

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2008 MEETING OF THE
GREATER BUFFALO-NIAGARA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
PLANNING AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE (PCC)**

A meeting of the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council Planning and Coordinating Committee was held on January 9, 2008 at the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, Buffalo, NY. The meeting began at approximately 9:30a.m.

The following GBNRTC-PCC Members or their representatives were present:

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| 1. Gary Gottlieb | NYSDOT |
| 2. Robert Gower | NFTA |
| 3. John Bidell | City of Buffalo |
| 4. Kevin O'Brien | County of Niagara |
| 5. Douglas Tokarczyk | NYSTA |
| 6. Charles Sickler | County of Erie |
| 7. Thomas DeSantis | City of Niagara Falls |

Others present were:

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| 1. Hal Morse | GBNRTC |
| 2. Richard Guarino | GBNRTC |
| 3. Barb Courtney | GBNRTC |
| 4. Steve Szopinski | GBNRTC |
| 5. Robert Wagner | GBNRTC |
| 6. Timothy Trabold | GBNRTC |
| 7. Joe Buffamonte | NYSDOT |
| 8. Peter Nixon | NYSDOT |
| 9. Gary Witulski | Buffalo OSP |
| 10. Melissa Golen | NFTA |
| 11. Michael Laydecker | Buffalo Niagara Partnership |
| 12. Heidi Bugenhagen | Buffalo Niagara Partnership |
| 13. Jim Seymour | ESDC/USA Niagara |
| 14. Paul Tronolone | ESDC |
| 15. Frank Dolan | Bergmann Associates |
| 16. Brian Moore | Bergmann Associates |
| 17. Keith Lucas | Seneca Nation |
| 18. Sheila Ransbottom | Fisher Associates |
| 19. Chanel White | The Knoer Group |
| 20. Joelle Guy | Town of Amherst Planning |
| 21. Kelly Dixon | Center for Transportation Excellence |
| 22. John Mecca | ECHDC |
| 23. Thomas Frank | Bi-National Niagara Bicycle Coalition |
| 24. Roy Schneggenburger | Bowmansville/Lancaster Resident |
| 25. Debra Chernoff | Buffalo Place Inc. |

I. PROCEEDINGS

A. Roll Call

Mr. O'Brien called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. At the time of roll call, all members or representatives were present or arrived shortly after.

B. Public Participation

Thomas Frank discussed Williamsville Toll Barrier, suggested Nancy Naples be called in to discuss Amtrak; also talked about the Greenway Commission, Niagara County Bi-Centennial and Niagara Watershed. Roy Schneggenburger talked about the Bike-Ped subcommittee and the healthiness of walking; expressed concern about traffic on Rt 33 between Transit Rd and Harris Hill also the environmental effects of new development

C. Approval of Meeting Agenda (1/9/08) as amended for order of presentations

Mr. Gottlieb moved to approve the meeting agenda, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, and all were in favor.

D. Approval of GBNRTC-PCC Meeting Minutes (12/5/07)

Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the meeting minutes of 12/5/07, seconded by Mr. Sickler, and all were in favor.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. TIP Amendment – Cars on Main Street (5822.12) Project Acceleration – Tupper to Goodell

Mr. Trabold explained the project acceleration, a comment was made regarding project separation for TIP and NEPA purposes by Mr. Gottlieb. Mr. Bidell responded yes, separate NEPA was taking place. Mr. DeSantis noted that project acceleration is good. After the brief discussion a vote was called.

Mr. Bidell moved to approve Amendment # 3, seconded by Mr. Sickler, and all were in favor.

B. Recommendation of UPWP Workscopes and Budget 2008 - 2010

Mr. Morse presented the proposed UPWP budget numbers and workscope narratives as recommended by the Administrative Committee to proceed to the final UPWP document phase.

Mr. Gottlieb moved to proceed to the final UPWP document phase, for final approval at February Policy and PCC meetings, seconded by Mr. Gower, and all were in favor.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Regional Freight Study

Mr. Guarino gave a presentation on the status of the regional freight study. Technical Memos 1 and 2 are complete and expect to have Technical Memo 3 ready for the steering committee review by next PCC meeting.

B. New GBNRTC Website

Mr. Guarino presented the new GBNRTC Website, showing layout and functionality of the product to improve public information and interaction with the MPO.

C. Traffic Changes in the Area Post Toll Removal

Mr. Szopinski gave a presentation on the extensive changes in traffic and patterns in the past year, especially post toll barrier removal. Mr. Szopinski noted traffic is up significantly in the two county area on the major expressways and interstates. Vehicle Miles Traveled continues to rise as well. Mr. Tronolone asked when traffic counts on the arterial roads would be taken. Steve responded the summer of 2008

D. Subcommittee Reports: Transportation Subcommittee, Administrative Subcommittee

Mr. Sickler reported the TPS approved a cost increase for the Babcock Street Bridge Project and recommended acceleration of a portion of the Cars on Main Street Project to PCC for approval. Also discussed was Project tracking, Safe Routes to School, High Risk Rural Road and Bridge Preventative Maintenance programs.

Mr. Morse reported on the Administrative Subcommittee review and recommendation to move forward with the UPWP program for approval.

E. Rideshare Program Progress and Next Steps

Ms. Courtney discussed activities to promote the areawide program (GoodGoingWNY) including website development, media campaign and direct outreach to local employers.

F. Human Services Transportation Plan project requests

Ms. Courtney stated applications for JARC (\$497,000) and New Freedoms (\$872,000) will be solicited soon. Current projects are pending an approved grant management plan.

G. February 2008 Policy Committee Agenda and Date

Mr. Morse offered a date and time for the meeting and also stated Commissioner Glynn will attend and chair the meeting on Feb 21.

H. Annual GBNRTC Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Morse distributed the annual MOU, detailing agreement of members to cooperate in the MPO planning process, and gave a brief description. Morse also stated that any proposed modifications can be incorporated in preparation for February action

I. 2008 Federal Budget and Projects Funding

Mr. Morse stated the Federal Budget is expected to be approved by the next PCC date. A brief overview of funding levels and expected impacts was presented.

J. National Revenue and Policy Commission discussions-some perspectives for MPOs

Mr. Morse discussed the mission of the Commission and offered a preview of findings in the soon to be released report. Substantial discussion on the federal role in transportation and longer term impacts followed.

IV. STATUS REPORTS/INFORMATION

A. Member Agency Reports

Mr. DeSantis reported on the new administration for City Niagara Falls

Mr. O'Brien noted the change with Bill Ross as Chairman of the Niagara County Legislature

Mr. Sickler also noted change in administration with Chris Collins new County Executive and Gerry Sentz as Public Works Commissioner

Mr. Bidell noted City of Buffalo appointed an interim City Engineer

Mr. Gower reported on the opening of the new transit center in Niagara Falls

Mr. Laydecker reported the work is nearly complete for the BNP Regional Agenda and will be available for review at the February meeting

Mr. Tokarczyk stated bids for South Grand Island Bridge were let in December and came in higher than estimate, stated they are deciding about moving forward with project. Also noted there are a variety of reasons for change in traffic on the interstates

Mr. Gottlieb reported on Safe Routes to School, High Risk Rural Roads, also offered help to any municipalities with Right of Way Acquisitions

B. Director's Report

Mr. Morse reported on the following:

- Scope of work for supporting the UB 2020 Master Plan was detailed and reviewed. An Advisory Group meeting will be convened to discuss and assign tasks.
- A January meeting in Lancaster will be attended to present the interactive land use and traffic model developed by GBNRTC.
- The new Traffic Count program contract RFP will be advertised in January
- Members were offered a review of the most recent Signal Systems Study scope

Mr. DeSantis noted that the next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2008 at Buffalo City Hall.

Mr. Gottlieb made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m., seconded by Mr. Bidell, and all were in favor.