

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5, 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 March 5, 2008 at Erie County Department of Public Works, Buffalo, NY. The meeting began at approximately 9:40am. The chairman was not in attendance. Members present selected Mr. Sentz as interim chairperson, he accepted.

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

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| 1. Gary Gottlieb | NYSDOT |
| 2. Melissa Golen | NFTA |
| 3. John Bidell | City of Buffalo |
| 4. Douglas Tokarczyk | NYSTA |
| 5. Jerry Sentz | County of Erie |

Others present were:

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| 1. Hal Morse | GBNRTC |
| 2. Barb Courtney | GBNRTC |
| 3. Robert Wagner | GBNRTC |
| 4. Timothy Trabold | GBNRTC |
| 5. Rich Guarino | GBNRTC |
| 6. Joe Buffamonte | NYSDOT |
| 7. Ron Hayes | NYSDOT |
| 8. Peter Nixon | NYSDOT |
| 9. Christopher Church | NYSDOT |
| 10. John Mecca | Consultant ECHDC |
| 11. Andrew Graham | Voice Buffalo |
| 12. Sheila Ransbottom | Fisher Associates |
| 13. Kristin Allen | Regional Advisory Group |
| 14. Robert Labenski | GPI |
| 15. Joelle Guy | Town of Amherst Planning |
| 16. Brian Moore | Bergmann Associates |
| 17. Bob Gibson | Ecology & Environment |
| 18. Edward Cutty | Daemen College Center Sustainable Comm. |
| 19. Paul Pfleuger | Watts A/E |
| 20. Thomas Frank | Bi-National Niagara Bicycle Coalition |
| 21. Roy Schneggenburger | Bowmansville/Lancaster Resident |

I. PROCEEDINGS

A. Roll Call

Mr. Sentz called the meeting to order at approximately 9:40 a.m. At the time of roll call, five members or representatives were present.

B. Public Participation

Thomas Frank discussed Williamsville Toll Barrier, Niagara County Bi-Centennial and Niagara Watershed. Roy Schneggenburger asked that the Pledge of Allegiance be permanently added to the agenda. He also asked Erie County to temporarily rename Stoney Rd (Stoney-Helwig Rd)& Walden Avenue (Walden-Ellicott Ave) to reflect the history in that area and also mentioned the 175th anniversary of Town/Village of Lancaster and Hamlet of Bowmansville. Edward Cutty asked about the possibility of a shuttle service for the residents in the Seneca/Babcock. Mr. Cutty continued talking about the common interest, of these poorer areas and suburban areas, and a more efficient transit service. He mentioned the Wehrle Drive project. Andy Graham of Voice Buffalo talked about its many members and their idea to look at TIP items in relation to Economic Growth for the area.

C. Approval of Meeting Agenda (3/5/08)

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

D. Approval of GBNRTC-PCC Meeting Minutes (2/6/08)

Mr. Gottlieb moved to approve the meeting minutes of 2/6/08, seconded by Ms. Golen, all were in favor.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. TIP Amendment – TIP Minor # 4 NFTA Bus Purchase Acceleration – Approval

Mr. Trabold stated the public comment period began immediately following February's PCC meeting and was open until March 9, 2008. No comments had been received to date. He briefly reviewed the amendment and noted that it was contingent upon the approval of the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

Ms. Golen moved to conditionally approve the amendment contingent upon no adverse public comments being received through the end of the comment period, seconded by Mr. Gottlieb and all were in favor.

B. TIP Amendment – Minor # 5 NITTEC Budget Increase

Mr. Trabold explained the amendment would increase funding for NITTEC's Traffic Control Operations over a five-year period. Mr. Bidell expressed concern about the long-term impacts of the increased budget and suggested a one-year increase may be more appropriate than five years.

Mr. Bidell moved to amend the resolution for a one-year funding increase only and was seconded by Mr. Sentz: 2 Ayes (City of Buffalo, Erie County), 3 Nays (NYSDOT, NYSTA, NFTA). Motion to amend resolution was defeated.

Mr. Gottlieb moved to approve the original amendment, seconded by Mr. Sentz: 4 Ayes (NYSDOT, NYSTA, NFTA, Erie County), 1 Nay (City of Buffalo). Minor #5 resolution approved.

C. Major TIP Amendment # 1 – Resolution 2007-14 – Reconsideration of project
PIN #5810.18 per Policy Committee request. This action is on hold pending a meeting between NYSDOT and the City of Niagara Falls.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports: Transportation Projects Subcommittee

Mr. Trabold reported the TPS met on February 20th and spent most of their time discussing the NITTEC budget and NFTA bus purchase acceleration issues. He also stated the subcommittee tabled a cost increase request for the Michigan Avenue Corridor project. Also discussed were the 2008 construction season and the healthy number of projects to be let. It was reported that several subcommittee members had been meeting with NYSDOT bridge engineers to identify additional bridge maintenance items for next year's program. The next TPS meeting was scheduled for March 19th.

B. Earth Day Initiative

Bob Gibson of Ecology and Environment gave a brief presentation of the local initiatives for Earth Day. The idea is to partner with different organizations and encourage everyone in Western NY to try something other than single occupant vehicular transportation for Earth Day April 22, 2008. Also asked members consider supporting and help get the word out.

C. Policy Committee Actions and Feedback

Mr. Morse briefly went over the resolutions approvals; noted Commissioner Glynn and Mr. Pericak were elected as chair and vice chair, went through National Revenue and Policy Committee recommendations.

D. Freight Study Status and Schedule for Remaining Activities

Mr. Guarino spoke about the progress of the Freight Study. Technical Memos 1 & 2 are final, the steering committee is reviewing Technical Memo 3, which is expected to be final at the end of March. Technical Memo 4 is due in May while Tech Memo 5 is due in June and the study is expected to wrap up in July. He also mentioned a Freight Advisory Committee is being established. The steering committee is expected to meet with the consultants the third week of March.

E. Possible Sequence for Priority Studies in next UPWP

Mr. Morse mentioned the approval the UPWP at policy. The next work program includes a number of important studies in transportation around the region, he asked the group to review the initial set of priorities and advise. Mr. Morse gave a brief progress report on the more urgent studies.

F. NYSDOT Commissioners Forum Series

Mr. Hayes noted Mr. Gee, Executive Deputy Commissioner of DOT was on hand for the forum. Mr. Gee spoke on New York States transportation needs; Mr. Morse gave a presentation on our regions needs. A panel of sixteen people representing all modes of transportation as well as transportation users

joined Mr. Gee in the two-hour discussion. Mr. Hayes also mentioned the opportunity to send comments is available at the DOT website.

G. HSTP: Projects Cycle for JARC, New Freedom and 5310

Mr. Morse mentioned HSTP was approved last year, this cycle has been advertised, and applications are due April 2, 2008. Section 5310 Small Bus Program through legislation requires coordination through the plan; application process through NYSDOT is out and due back June 1, 2008.

H. Regional Model Status: TRANSIMS deployment, Framework project

Recent contracted upgrades are complete, due to traffic pattern changes post toll removal the model was recalibrated we recently received that information, staff is currently compiling that information and should have it available mid March. The Federal demo of TRANSIMS has been installed and is working.

IV. STATUS REPORTS/INFORMATION

A. Member Agency Reports

Mr. Gottlieb thanked everyone for their participation in the forum, and expressed interest in finding out about the recent FTA meetings in NYC.

Ms. Golan mentioned the meetings in NYC with the FTA, Cars on Main Street project has been postponed for a thirty-day period, to bring City of Buffalo's new administration up to speed on the project. FHWA agreed to be the lead on Niagara Falls Intermodal.

Mr. Bidell reported the 700 Block of Main Street project will be sent over to the state for final review and mid summer construction is on schedule.

Mr. Sickler noted the Wehrle Drive Project is being advertised and bid on March 27. Freeman Rd. Bridge and Dam project along with Como Park will also be moving forward.

Mr. Tokarczyk mentioned the NYSTA would be conducting Public Hearings on the future toll increase this areas hearing will be March 25 at the Erie County Library at 6pm

B. Director's Report

Mr. Morse reported on the following:

- Cheektowaga is very interested extending the Interactive Land Use Model for Lancaster for inter-municipal land use coordination
- Traffic Count proposals are in and a new 4 year contract will soon be in place counting to begin as soon as the weather breaks
- Regional Advisory group met to discuss how they want to participate in this process, next meeting is in May and Hal plans to attend
- NYS MPOs will be meeting this year on June 12 and 13 in Niagara Falls. All are invited to attend

Mr. Sentz noted that the next meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2008 at NYSDOT.

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