

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2, 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 April 2, 2008 at NYS Department of Transportation, Buffalo, NY. The meeting began at approximately 9:35am.

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

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

Others present were:

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|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Hal Morse | GBNRTC |
| 2. Kathryn Stilwell | GBNRTC |
| 3. Robert Wagner | GBNRTC |
| 4. Timothy Trabold | GBNRTC |
| 5. Rich Guarino | GBNRTC |
| 6. Matt Grabau | GBNRTC |
| 7. Thomas Kipler | GBNRTC |
| 8. Joe Buffamonte | NYSDOT |
| 9. Ron Hayes | NYSDOT |
| 10. Peter Nixon | NYSDOT |
| 11. Christopher Church | NYSDOT |
| 12. Gary Witulski | Buffalo OSP |
| 13. Mike Leydecker | BNP |
| 14. Heidi Bugenhagen | BNP |
| 15. John Mecca | Consultant ECHDC |
| 16. Kelly Thompson | TVGA |
| 17. Cristen Manning | The Knoer Group |
| 18. Greg Merlihan | GPI |
| 19. Paul Pfleuger | Watts A/E |
| 20. Kristin Allen | Regional Advisory Group |
| 21. Wallace Smith | AAA WNY |
| 22. Joelle Guy | Town of Amherst Planning |
| 23. Brian Moore | Bergmann Associates |
| 24. Thomas Frank | Bi-National Niagara Bicycle Coalition |

I. PROCEEDINGS

A. Roll Call

Mr. O'Brien called the meeting to order at approximately 9:35 a.m. At the time of roll call all members or their representatives were present.

B. Public Participation

Thomas Frank discussed Williamsville Toll Barrier, Niagara County Bi-Centennial, Greenway Project and the area surrounding BNIA.

C. Approval of Meeting Agenda (4/2/08)

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

D. Approval of GBNRTC-PCC Meeting Minutes (3/5/08)

Mr. Gower moved to approve the meeting minutes of 3/5/08, seconded by Mr. Zakrzewski, all were in favor.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. TIP Amendment – TIP Minor # 6 Section 5307 Program Realignment

Mr. Trabold presented changes to NFTA's Section 5307 program due primarily to congressional appropriations being \$507,070 lower than the program originally anticipated for FFY 2008. He noted a new NFTA project was being proposed that would be addressed under a later agenda item (II. C).

Mr. Gower moved to approve TIP Minor # 6, seconded by Mr. Sickler, all were in favor

B. TIP Amendment – TIP Minor # 7 City of Buffalo Program Realignment

Mr. Trabold noted the realignment program was based on changing project priorities and a project funding shortfall, and affects three current TIP projects within the City of Buffalo. The first action would postpone anticipated construction work on the Elmwood Ave [PIN 5755.46] project until Federal Fiscal Year 2013. The second would add \$452,000 STP Urban to cover additional expenses on the Grider St [PIN 5756.51] project. The third would change the project scope of the Delavan Ave Signal Study [PIN 5757.44] into a full signal replacement project at a total cost of \$2.385M. An additional \$1.86M of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds would be applied for in FFY 2008 to fund that change. He noted the postponed of the Elmwood Ave. would maintain the fiscal constraint of the TIP. He also pointed out that a new city project was being proposed which would be discussed under a later agenda item (II. C).

Mr. Gottlieb indicated recent FHWA guidance called for project advancement within 10 years else the sponsor could be required to repay any federal funds expended. The Elmwood Ave project had federal funds obligated in the year 2000 and approximately \$500,000 may be asked to be repaid. A delay past 2010 would be explicitly contrary to the FHWA guidance. Mr. Bidell explained the city was aware of the risk and anticipated the project would be delayed by a court challenge. There was always

a possibility that it could advance sooner but at this time the City would like to advance the program as presented and fiscally constrained.

Mr. Bidell moved to approve TIP Minor # 7, seconded by Mr. Sickler: 6 Ayes (City of Buffalo, City Niagara Falls, Niagara County, Erie County, NYSTA, NFTA), 1 Nay (NYSDOT). TIP Amendment Minor #7 approved.

C. Major TIP Amendment: Authorize public notification for 2 proposed new projects City of Buffalo and NFTA

Mr. Trabold explained that the NFTA and City of Buffalo program realignments discussed earlier in the meeting both included one new project. The NFTA intends to upgrade bus radio equipment from analog to digital by adding a new project to the Section 5307 Transit Program in FFY 2008 at a cost of \$948,719. The City of Buffalo intends to resurface and implement streetscape improvements on South Park Ave. between Elk St. and the city line, using \$2.233M of STP Urban funds in FFY 2009. Authorization was being requested to initiate public notification in accordance with approved public outreach procedures. Mr. Gottlieb noted his previous concern with delaying the Elmwood Ave project as a condition to advancing the South Park Ave. project and did not believe this was an appropriate action.

Mr. Gower moved to authorize initiation of the public notification process for these two projects, seconded by Mr. Bidell: 6 Ayes (City of Buffalo, City Niagara Falls, Niagara County, Erie County, NYSTA, NFTA), 1 Nay (NYSDOT). Public notification authorization approved.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports: Transportation Projects Subcommittee

Mr. O'Brien reported the TPS met on March 19th and spent most of their time discussing project realignments for both the NFTA and City of Buffalo. Continued project tracking was discussed along with a report that categorizes project delays ROW seems to be the most common reason. Mr. Buffamonte reported on Bridge Maintenance proposals received from Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties. Mr. Morse distributed a letter from Canisius College requesting a letter of support to secure special congressional funding for a median on Main Street. The next TPS meeting was scheduled for April 16, 2008.

B. NYSDOT Multimodal Transportation Program 2009-2014

Mr. Gottlieb reported the program along with a list of candidate projects is available on the NYSDOT web page. He also noted the proposal has been sent to the legislature and will be a part of the annual budget deliberations in Albany.

C. Regional Travel Model Calibration: Summary Results

Mr. Grabau presented the Updated Travel Model to include 2007 traffic data.

- Total traffic up significantly on the I-190; 27% increase at Black Rock & 29% at Ogden
- Traffic up over 10% on the free section of the I-90
- Route 5 Skyway traffic is up 7% in the past two years
- Traffic is up nearly 19% on Main Street around the I-290 in Williamsville
- Traffic is down on Route 198

Mr. Grabau also noted the volumes shown after recalibration is impressively close to the actual counts. Future studies the model will be used in

- Rt. 198 Scajaguada Expressway
- I-90/I-290 Buffalo Corridor
- I-290/ Grand Island Bridge Corridor
- Robert Moses Pkwy
- UB 2020 Plan

D. Area Road Scoring: 2007 Ratings and Report

Ms. Stilwell gave a presentation on areawide road scores

- The average surface score in 2007 for entire Federal-aid eligible system in Erie and Niagara Counties has increased slightly to 6.83 compared to 6.71 in 2005
- Of the approximately 5000 total lanes miles scored in 2007, almost 7% were rated in excellent condition; 68% were in good condition; almost 19% were in fair condition; and slightly less than 6% were in poor condition; 0.4% were under construction at time of survey.
- The Interstate systems in the two county regions are in good condition with the highest average surface score of 7.43; about 75% of lane miles rated were in the good category. It also carries a significant amount of the regions VMT at 4.6 million vehicles per day.

E. Areawide 2008 Traffic Count Program

Mr. Kipler reported on the program and noted Hatch Mott MacDonald was recommended by the review team and approved by NFTA.

- First year focus will be counts for upcoming studies, especially I-290.
- GBNRTC to count approximately 450 locations per year
- Closer coordination with NYSDOT and NYSTA providing better coverage
- NYSDOT providing 20 new MetroCount traffic devices
- Two acoustic sensors are planned by NYSDOT to collect freeway volumes
- Work expected to begin soon depending on weather

F. Preliminary Results 2007 Border Crossing Survey

Mr. Trabold presented some preliminary results of Cross Border Survey taken in July of 2007. He noted this was the first survey done of international border travelers since 911 and the opening of the Seneca Niagara Casino in Niagara Falls NY. A notable finding was that New York State plated vehicle trips into Canada that were casino bound have decreased by 70% since 2000. The full data set was expected to be released shortly.

IV. STATUS REPORTS/INFORMATION

A. Member Agency Reports

Mr. O'Brien reported Bridge washing program is ready and bids to open on April 15th along with bids for Orangeport Road.

Mr. Sickler noted the State of the County address and the 2008 Budget Hearings are today. He reported on the recent lettings of Wehrle Drive to DiPizio Construction, Como Park Blvd. and Freeman Rd. both went to Catco Construction.

Mr. Gower reported transit use continues to rise.

Mr. Gottlieb reported NYSDOT had met with City of Niagara Falls regarding Robert Moses Pkwy and the possibility of withdrawing federal aid for the resurfacing project and using state funds instead.

Mr. Bidell reported the 700 block of Main Street to be advertised by months end and bids opened in May.

B. Director's Report

Mr. Morse reported on the following:

- Amherst Contact Sensitive Streets Program
- Lancaster continues with small area simulation model and land use integration

Mr. DeSantis noted that the next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2008 in Niagara Falls, Carnegie Bldg.

Mr. Bidell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m., seconded by Mr. Gower, and all were in favor.