROPA) is also supportive. The bridges have a unique and complex ownership dynamic. The bridges are in need of repair. As pedestrian bridges, motor vehicles are prohibited which precludes many traditional sources of transportation funding. Until the current surface transportation authorization, States were precluded from pursuing Transportation Alternatives Program funds. This project will explore future ownership frameworks and address maintenance concerns.

The next slide highlights the remaining projects. On the screen, you can see a map of the I-490 interchange just to the east of the Genesee River. The I-490 Center City Interchange Operations Mobility Study will look for opportunities to reduce the transportation footprint including the number of ramps. Some may be aware that NYSDOT recently had to close a ramp in this area due to the results of an inspection report. This project will solely focus on the feasibility of reducing the transportation footprint from a traffic operations perspective. The UDC discussed the future land use opportunities that will come with changes to the transportation infrastructure but recommended that the land use/transportation connection be explored separately. A future UPWP will likely look to fund a study to explore land use considerations, active transportation options, and how potential reductions in the transportation network interacts with the fabric of the City.

Jody continued by stating all UPWP applicants have received an email notifying them of the UDC's decision regarding their application and information on the UPWP public review process. Applicants that did not receive funding were given a brief explanation as to why their application was not successful and GTC staff offered to meet with them once the UPWP and funding decisions have been finalized.

Upon the committee's approval of the draft project list and draft UPWP, a 30-day public review will commence on Monday, January 13 and end on Wednesday, February 12. GTC will be conducting the public review process virtually, using the public input platform. Any comments received will be shared with the committee for consideration at the February 13 meeting.

David Riley moved to approve the Draft FY 2025-2026 Unified Planning Work Program for Public Review; Megan Crowe seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

2. Action concerning consideration of UPWP Project Scope of Work

a. Task 5201 – Transportation Listening Sessions

Tyler Carey discussed the study objective of the Transportation Listening Sessions. Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council and Genesee Transportation Council, in partnership, will make a deliberate effort to engage people across the Genesee-Finger Lakes nine-county region and seek input about transportation-related concerns and needs, with an emphasis on sustainability and transportation access, especially within rural communities. Input from this process will inform the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Program and the Long Range Transportation Plan for the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region 2050.

Joel Kleinberg moved to approve the UPWP Scope of Work for Task 5201; Tom Frys 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 8542 – Greater Rochester Transportation Management Association Feasibility Study

Joe Bovenzi reported on the completion of the Greater Rochester Transportation Management Association Feasibility Study. The purpose of this project was to explore the feasibility of establishing a Transportation Management Association (TMA) for the Rochester Metropolitan Planning Area. A TMA is typically a not-for-profit, member-controlled organization that provides transportation services in a designated area, such as a commercial district, medical center, or industrial park. This project was an outgrowth of the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI), which identified a TMA as a potential strategy to help break the poverty cycle in the Rochester area by focusing on improving employee access to job and job training sites. The TMA is intended to compliment, not compete, with transit services. The Project Advisory Committee included representatives from regional not-for-profits, job training and higher education institutions, and public sector agencies. The report identified six strategies required to establish a TMA, and the actions for each strategy during the first three years of the TMA's operation. The report also identified four basic options for organizing a TMA, including as a stand-alone entity or as a subsidiary of another entity. Lastly, interested stakeholders are expected to organize a working group to discuss implementation activities.

b. Task 8611 - Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Freight Plan Update

Jody Binnix reported on the completion of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Freight Plan Update. This update aimed to refresh the original 2012 Freight Plan. Project objectives included positioning the region to successfully compete for federal and state discretionary funds, update freight flows and volumes through 2050, identify new needs, opportunities, and issues, and finally to reevaluate policies and recommendations. An updated Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats or SWOT analysis was completed. Information for the SWOT was gathered through the project's Steering Committee along with stakeholder and public outreach. The plan proposed a total of 26 freight strategies among four categories – 1. Collaboration, 2. Operations and Maintenance, 3. Planning, and 4. System Investment.

Richard Sutherland moved to accept the report as evidence of completion of UPWP Tasks 8542 and 8611, Yixuan Lin seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

b) Transportation Improvement Program

1. (No Action Items)

c) Long Range Transportation Plan

1. LRTP 2050 Update Process

James Stack reported that GTC staff will start working on the update of the LRTP over the coming year. At the November Planning Committee meeting GTC staff introduced Emerging Issues and Opportunities and asked Planning Committee members for thoughts on updates and upcoming topics of note over the plan's horizon year. At the November meeting Planning Committee members noted that the housing market, generational preferences regarding transportation and housing, and remote/hybrid work should all be considered as part of the LRTP update.

Yixuan Lin noted that the aging population's transportation needs, especially regarding access to health care, is an important issue.

d) Related Activities

1. Recommendation to the GTC Board concerning amending the National Performance Measures Report and the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program by revising the HSIP and Highway Safety Performance Targets and the Transit Safety Performance Measures set forth in the RGRTA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans / Proposed Council Resolution 25-04

Jody Binnix reported the Highway Safety Improvement Program Report and the Highway Safety Strategic Plan are updated annually by New York State Department of Transportation 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*.

The Targets for 2025 are shown on the slide. These are based upon a five-year history of crashes through 2022. These are updated annually by NYSDOT-Main Office and the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. They agreed to set a realistic 1.5 percent reduction goal for 2026, with annual reduction benchmarks of 0.5 percent by 2024 and 1.0 percent by 2025.

The Transit Safety targets were provided by RGRTA and are included in the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan, a product required of all urban service providers. In December 2024, the RGRTA Board of Commissioners approved the 2024-2025 Public Transit Agency Safety Plan. GTC has previously agreed to support the RGRTA's targets and include them in the *National Performance Measures Report* and the *FFYs 23-27 TIP*.

Joel Kleinberg moved to recommend approval of Resolution 25-04; Thomas Fry's seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

6. Reports

a) Status of UPWP Projects

GTC - Jim Stack reported:

- GTC Strategic Planning: No activity to report.
- Long Range Transportation Plan Update/ Implementation: Discussed earlier in the meeting under Agenda Item 5.c.1.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Scenario Tool: No activity to report.
- Staff Technical Assistance: Staff is coordinating with DeepWalk and Wayne County GIS to get the data in a usable format for the Town of Lyons.
- Household Travel Data Collection: No activity to report.
- Active Transportation Program: New staff has been getting up to speed on past and future active transportation efforts.
- Complete Streets Program: No activity to report.
- Safety Planning: No activity to report.
- Security & Resiliency Planning: Staff has incorporated NYSTA Detour routes into our GIS in support of Task 5905. Staff has reviewed FHWA resources for applicability to our region.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Resiliency Plan: Critical Assets and Hazards Data inventory development is underway. Stakeholder outreach is anticipated for early February.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Thruway Detour Route Management Plan: A draft RFP has been finalized and will be released this month.

- 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 Steering Committee met on January 8. The Consultant reviewed the final technical memos and findings. They also demonstrated the Strategic Transportation Asset Redesign (STAR) screening tool that can rapidly assess whether or not a facility is a good candidate for redesign rather than replacing in-kind. If so, facility owners can conduct the necessary analysis to develop recommendations. As a reminder, this location was meant to serve as a case study for a tool to evaluate other locations. The STAR tool is built on spreadsheet and applicable to various types of infrastructure.
- Greater Rochester Transportation Management Association Feasibility Study: This project was presented for closeout earlier in the meeting.
- Regional Freight Plan Update: This project was presented for closeout earlier in the meeting.
- Regional Trails Initiative Update: Staff is working on a revised scope and RFP to be issued soon, likely by the end of January.

G/FLRPC – Richard Sutherland reported:

- *G/FLRPC* Regional Land Use Monitoring (CY 2023): Staff are developing the final report and compiling data. This project is anticipated to be presented for closeout at the next meeting.
- Regional Land Use Monitoring Report Dashboard: Staff have identified the consultant who will help develop the dashboard. The contract is under development.
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Region Population Forecast 2060: Raw data has been collected and compiled.
- Regional Alternative Fuel Vehicle Infrastructure Tools: Staff is working on final draft of the report and the executive summary. This project is anticipated to be presented for closeout at the April meeting.

Monroe County – Tom Frys, Chris Synder, and Joe Bovenzi reported:

- Traffic Signal Preemption Study: The final report has been completed and a final steering committee meeting will be held to discuss implementation tasks. This project is anticipated to be presented for closeout at the February meeting.
- High Accident Location Program: No locations have been completed since the previous meeting. 15 locations are in process and three have just started.
- Monroe County Comprehensive Active Transportation Implementation Plan: The final draft of the RFP has been completed and will be released in late January.

NYSDOT – James Stack, Jody Binnix, and Joe Bovenzi reported:

- TIP Best Practices Study: A draft survey has been developed by the consultant with GTC and NYSDOT staff input.

- Wyoming County Route 20A Truck Freight Corridor Study: The RFP is on hold until the Mount Road Boulevard Corridor Study Update contracting process progresses.
- Mount Read Boulevard Corridor Study Update: A consultant selection meeting was held, the preferred consultant was notified, and GTC staff will prepare the draft contract.

Ontario County – Joe Bovenzi and Jody Binnix reported:

- Ontario County Access Management, Complete Street, and Resiliency Project: The draft RFP is being developed. No release date has been set.
- Ontario County Freight Rail Corridor Development Plan: The Steering Committee will hold its fourth meeting on January 21.

City of Rochester – David Riley and Jody Binnix reported:

- ADA Right-of-Way Transition Plan: The Right of Way analysis has been completed.
- Joseph Avenue ArtWalk Master Plan: The consultant completed a Needs and Opportunities assessment. The next round of public engagement will be held in February.
- Genesee Riverway Trail Completion Study: The second PAC meeting was held on December 10. The Riverway Forum was held on November 17. This event served as the public meeting for Riverway Trail project. The consultant is working on the Needs Assessment for different corridor sections.
- Inner Loop North Mobility and Development Strategy: The consultant has presented some development concepts. The next PAC meeting will be held in early February. More public engagement activities will be held after the PAC meeting.
- City of Rochester Alleyway Reactivation and Conversion Program: An RFP was released in November. Proposals were due last Friday, and seven proposals were received. The consultant selection committee will be reviewing the proposals and selecting a preferred consultant in the near future.

RGRTA – Eric Farr reported:

- Service Performance Monitoring and Refinement: In January, RTS implemented very minor tweaks to routing for ten routes. Staff are working on identifying improvements to the next group of routes.

Wyoming County – Jody Binnix reported:

- Wyoming County Priority Investigation Locations Program: The first PAC meeting was held on December 9. The analysis of intersections identified through the CLEAR system is continuing.

Other Agencies –

Jim Stack reported:

- Town of Gates Active Transportation Plan: GTC staff is working with the Town of Gates to develop the Request for Proposals.
- Hamlet of Ontario Center Active Transportation Plan: GTC staff is working with the Town of Ontario to develop the Scope of Work.
- Village of Fairport Zoning Code Update: The Steering Committee met on December 11 to discuss draft revisions. Additional public outreach events are anticipated for spring 2025.
- Town of Rush Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan: The Consultant presented alternatives at a public meeting on November 20. The final report is under development. A closeout presentation will be given at an upcoming meeting, possibly in February.

b) Status of SS4A Program

Jim Stack reported that proposals for the Local Road Safety Plans (LRSP) were evaluated and preferred consultants were identified for the development of individual LRSPs for each county and the City of Rochester. The selected firms were considered for approval and awarding of contracts by the RGRTA Board at its December 5, 2024 meeting. The team led by TY Lin was selected for the West sub-region (Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, and Livingston counties). The team led by Colliers Engineering and Design was selected for the Central sub-region (Monroe County and the City of Rochester). The team led by Fiser Associates was selected for the East sub-region (Wayne, Ontario, Yates, and Seneca counties).

Proposals for the development of Community-Driven Strategies for Complete Streets (CS) and Downtown Curb Extension Murals (DCEM) were evaluated and a preferred consultant, Reconnect Rochester Inc., was selected. The RGRTA Board approved entering into a contract with Reconnect Rochester at its December 5, 2024 meeting.

Once progress is made on the network screening and identification of high crash locations under each LRSP, GTC staff will engage a consultant for a multi-year contract to conduct Site Investigations and Roadway Safety Audits. Two community summits are planned for 2025 and 2027. GTC staff will work with partner agencies to procure data collection equipment that can help them with their future needs.

c) TIP Staff Modifications

Jim Stack reported that since the last Planning Committee meeting, the TIP Development Committee concurred with one staff modification request. A report was included in the meeting package.

d) Federal Legislative and Funding Update

Jim Stack reported that, prior to the end of FFY 2024, Congress passed and the President signed a Continuing Resolution funding the federal government through

December 20, 2024. Congress deferred action on 12 Appropriations for the full FFY. Congress passed and the President signed a Continuing Resolution funding the federal government through March 14, 2025. With the White House, the Senate, and the House under one party control, budget priorities are expected to shift.

USDOT Discretionary Programs

Jim Stack provided an overview of discretionary funding opportunities through USDOT. Jim noted two open USDOT grant opportunities with applications due early in 2025, as well as several other programs with grant opportunities that will be released in spring 2025.

e) Other GTC Matters

No report provided.

f) Public Engagement Highlights

Lori Maher reported on the various public engagement events that took place over the past few months.

g) Member Agency and Partner Updates

No report provided.

7. New Business

No report provided.

8. Public Forum

No one from the public spoke during the Public Forum.

9. Next Meeting

Scott Leathersich reported that the next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2025. All materials for items to be considered at this meeting should be submitted to GTC staff no later than Friday, January 31, 2025.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.