

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** GTC Planning Committee Members & Alternates  
**FROM:** James Stack, Executive Director JS  
**DATE:** August 7, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** Long Range Transportation Plan 2050: Draft Emerging Issues and Opportunities

The identification of “Emerging Issues and Opportunities” was first incorporated into GTC’s long range planning process with the development of the 2011 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The purpose of this action was to document anticipated trends that would impact regional transportation system infrastructure and services during the plan’s lifetime and provide guidance for the development of planning policies and recommendations.

Subsequent long range transportation plans have revised and updated the Emerging Issues and Opportunities. The following list of proposed topics is based on a GTC staff review of the LRTP 2045 emerging issues and opportunities and an initial analysis of anticipated federal and state policies, regional needs, and industry trends. Based on community engagement and member agency input, GTC staff recommend that the final list of Emerging Issues and Opportunities for the LRTP 2050 combine previously identified topics.

Proposed LRTP 2050 Emerging Issues and Opportunities:

- Transportation and Public Health: Consider how the transportation system can contribute to improvements to public safety and air quality; strengthen the role of the transportation system in providing access to health services and healthy food options; expand active transportation elements to enable physical activity as part of routine daily travel.
- Transportation/Housing Connection: Identify the links between transportation services and housing opportunities, specifically regarding access to employment, educational, and community services.
- Impacts of Extreme Weather: Identify actions to minimize the disruptive impacts of extreme weather on transportation infrastructure and services; strengthen community resilience to hazards such as floods, heatwaves, and winter storms by ensuring that the transportation system can resist hazard impacts and contribute to response and recovery efforts.
- Unforeseen System Disruptions: Consider the unanticipated disruptive impacts of both sudden (e.g., pandemic) and long-term (e.g., growth of smartphone technology) social, economic, and cultural trends on the demand for transportation infrastructure and services.
- Strategic Divestment: Investigate opportunities for right-sizing transportation infrastructure when the limits of service life are reached; integrate multi-modal solutions and consider land use and redevelopment opportunities when redesigning transportation infrastructure.

- Expansion of Alternative Fuels: Expand alternative fuel infrastructure to support the gradual adoption of alternative fuel vehicles as a means of supporting domestic fuel production, growth in manufacturing, technological innovations, and workforce development while mitigating vehicle emissions.
- Emerging Technologies: Monitor and analyze potential impacts of Connected, Autonomous, and Automated Vehicles on traffic operations and regional travel patterns and trends; consider impacts of Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) and Transportation-as-a-Service (TaaS); analyze the impacts of E-Commerce and associated goods movement, investigate potential Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications to transportation systems and services.

This list of potential emerging issues and opportunities is presented as a starting point for a discussion of which topics should be covered in the LRTP 2050. Planning Committee members are encouraged to review this list and provide their feedback on the emerging issues and opportunities to GTC staff.

Please note that staff is exploring options to develop the LRTP consistent with recent changes communicated by the US Department of Transportation. This may affect how the Emerging Issues and Opportunities and specific recommendations are incorporated into LRTP 2050. Given New York State and local considerations, we are contemplating development of a companion document.