

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 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 February 6, 2008 at City Hall, 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. David Hornung | 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. Barb Courtney | GBNRTC |
| 3. Steve Szopinski | GBNRTC |
| 4. Robert Wagner | GBNRTC |
| 5. Timothy Trabold | GBNRTC |
| 6. James Manuel | GBNRTC |
| 7. Ron Hayes | NYSDOT |
| 8. Peter Nixon | NYSDOT |
| 9. Christopher Church | NYSDOT |
| 10. Gary Witulski | Buffalo OSP |
| 11. Nancy Peters | NFTA |
| 12. John Bidell | City of Buffalo |
| 13. Seyed Ghasemi | City of Buffalo |
| 14. Steven Stepniak | City of Buffalo |
| 15. Michael DeSantis | City of Niagara Falls |
| 16. Michael Leydecker | Buffalo Niagara Partnership |
| 17. Heidi Bugenhagen | Buffalo Niagara Partnership |
| 18. Jim Seymour | ESDC/USA Niagara |
| 19. Sheila Ransbottom | Fisher Associates |
| 20. Joelle Guy | Town of Amherst Planning |
| 21. Chris Fahey | Congressman Higgins |
| 22. Bonnie Kane Lockwood | Congressman Higgins |
| 23. Cristen Manning | The Knoer Group |
| 24. Tim Kennedy | Erie County Legislator |
| 25. Jon McNulty | Senator Mary Lou Rath |
| 26. Thomas Frank | Bi-National Niagara Bicycle Coalition |
| 27. Roy Schneggenburger | Bowmansville/Lancaster Resident |
| 28. Michael Gent | Advisory Group |
| 29. Greg Merlihan | GPI |
| 30. Paul Pfleuger | Watts A/E |

I. PROCEEDINGS

A. Roll Call

Mr. DeSantis called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. At the time of roll call, all members or representatives were present.

B. Public Participation

Thomas Frank discussed Williamsville Toll Barrier, suggested Nancy Naples be called in to discuss Amtrak; Niagara County Bi-Centennial and Niagara Watershed. Roy Schneggenburger talked about the Bike-Ped subcommittee and the healthiness of walking; expressed concern about flooding in the area. Mr. Michael Gent talked about a Regional Advisory group and listed its many members. Erie County Legislator Tim Kennedy asked the members to consider including the South Park Ave Business strip in the TIP

C. Approval of Meeting Agenda (2/6/08)

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

D. Approval of GBNRTC-PCC Meeting Minutes (1/9/08)

Mr. Gower moved to approve the meeting minutes of 1/9/08, seconded by Mr. Sickler, all were in favor.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Public Notification – Minor Amendment # 4 NFTA Bus Purchase Acceleration

Mr. Trabold explained a proposed acceleration of NFTA Bus Procurement using FTA funds currently designated for Inner Harbor Redevelopment projects, which are not ready to proceed in the current year. A memorandum of understanding would be drafted between NFTA and Empire State Development Corporation outlining the flow of the funding and repayment schedule.

After the brief discussion, Mr. Gower moved to proceed to Public Notification Process, was seconded by Mr. Sickler, all were in favor.

B. Recommendation for GBNRTC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Approval Resolution 2008-1

As previously presented in January Mr. Morse stated no revisions had been made. Mr. Morse commented on the significance of the agreement.

Mr. O'Brien moved recommendation of the Memorandum of Understanding to Policy Committee, was seconded by Mr. Bidell, all were in favor.

C. Recommendation of UPWP 2008 – 2010: Resolution 2008-2

Mr. Morse presented the final UPWP document and noted the workscopes and budget were previously recommended for assembly and no revisions had been made since.

Mr. Gottlieb moved to recommend approval of the UPWP document to Policy Committee, was seconded by Mr. Bidell all were in favor

D. Recommendations Regarding BNP Regional Agenda: Resolution 2008-3

Mr. Turner of Buffalo Niagara Partnership talked about the Regional Agenda and the importance of the document. Members had questions regarding endorsement of the BNP agenda and what that means. Mr. Morse explained the intent is to have Regional Focus from the Business community through BNP be consistent with what government officials and the Long Range Plan have recommended. After the brief discussion,

Mr. Gottlieb moved to table the resolution pending discussion with BNP and revision to the resolution, with member concurrence, prior to the Policy Committee meeting, was seconded by Mr. Hornung all were in favor

E. Approval of February 21, 2008 Policy Committee Agenda

Mr. Morse briefly went over the proposed agenda

Mr. Bidell moved to approve Policy Agenda, was seconded by Mr. Gower all were in favor

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports: Transportation Projects Subcommittee, Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee

Mr. O'Brien reported the TPS approved Demand Management/CMAQ Obligations. Also discussed was project tracking, Everyone was reminded there is a call for Bridge Maintenance projects, High Risk Rural Road program. Mr. Trabold reported on several of the discussions that took place at the Bike-Ped Subcommittee meeting such as City Buffalos proposed plans for the development of the LaSalle corridor pathway, Two Mile Creek Greenway project update, Bicycle Master Plan for the region and Bicycle Level of Service scores.

B. TIP Projects Status and Look Ahead

Mr. Trabold reported on TIP project status especially the next six months of possible project lettings through June. Also noted was Bridge Maintenance Strategy now in place.

C. Transportation Enhancements Program Timeline

Mr. Trabold handed out brochures outlining the new program this year. Application deadline is June 27, 2008. Also noted the application and brochure are on the NYSDOT website. Two workshops have been scheduled to present the program to the public

D. Safe Route to School application process deadline

Mr. Trabold noted workshops were all held through December the application deadline for this program is April 1, 2008 and should be sent to Matt Balling NYSDOT.

E. Demand Management: Sustainability Conference/Earth Day

Ms. Courtney stated GBNRTC is working with Ecology & Environment to set up an Earth Day committee she noted the NFTA has recently come on board as sponsor of Earth Day and encouraged other member agencies to consider sponsor earth day as well.

F. National Revenue and Policy Commission final recommendations

Mr. Morse presented a summarization of the Commission's findings, focused on challenges for the next fifty years in transportation development. Commission recommendations regarding possible revenue solutions and project delivery improvements were highlighted. Implications for MPOs and especially this region were discussed.

G. Lancaster Area Land Use and Traffic Analysis demonstration

Mr. Szopinski went over the presentation that was given to Lancaster Town Board recently. He also demonstrated the traffic simulation tool, which provides the Town an interactive tool to analyze impacts of proposed development and land use changes. Possible expansion of the tool and intergovernmental utilization was discussed.

IV. STATUS REPORTS/INFORMATION

A. Member Agency Reports

Mr. Gottlieb mentioned the State is in the process of looking at the 20 year needs of Transportation and he introduced Mr. Hayes. Mr. Hayes reported the State will be having roundtable forums at nine locations around the state; Buffalo's date is March 4, 2008 from 4pm – 6:30pm.

Mr. Sickler reported County still in transition, and noted the County Attorney position has not been named. Also starting to select candidates for the 2008 pavement program.

Mr. Hornung from the City of Buffalo introduced himself to the members and is looking forward working with everyone.

Mr. Gower stated over the last four years public transit usage continues to experience growth

Mr. DeSantis reported the city is also in personnel transition under the new administration.

B. Director's Report

Mr. Morse reported on the following:

- Task 3 of the Freight study has been received and is in internal review.
- Starting to assemble a freight advisory committee to look at results and give recommendations for the area
- FTA meetings later this month – status on current projects
- RFP for traffic count is out will be looking to ask members to help in the selection of consultants
- Transit Road North – group of 4 to 5 municipalities are working together to create a new vision for TRN the final report is out and will have an unveiling on Thursday 2/14/08
- Meet with Senior Staff – starting to breakdown the new work program which takes effect April 1, 2008
- President Bush's '09 Budget Proposal – over 3.1 Trillion up 6%, DOT requested 57 billion 10% cut from current funding, proposal calls for cutting highway funding by more than 4%

Mr. DeSantis noted that the next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2008 at Erie County.

Mr. O'Brien made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m., seconded by Mr. Sickler, and all were in favor.